

## II Report on the implementation of Project STDF-IICA-108 September 2008

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Project Name:	Sustainable institutional capacity building in the countries of the Americas to consolidate active participation in the SPS Committee and move forward with implementation of the WTO/SPS Agreement.		
Executing Agency:	Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, IICA	Project supervisor:	Ricardo Molins
PROJECT DESCRIPTION <sup>1</sup> :	<p><b>Objectives of the project:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) To foster a common and shared vision within the countries (public and private sectors) and among the countries of the Americas, in order to monitor and consolidate their institutional capacity building in the area of sanitary and phytosanitary measures.</li> <li>b) To continue providing support for the development of real and potential capacities in the countries of the Americas, in order to enable them to participate more actively and effectively in the SPS Committee.</li> <li>c) To consolidate technical cooperation between countries in the Americas, as a means for promoting exchanges in the area of technical assistance and support for special and differentiated treatment.</li> </ul> <p><b>Stages in the project:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Gathering country information: this is the basis for identifying strengths and weaknesses, as well as opportunities for technical cooperation with other countries.</li> <li>b) Assessing progress in capacity building: highlighting the five fundamental variables described in the project and identified in IICA's Initiative for the Americas.</li> <li>c) Developing a shared vision: Interactive meeting of public and private sectors to reach consensus on actions needed to improve the situation.</li> <li>d) Commitments and agreements on options for addressing and overcoming priority problems in the national and regional spheres.</li> <li>e) Documenting the experience and developing 27 country project profiles.</li> <li>f) Preparing four regional project profiles.</li> </ul>		
Project Start Date:	October 1, 2007	Project End Date:	February 15, 2009

<sup>1</sup> Note that this is not expected to change from one reporting period to the next, unless a change to the project objectives/scope is approved by the STDF Secretary

**Budget overview:**

	STDF Contribution (US \$)	In-kind contribution (US \$)	Total (US \$)	% of total project cost
Projected total Project budget (US\$)	<b>\$518.029</b>	-	<b>\$518.029</b>	
Total expenditure to date (US\$)	<b>\$41.094,94</b>	-	<b>\$41.094,94</b>	
Expenditure for reporting period (US\$)	<b>\$41.094,94</b>	-	<b>\$41.094,94</b>	
Unspent funds (US\$)	<b>\$476.934,06</b>	-	<b>\$476.934,06</b>	

<b>Country</b>	<b>Air Tickets</b>	<b>Per Diem</b>	<b>Other Expenses</b>	<b>Logistics</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Bahamas	\$3.352,99	\$2.388,00	\$121,18	\$1.174,69	\$7.036,86
St. Vincent	\$245,23	\$660,00	\$0,00	\$0,00	\$905,23
Trinidad & Tobago	\$1.706,00	\$1.530,00	\$0,00	\$2.056,51	\$5.292,51
Jamaica	\$444,63	\$856,00	\$55,00	\$0,00	\$1.355,63
St. Lucia	\$2.000,00	\$836,00	\$0,00	\$535,01	\$3.371,01
Dominica	\$900,00	\$0,00	\$0,00	\$467,00	\$1.367,00
Suriname	\$2.147,59	\$2.172,00	\$60,00	\$1.500,00	\$5.879,59
St. Kitts & Nevis	\$819,00	\$1.308,00	\$0,00	\$0,00	\$2.127,00
Colombia	\$2.429,32	\$2.896,00	\$266,23	\$1.297,00	\$6.888,55
Ecuador	\$1.852,22	\$2.850,00	\$0,00	\$0,00	\$4.702,22
Guatemala	661,40	1.220,00	92,01	0,00	\$1.973,41
Headquarters	0,00	0,00	195,93	0,00	\$195,93
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$16.558,38</b>	<b>\$16.716,00</b>	<b>\$790,35</b>	<b>\$7.030,21</b>	<b>\$41.094,94</b>

**GENERAL REPORTING****A. BROAD PROGRESS ACHIEVED TO DATE:**

The common visión sessions being conducted are helping consolidate a long process of institutional strengthening by allowing a country's various sectors and institutions to develop their own "road map" on SPS issues. The sessions conducted thus far have shown that it is not possible for a country to take full advantage of international organizations unless there is an organized and sustainable national institutional framework. In addition, the process has shown that the figure of "country expert" constitutes an element of success for an effective and adequate transfer of technical knowledge between countries in the Americas.

**B. BROAD WORK ACHIEVED THIS PERIOD:**

- 18 country information collections complete
- 5 common visión sessions conducted
- 5 exchanges of experiences between countries achieved
- 5 national SPS action agendas completed

**C. BROAD WORK REMAINING FOR NEXT PERIOD AND BEYOND:**

- 9 country information collections
- 22 common visión sessions
- 22 exchanges of experiences between countries
- 22 national SPS action agendas
- 4 regional project profiles

**D. OTHER COMMENTS:**

- The project is proceeding according to schedule.
- Barbados has withdrawn from the project on the basis that another international organization (FAO) has already done similar work recently.
- In order to improve the effectiveness of the technical cooperation and considering the reality on the field, several actions were identified during project implementation that were incorporated:

The first one was the substitution of external consultants by IICA staff, due to the fact that despite the expected consultants' training and expertise, a deep internal knowledge of the country would be needed in most cases to fully accomplish the proper information gathering (which requires knowledge of local institutions and people to be interviewed) and adequately plan and conduct the common vision session. Local IICA staff, in contrast, have such knowledge and also know how to apply IICA's "*Performance, Vision and Strategy – PVS*" tool. This change will result in substantial saving to the Project. In those countries where there was no national Agricultural Health and Food Safety IICA specialist, that from a neighboring country was mobilized. In addition, the IICA regional AHFS specialists or AHFS staff from headquarters were similarly recruited to assist in conducting the common vision sessions. As a result, an experienced two-person IICA team attended to each country's process.

Another modification of the original plan consisted in taking advantage of the presence in a country of the "country expert" from one of the Steering Group countries (to attend the common vision event), to deliver lectures and otherwise lend his/her expertise to local institutions involved in SPS work. For example, in Ecuador, the country expert visited and advised the National Codex Committee on specific issues and delivered a conference on equivalency. This has given the host country additional benefits from the process and has served as an incentive for its cooperation.

**Deliverable / Targets Table (Log-frame)**

Item ID	Item Description	Target Finish Date	Actual or Forecast Finish Date	Status: (% Complete)	Comments
1	Contract signed 10/15/2007	2/15/2008		35% Complete	
2	Activity 1 Collection of country information	10/2008	10/2008	In Progress (60%)	
3	Activity 2 Common vision sessions	12/2008	12/2008	In progress (30%)	
4	Activity 3 Preparation of country project profiles	12/2008	1/22008	In progress (10%)	
5	Activity 4 Preparation of regional project	1/2009	1/2009	0%	Must await completion of activity 3

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	profiles				
6	Project Conclusion	2/2009	2/2009		Not Started
7	Project external evaluation				Not Started