Harnessing AI for Safe Trade in Latin America and the Caribbean

"Innovations for SPS Transformation"

(24 -26 November 2025)

San José, Costa Rica

Background and Rationalle

The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) partner to pilot innovations to strengthen sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) capacity at national, regional and global levels and facilitate safe trade.

Innovation in SPS development refers to the introduction and application of new or improved tools, technologies, practices, or approaches that enhance the effectiveness, efficiency, and inclusiveness of SPS systems. These innovations help countries meet international standards (Codex, IPPC and WOAH) to protect human, animal and plant health, and facilitate safe trade.

In line with IICA and STDF strategies this event will be organized in the Americas in November 2025. Americas are a fitting starting point given its dynamic SPS landscape and regional integration, as well as pioneering use of new technologies, artificial intelligence (AI) and other types of innovative approaches and practices.

The event in Latin America and the Caribbean will build on previous work (including the Vienna Food Safety Forum in June 2025), share experiences from relevant STDF-funded projects, and learn from other work supported by IICA and sub-regional organizations, as well as STDF partners and national governments, in the region.

Objectives of the event

- Highlight innovative SPS solutions, including those supported by IICA and STDF in the Americas, with potential for scaling while fostering regional dialogue on the following:

  - Challenges and opportunities of using AI on epidemiological models
  - Adoption of AI for import risk assessments
  - Implementation of AI models for animal movement and traceability systems
  - AI use to inform risk-based border controls, sampling and inspection
  - Using AI on big data to determine risk profiles and audit routines
  - Implementation of AI applied to large databases to expedite evaluation processes.
  - Financing to roll out and scale AI-based SPS solutions for safe trade facilitation

- Strengthen links and cooperation among Member States and International Organizations to support the achievement of IICA and STDF's outcomes and programme goals.

Format of the event

In-person event on 24-26 November 2025 at IICA's Headquarters in Costa Rica. This will include an (i) Opening session, (ii) Overview - 'Dissecting Innovation' - Tools, Technologies or Practices or Approaches, (iii) Project showcases and panels, (iv) Interactive discussions and networking, (v) Exhibition space for tools and technologies.

Agenda

Day 1

TIME	AGENDA POINT
8:30 – 9:00	**Registration – morning coffee**
9:00 – 9:30	**Opening ceremony** ● Dr José Urdaz, Manager – IICA Agricultural Health, Safety and Agri-Food Quality (AHFS Program). ● Simon Padilla & Peter Donelan – Secretariat - STDF WTO ● Dr Lloyd Day, Deputy Director General of IICA
9:30 – 11:00	***Plenary session I: Intro to AI Uses in SPS Systems*** Facilitated by IICA followed by Q&A ● Presentation I – International Organization or Private Sector I - Federico Bert – Emmanuel Picado - IICA Digital Agriculture Program ● Presentation II - International Organization or Private Sector II - Peter Donelan & Simon Padilla - WTO/STDF ● Presentation III – International Organization or Private Sector III - Eleonora Dupouy - FAO - Food Safety Officer
11:00 – 11:30	**Coffee break**
11:30 – 13:00	***Plenary session II: Country experiences on AI Uses in SPS Systems*** Moderated by STDF followed by Q&A **Panelists** ● Belize - BAHA ● Canada - CFIA ● Ecuador - Agrocalidad
13:00 – 14:30	**Lunch break**
14:30 – 16:00	***Plenary session III: Country experiences on AI Uses in SPS Systems*** Moderated by IICA followed by Q&A **Panelists** ● Brazil - MAPA ● Chile - SAG ● Peru - MIDAGRI
16:00 – 18:00	**Coffee break**
16:30 – 18:00	***Plenary session IV: Country experiences on AI Uses in SPS Systems*** Moderated by STDF followed by Q&A ● Argentina - SENASA ● Uruguay – MGAP ● Saint Kitts & Nevis
From 18:00	**Reception**

Day 2

TIME	AGENDA POINT
9:00 – 9:30	***Intro to Day 2 – Discussion and summary*** ***Wrap-up session Day 1 - facilitated by STDF***
9:30 – 11:00	***Plenary session V: Regional Experiences on the use of AI-Solutions SPS systems for safe trade facilitation in Latin America*** Moderated by IICA followed by Q&A ***Speakers*** ● CAN - Regional Center for Phytosanitary Intelligence of the Andean Community - Katty Rojas ● OIRSA - Virtual arenas applied to plant and animal health - Nelson Andrade ● Creme Global - Brendan Ring ● Neltume - Antonio Cabrera
11:00 – 11:30	**Coffee break**
11:30 – 13:00	***Plenary session VI – Financing to roll out and scaling AI solutions in SPS for safe trade.*** Moderated by STDF followed by Q&A ***Speakers*** ● FONPLATA – Gastón Gómez ● Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) - Maja Schling ● MetaBix Uruguay - Andres Pio ● AgTools USA - Martha Montoya ● BCIE - Gloriana Jiménez
13:00 – 14:30	**Lunch break**
14:30 – 16:00	***Breakout session - Brainstorming ways potential ways of leveraging resources, identifying and scaling impactful AI solutions in SPS for safe trade.*** ● Group 1: Andean region ● Group 2: Central American region ● Group 3: Caribbean + Northern region ● Group 4: Southern region
16:00 – 16:30	**Coffee break**
16:30 – 17:30	***Report of breakout sessions and discussion*** Facilitated by STDF followed by discussion ● *Representative of Group I* ● *Representative of Group 2* ● *Representative of Group 3* ● *Representative of Group 4*

Day 3

TIME	AGENDA POINT
9:00 – 10:30	**Presentation of Forum Findings & Agreement on Workshop Declaration/Findings/Conclusions.** Facilitated by IICA
10:30 – 11:00	**Coffee break**
11:00 – 12:00	**Visit to IICA Innovation Labs and Facilities** **Closing ceremony** ● IICA Representative ● STDF
12:00 – 13:00	**Lunch break**