

**Press Release**  
**May 04, 2022**

**hep Expands Support for aid Organization**

**hep Supports Aid Organization “Faandima” in Burkina Faso With its Fairly Traded and Sustainable Mangoes**

**Güglingen, May 04, 2022** – Freshly picked mangoes from fair and organic cultivation. hep, once again, continues its commitment in the West African country Burkina Faso. After the construction of a solar plant in 2019, with dried mangoes in 2020 and first “flight mangoes” in 2021, around 500 fair and sustainably grown mangoes in organic quality have now arrived at the hepquarters in Güglingen.

**The Country of Upright People**

Burkina Faso, located in West Africa, is one of the poorest countries in the world, with over 40 percent of the population living below the poverty level. At the same time, the country is characterized by great ethnic and religious tolerance. More than 60 ethnic groups live together peacefully which is reflected in the country’s name as it expresses the following: The terms “Burkina” and “Faso” derive from the two largest national languages and together they mean “land of the upright people”.

Agriculture is the most important economic sector with more than 80 percent of the people working here. But the conditions are tough: water shortages, regular droughts and nutrient-poor soil make it difficult to grow food. In addition, the unfavorable geographic location results in high transportation costs, preventing the country from connecting to the world market.

**Helping People to Help Themselves**

This country is very close to our hearts. Therefore, we want to support the inhabitants to improve their living conditions themselves. For this reason, we cooperate with the aid organization “Faandima” which is working on exactly this with its projects. “Faandima”, meaning development, is an aid organization that supports vulnerable women and children to lead a self-determined life and thus opens up long-term chances for a better future.

**Consciously Taking a Stand**

The mango harvest is done almost exclusively by women. This way, they not only secure their livelihood, but also finance their children’s school education and thus the chance of a better future. Faandima supports these women by exporting the mangoes. Around 70 percent of the proceeds are intended for the wages of the female farmers, as well as for material and production costs. Twenty percent is used to finance “Faandima projects” in the areas of health and education, from which the women can benefit directly. The remaining ten percent goes towards local logistics and administrative costs.

Because it is important to us not to operate at the expense of our planet or its inhabitants. For a company with this claim, a commitment to society, to education or to environmental protection and species conservation goes without saying.



Mangos are an important source of income for the women in Burkina Faso (credit: Faandima).

### **Invest Responsibly With hep**

A partner for everything that is solar energy. That is hep. Since 2008, we develop, build, operate and finance solar parks. Worldwide. For energy generation that can do more than just supply electricity. The large-scale photovoltaic plants we have developed have a capacity of around 800 megawatts. From our locations in Germany, Japan and the USA, we operate 16 of our own solar projects. Our active pipeline for future projects holds a good 5,300 megawatts (as of 03/31/21).

We combine high-tech know-how with the highest level of competence in finance. This makes us unique. More than 2,000 investors, around 268 million assets under management and a successful track record: this is how we underpin our sustainable corporate success. HEP Kapitalverwaltung AG designs investment funds with different maturities and risk-return profiles as a BaFin-regulated financial investment management company.

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