

**III Report on the implementation of Project STDF-IICA-108**  
**April 15, 2009**

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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:	April 15, 2010

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<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
Total project budget	<b>\$585.588</b>	-	<b>\$585.588*</b>	
Expenditures to date	<b>\$170,499.66</b>	-	<b>\$170,499.66</b>	
Expenditure for reporting period	<b>\$19,713.03</b>	-	<b>\$19,713.03</b>	
Unspent funds (US\$)	<b>\$405,088.34</b>	-	<b>\$405,088.34</b>	

- US\$10,000 (For evaluation by STDF Secretariat)
- Disbursement (one) received from STDF in 2008: US\$ 172,661

## GENERAL REPORTING

### A. BROAD PROGRESS ACHIEVED TO DATE:

The common vision session conducted in each country after the collection of information and completion of a country report helped 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. This process has resulted in 26 National Implementation Agendas on SPS that are attached to this report as Annex 1. The only missing national agendas are those of Nicaragua and Venezuela, countries that seemed not to be interested in the international SPS process and related issues.

Country reports (26) were prepared on the basis of the information gathered in each country, plus the results of the common vision session. These reports have been relayed to each country with a request for its release. It will be up to the countries to approve such release, upon which IICA will provide copies of such reports to the WTO.

In addition, the 26 National Implementation Agendas allowed identification of common issues of interest to several countries in each of the four IICA regions under study: the Southern Region (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay); the Andean Region (Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru – Venezuela did not participate); the Caribbean Region (Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and The Grenadines, and Suriname), and the Central Region (Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Panama – Nicaragua did not participate). These common issues were collated into four regional projects that are attached to this report as Annex 2.

The common vision sessions confirmed 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. Furthermore, 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:

- 26 country information collections completed
- 24 common vision sessions conducted
- 23 exchanges of experiences between countries achieved
- 26 national SPS action agendas completed
- Four regional project profiles with specific activities for 2009-2010 completed

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

- Implementation of activities described in the four regional project profiles

D. OTHER COMMENTS:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The project is proceeding according to the new schedule allowed by the extension of the project to April 15, 2010..</li> <li>• Venezuela and Nicaragua were the only countries that did not schedule a common vision session and thus did not permit conclusion of the national country report and National SPS Implementation Agenda. These countries will only participate in the scheduled regional activities if they request it.</li> <li>• Regional activities envisioned in the four regional project profiles have been planned for and implementation is proceeding according to schedule. Implementation of some preliminary activities, such as preparation of manuals for training courses, have started. Other activities will begin in the second quarter of 2009.</li> </ul>

**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	2/15/2009	4/15/2010	Official contract extension letter pending	Contract extended to 4/15/2010
2	Activity 1 Collection of country information	10/2008	10/2008	100% completed	Conducted by IICA staff in lieu of external consultants
3	Activity 2 Common vision sessions	12/2008	12/2008	1000% completed	Nicaragua and Venezuela chose to not schedule a session and are therefore not in the project until they express their desire to rejoin it.
4	Activity 3 Preparation of country reports and National Implementation Agendas	12/2008	1/22008	100% completed	Exception: Nicaragua and Venezuela.
5	Activity 4 Preparation of regional project profiles	1/2009	1/2009	100% completed	Extension of the project until April 15, 2010 granted to allow for implementation of these regional projects. Planning of activities completed.
6	Activity 5	4/15/2010	4/15/2010	5%	Preparation of manuals in

	Implementation of regional projects			completed	progress
6	Project Conclusion	4/2010	4/2010		---
7	Project external evaluation	4/2010			Not Started

## National Implementation Agendas Andean Region



## **STDF 108 Implementation Agenda**

**Country:**

**BOLIVIA**

### **BACKGROUND:**

Since October of 2002, IICA has facilitated the participation of countries, including Bolivia, in meetings of the Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) of the World Trade Organization, through the SPS Initiative for the Americas. This Initiative has focused its efforts on promoting institutional strengthening in the area of SPS to enable countries to take full advantage of the multilateral trade system. Since the start of this initiative, Bolivia has participated actively and has made a number of institutional changes aimed at managing these international issues more efficiently.

Anticipating the conclusion of the Initiative for the Americas, and conscious of the need to continue with the institutional strengthening process, a project proposal was submitted to the STDF with the aim of continuing to develop institutional capabilities and improve implementation of the WTO Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS-WTO) in the participating countries.

The IICA-STDF-108 project contains four basic stages designed to identify needs, implement actions and promote regional development. In order to identify a country's needs and assess its current level of performance, the Performance, Vision and Strategy tool for Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (PVS-SPS) was applied, enabling the different stakeholders of society to jointly assess their performance in the area of SPS.

Having applied the PVS tool, a discussion was then held to reach a common vision on November 18-19, 2008, in which the different stakeholders agreed upon a National SPS Agenda, which represents a "roadmap" for the National SPS Committee and for the institutions linked with SPS issues. However, the implementation of this agenda does not depend solely on national institutions - although these are very important - given that international and regional organizations and cooperating governments may also support this effort.

In addition to the National Agenda, the project contemplates the implementation of regional actions to promote coordination and address problems or situations of regional interest. These actions will be consolidated through a specific project that forms part of the STDF 108 Project.

### **OBJECTIVES:**

1. Create and improve institutional capabilities in SPS by promoting the coordination of the public-private sectors.
2. Promote a national agenda to guide the actions of the different institutions and stakeholders.
3. Strengthen the country's technical and financial capabilities, to enable it to improve its management capacity and take full advantage of international forums.

### **IMPLEMENTATION AGENDA:**

During the meeting convened to approve the Agenda, the different stakeholders defined and approved the following National SPS Agenda:

## COMPONENT 1: INTERACTION AMONG THE DIFFERENT PUBLIC SECTOR INSTITUTIONS, AND BETWEEN THESE AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR

### Information:

1. Permanent personnel
2. Design and reorganize the web site, organization by thematic area, search engine
3. Updating the system so that the technical areas may report on relevant issues, relay the information to the communications area and provide information in the most user-friendly way possible (resolution to establish the competencies of each area)
4. Disseminate information to users
5. Optimize resources, e.g. "online" exports, others
6. Establish guidelines to encourage the distribution of key information considered essential to users (immediate action) (all those with web pages). In the context of an inter-institutional forum the information to be distributed can be identified and targeted.
7. Inventory, identify and classify (formal, informal, electronic, print, etc) the institutions and their communication mechanisms to improve and guarantee the sharing of information and its efficacy.
8. Survey or identify options for accessing the different communication mechanisms available to users and their information needs (in terms of quality and time).

### Internal communications:

1. Create a legal framework for the establishment of a National Technical Committee on SPS that will define positions, policies and guidelines in the country, involving all stakeholders (public and private) and all the SPS institutions, within the framework of CODEX, OIE, IPPC, regional organizations and in the context of multilateral and bilateral agreements.
2. Validation of consultation processes, terms of reference for consultations and opinions.
3. Annual workshops to disseminate activities.
4. Establish procedures for the design and management (planning, implementation, evaluation, continuous improvement) of Programs, Policies and Legislation (PPL), based on principles of transparency and ethics.
5. Evaluate all existing mechanisms and PPL that are considered not to have been adequately utilized.
6. Promote spaces for communication and dialogue between the different sectors (social and geographic, institutional, economic-business) to improve coordination and obtain feedback.
7. Call on the relevant authorities to activate existing communication channels, bearing in mind the characteristics and needs of the different stakeholders.

### Communication on international issues:

1. The SPS Committee will establish mechanisms to disseminate relevant information to the sectors involved.
2. Prepare schedules of international activities and meetings convened by the leading international organizations (WTO-IPPC -OIE, Codex) and disseminate this information to all the institutions concerned, in order to program - in advance - the international events relevant to the country.

### Official representation:

1. Prioritization of meetings.
2. The competent body must be financed, or funds must be allocated to the issues under its responsibility.
3. If official representatives cannot physically attend meetings, the competent body must ensure that the country's position is conveyed to the specific forum and that the information is retransmitted to the Committee.
4. Always issue a country position on priority matters.
5. Final reports to the Committee.



**Coordination mechanisms:**

1. Consolidation of the National SPS Committee:
  - Define a work agenda and a viability strategy.
  - Assess the composition of the Committee.
  - Establish rules of procedure.
  - Evaluate the experiences of other countries with respect to national coordination (horizontal cooperation, video conferences).

**Coordination mechanisms between the Capital and the Mission in Geneva:**

1. Inform the Mission in Geneva of the structure of the Committee.
2. Through the Foreign Ministry, coordinate the support of the Mission in Geneva and the SPS Committee

**Importance of SPS issues:**

1. Implementation of the Technical Committee will serve to prioritize capacity building on SPS issues.

**COMPONENT 2: CAPACITY TO PROMOTE ACCESS TO INTERNATIONAL MARKETS****Compliance with regulatory standards:**

1. Propose an assessment of the existing legal framework, procedures and capacity to apply them.
2. Identify the causes of non-compliance in order to devise a coherent plan of action, taking into account the formulation, application and sanctions in the legal framework.

**Setting Regulatory Standards:**

1. Propose a standard-setting procedure that includes formulation, consultations with various sectors, the capacity to implement standards and apply sanctions, and the notification and information processes. Adopt a comprehensive approach that includes harmonization.

**Harmonization:**

1. Consider “Action 1: setting regulatory standards”.
2. Promote an evaluation of the existing Bolivian Standards (NB) in regard to current international standards.
3. Identify regulatory needs or gaps in the country (in animal health, plant health and food safety) and propose a plan of action for remediation (also consider the existence or lack of international standards on these issues).

**Transparency:**

1. Implement training at national level on the procedures and provisions of the WTO SPS Agreement and of the SPS Committee. IICA can support this process.
2. Request the “sponsorship” of a WTO Member for the information and notification centers.
3. Consider “Action 1: Setting regulatory standards”.

**Technical cooperation and TED:**

1. Obtain cooperation or technical assistance to improve communication mechanisms and for identification of plans, projects or programs as part of the response to the needs identified in coordination with the different sectors.
2. Include training on SPS in requests for technical cooperation.
3. Promote ongoing training of different sectors on SPS issues.
4. Identify and promote dissemination of the different international cooperation agendas (monitoring and follow-up of technical cooperation).

5. Encourage the National SPS Committee to serve as a forum for delivering technical cooperation.

### **COMPONENT 3: HUMAN AND FINANCIAL CAPITAL**

#### **Continued training:**

1. Identify and train personnel concerned with SPS issues and international negotiations in the Foreign Ministry, Ministry of Agriculture, SENASAG, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Production and Micro-enterprises.
2. Trained personnel must, in turn, train instructors on SPS issues in each of the institutions involved and at the different levels.
3. Establish a policy for selection and recruitment of personnel with an appropriate technical profile to occupy positions of responsibility related to SPS issues and incorporate these professionals into the administrative structure.
4. Request the Representative in Geneva and the Foreign Ministry to undertake the necessary efforts to implement and/or facilitate participation in specialized workshops on SPS by the WTO and the SPS Committee.
5. Create awareness at the different levels of policymaking regarding the importance of strengthening institutions responsible for agricultural health and food safety services and those that comprise the SPS system in the country to ensure the stability of programs and technical personnel.
6. Formalize the SPS Committee in the country.
7. Promote agreements with academic institutions to develop capabilities in SPS in public and private officials and to incorporate SPS issues in the academic curricula of related degree courses.

#### **Technical independence:**

1. Create awareness among the highest political authorities of the importance of basing technical decisions on science or scientific principles; these should not be modified by other criteria.
2. The institutions involved will conduct an impact study on the importance of SPS for the country.
3. Design and publication of a technical bulletin on SPS actions implemented by the National SPS Committee-NSPSC (e.g., cost benefit of controlling a particular pest).
4. Formalize the NSPSC so that it can endorse technical decisions issued by national authorities and advise the government on the establishment of National SPS Policies.

#### **Financial and technical resources:**

1. The NSPSC should be the inter-institutional coordination body that follows up on issues, actions and resolutions of the WTO-SPS Committee.
2. Consolidate the information management system on health (standards and sanitary surveillance).
3. Official travel by representatives to international meetings should be included in the institutional operating plans, and reflected in their budgets.
4. Promote the involvement of authorities, private sector and others in sanitary programs that imply technical and financial participation.
5. Provide additional resources and capacity to strengthen institutions involved in generating information and SPS notification, to guarantee the country's sanitary status.
6. Involve the Ministry of Finance and Public Investment in efforts to create awareness and prevent budget cuts to the institutional POA.

#### **Human resources assigned to SPS issues:**

1. Appoint an inter-institutional technical team to strengthen and support the National SPS Committee; its main priority will be to follow up on regular and emergency notifications on SPS issues and other health matters.



## **STDF 108 Implementation Agenda**

**Country:**

**COLOMBIA**

### **BACKGROUND:**

Since October of 2002, IICA has facilitated the participation of countries, including Colombia, in meetings of the Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) of the World Trade Organization, through the SPS Initiative for the Americas. This Initiative has focused its efforts on promoting institutional strengthening in the area of SPS to enable countries to take full advantage of the multilateral trade system. Since the start of this initiative, Colombia has participated actively and has made a number of institutional changes aimed at managing these international issues more efficiently.

Anticipating the conclusion of the Initiative for the Americas, and conscious of the need to continue with the institutional strengthening process, a project proposal was submitted to the STDF with the aim of continuing to develop institutional capabilities and improve implementation of the WTO Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS-WTO) in the participating countries.

The IICA-STDF-108 project contains four basic stages designed to identify needs, implement actions and promote regional development. In order to identify a country's needs and assess its current level of performance, the Performance, Vision and Strategy tool for Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (PVS-SPS) was applied, enabling the different stakeholders of society to jointly assess their performance in the area of SPS.

Having applied the PVS tool, a discussion was held to reach a common vision on 12-14 August, 2008, in which the various stakeholders agreed upon a National SPS Agenda, which represents a "roadmap" for the National SPS Committee and for the institutions linked with SPS issues. However, the implementation of this agenda does not depend solely on national institutions - although these are very important - given that international and regional organizations and cooperating governments may also support this effort.

In addition to the National Agenda, the project contemplates the implementation of regional actions to promote coordination and address regional problems or situations of interest. These actions will be consolidated through a specific project that belongs to the STDF 108 Project.

### **OBJECTIVES:**

1. Create and improve institutional capabilities in SPS by promoting the coordination of the public-private sectors.
2. Promote a national agenda to guide the actions of the different institutions and stakeholders.
3. Strengthen the country's technical and financial capabilities, to enable it to improve its management capacity and take full advantage of international forums.

### **IMPLEMENTATION AGENDA:**

During the session convened to approve the Agenda, the different stakeholders defined and approved the following National SPS Agenda:

## NATIONAL SPS AGENDA, 2008 – 2012

### COMPONENT 1: INTERACTION AMONG THE DIFFERENT PUBLIC SECTOR INSTITUTIONS, AND BETWEEN THESE AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR

#### Information:

1. Identify and evaluate the SPS information systems. It is important to identify information systems both in public sector institutions and in private ones. The evaluation or characterization of the information systems must cover the services offered and the type of information available, its “user-friendliness” and the updating of the data. Each institution or association involved must provide a form describing the characteristics of its information system. In the context of the Trade Sub-Committee, an appropriate mechanism will be identified to develop a consultation form together with a strategy for its implementation.
2. Design strategies to improve SPS information systems. Users’ needs must be taken into consideration. The basis for this will be an evaluation of the information systems and the characterization of users’ needs. Each organization may request support from its technical-computer team in evaluating and improving its information systems, while the academic sector may suggest or assist with a mechanism to identify users’ needs.
3. Create and develop an SPS Observatory. This information management tool will facilitate interaction between the public, private and academic sectors, linking the institutional websites. The Production Chains Observatory implemented by IICA and other international experiences, such as those in Paraguay and Ecuador, may be used as references. IICA may support the Trade Sub-Committee in drafting a proposal for an information Observatory.
4. Implement strategies to promote information systems. Design a strategy for the dissemination and understanding of the existing information systems and the information observatory, so that users are properly trained in their use.

#### Internal Communications:

1. Identify and designate focal points. It is necessary to identify or establish focal points linking all the interested parties (sectors and organizations) in order to facilitate communication. Information about these must be remitted to the “Administrative Secretariat” of the Trade Sub-committee or to a cooperating organization.
2. Formalize the technical work groups of the Trade Sub-committee. These technical groups also act as intercommunication forums on the issues within the Trade Sub-committee’s purview. The Sub-committee must define and prioritize these subgroups, based on its work agenda.
3. The technical groups may be multi-level or horizontal, sectoral or thematic; the work periods will be defined by the Trade Sub-committee.

#### Communication on international issues:

1. Define or establish the liaison or contact points of all the interested parties in order to facilitate communications. As in the case of the variable of *internal communication*, it is essential to identify the

key focal points, such as representatives of the different institutions at meetings of the international or regional organizations.

- Prepare an exhaustive calendar of the international meetings and classify these according to their importance, based on the country's interests.
  - Include in the internal communication systems the material related to international meetings and events of national interest.
  - Delegate to the focal points the responsibility of reporting international events of national interest
2. Formalize the external Trade Sub-committee of the SPS Committee as a forum for coordination and discussion on the topics within its purview. (More detailed actions for its formalization are included in the section on *National Coordination*, but here we mention some of the most important points).
    - Implement meetings of the Trade Subgroup
    - Identify communication and dissemination mechanisms on international events of importance to the country.
  3. Establish institutional mechanisms to help coordinate and disseminate issues relating to the OIE and IPPC, before and after the meetings, as necessary. Involve the National Commission of the Codex Alimentarius in the effort to develop a national information system on international issues.
  4. Secure a commitment from members of the National Committee and the technical subcommittees to fulfill their international SPS obligations.

