

25 June 2009

Exchange of information on SPS-related activities

This document is a compilation of SPS information received for the STDF Working Group meeting of 25-26 June 2009 from:

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CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

CODEX EXISTING AND ONGOING WORK ON FOOD CONTROL AND INSPECTION

1. The Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (CCFICS) develops: (i) principles and guidelines for food import and export inspection and certification systems with a view to harmonizing methods and procedures, which protect the health of consumers, ensure fair trading practices and facilitate international trade in foodstuffs; (ii) principles and guidelines for the application of measures by the competent authorities of exporting and importing countries to provide assurance where necessary that foodstuffs comply with requirements, especially statutory health requirements; (iii) guidelines for the utilization, as and when appropriate, of quality assurance systems to ensure that foodstuffs conform with requirements and to promote the recognition of these systems in facilitating trade in food products under bilateral/multilateral arrangements by countries; and (iv) guidelines and criteria with respect to format, declarations and language of such official certificates as countries may require with a view towards international harmonization.

2. Main texts developed by the CCFICS pertaining to control, inspection and approval procedures include:

(a) *Principles for Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification* (CAC/GL 20-1995)

3. The Principles governing food import and export inspection and certification systems should ensure an optimal outcome consistent with consumer protection and facilitation of trade. The Principles provide for inspection and certification systems that should: be fully effective in achieving their objectives; be designed and operated on the basis of risk assessment; avoid discrimination or disguised restriction to trade; have adequate means to perform their task; be based on Codex standards, guidelines and other recommendations; recognise that different systems may be capable of meeting the same objectives; transparent; and take account of the capabilities of developing countries to provide the necessary safeguards.

(b) *Guidelines for the Design, Operation, Assessment and Accreditation of Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems* (CAC/GL 26-1997)

4. The Guidelines provide a framework for the development of import and export inspection and certification systems consistent with the *Principles for Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification* (CAC/GL 20-1995). The Guidelines are intended to assist countries in the application of requirements and the determination of equivalency, thereby protecting consumers and facilitating trade in foodstuffs. The application by governments of the Guidelines should help build and maintain the

necessary confidence in the inspection and certification system of an exporting country and facilitate fair trade, taking account of the expectations of consumers for an appropriate level of protection.

(c) *Guidelines for Food Import Control Systems* (CAC/GL 47-2003)

5. The Guidelines provide a framework for the development and operation of an import control system to protect consumers and facilitate fair practices in food trade while ensuring that unjustified technical barriers to trade are not introduced. The Guidelines are consistent with the Codex *Principles for Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification* (CAC/GL 20-1995) and provide specific information about imported food control that is an adjunct to the *Guidelines for the Design, Operation, Assessment and Accreditation of Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems* (CAC/GL 26-1997).

(d) *Principles and Guidelines for the Exchange of Information in Food Safety Emergency Situations* (CAC/GL 19-1995)

6. The Principles and Guidelines apply to situations where the competent authorities in either the importing and/or exporting countries become aware of a food safety emergency situation, and communication of the information and risks surrounding the emergency situation must be undertaken.

7. The document include principles and guidance for the exchange of information in the event of a food safety emergency, including the nature of the food safety emergency, the designated official contact point for information exchange, the information to all known affected and potentially affected countries, the type of information to be exchanged, the role of competent authority, and the information flow.

(e) *Guidelines for the Exchange of Information between Countries on Rejections of Imported Foods* (CAC/GL 25-1997)

8. The Guidelines provide the basis for structured information exchange on import rejections, caused by failure to comply with importing country requirements. The document includes an annex on the information that should be provided by countries in relation to rejections of imported food.

9. Currently the CCFICS is working on the development of the following documents, both at an early phase of development:

- (i) Principles and Guidelines for the Conduct of Foreign On-site Audits and Inspections. This work aims at providing guidance for use by national governments to ensure a standardized and consistent approach to the conduct of audits of an exporting country's official food inspection and certification system(s), or component parts thereof.
- (ii) Principles and Guidelines for National Food Control Systems. This work aims at assisting governments in the development and operation of a national food control system to ensure that foods, and their production systems, meet requirements for achieving the appropriate level of protection in order to protect the health of consumers and ensuring fair practices in the food trade, consistent with existing Codex documents.

10. Others texts developed by the CCFICS include:

- (a) *Guidelines for the Development of Equivalence Agreements Regarding Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems* (CAC/GL 34-1999);
- (b) *Guidelines on the Judgement of Equivalence of Sanitary Measures Associated with Food Inspection and Certification Systems* (CAC/GL 53-2003);
- (c) *Guidelines for Design, Production, Issuance and Use of Generic Official Certificates* (CAC/GL 38-2001); and
- (d) *Principles for Traceability/Product Tracing as a Tool within a Food Inspection and Certification System* (CAC/GL 60-2006).

CODEX EXISTING AND ONGOING WORK ON FOOD SAMPLING

11. The responsibilities of the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling include: to define the criteria appropriate to Codex methods of analysis and sampling; to serve as a coordinating body for Codex with other international groups working on methods of analysis and sampling and quality assurance systems for laboratories; to specify, on the basis of final recommendations submitted to it by the other bodies referred to above, reference methods of analysis and sampling appropriate to Codex standards which are generally applicable to a number of foods; to elaborate sampling plans and procedures, as may be required; and to consider specific sampling and analysis problems submitted to it by the Commission or any of its committees.

12. As regards sampling, the Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling developed the *General Guidelines on Sampling* (CAC/GL 50-2004) which is the reference text for sampling purposes and was adopted by the Codex Alimentarius Commission in 2004. Codex methods of sampling are designed to ensure that fair and valid sampling procedures are used when food is being tested for compliance with a particular Codex commodity standard. The sampling methods are intended for use as international methods designed to avoid or remove difficulties which may be created by diverging legal, administrative and technical approaches to sampling and by diverging interpretation of results of analysis in relation to lots or consignments of foods, in the light of the relevant provision(s) of the applicable Codex standard. The General Guidelines have been elaborated to facilitate the implementation of these goals by Codex commodity committees, governments and other users.

13. Specific sampling plans have been developed for the purposes of pesticide residue control and in conjunction with the establishment of certain limits for contaminants, and especially the following:

- (a) *Recommended Methods of Sampling for the Determination of Pesticide Residues for Compliance with MRLs* (CAC/GL 33-1999); and
- (b) *Sampling Plans for Aflatoxin Contamination in Ready-To-Eat Treenuts and Treenuts Destined for Further Processing: Almonds, Hazelnuts and Pistachios*, included as Annex 1 to the *General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Food* (CODEX STAN 193-1995).

14. Specific sampling plans for the purposes of veterinary drug residue control are included in the *Codex Guidelines for the Establishment of a Regulatory Programme for Control of Veterinary Drug Residues in Foods* (CAC/GL 16-1993). A revision of this document will be considered for adoption by the 32nd Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission in July 2009. Work is ongoing in the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods to develop specific sampling plans for aquatic animal products and derived edible products of aquatic origin.

