

March 2010

Exchange of information on SPS

This document is a compilation of SPS information received for the STDF Working Group meeting of 19 March 2010 from:

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- **AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE INFORMATION AND COOPERATION (AITIC)**

AITIC SPS Technical Assistance Activities, 12 March 2010

AITIC was established in Geneva in 1998 as an association and transformed into an intergovernmental organisation in 2004. AITIC's objective is to assist the less-advantaged countries (i.e. resource-constrained developing countries and economies in transition, with a priority to the least-developed countries and countries without permanent representation in Geneva) to effectively participate in the WTO negotiations and in the multilateral trading system (MTS). AITIC currently has 61 Participating Members who are provided trade-related technical assistance, for a better understanding of trade policy issues and the MTS.

AITIC has been receiving requests from its members for specific assistance programmes on the SPS Agreement and the notification requirements. AITIC started providing rigorous tailor-made assistance on SPS issues since 2008. In July, 2009, AITIC and DFID entered into formal agreement to collaborate on projects aimed at providing technical assistance to LDCs and non-resident countries (without permanent representation in Geneva). One of the purposes of this two year (2009 and 2010) project is to strengthen the capacity of these countries to implement the Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) agreement. It is likely that the DFID would continue to provide funding to AITIC for these activities.

AITIC has so far conducted four national workshops on SPS related issues – twice in the Gambia, Nepal and Togo. In 2010, AITIC is scheduled to conduct two more in Africa, one a follow-up in Togo and another in a country yet to be confirmed. In addition, documents on SPS have also been published.

In the national workshops mentioned above, AITIC collaborated with SPS experts and local authorities to deliver tailor-made sessions. The workshops lasted two days in the capital. The nodal

ministries of Agriculture and/or Trade, had been requested to ensure the participation of officials from other ministries and departments like the Health, Animal Welfare, Trade, Chemicals and Fertilizers, Food safety, Small-Scale industries dealing with package, Business houses, Chambers of Commerce, Standards, Fisheries, Plant protection, Customs, Committees on Codex, packaging companies, etc and also the private sector for proper dissemination of information to the different SPS stakeholders. The workshops also informed the participants of the role of the STDF and its activities.

The Gambia

AITIC's SPS activities began in The Gambia in 2008, with a request for a tailored programme. In consultation with the Gambian authorities, the workshop was designed not only to explain the different issues in the SPS Agreements but also to give a hands-on training on the notification process. The exercise was done on how to notify their "Food Safety Act", which was then being enacted. The importance of setting up enquiry points was also adequately emphasised.

In the Gambia, Mrs. Fatim Njie, Director of Trade, Ministry of Trade, Industry and Employment, informed that following AITIC workshop held in August 2008, the Ministry had, in consultations with stakeholders, established Enquiry Points for both SPS and TBT in the Gambia. AITIC has also been now informed that on 4 March 2010, the Gambia notified to the WTO its new Food Safety and Quality Bill. In this specific case AITIC's technical assistance efforts have helped The Gambia to fulfil its notification obligation to the WTO.

The activity was followed up in 2009 with another workshop that focused the detailed understanding of the SPS Agreement and training on the process of notifications. The workshop highlighted the following recommendations:

1. The Ministry of Trade, Industry and Employment needs to immediately inform the WTO of the existence of the Enquiry Points.
2. To promote the use of standard methods and certification to increase Gambia's ability to have access to certain niche markets.
3. To explore the possibilities of establishing a Permanent Mission in Geneva to effectively follow up and participate in all WTO Committee meetings, including SPS and TBT. AITIC has informed the authorities on the availability of its Non-Resident Unit to assist them establish a mission in Geneva.
4. Need to increase and maintain its share in the international markets by addressing non-trade measures affecting its exports, and to fully maximize the preferential access to its current main overseas markets.

Nepal

The workshop at Nepal was organised on their specific request to brief the officials on the SPS Agreement and in particular to give clarify the process of notification. 40 government officials and specialists participated in the workshop. The main topics covered included: Transparency, Harmonisation, Equivalence, S&D, Traceability, Certification, Emergency Preparedness and Early Warning Systems for Prevention of Pests, Risk Analysis and Management and Regional Cooperation. The participants emphasised the need for similar workshops and the assistance that the AITIC could provide to Nepal as well as other LDCs, with regard to the WTO SPS Agreement. This was later confirmed by the Permanent Mission in Geneva in a request to consider additional training to rectify problems with notifications.

Togo

The National Workshop in Togo was organised in collaboration with the Ministry for Trade and Promotion of Private Sector. The Minister, H.E. Mr. Guy Madjé Lorenzo, opened the event which drew close to 60 participants from different ministries, private sector, civil society and international organisations. The format of the workshop was the same, with practical exercises on case studies and notification process. Officials requested for further capacity building activities on the SPS Agreement.

During the workshop it emerged that the national concern was that the implementation of the SPS Agreement was very low, or non-existent, due to structural, institutional and human constraints. The consequence was lack of access to European and American markets.

It also became apparent that there was lack of information amongst the different government departments on the existence of the necessary regulatory provisions at the national level.

The workshop closed with the following recommendations, which will be followed up in the upcoming workshop:

- The designation of a national authority responsible for all notifications.
- The establishment of a national standards body.
- The establishment of a national SPS Committee.
- The addition in the general budget of a specific line item for the implementation of SPS measures.
- The creation of a focal point for the management of information pertaining to SPS measures.
- The review and distribution of texts related to the application of SPS measures.

2010

AITIC's 2010 SPS activities are being finalised. Activities similar to those in 2009 are foreseen in Lao PDR, Cambodia, Rwanda or Togo, which have all expressed an interest in continuing with tailored technical assistance from AITIC. It is the Agency's aim to provide consistent SPS technical assistance, with repeat workshops in capital to ensure that the knowledge base is strengthened over time. AITIC consults the WTO Secretariat to remain informed of important and ongoing developments in the SPS Committee and to ensure inter-agency coordination.

AITIC is also planning on organising mini-courses on the SPS Agreement for the Geneva-based delegates, to give them a basic understanding of the Agreement and its relationship with other areas of negotiations at the WTO.

For the reasons listed above, an observer status for AITIC in the SPS Committee would greatly facilitate AITIC to follow the developments in the Committee and thereby constantly update the Agency's technical assistance activities and programmes.

Table on 2009 SPS Activities

AITIC NATIONAL WORKSHOPS		
Title	Venue	Date
Notifications under the WTO SPS Agreement	Kathmandu, Nepal	27 – 28 April 2009
The SPS Agreement and Notification Training	Banjul, The Gambia	23 – 24 September 2009
L' Accord SPS et session de formation sur les notifications	Lomé, Togo	1 – 2 octobre 2009
AITIC RESOURCE DOCUMENTS ON SPS		
Title	Date	
Trade and Development Brief - The WTO Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures: <i>SPS Part 1 of 3</i> http://www.acici.org/aitic/documents/T&DBriefs/T&DSPS1_eng.htm	May 2009	
Trade and Development Brief - The Implementation Record of the SPS Agreement – the Third Review: <i>SPS Part 2 of 3</i> http://www.acici.org/aitic/documents/T&DBriefs/T&DSPS2_eng.htm	May 2009	
Trade and Development Brief - Dispute settlement under the SPS Agreement: <i>SPS Part 3 of 3</i> http://www.acici.org/aitic/documents/T&DBriefs/T&DSPS3_eng.htm	May 2009	

- **INTER AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK - INTEGRATION AND TRADE SECTOR**

**Activities developed on SPS (sanitary and phytosanitary)
related issues**

I. Capacity Building on SPS related issues

i) Demand-driven capacity buildings

The Integration and Trade Sector (INT) has implemented capacity building activities for LAC government officials and private sector on SPS related issues. The objectives of these activities are: i) to strengthen the Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) capacity to address SPS related challenges and, ii) to foster the technical knowledge on SPS related import requirements.

Beneficiaries: The target audiences are government officials from the Ministry of Agriculture, Trade and Health, SPS agencies and private sector from LAC countries.

Methodology: These capacity building activities are organized based on a demand-driven approach. They aim at delivering training courses according to the specific needs raised by a particular country or region. They are derived from client-driven needs with a short to medium term scope amount to rapid responses to demands emerging directly from the clients. The topics covered vary depending on the specific needs of the country or region where it will take place. These trainings are provided by INT experts, with the collaboration of other partner institutions (FDA, APHIS, European Commission, WTO), local (National Export Promotion Agency) and regional institutions (IICA, OIRSA).

The trainings that will be implemented in 2010 are:

- i) “Curso sobre los Requerimientos sanitarios y fitosanitarios de los Principales Mercados Importadores”, 12-13 April, Ciudad de Guatemala.
- ii) Fortaleciendo la capacidad agroexportadora de las PYMES Ecuatorianas, October, Quito/Manta/Guayaquil, Ecuador.
- iii) Ronda de diseminación de las Guías Para Exportar a la Unión Europea, Central America, 14-22 April.

Next steps: INT has received requests to develop SPS related trainings from the Government of Peru and El Salvador. Taking into account the list of trainings already scheduled for 2010, these requests, if approved, will be implemented in 2011.

ii) Supply-driven capacity buildings

IDB/INTAL-WTO Capacity Building Program

The IDB jointly with the WTO has developed a Training Program for trade negotiators in the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding signed by these institutions in February 2002. These trainings aim to strength the understanding of the WTO legal framework. Every year is delivered technical trainings on Agriculture Trade, SPS and/or TBT. The objective of the IDB/INTAL-WTO Training Program is to strengthen the negotiating and implementation capacities of the regional governments regarding the multilateral trade agreements.

Beneficiaries: The training program is directed to national government officials from Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) whose working responsibilities are closely related to the process of trade negotiation at a multilateral level.

Methodology: The annual program of courses is designed jointly by the Division of Technical Cooperation of the WTO, in consultation with the respective delegations in Geneva, and the IDB/INTAL. The topics of the courses vary depending on the negotiations process dynamics related to the Doha Development Program and the specific needs of the regional countries. The trainings are provided by INT and WTO experts, with the collaboration of national and regional institutions. The material and agenda of the trainings can be found at INTAL website:

http://www.iadb.org/intal/detalle_articulo.asp?idioma=esp&aid=844&cid=256&nivel=1

Trainings developed jointly by IDB/INTAL-WTO, 2005-2009

Specif scope	
NAMA	9
SPS	4
Trade Facilitation	6
Dispute Settlement	5
Trade and Environment	2
Trade and Development	4
Service	2
Agriculture	4
Others	2
Genneric scope	
Regional Trade Policy	5
WTO Negotiations Status	5
Regional and Multilateral Trade Agreements	3
Seminar for Accademics on WTO negotiations	2
Seminar for Parlamentars on WTO negotiations	1
TOTAL	54

The trainings that will be implemented in 2010 are:

- i) Agriculture course (with an SPS Module), 26-28 April, Buenos Aires/Argentina;
- ii) SPS Course, November, Lima/Peru.

II. SPS Database

The Integration and Trade Sector (INT) has developed a database (**INTrade**) that provides access to accurate and updated information about trade agreements, market access, trade statistics and indicators. It includes a set of applications that facilitates the understanding, analysis and implementation of trade agreements. It comprises a specific Module on sanitary and phytosanitary measures (SPS), which provides information on:

- i) SPS related commitments negotiated in the regional trade agreements,
- ii) Notifications sent to the WTO SPS Committee regarding Specific Trade Concerns,
- iii) Private standards,
- iv) Import refusals at US and EU due to the lack of compliance with SPS related requirements,
- v) SPS related requirements to export agricultural products to some specific countries.

The SPS Database is available at: <http://www.iadb.org/topics/trade/int/tools/sps/Default.aspx>

III. Loan Projects

INT provide technical advice and recommendations in any IDB loan project that has a SPS component. Some examples of the most recent projects approved and in pipeline are:

Project	Title	Beneficiary	Value	Year
BL-L1009	Agricultural Services Program	Belize	5,000,000	2009
JA-L1012	Agricultural Competitiveness Program	Jamaica	16,000,000	2010
RG-T1679	Sistema Armonizado de Rastreabilidad Bovina en Centroamérica, Belice, Panamá y República Dominicana	Central America	1,900,000	2009
IIC-FinPyme	FINPYME Export Plus	Guatemala	300.000	2010

IV. Research

INT has developed technical research on recent trends, challenges and opportunities in the field of SPS. Some examples of the last publication are:

i) “The Treatment of Agriculture in Regional Trade Agreements in the Americas”, Matthew Shearer, Juliana Salles Almeida, Carlos Gutierrez. IDB Working, November 2009.

Paper launched jointly with the IPC in Salzburg, May 2009 and in Washington DC, October 2009.

Information available at: <http://events.iadb.org/calendar/eventDetail.aspx?lang=en&id=1462>

Document available at : <http://www.iadb.org/publications/search.cfm?query=The+Treatment+of+Agriculture+in+Regional+Trade+Agreements+&context=all&lang=en&searchLang=all&searchtype=general>

ii) “SPS Import Requirements to Access the EU Market”, Juliana Salles Almeida, Thierry Woller, IDB (forthcoming April 2010)

iii) “SPS Import Requirements to Access the Asian Market (Japan, Korea, China and Singapore)”, Juliana Salles Almeida, Shin Kwew, IDB (forthcoming August 2010)

iv) “The Treatment of Agriculture in Trade Agreements around the World: lessons learned and best practices”, OECD/ IDB (forthcoming June 2010).

Beside these publications, some additional researchers are also developed under the “Aid for Trade Initiative”.