#### **Official representation:**

1. The External Trade Sub-group will prepare and implement the agenda for representatives' participation in international meetings and will arrange this with the Committee.
2. Delegates must notify the interested parties of the results and commitments made at international meetings. Identify the most efficient mechanisms for disseminating and distributing this information, in order to ensure coverage and efficiency.
3. Negotiate support for the participation of international and private sector organizations. Possible funding sources should be considered and analyzed in order to make arrangements in advance.
4. Establish coalitions of strategic partners on SPS issues. To ensure optimal participation, it is necessary to consider the possibility of forging strategic "alliances" with trading partners or with partners in specific topics to optimize international participation.

#### **Coordination mechanisms:**

1. Establish coordination mechanisms within the Committee with support from the Technical Secretariat and the Technical Work Groups.
2. The Technical Work Group on external trade must follow up on international SPS agendas in order to foster national dialogue, where relevant.

3. Representatives of the Technical Work Groups will participate in the definition of country positions on their specific topics.
4. Establish procedures to promote the flow of information so that the SPS Committee's Technical Secretariat can administer the processes and/or obtain the Committee's endorsement of the most important SPS positions.
5. Review the configuration and support mechanisms of the External Trade Subgroup.
6. Define a work agenda for the External Trade Subgroup.
7. Prepare a manual or rules of procedure and define the roles of the participants and of the technical and/or administrative secretariat.

#### **Coordination mechanisms between the Capital and the Mission in Geneva:**

1. Identify the duties and responsibilities of the different interlocutors of the Trade Subgroup in order to provide ongoing support to the Mission at the WTO or to any embassy that is charged with representing Colombia at meetings or before organizations linked to AHFS.
2. Ask the Mission in Geneva to report on any relevant issues that may affect SPS negotiations or those considered strategic for the country.
3. Define the communication channels between the different capital-based actors with representatives of missions or embassies.

#### **Importance of SPS issues:**

1. The Trade Subgroup will work on a National SPS Agenda with the support of the private sector, academia and consumers.
2. Reactivate the external trade group with the participation of delegates to the International Forums under the leadership of the Technical Secretariat. The Technical Secretariat will endeavor to support the reactivation and sustainability of the Trade Subgroup.
3. Include a chapter on training in the Subgroup's work plan, focusing particularly on officials who can address these issues on a continuous basis.
4. Each institution's operating plan should contemplate participation in international meetings and this item should also be reflected in their budgets.
5. Promote closer contacts with decision-makers to maintain SPS issues as a strategic priority.

### **COMPONENT 2: CAPACITY TO PROMOTE ACCESS TO INTERNATIONAL MARKETS**

#### **Compliance with regulatory standards:**

1. Expand national IVC coverage through inter-institutional coordination and articulation.

2. Evaluate mechanisms to facilitate the continuous updating of the sanctions regimen applied in cases of non-compliance with standards.
3. Support institutional strengthening processes in the country's agricultural health and food safety services.
4. Evaluate processes that may be selected and authorized to expand IVC coverage.
5. The Trade Subgroup will take the necessary steps, within its sphere of competence, to support the aforementioned actions.

### **Setting Regulatory Standards:**

1. Evaluate and promote information mechanisms that encourage community participation in national public consultations on SPS standards.
2. Promote risk analysis in the process of setting SPS standards.

### **Harmonization:**

1. Include the concept of harmonization in standard-setting processes and consider their relevance to trade and NAP in their application.
2. Improve the interaction between the technical and legal aspects of standard-setting processes, through clear and specific guidelines.
3. Evaluate and review the regional (Andean) regulations in order to promote the concept of harmonization.
4. Consider the need for a legal evaluation to determine the status of harmonization of the current legislation.

### **Transparency:**

1. Educate public and private sector officials on the importance of having a policy of transparency and the effective implementation of notification processes.
2. Evaluate the existing notification process and identify ways to ensure its continuous improvement (primary standard setting procedure, notification procedure, definition of what should and what should not be notified etc). Review and update the transparency survey of the Secretariat of the SPS Committee, and the manual of notification procedures.
3. Identify and propose specific actions to technically strengthen the contact point.
4. Implement a strategy to disseminate the services offered by the notification center and the notification processes.

5. Secure support from the SPS Committee to ensure compliance with and implementation of SPS notification processes.
6. Implement an “SPS Observatory” in order to improve the information and communication mechanisms. IICA’s experience in the Production Chains Observatory may provide important input for designing a proposal for implementation.

#### **Technical cooperation and TED:**

1. Establish a permanent institutional mechanism, with private sector participation, to help negotiate technical cooperation. (For example, an agenda or work plan)
2. Disseminate information on the mechanisms existing in the WTO SPS Committee for requesting or obtaining technical cooperation.
3. Make an inventory of topics for which technical cooperation may be requested from the international community.

### **COMPONENT 3: HUMAN AND FINANCIAL CAPITAL**

#### **Continued training:**

1. Design and promote training programs for human resources involved in SPS issues.
2. Establish the necessary mechanisms or procedures to continuously identify training needs in the area of SPS.

#### **Technical independence:**

1. Advance the goals and activities proposed in the research agendas.
2. Promote the generation of technical information to support the decision-making tools.
3. Strengthen the risk analysis units that generate the scientific evidence to support a sanitary or phytosanitary measure.
4. Establish a transparent mechanism to prevent interference in the dissemination of SPS. Increase impact or cost/benefit studies to reduce interference with scientific principles or technical requirements.

#### **Financial and technical resources:**

1. Strategic plans should include investment programs or projects with structures and budgets for specific actions in SPS.
2. Establish work groups with specific functions for the presentation of projects and also to obtain resources



3. Include a budget line for institutional expenses to cover the participation of SPS officials in meetings.
4. Create a common fund to finance actions related to SPS.
5. Submit to the SPS Committee a proposal to review, evaluate and allocate the necessary financial and technical resources to the competent bodies responsible for SPS.
6. Through the Commission, review the representation at international forums and SPS.

**Human resources assigned to SPS issues:**

1. Devise a strategy to make known the functions of those who form part of the Trade Sub-group in the country's different institutions or sectors (private and public sector organizations)
2. Strengthen specific SPS groups in the institutions.
3. Improve and follow up on the processes to select personnel in the SPS bodies.
4. Reinforce institutional interaction and relations with the private sector by establishing communication channels.
5. Appoint officials exclusively assigned to tasks of notification, contacts and follow-up of the SPS Committee.
6. Identify the institutional strengthening needs of the contact point, including the allocation of budget resources.
7. Improve coordination between the contact point, the government and the private sector. Improve the level of regional representation to enhance inter-institutional coordination



## **STDF 108 Implementation Agenda**

**Country:**

**ECUADOR**

### **BACKGROUND:**

Since October of 2002, IICA has facilitated the participation of countries, including Ecuador, in meetings of the Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) of the World Trade Organization, through the SPS Initiative for the Americas. This Initiative has focused its efforts on promoting institutional strengthening in the area of SPS to enable countries to take full advantage of the multilateral trade system. Since the start of this initiative, Ecuador has participated actively and has made a number of institutional changes aimed at managing these international issues more efficiently.

Anticipating the conclusion of the Initiative for the Americas, and conscious of the need to continue with the institutional strengthening process, a project proposal was submitted to the STDF with the aim of continuing to develop institutional capabilities and improve implementation of the WTO Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS-WTO) in the participating countries.

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Having applied the PVS tool, a discussion was then held to reach a common vision on October 14-16, 2008, in which the different stakeholders agreed upon a National SPS Agenda, which represents a "roadmap" for the National SPS Committee and for the institutions linked with SPS issues. However, the implementation of this agenda does not depend solely on national institutions - although these are very important - given that international and regional organizations and cooperating governments may also support this effort.

In addition to the National Agenda, the project contemplates the implementation of regional actions to promote coordination and address problems or situations of regional interest. These actions will be consolidated through a specific project that forms part of the STDF 108 Project.

### **OBJECTIVES:**

1. Create and improve institutional capabilities in SPS by promoting the coordination of the public-private sectors.
2. Promote a national agenda to guide the actions of the different institutions and stakeholders.
3. Strengthen the country's technical and financial capabilities, to enable it to improve its management capacity and take full advantage of international forums.

### **National Agenda:**

During the session convened to approve the Agenda, the various stakeholders defined and approved the following National SPS Agenda:

## COMPONENT 1: INTERACTION AMONG THE DIFFERENT PUBLIC SECTOR INSTITUTIONS, AND BETWEEN THESE AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR

### Information:

1. Create an information observatory in the area of SPS.
2. Benchmarking (what are countries doing in these thematic areas).
3. Identify each of the institutions and their area of competence, how and what they can contribute, which systems exist at present. Update the Committee on the work that is currently being done by these institutions on national and international issues.
4. Characterization of users' needs (what information do they require, when and how).
5. Train human resources in knowledge management, organize and disseminate knowledge.
6. Support actions taken by SISCAL (the integrated system for food quality and safety) in relation to the information system .

### Internal communications:

1. Identify contact points (in the different technical institutions).
2. Support the implementation of the National SPS Notification System.
3. Channel existing initiatives for the creation of the National SPS Committee through the Foreign Ministry-DGPEI.

### Communication on international issues:

1. The SPS Committee that will be created must coordinate its activities with the National SPS Notification System (to be created) and the Ministry of Foreign Relations.
2. Guide and coordinate existing initiatives for the creation of the National SPS Committee.
3. Identify and promote coordination of the focal points of the OIR (international regional organization).
4. Establish and disseminate a calendar of international meetings based on national priorities.
5. Define and clarify competencies in international issues.

### Official representation:

1. Training for delegates who will represent the country internationally (training in negotiations).
2. Delegates must be in regular contact with the focal points.
3. Present a coordinated and well-supported country position.
4. Identify the most appropriate institutions for participation.
5. Process for the assessment of representatives.
6. Establish a communication point between Regional and Subregional Committees and the focal points.
7. Guarantee basic funding for international participation by including this item in the budgets for specific actions.
8. Develop strategies to secure specific fund allocations (Ministries of Finance and Congress).

### Coordination mechanisms:

1. Identify the responsibilities and competencies of each of the institutions in matters and tasks related to international issues.
2. Find a mechanism to institutionalize the group (public and private).
3. Constitute a National SPS Committee to coordinate actions related to international agendas.
4. Identify legal mechanisms to facilitate the establishment of the SPS Committee.
5. IICA and Ministry of Foreign Relations to draft a proposal and a roadmap for establishing the SPS Committee.

### Coordination mechanisms between the Capital and the Mission in Geneva:

1. Active and constant communication between the Representation in Geneva and the focal point is essential.

2. Work on “roadmaps” for priority issues.

**Importance of SPS issues:**

1. Establish and implement an international SPS policy.
2. Review the internal and external work agendas and formulate a single agenda.
3. Sensitize the authorities to the importance of the SPS agenda.
4. Prepare an inventory of existing activities.

**COMPONENT 2: CAPACITY TO PROMOTE ACCESS TO INTERNATIONAL MARKETS**

**Compliance with regulatory standards:**

1. Strengthen the Ecuadorian quality, health and safety system (includes institutional strengthening and inter-institutional coordination).
2. Update national legislation and standards taking into account the work carried out IN LINE WITH INTERNATIONAL GUIDELINES and establishing effective sanctions.
3. Design and implement a surveillance and monitoring system that contemplates:
  - The institutions involved working in a proactive and coordinated manner
  - Implementation of a subsystem of audits of the responsible institutions
  - Clear definition of institutional competencies
  - Guidelines for institutional organization and management
  - Mechanisms in which the evaluator is not “judge and party”
  - Programs to create awareness of the importance of application of standards
  - Dialogue between the different areas of the private sector that could be affected if standards are not complied with
  - Market surveillance and monitoring (supermarkets, delicatessens, stores)
  - Improve the system of reporting and epidemiological surveillance of food-borne diseases
  - Seek the support of the police force when necessary
  - Give greater authority to inspectors

**Setting Regulatory Standards:**

1. Strengthen the Ecuadorian food quality, health and safety system (includes institutional strengthening and improved inter-institutional coordination).
2. Within each institution, define good practices in standard-setting that include:
  - All the institutions involved must work in an active and coordinated manner (includes the private and public sectors, research and academic centers)
  - Seek the participation of the private sector through public consultations
  - Government officials responsible for setting national standards should receive training on international regulations
  - Develop computer tools that facilitate the process of drafting and consultation on proposals for new standards and regulations, in a timely and effective manner

**Harmonization:**

1. Establish policies that actively promote harmonization of regulations.
2. Define priorities for harmonization of laws, regulations and standards, based on the needs of consumers and the country’s productive potential.
3. Harmonization priorities should be governed by the country’s commitments at the WTO.
4. Prepare a budget to enable national delegates to participate actively in international standard-setting meetings.
5. Recruit full-time qualified personnel to work on these issues within the institutions.

- Promote the establishment of a National SPS Committee WITH FUNDING – and with the possibility of forming specific subcommittees for different topics, and decision-making mechanisms to ensure their viability.

**Transparency:**

- Establish effective mechanisms for communication and dissemination of information (standards, regulations and claims).
- Use existing computer tools for effective management of information.
- Centralize the reception and dissemination of information to the interested parties; provide easily accessible user-friendly information.
- Timeliness in the standard-setting process.

**Technical cooperation:**

- Work together with the private sector to define technical cooperation priorities through specific SPS committees.
- Update the inventory of international technical cooperation projects to avoid duplication of efforts.
- Find appropriate mechanisms for channeling technical cooperation.
- Identify institutions that could provide technical cooperation (FAO, PAHO, EU, STDF, among others) and properly inform the users.
- Train government officials on the effective planning, negotiation and execution of technical cooperation

**COMPONENT 3: HUMAN AND FINANCIAL CAPITAL**

**Continued training:**

- Propose a strategy for creation and formalization of the SPS Committee.
- Institutionalize a training program that includes annual work plans to be implemented by public SPS institutions, based on training needs and the definition of beneficiaries in the public and private sectors.
- The “users” sector will also implement training programs with annual work plans in line with the trade dynamics, both at the internal and the external level.

**Technical independence:**

- Decisions must be in line with WTO agreements.
- The Ecuadorian State should define SPS issues as a priority national policy for strengthening the country’s competitiveness through the institutionalization of the National Quality, Health and Safety System to guarantee technical independence in the implementation of actions and decision-making in this area.

**Financial and technical resources:**

- Define the official National Focal Point for SPS information and notification among the institutions involved.
- Allocate the necessary technical and financial resources for administration of the National Information and Notification Focal Point.
- Monitor the measures adopted by the WTO SPS Committee, to define a country position on the various issues.

**Human resources assigned to SPS issues:**

- Appoint a qualified technical person in the official focal point to manage and coordinate information and notification points, and another to monitor and follow up on the actions of the WTO-SPS Committee with authority to coordinate the country position and represent it.
- Establish procedures for implementation of activities in the information and notification points.

3. *Strategy*: the people selected for these tasks must have an appropriate technical profile and qualifications.



## **STDF 108 Implementation Agenda**

**Country:**

**PERU**

### **BACKGROUND:**

Since October of 2002, IICA has facilitated the participation of countries, including Peru, in meetings of the Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) of the World Trade Organization, through the SPS Initiative for the Americas. This Initiative has focused its efforts on promoting institutional strengthening in the area of SPS to enable countries to take full advantage of the multilateral trade system. Since the start of this initiative, Peru has participated actively and has made a number of institutional changes aimed at managing these international issues more efficiently.

Anticipating the conclusion of the Initiative for the Americas, and conscious of the need to continue with the institutional strengthening process, a project proposal was submitted to the STDF with the aim of continuing to develop institutional capabilities and improve implementation of the WTO Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS-WTO) in the participating countries.

The IICA-STDF-108 project contains four basic stages designed to identify needs, implement actions and promote regional development. In order to identify a country's needs and assess its current level of performance, the Performance, Vision and Strategy tool for Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (PVS-SPS) was applied, enabling the different stakeholders of society to jointly assess their performance in the area of SPS.

Having applied the PVS tool, a discussion was held to reach a common vision on November 23-24, 2008, in which the various stakeholders agreed upon a National SPS Agenda, which represents a "roadmap" for the National SPS Committee and for the institutions linked with SPS issues. However, the implementation of this agenda does not depend solely on national institutions - although these are very important - given that international and regional organizations and cooperating governments may also support this effort.

In addition to the National Agenda, the project contemplates the implementation of regional actions to promote coordination and address regional problems or situations of interest. These actions will be consolidated through a specific project that belongs to the STDF 108 Project.

### **OBJECTIVES:**

1. Create and improve institutional capabilities in SPS by promoting the coordination of the public-private sectors.
2. Promote a national agenda to guide the actions of the different institutions and stakeholders.
3. Strengthen the country's technical and financial capabilities, to enable it to improve its management capacity and take full advantage of international forums.

### **IMPLEMENTATION AGENDA:**

During the session convened to approve the Agenda, the different stakeholders defined and approved the following National SPS Agenda:

## COMPONENT 1: INTERACTION AMONG THE DIFFERENT PUBLIC SECTOR INSTITUTIONS, AND BETWEEN THESE AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR

### **Information:**

1. Promote different types of information channels available.
2. Evaluate information services. (In part, through the external trade service).
3. Identify alternative mechanisms to disseminate the available information.
4. Identify mechanisms to measure use and benefits of web sites and other information mechanisms.
5. Create a virtual community of users.
6. Regulatory manuals may help some sectors to implement this tool.

### **Internal communications:**

1. Identify mechanisms to promote communication with different sectors on matters of prospecting standards (e.g., Mexico) and develop a national proposal.
2. Identify or create a mechanisms (could be national) for setting standards that include participation or communication with different sectors (e.g., Argentina). Good Regulatory Practices.
3. Emphasis should be placed on coordination and participatory processes.

