



# Summary Report

## Project IICA-STDF-108

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# **“Development of Institutional Capacities to Consolidate Active Participation in the SPS Committee and Implement the SPS Agreement”**

## **● Objectives:**

- 1) To promote a common vision about SPS issues within countries (public and private sectors) and among countries of the Americas**
- 2) To develop capacities in countries of the Americas to participate more actively and effectively in the SPS Committee and SPS international regulatory bodies**
- 3) To promote technical cooperation between countries of the Americas as an exchange mechanism on TA and support to special and differential treatment**

# Phase I – Development of National and Regional SPS Agendas

- **28 Countries in the Americas:**

Antigua & Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Kitts & Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent & Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago, Uruguay, Venezuela, plus IICA

- **Steering Group:** Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Mexico and the United States of America

- **Duration:** Initially 14 months; extended to 28 months

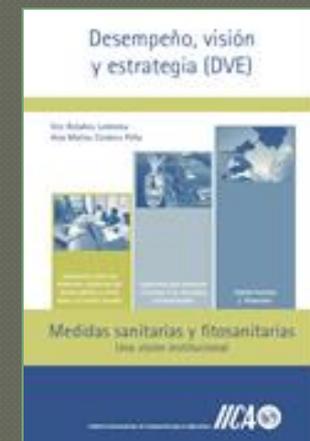
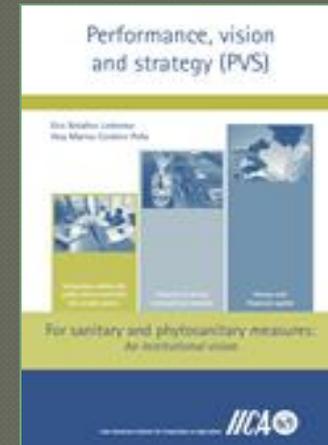
- **Funding:** STDF - US\$ 585,000  
IICA (in-kind) - US\$190,000

# Phase I: Assessment of the level of development of national SPS systems and achievement of common vision

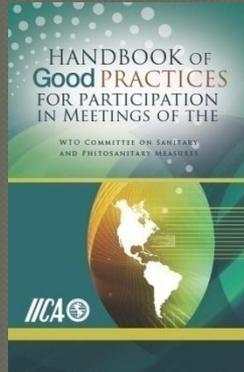
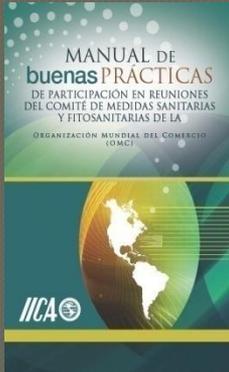
- **Objective:** To build a common national vision on SPS issues (based on self knowledge) and planning of national SPS management systems
- **Instruments used:** IICA's "*Performance, Vision and Strategy (PVS) for National SPS Systems*"
- **Scope:** 24 countries
- Involved more than 1,000 persons and some 60 IICA staff members over a one-year period

## Results:

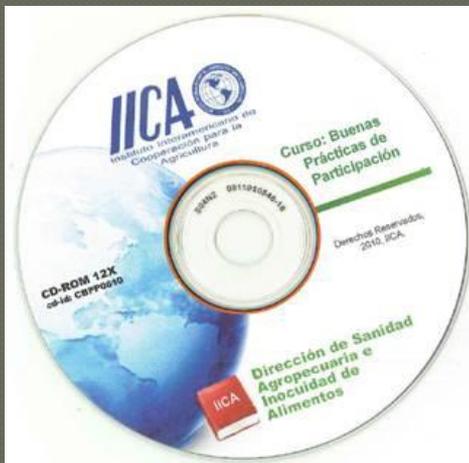
- 24 country diagnostics
- 26 national reports
- 26 national SPS agendas
- 4 Regional SPS agendas
- 4 sub-project profiles



# Phase II: Development of capacities to make better use of international SPS fora



WTO/SPS



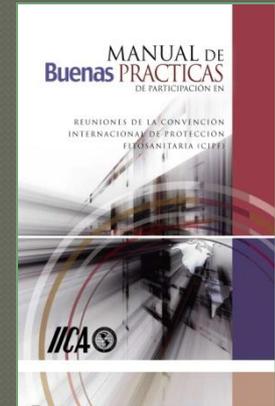
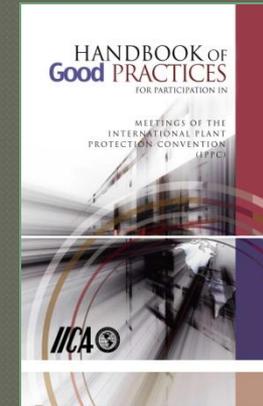
•**Objective:** Development of capacities for participation in international SPS fora

