

Key achievements in Benin

- 2018: Benin promulgates Nuclear Regulatory Law.
- 2017: Benin resumes pineapple exports with the help of nuclear techniques.
- 2013: First impACT mission to Benin.

Atoms for peace and development

The International Atomic Energy Agency is the world's central intergovernmental forum for scientific and technical cooperation in the nuclear field. It works for the safe, secure and peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology, contributing to international peace and security.

The IAEA's technical cooperation programme helps countries to use nuclear science and technology to address key development priorities, including health, agriculture, water, the environment and industry. The programme also helps countries to identify and meet future energy needs. It supports greater radiation safety and nuclear security, and provides legislative assistance.



The IAEA supported nuclear and isotopic techniques to analyse ethephon residues in pineapples from Benin. This ultimately enabled farmers to export pineapples again to the European Union following the set-up of a food safety surveillance system. (Photo: M.Gaspar/IAEA)

Recent project successes

Food safety

Benin's farmers can again export pineapples to the European Union, their most lucrative market, following the set-up of a food safety surveillance system with the help of the IAEA and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Pineapple farmers had suffered under a voluntary export ban in place since 2016 due to chemical residues found in Benin's pineapple exports. This led to a loss of income and a reduction in farm employment in a sector that has been identified as one of three key growth areas in the country's development plan.

Radiation safety

An IAEA advisory mission to Benin in 2018 welcomed the country's commitment to radiation safety and assisted in the development of an action plan that will support the country in the establishment of a legal and regulatory framework for radiation safety. The team from IAEA and experts from France and Algeria looked at the country's control of radiation sources and its arrangements for individual dosimetry of exposed workers and calibration of measuring devices.

Human health

The IAEA is actively supporting the efforts of the Government of Benin to establish the country's first radiotherapy centre. During his visit in 2016, the late Director General Yukiya Amano discussed the role of nuclear science and technology in sustainable development and explained the IAEA's work in assisting its Member States in areas of food, water, the environment and health, including the fight against cancer and epidemic diseases such as Ebola and Zika. Through the IAEA's technical cooperation programme, researchers at the University of Abomey Calavi also received training.

Active national projects

- Enhancing Capacity Building for Energy Planning Using IAEA Tools (BEN2005)
- Strengthening National Capabilities to Improve the Safety and Competitiveness of Exportable Food Products (BEN5011)
- Enhancing Legume Production in Cereal-Livestock cropping systems for Food, Wealth and Soil Health Through the Use of Bio Fertilizers (Inoculum) (BEN5012)
- Strengthening Human Resources Development and Supporting the Establishment of a Quality Assurance Programme for the Use of Ionizing Radiation in Diagnostic and Therapeutic Applications (BEN6007)

Benin also participates in 36 regional and 3 interregional projects, mostly in the area of health and nutrition, food and agriculture, and energy planning and nuclear power.

Previous IAEA support to Benin

In recent years, the IAEA technical cooperation programme has focused on food safety, improving livestock and legume production, assessment of national nutrition programmes related to breastfeeding and malaria, energy planning, marine and environmental monitoring, as well as providing support to build human resource capacity for the nuclear medicine centre and the future first radiotherapy facility.



IAEA and FAO support helped Benin's Central Laboratory of Food Safety Control achieve its ISO accreditation. (Photo: Kisito Chabi Sika/LCSSA)

IAEA support to Benin, 2009–2019



336
trained
(including 60 women)

62
international
experts
provided

52
attended
specialist meetings
(including 6 women)

Priority areas of support

- Establishment of a legal and regulatory framework
- Use of isotopic techniques in medical diagnosis and treatment, including nuclear imaging for the diagnosis of serious illnesses and radiotherapy
- Improvement of animal production and health
- Improvement of energy coverage
- Monitoring nutrition intervention programmes
- Use of isotopic techniques for the improvement of soil fertility and plant nutrition
- Evaluation of soil erosion and degradation

Benin's contribution to South-South and triangular cooperation, 2009–2019



22
expert and lecturer
assignments provided
by Benin

151
training course
participants

14
fellows or
scientific visitors
hosted

Based on data available as of April 2020

Cancer control imPACT Review conducted: April 2013

Strategic documents supported

- Country Programme Framework 2017–2021, signed in September 2017
- National Cancer Plan (2013–2015)

www.iaea.org/technicalcooperation

The IAEA collaborates with National Liaison Officers and Permanent Missions to deliver its TC programme.