### **Communication on international issues:**

1. The National Codex Committee must coordinate effectively with the different sectors.
2. The National SPS Committee coordinates the international agendas but there is a need to create information or coordination mechanisms to share these issues with all the interested parties (example: private sector).
3. Utilize the existing resources of National Committee members to promote dissemination of information.
4. Analyze the possibility of operating with the modality of work subgroups in the National SPS Committee to coordinate with specific stakeholders.

### **Official representation:**

1. Inventory the international agendas, set priorities for participation and implement communication mechanisms on these events.
2. Identify and prioritize the international issues of greatest interest to Peru and develop a national agenda around those issues.

### **Coordination mechanisms:**

1. Although the National Committee is not legally constituted, it operates in a continuous manner and coordinates with different institutions and sectors. The National Committee defines national positions on issues of the WTO SPS Committee.
2. Take advantage of the current national situation to convince political authorities of the advantages and need to legally constitute a National SPS Committee.
3. Analyze the experiences of other countries with regard to National Committees to identify elements that can serve as feedback on the work of the SPS Committee of Peru.
4. Develop mechanisms to disseminate the actions and work of the SPS Committee of Peru.

### **Coordination mechanisms between the Capital and the Mission in Geneva:**

1. Maintain the communication channels operating effectively (in time and resources).

### **Importance of SPS issues:**

1. Sensitize the political class through:
  - Generating strategic information
  - Conducting impact evaluations



- Establishing a long-term vision of SPS issues (try to generate a National Policy)
- Promoting SPS issues among the different actors of civil society using the available information mechanisms (promotion strategies, media, etc).

## COMPONENT 2: CAPACITY TO PROMOTE ACCESS TO INTERNATIONAL MARKETS

### **Compliance with regulatory standards:**

1. Define and implement national sanitary standards (Laws and Regulations on Agricultural Health and Food Safety) to establish roles and responsibilities.
2. Strengthen the Institutional framework by establishing a system of authorization or outsourcing and strengthening technical personnel involved in inspection and audit activities.
3. Implement a program to create awareness at different levels on the importance of compliance with regulatory standards.
4. Establish a procedure for auditing and verification of compliance with standards.

### **Setting Regulatory Standards:**

1. Follow the procedure established for the drafting and approval of legal standards.
2. Establish a monitoring plan for standards drafted within the legislative circuit.
3. Establish a Plan to create awareness and train policymakers on the importance of respecting technical criteria.

### **Harmonization:**

1. Create awareness and promote commitment among the political class to support the country's participation in international forums.
2. Strengthen the work of the National SPS Committee for the identification, prioritization and definition of a country position in the negotiation of proposals on standards.
3. The National SPS Committee will disseminate the proposal on standards to all those concerned in the public and private sectors.
4. Based on planning by the National SPS Committee, include participation in international meetings in the POA and budget for these activities.

### **Transparency:**

1. Follow the procedure established for the drafting and approval of legal standards.
2. Establish a procedure to effectively inform the public and private sectors of changes in national and international standards.

### **Technical cooperation:**

1. Establish a procedure for continuous consultation, monitoring and evaluation of public and private sector to identify cooperation needs and Special and Differential Treatment.

## COMPONENT 3: HUMAN AND FINANCIAL CAPITAL

### **Continued training:**

1. Incorporate SPS issues into the Annual Training Plan of each competent institution, allocating a specific budget for this purpose.
2. The National SPS Committee should include training in its work plan (coordinate an intersectoral training plan).
3. Monitor the implementation of the Training Plan.
4. Evaluate the implementation of the Training Plan.

**Technical independence:**

1. Continue involving the public and private sectors interested in standard-setting processes in SPS.
2. Establish specific technical Committees (with representatives of the public and private sectors) as consultative bodies.
3. Ensure that SPS standards continue to be based on the identification of hazards and risk assessment, without exceptions.

**Financial and technical resources:**

1. Formal constitution of the National SPS Committee.
2. Formulate and implement a national notification and information procedure on SPS issues.
3. Include this item among the priorities of each member institution of the Committee.
4. Provide the institutions with financial resources to follow up on the actions of the SPS Committee.

**Human resources assigned to SPS issues:**

1. Formal constitution of the National SPS Committee.

# **NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION AGENDAS**

## **Caribbean Region**



## **STDF 108 Implementation Agenda**

**Country:**

**ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA**

### **BACKGROUND:**

The Initiative for the Americas was established by IICA as a means of facilitating the attendance and participation of its member countries in the meetings of the Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Committee) of the World Trade Organization in Geneva, Switzerland. The first meeting funded under this Initiative was in October 2002, and to date, delegates from Antigua and Barbuda have attended many of these meetings.

Funding under the Initiative ended in October 2008. As a follow-up to the Initiative, IICA secured funding from the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) for a project (STDF Project #108) to develop sustainable institutional capabilities in the countries to consolidate gains made as a result of their participation in the SPS Committee, and to promote implementation of the SPS Agreement.

The first activity of the project was the collection of country-specific information. Interviews and meetings were conducted with various persons drawn from the public sector and the private sector. The IICA PVS (*Performance, Vision and Strategy*) instrument for SPS was used to gather the relevant information from public and private sector representatives. Three components were assessed: (a) Interaction within the public sector and with the private sector; (b) capacity to access international markets; and (c) human and financial capital.

The second activity was a common vision event, held November 6, 2008, where representatives from the public and private sectors discussed the findings, examined the shortcomings, the limiting factors responsible for these shortcomings, agreed on priority actions and schedules and assigned responsibilities to overcome them. The results of the common vision session constitute a national implementation agenda on SPS issues.

### **OBJECTIVES:**

1. To improve the external communication on SPS matters
2. To improve internal communication
3. To assign government priority to the issue
4. To establish a functional SPS Committee
5. To have a safe food supply on the market
6. To improve laboratory capability
7. To set up a functioning Unit to handle transparency issues
8. To have adequate transparency in SPS matters
9. To increase financial and technical resources
10. To improve administrative framework to address SPS issues
11. To develop a Cabinet-appointed National SPS Committee

## **IMPLEMENTATION AGENDA:**

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The Common Vision Session highlighted several areas that need to be addressed to establish an SPS coordination system in Antigua and Barbuda. These include:

- Communication
  - Establish an appropriate mechanism for information dissemination and flow between the public sector and the private sector and within the public sector
  - Identify a focal point for information dissemination
  - Develop programmes and activities for information dissemination such as radio and television programmes, newsletter, and town hall meetings
- 1.
- Establish a Cabinet-appointed SPS Committee having representatives from both the public and private sectors
- 2.
- Improve laboratory capacity and capabilities
- 3.
- Transparency
  - Establish a functional SPS Enquiry Point to handle issues relating to transparency
  - Hire and train staff to operate the SPS Enquiry Point
- 4.
- Improve the administrative framework to address SPS issues
- 5.
- Provide budgetary support for technical staff to attend relevant meetings such as the SPS Committee meetings and meetings of International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and Codex Alimentarius
- 6.
- Develop a mechanism for increasing awareness and understanding of SPS issues among policy makers
- 7.
- Training
  - Develop and implement SPS training programmes for all levels of public sector personnel
  - Create awareness among administrators and policy makers on SPS issues
  - Train technical staff and stakeholders in areas such as:
    - The SPS Agreement
    - Operation of Enquiry/Notification Point
- 8.
- Human Resources
  - Increase the staff assigned to the issue



## **STDF 108 Implementation Agenda**

**Country:**

**BAHAMAS**

### **BACKGROUND:**

The Initiative for the Americas was established by IICA as a means of facilitating the attendance and participation of its member countries in the meetings of the Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Committee) of the World Trade Organization in Geneva, Switzerland. The first meeting funded under this Initiative was in October 2002, and to date, delegates from Bahamas have attended 10 out of 18 such meetings.

Funding under the Initiative ended in October 2008. As a follow-up to the Initiative, IICA secured funding from the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) for a project (STDF Project #108) to develop sustainable institutional capabilities in the countries to consolidate gains made as a result of their participation in the SPS Committee, and to promote implementation of the SPS Agreement.

The first activity of the project, the collection of country-specific information took place June 30 – July 1, 2008. Interviews and meetings were conducted with various persons drawn from the public sector and the private sector. The IICA PVS (*Performance, Vision and Strategy*) instrument for SPS was used to gather the relevant information from public and private sector representatives. Three components were assessed: (a) Interaction within the public sector and with the private sector; (b) capacity to access international markets; and (c) human and financial capital.

The second activity was a common vision event, held August 6, 2008, where representatives from the public and private sectors discussed the findings, examined the shortcomings, the limiting factors responsible for these shortcomings, agreed on priority actions and schedules and assigned responsibilities to overcome them. The results of the common vision session constitute a national implementation agenda on SPS issues.

### **OBJECTIVES:**

1. Create awareness about the importance of the SPS Agreement and related issues
2. Establish an Enquiry Point for coordination of information
3. Establish a body with a mandate for agricultural health, food safety and SPS
4. Develop a capacity-building Institutional framework

### **IMPLEMENTATION AGENDA:**

The Common Vision Session highlighted several areas that need to be addressed to establish an SPS coordination system in the Bahamas. These include:

- Communication and information
  - Develop and conduct a public awareness campaign (newspapers, leaflets, etc.) about SPS issues
  - Develop a mechanism for effective communication with the private sector and within the public sector
  - Develop a mechanism for effective information dissemination to all stakeholders
- Legislation

- Review the legal framework on SPS. Update existing legislation needs and/or develop and enact new legislation and regulations required to satisfy the obligations under the SPS Agreement, and modernize the SPS system in the country
  - Consider and study the benefits of establishing a national agricultural health and food safety agency
- Transparency
  - Establish a functional SPS Enquiry Point
- Coordination
  - Establish a coordination mechanism for SPS issues that involves the public and private sectors
- Training of technical staff and stakeholders
  - Develop an annual SPS training workshop for the private and public sectors:
    - The SPS Agreement
    - Transparency
    - Harmonization
  - Develop a line item in the annual budget for training
  - Seek horizontal or technical cooperation from other countries on issues like:
    - How to implement an effective SPS system
    - Enquiry Point
    - Coordination and communication mechanisms



## **STDF 108 Implementation Agenda**

**Country:**

**BARBADOS**

### **BACKGROUND:**

The Initiative for the Americas was established by IICA as a means of facilitating the attendance and participation of its member countries in the meetings of the Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Committee) of the World Trade Organization in Geneva, Switzerland. The first meeting funded under this Initiative was in October 2002, and to date, delegates from Barbados have attended most of the meetings.

Funding under the Initiative ended in October 2008. As a follow-up to the Initiative, IICA secured funding from the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) for a project (STDF Project #108) to develop sustainable institutional capabilities in the countries to consolidate gains made as a result of their participation in the SPS Committee, and to promote implementation of the SPS Agreement.

The first activity of the project, the collection of country-specific information took place in late 2008. Interviews and meetings were conducted with various persons drawn from the public sector and the private sector. The IICA PVS (*Performance, Vision and Strategy*) instrument for SPS was used to gather the relevant information from public and private sector representatives. Three components were assessed: (a) Interaction within the public sector and with the private sector; (b) capacity to access international markets; and (c) human and financial capital.

The second activity was a common vision event held on January 28, 2009, where representatives from the public and private sectors discussed the findings, examined the shortcomings, the limiting factors responsible for these shortcomings, agreed on priority actions and schedules, and assigned responsibilities to overcome them. The results of the common vision session constitute a national implementation agenda on SPS issues.

### **OBJECTIVES:**

1. To increase awareness and understanding of both private and public sectors about the SPS Agreement and related issues
2. To develop a methodology to maintain active communication between Government agencies and with the private sector
3. To establish an SPS National Committee with public and private sector involvement
4. To improve the functionality of the SPS Enquiry Point
5. To develop an SPS training program according to country needs and a train the trainers programme

### **IMPLEMENTATION AGENDA:**

The Common Vision Session highlighted several areas that need to be addressed in order to improve the SPS system in Barbados. These include:

- Agenda on SPS issues
  - Identify and develop a national agenda on SPS issues and a work programme for the next three to five years



- Human and Financial resources
  - Increase the staff assigned to the issue
    1. Enquiry Point
    2. Extension services
    3. Animal, plant health, and food safety personnel
  - Make funds available for attending relevant meetings of the SPS Committee, the OIE, Codex Alimentarius, and the IPPC
- Transparency
  - Improve the functionality of the existing enquiry point, especially in areas of collaboration and coordination with public sector ministries and agencies involved in SPS matters, and greater involvement of the private sector
- Communication and information
  - Develop a mechanism for effective communication with the private sector and within the public sector (the Government Information Service should be utilized for public education and information dissemination)
  - Distribute fact sheets, posters and flyers with relevant information to stakeholders
  - Undertake a national sensitization program that highlights the importance of the SPS Agreement
  - Utilize text messaging to communicate important information to farmers and other stakeholders
- Coordination
  0. Establish a coordination mechanism for SPS issues that involves the public and private sectors
  1. Establish a National SPS Committee
- Training of technical staff and stakeholders in the following areas:
  - The SPS Agreement (two-day seminar on the WTO/SPS)
    - In-country training for trainers
    - Communication
    - Negotiation
    - Good practices for participation in international meetings
  2. Cross-training of inspection staff (plant health, animal health, public health, Barbados National Standard Institute)
  3. Extension staff
  4. Horizontal or technical cooperation with other countries (such as the USA and Canada) on issues such as :
    - How to implement an effective SPS system
    - Enquiry Point
    - Coordination and communication mechanisms
- Inform key policy makers on the importance of SPS issues
- Encourage inclusion of SPS issues in the curricula of secondary and tertiary educational institutions
- Develop standard operating procedures for all inspections
- Establish partnerships with regional universities to assist in areas such as residue testing
- Legislation
  - The legal framework needs to be addressed. Existing legislation need to be updated and new legislation and regulations are required in order to satisfy the obligations under the SPS Agreement and to modernize the SPS system in the country



## **STDF 108 Implementation Agenda**

**Country:**

**DOMINICA**

### **BACKGROUND:**

The Initiative for the Americas was established by IICA as a means of facilitating the attendance and participation of its member countries in the meetings of the Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Committee) of the World Trade Organization in Geneva, Switzerland. The first meeting funded under this Initiative was in October 2002, and to date, delegates from Dominica have attended most of these meetings.

Funding under the Initiative ended in October 2008. As a follow-up to the Initiative, IICA secured funding from the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) for a project (STDF Project #108) to develop sustainable institutional capabilities in the countries to consolidate gains made as a result of their participation in the SPS Committee, and to promote implementation of the SPS Agreement.

The first activity of the project, the collection of country-specific information took place in late 2008. Interviews and meetings were conducted with various persons drawn from the public sector and the private sector. The IICA PVS (*Performance, Vision and Strategy*) instrument for SPS was used to gather the relevant information from public and private sector representatives. Three components were assessed: (a) Interaction within the public sector and with the private sector; (b) capacity to access international markets; and (c) human and financial capital.

The second activity was a common vision event, held December 2, 2008, where representatives from the public and private sectors discussed the findings, examined the shortcomings, the limiting factors responsible for these shortcomings, agreed on priority actions and schedules and assigned responsibilities to overcome them. The results of the common vision session constitute a national implementation agenda on SPS issues.

### **OBJECTIVES:**

1. To increase awareness of SPS issues among stakeholders
2. To relay relevant and timely information on SPS issues to stakeholders
3. To improve national capacity for compliance with SPS norms
4. To establish a functional Enquiry Point to fulfill transparency obligations
5. To train public sector personnel on the application of the SPS Agreement

### **IMPLEMENTATION AGENDA:**

The Common Vision Session highlighted several areas that need to be addressed to improve the SPS system in Dominica. These include:

- Agenda on SPS issues
  - Development of an agenda that prioritizes the issues to be implemented
  - Allocate the necessary financial resources to deal with SPS issues

- Human Resources
  - Increase the staff assigned to the issue
  - Employ a fully staffed unit for the Enquiry Point
- Transparency
  - Establish a functional SPS Enquiry Point.
- Communication and information
  - Develop a mechanism for effective communication with the private sector and within the public sector
  - Develop a mechanism for effective information dissemination to all stakeholders
  - Design and conduct a national sensitization program that highlights the importance of the SPS Agreement
- Coordination
  - Establish a coordination mechanism for SPS issues that involves the public and private sectors
- Training of technical staff and stakeholders on the following:
  - The SPS Agreement.
  - Transparency.
  - Harmonization.
  - Seek horizontal cooperation from other countries on issues such as:
    - How to implement an effective SPS system
    - Enquiry Point
    - Coordination and communication mechanisms
- Make key policy makers aware of the importance of SPS issues
- Legislation



## **STDF 108 Implementation Agenda**

**Country:**

**Dominican Republic**

### **BACKGROUND:**

Since October of 2002, IICA has facilitated the participation of countries, including Dominican Republic, in meetings of the Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) of the World Trade Organization, through the SPS Initiative for the Americas. This Initiative has focused its efforts on promoting institutional strengthening in the area of SPS to enable countries to take full advantage of the multilateral trade system. Since the start of this initiative, Dominican Republic has participated actively and has made a number of institutional changes aimed at managing these international issues more efficiently.

Anticipating the conclusion of the Initiative for the Americas, and conscious of the need to continue with the institutional strengthening process, a project proposal was submitted to the STDF with the aim of continuing to develop institutional capabilities and improve implementation of the WTO Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS-WTO) in the participating countries.

The IICA-STDF-108 project contains four basic stages designed to identify needs, implement actions and promote regional development. In order to identify a country's needs and assess its current level of performance, the Performance, Vision and Strategy tool for Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (PVS-SPS) was applied, enabling the different stakeholders of society to jointly assess their performance in the area of SPS.

