Belize's experience: Application of the framework to Prioritize SPS Investments for Market Access

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Previous work on SPS capacity-building needs

• Application of SPS-related capacity evaluation tools
  – IPPC/PCE (2000, 2004 and 2008); OIE/PVS (Jan 2008; May 2009); and PVS GAP Analysis (OIE) (April 2010); IICA/PVS FS, Plant Health and Quarantine and SPS (2008)

• Scope of SPS capacity evaluation tools
  – Assessment of the level of compliances with international obligations; totally different than P-IMA (prioritization – export oriented)

• Support to SPS capacity building prioritization
  – Identification of requirements/audits/competence (foster compliance, increase confidence, facilitate compliance)
How was the PIMA framework applied?

- **STDF/PG/365 ($30,000 USD)**
  - International Consultant (project January to October 2012)
  - Process led and coordinated by the Competent Authority

- **Stakeholders:** 35 persons: exporters, producers, processing facilities, academia, Ministry of Health, Legal Counsel, Ministry of Economic Development, Ministry of Investment and Trade, Ministry of Agriculture, Belize Trade and Investment Development Service, OIRSA, USDA/AHPPHIS, BAHA etc.

- Workshop type setting

- Data for information cards: consultation with industry, the respective Departments & other partners (including line Ministries and other agencies)
Feedback

• 21 capacity building needs were identified;
• 13 were excluded – not SPS issues;
• Among the options identified:
  – animal health controls for live cattle exports;
  – animal health and hygiene controls for beef exports;
  – Laboratory testing capacity for heavy metals and residues (pesticides and veterinary drugs); etc.
Reflections on Application of P-IMA: Benefits

• Results provide evidence to convince policy makers
• Provides trade impact at a glance
• Application of P-IMA – awareness of resources; requirements; timeframe and ongoing costs – to obtain desired objective
• Exports of live cattle – P-IMA results highlighted a huge oversight (additional costs not budgeted for/ongoing costs not previously considered)
• Advocacy – support the work of the Authority
• Identification of additional sources of funding available nationally
• Stakeholders have a greater appreciation of what it takes to gain market access for agricultural products
• One of the few tools that brings all SPS stakeholders at the same table
Reflection on P-IMA: Challenges

• Approaches to obtain stakeholder participation (Stakeholders Representation & Participation, User groups (letters, press release/phone calls) – knowledge of issues
• Determining SPS options to include in “choice set”
  • Role of the competent authority very significant to guide the private sector (differentiation of real SPS issues versus non-SPS issues)
• Completing the information cards
  • Information from both private and public sector
  • Standardization of format
  • Availability and accuracy of the information
• Experts – knowledgeable of the country situation (distinguish between production/market/phytosanitary or sanitary issues)
• Setting the decision criteria and weights critical for an objective outcome.
Messages to Other Countries

- Application of SPS-related capacity evaluation tools (where already carried out and available)
  - Useful to identify critical SPS areas that needed strengthening (e.g. surveillance, diagnostic capability)
  - Benchmark for level of compliance (competent authorities and systems)
- Role of national SPS experts/competent authority(ies) is critical
  - In driving and leading the P-IMA process
  - In completing information cards (investment): Capacity of industry & Competent authority
- P-IMA – Tool for prioritization and export oriented (application of weight to capture domestic issues)
  - “Simple” approach to identifying SPS implementation issues as they relate to market access
  - Identification of a Team leader for the entire process;
  - Consultant helpful for the first application (later on may be applied by trained staff)
Future Uses

• As stated in the guideline – the framework can be applied as often as possible and to different situations:
  • Informally it has been applied to inform which surveillance programmes should be prioritized;
  • The Policy Unit of the Ministry of Agriculture has expressed interest in applying it this year;
  • The Belize Trade and Investment Promotion Unit has expressed interest in its application – prioritize assistance to micro, small and medium sized enterprises.
Thank You

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