



## MOBILIZING AID FOR TRADE: FOCUS ASIA-PACIFIC

### *STANDARDS AND TRADE DEVELOPMENT FACILITY WORKSHOP*

**18 September 2007  
Asian Development Bank  
Manila, Philippines**

#### **Welcome remarks**

1. Mr Preceles Manzo, Director of Policy Research Service, Department of Agriculture of the Philippines, opened the dialogue by highlighting the link between international trade, food safety, animal and plant health. He outlined the vulnerability of developing countries like the Philippines in the face of increasingly stringent SPS requirements. The lack of technical capabilities (government and private sector) on SPS issues, lack of adequate policy tools to establish sustainable SPS regimes and outdated infrastructure facilities were amongst the key SPS compliance challenges faced developing countries. The specific spotlight of the side event on SPS constraints in the Greater Mekong Delta sub-region, and more specifically on Cambodia, Lao P.D.R and Vietnam, would provide relevant insights from these countries and address possible solutions to national and regional SPS constraints.

#### **Keynote address**

2. Mr Digby Gascoine, former lead negotiator for Australia on the SPS Agreement and Head of Policy and International Division, Australia Quarantine and Inspection Service, outlined the importance of SPS challenges faced by developing, as well as developed, countries. Examples such as the curtailment of Chinese shipments of garlic and ginger to the US, reports of bird flu outbreaks in China's southern Guandong province, the spread of mad cow disease in Canada in 2003 and the sale of so-called "double-dead" meat in the Philippines, illustrated the trade effects of SPS measures in Asia. He underlined the point by referring to the financial cost of the foot and mouth disease outbreak in the UK and the discovery of isolated cases of BSE in Canada. Developing countries could ill-afford to incur such costs, particularly in situations where countries were dependent on a narrow range of staple crops. Mr Gascoine also stressed the difficulty in re-entering markets once they had been closed due to SPS restrictions. In his view, compliance with SPS standards, both public and private, although costly to achieve and maintain, could have huge benefits in terms of continued trade flows.

3. Looking at the issue of how to define the SPS capacity of a country, Mr Gascoine stressed that it could not be measured purely in terms of laboratories. SPS compliance began with national policies. He gave the following schema for the elements of SPS capacity:

- **Regulatory framework:** national laws decrees etc;



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- **Institutions:** ministries, agencies, the management, know-how, facilities (including laboratories) and manpower of these organizations, including their ability to participate in international fora;
- **Auditing and compliance systems:** necessary to provide assurance for domestic consumers and international buyers and the ability to maintain that capacity over time;
- **Capacity in the private sector:** to adjust to the new and constantly changing SPS requirements of trading partners.

4. SPS systems had to be sufficiently flexible to adapt to new risks or measures as and when they arose. Mr Gascoine also indicated that new risks tended to replenish funding for governmental SPS control systems, but that funding tended to decline in the absence of crises. Funding "spikes" in relation to SPS crises were the rule rather than the exception.

5. Integrity and reputation were crucial in Mr Gascoine's view. Problems periodically arose for all trading nations and there was no fool-proof system for certification etc. In his view, corruption could seriously undermine the SPS control system. A low corruption environment was essential if investment and donor resources were to be attracted.

6. Commenting on the work carried out by Mr Kees Van der Meer and Mrs Laura Ignacio, Mr Gascoine noted that governments tended to receive "lumps of assistance" rather than assistance as part of a continuous programme with clearly defined output measurements. He argued in favour of a more structured approach to SPS related technical assistance and commended the work which the World Bank had done in developing comprehensive, over-arching SPS action plans. He stressed the need to listen to the SPS needs of beneficiary countries and to address them in a structured way. He underlined the need for a sequential approach; SPS capacity-building should begin with government policy and follow with the development of strategies and action plans.

7. In summary, Mr Gascoine underlined the fundamental importance of SPS systems for a variety of economic, social and environmental reasons. The cost of maintaining SPS systems was justified not least by the saving from prevention of damage to agricultural production, human, animal and plant life or health. He stressed that the effectiveness of SPS regimes largely depended on broader issues of governance in the country and public-private coordination. Finally he emphasized the necessity of addressing the overall management capability of the institutions charged with SPS controls.

### **Strengthening the demand side - the view from Cambodia, Lao P.D.R and Vietnam.**

8. Mr Cornelis van der Meer's provided an overview of his report on existing needs assessments of Cambodia, Lao P.D.R. and Viet Nam in the areas of food safety, animal and plant health. (His powerpoint presentation is reproduced in annex 1).