15. Specific sampling plans, established for some specific commodities, such as milk products, cereals, or processed fruit and vegetables, are compiled in the *Recommended Methods of Analysis and Sampling* (CODEX STAN 234-1999).

INTERNATIONAL PLANT PROTECTION CONVENTION

I. STANDARD-SETTING WORK PROGRAMME (UPDATE: MAY 2009)

A. ISPMS ADOPTED IN 2009

1. The Fourth Session of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM-4), held in Rome from 30 March to 3 April 2009, adopted the following standards.

- Amendments to ISPM No. 5 (Glossary of phytosanitary terms)
- An appendix to ISPM No. 5 (Glossary of phytosanitary terms) on *Terminology of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in relation to the Glossary of phytosanitary terms*
- A revision of ISPM No. 15 (*Regulation of wood packaging material in international trade*)
- ISPM No. 32 (*Categorization of commodities according to their pest risk*)
- Eight phytosanitary treatments as annexes to ISPM No. 28 (*Phytosanitary treatments for regulated pests*), listed in Annex 1.

B. DRAFT ISPMS FOR MEMBER CONSULTATION IN 2009

(a) Member consultation through the regular process

- Revision of ISPM No. 7 (*Export certification system*)
- Revision of ISPM No. 12 (*Guidelines for phytosanitary certificates*)
- Draft ISPM: Design and operation of post-entry quarantine stations
- Amendments to ISPM No. 5 (*Glossary of phytosanitary terms*)

(b) Member consultation through the special process

- Draft diagnostic protocol for *Thrips palmi* (as an annex to ISPM No. 27 (*Diagnostic protocols for regulated pests*))
- Draft phytosanitary treatments: Cold treatments for fruit flies (as annexes to ISPM No. 28 (*Phytosanitary treatments for regulated pests*))

C. OTHER ACTIVITIES THAT HAVE TAKEN PLACE SINCE THE LAST SPS COMMITTEE IN FEBRUARY 2009

(a) Call for nominations of experts

2. Nominations are being solicited for experts to take part in technical panels to develop International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs) and for authors of diagnostic protocols for specific pests. The deadline for submission of nominations is 1 June 2009. Detailed information can be found at: <https://www.ippc.int/id/211275>.

(b) Call for topics for the IPPC standard setting work programme

3. A biennial call for topics for the IPPC standard setting work programme is being made. The deadline for submission is 31 July 2009. Detailed information can be found at: <https://www.ippc.int/id/41634>.

(c) Call for phytosanitary treatments

4. Specific information and data are being solicited for heat treatments for fruit flies. The deadline for submission is 15 October 2009. Detailed information can be found at: <https://www.ippc.int/id/137399>.

(d) Expert working group on pest risk analysis for plants as quarantine pests

5. An expert working group will be held in Paris, 25-29 May 2009, to develop a draft standard on pest risk analysis for plants as quarantine pests.

CAPACITY BUILDING

D. CAPACITY BUILDING STRATEGY

6. CPM 4:

- Provisionally *approved* the concept paper on national phytosanitary capacity.
- Provisionally *approved* the phytosanitary capacity building strategy.
- Agreed that Phytosanitary Capacity Building (PCB) is a high priority issue and requested the Secretariat to actively seek collaboration, in particular with other divisions of the Organization, and new resources.
- Approved further development and finalization of the operational plan by an EWG based on member comments on the provisionally approved strategy for consideration by the SPTA.
- Endorsed the establishment of an informal working group on advocacy for the IPPC as a virtual group working with the Secretariat.
- Endorsed the establishment of an informal working group on communication and cooperation as a virtual group working with the Secretariat.
- *Noted* the paper on aid effectiveness principles applicable to phytosanitary capacity building developed by a subgroup of the OEWG-BNPC; and the paper on mentoring as it relates to phytosanitary capacity building developed by another subgroup of the OEWG-BNPC and urged members to consider them when providing comments on the strategy.

These papers can be found at <https://www.ippc.int>.

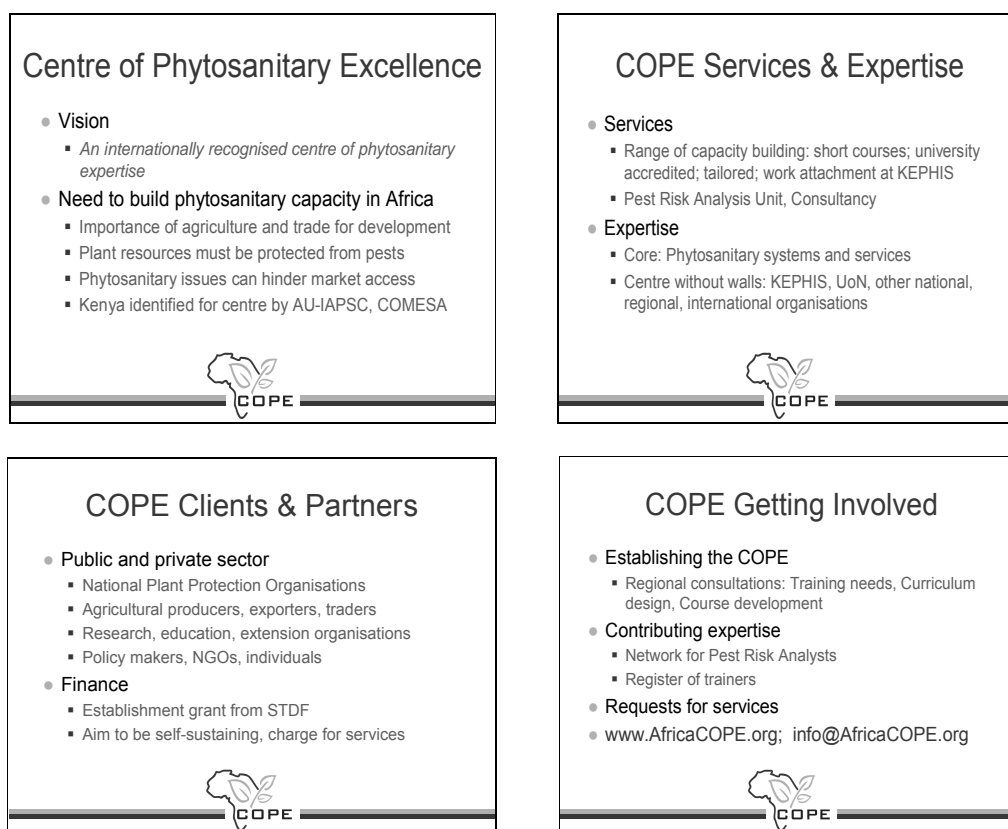
E. REGIONAL WORKSHOPS ON DRAFT ISPMS

7. The annual regional workshops provide for the exchange of national perspectives on draft standards and enhance contracting parties capabilities to comment before finalization of the standard.

