

## CERCLE DES SECHEURS (CDS)

### Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso)



<b>Founded:</b>	1992
<b>Location:</b>	Ouagadougou (headquarters)
<b>Number of producers:</b>	Around 380 employees and 41 bio-certified mango producers
<b>Products:</b>	Dried mangos and tomatoes as well as processed products
<b>Structure:</b>	GIE (Groupement d'Intérêt Economique)
<b>Percentage of women:</b>	Approx. 85% of the employees
<b>Management:</b>	General meeting
<b>Sub-groups:</b>	5 membership groups, several associated small enterprises as well as fresh fruit suppliers

### The producers

Burkina Faso is one of the poorest countries. In the eighties its President Thomas Sankara promoted a number of schemes to combat malnutrition, including the introduction of solar driers. This was designed to ensure the availability of domestic fruit and vegetables all year round, as well as to create additional sources of income. In 1987 the NAAM women's group Rin Tika («eat well») first made contact with *claro fair trade* (then known as OS3). Thanks to its success, the fair trade pilot project «Dried Mangos» was quickly able to involve further groups. In 1992 the *Cercle des Sécheurs* was founded. The objective was to create self-sustaining structures. This led in 1995 to its registration as a GIE («Groupement d'Intérêt Economique») and consequently to the acquisition of its own export licence. Today *CDS* brings together five founding members; depending upon the orders, additional small enterprises can also be involved (currently six). The *CDS* coordination office supports all groups with training, advice, quality assurance and oversees exports to fair trade organisations. In addition, producers are empowered to strengthen their organisations and to perform certain tasks (e.g. bookkeeping) independently. Furthermore, many women have learnt to read and write – an important advance in view of the illiteracy rate in Burkina Faso, which for women is estimated to lie at over 80%. The founding members make up the Board of Management. The Board decides on the distribution of supplier quotas, the acceptance of new members, etc. Affiliated enterprises participate in the fair trade orders and receive the same price, although they do not have right of co-determination.

### The product

The *CDS* groups process vegetables, fruit and cereals for their own consumption and for the local market; currently, for the export to *claro fair trade* they produce organic certified dried mangos as well as mango nectar, mango juice, mango jam, dried tomatoes and sesame seeds.

### The fair trade

*claro fair trade* has provided *CDS* with crucial support with respect to setting up the fair trade mango project. It is contributing to its further development as follows:

- Attending, quality assurance and orders on behalf of European fair trade organisations
- Securing sources of income and education opportunities, in particular for women
- Switch to organic certified products
- Product diversification with a view to year-round employment