9. In each area, poorly developed systems for inspection, surveillance and monitoring meant that measures taken were not always based on a thorough risk assessment. The report found that needs were not generally focused on the capacity of the private sector. Common themes which emerged for Cambodia, Lao P.D.R and Vietnam (CLV) were that compliance with SPS requirements was generally perceived as a burden rather than an opportunity. The CLV region generally lacked cost and benefit analyses of compliance with SPS standards. A general assessment presented in the World Bank action plan for Vietnam showed that the annual cost (forgone income) arising from SPS constraints could be estimated around US\$ 1 billion.



10. In Mr van der Meer's view, needs assessments had gone through three distinct stages. The first stage had viewed capacity purely from the perspective of international requirements. WTO accession processes in Cambodia and Viet Nam had been the driving force behind this approach. The second approach was what he termed a "technical performance perspective". This approach considered the SPS control services which should ideally be supplied. The final stage had been the evolution of the "opportunity perspective". This last perspective considered SPS controls from the perspective of the opportunities which they opened for market access. In his view, needs assessments in CLV had shown a supply side dominance which had encouraged beneficiaries to accept assistance even if it was not appropriately tailored to their needs – so-called receivers' pragmatism. Current needs assessments could be improved, for instance, by showing the cost effectiveness of SPS schemes. Assessments should be done by recipients and donors together and cover trade as well as national health effects.

11. Mr Hean Vanhan (Cambodia) stressed that SPS controls were still poor in his country. He stressed the risks that food hazards arising from local food production could have as well as imported food. Mr Vanhan noted the positive experience that Cambodia had experienced with the phytosanitary capacity evaluation tool of the IPPC through a New Zealand funded project. The needs identified with respect to animal health, plant health and food safety corresponded to those Cambodian needs that required further prioritization.

12. Mr Khouanchay Iemsouthi (Lao P.D.R) pointed to a study which was carried out for Lao P.D.R through the Integrated Framework identifying SPS as a priority area. Challenges for Lao P.D.R included the identification of SPS constraints, the funding of these priorities since technical assistance received was very limited and finally coordination within government, within donors and between government and donors. It was worth noting in Lao P.D.R's case, that the private sector was involved in determining key SPS constraints. Mr Khouanchay favoured a single needs assessment as it would benefit coordination between government and other stakeholders.

13. Mr Vu Van Minh (Vietnam) indicated that the biggest constraint in Vietnam was weak capacity in terms of awareness, identification, control, inspection, and certification of SPS measures. The high cost of compliance with standards and the high participation costs in international standard setting bodies was also a factor explaining Vietnam's weakness in the field of SPS. He stressed the need for more ownership through increased political commitment on SPS priorities, increased awareness through the role of consumer associations as well as better involvement of the private sector and increased. The FAO representative also stressed the importance of empowering consumer organizations by highlighting the role of organizations such as "Consumers International" in advocating the need for a shift in SPS public sector views.

14. Mr Sathinanathan Menon (QA Plus Asia-Pacific-Malaysia) stressed the importance of private standards arguing that although they were not legally binding, they were becoming mandatory for trade. The challenge was to tailor technical assistance programs with a focus on private sector standards. He suggested that the STDF could focus its assistance on helping developing countries meet private standards and assist them to harmonize their private sector standard schemes on a regional basis. He added that compliance with private standards would assist countries fulfilling their basic SPS requirements. In replying to questions from participants related to justification of private standards, Mr Menon stressed that consumer demands were changing on a daily basis and that the imposition of private standards represented a continuous improvement in terms of consumer safety.

15. Mr Sinouk-Eric Sisombat (Laos Coffee Association) stressed the importance of meeting SPS standards, especially in the area of food safety. Compliance with SPS standards, also in the sub-region remained challenging since in addition to public standards there were private standards



emerging. He stressed the importance of including the private sector in the dialogue between donors and government so as to take into account private sector needs.

16. Ms Clarke (FAO) noted that QA Plus was one of a number of different private standards schemes. In her view, these schemes were typically based on management systems, with the underlying standards usually remaining public requirements. Furthermore, in the Asian region, many of the Good Agricultural Practice schemes (GAP) were national governmental schemes. Mr Phanpob Plangprayoon (APEC Secretariat) noted that the growing importance of both private and public standards and their rapid evolution made SPS compliance a moving target.