	Region	Date (Tentative)	Funding Status
1	Africa-Anglophone	28–29 July 2009	Full funding
2	Africa-Francophone	30–31 July 2009	Full funding
3	Asia	14–18 September 2009	Full funding
4	Caribbean	July 2009	Full funding
5	CIS countries and Central Asia	27-31 July 2009	Full Funding
6	Near East	20-25 July 2009	Full Funding
7	Pacific	3-6 August 2009	Full Funding

F. IMPLEMENTATION OF APPROVED PROJECTS:

- TCP/MOZ/3205: Management and mitigation measures for alien invasive fruit fly (*Bactrocera invadens*) in Mozambique
- MTF/MOZ/098/STF (STDF 230) Establishment of Pest Free Areas regarding
- Lethal Yellowing Disease of coconuts in Mozambique
- TCP/INS/3203 (D): Strengthening Quarantine Control Systems for Invasive Alien Species (IAS)
- STDF 171: Establishment of a Centre of Phytosanitary Excellence in Eastern Africa
 - branded power point options being prepared (see example still under discussion below)
 - logo registration
 - needs assessment and curricula of short courses being developed for various levels of competencies within the NPPO
 - PRA unit being established and PRA training planned for August 2009



G. PHYTOSANITARY CAPACITY EVALUATION (PCE) UPDATE:

- working group finalized the updates in March 2009
- specifications for programming prepared
- training of facilitators anticipated in summer

INFORMATION EXCHANGE

8. Participation in the East African Phytosanitary Information Committee (EAPIC) meeting in Rwanda, March 2009: EAPIC is a growing initiative for pest reporting and pest surveillance in East Africa. It is being lead by the USAID and FAO. Approximately 11 countries, 50 participants and a number of concerned institutions attended.

9. March-April: CPM4 - Reporting IPPC obligations through RPPOs was agreed to. The IPPC will prepare a guidance and a portal through which RPPOs can be supported.
10. March-April: CPM4 - Contracting parties agreed that a mechanism be developed by the IPPC to enable member countries to inform each other of declarations of pest free areas.
11. Ongoing - The IPPC website is being redesigned for ease of use and enhanced search functionality

WORLD ORGANISATION FOR ANIMAL HEALTH (OIE).

Capacity-building tools and activities of the World Organisation for Animal Health

An update for the STDF Working Group 26 June 2009

OIE objectives

1. The OIE considers Veterinary Services to be a Global Public Good and aligning them with international standards (in terms of legislation, structure, organisation, resources, capacities, the role of the private sector and para-veterinary professionals) is a public investment priority. The official agreement signed by the OIE and the World Bank in 2001 supports this view.
2. Since it was created, the OIE has played a key role in its capacity as the sole international reference organisation for animal health, enjoying established international recognition and benefiting from direct collaboration with the Veterinary Services of all its Member Countries. As a mark of the close relationship between animal health and animal welfare, the OIE has become, at the request of its Member Countries, the leading international organisation for animal welfare.
3. The main objectives of OIE are to:
 - Ensure transparency in the global animal disease situation.
 - Collect, analyse and disseminate veterinary scientific information regarding methods of animal disease control.
 - Encourage international solidarity in the control of animal diseases.
 - Safeguard world trade by publishing health standards for international trade in animals and animal products.
 - Improve the legal framework and resources of national Veterinary Services.
 - To provide a better guarantee of the safety of food of animal origin at the production level and to promote animal welfare through a science-based approach.

Capacity-building activities of the OIE

4. Recognizing that more than two thirds of the OIE's 174 Members are developing or least developed countries, the OIE places great emphasis on capacity-building to help its Members implement the standards established by the OIE. In the interest of undertaking effective capacity-building activities, the OIE collaborates closely with other international organizations and donors, including within the WTO STDF framework. Dr Bernard Vallat, Director-General of the OIE, represented by Dr Alejandro Thiermann, President of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission, is a permanent member of the STDF Policy Committee and Dr Sarah Kahn, Head of the OIE International Trade Department and Dr Gastón Funes, Head of the OIE Regional Activities Department represent the OIE at the STDF Working Group.
5. The OIE, in support of its system to officially recognize country and zone freedom from certain diseases, evaluates the application of OIE standards for surveillance and disease control to obtain and maintain disease freedom. For example, in 2006-2008 the OIE deployed three expert missions to South American countries to assess their methods for control of foot and mouth disease in accordance with OIE standards.
6. The OIE Members are grouped in five regions i.e. Africa, the Americas, Europe, Asia, Far East and Oceania, and the Middle East. The OIE maintains five permanent regional representations (located in Argentina, Bulgaria, Japan, Lebanon and Mali) and five sub-regional representations (located in Belgium, Botswana, Tunisia, Panama and Thailand). Under the 4th Strategic Plan the OIE intends to expand the number of sub-regional representations.
7. One of the goals of the OIE's regional and sub-regional representations is to provide regionally adapted services to OIE Members to help them strengthen the surveillance and control of animal diseases in the regions. Capacity-building activities are a priority of the OIE regional representations' work.
8. The OIE's general capacity-building activities include conferences and workshops conducted for its Members at the regional, global and sometimes at the national level. The relevant activities carried out by the OIE in 2008 are shown in Attachment 1.

Key elements of an effective capacity-building tool

9. Based on its considerable experience in helping its Members to improve core capacities, the OIE has identified several key features of successful capacity-building tools. These features are presented in no particular order; all are considered to be important.
 - Objectives of the capacity-building activity, including definition of the desired capacities and levels of performance are clearly defined.
 - There are clear and transparent linkages with relevant international standards, such as those set out in the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*.
 - The rationale for the capacity-building activity is presented in a manner that is transparent and meaningful to donors and countries.
 - A prior relationship of trust and mutual confidence is established between the country receiving and the organization providing the relevant assistance.
 - There is access to appropriate internationally recognized expertise in the relevant subject material at all stages in the capacity-building process.
 - Assistance is provided in a manner that will lead to sustainable improvement of capacity over time, including providing recipients with the means to continue improving capacity.

- A consistent and predictable methodology is used, so that countries receiving assistance know exactly what to expect of the process.
 - The organization providing assistance makes provision to receive feedback from the country(ies) receiving assistance, supporting refinement of the capacity-building tool in the light of experience with its use.
 - Organizations involved in related capacity-building activities collaborate, share experiences and learn from one another.
 - Assistance is delivered by experts with sound experience in the subject(s) relevant to the capacity-building activity. These experts, to be trained in the use of the relevant tool, are formally selected. After training they are certified and their performance is monitored and additional training provided if judged necessary.
 - There is ongoing collaboration between international donor organizations, providers and recipients of assistance, to ensure that objectives are shared and expectations satisfied (to the maximum extent possible).
 - There is flexibility in the design and application of the capacity-building tool, so that it can be used with modifications from time to time as appropriate to the conditions and environments in countries receiving assistance.
 - The capacity-building tool is periodically reviewed in the light of broad experience.
 - There is professional and financial accountability in the application of capacity-building tools, to build confidence on the part of all involved in their use.
 - Capacities are addressed in a holistic manner – taking account of the roles and responsibilities of the public and private sectors and stakeholders.
 - There is ongoing involvement of headquarters executives in all capacity-building programmes.
10. The OIE has taken practical steps to incorporate these elements into the design and application of its capacity-building activities, as the following examples illustrate.

