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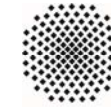
Establishing PT/EQA Schemes in Developing Countries – Examples from Africa

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Conformity Assessment (CA) in Developing Countries

- Expectations of foreign importers or regulators → no export without CA
- Poor data from laboratories → poor decisions
- **Competence of laboratories is of fundamental interest for the society**



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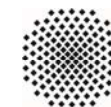


PTs in Africa

- Participation in PTs from abroad usually is very expensive → not affordable for many laboratories
- Therefore in the SADC and EAC regions PT schemes were installed for
 - Chemical analysis of wheat flour
 - Chemical analysis of edible salt
 - Chemical analysis of edible vegetable oil
 - Chemical analysis of water
 - Microbiological analysis of water

With support from PTB Germany





Development of laboratories

- Many laboratories improved their quality management systems
- Some laboratories gained accreditation
- Experience in the water PT scheme has revealed:

Cooperation among laboratories in the region is a key to success

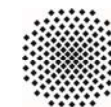
- An association of water testing laboratories in SADC region in beyond was initiated in

November 2005 – SADCWaterLab





SADCWaterLab



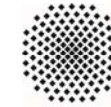
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- is a regional not-for-profit organization. Its major aims are:
 - To facilitate technical cooperation and collaboration amongst regional laboratories involved in water testing
 - To run a proficiency testing scheme for water analysis
 - To provide an organized interface at the regional level between these laboratories and other SQAM structures involved in conformity assessment issues
 - To promote the development and harmonization of measurement, test and analytical methods.
 - Capacity building
 - Promote laboratory accreditation



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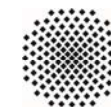
Membership in SADCWaterlab

- Those laboratories, laboratories associations, individuals and any organization who subscribe to the objectives and values of the Association
- Ordinary members
 - laboratories and laboratories associations in SADC countries
- Associate members
 - laboratories and laboratories associations of non-SADC member states
 - Individuals and any other organization having an interest in water testing





Training



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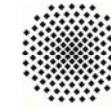
- SADCWaterLab formed a base for exchange of experiences and knowledge
- **Training is essential for improvement**
- PT evaluation workshops are used for training
- Training of trainers on “Quality Assurance in Analytical Chemistry”
 - 28 people from 14 countries were trained in 2010
 - They are obliged to organize national workshops



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Sustainability



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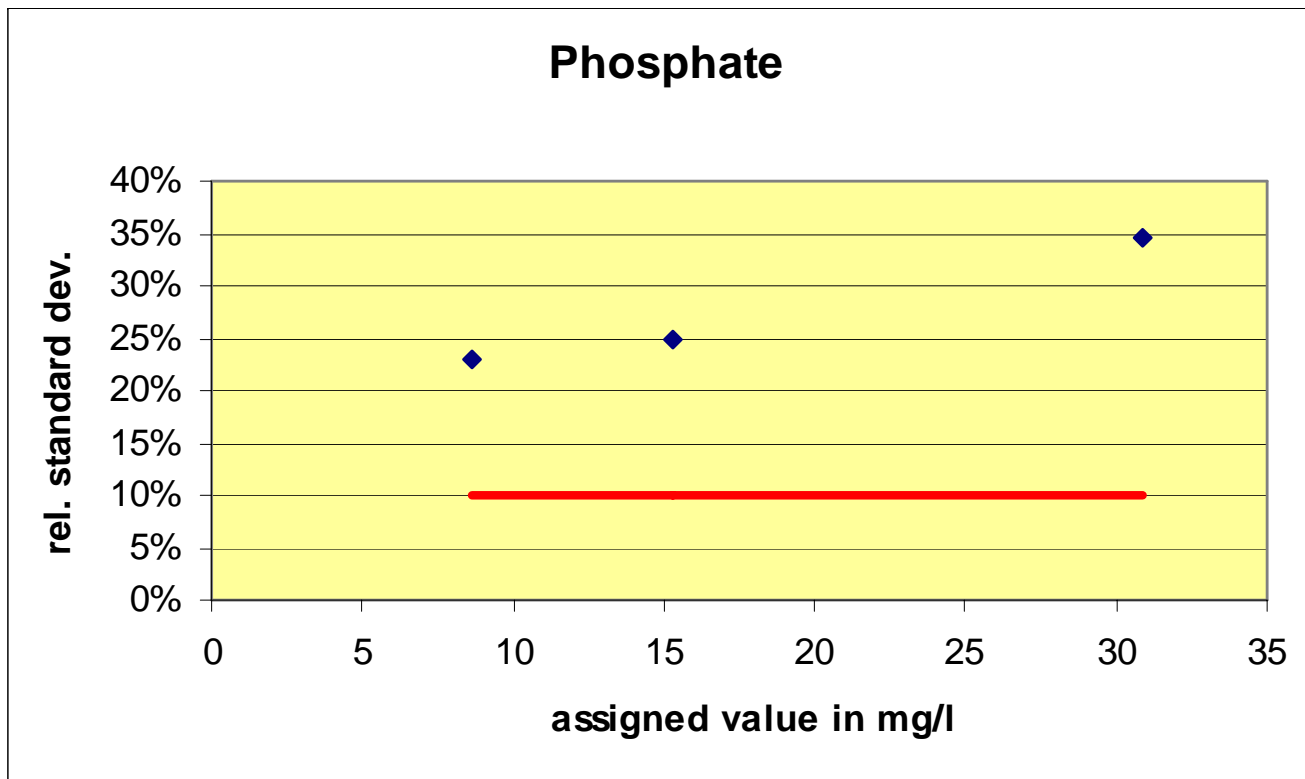
- Is the major challenge in the PT schemes
- At present
 - Transportation of samples, training, consultancy fees and participation in the evaluation workshop are fully sponsored by PTB
 - participants pay a fee covering the sample preparation only
- PTB projects will end soon