17. Mr Roberts, STDF Secretary, indicated that one of the STDF's core functions was to contribute to better inter-agency and inter-donor coordination in the field of SPS related technical assistance. He noted that the Facility was not yet funding projects focusing on raising SPS awareness at political level. There was a general consensus that issues of governance and good SPS management were key in raising the country's SPS system reliability. Moreover, mobilizing aid on SPS issues should first pass through increased ownership and recognition of SPS needs at the highest political level in the beneficiary country.

### **Assessing the supply of SPS related assistance - Compilation of selected donors' assistance in Cambodia, Lao P.D.R and Vietnam.**

18. Ms Laura Ignacio presented her report on trends in SPS technical assistance delivery in Cambodia, Lao P.D.R and Vietnam during the period 2001-2006. Her presentation focused on a quantitative analysis of SPS related technical assistance in the three countries. She began her presentation by highlighting the difficulties which she had faced in preparing the report and stated that the list of projects was not exhaustive. Through her research, she identified 151 projects worth some US\$401 million. (Ms. Ignacio's power point presentation is reproduced in annex 2).

19. Her overview of the type of assistance offered showed that the biggest share of technical assistance offered (65% of total) to the three countries was on soft infrastructure including training in certification, risk assessment, laboratory practices, HACCP techniques, etc. The report showed that the amount of SPS related technical assistance had increased in all three countries with the biggest share of technical assistance provided to Vietnam (40% of assistance by value). However, multi-country projects were the largest category by both value (50%) and number (60%) of the total technical assistance available.

20. The majority of technical assistance focused on food safety issues (in terms of number of projects) and on avian influenza (in terms of value). She stressed that project beneficiaries were mainly in the public sector and only a few training modules were aimed at the private sector. The main determinants of SPS related technical assistance were focused on responding to potential trade opportunities. The report finally recommended developing a national database of SPS projects by country to enhance coordination at all levels.

21. Mr Lalith Goonatilake (UNIDO) gave an overview of UNIDO's activities in the area of quality assurance infrastructure. He noted that in March 2008 UNIDO would be launching a web portal with a complete guide to laboratory accreditation. Mr Goonatilake stated that cost of more compliance studies needed to be commissioned to determine whether or not hard infrastructure should be developed nationally or on a regional basis; to determine whether it would be more sustainable to outsource laboratory testing and certification; and finally to determine which portion of laboratory facilities should be a public or a private good. In conclusion he underlined that SPS constraints would only become more stringent overtime and has to be integrated into development plans.



22. Ms Andra Koke (EC) noted the difficulty in documenting accurate information on SPS related technical assistance as such assistance was often not decoupled from larger technical assistance initiatives such as private sector development, infrastructure, agriculture projects, etc. She underlined that the EC's assistance was beneficiary-driven, but that requests from countries could take time to programme. Slow disbursement procedures were difficult to further streamline, which could cause difficulties when emergency situations arose. One suggestion she made for the STDF was to consider establishing a fund to contain SPS emergency situations.

23. Ms Koke highlighted that SPS control was a diverse area which cut across trade, health and environment lines. She emphasized that while the main driver for SPS assistance was trade, the benefits were multiple e.g. for public health. She underlined the cost of different national and international standards and argued for harmonizing SPS requirements. Finally, she underlined the need to strengthen monitoring and evaluation requirements for assistance offered.

24. Mr Michael Cole (Ausaid) noted that Ausaid promoted WTO accession, trade liberalization and implementation of SPS obligations. He stressed Ausaid's commitment to the Asian region and referred to Ausaid's continuing association with ASEAN projects. He referred to an Ausaid programme funding SPS capacity building and a programme being implemented in collaboration with OIE, SEAFMD, which sought to help control foot and mouth disease in the region. One difficulty he highlighted with regional approaches to SPS problems was the very different needs and capacities of countries in the region. Ausaid was committed to the Paris principles on aid effectiveness and supported efforts to further align its programs with national priorities, to further harmonize donor activities and to carry out more evaluations to determine the impact of SPS assistance.

25. Ms Emel Lyons (USDA) noted that a key driver of US SPS-related assistance was information received from the US agriculture attaché in-country following discussion with local governments. She stressed the importance of coordination between donors and beneficiaries and called for better dissemination of the importance of SPS priorities within governments.

