



ABOUT OSTICA

The Oromia Science, Technology and Information Communication Authority (OSTICA) is a governmental organizations established by the proclamation № 213/2019 G.C by the council of coffee Oromia to work on science and technology related activities in the region.

The following are among the mandates given to OSTICA:

- Conducting research on science and technology development needs of the region and its implementation;
- Linking the science, technology and innovation activities in industries, universities research institutes and TVET found in the region;
- Organize, coordinate and delicately promote the quality infrastructure development (standardization, accreditation, metrology and conformity assessment) in the region;
- Standardize traditional measurements for legal acceptance;
- Establish and support regional calibration and conformity assessment laboratories
- Work in collaboration with stakeholders on human capacity building of quality infrastructure elements.

Based on the above mandates, our quality infrastructure directorate working in the region foster on the quality of product and service in order to keep human and environmental safety.



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Quality Infrastructure (QI)

The objective of a business organization is to create goods to satisfy customers' needs at a profit. To satisfy these needs, the product, process or service must necessarily provide certain quality features and characteristics as defined by the customers. This is realized when access to demand-oriented quality infrastructure service is ensured. Quality infrastructure is a collective term encompassing standards, conformity assessment, technical regulations, metrology and accreditation. The aim of these elements is to support producers and service providers in delivering the quality expected by domestic and foreign customers.

Standardization

Maintaining uniformity and consistency among the different iterations of a particular good or service available on the market enhances fair trade, health, safety, protection of life and the environment. This is realized when there is an agreed document that details expectations and procedures for goods, services, products and their production processes for a common and repeated use. This document is known as standard. As a documentary point of reference approved by a recognized body, a standard describes agreed characteristics or technical requirements for products, processes or services in the form of rules, guidelines or definitions. Standards facilitate evaluating the degree to which expectations are met to facilitate market success.



Metrology

The accuracy level of measuring instruments affects our decisions in production and research. Accurate measurements bring positive impact on our economy, health, safety and general well-being. The science of exact measurement, embracing both experimental and theoretical determinations at any level of uncertainty in any field of science and technology is known as metrology. Metrology is mainly concerned with establishing the units of measurements, ensuring the uniformity of measurements, developing methods of measurement, errors of measurement, accuracy of measuring instruments and their care.

Conformity Assessment

Conformity assessment refers to any activity that determines whether a product, system or service complies with the requirements described in technical specifications, i.e. a standard or technical regulation. Conformity assessment is crucial to foster confidence in products and services, it helps regulators to ensure that health, safety and environmental characteristics are met. Conformity assessment involves a set of processes (inspection, testing) that show whether a product, system or service meets the requirements of a standard. The written assurance of compliance with a standard by a third party is called certification. This enables producers and service providers to offer quality and standardized products and services to local and international markets.



Accreditation

Accreditation is a means of having an independent third party confirm the technical competence of a conformity assessment body to perform a specific type of inspection, certification, testing or calibration. Accreditation fosters more accurate and transparent test results, improved operational efficiency, customer service and eventually enhanced trust. Accreditation helps to minimize technical barriers to trade, such as the retesting of products each time they enter a new economy and to realize the free-trade goal of "tested once, accepted everywhere".



About PTB

The Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt (PTB) is the national metrology institute of Germany, and it has existed for over 130 years. PTB complements the GIZ Green Innovation Centre (GIC) project by addressing quality-related challenges in order to increasingly integrate quality aspects into selected value chains.

Quality-related services are an important prerequisite for the efficiency and safety of agricultural production and its associated fields. By raising awareness and supporting local quality infrastructure capacities, the project aims to increase quality assurance along the entire value chain, from inputs (seeds, fertilizers and pesticides), harvesting and storage all the way to processing of agricultural products.

Recently, PTB has been commissioned by BMZ (Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development) to implement a project titled "Strengthening of the Quality Infrastructure for Innovations in the Agriculture and Food Sector in Ethiopia". The project is implemented between January 2020 and March 2024 jointly with the main political partner, the Ministry of agriculture (MoA).