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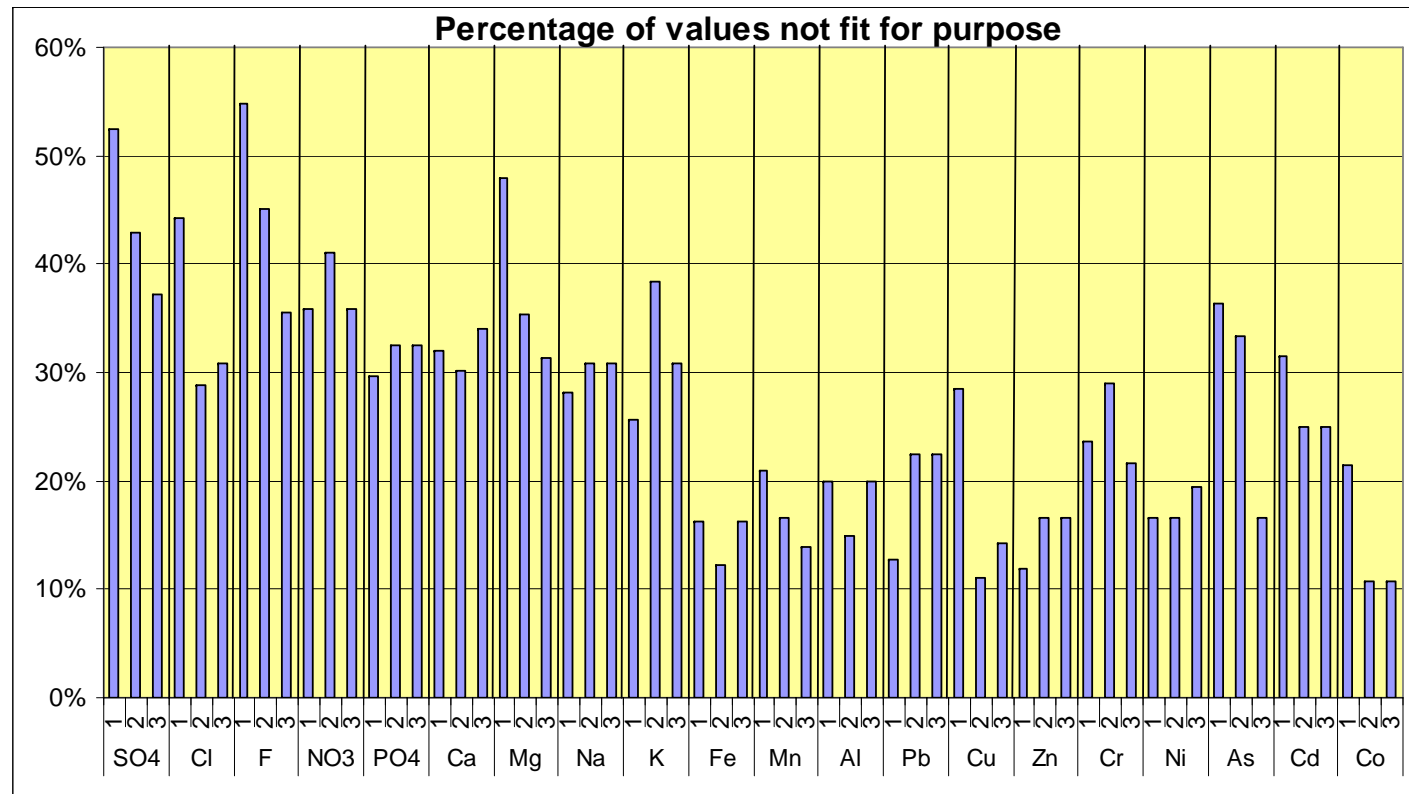
Quality of PT results

- Standard deviation of results is very high



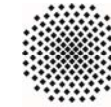
Quality of PT results

- Proportion of unsatisfactory results is quite high



Reasons for insufficient quality

- **Lack of corrective actions in the participating laboratories**
- Most probably insufficient capacities and resources in the laboratories
- In the training sessions and in the evaluation report more emphasis were and will be put on this need



How to overcome problems?

- Sustainability
 - Technical support from other development partners?
 - Can increasing numbers of participants and increasing participation fees finance the scheme?
 - Will evaluation workshops be possible in future?





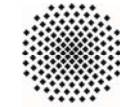
How to overcome problems?

- Low awareness of the importance of PT
 - Awareness has to be increased to ensure that PT activities are supported by decision makers
 - Technical community and policy makers have to understand the importance
 - Assistance is still required to ensure scheme is sustained and the scope expanded.





Thanks



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- To PTB for the financial and technical support of the PT schemes
- To all participating laboratories
- To all people active in SADCWaterLab
- For your attention



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