• **INTER AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR COOPERATION ON AGRICULTURE (IICA)**

Actions for Implementing the WTO Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

The following communication, received on 5 March 2010, is being distributed at the request of IICA.

1. The observer organizations of the Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) of the World Trade Organization (WTO) are invited to submit reports on activities they have accomplished to foster an understanding of the SPS Agreement and to promote its implementation. IICA wishes to put forward a number of actions or activities which it considers to be of interest to this Committee.

I. TRAINING IN INSPECTION AND PHYTOSANITARY HAZARD PROFILES

2. A methodology was devised in the framework of the IICA STDF 108 project for developing phytosanitary hazard profiles at the border post level. This methodology is based on two fundamental principles: (i) officials at border posts, who are called upon to take rapid decisions on phytosanitary and trade matters with little information, should be provided with the necessary technical tools; (ii) a system needs to be developed to help facilitate trade at the border posts or checkpoints.

3. The dissemination and training process was conducted through regional workshops covering nine countries, five of them from the southern region (Chile, Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay) and four from the Andean region (Colombia, Ecuador, Bolivia and Peru). A total of about 100 experts were trained to serve as trainers in their respective countries.

4. The workshop for the countries of the southern region took place in Asunción, Paraguay, in November 2009, and was organized by the National Plant and Seed Quality and Health Service of Paraguay (SENAVE), the Southern Cone Plant Health Committee (COSAVE), and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA).

5. The workshop for the Andean countries took place in Lima, Peru, in February, with the cooperation of the National Agricultural Health Service of Peru (SENASA).

6. The objectives of the workshops were:

- To build up capacity in the preparation of phytosanitary hazard profiles (a new concept for rapid specific hazard risk. Assessments needed at the border posts or commercial ports of entry of perishable goods);
- to develop a team of experts in the various countries that are able to disseminate the methodology in their organizations;
- to create trade facilitation tools that are compatible with the protection of phytosanitary status;
- to enhance the capacity to interrelate and implement ISPMs, and to introduce appropriate inspection procedures to strengthen effective performance in the region;
- to provide updated information on capacities, standards and operating procedures used in the region for phytosanitary inspection, identifying strengths and needs.

7. A similar workshop is also being organized for Ecuador outside the STDF 108 project, and it is hoped that the domino effect of this initiative in other countries of the Andean region, the Caribbean and the central region can be enhanced.

8. The phytosanitary hazard profile manual can be found in Spanish at www.iica.int (the English version will be available shortly).

For further information, contact Lourdes Fonalleras (lourdes.fonalleras@iica.int), Eric Bolaños (erick.bolanos@iica.int) or Ricardo Molins (ricardo.molins@iica.int).

II. PROJECT TO SUPPORT PARTICIPATION IN CODEX ALIMENTARIUS MEETINGS

9. In collaboration with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), the IICA has implemented a project to promote effective participation of the countries of the Americas and to help them to profit from the different Codex Alimentarius committees.

10. To date, the project has included four committees (Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (CCFFV - Mexico), Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (CCNFSU - Germany), Food Hygiene (CCFH - United States), and Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (CCFICS - Australia). A second stage is being launched for 2010 which includes the committees on General Principles (CCGP - France), Pesticide Residues (CCPR - China) and Food Contaminants (CCFC - Turkey).

11. Since this is a competitive fund with limited resources, funding has so far been provided for the participation of 13 countries in the different committees.

12. To date, the following conclusions and recommendations have emerged for strengthening the Codex institutional framework in the different countries:

- (a) A considerable number of countries do not have technical sub-committees or if they do, they are not operational. Consequently, it is difficult for a national focal point to coordinate them. The following was observed:
 - Low participation of the private sector;
 - information management problems;
 - no dissemination activities on the importance and benefits of the Codex committee;
 - meetings of sub-committees very sporadic;
 - virtually no consumer participation;
 - shortage of manuals of procedures and internal regulations for the national Codex committees as well as for the enquiry points and the technical sub-committees;
- (b) there is a pressing need to work on the management of the national Codex committees;

- (c) it is important to focus on the Codex working groups. The progress made in those groups essentially guides the work of the committees;
- (d) the preparation of delegates needs to be reinforced, particularly if they are new delegates. Fostering encounters among delegates through video conferencing, electronic forums or communities of practice to facilitate the exchange of information and examination of subjects of interest could have a considerable impact;
- (e) a permanent training programme should be developed on good participation practices and Codex standard-setting procedures;
- (f) post-event follow-up should be ensured and the results of the meeting should be disseminated in the country by the participating delegates, and the next steps to be taken in the framework of the National Codex Committee should be established;
- (g) a procedural or management manual should be drawn up as a guide to the newly-formed national committees or to systems that do not have a national Codex committee;
- (h) support should be provided for dissemination activities relating to the international standards-setting process of the Codex Alimentarius and other international reference organizations;
- (i) cooperation with the Codex Coordinating Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean (CCLAC), as a mechanism for building regional consensus, should be strengthened.

13. The strategy for implementing this project is described in annex.

For further information, contact: ricardo.molins@iica.int (Ricardo Molins), erick.bolanos@iica.int (Eric Bolaños).

III. DEVELOPMENT OF MANUALS ON GOOD PARTICIPATION PRACTICES

14. The IICA has developed four manuals on good participation practices for the meetings of the WTO SPS Committee, the Codex Alimentarius, the IPPC and the OIE. All of the manuals are designed for officials with little or no experience in official representation and should serve as a management support tool. The manuals can be found at <http://www.iica.int>.

IV. INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SUPPORT

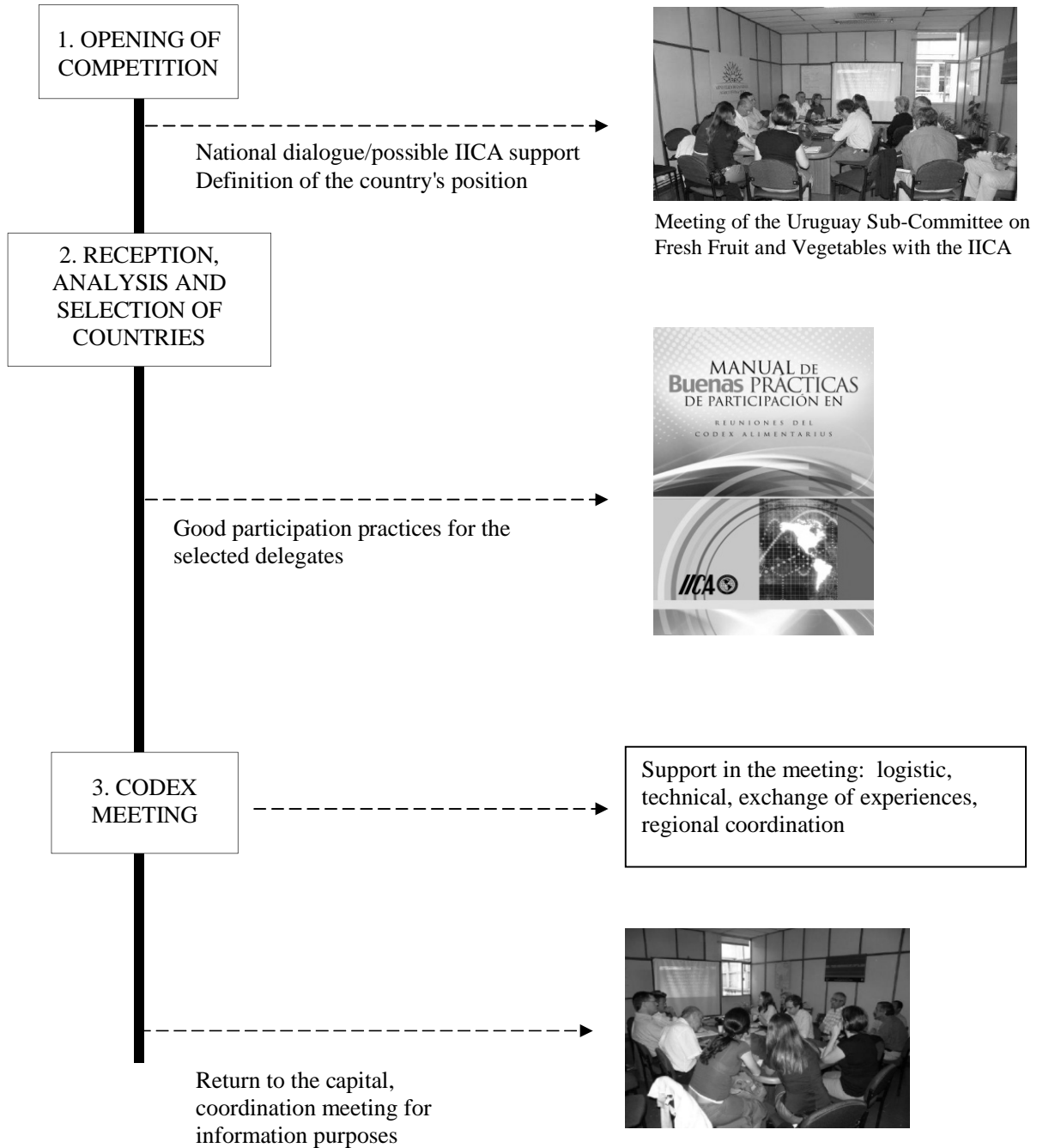
15. The electronic newsletter CODEX-SPS *Opinion Forum* specializes in the topics discussed at Codex Alimentarius and WTO SPS Committee meetings. This newsletter disseminates and analyses the standards and actions defined at these events with the aim of increasing information and promoting the study of these issues. The newsletter is available to all member countries at www.iica.org.ar. For further information contact mlfonalleras@iica.int (Lourdes Fonalleras).

16. In Paraguay, a periodic electronic newsletter reports on the activities of the National SPS Technical Committee and on SPS developments. For further information, contact Carlos Franco at carlos.franco@iica.int.

Inter American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), Agricultural Health and Food Safety
<http://www.infoagro.net/salud>, <http://www.iica.int>

ANNEX

Programme Implementation Diagram



- **INTERNATIONAL PLANT PROTECTION CONVENTION SECRETARIAT (IPPC)**

The following communication, received on 4 March 2010, is being circulated at the request of the IPPC.

III. INFORMATION EXCHANGE

A. CONTACT POINTS

7. In 2009 81 per cent of IPPC contact points have updated their information at least once. This contributes substantially to improving communication between the secretariat and contracting parties.

B. UNOFFICIAL CONTACT POINTS

8. The following contracting parties have unofficial contact points and still need to make formal nominations for official IPPC contact points:

- Africa: Botswana, Seychelles;
- Asia: Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Myanmar;
- Europe: Greece, Italy;
- Latin America and the Caribbean: Bahamas, Saint Kitts and Nevis;
- Near East: Bahrain, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates;
- Southwest Pacific: Fiji, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Vanuatu.

C. INTERNATIONAL PHYTOSANITARY PORTAL (IPP)

9. At the beginning of December 2009, a new revamped and updated version of the IPPC website (<https://www.ippc.int>) was released. The changes and updates were based on considerable feedback from all groups of users of the IPP. The new website looks very fresh, different and has a number of improvements to make it user friendly and relevant. Updating of reported information stills remains a concern. Contracting parties are urged to update the IPP.

IV. CAPACITY BUILDING

A. STRATEGY AND OPERATIONAL PLAN

12. The IPPC convened an Open-ended Working Group (OEWG) on Phytosanitary Capacity Building in Rome in December 2009 to finalise a strategy and operational plan. The phytosanitary capacity building strategy and the operational plan will be presented to CPM-5 for approval. The strategic framework document is available on the IPP.

B. PROJECTS (PHYTOSANITARY CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT)

13. The main aim of the projects that the IPPC is involved in concerns the proper implementation of the IPPC standards and the Convention. The secretariat continued its collaboration with donor agencies and contracting parties in the delivery of technical assistance for capacity building in projects funded through various sources. The secretariat, under a supervisory or implementation agreement signed between the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) and FAO, provided its services to the three STDF projects listed. A total of eight projects are being supported and are outlined below.

- UNJP/URT/129/MUL - Bio security capacity building: this project is funded under the *One UN* basket funding to address national priorities. The secretariat assisted the government of the United Republic of Tanzania in identifying as well as addressing priorities in the context of national biosecurity.
- STDF 171- Establishment of a Centre of Phytosanitary Excellence (COPE) in East Africa
- STDF 230- Establishment of Lethal yellowing Disease- free areas for coconuts in Mozambique
- STDF 133- Capacity building in the use of the Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation Tool in the Pacific: This project has concluded its planned activities and a final report is being prepared.
- TCP/MOZ/3205: Management and mitigation measures for alien invasive fruit fly (*Bactrocera invadens*) in Mozambique
- TCP/INS/3203: Strengthening Quarantine Control Systems for Invasive Alien Species (IAS)
- TCP/ERI/3204: Strengthening capacity for integrated pest management (IPM) in Eritrea Citrus pilot IPM programme: Under this project the IPPC provided training on information exchange and pest risk analysis. Further intervention will focus on improving surveillance capacity and pest diagnostic capabilities of NPPO and associated officials. This project is lead by the FAO sub-regional office for Southern Africa.
- TCP/MDV/3201: Maldives - Assistance in the Drafting of Agricultural Legislation: The IPPC was asked to support this project by providing technical advisory services in strengthening national phytosanitary capacities. The PCE was performed by the NPPO and a technical assessment of the capacities of the lead institutions involved in plant protection was conducted. Further work will involve strengthening the import verification processes of the country. This project is lead by the Development Law Service (LEGN) of FAO.