OIE PVS Tool

11. One of the OIE's most important capacity-building activities is the Global Program for the Evaluation of Performance of Veterinary Services (OIE PVS) based upon the country's compliance with international standards adopted democratically by the OIE General Assembly and recognized by the WTO, and the use of the *OIE PVS Tool* according to established procedures.
12. The *OIE PVS Tool* was initially developed in collaboration with the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), building on these organizations' experiences in working to strengthen the capacities of OIE Members – globally, in the case of the OIE and in the Americas, in the case of IICA – thanks to an STDF project. IICA's emphasis on the partnership between government and stakeholders was refined by the OIE, which placed emphasis on the need for the Veterinary Services (comprising both government and private sector veterinarians) to meet the quality standards set out in the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* (the *Terrestrial Code*).

13. The relevance of these standards for Veterinary Services as regards improving animal health and the capacity to participate in international trade and disease control globally is well established. OIE Members have previously adopted relevant texts in the *Terrestrial Code* i.e. Chapters 3.1. (Veterinary Services) and 3.2. (Evaluation of Veterinary Services).
14. The OIE has continued to refine the *PVS Tool* with the release in 2008 of a revised edition, based on the work of the *ad hoc* Group on the Evaluation of Veterinary Services. The experts participating in this Group, which includes an FAO expert, were selected for their extensive experience in the delivery of Veterinary Services in developing countries.
15. To ensure consistency and efficiency in the approach to PVS evaluations, the OIE selects, trains, and certifies experts to carry out PVS evaluations and only those experts certified by the OIE can carry out an official OIE PVS evaluation. The OIE carried out PVS training sessions in May and July 2006, February 2007 and February 2008 and a further workshop is planned for 2009. The OIE periodically holds seminars of experienced PVS Assessors to share experiences and provide feedback so that the OIE can refine the PVS procedures and update the OIE *PVS Tool*.
16. The OIE has collaborated with other international organizations in the training of experts. For example, 15 FAO experts have been trained in the use of the OIE *PVS Tool* and FAO experts continue to participate in OIE PVS evaluations of Members.
17. The OIE has developed the PVS procedures with a view to building relationships of mutual trust and confidence with OIE Members undergoing a PVS evaluation. An OIE Member considering an evaluation has several opportunities for collaboration in the process. The interaction between the Member and the OIE takes place via the National Delegate designated by the national government. After requesting the PVS evaluation, the OIE submits to the Delegate the names of experts (normally two in number) who will undertake the procedure. The experts travel to the country and hold meetings with the National Delegate and other representatives of central government, the veterinary services and stakeholders. After an internal peer review of the draft report of the PVS evaluation, the draft report is provided to the Delegate for review before finalization. Finally, the PVS report is held in confidence between the OIE and the Member evaluated until such time as the Delegate approves its release, which may be on an unrestricted or restricted basis (e.g. to OIE partners or to donors organizations only). The OIE requires that all certified experts sign an undertaking to respect the confidentiality of all materials and information obtained in the course of a PVS evaluation.
18. Consistency in approach by experts is further strengthened by the provision of the *Manual for PVS Assessors (Manual)* as an adjunct to the OIE *PVS Tool*. The *Manual*, which is currently being updated to reflect the 2008 revision of the *PVS Tool*, is produced by the École nationale des Services vétérinaires (ENSV), which is an OIE Collaborating Centre for Training of Official Veterinarians.
19. The OIE has taken several steps to make the PVS procedures transparent and to raise awareness of its Members. The OIE *PVS Tool* (without indicators) may be downloaded, free of charge from: http://www.oie.int/eng/oie/organisation/EN_OIE%20PVS%20Tool_2008.pdf.
20. The OIE also publishes a report on the status of OIE PVS missions, which may be found at: http://www.oie.int/eng/oie/organisation/en_status_of_OIE%20PVS%20Missions.htm?e1d2
21. A number of countries have agreed to release the confidentiality of their PVS evaluation reports and most have authorised the OIE to send their reports to OIE partner organisations and to international donors working with the OIE in the global programme to strengthen Veterinary Services. In addition, some countries have authorised the OIE to publish on the OIE website the

reports of PVS evaluation missions, including: Brazil, Guinea-Bissau, Uruguay and Namibia (please see:

http://www.oie.int/eng/oie/organisation/en_oie_pvs_eval_reports.htm?e1d2)

22. The OIE also releases the reports of the *ad hoc* Group on the Evaluation of Veterinary Services, which may be found annexed to the reports of the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission at: http://www.oie.int/tahsc/eng/en_tahsc.htm.

Status of the OIE Global PVS Programme

24. Working in collaboration with major international donors, at OIE Members' request the OIE will undertake PVS evaluations of 120 countries in a three-year period. OIE PVS Evaluations have been completed or are ongoing in 85 OIE Members, 40 of which have agreed to the conditional release of the relevant PVS report.
25. Information on the OIE PVS procedures and the Tool may be found at: http://www.oie.int/eng/oie/organisation/en_vet_evaluators.htm?e1d2

Follow up to the OIE PVS Evaluation

26. Several steps may be carried out in the follow up to a PVS Evaluation, including:
- PVS Gap Analysis - a quantification of needs and the corresponding indicative budget to address compliance for priority critical competencies discussed with the country concerned and based on the PVS report of the initial PVS evaluation of the country. This can provide the basis for the preparation of investment programmes in close cooperation with national policy makers, donors and other partner organizations;
 - PVS follow-up missions - monitoring of progress may be achieved through regular **PVS follow-up evaluation** missions;
 - Modernisation of Veterinary Legislation. This OIE project has three key elements: 1) the development of text in the *Terrestrial Code*, 2) Guidelines for Members, and 3) Missions carried out by OIE Experts at the request of Members. The status of OIE Legislation Missions may be found at Attachment 2.
 - Regional workshops for raising awareness and training of OIE Delegates and focal points.

