Implementing SPS Measures to Facilitate Safe Trade

Introduction

STDF thematic session

26 March 2014

World Trade Organization, Geneva, Switzerland
A global partnership in SPS technical cooperation

- Coordination mechanism among providers of SPS-related technical cooperation to achieve greater coherence, avoid duplication of effort and enhance results
- Knowledge platform for sharing experiences, identification and dissemination of good practices, discussion of cross-cutting topics
- Support/funding for development and implementation of projects that assist in complying with international SPS requirements and gaining/maintaining market access
Objectives of STDF work on SPS and trade facilitation

• Raise awareness about synergies between implementation of SPS measures and trade facilitation

• Identify key needs/good practices to ensure health protection while minimizing trade transaction costs

• Make recommendations to enhance future work and technical cooperation focused on SPS and trade facilitation
Recognizing the right to protect human, animal, plant life or health

SPS Agreement

Facilitate safe trade

Avoiding unnecessary barriers to trade
Relevant provisions

• Least trade-restrictive measure to reach appropriate level of protection (Article 5.6)

• Transparency (Article 7 and Annex B)

• Control, inspection and approval procedures (Article 8 and Annex C)
Scope

• How are SPS measures applied in practice to imports, exports and transit goods?

• Are there transactions costs/delays that can be reduced/avoided without compromising SPS objectives? How?

• No direct link to new TF Agreement adopted in Dec 2013 – but opportunity to enhance dialogue and integrate SPS-related components in broader TF programmes
Regional focus

• Research in Latin America led by IDB - Juliana Salles Almeida
  • Focusing on quarantine control situation in 18 Latin American countries

• Research in Africa and Asia commissioned by STDF
  • Focusing on selected countries and products
  • In Asia, in collaboration with Kees van der Meer and national consultants
  • In Africa, in collaboration with Rob Black, COMESA, TMSA, and regional consultants
Purpose of thematic session

• Share preliminary findings and recommendations

• Exchange comments and experiences

• Consider suggestions for possible follow up work
Expected outputs in 2014

- Regional reports (based on findings at national level)
- STDF Briefing Note

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Many thanks to participating countries and regional partners!