C. PROJECT FORMULATION

14. The IPPC secretariat, under its mandate to improve phytosanitary capacity of members, met with a number of donors and assisted in the formulation of a number of projects. The most advanced of these is a regional project valued at approximately \$2 million for dealing with the fruit fly – *Bactrocera invadens* in East Africa. This project proposal has been submitted to the Common Fund for Commodities (CFC). Four other project proposals have been prepared and are awaiting submission to donors. These include:

- (a) Regional project for West Africa on *Bactrocera invadens* valued at USD 9M will be submitted to donors by FAO in 2010;
- (b) Project to strengthen phytosanitary services in Mozambique already prepared and will be submitted to the NPPO and FAO for approval in 2010;
- (c) Project for strengthening phytosanitary services in Libya, written but placed on hold; and
- (d) Five multi-year trust fund projects submitted for proposal to donors by FAO.

15. In addition, contracting parties submit project formulation requests to the secretariat from time to time. One such request for strengthening phytosanitary services was received from the

Government of Oman in 2009. A project formulation mission, financed by the Sultanate of Oman, is expected to be fielded in 2010.

D. NATIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOPS ON INFORMATION EXCHANGE

16. The secretariat (when possible in association with the FAO regional and sub-regional officers) in 2009 undertook information exchange capacity building missions in Central African Republic, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Guyana, Malaysia, Maldives, Mozambique, Namibia, Oman and Uganda. A direct result of these information exchange capacity building workshops is an increase in the amount of information available through the IPP.

V. KEY ACTIVITIES PROPOSED FOR 2010

2. Information Exchange

A. INTERNATIONAL PHYTOSANITARY PORTAL (IPP)

24. The IPPC will continue to improve the IPP and will work with contracting parties to ensure the up-dating of reported information. Contracting parties are urged to update the IPP.

B. PEST REPORTING

25. The IPPC will explore with international organizations and RPPOs a common mechanism for official pest reporting.

C. TOOLS

26. The IPPC will be field testing and upgrading the phytosanitary capacity evaluation tool. The tool will be hosted on FAO servers.

3. Capacity Building

A. PROJECTS

27. The secretariat will continue its collaboration with donor agencies and contracting parties in the delivery of technical assistance for capacity building in projects funded through various sources.

B. PROJECT FORMULATION

28. The secretariat is interested in working more closely on the formulation and implementation of projects aimed at improving the phytosanitary status of countries and the capacities to implement the ISPMs and the Convention.

C. REGIONAL WORKSHOPS TO REVIEW DRAFT ISPMs

29. Seven regional workshops for the review of draft ISPMs are planned for the 2010 member consultation period. The workshops will target the Southwest Pacific, Africa, Near-East, Caribbean, Russian-speaking countries (Baltic, Central Asia, Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States), Latin America and Asia. The tentative dates and venues for these workshops have been posted on the IPP.

D. NATIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOPS ON INFORMATION EXCHANGE

30. The secretariat (when possible in association with the FAO regional and sub-regional officers) will continue this programme and will target a further ten countries in 2010.

- **INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTRE (ITC)**

Information on SPS-related recent and forthcoming assistance and other activities - STDF working group meeting on 19 March 2010

Projects:

- ***STDF 69 project: “Improved capacity for ensuring the quality and safety of Yemeni seafood products”***

ITC has completed its close supervisory assistance to the Yemeni Seafood Exporting Association (YSEA) in December 2009. The final report is in progress.

There is a need to ensure sustainability to the results achieved under STDF 69 by providing additional Technical Assistance and funding support to YSEA and the private sector in the fishery sector. Failing to receive additional external support would result in a significant reduction of activities that may be carried forward by YSEA itself. ITC is available to share YSEA’s strategy and identified initiatives/work packages with the STDF WG Members and Donors for support and considerations.

- ***STDF/PG/172: “Expanding Nigeria’s export of sesame seeds and sheanut/butter through improved SPS capacity building for private and public sector”***

ITC has been appointed by STDF as preferred supervisory agency of the above-mentioned project. The Nigeria Export Promotion Council (NEPC) will be the implementing agency and will be responsible to supervise all the local organizations involved in providing technical inputs to the project. NEPC is currently finalizing some outstanding issues in the project document and budget, previously raised by ITC and STDF. A Letter of Agreement will be signed between WTO and ITC. Project activities are due to start in the second quarter of 2010.

- ***Central Asia (Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan)***

The projects in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, funded by SECO, have started their third phase in September 2009. The overall objective of this project is to contribute to the sustainable expansion and diversification of SMEs’ exports in Tajikistan through increasing the competitiveness of the textile and clothing industry and improving the quality management infrastructure of the country.

The specific objective in the areas of SPS and TBT, is to improve the capacity of SQAM¹, TBT and SPS bodies and the regulatory infrastructure. In particular:

- Two Tajik laboratories dealing with products in the agro-processing sector and complying with the requirements of ISO/IEC 17025 will be assessed for accreditation by a full member of ILAC²
- The Kyrgyz Accreditation Centre (KAC) will be assisted to become a full member of ILAC
- Assistance will be provided for the establishment of the National Notification Authority (NNA) and the National Enquiry Points (NEPs) for SPS and TBT in Tajikistan
- The NNA and the NEP for SPS in Kyrgyzstan will be assisted to become operational

¹ SQAM: Standards, Quality Assurance, Metrology and Accreditation

² ILAC: International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation

- The SPS infrastructure will be streamlined to cater to the country's needs in the area of food safety, animal health and plant health with regard to imports, domestic production and exports

➤ ***Other ITC projects of interest:***

Non-Tariff Measures project:

ITC is engaged in a multi-agency initiative on Non-Tariff Measures, which was initiated by the UNCTAD Secretary General in September 2007 with the objective to increase transparency and understanding about NTMs through the systematic collection, classification and dissemination of NTM-related data. In this context, ITC assists countries to better understand the obstacles to trade experienced by their business sectors when complying with non-tariff measures. Further to a pilot project executed in collaboration with UNCTAD in seven developing countries in 2008-2009, ITC will implement a representative survey on NTMs - with a focus on SPS and TBT - in around 30 developing and least developed countries during 2010-2012. The surveys identify at product, sector and partner country-level the predominant obstacles that the business sector faces when complying with NTMs, including those that are related to potential bottlenecks at the national level with regards to the capabilities and technical facilities to meet regulations and demonstrate compliance. Exporting and importing companies are screened through phone interviews and surveyed through in-depth face-to-face interviews. The survey contributes to a better understanding of the specific needs of the business sector, enabling targeted capacity building and better formulation of national strategies and policies.

For more information on the NTM project:

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Tel: +41 22 730 0371 - Fax: +41 22 730 0577 - Email: mimouni@intracen.org

Trade for Sustainable Development (T4SD)

Trade for Sustainable Development (T4SD) is a partnership-based effort led by the ITC to enhance transparency on voluntary standards and to increase opportunities for sustainable production and trade. The main project output will be a web-based tool that centralizes, organizes and disseminates information on voluntary sustainability standards and related research results to strengthen the capacity of producers, exporters and buyers to participate in sustainable production and trade. T4SD will:

- Systematically integrate comprehensive, recent and comparable information on voluntary sustainability standards.
- Provide research and case studies that complements this information, such as impact assessment, market data, how-to guides and best practice(s) examples.
- Allow information tailoring through customized front ends addressing users' specific needs, ensuring direct access to relevant information and intuitive web navigation.

The T4SD database currently contains 12 standards including, Fairtrade (FLO), Rainforest Alliance (Sustainable Agriculture Network), UTZ Certified, GlobalGAP, 4C Association, The Marine Stewardship Council (MSC), The Forestry Stewardship Council (FSC), The Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC), The Better Sugarcane Initiative (BSI), The Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuels (RSB), Social Accountability International (SAI), and the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM). Discussions with additional standards are ongoing.

For more information about T4SD, please contact Mr. Joseph Wozniak, Programme Manager (wozniak@intracen.org).

For more information:

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- **MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY (MSU)**

Capacity in SPS management, food safety and value chain development in developing countries

Michigan State University, through decades of experience and programmatic investment, has developed a reputation as a “center of excellence” in the intersecting domains of SPS management, food safety and value chain development in developing countries around the globe. Examples of MSU’s unique capacity for training, institution building, technical assistance, research, and extension in these domains include:

Institutes, Centers and Departments

1. **The Institute of International Agriculture (IIA).** International food safety and food industry development together constitute one of IIA’s core thematic areas of interdisciplinary training, institution building, technical assistance, research, and extension. IIA is the home to dozens of international programs in these related areas; many are described in the “Projects” section below.
[\[http://www.ia.msu.edu/\]](http://www.ia.msu.edu/)
2. **Institute for Food Laws and Regulations (IFLR)** is an Internet-based distance education program that consists of a series of region-specific food law courses taught by international food science academic and legal professionals who understand the legal complexities of the food laws and how they impact the flow of food and agricultural products across national boundaries. There are nine courses in all and three of the courses cover Codex Alimentarius - (The Food Code), OIE (World Organisation for Animal Health), and IPPC (International Plant Protection Convention). These organizations are responsible for international standards in the areas of food safety, animal health and plant protection, respectively, under the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement) of the World Trade Organization (WTO).
[\[http://www.iflr.msu.edu/\]](http://www.iflr.msu.edu/)
3. **Institute for Food and Agricultural Standards (IFAS)** is an interdisciplinary teaching, research, and policy analysis institute that focuses on the social, economic, political, and ethical aspects of Grades and Standards. It raises issues of equity, transparency, and fairness of national and international standards. IFAS works with industry groups to improve standards systems in the US and developing nations. The Institute offers a Certificate Program in Food Regulatory and Quality Standards as well as a Graduate Specialization in Food and Agricultural Standards.
[\[https://www.msu.edu/~ifas/\]](https://www.msu.edu/~ifas/)
4. **National Food Safety and Toxicology Center (NFSTC)** (1996-2009), conducted research on chemical and microbial hazards in foods and natural products and used this knowledge to develop a safer food supply in the U.S. and abroad, well-founded public policy, and a greater public understanding of food safety issues. Maintained programs in toxicology, microbial pathogens, analytical and food chemistry, epidemiology, and communication about food safety
[\[http://foodsafes.msu.edu/\]](http://foodsafes.msu.edu/)
5. **Food & Society Alliance** is a partnership of universities, food companies, and foundations that come together to address complex issues facing food professionals. A primary focus of the Alliance is on policy policy, legislation, and a long-term vision for food safety and sustainability.
[\[http://www.foodplussociety.org/Home/tabid/38/Default.aspx\]](http://www.foodplussociety.org/Home/tabid/38/Default.aspx)
6. **Research/Academic Units** include the Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition; Department of Horticulture; Department of Supply Chain Management; School of Packaging; Department of Entomology; Department of Agriculture, Food and Resource Economics.

Projects

- 1. Food Safety Knowledge Network (FSKN).** The Food Safety Knowledge Network is a joint initiative of Michigan State University and the Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI), with the specific aims to: 1) develop internationally recognized competences in relation to food safety for individuals at all levels and in all sectors of the food supply chain, and 2) promote knowledge transfer within the food safety community. The FSKN is international in scope and offers a platform whereby food safety professionals can assess and improve their knowledge and skills relative to a multi-level food safety competency framework established by an expert panel of professionals drawn from both the private and public sectors. Collectively, it is anticipated the FSKN efforts will constitute a vital set of resources to build the capacity of global food professionals and businesses, with the ultimate outcome being the facilitation of food trade, particularly for small and less developed businesses. [<http://foodsafetyknowledgenetwork.org/>] [<http://www.fskntraining.org/>]
- 2. William and Flora Hewlett Foundation Project.** The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation has as one of its priority areas the support of projects which develop and make use of Open Educational Resources (OER). In an ongoing project funded by the Hewlett Foundation, they are supporting the development and dissemination of Food Safety Knowledge Network (FSKN) materials as OER. The project also supports the development of a community of practice of OER content providers who will contribute content to and participate in the broader FSKN initiative.
- 3. Rwanda Horticulture Export Standards Initiative (RHESI).** Funded by WTO/STDF, RHESI is a program whose overall objective was to establish sound SPS management systems to enable Rwandan government authorities to ensure the application of plant health management protocols that lead to expanded horticulture trade from Rwanda. RHESI activities targeted key regulatory and institutional capacity gaps to enable government agencies and the private sector to instill in domestic markets and trading partners confidence that fruits, vegetables and flowers from Rwanda are free of pests and diseases, safe for human health and safe for the environment.

Developing the new Plant Health and Agrochemicals Law(s) were among the foremost challenges addressed by RHESI. The development of a legal framework for the establishment of the National Plant Protection Service (NPPS), in line with requirements of the SPS Agreement and in particular with the IPPC, constituted one of the more important accomplishments of the project. The new legal and regulatory framework established for Rwanda was hailed as the “best in the region.” As a result, considerable interest has been generated among partners in the public and NGO sectors to provide further support in the related areas.
- 4. Trade Capacity Building in Relation to the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (RAISE/SPS).** The RAISE/SPS program assisted farmers, processors and exporters to enhance their competitiveness through achievement of international market standards for food safety and quality. Concurrently, RAISE/SPS also assisted developing country regulatory, scientific and technical institutions that ensure safe domestic food supplies, to protect agricultural plant and animal health, and preserve natural ecosystems. Countries and regions in which MSU has conducted RAISE/SPS activities include: Guatemala, Nicaragua, Ecuador, South Africa, Zambia, Kenya, Croatia, Philippines and Indonesia. Initiatives under the RAISE/SPS umbrella included the following:
 - **Third-party certification** – This study characterized and clarified the role of third party certifiers and their accreditors in developing nations. The overall objective of this analysis was to enhance the ability of smallholders, agribusinesses and government agencies to succeed in meeting the challenges of private standards imposed by the supermarket sector.
 - **Traceability** – Due to new interest in tracing food products to their source, this study aimed to evaluate the governmental regulations and industry standards related to traceability as they affect sectors of the supply chain from producers to retailers.