•**Scope:** 11 Countries

•**Results:**

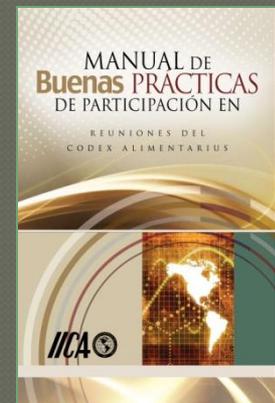
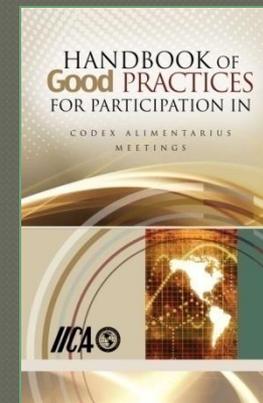
- **120 technical personnel trained** with international experts in preparation for and participation in Codex, IPPC and SPS Committee

- **4 Manuals** (English & Spanish) developed (one for each organization) + CD



CIPF

Codex

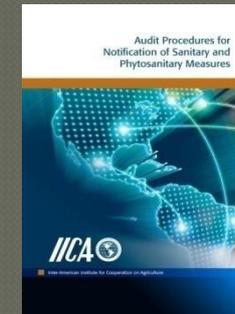


# Institutional Operating Manuals

## PROCEDURAL MANUAL FOR NATIONAL CODEX COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES

- **Objective:** To provide National Codex Committees with a tool to strengthen their institutional operation
- **Product:** Application of good management practices for NCC
- **Coverage:** 28 countries

## SPS NOTIFICATION PROCEDURES AUDITING TOOL



- **Objective:** To provide a tool for auditing and improving SPS notification procedures
- **Product:** Tool available for internal audits of SPS notification procedures
- **Coverage:** 28 countries

# Training and Awareness-Creation on International SPS Standard-Setting Bodies and Procedures

- **Objective:** To create awareness among decision-makers on the importance of SPS issues – 3-Sisters approach
- Coverage: Standard-setting, Good Practices, SPS Committee
- Each workshop aided by experts from Steering Group
- **Results:**
  - 4 Caribbean workshops (7 countries – 136 officials and private sector representatives reached):
    - Jamaica\*
    - Bahamas (+ Belize)
    - Barbados
    - Trinidad & Tobago (+ Guyana and Suriname)

\*NOTE: Four South Pacific island nations attended

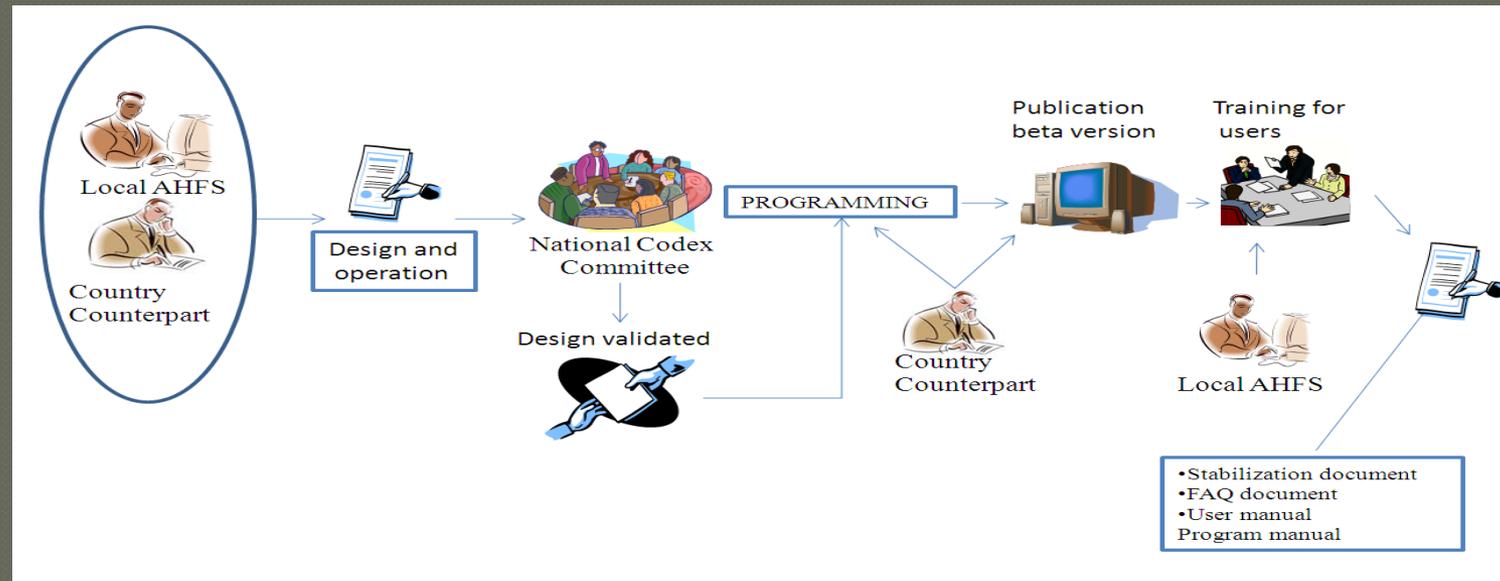
# Training and Awareness-Creation ... Cont.