26. Mr Mahfuz Ahmed (ADB) commented that market access concerns were driving SPS-related technical assistance. Countries lacked the willingness to establish efficient SPS systems which would also improve local health but instead treated SPS priorities as a response to existing market access threats. He suggested that more investment for hard infrastructure was needed to face future challenges. The ADB was particularly well placed to tackle this issue, on the one hand through discussion at its Working Group on agriculture in the GMS network, and on the other by providing investment for hard infrastructure.

27. In her role as moderator, Ms Martina Garcia (OECD) noted there was significant variation in the type of assistance provided and the beneficiaries. She also noted the trend towards south-south co-operation in the region and asked an open question as to whether or not this assistance was qualitatively different from other regular "north-south" assistance.

28. Mr Chuon Khlauk (Cambodia) commented that the focus on soft infrastructure was still appropriate for his country. With regard to the nature of the assistance offered, he expressed his preference for national projects as the majority of projects with a regional focus did not provide training as per the needs of Cambodia but were catering to more sophisticated training needs of other ASEAN members.

29. Mr Sounthone Vongthilath (Lao P.D.R) noted that the amount of assistance was already at a high level and questioned the effectiveness of aid if the various efforts were not harmonized. He called for further country involvement in project design. Ms Pham Minh Thu (Vietnam) noted that a





key driver for upgrading SPS controls had to be consumer health protection in the domestic market. She highlighted the main challenges for Vietnam as arising from the legal framework and a shortage of qualified staff to implement SPS priorities.

30. Mr Sinouk-Eric Sisombat (Laos Coffee Association) stressed the need to sequence assistance. Technically demanding functions were important to consider, but there were many basic issues which needed a grassroots approach, such as basic hygiene. A set by step approach was necessary to ensure resources were properly targeted.

### **Bridging the gap between supply and demand - Lessons learnt from existing processes.**

31. Mr Somsak Pipoppinyo (ASEAN) indicated that ASEAN was strengthening SPS cooperation as the regional body moved toward closer integration at all levels. He described the issue of SPS controls as a broad and complete area, the main difficulty lying in building up the pieces into the complete jigsaw. He made reference to several ASEAN programmes, in particular a joint programme with Ausaid. He added that the outstanding challenges included lack of donor coordination and lack of consultation of the private sector. He referred to the importance of private standards and underlined his organization's efforts to harmonize private standards in the region through the development of the ASEANGAP programme.

32. Ms Sari Laaksonen (Integrated Framework) gave an overview of how the Integrated Framework (IF) could assist in bridging the gap between demand and supply of SPS-related technical assistance. On the demand side, a Diagnostic Trade Integration Study was conducted for selected LDCs part of the IF (Laos and Cambodia are part of the IF). The DTIS provided a detailed overview of all government and private sector priorities, including in the field of SPS. The extent to which SPS problems appear as a priority in the DTIS, and most importantly in the country's development plan (where the DTIS priorities should be integrated), naturally affected the extent of donor response to SPS issues. The IF which was one avenue for raising funds for SPS projects. The core of the IF's role was to focus on its coordination role and assist countries make the bridge between demand identification and donor response.

33. Ms Renata Clarke (FAO) commented on the way through which good practice could be integrated into the design of future assistance strategies. Despite some ongoing efforts in that direction, there was still a disconnect between senior policy level and technical level priorities. It was important to retain senior management's attention on SPS issues. Furthermore, co-ordination between donors on the ground left much to be desired, implying that scarce human resources were being burdened with uncoordinated donor missions. She added that too little effort went into writing proposals, monitoring and impact assessment. She reported that the Lao P.D.R government had asked FAO to develop an inter-agency food safety policy. A joint policy vision consistent with the food chain approach had been developed but inter-governmental coherence was still missing as several line ministries had not been informed of the initiative.

34. Mr Anut Visetrojana (ACMECS) provided some editorial comments to both Mr Van de Meer's and Ms Ignacio's paper. His general comment focused on SPS illustrating how Thailand was assisting other partners in the region with a harmonized SPS strategy.



35. Mr Phanpob Plangprayoon (APEC) noted that SPS concerns had been raised in the APEC leaders' statement at its meeting held in Sydney earlier in September 2007. He provided an overview of how SPS issues were dealt with in APEC through both the Agriculture Technical Cooperation Working Group (ATCWG) and the Sub-Committee on Standards and Conformance (SCSC). He stated that APEC had mainly focused its assistance on providing soft infrastructure. He noted that one of the problems encountered in SPS capacity building is the availability of expert resources to undertake interventions and international organizations have a role to play in making stocklists of experts in SPS from governments, academia and private sector. He also suggested that during the drafting stage of APEC projects, some draft project proposals could be circulated to some of the relevant international organizations (i.e. contacts made at this meeting) for further inputs.