- **SPS Training** – This training in various countries addressed the strategic use of standards to promote agricultural development regarding SPS issues.
 - **Benchmarking SPS Management Capacity in Five Central American Countries** – This assessment identified critical needs for technical assistance in Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua and recommended strategies for USAID to meet those needs. Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures may prevent these countries from capitalizing on current trade agreements. Three major areas affecting SPS measures were globalization, concern for human, animal and plant health along with the environment and increasing information technology.
 - **Supermarkets and Private Standards** – A study of private standards impacts on small farmers and global supermarkets in Africa, Latin America, Southeast Asia and Central/Eastern Europe.
5. **Indian Horticulture Development Alliance.** The Indian Horticulture Development Alliance (IHDA) is a broad-based and inclusive coalition established to comprehensively address horticulture market development in India. IHDA is a USAID funded project that helps develop value chains for horticulture products that have high potential for expanded distribution and sales in India's rapidly-evolving food retail sector and high value export markets. The overarching goal of this alliance is to sustainably increase profits of small and medium size producers and processors of selected Indian horticulture commodities. The IHDA aims to achieve this overall goal by building capacity of Indian producers and processors to meet market-driven international standards, e.g., good agriculture practices (GAP), food safety, quality, traceability and by linking these (often disadvantaged) producers and processors to high-value markets. Corporate partners include Reliance, ITC, Metro, Food Bazaar-Pantaloon, YES bank, the Confederation of Indian Industries and GlobalGAP.
6. **Agribusiness Market and Support Activity (AMARTA - Indonesia).** MSU is a lead partner in this 4.5 year program funded by USAID to assist the Government Indonesia to promote a robust Indonesian agribusiness system, working with private businesses, farmers and other actors to improve efficiency and to meet international standards for product safety and quality in targeted value chains such as high-value export commodities, hypermarket quality horticulture products, cocoa and coffee.
7. **Nicaragua Partnership for Food Industry Development – Fruits and Vegetables (PFID-F&V).** PFID-F&V/Nicaragua is a highly successful partnership of training institutions, NGOs and private sector companies in the food industry that has assisted over 4,000 small and medium producers in Nicaragua to become more competitive and to expand their exports of fruits, vegetables, and specialty coffee. Competitiveness is improved through enhanced market-led information and increased numbers of producer-buyer linkages, and capacity building among producers to meet grades and standards for food safety and quality throughout the value chain. Over 29 local, regional and multinational private sector and NGO alliances have helped drive the program and directly link producers to global markets. Among these alliances are: Chiquita, Wal-Mart Nicaragua, Wal-Mart Costa Rica, and other supermarkets and food processors in the region.
- In addition to assisting over 4,000 small and medium producers during this 30-month period, more than 17,000 new permanent jobs have been created by the project in production, packing, processing and marketing activities along supported value chains of existing crops and 26 new fresh and processed products have been introduced. Total sales of \$41.7 million were achieved in the first 30 months of implementation, representing increased incomes, profits and jobs for the Nicaraguan agriculture sector. This project has maximized the ratio of sales to assistance dollars invested with a ratio of \$4.80 dollars in farmers' sales for every dollar invested in market development.
8. **Annual International Short Course in Food Safety.** Offered annually as an intensive one-week course to international professionals this course addresses the emerging needs of food safety with a focus on food safety policy development, risk analysis, and program implementation. Some

components of this course are international food trade, regulatory issues, microbial/chemical hazards, food preservation, antibiotic resistance, HACCP and information and training resources in food safety.

9. **Partnership to Enhance Agriculture in Rwanda through Linkages (PEARL).** PEARL is an exciting partnership led by MSU that worked with rural communities across Rwanda to generate income through value chain development and market linkages. The project worked with grower cooperatives to improve the production, processing and marketing of [specialty coffee](#), horticultural, and cassava products. By focusing attention on standards for safety and quality control as well as consistency in production, product quality has risen and the customer base has expanded dramatically and now includes importers in the US, EU, and Africa. Key private sector partners include Intelligentsia Coffee, Sustainable Harvest, Stumptown Coffee, Paramount Coffee (of Lansing, MI), Green Mountain Coffee and over 50 other companies for whom high quality coffee based on environmentally and socioeconomically sustainable systems is a priority.
10. **Burundi Agribusiness Project (BAP)** is a partnership of institutions focused on value chain development in coffee, horticulture and dairy. Through BAP, MSU has succeeded in helping Burundi to transform its coffee sector from a state-owned and operated sector to a privatized sector driven by product quality, efficient management and market access. This has occurred through training, capacity building, technology transfer and market development assistance with over 20 US and European coffee importers including industry leaders Intelligentsia Coffee, Paragon Coffee, Stumptown Coffee, Café Imports, and Paramount Coffee. The results of the BAP interventions have been far reaching in just two years of operation. The producers in over 23 washing stations now produce high quality coffees and receive direct sales contracts paying premium prices. The higher incomes have made a difference in the living standards of the Burundi's 800,000 coffee growers.
11. **PFID/India Mango Market Development in Maharashtra, India.** This project (Sept 2004—Sept 2007) was supported by USAID/India to strengthen linkages of small- and medium-sized mango growers in India with markets by providing capacity building at all levels. Strategic partnerships and a series of targeted activities in the State of Maharashtra served to: 1) enhance the ability of growers and processors to meet international requirements for grades and standards; 2) enhance market linkages of growers with processors, and growers and processors with large domestic distributors and exporters; 3) improve market access for small and medium-scale growers; 4) promote Indian mango and mango products in targeted international markets; 5) provide capacity building (training in food safety standards) of small and medium scale growers and processors; and 6) enhance profitability and sustainability for small- and medium-sized farms in Maharashtra.
12. **Ghana Partnerships for Food Industry Development – Fruits and Vegetables (PFID-F&V).** Leading a team of NGO, university, government and private sector (Royal Ahold) partners, MSU developed Ghana's export value chains for pineapples, papaya and assorted vegetables, including some organic lines. In addition to the market access efforts of this program, MSU established training programs for stakeholders in the horticulture industry in the areas of: supply chain management, cold chain and logistics management, food safety, grades and standards and food laws/regulations.
13. **Serbian Agribusiness Project (SAP)** is a partnership of institutions designed to assist the Serbian agricultural sector to become increasingly efficient and competitive. SAP takes a dual approach to increasing access to domestic and international markets, working directly with businesses, meeting technical food standards for product safety and quality, developing their marketing skills and knowledge of export and domestic markets and helping local producers to interact with supermarkets, identify their needs for safety, quality and volume and execute contracts.

- 14. Central America Regional PFID F&V.** This was a regional project designed to promote fruits and vegetables (F&V) exports (market development) from the demand-side by identifying sources of demand (supermarket chains, food service, processors, wholesalers) and facilitating contacts with and information about those firms and market demand. The project also built capacity to promote F&V exports from the supply-side by improving the supply chain, with general actions such as further development of PIPAA (applying to various product chains) and training in food laws and food safety and SPS standards, and product chain-specific actions such as improvements in the cold chain, processing, packaging, logistics and trade regulations.
- 15. Southern Africa Regional PFID F&V.** In Southern Africa MSU focused on developing marketing partnerships with Freshmark and others, some via implementation partners such as the Agribusiness in Sustainable Natural African Plant Products. In working with producer groups the program developed business linkages, provided technical assistance, built indigenous capacity, and developed/applied information technologies to improve value chains for fruits and vegetables.
- 16. India Higher Education Development Program (Building University Capacity to Improve Fruit and Vegetable Supply Chain Development in India).** MSU and Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU) worked together to strengthen TNAU's capacity to promote improved supply chain management related to fruits and vegetables. The project had three main objectives: 1) strengthen TNAU's capacity related to all aspects of supply chain development, particularly related to ensuring the inclusion of small and medium scale producers; 2) enhance relevant curricular and extracurricular learning opportunities; and 3) advance TNAU's ability to support supply chain management through partnerships with relevant actors in the private sector, government, NGOs, and farmer groups.
- 17. South Africa PFID-F&V.** Working with regional supermarket giant Pick 'N Pay, MSU succeeded in assisting historically disadvantaged, emerging farmers in South Africa's Eastern Cape to supply P'nP through horticulture value chain improvements. In partnership with the University of Fort Hare the program built sustainable capacity for market access. Other accomplishments include support for private sector upstream relationships with input and transportation suppliers and a public sector training and capacity building relationship with the South African Department of Agriculture.
- 18. Supermarkets and Agricultural Development in China—Opportunities and Challenges.** Conference held in Shanghai, May 2004, to bring together Chinese and foreign experts to assess the impact of the rapid rise in supermarkets, and their higher standards for food safety and quality, on agricultural development in China. The conference goal was to help China to examine and identify the development policy and strategies for the supermarket sector under Chinese conditions. The conference was organized by the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences Shanghai Municipal Agricultural Commission Shanghai Municipal Economic Commission and MSU/IIA.
- 19. China Food Safety Programs.** In collaboration with the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS) and the Development Research Center (DRC) of the Chinese State Council, MSU co-sponsored the China Global Food Safety Forum in November 2004. This international conference brought together food safety experts from governments, NGOs, academia and the food industry to share information on emerging food safety issues, risk analysis, food safety management, and other topics. MSU also maintains a full-time office in China and conducts numerous project activities related to food safety and SPS issues. These projects include research on Third-Party Certification and planning and delivery of the *Coca-Cola Food Safety Conference* in Shanghai in December 2009.
- 20. Albanian Agriculture Competitiveness (AAC) Program** is a partnership of institutions that builds producer capacity in targeted value chains. It strengthens the agricultural sector's ability to meet market standards for food safety and improving access to timely and reliable market information.

21. **Armenia Food Traceability Initiative.** This initiative focused on building capacity for food traceability within Armenian agribusiness firms that export goods to the EU and US markets. Participating firms learned how to establish systems for internal documentation to track the products they ship from the raw material stage to the final product. Compliance with the US Bioterrorism Legislation and other international standards was the driving force behind the demand for this training. A handbook that details the requirements, forms and checklists of the US and EU regarding traceability was developed Armenian producers. Four agribusiness firms received one-on-one assistance in developing their traceability programs.
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- **WORLD ORGANISATION FOR ANIMAL HEALTH (OIE)**

Relevant activities of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE),
Report to the 47th meeting of the SPS Committee

The following communication, received on 5 March 2010, is being circulated at the request of the OIE.

Update on OIE PVS activities and PVS follow-up activities

A. OIE PVS EVALUATIONS

9. As part of the OIE global initiative for Good Governance of Veterinary Services, and at a Member's request, the OIE may conduct an evaluation of the quality of a Member's Veterinary Services using the OIE PVS Tool (OIE Tool for the Evaluation of Performance of Veterinary Services), PVS Gap analysis and follow up missions to help strengthen the compliance of key elements of the veterinary infrastructure, including veterinary legislation, with the international quality standards of the OIE.

10. The current status of OIE PVS evaluations is summarized in annex 1. To the end of 2009, 100 requests have been received and 91% of the missions have been done.

11. In December 2009, the OIE organized a workshop to collect feedback from experts involved in the PVS activities and a meeting of the *ad hoc* Group on Evaluation of Veterinary Services. The Code Commission endorsed the proposed new critical competencies (management of resources and operations, animal welfare) and amendment of some critical competencies. The 5th edition of the OIE PVS Tool will be published later this year.

12. The OIE has addressed the specialized needs for the evaluation of aquatic animal health services, with a pilot mission to evaluate the aquatic animal health services of a member. Based on this experience and discussion in the *ad hoc* group, the OIE will make available on request a modified tool for the evaluation of aquatic animal health services.

B. PVS GAP ANALYSIS

13. This is a quantification of needs and the corresponding indicative budget to address compliance for priority critical competencies discussed with the country concerned and based on the report of the initial PVS evaluation of the country. The OIE, working in close cooperation with national policy makers, donors and other partner organizations, conducts PVS Gap Analysis missions as the basis for the preparation of investment programmes, following an initial PVS evaluation. The current status of PVS Gap Analysis missions is summarized in Annex 2.

C. STRENGTHENING VETERINARY LEGISLATION

14. As reported at the previous meeting, the OIE continues to work on strengthening veterinary legislation. The current status of OIE legislation missions is summarized in Annex 3.

15. To identify needs and tools to assist Members in modernizing their veterinary legislation, the OIE will hold the First OIE Global Conference on Veterinary Legislation, in Djerba, Tunisia on 7-9 December 2010. Please see http://www.oie.int/eng/A_LEG_VET2010/Home_eng.htm

Veterinary education

16. The OIE is considering the issue of initial and continuous veterinary education as part of its commitment to encouraging its members to strengthen animal health policies and activities of their national Veterinary Services. With this in mind, the OIE held a Global Conference on Veterinary Education "Evolving veterinary education for a safer world" on 12-14 October 2009. As one of the outcomes of the conference, the OIE will convene an expert group (29 June – 1 July 2010) to address the recommendations of the conference.

17. The key recommendation for the expert group to address is (#26):

- That the OIE convene an expert group, with the participation of invited deans, to conduct an in depth global review, with a world wide scope, of the current approaches to veterinary education taking into account current and future expectations of the day-one graduated veterinarians and examine whether approaches to, and structures for, veterinary education should be modified to produce better equipped profession.
- The expert group will also be in charge of drafting guidelines listed in recommendation n° 1 and contribute to OIE support to recommendations n°3, 4, 14 and 16.