Having applied the PVS tool, a discussion was then held to reach a common vision on April 6-8, 2009, in which the various stakeholders agreed upon a National SPS Agenda, which represents a "roadmap" for the National SPS Committee and for the institutions linked with SPS issues. However, the implementation of this agenda does not depend solely on national institutions - although these are very important - given that international and regional organizations and cooperating governments may also support this effort.

In addition to the National Agenda, the project contemplates the implementation of regional actions to promote coordination and address problems or situations of regional interest. These actions will be consolidated through a specific project that forms part of the STDF 108 Project.

### **OBJECTIVES:**

1. Create and improve institutional capabilities in SPS by promoting public-private sector coordination.
2. Promote a national agenda to guide the actions of the different institutions and stakeholders.
3. Strengthen the country's technical capabilities and increase SPS financial allocations, to enable it to improve its management capacity and take full advantage of international forums.

### **IMPLEMENTATION AGENDA:**

During the session convened to approve the Agenda, the various stakeholders defined and approved the following National SPS Agenda:

## COMPONENT 1: INTERACTION AMONG INSTITUTIONS OF THE PUBLIC SECTOR, AND BETWEEN THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS

### Information:

1. Plan for Technical Information, using various means:
  - a. Create and maintain a website for the National SPS Committee (SPS-NC).
  - b. Maintain the SPS-NC website with information on application of SPS (agri-food safety, good agricultural practices, good husbandry practices, standard setting, scientific issues, notifications, information bulletins).
  - c. An SPS database.
  - d. E-newsletters.
  - e. Monthly bulletins.
  - f. Brochure on activities of the SPS-NC, released quarterly in a magazine format.  
(This information dissemination plan should be a permanent institution of a general nature, ensuring that it is much more than a mere electronic information system.)
2. Information and consulting services on agricultural health and food safety.
3. Develop a dissemination strategy built on existing information systems. Examples: bulletins, leaflets, direct meetings. Identify follow-up actions.
4. Draw up a timetable of activities and topics to be delegated among the different institutions sitting on the Committee, for the preparation of news bulletins.

### Communication on domestic affairs:

1. Although private sector representatives are already a permanent component of the Committee, in certain situations they may invite the Committee to meetings of particular sectors or special interests when necessary.
2. As dissemination and communication mechanisms go into effect, those making up the rank-and-file of the private sector will be able to activate contact or work closely with the National Committee.
3. Conduct or promote a survey of producer organizations, indicating the contact points for each one (database).
4. Set a timetable to implement the strategy for coordination with the private sector. This strategy for coordination will take into account the characteristics and needs of special interests and sectors and will use tools suited to their needs, including forums and lectures.

### Communication on international affairs:

1. Encourage the use of information tools to communicate with the private sector and consult with it on international standards.
2. Evaluate the use of existing communication vehicles to disseminate information to the private sector and consult with it on international standards or international events.
3. The different focal points should produce newsletters on events and regulations of national and international interest likely to have a significant local impact, so as to equip the private sector with strategic information.

4. An annual international calendar should be drawn up as a reference for planning the generation and distribution of information.
5. Present the Committee with a specific plan on information and communication, to be ready over the next four months.

#### **Official representation:**

1. Make sure the country is involved in international events on application of SPS by closely following activities such as meetings, workshops and courses given by the main international bodies on SPS, and by maintaining close coordination with members of national delegations, to define clearly the country's position in international SPS forums.
2. Establish or develop a "guideline" for participating in international SPS forums (when appropriate). The guideline should cover such matters as logistics, strategy, representation, and coordination.
3. Provide institutional budgets with specific line items for international participation.
4. Identify the possibility of external funds or resources for international participation (cooperation agencies).
5. Hold awareness-raising activities that will persuade high-level authorities to position international participation as strategic for the country (e.g., case studies, strategic information, exchange of successful experiences).
6. Unify efforts among all involved institutions to justify the emphasis on international participation (including the foreign ministry and the mission to the WTO).
7. Design courses on Good Practices of Participation.

#### **Mechanisms of coordination:**

1. Strengthen the institutional structure of the Committee.
2. Build up private-sector participation in activities of the SPS-NC, encouraging them to become involved through lectures, courses and workshops; hold meetings/gatherings between representatives of the sector and professionals or technical experts in the fields of human and agricultural health.
3. Use the website and other information channels to create a table listing the roles and responsibilities of all the different entities, so as to orient and better direct initiatives received or undertaken by the National Committee. This action will promote inter-institutional coordination.
4. The Executive Secretariat and the delegates from Santo Domingo will hold primary but not exclusive responsibility for identifying and following up on items of national interest in the WTO-SPS Committee, and specific actions should be identified to contribute to this objective, such as:
  - a. Submit full, timely trip reports.
  - b. Schedule meetings prior to international events to discuss agenda items.
  - c. Identify and document a process that will permit or facilitate the development of country positions (such as Codex) and serve to orient potential new representatives on the Committee.
5. The course on good practices of participation should deliver techniques for preparing "country documents" and national positions.
6. The mechanisms for domestic and external communication will reveal possible means for reaching the private sector better and for developing convincing arguments directed at high-level executives.

7. Level 5 partially applies to the situation of the Dominican Republic except for effective coordination with the private sector and sufficient advance preparation to define a country position for meetings of the WTO-SPS Committee.

#### **Mechanisms for coordination between Santo Domingo and the Mission in Geneva:**

Actions implemented under the variable on national coordination and communication may serve to improve coordination between Santo Domingo and Geneva.

1. As part of the guidelines for participation, clearly outline the role and functions that the focal point in the Geneva mission should play at meetings of the WTO-SPS Committee.

#### **Importance of the issue:**

1. Identify issues appearing on the agenda of the WTO-SPS Committee, analyze them according to the interests of the Dominican Republic and set an agenda for action and follow up. This should be done by the Executive Secretariat over the next 30 days.

### **COMPONENT 2: CAPACITY TO PROMOTE ACCESS TO INTERNATIONAL MARKETS**

#### **Compliance with regulatory standards:**

1. Expand the system for inspection and verification of agricultural export products, ensuring that anyone who breaches the requirements is sanctioned.
  - a. Enlarge the technical team.
  - b. Train current technicians and build new teams.
  - c. Certify laboratories.
  - d. Reinforce the regulatory framework to make it stronger.
2. Provide training and technical assistance for the production and export sector.
3. Broaden the range of action of the Department of Agri-food Safety (products, processes, producers, regions).
4. Increase the number of certified companies.
5. Develop and disseminate guidelines that will facilitate compliance with regulatory standards.

#### **Set Regulatory Standards:**

1. Introduce mechanisms for consultation with users, as input for developing standards and regulations on human and agricultural health.

#### **Harmonization:**

1. Publicize draft bills currently on the docket.
2. Pressure the Secretariat of State for Agriculture to review and submit draft legislation.

#### **Transparency:**

1. Complete any notifications pending before the WTO.
2. Create mechanisms for coordination and user information on changes in regulations..

### **Technical Cooperation and Special and Differential Treatment:**

1. Seek technical advisory assistance—with the help of international experts and agencies—on making better use of available resources under the program for special and differential treatment.
2. Create a formal mechanism for consultation with the private sector to identify and priority-rank needs for technical cooperation.
3. Create a mechanism for follow up and evaluation.
4. Introduce the SPS national agenda as a draft proposal.
5. Use the support mechanism for notification points created by the SPS Committee.

### **COMPONENT 3: HUMAN AND FINANCIAL CAPITAL**

#### **Updating:**

1. Encourage national agencies responsible for SPS to adopt annual training plans. These plans should not be limited to activities in the capital city, but should cover the entire country. Additionally, extra care should be taken to ensure that both the public and the private sectors are actively involved.
2. Training plans should include topics on the WTO SPS Agreement.
3. SPS training should focus on the labor responsibilities and institutional obligations of course recipients.
4. Work together to ensure plans are coordinated with one another.
5. Follow up on plans.
6. Build up private sector participation in activities of the SPS-NC, encouraging it to become involved through lectures, courses and workshops; hold meetings/gatherings between representatives of the sector and professionals or technical experts in the fields of human and agricultural health.
7. Training Plan on specific topics of SPS and Agri-food Safety; should include lectures for producers, agri-businesses and technical assistants, as well as videoconferences and regional meetings with officials from the agricultural sector and representatives of agricultural producer associations. National Seminar on Application of SPS in the Dominican Republic.

#### **Technical independence:**

1. Strengthen risk assessment units.
2. Build greater transparency in risk assessment (communication of risk).
3. Adopt international reference standards (Codex, OIE, and IPPC) in the field of risk analysis, to regulate the relationship between risk assessment and risk management.
4. Design clear national procedures for creating standards, assigning specific stages in the development and coverage of each entity involved.

#### **Financial and technical resources:**

1. **Financial.** Develop and manage a Committee budget that includes funding to hire specialized personnel for the Focal Point and to cover the participation of the Dominican Republic in Geneva.
2. **Technical.** Identify equipment needed by the Focal Point to operate effectively. Once identified, make sure this equipment is duly included in the budget.

#### **Human resources in this field:**



1. Conduct the hiring of additional staff as needed to serve under the TBTA in SPS issues.
2. Implement coordination actions between the SPS-NC and the TBT.
3. Improve coordination of resources available through the National Committee.



## **STDF 108 Implementation Agenda**

**Country:**

**GRENADA**

### **BACKGROUND:**

The Initiative for the Americas was established by IICA as a means of facilitating the attendance and participation of its member countries in the meetings of the Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Committee) of the World Trade Organization in Geneva, Switzerland. The first meeting funded under this Initiative was in October 2002, and to date, delegates from Grenada have attended most of these meetings. However, like other countries in the region, Grenada has been unable to implement many of the meetings' recommendations.

Funding under the Initiative ended in October 2008. As a follow-up to the Initiative, IICA secured funding from the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) for a project (STDF Project #108) to develop sustainable institutional capabilities in the countries to consolidate gains made as a result of their participation in the SPS Committee, and to promote implementation of the SPS Agreement.

The first activity of the project was the collection of country-specific information on October 6-10, 2008. Interviews and meetings were conducted with various persons drawn from the public sector and the private sector. The IICA PVS (*Performance, Vision and Strategy*) instrument for SPS was used to gather the relevant information from public and private sector representatives. Three components were assessed: (a) Interaction within the public sector and with the private sector; (b) capacity to access international markets; and (c) human and financial capital.

The second activity was a common vision event, held November 4, 2008, where representatives from the public and private sectors discussed the findings, examined the shortcomings, the limiting factors responsible for these shortcomings, agreed on priority actions and schedules and assigned responsibilities to overcome them. The results of the common vision session constitute a national implementation agenda on SPS issues.

### **OBJECTIVES:**

1. To improve the capacity of the public sector to communicate both internally and externally
2. To ensure that Grenada fulfills its SPS transparency obligations to WTO
3. To take full advantage of Special and Differential Treatment provisions in the SPS Agreement
4. To implement an annual training plan for staff
5. To develop a pool of certified trainers (2 persons per year for 5 years, using local and regional resources in the train-the-trainer programme)
6. To develop an effective information dissemination mechanism
7. To allocate resources in the national budget for the SPS focal point
8. To sensitize administrators on making the SPS focal point a high priority

### **IMPLEMENTATION AGENDA:**

The Common Vision Session highlighted several areas that need to be addressed to establish an SPS coordination system in Grenada. These include:

- Communication
  - Establish a mechanism for continuous SPS information dissemination and flow
  - Upgrade the communication unit of the Ministry of Agriculture
  - Use radio and television programmes currently sponsored by the Government to promote and inform on SPS issues
  - Create the post of Chief Technical Officer as a priority for ensuring that a functional communication mechanism is in place
  - Hold regular consultations with stakeholders
- Transparency
  - Improve the functionality of the existing enquiry point, especially in the areas of collaboration and coordination with all ministries and public sector agencies involved in SPS matters, and increase the involvement of the private sector
  - Appoint personnel whose primary responsibility is the operation of the Enquiry Point
- Form lobby groups to bring issues of importance to the relevant ministries for action
- Training
  - Implement an annual training plan for staff
  - Develop a pool of certified trainers
  - Sensitize administrators and policy makers on SPS issues
  - Train technical staff and stakeholders in areas such as:
    - The SPS Agreement
    - Transparency
    - Harmonization
- Conduct horizontal or technical cooperation with other countries on issues such as :
  - How to implement an effective SPS system
  - Enquiry Point
  - Coordination and communication mechanisms



## **STDF 108 Implementation Agenda**

**Country:**

**GUYANA**

### **BACKGROUND:**

The Initiative for the Americas was established by IICA as a means of facilitating the attendance and participation of its member countries in the meetings of the Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Committee) of the World Trade Organization in Geneva, Switzerland. The first meeting funded under this Initiative was in October 2002, and to date, delegates from Guyana have attended most of such meetings. However, like other countries in the Caribbean region, Guyana was unable to implement many of the Meetings' recommendations.

Funding under the Initiative ended in October 2008. As a follow-up to the Initiative, IICA secured funding from the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) for a project (STDF Project #108) to develop sustainable institutional capabilities in the countries to consolidate gains made as a result of their participation in the SPS Committee, and to promote implementation of the SPS Agreement.

The first activity of the project, the collection of country-specific information took place July 14-17, 2008. Interviews and meetings were conducted with various persons drawn from the public sector and the private sector. The IICA PVS (*Performance, Vision and Strategy*) instrument for SPS was used to gather the relevant information from public and private sector representatives. Three components were assessed: (a) Interaction within the public sector and with the private sector; (b) capacity to access international markets; and (c) human and financial capital.

The second activity was a common vision event, held September 25, 2008, where representatives from the public and private sectors discussed the findings, examined the shortcomings, the limiting factors responsible for these shortcomings, agreed on priority actions and schedules and assigned responsibilities to overcome them. The results of the common vision session constitute a national implementation agenda on SPS issues.

### **OBJECTIVES:**

1. To make functional the National Committee for the Coordination of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Matters (NCCSPSM)
2. To determine whether the national regulations and norms meet international standards
3. To ensure adequate human and financial capital for addressing SPS issues

### **IMPLEMENTATION AGENDA:**

The Common Vision Session highlighted several areas that need to be addressed to establish an SPS coordination system in Guyana. These include:

- Agenda on SPS issues
  - Identify and develop a national agenda on SPS issues and a work programme for the next 3-5 years
- Human Resources

- Increase the staff assigned to the issue
- Transparency
  - Improve the functionality of the existing Enquiry Point, especially in the areas of collaboration and coordination with all ministries and public sector agencies involved in SPS matters, and achieve greater involvement of the private sector
- Communication and information
  - Develop a mechanism for effective communication within the public sector and with the private sector
  - Develop a mechanism for effective information dissemination to all stakeholders
  - Design and conduct a national sensitization program that highlights the importance of the SPS Agreement
- Coordination
  1. Establish a coordination mechanism for SPS issues that involves the public and private sectors
- Train technical staff and stakeholders on the following:
  1. The SPS Agreement (two-day awareness seminar for all to update them on the WTO/SPS)
  2. Transparency
  3. Harmonization
  4. Horizontal or technical cooperation with other countries on issues such as :
    - How to implement an effective SPS system
    - Enquiry point
    - Coordination and communication mechanisms
- Training of key policy makers on the importance of SPS issues
- Legislation
  - Evaluate the legal framework: update existing legislation and/or develop and enact new legislation and regulations, as needed, to satisfy the obligations under the SPS Agreement and to modernize the SPS system in the country



## **STDF 108 Implementation Agenda**

**Country:**

**HAITI**

### **BACKGROUND:**

The Initiative for the Americas was established by IICA as a means of facilitating the attendance and participation of its member countries in the meetings of the Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Committee) of the World Trade Organization in Geneva, Switzerland. The first meeting funded under this Initiative was in October 2002, and to date, delegates from Haiti have attended most of the meetings.

Funding under the Initiative ended in October 2008. As a follow-up to the Initiative, IICA secured funding from the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) for a project (STDF Project #108) to develop sustainable institutional capabilities in the countries to consolidate gains made as a result of their participation in the SPS Committee, and to promote implementation of the SPS Agreement.

The first activity of the project, the collection of country-specific information took place in October 2008. Interviews and meetings were conducted with various persons drawn from the public sector and the private sector. The IICA PVS (*Performance, Vision and Strategy*) instrument for SPS was used to gather the relevant information from public and private sector representatives. Three components were assessed: (a) Interaction within the public sector and with the private sector; (b) capacity to access international markets; and (c) human and financial capital.

The second activity was a common vision event held on November 12, 2008, where representatives from the public and private sectors discussed the findings, examined the shortcomings, the limiting factors responsible for these shortcomings, agreed on priority actions and schedules, and assigned responsibilities to overcome them. The results of the common vision session constitute a national implementation agenda on SPS issues.