### Closing remarks

36. Mr Michael Roberts (STDF Secretary) concluded the side event by highlighting the most salient points of the meeting. On the demand side, the ability to control SPS risks was a key element determining the participation of developing countries in the global trading system. Deficiencies in national systems created serious barriers to participation in global trade which could frustrate the achievement of broader economic development objectives. SPS controls had to be considered as having important public and environmental health benefits. SPS benefits were broader than just market access and there was a spill-over into public and environmental health effects for the local and regional economies. Evaluations of the SPS capacity building needs of Cambodia, Lao P.D.R and Vietnam underlined that progress had been made, but that considerable SPS compliance challenges remained. Prioritization was essential to ensure that benefits from SPS related technical assistance had an early impact on human health, poverty alleviation, income growth and help achieve the millennium development goals.

37. On the supply side, research on SPS assistance flows from 2001-2006 period provided a benchmark against which to examine future Aid for Trade in the SPS area. Key drivers of past assistance included WTO accession, regional integration initiatives and emergency response to emerging disease outbreaks such as bird flu. It was agreed that information on the impact of SPS related technical assistance had not been monitored in a systematic way and very little work had been undertaken to identify good practice. Steps should be taken to rectify this situation.

38. Finally, the side event focused on how to bridge the gap between on-going needs and future supply of SPS related technical assistance. First, the regional integration processes which had driven past SPS related technical assistance would continue, notably through ASEAN and APEC. On-going and new disease or pest problems could also be an important driver for the future. Second, there was a clear need to bring donors, international organizations and beneficiaries to agreement on common SPS priorities and action plans. Such action plans would greatly assist in coordination efforts between bilateral donors, organizations and beneficiaries. Third, there was a need to mainstream SPS action plans into the broader national development strategies of each country. The enhanced IF's role was underlined as one useful tool to assist Cambodia and Lao P.D.R, as LDCs, to achieve that objective.

39. To ensure that the momentum generated by this event was sustained, a follow up meeting with donors, international organizations and beneficiaries will be held in early 2008. At this meeting, SPS priorities will be discussed and research on good practice presented. Donors and international organizations will also be asked to identify how they can mobilize assistance to address priority needs. On the basis of the outcome for this region, this approach could be replicated in other Asian sub-regions.



## **Standards and Trade Development Facility**





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## ANNEX 1: POWERPOINT PRESENTATION OF MR. C. VAN DER MEER

### Overview of SPS Capacity Building Needs Assessments and Compliance Studies for Cambodia, Lao PDR and Vietnam 2001-2006

by

Kees van der Meer, Consultant

*MOBILIZING AID FOR TRADE: Focus Asia-Pacific*  
*Standards and Trade Development Facility Workshop*  
18 September 2007, Asian Development Bank, Manila, Philippines

This report reflects the views of the author alone and does not represent the views of the STDF or any of its partner agencies or donors.

### Needs assessments

<b>Main sources*</b>	<b>Country**</b>	<b>Coverage</b>
NZAID/FAO (2004); WHO/FAO (2005)	CLV; C	food safety
AADCP (2003); World Bank (2006a)	CLV	animal health
UN & World Bank (2006; 2007)	CLV	HPAI
NZAID (2005), AADCP (2005)	CLV	plant health
MUTRAP; NZAID (2005)	C,L,V	legal/regulatory
UNIDO (2005); AADCP (2003)	C,L,V	SMTQ
World Bank (2006a; 2006b)	V,L	governance

\* See report for sources; \*\* C=Cambodia, L=Lao PDR; V=Vietnam; CLV=regional project including C, L and V

### Key constraints: Animal health

- Endemic animal health diseases in GMS prevent formal export from CLV: FMD, CSF, NCD, HPAI
- Much informal border trade
- Asymmetric interest obstacle for cooperative efforts in surveillance and eradication
- Problems in reporting
- HPAI efforts compete for scarce human resources



### Key constraints: Plant health

- Weak capacities in all aspects in CL; weak / moderate in Vietnam:
  - Pest lists, databases
  - Diagnosis
  - Herbaria, arthropod collections
  - Pest risk Assessment
  - Legal framework