Recommendation 1

That the OIE develop recommendations for Veterinary Education Establishments (VEE) on a core curriculum model that includes those key competencies of veterinarians that are required to perform the necessary OIE and public policy tasks, including those defined in the OIE terrestrial and aquatic animal health codes and takes into account new threats, opportunities and societal expectations.

Recommendation 3

That VEE, taking into account the recommendations of the OIE and specific/regional national needs/circumstances, define and implement a core curriculum model that ensures graduate veterinarians to have the day-one competencies needed by a veterinarian to perform the required OIE tasks including delivery of national veterinary services. This includes knowledge on governance, veterinary legislation and basic management. These competencies should focus on capacity for analysis, and adaptation to complex situations rather than on encyclopaedic knowledge of specific issues.

Recommendation 4

That the World Veterinary Association (WVA) and other professional veterinary bodies examine, with the support of the OIE, how initial and continuing veterinary education curricula can best meet societal expectations for safeguards for public health, safe food, and prevention and mitigation of transboundary diseases complying with OIE recommendations at a global level.

Recommendation 14

That the OIE, WVA and other national, regional and international veterinary associations examine how to improve the public perception of the importance of veterinary activities for society as a whole, and convince governments and/or international donors of the need to better finance initial and continuing veterinary education as a Global Public Good.

Recommendation 16

That the responsible national, regional and local veterinary authorities support the development and implementation of programmes to evaluate the continuing education of veterinarians in their respective jurisdictions taking into account OIE PVS tool criteria.

18. The complete recommendation of the Conference may be found at:

http://www.oie.int/eng/A_DEANS2009/Conclusions%20and%20recommendations_FINAL_30%20novembre%2009_ANG_b.pdf

19. The OIE Focal Point for this work is Dr Sarah Kahn (s.kahn@oie.int)

ANNEX 1

PVS Evaluation Missions – (As at 20 January 2010)

Region	Official requests	Missions completed	Reports available
Africa	44	39	31
Americas	17	17	12
Asia/Pacific	15	13	10
Europe	11	11	3
Middle-East	13	11	3
Total	100	91	59

Official requests:

Africa (44): *Algeria, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, Côte D'Ivoire, Congo (DR), Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia (non OIE member), Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe*

Americas (17): *Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guyana, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay*

Asia/Pacific (15): *Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, Cambodia, Fiji, Indonesia, Korea (PDR), Laos, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Viet Nam*

Europe (11): *Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Romania, Tajikistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan*

Middle-East (13): *Afganistan, Bahrain, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Palestinian National Authority (non OIE member), Turkey, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, United Aarab Emirates, Yemen*

Italics: Completed missions

ANNEX 2

PVS Gap Analysis Missions – (As at 20 January 2010)

Region	Official requests	Missions completed
Africa	24	11
Americas	6	0
Asia/Pacific	8	1
Europe	3	2
Middle-East	3	3
Total	44	17

ANNEX 3

Legislation Missions – (As at 20 January 2010)

Region	Official requests	Missions completed
Africa	13	4
Americas	0	0
Asia/Pacific	3	3
Europe	2	1
Middle-East	4	1
Total	22	9

Official requests:

Africa (13): *Benin, Burkina Faso, Congo (DR), Ethiopia, Gabon, Guinea-Bissau, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Nigeria, Togo, Uganda, Zambia*

Asia/Pacific (3): *Bhutan, Cambodia, Viet Nam*

Europe (2): *Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan*

Middle-East (4): *Afghanistan, Kuwait, Lebanon, United Arab Emirates*
Italics: Completed missions

• **ORGANISMO INTERNACIONAL REGIONAL DE SANIDAD AGROPECUARIA (OIRSA)**

Informe a la XLVII reunión del Comité de Medidas Sanitarias y Fitosanitarias,
17 y 18 de marzo de 2010

La siguiente comunicación, recibida el 12 de marzo de 2010, se distribuye a petición del OIRSA.

1. Apoyos Específicos a Cadenas Productivas Agropecuarias

1. El OIRSA en coordinación con las autoridades nacionales sanitarias y fitosanitarias y el sector privado, continúa implementando los programas sanitarios y fitosanitarios de apoyo a las cadenas agroalimentarias. Durante los últimos tres meses se han ejecutado las siguientes acciones. A partir del presente año, el OIRSA desarrollará nuevos programas fitosanitarios en apoyo a las cadenas productivas agrícolas, dentro de las que se pueden citar: Musáceas, Palmáceas, Hortalizas (tomate, chile, papa y cebolla), Piña, Granos Básicos (arroz) y Cítricos.

Belice

2. En el marco del Programa Fitosanitario de Apoyo a la Cadena de Producción de Cítricos y Otras Frutas, se han realizado las siguientes actividades:

- a) Apoyo técnico en la elaboración del Programa Trinacional (Estados Unidos de América, México y Belice), para el Combate de la plaga Huanglongbing;
- b) Inicio del Plan Nacional de Control de Huanglongbing en Belice, a través de:
 - Creación de un grupo de trabajo
 - Legislación que declara a la plaga como reglamentada
 - Prohibición al movimiento de plantas de vivero
 - Monitoreo continuo
 - Desarrolló de la capacidad de diagnóstico
 - Capacitación del personal;
 - Dotación de equipo de PCR en tiempo completo;
- c) Implementación de un programa de educación a técnicos y productores e información al público en general;
- d) Capacitación a productores y técnicos en el reconocimiento de la enfermedad; y
- e) Asistencia técnica internacional: consultores de la EUA, Brasil, y Francia.

3. En el marco del Programa Regional de Apoyo a la Cadena de Producción Avícola, el OIRSA ejecutó durante el último trimestre las siguientes actividades:

- a) Las Normas Avícolas armonizadas en el seno de la Comisión Regional de Sanidad Avícola, fueron oficialmente adoptadas por Belice, uniéndose de esta manera a Panamá, Costa Rica, El Salvador y Guatemala, en dicha acción. Con ello se espera contribuir a facilitar el comercio regional de aves;

- b) Apoyo técnico a los servicios veterinarios de Belice, con la realización de un Seminario de Capacitación para la vacunación contra la enfermedad de Newcastle (ENC); y
- c) Apoyo técnico y logístico en el lanzamiento y desarrollo de la campaña de vacunación contra Newcastle en Belice. El Programa donó las vacunas utilizadas en la campaña y capacitó en técnicas de vacunación avícola.

Honduras

4. En el marco del Programa de Apoyo a la Cadena de Producción Porcina, Honduras finalizó la etapa de control de la Peste Porcina Clásica (PPC), iniciando a partir del 30 de septiembre del 2009 la etapa de erradicación. De esta manera se espera que el país se declare libre de esta enfermedad en diciembre del año 2010.

Nicaragua

5. A través del Programa Fitosanitario de Apoyo a la Cadena de Producción de Cítricos y Otras Frutas, el OIRSA realizó las siguientes acciones:

- a) Apoyo a la prospección del Huanglongbing y su insecto vector;
- b) Identificación de invernaderos para reproducción de material procedente de los Estados Unidos de América;
- c) Capacitación sobre plagas cuarentenarias de frutas; y
- d) Asistencia técnica de apoyo para el mantenimiento del área libre de mosca de la fruta en el Norte del Lago de Xolotlán.

6. En el marco del Programa de Apoyo a la Cadena de Producción Porcina, se publicó el Decreto Ministerial donde se declara oficialmente al país en etapa de erradicación de la Peste Porcina Clásica. La meta es declarar libre de PPC a Nicaragua a finales del año 2010.

El Salvador

7. En marco del Programa Fitosanitario de Apoyo a la Cadena de Producción de Cítricos y Otras Frutas se llevaron a cabo las siguientes actividades:

- a) Apoyo a la prospección del Huanglongbing y su insecto vector;
- b) Identificación de invernaderos para la reproducción de material que llegará procedente de los Estados Unidos de América;
- c) Capacitación en plagas cuarentenarias de frutas; y
- d) Participación en el V Foro Internacional de Negocios de Frutas Tropicales, con la charla: Amenazas Fitosanitarias para la producción regional de frutas.

8. En el marco del Programa de Apoyo a la Cadena de Producción Avícola, el OIRSA ejecuta el Programa Nacional de Aves de Traspatio, siendo las actividades más relevantes las siguientes:

- a) En coordinación con las autoridades de la Escuela Nacional de Agricultura (ENA), Centro Nacional de Tecnología Agropecuaria y Forestal y la Dirección General de Sanidad Vegetal y Animal (DGSVA), se formuló el Plan Nacional que beneficiará a 20 comunidades rurales en condición de pobreza extrema. Ya se han iniciado

acciones en dos comunidades situadas en los Departamentos de La Libertad y Sonsonate.

9. En el marco del Programa de Apoyo a la Cadena de Producción Porcina, luego de que en el mes de abril del año 2009 las autoridades nacionales declararan al país libre de PPC, se han llevado a cabo acciones para el reconocimiento oficial regional e internacional de dicha condición.

Costa Rica

10. En Costa Rica, en el marco del Programa Fitosanitario de Apoyo a la Cadena de Producción de Cítricos y Otras Frutas, se desarrollaron las siguientes acciones:

- a) Apoyo a la prospección del Huanglongbing (HLB) y su insecto vector;
- b) Identificación de invernaderos para la reproducción de material que llegará procedente de los Estados Unidos de América;
- c) Apoyo técnico para el mantenimiento del área libre en la Península de Nicoya; y
- d) Capacitación sobre HLB a las empresas privadas.

Panamá

11. En el marco del Programa Fitosanitario de Apoyo a la Cadena de Producción de Cítricos y Otras Frutas se desarrollaron las siguientes acciones:

- a) Apoyo a la prospección del Huanglongbing (HLB) y su insecto vector;
- b) Se dio capacitación en plagas cuarentenarias en frutales;
- c) Se realizaron consultorías sobre; Planes de Contingencia y Manuales de Asistencia Técnica Fitosanitaria en Papaya;
- d) Apoyo técnico en Azuero para exportar libre de Mosamed;
- e) Apoyo técnico en el manejo de *Thrips Palmi*;
- f) Apoyo fitosanitario en cítricos, papaya y mango; y
- g) Apoyo al programa de erradicación de *Anastrepha grandis* en la zona del Darién y el Chapo al Oeste del canal de Panamá. Gracias al esfuerzo coordinado del Ministerio de Desarrollo Agropecuario de Panamá (MIDA) por medio de la Dirección Nacional de Sanidad Vegetal, la Universidad de Panamá y el OIRSA, se logró levantar las restricciones fitosanitarias a las exportaciones de cucurbitáceas en el mercado de los Estados Unidos.

12. En el marco del Programa Sanitario de Apoyo a la Cadena de Producción Acuícola, como resultado de la reunión del grupo Ad- Hoc en Sanidad Acuícola del OIRSA y la Organización del Sector Peguero y Acuícola del Istmo Centroamericano (OSPESCA), se elaboró el Manual de Buenas Prácticas de Manejo para Cultivar Camarones Marinos.

Guatemala

13. Mediante el Programa de Apoyo a la Cadena de Producción Porcina, se están apoyando las acciones en vigilancia epidemiológica, luego que las autoridades nacionales declararán al país libre de la Peste Porcina Clásica en el año 2009.

República Dominicana

14. En el marco del Programa de Apoyo a la Cadena de Producción Porcina, la FAO y el OIRSA celebraron la Cuarta Reunión del Plan Continental para la Erradicación de la Peste Porcina Clásica. Durante el evento, los países de Centro América y República Dominicana se pusieron como meta el año 2012 como límite para erradicar la PPC.

15. En República Dominicana, se ha continuado vacunando de forma sistemática los cerdos de traspatio, a fin de finalizar la etapa de control de la PPC.

2. Actividades de Capacitación, Asistencia Técnica y Difusión de Temas Relacionados con la Agrosanidad y el Comercio

16. Se diseñaron y difundieron afiches técnicos sobre Huanglongbing y la planta amplificadora de la enfermedad y del vector conocida como limonaria, mirto o jazmín (*Murraya paniculata*).

17. A través de un esfuerzo conjunto entre la FAO, la OIE y el OIRSA y en coordinación con la Federación Dominicana de Porcicultores (FEDOPORC) y la Organización Iberoamericana de Porcicultores (OIPORC), se llevó a cabo el Primer Congreso Iberoamericano de Porcicultura. En este evento se analizaron los avances alcanzados en el Programa de la Peste Porcina Clásica, se analizaron las fortalezas y debilidades de los programas nacionales y se fijaron las líneas de acción para mejorar la implementación del Plan Continental que permitan lograr los objetivos del año 2020. Además, se definieron estrategias conjuntas para mejorar la competitividad de la industria del cerdo.

18. En Nicaragua, con la Asociación de Productores y Exportadores de Nicaragua (APEN), se realizó el Congreso Regional de Trazabilidad y Buenas Prácticas Agroalimentarias. Dicho evento contó con la participación de 261 participantes de los sectores bovino, agrícola y apícola.

19. En Nicaragua, se desarrolló el Curso de Inocuidad y Sanidad Apícola, capacitando técnicos del sector oficial, productores, académicos y exportadores, cuyo mercado principal para la miel de abeja es la Unión Europea.

20. En Panamá, se apoyó a la Dirección Nacional de Salud Animal del Ministerio de Desarrollo Agropecuario (MIDA) en la realización del Seminario Taller Buenas Prácticas Ganaderas y Análisis de Peligros y Puntos Críticos de Control.