OIE Laboratory Twinning Programme

27. Laboratory twinning involves creating and supporting links that facilitate the creation of a partnership for the exchange of scientific and technical knowledge, ideas and experience. The goal is to improve laboratory capacity and expertise in developing and in-transition countries and to enlarge the network of 200 Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres which are mainly found in 30 developed countries. Each twinning project is a partnership between an OIE Reference Laboratory approved by the OIE General Assembly (or an OIE Collaborating Centre demonstrating specific laboratory expertise to OIE standards) and a candidate laboratory. The Reference Laboratory or Collaborating Centre provides the candidate laboratory with technical support, guidance and training.
28. It is essential that veterinary scientific communities in developing countries are strengthened so that they can participate fully in discussing and adopting OIE standards. In this respect, the OIE twinning programme should help to create a more level playing field by improving expertise in developing countries. Twinning is also integral to the wider OIE initiative to improve the capacity of veterinary services in developing countries.
29. Although the ultimate aim is for candidate laboratories to reach OIE Reference Laboratory status, it is acknowledged that this will be beyond the scope of some projects. In such cases, twinning will bring the candidate closer to OIE Reference status by improving standards in specific selected areas.
30. The benefits from the twinning project should be sustainable and remain long after the project has ended, leading to further development of expertise in the region.
31. To date, the OIE has received 30 proposals; three projects have been approved and one initiated. For example, a twinning project is underway for avian influenza and Newcastle disease, involving the OIE Reference Laboratory in Padova, Italy, and the national Reference Laboratory for avian influenza and Newcastle disease in Vladimir, Russia. The remaining proposals have either been approved "in principle" or are in the process of being approved. Relevant information may be found at http://www.oie.int/download/LABREF/A_Concept.pdf

World Animal Health and Welfare Fund

32. The OIE's capacity-building activities are financed from the OIE World Animal Health and Welfare Fund ("the World Fund"). The World Fund was created on 28 May 2004 by Resolution No. XVII of the OIE International Committee. The Fund was established *"for the purpose of projects of international public utility relating to the control of animal diseases, including those affecting humans and the promotion of animal welfare and animal production food safety"*, which includes programmes for the early detection and global control of avian influenza and other highly pathogenic emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases.
 34. The purpose of the Fund is to support: (i) implementation of action programmes; (ii) implementation of training programmes; (iii) organization of seminars, conferences and workshops; (iv) editing and distribution of scientific and technical publications; (v) production of information media; (vi) implementation of basic and applied scientific research programmes; (vi) OIE Strategic Plans approved by the Member countries; and (vii) activities of developing countries in the aforementioned fields.
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ATTACHMENT 1

Project/activity	Beneficiary country/countries or location	Date start	Date end
OIE Regional seminar on Good Governance for Veterinary Services	Gaborone (Botswana)	16/01/08	18/01/08
OIE PVS Evaluation of Veterinary Services	Burkina Faso	17/01/08	31/01/08
OIE PVS Evaluation of Veterinary Services	Mozambique	17/01/08	02/02/08
OIE PVS Evaluation of Veterinary Services	Mauritania	19/01/08	31/01/08
OIE Regional Workshop on Harmonisation of Veterinary Vaccines	Pakchong (Thailand)	21/01/08	25/01/08
OIE PVS Evaluation of Veterinary Services	Senegal	21/01/08	04/02/08
7th Meeting of the Upper Mekong Working Group on FMD Zoning and Animal Movement Management	Chiang Rai (Thailand)	23/01/08	25/01/08
OIE PVS Evaluation of Veterinary Services	Romania	18/02/08	01/03/08
Training on the PVS Evaluation Tool and Certification of OIE Assessors	OIE Headquarters, Paris	18/02/08	20/02/08
14th Meeting of the OIE Sub-Commission for FMD in Southeast Asia	Southeastern Asian countries	10/03/08	14/03/08
OIE International conference on veterinary pharmaceuticals legislation and registration in Africa	Dakar (Sénégal)	25/03/08	28/03/08
OIE/NACA Regional Workshop on Aquatic Animal Health	Asian and Pacific countries	25/03/08	28/03/08
OIE PVS Evaluation of Veterinary Services	Guinea-Bissau	28/03/08	12/04/08
South Asia GF-TADs Regional Supporting Unit Meeting	South Asian countries	08/04/08	10/04/08
OIE PVS Evaluation of Veterinary Services	Lebanon	14/04/08	26/04/08
Avian influenza in the Middle East countries: Preparedness and Control	Middle Eastern countries	20/04/08	22/04/08
OIE/AusAID Workshop on Veterinary Legislation and Governance	Southeastern Asian countries	30/04/08	02/05/08
OIE PVS Evaluation of Veterinary Services	Philippines	03/05/08	20/05/08
OIE PVS Evaluation of Veterinary Services	Rwanda	04/05/08	21/05/08
OIE Regional Workshop for Newly Assigned Delegates	Asian and Pacific countries	13/05/08	14/05/08
OIE PVS Evaluation of Veterinary Services	Bhutan	01/06/08	14/06/08
OIE PVS Evaluation of Veterinary Services	Brunei	01/06/08	14/06/08
OIE PVS Evaluation of Veterinary Services	Barbados	07/06/08	20/06/08
OIE PVS Evaluation of Veterinary Services	Tanzania	08/06/08	22/06/08
Pacific GF-TADs Regional Supporting Unit Meeting	Pacific countries	09/06/08	12/06/08
OIE Sub-Regional (Southern Africa) seminar : "OIE international standards, a lever for growth in the fisheries and aquaculture sector in Southern Africa"	Maputo (Mozambique)	10/06/08	12/06/08
OIE PVS Evaluation of Veterinary Services	Belize	14/06/08	28/06/08
OIE Regional Seminar on "Seminar on Veterinary Statutory Bodies, private veterinarians and paraprofessionals in the Veterinary Services"	Eastern European countries	17/06/08	18/06/08
OIE PVS Evaluation of Veterinary Services	Albania	19/06/08	28/06/08
OIE Regional Seminar on "Veterinary Services and Border Control"	Eastern European countries	25/06/08	26/06/08
31st Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission	Geneva (Switzerland)	30/06/08	05/07/08
OIE PVS Evaluation of Veterinary Services	Syria	01/07/08	14/07/08
OIE PVS Evaluation of Veterinary Services	Niger	02/07/08	16/07/08
OIE/FAO Regional Workshop on CSF Control Strategy for Southeast Asia in collaboration with the Bureau of Animal Industry, Philippines	Makati (Philippines)	07/07/08	08/07/08
Southeast Asia GF-TADs Regional Supporting Unit Meeting	Southeastern Asian countries	08/07/08	10/07/08
OIE PVS Evaluation of Veterinary Services	Zambia	14/07/08	25/07/08
OIE/USDA/FAO Compensation Experience in the Western Hemisphere Workshop	Panama (Panama)	15/07/08	17/07/08
OIE PVS Evaluation of Veterinary Services	Namibia	11/08/08	22/08/08
OIE PVS Evaluation of Veterinary Services	Honduras	15/08/08	31/08/08
First OIE Inter American Meeting on Animal Welfare	American countries	19/08/08	20/08/08
OIE PVS Evaluation of Veterinary Services	Sri Lanka	25/08/08	08/09/08
20th joint OIE-EC Seminar "Dialogue and Common Activities between the OIE Member Countries of the European Union and the other Member Countries of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe"	Dushanbe (Tajikistan)	01/09/08	02/09/08
20th joint OIE-EC Seminar "Dialogue and Common Activities between the OIE Member Countries of the European Union and the other Member Countries of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe"	Tashkent (Uzbekistan)	04/09/08	05/09/08
14th Seminar on Harmonization of Registration and Control for Veterinary Medicines	American countries	08/09/08	12/09/08
WHO/FAO/OIE/ICD/SSAFE round table on capacity building for food safety	Rome - Italy	09/09/08	09/09/08
OIE Regional Workshop on PRRS Control and Prevention	Hanoi (Vietnam)	15/09/08	17/09/08
23rd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe	European countries	16/09/08	19/09/08
OIE PVS Evaluation of Veterinary Services	Azerbaijan	20/09/08	05/10/08
Third OIE/FAO-APHC Regional Workshop and Working Group Meeting on BSE and Other Prion Diseases, in collaboration with CAHEC	Qingdao (China)	23/09/08	25/09/08
OIE PVS Evaluation of Veterinary Services	Jordan	04/10/08	18/10/08
Workshop advanced level for WAHIS and national dates	Bamako (Mali)	06/10/08	10/10/08
FAO-OIE-WHO Joint Technical Consultation on Avian Influenza at the Human-Animal Interface	Verona (Italy)	07/10/08	09/10/08
OIE PVS Evaluation of Veterinary Services	North Korea	13/10/08	26/10/08
2nd OIE Global Conference on Animal Welfare 'Putting the OIE standards to work'	Cairo (Egypt)	20/10/08	22/10/08
Sharm El-Sheikh International Ministerial Conference on Avian and Pandemic Influenza	Sharm El-Sheikh (Egypte)	24/10/08	26/10/08