### Key constraints: SMTQ

- CLV capacities generally behind in ASEAN
  - Risk for free flow of goods in AFTA
- Testing capacities limited, under-funded
- No proficiency testing, no accreditation in C, L; limited in V
- Standard setting constrained by lack of testing capacity

### Key constraints: Governance

- Weaknesses in governance reduce effectiveness of SPS measures; public services can be part of the problem
- Institutional framework – unclarity in responsibilities, overlaps, especially CV
- Informal payments are issue
- Partly related to deficiency in regulatory framework and
- Ill-designed cost recovery can be problem
  - More testing and certification than needed
  - Not risk-based



### Compliance studies

- World Bank SPS Action Plan for V:
  - cost of pests and diseases and forgone markets easily surpass one billion USD per year (half public health, half agricultural health)
- World Bank SPS Action Plan for L:
  - simulation suggests return on US\$ 7.7 for SPS could easily be 23% IRR

### Observations on needs assessments

- Driven by: international agreements (WTO, AFTA), market access; less by health
- Differences in methodology; three perspectives:
  - international requirement perspective
  - technical preference perspective
  - opportunity perspective
- Scope: detailed versus holistic
  - relation to broader development agenda
  - level of aggregation
- Supply side dominance – receivers' pragmatism
- Revealed preferences among decision makers
  - need for assessing benefits
  - priority setting
- Focus on inputs or outcomes?
- Targeting public and private sector capacities
- National and regional perspectives
- Small and big countries

### Concluding remarks

- Well-targeted improved SPS capacities are likely to have good impacts on:
  - Growth of exports
  - Human health
  - Poverty reduction
- Good needs assessment is core for cost-effectiveness
- There are ample options to improve needs assessment and prioritization



**ANNEX 2: POWERPOINT PRESENTATION OF MS. L. IGNACIO**

**Overview of SPS-related Assistance for  
Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic  
Republic and Vietnam (2001-2006)**

**A Research Work for the Standards and Trade Development Facility**

by Laura Ignacio, Consultant  
*Mobilizing Aid for Trade: Focus Asia and the Pacific*  
18 September 2007, Asian Development Bank, Manila

This report reflects the views of the author alone and does not represent the views of the STDF or any of its partner agencies or donors.

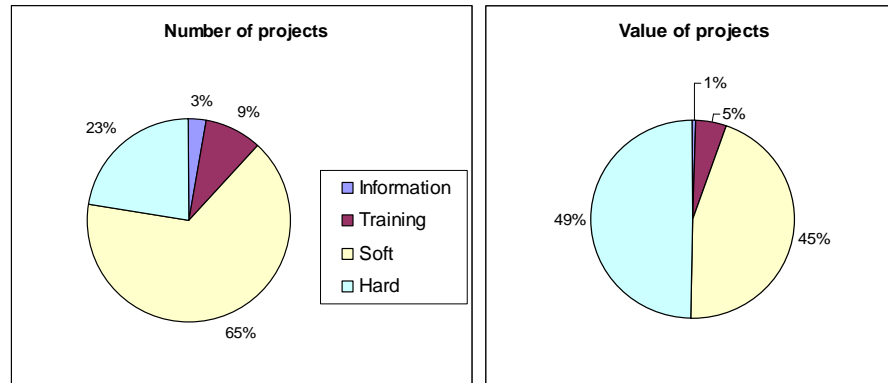
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## **Information gathering**

- *Sources*: databases, websites, WTO Gen181 docs and contacts
- Project documents are not always available
- No projects by the private sector
- Classifications and complications
- Comparability of projects
- 151 projects worth US\$401 million

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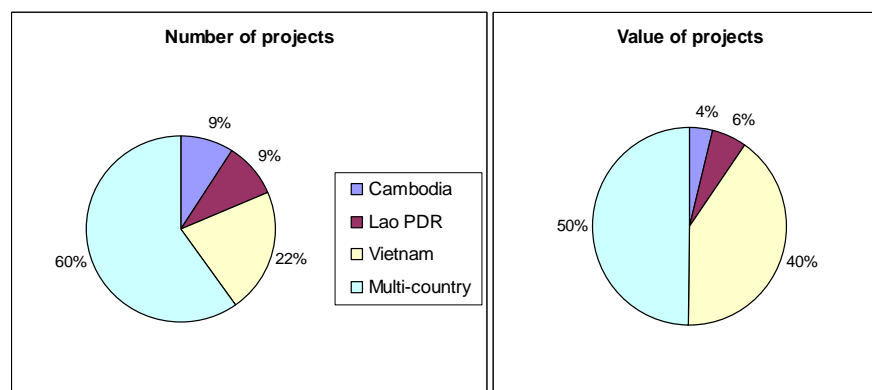
## Overview: By type of assistance



- Majority are “soft” infrastructure projects.