21. En Maryland, Estados Unidos, mediante la cooperación del United States Department of Agriculture - Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA/APHIS) y el OIRSA se capacitaron a los técnicos de laboratorio de los Ministerios/Secretarías de Agricultura y Ganadería de países miembros del OIRSA en la técnica de PCR para el diagnóstico del Huanglongbing de los cítricos.

22. Se han distribuido entre las autoridades y el sector cítrico información técnica (más de 600 Megas) sobre Huanglongbing de los cítricos, resultado de las asistencias técnicas recibidas del USDA/APHIS en Florida, Fundecitrus de Brasil y el INRA de Francia.

23. En Panamá, en el marco de proyecto conjunto FAO-OIRSA "Asistencia de Emergencia para la Vigilancia del Virus de Influenza A subtipo H1N1 en poblaciones porcinas de América Central y otros países vecinos", se efectuó el Taller sobre Bioseguridad en Explotaciones Industriales Semitecnificadas y en Traspatio.

3. Apoyo al Proceso de Armonización Regional

24. A solicitud de las autoridades sanitarias de Nicaragua y El Salvador, se preparó una propuesta de Protocolo para facilitar el comercio bilateral de productos lácteos.

4. Apoyo en la elaboración de Análisis de Riesgos

25. A solicitud de las autoridades del Ministerio Agropecuario y Forestal (MAGFOR) de Nicaragua, se elaboró un Análisis de Riesgo de Plagas para la maleza *Polygonum lapathifolium*.

5. Fortalecimiento de las Instituciones Nacionales para Facilitar el Comercio

26. En Honduras y República Dominicana se continúan apoyando a los Comités Nacionales de Medidas Sanitarias y Fitosanitarias. Se presentó para aprobación del Fondo para la Aplicación de Normas y Fomento del Comercio (FANFC) un proyecto de "Fortalecimiento del Comité Nacional de Medidas Sanitarias y Fitosanitarias de Honduras".

27. En Nicaragua, El Salvador y Guatemala, en cooperación con OSPESCA se efectuó una evaluación de los laboratorios centroamericanos de análisis de residuos para productos pesqueros.

28. El OIRSA apoyó al Ministerio de Agricultura y Pesca de Belice en la elaboración del Proyecto de Armonización de Estándares Sanitarios para la Exportación de Ganado en Pie y Carne de Belice a México, a ser presentado por las autoridades ante la cooperación de la Unión Europea y se esperan invertir 1.7 millones de dólares de los Estados Unidos. Mediante este proyecto se establecerán las equivalencias entre los servicios veterinarios oficiales, determinarán los requisitos sanitarios que deberán cumplirse para el intercambio comercial y se establecerá un sistema de identificación de fincas y bovinos de Belice.

6. Alianzas Estratégicas en Beneficio de la Sanidad y el Comercio

29. Se ha iniciado la gestión del Proyecto Regional OIRSA-AECID-BID para nuevas tecnologías aplicadas a la gestión fitosanitaria de cítricos (FRUTIC), con el propósito de modernizar la Vigilancia Fitosanitaria Regional de los cítricos mediante el desarrollo e instalación de la infraestructura tecnológica informática digital necesaria para la gestión de la información de las fincas cítricas.

30. En el marco del Proyecto Mesoamericano de Fruticultura (PROMEFRUT) del BID, se desarrolló en El Salvador el Taller Regional para la Plataforma C de PROMEFRUT: sanidad, calidad e inocuidad. Este componente del proyecto será coordinado por el OIRSA.

Solicitud de información adicional o comentarios sobre este informe puede ser dirigidos a: Edwin Mauricio Aragón Rojas, correo electrónico: earagon@oirsa.org o visitar la página Web: www.oirsa.org

- **SWEDEN**

Information on SPS-related projects and programmes funded by Sweden, 15 December 2009

Ongoing/already agreed projects

Macedonia:

Project name: “Quality and Regulatory Infrastructure Development for Food Safety and Quality in South East Europe”

An institutional cooperation setup consisting of the Swedish National Food Administration (SLV) and the Swedish Board for Accreditation and Conformity Assessment (SWEDAC) are in cooperation with the Ministry of Health in the republic of Macedonia carrying out the project called “Quality and Regulatory Infrastructure Development for Food Safety and Quality in South East Europe”.

The overall objective of the programme is:

- To contribute to create conditions for economic development to enable poor men and women in the agricultural sector and food industry to improve their living situation.

The main objectives are:

- To support Macedonia in adapting to the requirements of the European Union and the provisions of the WTO agreements in the area of food safety and international trade in food and foodstuffs;
- To support Macedonia in harmonizing the field of food safety and trade in food and foodstuffs to further enhance the political and democratic dialogue in South East Europe.

Total Amount: SEK 15.6 million

Time Period: 2008-2011

Bosnia-Herzegovina:

Project name: “Quality and Regulatory Infrastructure Development for Food Safety and Quality in South East Europe” (similar set-up and objectives as in Macedonia)

An institutional cooperation setup consisting of the Swedish National Food Administration (SLV) and the Swedish Board for Accreditation and Conformity Assessment (SWEDAC) are in cooperation with the Ministry for Foreign Trade and External relations in Bosnia-Herzegovina carrying out the project called “Quality and Regulatory Infrastructure Development for Food Safety and Quality in South East Europe”.

The overall objective of the programme is:

- To contribute to create conditions for economic development to enable poor men and women in the agricultural sector and food industry to improve their living situation.

The main objectives are:

- To support Bosnia in adapting to the requirements of the European Union and the provisions of the WTO agreements in the area of food safety and international trade in food and foodstuffs;

- To support Bosnia in harmonizing the field of food safety and trade in food and foodstuffs to further enhance the political and democratic dialogue in South East Europe.

Total Amount: SEK 15.6 million
Time Period: 2008-2011

Georgia:

Project name: "Support to Milk and Dairy Sector Project (SMDSP)"

The Support to Milk and Dairy Sector Project (SMDSP) started in November 2005 and the first phase ends on 31 October 2009. The total Sida contribution for the four years amounts to SEK 50 million. The project is being implemented by GRM International AB (previously OPTO International AB), on a contract with the Georgian Ministry of Agriculture (MoA).

The overall objective of the SMDSP is to reduce rural poverty and facilitate sustainable economic growth among men and women producers, processors and entrepreneurs engaged in milk and dairy production and processing in Georgia. To help improve rural incomes through marketing raw milk to commercial processors at a national scale, the SMDSP intervenes in the dairy chain at three points: *production* - to improve the volume and quality of milk and cheese being produced, *marketing* – to strengthen commercial ties between farmers and processors, and *policy* by taking a leading role in the emerging food safety framework. It thus relates strongly to SPS and food safety issues.

Sida has taken a decision to extend the support with an additional contribution of SEK 30 million for the period 2009-2011.

Total Amount: SEK 80 million (SEK 50 million + SEK 30 million)
Time period: 2005-2009 (phase 1), 2009-2011 (extension phase)

Global:

"FAO/WHO Project and Fund for Enhanced Participation in Codex (Codex Trust Fund)"

Sida entered into agreement with the WHO in early December 2009 on a five year contribution in support of the Codex Trust Fund amounting to 25 million Swedish Kronor.

Sida's International Training Programmes (ITP)

Sida is currently running various SPS-related training programmes on both the global level and regional MENA level. Below follows information on the new ITPs starting in 2010. These courses are already running in earlier versions.

Sida's International Training Programmes are open to candidates from most low- and middle income countries. The aim is to support and strengthen the participants own plans for change on organizational and sectoral levels and should not be regarded as individual competence training.

The methodology is based on the assumption that participating countries wish to carry out changes and are willing to invest own resources to achieve these changes. Training is focused on support to the participants own plans or projects for change. Against this background, the training programmes are designed for persons qualified to participate in reform processes and holds a position in the home organization with mandate to run processes of change.

Commissioned by Sida, the training programmes are organized by Swedish public authorities, universities, private companies and NGOs.

In most cases, the programmes start with a 3-4 weeks training in Sweden. The participants review and get started with their plans for change supervised by skilled Swedish colleagues and experts in a mixture of lectures, workshops, process oriented work and study visits. Six months later a follow-up meeting takes place in one of the participating countries. Exchange of experiences and lessons learned concerning implementation of the plans for change dominates this phase that concludes the training programme. Support from the programme organizers are given during the entire programme period.

Quality Infrastructure Development in Support of International Trade (Global)

Duration

Part 1: October 3 - October 29

Part 2: April 2011

Location

Part 1: Stockholm Sweden

Part 2: In one of the participating countries To be decided

Number of participants

25

Target Region

Global

Closing date for applications

June 11, 2010

Objectives

The overall objectives of the programme are:

To provide information and training in establishing, maintaining and operating the national framework for international trade and quality infrastructure development, including preparation, adoption and application of technical regulations, standardization, accreditation, certification, testing, inspection and quality assurance.

Target Group

The programme is intended first and foremost for those involved in the decision-making process when implementing a quality infrastructure in their country in accordance with international agreements and requirements in particular issues and matters related to the establishment and operation of accreditation activities. Participants will typically come from ministries dealing with international trade, industry and commerce, conformity assessment bodies (standardization bodies, certification bodies, testing laboratories, inspection bodies, metrology institutions or laboratories) and from accreditation bodies or national focal points for accreditation. Only candidates nominated by the appropriate organization and in accordance with local rules will be accepted. Women are encouraged to apply.

Contents

The programme aims to provide participants with a more in-depth understanding of the following topics:

- the principles of international trade, with specific emphasis on the principles and practices embedded

in the WTO TBT Agreement (rights and obligations, effect on participating countries, harmonization and notification procedures, etc) and bilateral and multilateral trade agreements

- Preparation, adoption and application of technical regulatory activities and related conformity assessment procedures concerned with national and international trade, safety, health and environmental requirements
- The concept of quality (quality system development, ISO 9000, TQM, quality awards, etc)
- The role and use of accreditation, certification, standardization, metrology, testing and inspection in national and international trade and as a tool for enforcement of national legislation
- The development of National Quality policies
- Development of National Quality Infrastructures (institutional infrastructures for standardization, accreditation, certification, inspection, testing, metrology and quality assurance)

Quality Infrastructure for Food Safety (Global)

Duration

Part 1: September 26 - October 22

Part 2: May 2011

Location

Part 1: Stockholm and Uppsala Sweden

Part 2:

Number of participants

25

Target Region

Global

Closing date for applications

July 16, 2010

Objectives

- To provide awareness, information and training to the relevant governmental officials and economic operators regarding the new principles and requirements related to food safety, international trade in food and agricultural products embedded in the WTO agreements and best practices
- The programme aims at supporting the participants and their institutions, companies and countries in addressing identified issues and problems at home base through project work to be done by the participants supported by programme consultants
- Finally, the programme will provide for updating and support regarding issues addressed in the project works done by the participants through a follow-up seminar that will be conducted in one of the participating countries.

Target Group

The programme is intended first and foremost for all stakeholders related to food safety and regulatory and quality infrastructure for food safety and quality. Participants will come from ministries dealing with aspects of food safety, animal and plant health, industry and commerce, food conformity assessment bodies and from those concerned with the economic aspects, such as industry and trade. The participants shall be obliged to participate in all components of the programme, the initial training course of four weeks, the project work period of six months and the follow-up workshop of one week's duration.

Women are encouraged to apply.

Contents

The programme aims to provide participants with general understanding of:

- The WTO-Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary measures (SPS).
- International trade based on the WTO-TBT agreement.
- Food legislation and enforcement
- Principles and concepts covering food safety, animal health and plant health
- Risk analysis.
- European Union food safety systems
- International standardization work in the food area
- Codex Alimentarius, I.A.H.O., I.P.P.C.
- Food labeling
- The concept of quality
- HACCP training
- Accreditation.
- Laboratory testing
- Quality Infrastructure development for food safety

MENA Quality Infrastructure for Food Safety

Duration

Part 1: February 7 - March 5

Part 2: September 2010

Location

Part 1: Stockholm and Uppsala Sweden

Part 2: To be decided

Number of participants

25

Target Region

Middle East and Northern Africa

Closing date for applications

December 3, 2009

Objectives

- To provide awareness, information and training to the relevant governmental officials and economic operators regarding the new principles and requirements related to food safety, international trade in food and agricultural products embedded in the WTO agreements and best practices.
- The programme aims at supporting the participants and their institutions, companies and countries in addressing identified issues and problems at home base through project works to be done by the participants supported by programme consultants.
- Finally the programme will provide for updating and support regarding issues addressed in the projects works done by the participants through a follow-up seminar that will be conducted in one of the participating countries.

Target Group

Target Region: Invited countries in Mena region.

The programme is intended first and foremost for all stakeholders related to food safety and regulatory and quality infrastructure for food safety and quality. Participants will come from ministries dealing with aspects of food safety, animal and plant health, industry and commerce, food

conformity assessment bodies and from those concerned with the economic aspects, such as industry and trade. The participants shall be obliged to participate in all components of the programme, the initial training course of four weeks, the project work period of six months and the follow-up workshop of one week's duration. Women are encouraged to apply.

Contents

The programme aims to provide participants with general understanding of:

- The WTO-Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary measures (SPS).
- International trade based on the WTO-TBT agreement.
- Food legislation and enforcement
- Principles and concepts covering food safety, animal health and plant health
- Risk analysis.
- European Union food safety systems
- International standardization work in the food area
- Codex Alimentarius, I.A.H.O., I.P.P.C.
- Food labeling
- The concept of quality
- HACCP training
- Accreditation.
- Laboratory testing
- Quality Infrastructure development for food safety

MENA Quality Infrastructure Development in Support of International Trade

Duration

Part 1: April 11 - May 7

Part 2: November 2010

Location

Part 1: Stockholm and Borås Sweden

Part 2: In one of the participating countries

Number of participants

25

Target Region

Middle East and Northern Africa

Closing date for applications

December 3, 2009

Objectives

The overall objectives of the programme are:

To provide information and training in establishing, maintaining and operating the national framework for international trade and quality infrastructure development, including preparation, adoption and application of technical regulations, standardization, accreditation, certification, testing, inspection and quality assurance.

