

INCREASED AND SUSTAINABLE SPS CAPACITY IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

SAFE TRADE FACILITATED

Sustainable economic growth, poverty reduction and food security



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MAKING "SMART" SPS MEASURES:
USING GRPs TO FACILITATE SAFE TRADE

Making SPS measures "fit for purpose"

All countries maintain sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures to ensure food is safe for consumers and to prevent the spread of pests or diseases among animals and plants. Using Good Regulatory Practices (GRPs) can help to improve the quality and effectiveness of SPS measures, so that they are fit for purpose. This promotes health protection, while facilitating trade.

Using GRPs improves regulations for more effective, inclusive and sustainable outcomes – including easier, faster and less costly trade. GRPs support the principles of the WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement), as well as international standards for food safety (Codex), animal (OIE) and plant health (IPPC).

Good Regulatory Practices (GRPs) are tools to make regulations simpler and smarter. They include diverse processes and systems – from transparency to coordination, regulatory stock-taking to forward-looking agendas, regulatory impact assessments (RIAs) to monitoring.

How do GRPs benefit government and business?

- Better designed SPS measures based on international standards
- Improved compliance with SPS measures
- More effective SPS regulatory frameworks, with less overlapping and/or contradictory measures
- Reduced costs and administrative burden
- Greater trust of the private sector and consumers in regulatory processes
- Enhanced confidence of trading partners and investors

The Philippines: Using GRPs in the fisheries and agricultural sector

The Philippines is rolling out GRPs to strengthen the development, implementation and review of SPS measures in the fisheries and agricultural sectors, through an STDF-supported project preparation grant (PPG). This grant is identifying constraints, challenges and opportunities to implement good practices in the development and review of SPS measures. Work done under this PPG and the resulting project are expected to help improve coordination across government agencies, reduce regulatory burdens for the public and private sectors, and lower trade costs.

"Regulatory agencies need to get serious about GRPs. GRPs are very simple. They make you stop and evaluate all the issues and impacts of regulations. They make you listen and consider how regulations impact different stakeholders, including the private sector and consumers."

Mary Grace Mandigma, Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Standards, The Philippines

STDF Guide to promote the use of GRPs

STDF's GRP Guide offers practical guidance to help regulators in developing countries to use GRPs to improve the design, development and review of SPS measures. The good practices in the Guide can also be used by national governments and development partners to support SPS capacity development at the national and regional level. For instance, to increase transparency on SPS measures, to promote a coordinated, inter-agency approach to the development and implementation of SPS measures, or to improve dialogue across the public and private sectors.

"Good regulatory practices are not well understood in terms of how they are implemented, so having champions who understand this Guide is going to be a very, very catalytic effort."

Martha Byanyima, Land O'Lakes Venture 37, Kenya

How can the STDF Guide help regulators?

- Understand what GRPs are and why they matter for improved SPS outcomes
- Learn how and when to use GRPs to improve SPS measures
- Discover who is using GRPs to improve SPS outcomes, and how this has worked
- Find out where to find additional resources to further implement GRPs

"Consulting stakeholders is important to better understand the impacts of proposed SPS measures on exporters and others. We need to consider comments to ensure SPS measures with a least trade-restrictive approach."

Marcelo Valverde, Ministry of Foreign Trade and Tourism, Peru



THE GUIDE INCLUDES STEP-BY-STEP GUIDANCE ON GRPs, EXAMPLES OF THEIR USE, AND LINKS TO RESOURCES

What kind of GRPs exist?

- Stocktaking tools: Check that SPS measures are up-to-date and fit well in the national regulatory framework.
- Forward-looking regulatory agendas: Plan ahead, allocate resources and link SPS measures to broader policy initiatives.
- Regulatory impact assessments: Assess and analyse regulatory and non-regulatory alternatives, then select the best option.
- Coordination mechanisms: Foster multi-sectoral and multi-agency responses to SPS risks in the country and beyond, and align with regional and international standards.
- Transparency and engagement tools: Foster trust in SPS regulatory processes, enhance understanding of and compliance with SPS measures, including in specific contexts.
- Monitoring and evaluation mechanism: Track implementation of SPS measures, assess their performance and adjust as needed.

Using GRPs to manage SPS regulatory cycles

GRPs are useful tools to manage the regulatory lifespan of SPS measures. Regulators can use them to evaluate existing measures, eliminate ineffective or inefficient measures, and design and develop new or revised SPS measures in light of SPS risks and regulatory needs.

