

Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) Workshop

Use of Multi-Criteria Decision Analysis to Inform Decisions on the Allocation of Resources aimed at Strengthening Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Capacity

Johannesburg, South Africa, 16-17 August 2011

Programme

Overview

The Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) is supporting the development of a decision-support tool, based on Multi Criteria Decision Analysis (MCDA), to help countries prioritize options for the enhancement of sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) capacity.¹ The purpose of this tool is to improve the effectiveness of decisions on where to allocate public, private and/or donor resources aimed at strengthening SPS capacity. As such, the tool helps to: (i) enhance the economic efficiency of SPS resource allocation decisions, such that scarce resources are allocated in a manner that best meets a country's economic development, poverty alleviation, public health and/or other objectives; (ii) promote more transparent and accountable choices between multiple investment options; and (iii) facilitate more inclusive decision-making processes involving diverse stakeholders.

The MCDA framework was used in Mozambique in April 2011 to identify and prioritize options to strengthen SPS capacity, and in Zambia in July 2011. These initial applications have been beneficial to assist decision-makers in both countries to identify priorities that might guide the allocation of resources by government agencies, the private sector and/or donors. They have also been invaluable to refine and improve the methodology and process through which it is used. Based on these applications, and possible additional applications in the future, we intend to finalize and publish the MCDA Guide as a decision-support tool for SPS experts in developing countries.

Regional Workshop on the Use of MCDA to Inform SPS Decision-making in Africa

The purpose of the regional workshop will be to: (i) present the MCDA approach; (ii) share practical experiences from Mozambique and Zambia where the approach has been used in consultation with national stakeholders; and (iii) equip SPS experts from selected other countries and Regional Economic Communities in Africa with knowledge and skills to apply this approach.

Participants are expected to comprise mid- to high-level officials with direct responsibility for food safety, animal health, plant health and/or trade. Participants will be encouraged to disseminate and make use of the MCDA approach in their own work, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, after the event.

¹ This work builds on the outcomes of an international workshop, organized by the STDF in Geneva in October 2009, and an STDF guidance document and Briefing Note on the use of economic analysis methodologies to inform SPS decision-making (see www.standardsfacility.org/TAecoAnalysis.htm).

Tuesday 16 August

8.30: Registration

9.00: Welcome and opening remarks

9.15: Introduction to the STDF and its work

10.30: Coffee

11.00: Overview on the use of economic analysis to set priorities for SPS capacity-building

12.00: Break-out session: Applying economic analysis to SPS capacity-building – benefits and constraints

13.00: Lunch

14.00: Overview of multi-criteria decision-making framework for establishing SPS capacity-building priorities

15.30: Coffee

16.00: Break-out session: Defining capacity-building options

17.30: Close

Wednesday 17 August

9.00: Break-out session: Defining information cards

10.30: Coffee

11.00: Demonstration of multi-criteria decision-making software

13.00: Lunch

14.00: Application of the MCDA Framework: Experiences from Mozambique

14.45: Application of the MCDA Framework: Experiences from Zambia

15.30: Coffee break

16.00: Discussion of the experiences from Mozambique and Zambia

16.45: Conclusions and wrap-up

17.00: Close