Target Group

The programme is intended first and foremost for those involved in the decision-making process when implementing a quality infrastructure in their country in accordance with international agreements and requirements in particular issues and matters related to the establishment and operation of accreditation activities. Participants will typically come from ministries dealing with international trade, industry and commerce, conformity assessment bodies (standardization bodies, certification

bodies, testing laboratories, inspection bodies, metrology institutions or laboratories) and from accreditation bodies or national focal points for accreditation. Only candidates nominated by the appropriate organization and in accordance with local rules will be accepted. Women are encouraged to apply.

Contents

The programme aims to provide participants with a more in-depth understanding of the following topics:

- the principles of international trade, with specific emphasis on the principles and practices embedded in the WTO TBT Agreement (rights and obligations, effect on participating countries, harmonization and notification procedures, etc) and bilateral and multilateral trade agreements
- Preparation, adoption and application of technical regulatory activities and related conformity assessment procedures concerned with national and international trade, safety, health and environmental requirements
- The concept of quality (quality system development, ISO 9000, TQM, quality awards, etc)
- The role and use of accreditation, certification, standardization, metrology, testing and inspection in national and international trade and as a tool for enforcement of national legislation
- The development of National Quality policies
- Development of National Quality Infrastructures (institutional infrastructures for standardization, accreditation, certification, inspection, testing, metrology and quality assurance)

Projects/programmes in the pipeline

Please note that no formal decision on support has been taken by Sweden, nor has any agreement been signed, on the projects listed below. This information is provided to the STDF for information and coordination purposes only and does forego any of Sida's internal appraisal or decision-making processes.

Uganda:

QUISP Uganda

The Government of Uganda and Sida have been developing a five year programme on quality infrastructure and standards. No formal decision has been taken yet and no agreement has been signed yet, but we wanted to flag for this programme in the Working Grouping.

Specifically, the programme will focus on achieving the following specific objectives;

- i. To develop a policy for standardization and review strategies for policy implementation
- ii. To develop a comprehensive and effective legal framework for the implementation and enforcement of standards and quality control measures.
- iii. To establish an effective coordination mechanism with clearly defined mandates and responsibilities for the different actors in the standards and quality area
- iv. To rationalize the institutional set up of service providers for standards development, conformity assessment and measurement services
- v. To enhance public awareness on standards and quality products and best practices.

Also, the European Commission is a cooperating partner on limited parts of this programme.

Many of the concerns raised in the balance sheet that was produced in the joint workshop by Government of Uganda, STDF and the Integrated Framework are addressed in the QUISP-programme.

Sweden plans to contribute SEK 46 million for a period of five years.

Moldova:

In Moldova there is an SPS-programme/-project that has been developed by FAO. Sweden has held consultations with FAO on possible support to this project.

- **THE WORLD BANK**

The World Bank has undertaken a number of activities in order to broaden and deepen the operational agenda related to food safety and agriculture health management (sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) issues), including analytical work, training/elearning for stakeholders, direct technical assistance and investment. The involved parties have included ARD, PRMTR, and the Regions, with a considerable amount of this work done in conjunction with other organizations. Some of the most prominent activities undertaken by the World Bank in the SPS field during FY 2008/2009 covered the following:

- 1) **Mainstreaming SPS into WB operations**

In recent years, the World Bank has undertaken Country Assessments of food safety and agriculture health capacities in several countries. Actions Plans to strengthen those capacities, based on the assessment and prioritization of constraints and opportunities, have also been prepared. To see the list of action plans and assessments [click here](#). The most recent work in this area includes the report: *[“Lao People’s Democratic Republic- Sanitary and Physotanitary Measures: Enhancing Trade, Food Safety, and Agricultural Health”](#)* published in 2009.

Similarly, the WB has been supporting the design and implementation of projects with significant components (or sub-components) related to food safety & quality, and agriculture health issues. During the period 1998-2007 about 41 projects with food safety and agriculture health components were approved, covering 35 countries. Agriculture commercialization projects currently in implementation in Zambia, Senegal, Mauritania, Mali, Burkina Faso, Mozambique and other countries, include important subcomponents related to strengthening SPS capacities. Some of the most recent projects either approved or under preparation with important components/subcomponents on SPS capacities include: *The Agriculture Commercialization and Trade Project (PACT)* in Nepal, approved in 2009; the *Jilin Agricultural Product Safety and Quality Project* in China, with investments in food safety capacity expected to reach nearly US\$100 million, to be approved in March 2010; *The Agricultural Competitiveness and Community Development Project* in Armenia with a component on institutional strengthening for food safety and agricultural competitiveness, to be approved in 2010. The description of these projects and related documents can be found in the [WB operational portal](#).

Likewise, in response to a request from the Government of Turkey, the World Bank is implementing programmatic Food Safety Technical Assistance to support the modernization and compliance of food enterprises in the process of accession to the EU. Also, initial discussions are ongoing regarding a possible food safety EU harmonization project in Bulgaria.

In-country activities have been combined with regional initiatives. An example of a recent regional initiative is the programme to control fruit fly in West Africa. In July 2008, a regional action plan to control fruit fly was validated and approved by ECOWAS Members in Bamako. A study funded by the European Commission proposed operations in eight West African countries but did not include an estimated budget, a breakdown of activities between the regional and national levels, or an institutional implementation mechanism. To remedy these shortcomings, the WB, using funds available in the EU trust fund and the Standard Trade and Development Facility (STDF) co-financed a complementary study which addresses these issues and proposes a more complete and budgeted regional action for all ECOWAS members countries. The programme to control fruit fly in ECOWAS members will start in 2010 and the WB is working with the STDF in defining the WB supervisory role in the Technical capacity building component of the project.

2) Publications/Guidelines

During the last couple of years, the WB implemented, with donor support, a research program on the challenges associated with standards, market access and smallholder farmers, and the efficacy of donor and other interventions that address these challenges. The following documents were published under the program in 2008/2009. A synthesis report and a set of other documents are planned to be published in 2010.

- *“Linking African Smallholders to High-Value Markets: Practitioner Perspectives on Benefits, Constraints, and Interventions.”* Jaffee et al. 2008.
- *“Not Yet Up to Standard: The Legacy of Two Decades of Private, Governmental, and Donor Efforts to Promote Ugandan Horticultural Exports.”* Diaz, L. Jaffee, S. Henson, S. Mugisha, J. 2009.

Other ongoing SPS-related analytical work/publications include:

- *“Assessing the Demand for Trade-Related Food Safety and Quality Interventions in Agri-Food Chains.”* Henson, S. Jensen, M. Jaffee, S., and Diaz, L. (forthcoming publication)
- Guidelines for understanding harmonization in the SPS and TBT agreements.
- Assessment of the effectiveness of SPS capacity building programs.

3) Partnerships

Operational work on SPS issues undertaken by the Bank in partnership with other agencies includes support to the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF), and support to the work undertaken by the Trade and Standards Practitioners Network (TSPN).³ The WB supports regular STDF work and is an active participant in STDF working groups meetings and STDF policy meetings. In the case of the TSPN, the WB provides financial support through the Grant Development Facility (GDF), and it is an active member of the Steering Committee. TSPN has undertaken a set of activities since October 2008, as presented below:

- Research and Conference on “Governmental Use of Voluntary Standards”

In July 2008 a research program was initiated by TSPN member ISEAL Alliance in close consultation with other TSPN members. The theme of this research was “governmental use of voluntary standards.” A conceptual framework was developed and eight case studies were undertaken, representing a spectrum of countries and standards. On October 16-17, 2008, a conference was organized in Geneva to discuss and initially disseminate the findings of this research and to identify follow-up activities. In total, about 80 persons participated. The conference report and the case studies are available at:

<http://www.isealliance.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=Page.ViewPage&PageID=1014>

- International Conference on “Assessing Costs, Benefits and Impacts of Compliance with Agricultural, Forestry and Food Related Standards.”

On December 9-10, 2008, an international conference took place in Berlin on “Assessing Costs, Benefits and Impacts of Compliance with Agricultural, Forestry and Food related Standards.” This event was co-organized by GTZ and the TSPN. The event examined the current state-of-the-art in measuring the impacts of standards systems at micro (farmer/firm) level, in supply chains, in relation to

³ TSPN is a community of practitioner organizations seeking to facilitate a more effective flow of information and experiences among a diverse group of interested organizations and analyze the work of membership interventions to develop best or better practices that will enhance developing country capacity to implement market standards.

trade. Different methods were reviewed and strengths and limitations were highlighted. Approximately 50 researchers and development practitioners took part in this conference. A summary note on this conference can be found at:

<http://www.tradestandards.org/en/Article.65.aspx>

- **Tool development.** In its efforts to improve standards-related technical assistance, the TSPN is currently supporting the preparation of a framework for systematic comparison of standards-related technical assistance interventions on the basis of the value chain approach. As part of the work, a review of donor and practitioner practices for monitoring and evaluating interventions is being prepared. The results of this work will be presented at a conference of the TSPN to be held in spring 2010.
- **E-Discussion.** During the period November 4-10, the TSPN undertook an e-dialogue on *What Decision Makers in Developing Countries need to turn Voluntary Standards into Catalysts for Market Integration and Development*. A second round was held on November 30th to summarize and evaluate the findings.
- **TSPN Newsletter.** The TSPN published a bimonthly electronic newsletter, to disseminate news on standards-related issues.

4) Awareness creation/raising and training

E-learning course— Standards and Trade: Principles and Applications. June 1-30, 2009. The WBI's course aimed to increase the awareness and dialogue among policy makers, regulatory agencies, NGOs, private companies, and other stakeholders on the fundamental concepts and principles of standards and how these are implemented in the market. About fifty participants took part in the course.

Climate Change and Agricultural Trade: Risks and Responses. The Development Research Group—International Trade and the World Trade Organization's Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) held a seminar on the topic on September 22-23, 2009. The event highlighted the effects of climate change on agricultural sustainability and safety, and agricultural trade trends between developed and developing countries, with a focus on standards and regulatory systems as they relate to animal, plant, and human safety. The seminar was attended by over 100 representatives from international organizations, regulatory and development agencies, research, academia and the private sector. Discussions on the first day focused on the connections between climate change, agricultural trade and food security. Predictions show that temperature changes and extreme weather events will negatively impact agricultural production in many regions, and that parts of Africa and South Asia are likely to suffer most. The second day of the seminar focused on SPS risks and responses to climate change.

East Asia and Pacific Regional Agribusiness Trade and Investment Conference. The World Bank together with International Finance Corporation organized the first EAP Regional Agribusiness Trade and Investment Conference "*Agroenterprise without Borders*," in Singapore on July 30-31, 2009. The objective was to initiate a multi-country, public-private, long-term effort to stimulate increased intra-regional trade and investment in the agrifood sector of East Asia, consistent with best practices in critical areas such as land-extensive agroenterprise, cluster and value chain development, and assured compliance with food safety, environmental and social standards. A total of 171 participants attended, representing a mix of public trade, development and regulatory agencies, private companies involved in agribusiness or supporting it, and civil society organizations that represent producers or processors or that focus on key themes such as sustainability. In addition to two days of presentations

and discussion, the event included a working dinner jointly organized with the APEC Food Safety Cooperation Forum to discuss public-private collaboration for food safety.

5. Other standard-related activities (not specifically related to SPS issues)

In response to growing concerns over climate change, consumers and firms in developed countries are considering their carbon footprint. Carbon labeling is being explored as a mechanism for greenhouse gas emission reduction primarily by private actors. The WB has supported some research initiatives aimed at discussing the carbon accounting activities and carbon labelling schemes that are being developed to address these concerns with a view to their impact on small stakeholders. The work has led to the preparation of the following documents:

Carbon Footprints and Food Systems: Do Current Accounting Methodologies Disadvantage Developing Countries? Brenton, P., G. Edwards-Jones, M.F. Jensen, K. Plassmann, A. Norton, and N. Attarzadeh. Draft Paper.

May Carbon Labeling Be Development-Friendly? - Recommendations on How to Improve Emerging Schemes. Forthcoming.

• **THE WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION**

SPS Technical Assistance Activities in 2010

General information

1. The Secretariat of the WTO plans to organize a number of specific technical assistance activities on the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement) in 2010, encompassing: e-Training courses, national SPS seminars, a thematic SPS workshop in Geneva, regional SPS workshops and an advanced SPS course.¹ These activities will primarily focus on the provisions of the SPS Agreement, implementation matters and the latest discussions taking place in the SPS Committee.² The overall objective of the SPS technical assistance activities is to enhance the knowledge and expertise of government officials from WTO developing country Members and Observers, so they can better understand and implement the SPS Agreement, benefit from its provisions, and strengthen their capacities to engage in the work of the SPS Committee.

2. This document provides detailed information about each SPS-specific WTO technical assistance activity planned for 2010, including information on: dates, venues, eligibility and selection criteria of participants, instructions for submission of applications, deadlines and pre-requisites when required.

3. This document is structured according to the different types of SPS-specific technical assistance activities provided by the WTO:

- e-Training Courses on the SPS Agreement
- National SPS Seminars
- Thematic SPS Workshop
- Regional SPS Workshops
- Advanced SPS Course and Follow-up Session

4. A chronological table with the dates and steps of all the SPS-specific technical assistance activities in 2010 can be found in Annex I.