3

## Overview: By country



- Tendency towards multi-country projects

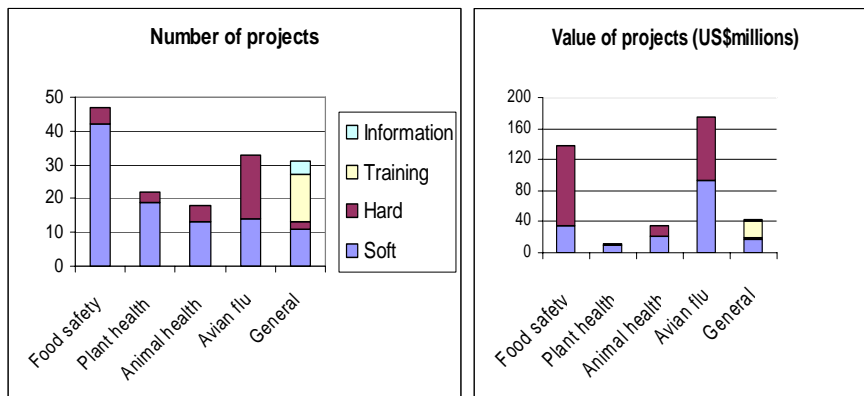
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## Country comparison of SPS projects using selected economic indicators

Countries	Value of projects				
	Total (2001-2006) US\$ millions	Per capita (2005) US\$	% of GDP (2005) US\$	% of AgriGDP (2005) US\$	% of Food and live animal exports (2004), US\$
Cambodia	16	1.103	0.003	0.008	0.247
Lao PDR	24	4.054	0.008	0.018	0.920
Vietnam	162	1.954	0.003	0.015	0.035

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## Overview: By theme (1)



- Food safety and avian flu have more projects overall and more projects with hard infrastructure components.

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## Overview: By theme (2)

### Plant health

- Research on control methods and diagnostic techniques
- Training on plant pathology, pest identification, PRA
- Establishment of pest lists, surveillance protocols
- Legislative changes, national plans
- Equipment for postharvest and reference labs

### Animal health

- Training on diagnosis, recording and reporting
- Vet legislation
- Serological surveys, vaccine production
- Improvement of quarantine procedures
- Regional animal health information system
- Upgrading of reference labs

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## Overview: By theme (3)

### Avian flu

#### Funding

- Beijing and Bamako pledges
  - \$2.3B pledged, \$1.4B committed, \$742 million disbursed
  - SEA countries have highest received commitments
- Low disbursement rates for CLV and Indonesia

#### Activities

- Improvement of surveillance, detection and diagnosis
- Preparation of national response plans
- Provision of Personal Protective Equipment, reagents and equipment for labs

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## Overview: By theme (4)

### Food safety

- Institutional and legislative changes
- Information on EU requirements
- Training on handling, HACCP, GAP, GAqP, RA, certification, pesticide use, inspection, postharvest technology
- Improvement of epidemiological information on food-borne diseases
- Harmonization of standards and regulations
- Education and information campaign
- Equipment for labs, pesticide residue analysis

### General

- WTO accession: assistance with legislations, Enquiry Points
- Metrology: training on conformity assessments and accreditation; upgrade of labs
- SPS: training on risk analysis, preparation of action plans

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## Characteristics of projects

- Beneficiaries
- Consultation with stakeholders
- Country-specific treatment
- Private sector
- Development of national plans
- Continuity
- Commonalities

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### Determinants of TA

- Potential trade – assistance by trading partners
- Regional initiatives – ASEAN, APEC, GMS, ACMECS
- Needs: WTO accession, foot and mouth disease, avian flu, food safety concerns

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### Concluding remarks

- Impact on broader national strategies
- Future work
- Countries benefit with greater involvement in technical assistance, to start with national project database.

### Recommendation

- Project database at country level
  - To be located at the SPS/TBT Enquiry Point
  - Will facilitate coordination and reporting
  - But may yet require (further) assistance

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