## Strategy:

Invite high-level officials (Minister, Permanent Secretary, Chief Agricultural Officer, Heads of services, and open up with Keynote (1 hour) by a high official from USDA or CFIA

# Information Management Systems on SPS and Codex Alimentarius



**Information system developed by IICA Ecuador for managing SPS and Codex information was adapted to the national institutional structures of Bolivia, Colombia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Peru and Venezuela**

# Risk Analysis

- a. **Phytopsanitary hazard profiles (risk management)** - facilitation of commerce by allowing phytopsanitary decision making at border crossing and entry points

## Results:

- 2 Manuals English/Spanish)
- 62 phytopsanitary inspectors trained
- 9 countries
- Courses scheduled for Central Region



# Risk Analysis – cont.

b. **Risk Assessment** (in cooperation with U. Nebraska-Lincoln, USA):

- RA of Microbial Hazards in Foods
- RA of Chemical Hazards in Foods

## Results:

- 2 one-week courses
- 122 technical personnel trained
- 19 countries covered



# Risk Analysis – cont

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- c. **Risk communication** (in cooperation with U. Nebraska-Lincoln, USA)

## Results:

- 3 courses (Colombia, Ecuador, Peru)
- 89 technical personnel trained in 3 countries
- Courses scheduled for 7 Central American countries and Dominican Republic, 5 Andean and 5 South Region countries

# Technical Forum

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## **Topic: Private Standards**

- Presenters from USA, Argentina, Costa Rica, Belize
- 2 countries reached directly via video-conference
- 11 countries joined via webcast

# Documentation of SPS Sucess Stories

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1. Fruit fly control in Belize
2. Control and eradication of brucellosis and bovine tuberculosis in Panamá (TB- and brucellosis-free zone)

# Conclusions & Recommendations

## From the standpoint of concept:

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1. Institutional modernization and strengthening is a long process that personnel rotation tends to make permanent
2. There is a large gap between countries that have recognized the importance of SPS measures, of investing on SPS issues, and adequately and consistently participate in international SPS fora and those that see these issues as mere costs
3. Some Caribbean countries will require a very different strategy to that used traditionally to strengthen SPS systems elsewhere; the characteristics of their productive sector, scales of economy, and institutional characteristics suggest that a regional strategy may have greater impact and sustainability

## From the standpoint of the project:

1. National and regional agendas are excellent tools to direct TC efforts by international organizations and to develop strategic plans by national institutions
2. National SPS system assessments revealed an important difference between the public and private sector views in many countries regarding how SPS responsibilities and commitments should be discharged
3. The products developed by the project will impact LAC countries for years to come, given that they enrich the portfolio of training tools for activities that IICA and other institutions will continue to carry out
4. Latin America has great need to develop risk profiles so that they can improve their science-based decision-making processes and thus facilitate trade

5. SPS measures notification procedures can be greatly improved through the introduction of protocols and permanent control measures
6. The workshops on risk communication revealed great needs regarding training in this area and involvement of all stakeholders, so that every-day SPS issues as well as crisis can be better managed
7. High government officials rotation/attrition make it essential to reduce the time between training rounds on good practices for participation in international SPS fora, so that countries can benefit from an adequate representation



Thank you!

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