5. The structure, content, target audience, pre-requisites, exercises and materials of these SPS-specific activities will follow the WTO progressive learning strategy.³ Therefore, each activity is identified according to a scale ranging from "Level 1" (the least advanced, introductory activities) to "Level 3" (the most advanced, in-depth training activities). This measurement will, *inter alia*, assist

¹ In addition to these SPS-specific technical assistance activities, the WTO offers training courses where the SPS Agreement is taught, such as Introduction Courses on the WTO to Least-developed Countries (LDCs), Regional Trade Policy Courses, and Advanced Trade Policy Courses. For more information on these training courses, please consult the WTO website on http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/devel_e/train_e/course_details_e.htm.

² The SPS Committee is scheduled to meet three times in 2010: 17-18 March; 30 June-1 July; and 20-21 October. Informal meetings of the SPS Committee and other SPS-related workshops might be scheduled during the weeks when the SPS Committee meetings take place. These dates are subject to changes.

³ The primary aim of the progressive learning strategy is to promote higher levels of learning and to encourage the development of participants' autonomy, with a view to building and sustaining the long-lasting human and institutional capacity of beneficiary countries to participate most effectively in the rules-based multilateral training system.

making candidates aware of the expected level of the activity before they apply, and facilitate the Secretariat's assessment of whether a candidate's profile and experience match the level of the activity when carrying out the selection process. This will ultimately help ensure that the participants in a particular activity are able to most effectively follow and contribute to the discussions, and that they have an harmonized level of understanding of the SPS Agreement.

I. E-TRAINING COURSES ON THE SPS AGREEMENT

Level of this activity: 1 3

6. The WTO offers on-line Internet courses on the SPS Agreement, so as to enable government officials from all around the world to learn, through an interactive tool, about the basic provisions and principles of the SPS Agreement, the work of the SPS Committee and the SPS disputes brought to the WTO Dispute Settlement Mechanism. During the entire course, participants receive personal tutoring from an assigned SPS staff member of the WTO Secretariat who is responsible for clarifying and responding to any SPS-related question. While an introduction to the SPS Agreement is included in the e-Training course "Introduction to the WTO", this Internet course on the SPS Agreement is the most introductory-level training available specifically on the SPS Agreement.

7. The course is available in all three WTO official languages (English, French and Spanish) and is divided into eight modules which must be completed within eight weeks. At the end of each module, participants are required to take a short on-line test. The completion of these tests are required for the successful completion of the course.

8. Successful completion of the e-Training course on the SPS Agreement is a compulsory prerequisite for participation in a number of other SPS technical assistance activities, such as the regional workshops and the advanced SPS course. However, successful completion of the e-Training course on the SPS Agreement **does not guarantee** selection for other SPS-related training events. Government officials who have already successfully completed the e-Training course on the SPS Agreement, in any of the available languages, are *not* required to undertake it again.

9. The WTO will offer four e-Training courses on the SPS Agreement in 2010:

- in English: from 29 March to 21 May. Registration is open until 12 March;
- in Spanish: from 26 April to 18 June. Registration is open until 13 April;
- in English: from 10 May to 2 July. Registration is open until 30 April;
- in French: from 31 May to 23 July. Registration is open until 21 May.

10. Government officials from WTO Members and Observers wishing to register for one of the e-Training courses on the SPS Agreement must access the WTO e-Training website (<https://etraining.wto.org>). The website has two forms which need to be filled-in and submitted:

- (a) on-line form: available on <http://etraining.wto.org> at "Course Catalog". This form needs to be completed on-line, and it will generate a registration number that will be used in the "nomination form";
- (b) nomination form: the candidate should be confirmed by the responsible government authorities. The nomination form is also available on <http://etraining.wto.org> at "Course Catalog". The completed nomination form must be sent either by email (scanned) to etraining.registration@wto.org or by fax to +41 22 739 5191.

11. Further information and instructions about the registration process for the e-Training Course on the SPS Agreement can be found on the website <http://etraining.wto.org>.

II. NATIONAL SPS SEMINARS

Level of this activity: 1 3

12. WTO developing country Members and Observers are entitled to request national seminars with a view to address specific training needs on the SPS Agreement and its implementation. In this regard, the programmes for national seminars are elaborated by the beneficiary country in consultation with the WTO Secretariat. It is possible to address both the SPS and TBT Agreements in a single national seminar.

13. To request a national seminar on the SPS Agreement, Members and Observers must submit a formal request according to the document TRTA National Request Form (JOB(09)/55), also found in the WTO Biennial Technical Assistance and Training Plan 2010-2011 (WT/COMTD/W/170/Rev.1).

III. THEMATIC SPS WORKSHOP

Level of this activity: 1 3

14. The Secretariat will organize a special workshop on the transparency provisions of the SPS Agreement to be held in Geneva, Switzerland, on Monday, 18 October 2010. The meeting will precede the informal and regular meetings of the SPS Committee (which will take place from 19 to 21 October 2010) so as to facilitate the participation of appropriate experts from capitals.

15. The objective of this workshop is to bring together officials from WTO Members' SPS enquiry points and national notification authorities for an in-depth discussion about the challenges and concerns relating to the functioning of these institutions and to identify best practices. The target audience for the meeting is mid- to high- level officials directly involved in the work of the SPS enquiry point or the national notification authority.

16. Presentations will focus on improving the operation of national notification authorities and enquiry points based on the overview of the transparency provisions of the SPS Agreement, analysis of Members' practices related to notifications to date, in addition to demonstration of the newly-launched features and improvements of the SPS Information Management System. The workshop will provide opportunities for discussions and exchanges of information about Members' good practices on transparency issues and how Members can benefit from SPS notifications, and explore practical ways to improve Members' implementation of the SPS transparency provisions.

17. The workshop is also open to participation by all delegates from WTO Members and Observers attending the SPS Committee meeting.

18. The WTO, with the financial assistance of the Doha Development Agenda Global Trust Fund (DDAGTF), will sponsor the participation of approximately 50 government officials from developing country Members and Observers. The Secretariat will select participants to be sponsored from applications received from capital-based officials directly responsible for the work of either the SPS enquiry point or the national notification authority. Exceptions will be made for candidates from WTO Members that have not yet designated their SPS enquiry point and/or the national notification authority, as well as for WTO Observer countries, on the basis of evidence that the candidate has, or will have, responsibilities related to SPS notifications in their countries.

19. Preference will be given to applications from least-developed countries (LDCs), and from developing country Members and Observers that have not been sponsored to participate in a thematic workshop on the SPS Agreement in the recent past. No more than **one** participant from each country will be selected.

IV. REGIONAL SPS WORKSHOPS

Level of this activity: 1 3

20. The Secretariat of the WTO organizes regional workshops on the SPS Agreement with the purpose of making participants fully aware of the WTO SPS Agreement, its implementation, and the possible implications at the regional and national levels. These workshops are generally funded by the Doha Development Agenda Global Trust Fund (DDAGTF).

21. The regional workshops also serve as an opportunity for government officials working with SPS matters in different developing countries to establish contact with their counterparts in other developing countries of the region, facilitating the exchange of information and the share of best practices related to the implementation of the SPS Agreement.

22. Representatives from the three international standard setting organizations referenced in the SPS Agreement (the FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission (Codex); the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) Secretariat; and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)) actively participate as resource persons in these regional workshops, contributing with their knowledge and experience in their areas of expertise. In addition, the WTO may invite relevant regional organizations, international and regional development institutions and organizations, as well as other technical assistance organizations and bilateral donors involved in SPS matters to inform the participants of their latest activities.

23. In accordance with the WTO Biennial Technical Assistance and Training Plan 2010-2011 (WT/COMTD/W/170), three regional workshops on the SPS Agreement will be organized in 2010:

- Regional SPS Workshop for Asia and Pacific
- Regional SPS Workshop for Latin America⁴
- Regional SPS Workshop for Central and Eastern Europe, Central Asia and Caucasus.

24. Specific information for each of these three activities can be found in Annex II.

V. ADVANCED SPS COURSE AND FOLLOW-UP SESSION

Level of this activity: 1 3

25. The 2010 Advanced SPS Course will be held from 11 to 29 October 2010 in Geneva, Switzerland, in **English**. This course is an in-depth and "hands-on" training activity conceived to encourage the active involvement of participants in SPS-related matters, ranging from addressing national implementation problems to the identification of SPS-related market access difficulties and how to develop strategies to overcome these.

⁴ Taking into account the different SPS characteristics and training needs between the Latin American and the Caribbean regions, in addition to the different languages amongst those countries, the WTO Secretariat will organize a separate regional SPS workshop for the Caribbean region in 2011.

26. The course comprises a series of sessions and practical exercises related to the implementation of the SPS Agreement. The first week of the course includes sessions aimed at deepening participants' understanding of the SPS Agreement. In the second week, participants will attend the SPS Committee meetings, with a view to learning how the Committee works in practice, so as to become familiar with the rules and procedures of the Committee and to participate in the discussions taking place there. In the third week, participants will compare their experiences and will learn more about how to improve the implementation of specific provisions of the SPS Agreement, including the application of concepts and principles such as risk analysis, harmonization, equivalence, regionalization and transparency. Dispute settlement, technical assistance and cooperation, and special and differential treatment will also be addressed. A number of external experts, including from Codex, IPPC and OIE, will participate in parts of the course.

27. Each participant will be required to elaborate an action plan with the assistance of coaches. This plan should address at least one or two implementation and/or market access challenges encountered in their countries. The implementation of these action plans will be monitored through a periodic reporting process after the course.

28. A follow-up session will be organized in June 2011, where participants to the advanced SPS course will report on the implementation of their action plans.

ANNEX I
SPS-specific Technical Assistance Activities in 2010 – Chronological Table

Activity	Pre-requisites	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
		Regional SPS Workshop for Asia and Pacific	e-Training course on SPS*	<i>Applications through 9 July.</i> →							Results of selection		
Regional SPS Workshop for Latin America	e-Training course on SPS*	<i>Applications through 9 July.</i> →							Results of selection			Workshop week 15/11	
Regional SPS Workshop for Central and Eastern Europe, Central Asia and Caucasus	e-Training course on SPS*	<i>Applications through 9 July.</i> →							Results of selection			Workshop week 8/11	
2010 Advanced SPS Course	e-Training course on SPS* Response to the questionnaire	<i>Applications through 9 July.</i> →							Results of selection	Response to the questionnaire	Course from 11 to 29/10		
Workshop on Transparency	Only for SPS Enquiry Points and Notification Authorities	<i>Applications through 9 July.</i> →							Results of selection		Workshop 18 to 22/10		

Activity	Pre-requisites	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
e-Training Course on SPS in English				Deadline for registration 12 March. Course running from 29 March to 21 May (8 weeks)									
e-Training Course on SPS in Spanish					Deadline for registration 13 April. Course running from 26 April to 18 June (8 weeks)								
e-Training Course on SPS in English						Deadline for registration 30 April. Course running from 10 May to 2 July (8 weeks)							
e-Training Course on SPS in French						Deadline for registration 21 May. Course running from 31 May to 23 July (8 weeks)							

* Candidates who have not successfully completed the WTO e-Training course on the SPS Agreement by the time of their application, must enrol in one of the courses in 2010. Their final selection will be subject to a successful completion of the e-training course prior to the beginning of the activity for which the candidate is applying. Further information can be found in Section I of this document.

ANNEX II
Regional SPS Workshops in 2010

Title of the activity	Regional SPS Workshop for Asia and Pacific
Dates	Week of 22 November 2010
Venue	Colombo, Sri Lanka (to be confirmed)
Eligible WTO Members and Observers	<p>Asia: Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Hong Kong China, India, Indonesia, Korea (Rep. of), Lao, People's Democratic Republic of, Macao (China), Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Chinese Taipei, Timor-Leste, Thailand, Viet Nam.</p> <p>Pacific Islands: Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Vanuatu, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue Island, Palau, Tuvalu.</p>
Pre-requisites	<p>Successful completion of the WTO e-Training Course on the SPS Agreement.</p> <p>Candidates who have not undertaken the WTO e-Training Course on the SPS Agreement must enrol and successfully complete one of the courses in 2010. Applications from candidates who do not successfully complete the e-Training Course on the SPS Agreement will not be considered.</p> <p>Fluency in English.</p>

Title of the activity	Regional SPS Workshop for Latin America (co-organized with the Inter-American Development Bank – IDB)
Dates	Week of 15 November 2010
Venue	Lima, Peru (to be confirmed)
Eligible WTO Members and Observers	Argentina, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay.
Pre-requisites	<p>Successful completion of the WTO e-Training Course on the SPS Agreement.</p> <p>Candidates who have not undertaken the WTO e-Training Course on the SPS Agreement must enrol and successfully complete one of the courses in 2010. Applications from candidates who do not successfully complete the e-Training Course on the SPS Agreement will not be considered.</p> <p>Fluency in Spanish.</p>

Title of the activity	Regional SPS Workshop for Central and Eastern Europe, Central Asia and Caucasus
Dates	Week of 8 November 2010
Venue	(to be confirmed)
Eligible WTO Members and Observers	Afghanistan, Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Georgia, Iran, Israel, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Russian Federation, Serbia, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan.
Pre-requisites	Successful completion of the WTO e-Training Course on the SPS Agreement. Candidates who have not undertaken the WTO e-Training Course on the SPS Agreement must enrol and successfully complete one of the courses in 2010. Applications from candidates who do not successfully complete the e-Training Course on the SPS Agreement will not be considered. Fluency in English.