International conference: European Surveillance Network for Influenza in Pigs (ESNIP)	Gent (Belgium)	04/06/08	05/06/08
International conference: 3rd Assay development & screening technologies	San Francisco, CA (United States of America)	05/06/08	06/06/08
OIE PVS Evaluation of Veterinary Services	Barbados	07/06/08	20/06/08
International conference: Bluetongue Satellite Symposium "Bluetongue in Europe, back to the future"	Brescia (Italy)	07/06/08	07/06/08
OIE PVS Evaluation of Veterinary Services	Tanzania	08/06/08	22/06/08
Pacific GF-TADs Regional Supporting Unit Meeting	Pacific countries	09/06/08	12/06/08
International Symposium and Conference on Ruminant Lameness	Kuopio (Finland)	09/06/08	13/06/08
International conference: 6th Annual Biodefense: Vaccines & Therapeutics	Washington (United States of America)	09/06/08	11/06/08
IFAH Europe conference 2008 "Animal health solutions for the future"	Brussels (Belgium)	12/06/08	12/06/08
OIE PVS Evaluation of Veterinary Services	Belize	14/06/08	28/06/08
OIE PVS Evaluation of Veterinary Services	Albania	19/06/08	28/06/08
11th European conference of medical and health libraries	European countries	23/06/08	28/06/08
International conference: 10th Avian Immunology Research Group Meeting	Queensland (Australia)	24/06/08	27/06/08
International Workshop Human and Animal TSE	Grado (Italy)	26/06/08	28/06/08
3rd Congress of European Microbiologists	European countries	28/06/08	02/07/08
International conference: XXIII World's Poultry Congress	Brisbane (Australia)	30/06/08	04/07/08
31 st Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission	Geneva, Switzerland	30/06/08	05/07/08
OIE PVS Evaluation of Veterinary Services	Syria	01/07/08	14/07/08
OIE PVS Evaluation of Veterinary Services	Niger	02/07/08	16/07/08
International conference: XXV Jubilee World Buiatrics Congress	Budapest (Hungary)	06/07/08	11/07/08
International conference: 8th International Marek's Disease Symposium	Queensland (Australia)	06/07/08	10/07/08
Southeast Asia GF-TADs Regional Supporting Unit Meeting	Southeast Asian countries	08/07/08	10/07/08
International conference: 2nd Rediscovering Biomarkers: Detection, Development & Validation	Boston (United States of America)	10/07/08	11/07/08
XX International congress of genetics: understanding living systems	Berlin (Germany)	12/07/08	17/07/08
16th International Congress on Animal Reproduction	Budapest (Hungary)	13/07/08	17/07/08
OIE PVS Evaluation of Veterinary Services	Zambia	14/07/08	25/07/08
International conference: BIT's 1st Annual World Summit of Antivirals: Combating Severe Viral Infections	Kunming (People's Rep. of China)	20/07/08	22/07/08
International conference: 29th World Veterinary Congress 2008	Vancouver, British Columbia (Canada)	27/07/08	31/07/08
International conference: Meetings of the Three Divisions of the International Union of Microbiological Societies (IUMS), 2008	Istanbul, Turkey	05/08/08	15/08/08
OIE PVS Evaluation of Veterinary Services	Namibia	11/08/08	22/08/08
OIE PVS Evaluation of Veterinary Services	Honduras	15/08/08	31/08/08
First OIE Inter American Meeting on Animal Welfare	American countries	19/08/08	20/08/08
International conference: 33rd Annual World Small Animal Association Congress (WSAVA)	Dublin (Ireland)	20/08/08	24/08/08
4th International Conference on Antimicrobial Agents in Veterinary Medicine	Praque (Czech Republic)	24/08/08	28/08/08
OIE PVS Evaluation of Veterinary Services	Sri Lanka	25/08/08	08/09/08
International conference: AAWS International Animal Welfare Conference	Queensland (Australia)	31/08/08	03/09/08
14th Seminar on Harmonization of Registration and Control for Veterinary Medicines	American countries	08/09/08	12/09/08
WHO/FAO/OIE/ICD/SSAFE round table on capacity building for food safety	Rome - Italy	09/09/08	09/09/08
International conference: Brucellosis 2008 International Research Conference	Royal Holloway, University of London, Egham (United Kingdom)	10/09/08	13/09/08
38th International Congress of the World Association for the History of Veterinary Medicine	Engelberg (Switzerland)	11/09/08	13/09/08
International conference: 13th Conference on Food Microbiology	Liege (Belgium)	11/09/08	12/09/08
International conference: XV Brazilian Conference of Veterinary Parasitology	Brazil	14/09/08	18/09/08
Conference: Aquaculture Europe 2008	European countries	15/09/08	18/09/08
23rd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe	European countries	16/09/08	19/09/08
OIE PVS Evaluation of Veterinary Services	Azerbaijan	20/09/08	05/10/08
Conference: 20th Central American and Caribbean Congress on Poultry Production	American countries	24/09/08	27/09/08
Welfare assessment system - progress and considerations: a Welfare Quality - Advisory Committee Meeting	Copenhagen - Denmark	25/09/08	26/09/08
Conference: Rabies in the Americas XIX	American countries	28/09/08	03/10/08
FAO Expert Meeting on Capacity Building to implement good animal welfare practices	Rome - Italy	29/09/08	03/10/08
International conference: Environmental Risk Assessment of Human and Veterinary Medicines	Berlin (Germany)	29/09/08	02/10/08
The 8th Biennial Conference of the European Wildlife Disease Association (EWDA)	European countries	02/10/08	05/10/08
OIE PVS Evaluation of Veterinary Services	Jordan	04/10/08	18/10/08
FAO-OIE-WHO Joint Technical Consultation on Avian Influenza at the Human-Animal Interface	Verona, Italy	07/10/08	09/10/08
XIX Latin American Congress on Microbiology (ALAM 2008)	American countries	11/10/08	15/10/08
OIE PVS Evaluation of Veterinary Services	North Korea	13/10/08	26/10/08
Second International Workshop on Equine Viral Arteritis	Lexington, Kentucky (USA)	13/10/08	15/10/08
Second International Workshop on Equine Viral Arteritis	M.H. Gluck Equine Research Centre, Dept Veterinary Science, University of Kentucky	14/10/08	15/10/08
4th Modern Drug Discovery and Development Summit	San Diego, CA (USA)	15/10/08	17/10/08

