

Study Proposal for the
Preparation of a Proposal on Human Resource Development
for SPS Implementation in Nepal

Proposed for
A Project Preparation Grant
Under
The Standards and Trade Development Facility
of the World Trade Organization

Proposed by
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Background

Nepal, the 147th member of the World Trade Organization, is one of the least developed countries of the WTO family. A country with agriculture based economy having low level of technology and human resource with less familiarity with the multilateral trading practices and quality control has recently exposed to the global open market competition under the WTO regime.

Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperative and its WTO Section, along with the Department of Food Technology and Quality Control, Department of Agriculture and Department of Livestock Services, is entrusted to implement the Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures.

To become an effective trading partner of multilateralism, Nepal's ability for quality production and quarantine control must be improved. The SPS measures and its implementation is one of the mandatory provisions for WTO member as well as highly important aspect for the protection of human, plant and animal life and health within the country as well as that of the trading partners.

The major institutional arrangements for SPS implementation in Nepal are Food Quarantine Offices and Food Laboratories under the Department of Food Technology and Quality Control; Plant Protection Directorate and Plant Quarantine Offices under the Department of Agriculture; and Animal Health Directorate and Animal Quarantine Offices under the Department of Livestock Services. Besides, National Notification Authority for SPS is housed by the WTO Section of Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives and SPS Enquiry Point in the Department of Food Technology and Quality Control. The technical staffs working in these institutions urgently need training on technical knowledge and skills to develop and implement SPS measures in the country.

Significance of the Proposal

This study proposal is meant for a Project Preparation Grant that aims to act as a bridge between the identification of technical assistance needs in human resource development and the development of coherent project proposals which may be financed by the STDF or by other donors. As committed in the accession, Nepal has to implement fully the SPS measures by 1 January 2007. But, the existing low level of skills and knowledge of the staff about the SPS provisions and measures has made this a challenge.

Objectives of the Study

The specific object objectives of the study proposal are as follows:

- a) Need assessment for the human resource development for SPS implementation,
- b) Development of a human resource development project proposal to this effect, and
- c) Preparation of an action matrix for human resource development for effective and efficient management of SPS measures.

Proposed Programs

1. Identification and assessment of training needs for human resource development. The training programs to be identified may include in the country training as well as the trainings in abroad. The in the country training like the basic level training on food, veterinary and plant quarantine and quality standard for all concerned technicians are required to provide basic knowledge to them and enhancing their skills. The specific areas include quarantine (food, plant, and veterinary) check up procedures and its service deliberation, the quality control and analytical procedures in Food, Plant Protection and Veterinary for developing the capacity of disease and pest risk analysis. In addition, training to the staff working in National Notification Authority for SPS and National SPS Enquiry Point are required to enable them to comply with the notification procedures and operation of enquiry point.

Likewise, some international training will be required for higher level technical and policy makers concerning to SPS policy.

2. Identification of the Targeted Groups

Among the stakeholders responsible for SPS implementation, the human resource capability is a major constraint. To enhance their capability and efficiency required for implementing the standards, guidelines and recommendations of Codex, OIE, and IPPC a rigorous training to this effect is necessary. The target group may include the following and the exact number and the type of training for each group needs to be identified

- a. Plant Protection Officer and Junior Technicians
- b. Veterinary Officers and Junior Technicians
- c. Food Technology Officers and Junior Technicians
- d. Officers working for SPS notification and enquiry point.

3. Preparation of Action Plan for human resource development

4. Preparation of the detailed Project Proposal for funding

Implementing Agency

WTO Section, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives

Proposed Budget

A project proposal preparation grant of US\$ 20,000 only is proposed.