### **OBJECTIVES:**

1. To make the integration of the private sector in the actions of the public sector a priority
2. To Put in place a system for disseminating information between the two sectors
3. To sensitize decision makers about the benefits and consequences of the SPS Agreement
4. To strengthen technical cooperation on SPS focusing on special and differential treatment

### **IMPLEMENTATION AGENDA:**

The Common Vision Session highlighted several areas that need to be addressed in order to improve the SPS system in Haiti. The recommendations of the session were the following:

- Communication/Information/Coordination
  - Improve the information system from the Ministry of Agriculture and Commerce, including a web page with import/export information
  - Hold information sessions and consultations for the public and private sectors

- Put in place a mechanism for dissemination of information between the public and private sectors
- Implement a public awareness program on SPS issues
- Establish a mechanism for integration of the private sector into public sector activities
- Training
  - Train all stakeholders on SPS and its importance to trade in Haiti
  - Sensitize decision makers about the rights and obligations under the SPS Agreement
- Increase the operating budget for SPS issues
- Significantly increase user fees for SPS-related services
- Human Resources
  - Recruit and train staff on SPS at all levels
  - Improve remuneration for trained and qualified staff
- Develop laws supporting a budget for the establishment of standards
- Develop a policy on trade
- Improve laboratories
- Pursue technical assistance and special and differential treatment relating to SPS measures
- Improve/increase participation in meetings of international standard-setting bodies and in the development of national positions on issues raised in these forums



## **STDF 108 Implementation Agenda**

**Country:**

**JAMAICA**

### **BACKGROUND:**

The Initiative for the Americas was established by IICA as a means of facilitating the attendance and participation of its member countries in the meetings of the Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Committee) of the World Trade Organization in Geneva, Switzerland. The first meeting funded under this Initiative was in October 2002, and to date, delegates from Jamaica have attended all 18 meetings.

Funding under the Initiative ended in October 2008. As a follow-up to the Initiative, IICA secured funding from the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) for a project (STDF Project #108) to develop sustainable institutional capabilities in the countries to consolidate gains made as a result of their participation in the SPS Committee, and to promote implementation of the SPS Agreement.

The first activity of the project, the collection of country-specific information took place September 1-3, 2008. Interviews and meetings were conducted with various persons drawn from the public sector and the private sector. The IICA PVS (*Performance, Vision and Strategy*) instrument for SPS was used to gather the relevant information from public and private sector representatives. Three components were assessed: (a) Interaction within the public sector and with the private sector; (b) capacity to access international markets; and (c) human and financial capital.

The second activity was a common vision event, held September 25, 2008, where representatives from the public and private sectors discussed the findings, examined the shortcomings, the limiting factors responsible for these shortcomings, agreed on priority actions and schedules and assigned responsibilities to overcome them. The results of the common vision session constitute a national implementation agenda on SPS issues.

### **OBJECTIVES:**

1. To develop an effective communication mechanism
2. To relay relevant and timely information on SPS issues to stakeholders
3. To have adequate financial resources allocated to SPS in the national budget
4. To have a policy regarding participation in international fora
5. To have the Enquiry Point strengthen communications with stakeholders
6. To develop legislation on SPS issues
7. To improve collaboration between the public and private sectors
8. To develop and implement a local SPS training program

### **IMPLEMENTATION AGENDA:**

The Common Vision Session highlighted several areas that need to be addressed to establish an SPS coordination system in Jamaica. These include:

- Agenda on SPS issues
  - Develop an agenda that prioritizes the issues to be implemented



- Human Resources
  - Increase the staff assigned to SPS issues
- Transparency
  - Improve the functionality of the existing Enquiry Point, especially in the areas of collaboration and coordination with all ministries and public sector agencies involved in SPS matters, and achieve greater involvement of the private sector
- Communication and information
  - Develop a mechanism for effective communication within the public sector and with the private sector
  - Develop a mechanism for effective information dissemination to all stakeholders
  - Design and conduct a national sensitization program highlighting the importance of the SPS Agreement
- Coordination
  1. Establish a coordination mechanism for SPS issues that involves the public and private sectors
- Train technical staff and stakeholders on the following:
  1. The SPS Agreement
  2. Transparency
  3. Harmonization
  4. Horizontal or technical cooperation with other countries on issues such as :
    - How to implement an effective SPS system
    - Enquiry Point
    - Coordination and communication mechanisms
- Create awareness among key policy makers on the importance of SPS issues
  - Legislation
  - Review the legal framework on SPS matters. Update and/or develop and enact new legislation and regulations required to satisfy the obligations under the SPS Agreement, and modernize the SPS system in the country



## **STDF 108 Implementation Agenda**

**Country:**

**SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS**

### **BACKGROUND:**

The Initiative for the Americas was established by IICA as a means of facilitating the attendance and participation of its member countries in the meetings of the Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Committee) of the World Trade Organization in Geneva, Switzerland. The first meeting funded under this Initiative was in October 2002, and to date, delegates from Saint Kitts and Nevis have attended most of these meetings.

Funding under the Initiative ended in October 2008. As a follow-up to the Initiative, IICA secured funding from the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) for a project (STDF Project #108) to develop sustainable institutional capabilities in the countries to consolidate gains made as a result of their participation in the SPS Committee, and to promote implementation of the SPS Agreement.

The first activity of the project was the collection of country-specific information on September 22-26, 2008. Interviews and meetings were conducted with various persons drawn from the public sector and the private sector. The IICA PVS (*Performance, Vision and Strategy*) instrument for SPS was used to gather the relevant information from public and private sector representatives. Three components were assessed: (a) Interaction within the public sector and with the private sector; (b) capacity to access international markets; and (c) human and financial capital.

The second activity was a common vision event, held December 2, 2008, where representatives from the public and private sectors discussed the findings, examined the shortcomings, the limiting factors responsible for these shortcomings, agreed on priority actions and schedules and assigned responsibilities to overcome them. The results of the common vision session constitute a national implementation agenda on SPS issues.

### **OBJECTIVES:**

1. To form and establish a Joint Organizing Unit (JOU)
2. To provide timely and effective communication between the public and private sectors and other stakeholders
3. To establish a functional SPS Committee
4. To create a body responsible for enforcement of regulatory standards and norms
5. To sensitize all stakeholders about the need for proper regulatory norms and framework, including appropriate legislation
6. To institutionalize the Bureau of Standards to operate as a legal body for regulatory work
7. To formulate and implement an SPS plan

## **IMPLEMENTATION AGENDA:**

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The Common Vision Session highlighted several areas that need to be addressed in order to improve the SPS system in St. Kitts and Nevis. These include:

- Agenda on SPS issues
  - Develop an agenda that prioritizes the issues to be implemented.
- Human Resources
  - Assign human resources to SPS issues.
- Transparency
  - Improve the functioning of the existing Enquiry Point, especially in the areas of collaboration and coordination between all public sector ministries and agencies involved in SPS matters, and greater involvement of the private sector at all levels.
  - Assign staff dedicated to the operation of the Enquiry Point.
- Communication and information
  - Develop a mechanism for effective communication with the private sector and within the public sector.
  - Develop a mechanism for effective information dissemination to all stakeholders.
  - Undertake a national sensitization programme that highlights the importance of the SPS Agreement and its impact on the economy.
- Coordination
  - Establish a coordination mechanism for SPS issues that involves the public and private sectors.
- Training of technical staff and stakeholders
  - The SPS Agreement
  - Transparency.
  - Harmonization.
  - Horizontal or technical cooperation with other countries on issues such as:
    - How to implement an effective SPS system
    - Enquiry Point
    - Coordination and communication mechanisms
- Legislation
  - The legal framework needs to be addressed. Existing legislation needs to be updated and new legislation and regulations are required to satisfy the obligations under the SPS Agreement and to modernize the SPS system in the country.



## **STDF 108 Implementation Agenda**

**Country:**

**SAINT LUCIA**

### **BACKGROUND:**

The Initiative for the Americas was established by IICA as a means of facilitating the attendance and participation of its member countries in the meetings of the Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Committee) of the World Trade Organization in Geneva, Switzerland. The first meeting funded under this Initiative was in October 2002, and to date, delegates from Saint Lucia have attended all 18 of these meetings.

Funding under the Initiative ended in October 2008. As a follow-up to the Initiative, IICA secured funding from the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) for a project (STDF Project #108) to develop sustainable institutional capabilities in the countries to consolidate gains made as a result of their participation in the SPS Committee, and to promote implementation of the SPS Agreement.

The first activity of the project was the collection of country-specific information. Interviews and meetings were conducted with various persons drawn from the public sector and the private sector. The IICA PVS (*Performance, Vision and Strategy*) instrument for SPS was used to gather the relevant information from public and private sector representatives. Three components were assessed: (a) Interaction within the public sector and with the private sector; (b) capacity to access international markets; and (c) human and financial capital.

The second activity was a common vision event, held August 19, 2008, where representatives from the public and private sectors discussed the findings, examined the shortcomings, the limiting factors responsible for these shortcomings, agreed on priority actions and schedules and assigned responsibilities to overcome them. The results of the common vision session constitute a national implementation agenda on SPS issues.

### **OBJECTIVES:**

1. To reconstitute a coordinating mechanism
2. To develop a functional Enquiry Point
3. To develop an effective consultation process for SPS-related issues
4. To provide adequate human and financial resources to address SPS issues
5. To employ a fully-staffed unit for the Enquiry Point
6. To develop and implement a national sensitization highlighting the importance of SPS issues

### **IMPLEMENTATION AGENDA:**

The Common Vision Session highlighted several areas that need to be addressed to establish an SPS coordination system in Saint Lucia. These include:

- Agenda on SPS issues
  - Develop an agenda that prioritizes the issues to be implemented
  - Allocate the necessary financial resources to deal with SPS issues

- Human Resources
  - Increase the staff assigned to the issue
  - Employ a fully-staffed unit for the Enquiry Point
- Transparency
  - Establish a functional SPS Enquiry Point
- Communication and information
  - Develop a mechanism for effective communication within the public sector with the private sector
  - Develop a mechanism for effective information dissemination to all stakeholders
  - Design and conduct a national sensitization program highlighting the importance of the SPS Agreement
- Coordination
  - Establish a coordination mechanism for SPS issues that involves the public and private sectors
- Train technical staff and stakeholders on the following:
  - The SPS Agreement
  - Transparency
  - Harmonization
  - Horizontal or technical cooperation from other countries on issues like:
    - How to implement an effective SPS system
    - Enquiry point
    - Coordination and communication mechanisms



## **STDF 108 Implementation Agenda**

**Country:**

**SAINT VINCENT AND THE  
GRENADINES**

### **BACKGROUND:**

The Initiative for the Americas was established by IICA as a means of facilitating the attendance and participation of its member countries in the meetings of the Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Committee) of the World Trade Organization in Geneva, Switzerland. The first meeting funded under this Initiative was in October 2002, and to date, delegates from Saint Vincent and The Grenadines have attended most of these meetings.

Funding under the Initiative ended in October 2008. As a follow-up to the Initiative, IICA secured funding from the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) for a project (STDF Project #108) to develop sustainable institutional capabilities in the countries to consolidate gains made as a result of their participation in the SPS Committee, and to promote implementation of the SPS Agreement.

The first activity of the project was the collection of country-specific information on October 1-3, 2008. Interviews and meetings were conducted with various persons drawn from the public sector and the private sector. The IICA PVS (*Performance, Vision and Strategy*) instrument for SPS was used to gather the relevant information from public and private sector representatives. Three components were assessed: (a) Interaction within the public sector and with the private sector; (b) capacity to access international markets; and (c) human and financial capital.

The second activity was a common vision event, held November 20, 2008, where representatives from the public and private sectors discussed the findings, examined the shortcomings, the limiting factors responsible for these shortcomings, agreed on priority actions and schedules and assigned responsibilities to overcome them. The results of the common vision session constitute a national implementation agenda on SPS issues.

### **OBJECTIVES:**

1. To improve external communications on SPS matters
2. To establish an effective and efficient Enquiry Point
3. To establish official representation in Geneva through the OECS Secretariat
4. To develop an action plan for SPS
5. To facilitate the development of SPS-related regulations within 18 months
6. To increase human resource capacity to deal with SPS/TBT issues
7. To provide training update for personnel in SPS and TBT issues

### **IMPLEMENTATION AGENDA:**

The Common Vision Session highlighted several areas that need to be addressed to establish an SPS coordination system in Saint Vincent and The Grenadines. These include:

- Communication
  - Establish a functional SPS Enquiry Point
  - Establish a functioning National SPS Committee
  - Establish a mechanism for continuous SPS information dissemination and flow

- Establish a focal point with full responsibility for maintaining a website
- Attend meetings of the IPPC, OIE and Codex to be able to provide current and accurate information to stakeholders
- Employ personnel with IT skills as part of the effort to improve communication
- Develop and implement a public awareness programme on SPS
- The National Agricultural Health and Food Safety Committee needs to have authority from Cabinet
- Establish official representation in Geneva through the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Secretariat
- Legislation
  - Reduce the time for the development and enactment of regulations to 18 months
- Transparency
  - Establish an effective and efficient enquiry point
  - Appoint trained personnel whose main function is to operate the Enquiry Point
- Human Resources
  - Increase human capacity to deal with SPS issues
  - Train personnel
- Develop and implement a sensitization programme on SPS issues for decision makers.



## **STDF 108 Implementation Agenda**

**Country:**

**SURINAME**

### **BACKGROUND:**

The Initiative for the Americas was established by IICA as a means of facilitating the attendance and participation of its member countries in the meetings of the Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Committee) of the World Trade Organization in Geneva, Switzerland. The first meeting funded under this Initiative was in October 2002, and to date, delegates from Suriname have attended all 18 of these meetings.

Funding under the Initiative ended in October 2008. As a follow-up to the Initiative, IICA secured funding from the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) for a project (STDF Project #108) to develop sustainable institutional capabilities in the countries to consolidate gains made as a result of their participation in the SPS Committee, and to promote implementation of the SPS Agreement.

The first activity of the project was the collection of country-specific information on October 1-3, 2008. Interviews and meetings were conducted with various persons drawn from the public sector and the private sector. The IICA PVS (*Performance, Vision and Strategy*) instrument for SPS was used to gather the relevant information from public and private sector representatives. Three components were assessed: (a) Interaction within the public sector and with the private sector; (b) capacity to access international markets; and (c) human and financial capital.

The second activity was a common vision event, held September 16, 2008, where representatives from the public and private sectors discussed the findings, examined the shortcomings, the limiting factors responsible for these shortcomings, agreed on priority actions and schedules and assigned responsibilities to overcome them. The results of the common vision session constitute a national implementation agenda on SPS issues.

### **OBJECTIVES:**

1. To create an organized and functional SPS system that will provide for adequate communication with the private sector and within the public sector
2. To improve the ability of Suriname to access markets
3. To build human and technical capacities and build financial capabilities

### **IMPLEMENTATION AGENDA:**

The Common Vision Session highlighted several areas that need to be addressed to establish an SPS coordination system in Suriname. These include:

- Communication
  - Create an organized and functional SPS system that will provide for adequate communication within the public sector and with the private sector
  - Establish a properly staffed and functional SPS Enquiry Point
  - Improve the Ministry website and use it to inform on SPS issues
  - Create an inter-ministerial committee to regularly discuss SPS issues and make decisions
  - Create private sector advisory groups



- Improve interaction between the public and private sectors
- Provide more opportunities for the involvement of the private sector in the decision-making process
- Legislation
  - Update current legislation and develop new legislation on SPS issues
  - Develop mechanism whereby legislation can be updated or enacted in a shorter time frame
- Transparency
  - Establish a properly staffed and functional SPS Enquiry/Notification Point
  - Appoint Enquiry Point personnel whose primary responsibility is the operation of the Enquiry Point
- Training
  - Develop and implement annual training plan for staff in areas such as:
    - The SPS Agreement
    - Transparency
    - Harmonization
  - Develop and conduct a public awareness programme
- Human Resources
  - Increase staff assigned to the issue
- Establish a technical commission in which both the public and private sectors are represented
- Develop inspection, verification and traceability systems
- Develop standard operating procedures for inspection and certification
- Develop inspection data for management and manpower deployment
- Agricultural Health and Food Safety Unit (AHFSU)
  - Provide legislative support to the Agricultural Health and Food Safety Unit
  - Define objectives of the AHFSU



## **STDF 108 Implementation Agenda**

**Country:**

**TRINIDAD & TOBAGO**

### **BACKGROUND:**

The Initiative for the Americas was established by IICA as a means of facilitating the attendance and participation of its member countries in the meetings of the Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Committee) of the World Trade Organization in Geneva, Switzerland. The first meeting funded under this Initiative was in October 2002, and to date, delegates from Trinidad and Tobago have attended 17 out of 18 such meetings.

Funding under the Initiative ended in October 2008. As a follow-up to the Initiative, IICA secured funding from the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) for a project (STDF Project #108) to develop sustainable institutional capabilities in the countries to consolidate gains made as a result of their participation in the SPS Committee, and to promote implementation of the SPS Agreement.

The first activity of the project, the collection of country-specific information took place August 11-13, 2008. Interviews and meetings were conducted with various persons drawn from the public sector and the private sector. The IICA PVS (*Performance, Vision and Strategy*) instrument for SPS was used to gather the relevant information from public and private sector representatives. Three components were assessed: (a) Interaction within the public sector and with the private sector; (b) capacity to access international markets; and (c) human and financial capital.

The second activity was a common vision event held on September 19, 2008, where representatives from the public and private sectors discussed the findings, examined the shortcomings, the limiting factors responsible for these shortcomings, agreed on priority actions and schedules and assigned responsibilities to overcome them. The results of the common vision session constitute a national implementation agenda on SPS issues.