2nd OIE Global Conference on Animal Welfare 'Putting the OIE standards to work'	Cairo (Egypt)	20/10/08	22/10/08
Conference: Protein Expression & Antibodies Europe	European countries	20/10/08	23/10/08
International conference: Nano Risk Conference	Paris (France)	21/10/08	23/10/08
International Scientific Conference "Animal Infectious Pathology"	Vladimir, Yur'evets, Russia	21/10/08	24/10/08
3rd International Veterinary and Zootechnic Exhibition	Vladimir, Yur'evets, Russia	21/10/08	24/10/08
International conference: Modern Mucosal Vaccines: Adjuvants and Microbicides	Porto (Portugal)	22/10/08	24/10/08
IV Buffalo Symposium of the Americas and III Buffalo Symposium of the Europe and Americas	American and European countries	22/10/08	24/10/08
Sharm El-Sheikh International Ministerial Conference on Avian and Pandemic Influenza	Sharm El-Sheikh (Egypte)	24/10/08	26/10/08
Food Safety: Veterinary Roles for the World Kitchen (15th Congress of the Federation of Asian Veterinary Associations -FAVA & OIE Symposium)	Bangkok (Thailand)	27/10/08	29/10/08
15th Congress of the Federation of Asian Veterinary Associations	Asian countries	27/10/08	30/10/08
Food Safety and Security of Russia	Russia	28/10/08	30/10/08
Molecular Epidemiology and Evolutionary Genetics of Infectious Diseases	Nairobi (Kenya)	30/10/08	01/11/08
OIE Regional Seminar on Communication	Asian and Pacific countries	30/10/08	31/10/08
FAO-EUFMD/EC/OIE Tripartite Group Meeting on control of FMD and other exotic diseases in the southern Balkans/Aegean region	Island of Lesbos (Greece)	30/10/08	30/10/08
OIE PVS Evaluation of Veterinary Services	Bahrain	01/11/08	15/11/08
OIE PVS Evaluation of Veterinary Services	Qatar	02/11/08	16/11/08
OIE PVS Evaluation of Veterinary Services	Ghana	03/11/08	17/11/08
OIE PVS Evaluation of Veterinary Services	Peru	03/11/08	15/11/08
International conference: Managing Alien Species for Sustainable Development of Aquaculture and Fisheries (MALIAF)	Florence (Italy)	05/11/08	07/11/08
Training Seminar for new National OIE Delegates of Europe	European countries	05/11/08	06/11/08
International conference: New methodologies and interdisciplinary approaches in global change research	Centre IGESA, Island of Porquerolles, Hyères, (France)	05/11/08	10/11/08
7th Meeting of the Lower Mekong Working Group on FMD Zoning and animal movement management	Pakse (Laos)	06/11/08	07/11/08
Workshop for OIE Collaborating Centres in charge of the training of official veterinarians	Lyon (France)	07/11/08	07/11/08
Fourth ICLAS International Meeting for Harmonization of Guidelines	Indianapolis (United States)	08/11/08	09/11/08
3rd Meeting of the Inter-American Committee on Aquatic Animal Health	Mazatlán, Sinaloa (Mexico)	11/11/08	13/11/08
7th International Bird Flu Summit: Prevention, preparedness, response, recovery	Las Vegas, Nevada, (USA)	13/11/08	14/11/08
OIE Regional Meeting on Strengthening Animal Health Information Networking in Asia and OIE Symposium on Avian Influenza Control in Asia	Asian and Pacific countries	13/11/08	14/11/08
1st International Conference on Risk Assessment	Brussels (Belgium)	13/11/08	14/11/08
OIE PVS Evaluation of Veterinary Services	Nepal	16/11/08	30/11/08
OIE PVS Evaluation of Veterinary Services	Guyana	17/11/08	30/11/08
19th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas	American countries	17/11/08	21/11/08
Seminar on traceability of meat from Developing Countries	Belgium, Brussels	17/11/08	18/11/08
WHO/FAO/OIE brainstorming meeting on Avian Influenza	Geneva - Switzerland	18/11/08	19/11/08
Regional Workshop on the WTO Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures	Doha (Qatar)	18/11/08	20/11/08
International conference: Global Meet on Veterinary Public Health	Lucknow (India)	19/11/08	21/11/08
29th FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific	Asian and Pacific countries	25/11/08	29/11/08
International conference: Veterinary Vaccines	Praque (Czech Republic)	26/11/08	27/11/08
International conference: Congress on biotechnology	Havana (Cuba)	30/11/08	05/12/08
OIE PVS Evaluation of Veterinary Services	Bolivia	01/12/08	15/12/08
Epidemics: First International Conference on Infectious Disease Dynamics	Asilomar, CA, (United States of America)	01/12/08	03/12/08
BIT's first Annual World Vaccine Congress (WVC)	Guangzhou (China)	01/12/08	05/12/08
Vaccine: 2nd Global Congress	Boston (United States of America)	07/12/08	09/12/08
OIE PVS Evaluation of Veterinary Services	Chad	08/12/08	22/12/08
1st Meeting of National Veterinary Services Laboratories in the Americas	American countries	09/12/08	11/12/08
OIE Seminar on Good Governance for Veterinary Services	African countries	11/12/08	13/12/08

ATTACHMENT 2

Legislation mission - State of Play - as of June 9, 2009

	OIE Members	Legislation Missions Requests received	Legislation Missions done
Africa	51	11	3
Americas	28	0	0
Asia and Pacific	30	4	2
Europe	52	1	1
Middle East	13	3	0
TOTAL	174	19	6

COMMARK TRUST**TradeMark – DFID’s new Aid for Trade flagship programme and the RSP’s new home**

Aid for Trade is a commitment made by developed countries to assist developing economies cope with the negative consequences of trade liberalization and take advantage of trade opportunities. To give local content to this commitment, DFID are in the process of setting up a new Southern African trade programme – TradeMark.

