

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/AHPHIS, 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)
 - Bench mark 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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