### **OBJECTIVES:**

1. To improve official communication channels among all stakeholders
2. To establish a national coordinating agency (National Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency, NAHFSA)
3. To attain political support for NAHFSA
4. To improve market access through increased transparency
5. To employ a fully staffed unit for the SPS enquiry point

### **IMPLEMENTATION AGENDA:**

The Common Vision Session highlighted several areas that need to be addressed to improve the SPS system in Trinidad & Tobago. These include:

- Agenda on SPS issues
  - Develop an agenda that prioritizes the SPS issues to be implemented
- National Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency
  - The speedy implementation of NAHFSA

- Human Resources
  - Increase the number of staff assigned to the issue
- Transparency
  - Improve the functionality of the existing enquiry point, especially in the areas of collaboration and coordination with all public sector ministries and agencies involved in SPS matters and greater involvement of the private sector
  - Assign an additional one or two persons to the Enquiry Point
- Communication and information
  - Develop a mechanism for effective communication with the private sector and within the public sector
  - Develop a mechanism for effective information dissemination to all stakeholders
  - Conduct a national sensitization program that highlights the importance of the SPS Agreement
- Coordination
  - Establish a coordination mechanism for SPS issues that involve the public and private sectors
- Training of technical staff and stakeholders
  - The SPS Agreement
  - Transparency
  - Harmonization
  - Horizontal or technical cooperation from other countries on issues such as:
    - How to implement an effective SPS system
    - Enquiry point
    - Coordination and communication mechanisms
- Legislation
  - Revise the legal framework. Update existing legislation and/or develop and enact new legislation and regulations to satisfy the obligations under the SPS Agreement, and modernize the SPS system in the country

## National Implementation Agendas

### Central Region



## **STDF 108 Implementation Agenda**

**Country:**

**BELIZE**

### **BACKGROUND:**

The Initiative for the Americas was established by IICA as a means of facilitating the attendance and participation of its member countries in the meetings of the Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Committee) of the World Trade Organization in Geneva, Switzerland. The first meeting funded under this Initiative was in October 2002, and to date, delegates from Belize have attended all such meetings. However, like other countries in the Caribbean region, Belize was unable to implement many of the Meetings' recommendations.

Funding under the Initiative ended in October 2008. As a follow-up to the Initiative, IICA secured funding from the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) for a project (STDF Project #108) to develop sustainable institutional capabilities in the countries to consolidate gains made as a result of their participation in the SPS Committee, and to promote implementation of the SPS Agreement.

The first activity of the project, the collection of country-specific information took place in late 2008. Interviews and meetings were conducted with various persons drawn from the public sector and the private sector. The IICA PVS (*Performance, Vision and Strategy*) instrument for SPS was used to gather the relevant information from public and private sector representatives. Three components were assessed: (a) Interaction within the public sector and with the private sector; (b) capacity to access international markets; and (c) human and financial capital.

The second activity, a common vision event where representatives from the public and private sectors would have discussed the findings, examined the shortcomings, the limiting factors responsible for these shortcomings, agreed on priority actions and schedules and assigned responsibilities to overcome them could not be conducted. Instead, the existing elements of a national SPS agenda have been used to develop the present agenda. The ongoing work in the area of SPS shows the level of commitment that exists in both the Belize Agricultural Health Authority (BAHA) and the Government of Belize. The strong partnership that exists between BAHA and its stakeholders through user groups has also facilitated most of the accomplishments achieved so far.

### **OBJECTIVES:**

1. Update SPS legislation, regulations, and procedures
2. Formalize the National SPS Committee
3. Enhance coordination mechanism with all stakeholders
4. Strengthen the official coordination mechanism through training

### **IMPLEMENTATION AGENDA:**

Several areas that need to be addressed and activities that should be undertaken to strengthen the SPS coordination system in Belize were identified. These include:

#### **Legislation and Regulations**

- Finalize the draft decree creating the National SPS Committee for official endorsement and signing into law.
- Develop food safety codes of practice.

### **Communications**

- Establish a coordination mechanism that incorporates the following:
  - Develop a communication/engagement mechanism with all stakeholders (users, Ministries, Office in Brussels).
  - Establish feedback mechanism on regulations and conditions
  - Obtain comments and assistance with upgrading BAHA's website.
  - Develop a procedure for establishing electronic working groups.

### **Coordination**

- Develop mechanisms to promote effective participation of all relevant sectors in matters related to SPS.
- Examine national policies on SPS issues and their link to “main stream” BAHA's work.

### **Human and Financial Resources**

- Conduct an assessment of the human capacity needs of BAHA.
- Develop an SPS-related training programme for each Department:
  - Animal Health
  - Plant Health
  - Food Safety
  - Quarantine
- Train BAHA personnel in the following specific areas identified:
  - Weed seed identification
  - Identification of Thrips, scale insects, pseudococcids, and mites
  - Conducting Pest Risk Analysis
  - Conducting Import Risk Analysis
  - Risk assessment of microbial contaminants in foods
  - Foodborne disease surveillance
  - Animal disease surveillance
  - Good practices for participation in SPS forums
- Evaluate and update BAHA's procedural manual.



## **STDF 108 Implementation Agenda**

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**Country**

**COSTA RICA**

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### **BACKGROUND:**

The Initiative for the Americas was established by IICA as a means of facilitating the attendance and participation of its member countries in the meetings of the Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Committee) of the World Trade Organization in Geneva, Switzerland. The first meeting funded under this Initiative was in October 2002, and to date, delegates from Costa Rica have attended all of these meetings.

Funding under the Initiative ended in October 2008. As a follow-up to the Initiative, IICA secured funding from the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) for a project (STDF Project #108) to develop sustainable institutional capabilities in the countries to consolidate gains made as a result of their participation in the SPS Committee, and to promote implementation of the SPS Agreement.

The first activity of the project, the collection of country-specific information took place in late 2008. Interviews and meetings were conducted with various persons drawn from the public sector and the private sector. The IICA PVS (*Performance, Vision and Strategy*) instrument for SPS was used to gather the relevant information from public and private sector representatives. Three components were assessed: (a) Interaction within the public sector and with the private sector; (b) capacity to access international markets; and (c) human and financial capital.

The second activity, a common vision event, where representatives from the public and private sectors would have discussed the findings, examined the shortcomings, the limiting factors responsible for these shortcomings, agreed on priority actions and schedules, and assigned responsibilities to overcome them was not held due to institutional reorganization. Instead, the information gathered from stakeholders was collated to compose the national implementation agenda on SPS issues hereby presented.

### **OBJECTIVES:**

1. Intersectoral and inter-institutional coordination – strengthen the National SPS Committee
2. Establish/strengthen information systems within the public sector and with the private sector
3. Promote the development of institutional and human capabilities in international SPS issues

### **IMPLEMENTATION AGENDA:**

Several areas that need to be addressed in order to improve the SPS system in Costa Rica have been identified. These include:

#### **COMPONENT 1: INTERACTION AMONG INSTITUTIONS OF THE PUBLIC SECTOR, AND BETWEEN THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS**

##### **Information:**

- Identify the public and private actors concerned with SPS issues. Complete and formalize the definition of public and private institutions to ensure that their mission and objectives contemplate aspects related

to the preparation, analysis, evaluation, approval and implementation of sanitary and phytosanitary measures.

- Identify and evaluate the SPS information systems. It is necessary to identify information systems both in public and private sector institutions, as well as in international organizations. The evaluation or characterization of the information systems must cover the services offered and the type of information available, their “user-friendliness,” and the updating of the information.
- Design strategies to improve the information systems, bearing in mind users’ needs, based on their prior evaluation and characterization. The computer (IT) technical teams of the various institutions can provide valuable support in evaluating and improving the information systems. Example: Creation of an integrated information system.
- Implement strategies to promote information systems. Design a strategy for the dissemination and understanding of the existing information systems and ensure that users are properly trained in their use.
- Carry out a benchmarking exercise on the information systems implemented in other countries, to compare these and assess their adaptability in Costa Rica.
- Identify the information needs of users to ensure that the information provided is appropriate in terms of content, timing and presentation.
- Assess the costs and feasibility of implementing a comprehensive and integrated information system.
- Improve the flow of information toward internal institutional users who are directly concerned with SPS issues.

#### **Internal and external communications:**

- Identify and designate focal points. Define or establish liaison points linking all interested parties to facilitate communications. Similarly, identify representatives of the various institutions in meetings of international or regional organizations. Information about these appointments should be relayed to the Secretariat of the National SPS Committee.
- Facilitate and promote participation of thematic experts, as and when required by the international agenda or by the national dynamics, to facilitate decision-making by the National Committee.
- Formalize the technical work groups of the National SPS Committee. Creation of these groups will facilitate more extensive work on the issues within their purview. Based on its work agenda, the SPS Committee should define and prioritize these technical groups, which will not necessarily be permanent depending on the issues involved. Technical groups may be created to address (specific) horizontal or vertical issues and their work period will be defined by the National SPS Committee.
- Establish institutional mechanisms to facilitate coordination and dissemination of issues of the OIE, IPPC, Codex Alimentarius, and the WTO-SPS Committee, as well as those of other SPS-related international organizations or regional forums.
- Establish feedback mechanisms between participants at meetings of the OIE, IPPC, Codex Alimentarius, and WTO-SPS Committee.

#### **Coordination mechanisms:**

- Promote sustainability and dissemination of the work carried out by the National SPS Committee through communication and coordination of information (bulletins, newsletters, information systems, expanded meetings, press releases, and participation in other forums)
- In the context of the SPS Committee, follow up will be given to international SPS agendas to promote national dialogue and support the definition of national positions. This dialogue should include sectors or institutions involved in the analysis and definition of country positions.



- Prepare a manual or rules of procedure and define the role of participants.
- Include in this forum all relevant institutions and/or bodies involved in decision making on these matters, including the private sector, as done successfully in other countries.

#### **Official representation:**

- Identify and prioritize meetings and international events that are of strategic interest to the country.
- Promote the sustainability of Costa Rica's participation in international meetings.
- Establish coalitions of strategic partners on SPS issues. To ensure optimal participation, consider the possibility of forging strategic alliances with trading partners or with other partners on specific topics, to optimize international participation.
- Promote and recommend the appointment of appropriate national representatives at international meetings.
- Encourage delegates to disseminate the results and commitments made at international meetings to the National SPS Committee and other interested parties. Identify the most efficient mechanisms for disseminating this information.
- Disseminate SPS commitments through participation of delegates in meetings with the various sectors concerned.

#### **Coordination mechanisms between the Capital and international representatives (Mission to the WTO in Geneva, embassies)**

- Identify the international meetings, representations and processes that require the support or participation of the National SPS Committee.
- Support the country's international delegations in any discussions, technical negotiations or international sanitary situations that require it.
- Call on international delegates to report on relevant issues that may affect SPS negotiations or those considered strategic for the country.
- Define the communication channels between the different capital-based actors and representatives at missions or embassies.
- Foster closer links between the negotiators of trade agreements on matters related to SPS, so that the opinion of the SPS Committee is taken into consideration.

#### **Importance of SPS issues:**

- The National SPS Committee will promote training, focusing particularly on officials and representatives of the private sector who can address these issues on a continuous basis. Support for this training could be obtained from cooperation agencies and donor countries.
- Ensure that participation in international meetings is included in each institution's work plans and that this item is reflected in their budgets.
- Promote closer contacts with decision makers to maintain SPS issues as strategic priorities.
- Promote the exchange of information (e.g. case studies) that shows the importance of SPS (its impact on public health and on socioeconomic aspects).

## COMPONENT 2: CAPACITY TO PROMOTE ACCESS TO INTERNATIONAL MARKETS

### **Transparency:**

- Review notification procedures and promote policies of transparency. If necessary, implement training to promote proper understanding and effective implementation of notification processes, as well as procedures for drafting proposals to improve policies of transparency.
- Promote the use of the support system between contact points created by the WTO-SPS Committee.
- Determine the promptness with which national organizations issue a notification of an event, and make the appropriate corrections when these do not follow the established procedure.

### **Technical cooperation and Special and Differential Treatment (SDT):**

- Establish a permanent institutional mechanism for negotiating and obtaining technical cooperation (for example, an agenda or work plan), and ensure that the private sector is included.
- Disseminate information on the mechanisms available in the WTO-SPS Committee for requesting or obtaining technical cooperation.
- Prepare an inventory of topics for which technical cooperation may be requested from the international community.

### **Technical independence:**

- Support decision-making bodies to ensure that any measures adopted are based on technical criteria.
- Facilitate the exchange of technical information on issues of sanitary and phytosanitary risk.
- Promote discussion, analysis, and resolution of conflicts related to SPS issues at national and international levels.
- Propose a standardized methodology for risk assessment to support decision making in the institutions.
- Create awareness among policymakers and the private sector of the importance of compliance with technical standards for the country's image of transparency.

## COMPONENT 3: HUMAN AND FINANCIAL CAPITAL

### **Financial and technical resources:**

- Promote the presentation of projects and efforts to obtain resources (national and external) to: i) achieve the objectives of the National Committee; ii) support efforts to address the limitations identified and prioritized in SPS; iii) implement training; iv) promote the country's international participation in regional and international meetings and organizations, and in other events.

### **Human resources assigned to SPS issues:**

8. Strengthen specific SPS groups within the institutions.
9. Promote continuous training of officials associated with notification and information points and the National SPS Committee.
10. Improve communications and promote links between contact points involved in international representation.
11. Promote the institutional sustainability of international representation by incorporating new technicians in the monitoring of SPS issues (increase the number of people involved in international issues).
12. Promote increased involvement in SPS issues by the private and academic sectors, encouraging them to contribute human resources in these areas.



## **STDF 108 Implementation Agenda**

**Country:**

**EL SALVADOR**

### **BACKGROUND:**

The Initiative for the Americas was established by IICA as a means of facilitating the attendance and participation of its member countries in the meetings of the Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Committee) of the World Trade Organization in Geneva, Switzerland. The first meeting funded under this Initiative was in October 2002, and to date, delegates from El Salvador have attended most of the meetings.

Funding under the Initiative ended in October 2008. As a follow-up to the Initiative, IICA secured funding from the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) for a project (STDF Project #108) to develop sustainable institutional capabilities in the countries to consolidate gains made as a result of their participation in the SPS Committee, and to promote implementation of the SPS Agreement.

The first activity of the project, the collection of country-specific information took place in late 2008. Interviews and meetings were conducted with various persons drawn from the public sector and the private sector. The IICA PVS (*Performance, Vision and Strategy*) instrument for SPS was used to gather the relevant information from public and private sector representatives. Three components were assessed: (a) Interaction within the public sector and with the private sector; (b) capacity to access international markets; and (c) human and financial capital.

The second activity was a common vision event held on November 5-7, 2008, where representatives from the public and private sectors discussed the findings, examined the shortcomings, the limiting factors responsible for these shortcomings, agreed on priority actions and schedules, and assigned responsibilities to overcome them. The results of the common vision session constitute a national implementation agenda on SPS issues.

### **OBJECTIVES:**

4. Continued education and training
5. Harmonization, standard-setting and application of standards
6. National coordination

### **IMPLEMENTATION AGENDA:**

The Common Vision Session highlighted several areas that need to be addressed in order to improve the SPS system in El Salvador. These include:

#### **Continued education and training:**

1. It is necessary to design a continuous training/updating plan for the technical staff involved in negotiations on international agreements on issues such as plant and animal health, food safety, plant health certification, and risk analysis, with a view to preparing replacement personnel in the event of the future absence of the existing staff, and also to strengthen the capabilities of the present technicians. It has been noted that the number of trained officials, especially in the Ministry of Agriculture's DGSVA, is very limited.

**Harmonization, standard-setting and application of standards:**

1. Promote the approval of the "Regulations for the Application of the Law on Plant and Animal Health".
2. Begin the review and modernization (updating) of the regulatory framework.

**National coordination:**

1. Give continuity to the effort begun to consolidate the regional institutional framework on SPS, especially now that the regional trade integration initiative is very advanced.
2. Increase the dissemination of successful experiences in institutional development and specific projects with fruit trees.



## **STDF 108 Implementation Agenda**

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**Country**

**GUATEMALA**

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### **BACKGROUND:**

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The Initiative for the Americas was established by IICA as a means of facilitating the attendance and participation of its member countries in the meetings of the Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Committee) of the World Trade Organization in Geneva, Switzerland. The first meeting funded under this Initiative was in October 2002, and to date, delegates from Guatemala have attended most of the meetings.

Funding under the Initiative ended in October 2008. As a follow-up to the Initiative, IICA secured funding from the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) for a project (STDF Project #108) to develop sustainable institutional capabilities in the countries to consolidate gains made as a result of their participation in the SPS Committee, and to promote implementation of the SPS Agreement.

The first activity of the project, the collection of country-specific information took place in late 2008. Interviews and meetings were conducted with various persons drawn from the public sector and the private sector. The IICA PVS (*Performance, Vision and Strategy*) instrument for SPS was used to gather the relevant information from public and private sector representatives. Three components were assessed: (a) Interaction within the public sector and with the private sector; (b) capacity to access international markets; and (c) human and financial capital.

The second activity was a common vision event held on December 9-10, 2009, where representatives from the public and private sectors discussed the findings, examined the shortcomings, the limiting factors responsible for these shortcomings, agreed on priority actions and schedules, and assigned responsibilities to overcome them. The results of the common vision session constitute a national implementation agenda on SPS issues.

### **OBJECTIVES:**

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1. Institutional development of the National Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Committee)
2. Intersectoral and inter-institutional coordination – strengthen the National SPS Forum
3. Establish/strengthen information systems within the public sector and with the private sector
4. Promote the development of institutional and human capabilities in international SPS issues
5. Support the improvement of Guatemala's sanitary and phytosanitary status

### **IMPLEMENTATION AGENDA:**

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The Common Vision Session highlighted several areas that need to be addressed in order to improve the SPS system in Guatemala. These include:

## COMPONENT 1: INTERACTION AMONG INSTITUTIONS OF THE PUBLIC SECTOR, AND BETWEEN THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS

### Information:

- Evaluate current websites and bring them up to date using internationally available solutions for information systems. Include WTO links where users can gain access to information on notifications, as well as the link to the Codex Coordinating Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean (CCLAC)'s website.

### Domestic Communication:

- Identify and develop the most appropriate mechanism for using electronic media to provide stakeholders with relevant information as it arises in the international sphere, such as monthly notifications.
- Identify potential sources of international cooperation to develop and implement an information management system.