With a budget of GBP 100,000 million, for the next five years TradeMark will strive to “*improve southern Africa’s trade performance and competitiveness for the benefit of poor people by accelerating the pace of regional economic integration*”. A large part of TradeMark’s work will be devoted to developing transport infrastructure around North-South Corridor - an area that covers eight SADC countries and stretches from Tanzania to South Africa. Streamlining the functioning of border crossings will also be a priority.

SPS issues and standards in general are also considered a barrier to trade, and DFID have indicated that they would like to extend and scale-up the work of the Regional Standards Programme under the new TradeMark umbrella.

TradeMark, will be set-up over the coming months and will be managed by the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA). For the Regional Standards Programme (RSP) it will be business as usual, except, its formal association will no longer be with the ComMark Trust but with the TradeMark Programme under DBSA.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTRE

INFORMATION ON SPS-RELATED FORTHCOMING ASSISTANCE AND OTHER ACTIVITIES FROM THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTRE (ITC) - STDF WORKING GROUP MEETING ON 25-26 JUNE 2009

PUBLICATIONS:

ITC and PTB (the German National Metrology Institute) will jointly develop the second edition of the ITC publication on "Export Quality Management Book: An answer book for small-medium sized exporters". The current edition of the book has questions and answers related to the following: Technical regulations and standards, Product certification, Testing, Metrology, Quality management, ISO 9000, Other management systems, Accreditation, WTO, and ITC. The questions and answers directly related to SPS issues are rather limited. The second edition of the book will increase the number of questions and answers dealing with SPS issues and will include questions and answers dealing, inter alia, with SPS measures, ISO 22000 and private standards. The book is scheduled to be published next year.

EXPORT QUALITY BULLETINS:

The ITC bulletin EQ 84 "Exporting Seafood to EU" is being translated into Arabic under a joint publication agreement between the Yemeni Seafood Exporters Association (YSEA, the implementing agency of STDF project 69) and INFOSAMAK. The bulletin, due to be published in September 2009, will be distributed to Competent Authorities and exporters in the Arab region.

PROJECTS:

- ***Bangladesh Quality Support Programme***
ITC continues its activities in Bangladesh to strengthen national capacity to design and implement sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures in accordance with the relevant WTO rights and obligations.

ISO 22000

The direct assistance to implement Food Safety Management Systems based on ISO 22000 in six agro-processed food enterprises and hands-on training of six Trainers-cum-Counsellors on ISO 22000 is ongoing. Review of the ISO 22000 documentation in the six enterprises and final recommendations to improve the FSMS will be provided in the first half of August 2009 together with a three-day workshop on "Implementing Food Safety Management Systems – ISO 22000" to be conducted by the trained local Trainers-cum-Counsellors.

Study tour in Thailand (TBT and SPS)

A study tour was conducted for five participants from Bangladesh from 30 March to 4 April in Thailand. The study tour provided on-the-job training on actual operations, and management techniques of SPS/TBT NEPs and also included visits to private bodies. The knowledge obtained in

the study tour will facilitate the implementation of the action plans for TBT and SPS, especially the transparency provisions related to information retrieval and dissemination.

Study Tour in Thailand on the value chain in the horticulture and agro-processing sectors

A study tour for twelve participants from Bangladesh, inter alia, from enterprises and exporters associations is scheduled to take place in Thailand from 21 to 27 June 2009. The objective of the tour is to build awareness and capacity of exporters and potential exporters to have a comprehensive understanding of the value chain ensuring product quality, availability, consistency, compliance with market requirements and reduction of post-harvest losses. Exporters from Bangladesh would learn from the successful horticulture exporters in Thailand and be provided with a best practice model that can be adapted and improved to successfully compete in the targeted markets. The Study Tour will be followed by a specific training workshop and advisory services to improve compliance of Bangladeshi horticulture products with market requirements along the value chain.

Workshops on “The WTO/SPS Agreement: A Business Perspective”, conducted by local trainers

The local trainers, who are customizing the generic ITC training material on “The WTO SPS Agreement: A Business Perspective” to take into account the specific situation in Bangladesh and the specific needs related to fisheries and horticulture and agro-processing, will be conducting the following workshops¹:

- One two-day SPS workshop on Fisheries in Chittagong (Q3 2009)
- One two-day SPS workshop on Fisheries in Khulna (Q3 2009)
- One two-day SPS workshop for Horticulture/Agro Processing in Chittagong (Q3 2009)

➤ *STDF 69 project: “Improved capacity for ensuring the quality and safety of Yemeni seafood products”*

ITC continues its close supervisory assistance to the Yemeni Seafood Exporting Association (YSEA). The third progress report and project status report have been submitted to WTO on 16 February 2009. An extension of the duration of the project till December 2009 has been approved by the last STDF WG to enable YSEA to deliver the most practicable and effective outputs that can be executed in the Yemeni Fishery Sector.

A Workshop on “Developing an Integrated SPS and Marketing Strategy for the Fisheries Sector in Yemen” was organised on 22 March 09 under the patronage of H.E. Prime Minister and with the support of the Ministry of Fish Wealth (MFW). The workshop, attended by more than 60 participants, concluded with a very active and lively discussion among participants on the workshop’s recommendations that showed an urgent need to strengthen the dialogue between stakeholders through the establishment of a Technical Council with subcommittees for taking action and addressing technical issues faced by the sector such as Quality and compliance with food safety requirements.

YSEA participated to the 2009 European Seafood Exposition (ESE), from 28 to 30 April, in Brussels. YSEA, with the support of ITC, successfully coordinated the participation of the association itself and three exporters. The participation helped to establish contacts with potential buyers and reconfirm the

¹ These workshops, previously planned to take place in the second quarter of 2009, have been postponed to enhance better preparation of the training material

commitment of the private sector in Yemen to supply seafood products that are in compliance with international market requirements. The participation has helped starting collaboration with VASEP, the Vietnamese Seafood Exporters Association.

YSEA has attended in June Vietfish 2009, the Vietnamese Seafood Exposition. Thanks to this participation, YSEA and VASEP are currently developing an MoU aimed at enhancing collaboration in the areas of training, technological cooperation, the development of investigations, and technological transfer, for the benefit of both institutions and of society.

➤ ***Central Asia (Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan)***

The projects in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan are now coming to an end. The assistance provided in the area of food safety management has been successfully completed by the recent certification of two enterprises in the agro-processing sector to ISO 22000 by a foreign certification body, member of the International Accreditation Forum, in both countries. This was the first time enterprises in these countries have been certified to ISO 22000. Several national consultants were trained in both countries by an ITC international consultant and have been equipped to carry out advisory services in food safety management on their own, thus ensuring sustainability.

➤ ***Benin***

A workshop will be organized in July to inform stakeholders in the cashew nut sector about issues related, to operations management, quality and packaging. This will be followed by advisory visits to a selected number of enterprises. A second workshop is scheduled in the third quarter of this year, after follow-up visits would have been conducted in these enterprises.

For more information:

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