### Communication on international affairs:

- Conduct an inventory and suitability analysis of international websites on SPS measures.
- Organize meetings with the Ministries of Health, Economy and other sectors to define SPS tasks (in the framework of the National SPS Forum).
- Provide information from National SPS Committees in other countries as input for effective operation of the SPS forum in Guatemala (via videoconference).
- Organize a workshop to disseminate information on SPS (as soon as information mechanisms have been consolidated, such as successful cases in the institutional realm).

### Official representation:

- Facilitate consultations (public/private) on matters of special interest prior to meetings of the WTO SPS Committee and within the framework of the national SPS forum, and promote country positions based on the working agenda.
- Provide feedback on national positions to the Mission in Geneva.

### Mechanisms of coordination:

- Identify technical experts on specific topics to ensure their participation in regional and international forums, in the framework of the SPS forum.
- Promote activities to consolidate the National SPS Forum.

### Mechanisms for cooperation between Guatemala and the Mission in Geneva:

- Prepare a calendar of international meetings. Identify items of interest and high priority in which the country can participate.
- Publicize the results of meetings that participants or delegates hold with members of the National SPS Forum.

### Importance of the issue:

- Develop strategic information to raise awareness at the management level on the benefits of ensuring the country's presence at international forums.

- Organize meetings with health, economy and other sectors to outline SPS tasks (SPS Forum)
- Update the list of key national stakeholders for the SPS forum.

## COMPONENT 2: CAPACITY TO PROMOTE ACCESS TO INTERNATIONAL MARKETS

### **Set and respect regulatory provisions:**

- Develop a proposal to certify third parties for inspection services (to include payment for services). Example: laboratory services.
- Analyze information on experiences with outsourcing in other countries; example: Australia.
- Support the search for information.
- Update the list of services with potential to be delegated.
- Registry of service providers.

### **Transparency:**

- Publicize procedures for notification among users (on the website).
- Review the external administrative process for notification.
- Provide training in transparency and develop manuals.

### **Technical cooperation and TED:**

- Ask cooperation agencies for support to implement the information management system.
- Procure cooperation to, i) supervise the official outsourcing service; ii) review and update national rules and regulations; iii) build capacity for dispute settlement.
- Review earlier actions to obtain technical cooperation.

## COMPONENT 3: HUMAN AND FINANCIAL CAPITAL

### **Updating:**

- Seek cooperation based on issues identified in the different settings, such as lists developed for the EU and the STDF 175 project.
- Training in the negotiation process (good practices for participation).
- Raise management-level awareness on the importance of SPS measures.
- Revisit the proposal to create the Agricultural Health and Food Security Bureau as an autonomous entity (strengthening the AHFS service). Update the study.
- Monitor potential international funding sources.



## **STDF 108 Implementation Agenda**

**Country:**

**HONDURAS**

### **BACKGROUND:**

The Initiative for the Americas was established by IICA as a means of facilitating the attendance and participation of its member countries in the meetings of the Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Committee) of the World Trade Organization in Geneva, Switzerland. The first meeting funded under this Initiative was in October 2002, and to date, delegates from Honduras have attended most of the meetings.

Funding under the Initiative ended in October 2008. As a follow-up to the Initiative, IICA secured funding from the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) for a project (STDF Project #108) to develop sustainable institutional capabilities in the countries to consolidate gains made as a result of their participation in the SPS Committee, and to promote implementation of the SPS Agreement.

Representatives from the public and private sectors discussed earlier findings on SPS issues in 2008 and the national agenda developed by the National SPS Committee, examined the shortcomings, the limiting factors responsible for these shortcomings, agreed on priority actions and schedules, and assigned responsibilities to overcome them. The results constitute a national implementation agenda on SPS issues.

### **OBJECTIVES:**

1. Institutional development of the National Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Committee)
2. Intersectoral and inter-institutional coordination
3. International participation in the SPS Committee
4. Promote the development of institutional and human capabilities in international SPS issues
5. Support policymaking on SPS issues and harmonization of standards
6. Support the improvement of Honduras's sanitary and phytosanitary status

### **IMPLEMENTATION AGENDA:**

Several areas that need to be addressed in order to improve the SPS system in Honduras include the following:

#### **Institutional management of the National SPS Committee**

1. Strengthen the SPS capabilities of senior officials of the relevant organizations, in order to prioritize SPS issues in the country's political spheres.
2. A communication and dissemination strategy on SPS issues has been designed and implemented.
  - The SPS Committee has established links with the information departments or units of the member organizations.



- Reports on the work of the SPS Committee and relevant issues are included and updated in the Web sites of the member organizations.
  - Promotional materials (brochure, CD, among others) have been prepared for the SPS Committee.
  - Two national meetings to discuss SPS issues were organized.
  - The SPS Committee, through its members, has participated in at least two national and/or international meetings on SPS issues.
3. Strengthen the operation of the SPS Committee
    - Basic profiles for members of the SPS Committee have been defined and disseminated, contributing to its technical sustainability.
    - Work groups or technical committees have been established, according to the international agenda and local needs.
    - At least three decentralized meetings of the SPS Committee have been organized.
  4. Obtain technical and financial support from cooperation organizations to facilitate the implementation of the SPS Committee Plan
    - The country's cooperation needs in SPS issues have been identified.
    - Proposals and/or technical and financial cooperation projects have been formulated and implemented
    - Cooperation agencies and donors have been informed of the Committee's needs in relation to SPS issues

### **Intersectoral and inter-institutional coordination**

1. Support the implementation of the SPS Information and Notification Systems.
  - Information has been disseminated on the Manuals of Procedures to improve the operation of the SPS Information and Notification Systems.
  - Satisfactory results were obtained from the performance evaluation of the Contact points, carried out by the SPS Committee.
2. Support effective coordination between the Ministries of Agriculture and Health in the application of SPS
3. Strengthen public-private sector coordination on SPS issues
  - The private sector disseminates SPS issues among its associates and to the community in general
  - The SPS Committee defines, disseminates and promotes discussion on relevant SPS issues that affect agriculture, industry and trade.

### **International actions by Honduras**

1. Coordinate the SPS Committee's National Agenda with the national agendas of the National Committee of the Codex Alimentarius (CNC) the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE).

- The SPS Committee supports the formulation of action plans for the CNC and the Contact Points of the IPPC and OIE
2. Support the strengthening of the National Committee of the Codex Alimentarius (CNC) and the contact points of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE).
    - Performance indicators have been established to evaluate the contact points of the Codex, IPPC and OIE.
  3. Strengthen national participation in meetings of the WTO-SPS Committee.
    - The country delegates and other SPS officials have received training in the formulation of manuals of procedures and protocols for international meetings (SPS/OMC, Codex, OIE, IPPC)
    - The necessary resources have been allocated to facilitate the participation of the official delegate at meetings of the WTO-SPS Committee.
    - Negotiate with the Committee's member institutions a budget to ensure the Committee's sustainability and facilitate the country's participation in regional and international meetings.

### **Promote capacity building in SPS issues**

1. Establish a continuous training program for the institutions, contact points, industry, academia and consumers, to become more efficient in the application of SPS
  - A continuous training and updating program on SPS issues has been designed and implemented with support from horizontal cooperation.
2. Contribute to the development of SPS capabilities through professional training.
  - The inclusion of SPS issues in the academic curriculum has been arranged with academic institutions.
  - Training and continued education activities have been implemented in Universities and academic centers.

### **Support policymaking in SPS and the harmonization of standards**

1. Support the harmonization of national and international standards.
  - Efforts made towards the formulation and approval of standards in accordance with the country's needs.

### **Support improvements in the country's sanitary and phytosanitary status**

1. Support efforts to address emerging issues in SPS
  - The Committee has incorporated emerging SPS issues as a permanent point of the Agenda in its meetings
  - The SPS Committee monitors emerging SPS issues in the country



## **STDF 108 Implementation Agenda**

**Country:**

**PANAMA**

### **BACKGROUND:**

The Initiative for the Americas was established by IICA as a means of facilitating the attendance and participation of its member countries in the meetings of the Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Committee) of the World Trade Organization in Geneva, Switzerland. The first meeting funded under this Initiative was in October 2002, and to date, delegates from Panama have attended most of the meetings.

Funding under the Initiative ended in October 2008. As a follow-up to the Initiative, IICA secured funding from the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) for a project (STDF Project #108) to develop sustainable institutional capabilities in the countries to consolidate gains made as a result of their participation in the SPS Committee, and to promote implementation of the SPS Agreement.

The first activity of the project, the collection of country-specific information took place in late 2008. Interviews and meetings were conducted with various persons drawn from the public sector and the private sector. The IICA PVS (*Performance, Vision and Strategy*) instrument for SPS was used to gather the relevant information from public and private sector representatives. Three components were assessed: (a) Interaction within the public sector and with the private sector; (b) capacity to access international markets; and (c) human and financial capital.

The second activity was a common vision event held on November 26-27, 2009, where representatives from the public and private sectors discussed the findings, examined the shortcomings, the limiting factors responsible for these shortcomings, agreed on priority actions and schedules, and assigned responsibilities to overcome them. The results of the common vision session constitute a national implementation agenda on SPS issues.

### **OBJECTIVES:**

1. Institutional development of the National Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Committee)
2. Intersectoral and inter-institutional coordination
3. International participation in the SPS Committee
4. Promote the development of institutional and human capabilities in international SPS issues
5. Support policymaking on SPS issues and harmonization of standards
6. Support the improvement of Panama's sanitary and phytosanitary status

### **IMPLEMENTATION AGENDA:**

The Common Vision Session highlighted several areas that need to be addressed in order to improve the SPS system in Panama. These include:

### **Institutional development of the National Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Committee)**

1. Legal constitution of the Intersectoral SPS Committee and its consolidation, through consultations and negotiations with the relevant organizations and sectors. A regulatory instrument will be drafted establishing guidelines for the organization, competencies and operations of the Committee (Executive Decree)
2. Improve and increase the participation of the SPS Committee members in international meetings.
3. Activate the necessary information mechanisms to keep different sectors informed, enable them to obtain support and approval from the SPS Committee, and familiarize them with its roles and responsibilities. This will be accomplished through: strategic meetings to disseminate information about the work and role of the SPS Committee; gathering strategic information and presenting it to decision-makers; contacts with existing SPS Committees to learn from their implementation experience; and the establishment of an audit mechanism for communications.
4. Strengthen SPS capabilities among senior officials of the relevant institutions, in order to prioritize SPS issues among the country's political and trade union sectors. The following actions will be required:
  - Develop tools to sensitize senior officials, so that they will support training efforts in their institutions (public and private) in SPS issues
  - High-level exchanges organized between officials from cooperating countries in order to create awareness on SPS issues
  - At least two meetings held on SPS issues with senior officials and representatives of the private sector (on strategic issues such as institutional framework scientific base, etc.) to create awareness of their importance
  - Impact studies on SPS presented
  - Successful cases documented or presented, highlighting the importance of international SPS in promoting the country's competitiveness.
  - High-level exchanges held between representatives of donor countries to create awareness of the importance of SPS issues.
5. Consolidate and implement a communications strategy on SPS issues within the institutions involved and also among the production, educational, industrial sectors and others. (includes international communication or partnerships), through:
  - The design and implementation of a communications strategy on SPS issues.
  - Link the SPS Committee with the communications units of its member organizations and the media.
  - Prepare and update a strategy document for the continuous dissemination of information to the communication units of member organizations and other media.
  - Include reports and monthly updates on the work of the SPS Committee and relevant issues in the Web sites of the member institutions.
  - Web sites of public and private institutions evaluated, improved and coordinated in relation to SPS issues.
  - Survey of users' needs carried out.

- External experiences assessed to serve as a reference for information and communication products.
  - Promotional materials of the SPS Committee prepared (a brochure and a CD, among others).
  - National or regional meetings organized to discuss SPS issues, taking advantage of the opportunities offered by international cooperation.
  - The SPS Committee, through its members, has participated in at least in one national and/or international meeting on SPS issues.
6. Increased participation by government and private sector institutions in SPS issues through expanded meetings of the SPS Committee at local and regional level.
  7. Improved communication and links with other SPS Committees and contact points in order to take advantage of these alliances at different meetings.
  8. Use appropriate technologies to enter into contact with other SPS Committees to discuss issues of the international agendas
  9. Contacts with SPS Committees that have already been constituted to assess their implementation experience.
  10. Take advantage of the “sponsors” system for notification points.
  11. Obtain cooperation and technical and financial assistance from cooperation agencies and member institutions to facilitate the implementation of the National Agenda. Actions carried out:
    - Obtained resources to facilitate implementation of the National Agenda
    - Prepared a document that identifies cooperation needs in SPS issues (taking advantage of project STDF175)
    - Formulated and implemented at least 2 proposals and/or technical and financial cooperation projects (for example, in STDF)
    - Cooperation agencies and donors informed of the Committee’s cooperation needs in SPS at a joint work meeting.
  12. Identification and/or formation of Ad-Hoc Technical Committees to deal with specific SPS issues, in accordance with the national and international agendas.
  13. The capacity of the SPS Committee has been increased in relation to specific issues, in coordination with the working commissions established for that purpose, in fulfillment of the international and national agendas.
  14. At least two work commissions or technical committees have been established, in line with the international agenda and local needs
  15. Basic profiles prepared for members of the Intersectoral SPS Committee in order to guarantee the necessary technical capacity:
    - The SPS Committee’s performance has been strengthened through the continuous participation of its members.
    - Basic profiles have been designed for members of the SPS Committee.
    - Training mechanisms have been established for Committee members who require it, to enhance their participation.

16. Strengthen coordination between the public and private sectors on SPS issues:

- Private sector participation in activities of the SPS Committee has been strengthened
- A newsletter on SPS issues has been published and distributed to associates and the community in general
- At least three SPS meetings have been organized with the private sector to identify and promote discussion on important SPS issues that affect public health, agriculture, industry and trade and the respective aide-mémoires have been prepared.

**Intersectoral and inter-institutional coordination**

1. Establish a structured procedure to systematize coordination between the Focal Point and those responsible for SPS issues in order to improve the analysis of the notifications received
  - An Intersectoral and Inter-institutional Manual of Procedures related to Information and Notification systems was prepared and implemented in order to promote effective coordination among government institutions involved in SPS actions.
2. Prepare manuals of procedures for setting standards to improve the functioning of the SPS Information and Notification Systems, and their harmonization.
  - Prepared forms for the evaluation of the performance of the Contact Points carried out by the SPS Committee.
3. Explore the possibility of taking advantage of the WTO tutorial system in SPS Notification
  - A cooperating country has been formally designated under the WTO cooperation system for Notification processes.

**International participation by Panama in Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures**

1. Include in the agenda of the National SPS Committee the coordination of issues for discussion at the WTO-SPS Committee, the Codex Alimentarius Commission, the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE). Identify strategic issues for Panama in these international negotiations.
2. Members of the SPS Committee draft proposals on issues of interest to submit to the CNC, IPPC and OIE and prepare position documents.
3. Improve the participation of official delegates in international meetings of the WTO-SPS Committee by including this item in budgets. Raise awareness among the political authorities of the need to allocate a budget (in the work plan) to guarantee this participation.
4. A consultation procedure for defining the country position has been established through the meetings of the National Committee and the respective aide-mémoire has been prepared.
5. Training has been provided to at least three country delegates and others involved in preparing manuals of procedures and protocols for international meetings (SPS/WTO, Codex, OIE, IPPC).
6. A document has been prepared and submitted to the Committee's member institutions proposing a budget to give sustainability to the Committee and facilitate the country's participation in regional and international meetings.

7. An inventory has been prepared (and is continuously updated) of the sanitary or phytosanitary barriers that affect Panamanian agricultural exports and imports.
8. Identify strategic issues that require consolidation at multilateral level in order to make progress in regional or bilateral trade integration processes (WTO Agreements plus).

#### **Promote the development of institutional and human capabilities in international SPS issues**

1. Design and implement a training program for decision-makers at different levels on SPS issues, including members of the Intersectoral Committee, technical personnel involved in SPS issues, private-sector technicians and civil society.
2. Institutional and human capacities in SPS issues have been developed at national level. A continuous training program on SPS issues has been designed and implemented with support from horizontal cooperation.
3. Officials involved in SPS negotiations have received training to promote a more effective participation at national and international meetings (SPS Committee, Codex Alimentarius, IPPC, OIE, etc.), and to create a national team of SPS experts.
4. Designed and implemented a continuous training program on SPS issues, with support from horizontal cooperation. An inter-institutional training program has been prepared.
5. Training and updating programs have been implemented at Universities and academic centers
6. Preparation of a proposal to include SPS issues and their impact on international trade, in academic programs.

#### **Support policymaking on SPS issues and harmonization of standards**

1. The SPS policies and proposals formulated have been analyzed and existing standard-setting procedures have been reviewed.
2. Manuals of Procedures have been prepared for consultation processes related to standards
3. Evaluated national standards, in relation to current international standards.
4. Designed and implemented technical programs in SPS.

#### **Support the improvement of Panama's sanitary and phytosanitary status**

1. The Committee has included emerging SPS issues as a permanent point on the agenda at its meetings.
2. The SPS Committee issues reports on emerging SPS issues in the country and promotes the implementation of an Observatory of emerging issues.
3. At least 15 professionals have received training in SPS issues and teams are distributed throughout the country.
4. Training in risk analysis carried out as a tool for the application of SPS
5. A consultancy to assess the country's current sanitary and phytosanitary standards was carried out.

**NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION AGENDAS**  
**Southern Region**





## **STDF 108 Implementation Agenda**

**Country:**

**PARAGUAY**

### **BACKGROUND:**

Since October of 2002, IICA has facilitated the participation of countries, including Paraguay, in meetings of the Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) of the World Trade Organization, through the SPS Initiative for the Americas. This Initiative has focused its efforts on promoting institutional strengthening in the area of SPS to enable countries to take full advantage of the multilateral trade system. Since the start of this initiative, Paraguay has participated actively and has made a number of institutional changes aimed at managing these international issues more efficiently.

Anticipating the conclusion of the Initiative for the Americas, and conscious of the need to continue with the institutional strengthening process, a project proposal was submitted to the STDF with the aim of continuing to develop institutional capabilities and improve implementation of the WTO Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS-WTO) in the participating countries.

The IICA-STDF-108 project contains four basic stages designed to identify needs, implement actions and promote regional development. In order to identify a country's needs and assess its current level of performance, the Performance, Vision and Strategy tool for Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (PVS-SPS) was applied, enabling the different stakeholders of society to jointly assess their performance in the area of SPS.

Having applied the PVS tool, a discussion was then held to reach a common vision on December 17-18, 2008, in which the different stakeholders agreed upon a National SPS Agenda, which represents a "roadmap" for the National SPS Committee and for the institutions linked with SPS issues. However, the implementation of this agenda does not depend solely on national institutions - although these are very important - given that international and regional organizations and cooperating governments may also support this effort.

In addition to the National Agenda, the project contemplates the implementation of regional actions to promote coordination and address problems or situations of regional interest. These actions will be consolidated through a specific project that forms part of the STDF 108 Project.

### **OBJECTIVES:**

1. Create and improve institutional capabilities in SPS by promoting the coordination of the public-private sectors.
2. Promote a national agenda to guide the actions of the different institutions and stakeholders.
3. Strengthen the country's technical and financial capabilities, to enable it to improve its management capacity and take full advantage of international forums.

### **IMPLEMENTATION AGENDA:**

During the session convened to approve the Agenda, the stakeholders defined and approved the following National SPS Agenda:

## COMPONENT 1: INTERACTION AMONG THE DIFFERENT PUBLIC SECTOR INSTITUTIONS, AND BETWEEN THESE AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR

### Information:

1. Promote increased participation by the private sector in the National Committee (information mechanisms can help to achieve this objective)
2. SENAVE has several effective information mechanisms (e.g. web sites), although access to these is adequate. The “user-friendliness” of the sites should be assessed.
3. The National Committee should evaluate and inventory existing information mechanisms; the information management project can help in this regard.
4. The Committee should identify alternative information mechanisms.
5. The following actions are required:
  - Evaluate and assess the existing web sites
  - Assess users’ needs
  - Prepare an inventory of information mechanisms
  - Contact the different press or information offices in ministries or institutions to establish information links with the SPS Committee
  - Position the SPS National Committee with an institutional link using an existing web site.
  - Identify alternative information mechanisms (examples: cooperatives, associations, magazines, etc.)
  - Promote the completion of the Phytosanitary Portal. This matter should be discussed and defined in the SPS Committee. Locate the server that will host the site, estimate its cost, find the necessary personnel and design the web site.
  - Identify possible cooperation organizations (national and international) in the areas of technology, institutional communications, and outreach.

### Internal communications:

1. Identify the sectors that are not receiving accurate and timely information and include them in the information distribution plan.
2. Support the strategies identified in the INFORMATION variable to improve information channels.
3. Support the strategies identified for strengthening the National SPS Committee (national coordination).
  - Define a strategy to forge closer links with the private sector and convince it of the benefits of actively participating and becoming involved in the work of the National SPS Committee
  - Letters of understanding
  - Explanatory documents
  - Special meetings
  - Visits to their offices by Committee members
  - Keep the private sector and any other sector or institution continuously informed and updated about meetings and events of interest
  - Organize workshops or training courses targeted at relevant groups or institutions

### Communication on international issues:

1. Develop a more formal communication with the private sector.
2. Encourage the private sector to participate regularly in the SPS Committee.
3. Improve communication and coordination between contact points of the 3 sisters and the WTO.
4. The actions implemented in the variable Communication on internal issues will help in this regard.

### Official representation:

1. Find mechanisms to ensure that the different institutions include international participation in their budgets.
2. Enter into contact with or submit proposals for international participation, to cooperation organizations.
3. Update or prepare a calendar of international activities; set priorities based on the country’s interests.

4. Prepare a budget to accompany the calendar and funding strategies that include the private sector, national and international organizations.
5. Generate information on the opportunity cost of international participation (aimed at politicians or decision makers)
6. Provide key information on a continuous basis to decision makers (Senators, Ministers, and Vice-ministers, etc.)

**Coordination mechanisms:**

1. Incorporate the sustainable participation of the 3 sisters contact points in meetings of the SPS Committee and with the private sector.
2. Prepare profiles for international participation to enable the country to take full advantage of international meetings, effectively implement training actions, target financial resources, etc.
3. Promote the participation of ALL delegates through the identification of important issues of national interest.
4. Identify private sector organizations not represented on the Committee so that these can be included in the information and communication strategies.
5. Prepare an annual or biannual work plan, identifying strategic areas and specific actions. (Technical aspects, regional and multilateral aspects, etc.).

**Coordination mechanisms between the Capital and the Mission in Geneva:**

1. Promote participation by specialized technicians linked to SPS issues in the country's Mission to the WTO.

**Importance of SPS issues:**

1. Resolve this matter with the actions of the previous variables (Committee, information and communication).

**COMPONENT 2: CAPACITY TO PROMOTE ACCESS TO INTERNATIONAL MARKETS**

**Compliance with regulatory standards:**

1. Strengthen institutional capacity for design and implementation of inspection and verification programs, to ensure compliance with regulatory standards in processes and products in which such programs do not exist or are deficient, and which are considered relevant.
2. Design a program to improve compliance with regulatory standards by disseminating current standards, modifying—where necessary—the legal frameworks of the implementing institutions, and increasing their operational capacity.

**Setting Regulatory Standards:**

1. Implement and/or document institutional procedures for drafting and setting regulatory standards, ensuring that these procedures contemplate the participation of the private and academic sectors.
2. Adapt the legal framework to authorize drafting and setting of regulatory standards by institutions that are not currently authorized to do so.
3. Implement and/or document procedures for public consultations.

**Harmonization:**

1. Identify national standards requiring modification to harmonize these with international standards; proceed to analyze and adapt them.
2. Establish institutional procedures for harmonization of national sanitary and phytosanitary standards with international standards, guidelines, and recommendations.
3. Promote mechanisms for a more effective participation in the drafting of international standards, guidelines, and recommendations through specific actions.

4. Create capacity and awareness among decision makers.
5. Set priorities and reflect these in the institutional budget.
6. Develop technical capabilities among officials concerned with SPS issues.

**Transparency:**

1. Establish and implement an information and notification system on SPS through specific actions:
  - Develop and adopt the SPS structures, resources and procedures based on criteria and mechanisms established by the WTO.
  - Create capacity among personnel to ensure the effective operation of the system.
  - Consider a mechanism that ensures effective communication with the private sector.
  - Develop a continuous education program for users on the importance of maintaining a transparency policy, and on national and WTO transparency mechanisms.
  - Secure technical assistance to establish audit and verification mechanisms for the national transparency procedures.

**Technical cooperation and TED:**

1. Design and implement a consultation process to determine technical cooperation needs and special and differential treatment with participation of the private and academic sectors.
2. Develop negotiating capacity to secure both technical cooperation and special and differential treatment.

**COMPONENT 3: HUMAN AND FINANCIAL CAPITAL**

**Continued training:**

1. Prepare an Annual Training Plan
2. Obtain national and international funding

**Technical independence:**

1. Review the legal framework of the SPS National Technical Committee (CTNMSF) with an emphasis on autonomous management.
2. Review the Rules of procedure of the CTNMSF.
3. Create awareness of the importance of technical independence among the political sector (decision makers)

**Financial and technical resources:**

1. Develop a national SPS information and notification system; design a structure and training program.
2. Implement the Food Safety Portal

**Human resources assigned to SPS issues:**

1. Directly linked to the implementation of the National SPS System, make arrangements for the appointment of full-time personnel or appoint an official with exclusive responsibility for SPS activities.
2. Take steps to ensure budget visibility



## **STDF 108 Implementation Agenda**

**Country:**

**URUGUAY**

### **BACKGROUND:**

Since October of 2002, IICA has facilitated the participation of countries, including Uruguay, in meetings of the Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) of the World Trade Organization, through the SPS Initiative for the Americas. This Initiative has focused its efforts on promoting institutional strengthening in the area of SPS to enable countries to take full advantage of the multilateral trade system. Since the start of this initiative, Uruguay has participated actively and has made a number of institutional changes aimed at managing these international issues more efficiently.

Anticipating the conclusion of the Initiative for the Americas, and conscious of the need to continue with the institutional strengthening process, a project proposal was submitted to the STDF with the aim of continuing to develop institutional capabilities and improve implementation of the WTO Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS-WTO) in the participating countries.

The IICA-STDF-108 project contains four basic stages designed to identify needs, implement actions and promote regional development. In order to identify a country's needs and assess its current level of performance, the Performance, Vision and Strategy tool for Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (PVS-SPS) was applied, enabling the different stakeholders of society to jointly assess their performance in the area of SPS.

Having applied the PVS tool, a meeting will be held to reach a common vision in which the different stakeholders can agree upon a National SPS Agenda, which represents a "roadmap" for the National SPS Committee and for the institutions linked with SPS issues. Its implementation does not depend solely on the national institutions—although these are very important—given that international and regional organizations, and cooperating governments may also provide support in this regard.

In addition to the National Agenda, the project contemplates the implementation of regional actions to promote coordination and address problems or situations of regional interest. These actions will be consolidated through a specific project that forms part of the STDF 108 Project. This process will provide inputs for the country's existing national agenda.

### **OBJECTIVES:**

1. Create and improve institutional capabilities in SPS by promoting the coordination of the public-private sectors.
2. Promote a national agenda to guide the actions of the different institutions and stakeholders.
3. Strengthen the country's technical capability.

### **IMPLEMENTATION AGENDA:**

#### **COMPONENT 1: INTERACTION AMONG THE DIFFERENT PUBLIC SECTOR INSTITUTIONS, AND BETWEEN THESE AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR**

##### **Information:**

1. Define and identify public and private actors concerned with SPS issues. Complete and formalize the definition of public and private institutions to improve their interaction.

2. Identify and evaluate the SPS information systems. It is necessary to identify information systems both in public and private sector institutions. The evaluation or characterization of the information systems must cover services offered and type of information available, their “user-friendliness,” and the updating of the data.
3. Design strategies to improve information systems, bearing in mind users’ needs, based on their evaluation and characterization. The computer (IT) technical teams of the different institutions can provide valuable support in evaluating and improving information systems.
4. Implement strategies to promote information systems. Design a strategy for the dissemination and understanding of existing information systems and ensure that users are properly trained in their use.
5. Carry out a benchmarking exercise on information systems implemented in other countries, to compare them and assess their adaptability to Uruguay.

**Communication on international issues:**

1. Identify key focal points such as the representatives of the different institutions at the meetings of international or regional organizations.
2. Establish institutional mechanisms to help coordinate and disseminate issues of the OIE, IPPC, and Codex Alimentarius, and those of other international organizations or regional forums related to SPS.

**Official representation:**

1. Delegates should disseminate the results and commitments made at international meetings to the National SPS Committee and other interested parties. Identify the most efficient mechanisms for disseminating this information.
2. Establish coalitions of strategic partners on SPS issues. To ensure optimal participation, consider the possibility of forging strategic “alliances” with trading partners or with other partners in specific topics, in order to optimize international participation.

**Coordination mechanisms:**

1. Promote the formalization of the National SPS Committee.
2. Promote coordination mechanisms within the SPS Committee.
3. In the context of the SPS Committee, follow up will be given to the international SPS agendas to promote national dialogue, where relevant.
4. Representatives of the technical work groups will participate in the definition of country positions on their specific topics.
5. Formalize the technical work groups of the National SPS Committee. The creation of these groups will facilitate more extensive work on the issues within National SPS Committee purview. Based on its work agenda, the SPS Committee will define and prioritize these technical groups, which will not necessarily be permanent, depending on the issues involved. Technical groups may be created to address (specific) horizontal or vertical issues and their work period will be defined by the National SPS Committee.
6. Establish work procedures and promote a flow of information for the SPS Committee, as well as procedures to define the “country position” on different issues.
7. Develop criteria and procedures for the creation of work groups and their agendas.
8. Prepare a manual or rules of procedure; define the roles of the participants and of the technical and/or administrative secretariat.
9. Identify and designate focal points. Define or establish liaison points linking all the interested parties to facilitate communications. Information about these appointments should be relayed to the Administrative Secretariat of the National SPS Committee.

**Importance of SPS issues:**

1. The National SPS Committee’s work plan will contain a chapter on training, focusing particularly on officials and representatives of the private sector who can address these issues on a continuous basis.

2. Ensure that participation in international meetings is included in each institution's work plans and reflected in their budgets.
3. Promote closer contacts with decision makers to maintain SPS issues as strategic priorities.
4. Generate strategic information and case studies showing the importance of SPS issues.

## COMPONENT 2: CAPACITY TO PROMOTE ACCESS TO INTERNATIONAL MARKETS

### **Compliance with regulatory standards:**

1. Support institutional strengthening processes in the country's agricultural health and food safety services.

### **Setting Regulatory Standards:**

1. Evaluate and promote information mechanisms that encourage the participation of relevant SPS actors in the standard-setting process.
2. Increase the country's capacity for risk analysis.

### **Harmonization:**

1. Include the concept of harmonization in standard-setting processes and consider its relevance to trade.

### **Transparency:**

1. Train the public and private sectors on the importance of a policy of transparency and the effective implementation of notification processes.
2. Assess the current notification system and identify procedures to standardize the way it operates (standard setting, notification, definition of what should and what should not be notified).
3. Identify and propose specific actions to technically strengthen the contact points of the national institutions that comprise the Committee.
4. Implement notification procedures and promote policies of transparency.
5. Processing of notifications that are received.

### **Technical cooperation and TED:**

1. Establish a permanent institutional mechanism to help negotiate and obtain technical cooperation.
2. Disseminate information on the mechanisms available in the WTO-SPS Committee for requesting or obtaining technical cooperation.
3. Prepare an inventory of topics for which technical cooperation may be requested from the international community.

## COMPONENT 3: HUMAN AND FINANCIAL CAPITAL

### **Continued training:**

1. Design and promote training programs for human resources involved in SPS issues.
2. Establish the necessary mechanisms or procedures to continuously identify training needs in the area of SPS.
- 3.

### **Technical independence:**

1. Promote the generation of technical information to provide inputs for decision making.
2. Strengthen risk analysis units that generate scientific evidence to support a sanitary or phytosanitary measures.

### **Financial and technical resources:**

1. Create work groups with specific tasks for the presentation of projects and also to obtain resources.
2. Include budget lines for institutional expenses to cover the participation of SPS officials in meetings and for investment programs or projects with structures and budgets for specific actions on SPS issues

3. Through the Committee, monitor the representation at international forums and SPS.

**Human resources assigned to SPS issues:**

1. Devise a strategy to make known the functions of members of the National SPS Committee (private and state institutions).
2. Strengthen specific SPS groups within the institutions.
3. Promote efforts to strengthen SPS notification and information processes.
4. Identify the institutional strengthening needs of the contact point.
5. Improve coordination between the contact point, the government, and the private sector.
6. Improve the level of regional representation.



**REGIONAL SPS PROJECT PROFILES**  
**ANDEAN, CARIBBEAN, CENTRAL AND**  
**SOUTHERN REGION**

**PROJECT PROFILE****Regional SPS Activities Project STDF  
108 – Andean Region**

<b>Countries:</b>	<b>Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Venezuela</b>
<b>Duration:</b>	<b>1 year</b>
<b>Estimated Funding:</b>	<b>\$70,000</b>

**THE PROBLEM TO ADDRESS:** Project IICA-STDF 108 has implemented the application of the IICA instrument “*Performance, Vision and Strategy for PS Systems*” in 24 out of the 28 countries participating in the project. As planned, this activity has resulted in the identification of national and regional needs on SPS that the continuation of the project will address.

A number of common issues on SPS areas were identified in the Andean Region that require immediate attention because of their impact on the implementation of the national SPS agendas. These cross-cutting issues are either technical or institutional, but they are interrelated.

The identified regional priority issues to be addressed are the following:

1. Strengthening national SPS committees through implementation of their SPS agendas.
2. Strengthening risk assessment units and technical independence.
3. Strengthening notification procedures within a policy of transparency and disseminating successful, existing regional SPS information handling systems.

**Targeted Beneficiaries:** Andean Region Countries (Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela).

**Objectives:**

- II. SPECIFIC:** TO IMPROVE REGIONAL CAPACITY TO IMPLEMENT SPS AND FACILITATE INTERNATIONAL TRADE THROUGH STRENGTHENING TECHNICAL AND INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITIES AND TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE REGION’S PREVIOUS EXPERIENCES.

**Project Approach:**

The following activities will be conducted in the region during February 2009 – April 2010:

**For Issue No.1 (SPS Committees):**

1. Development and dissemination of a model operations manual for national SPS committees.
2. Conduct awareness workshops to create, approve and/or launch the official national SPS committee.
3. Course on good practices for participation in international forums (a Manual for this course is already been developed by IICA).
4. Follow-up activities (discussion of legal proposal with stakeholders).

For Issue No.2 (Risk Analysis):

5. Risk assessment courses on microbiological and chemical hazards in foods.
6. Training on “risk profiles” (a rapid decision tool for use in borders, entry points, and other situations requiring quick decisions) for animal diseases, plant pests and food safety hazards.
7. Preparation of material and protocol for a course on risk and crisis communication for heads of sanitary and phytosanitary services and press officers.

For Issue No.3 (Transparency):

8. Development of a model manual of procedures for handling notifications.
9. Proposal for a model system for knowledge and information management on SPS based on other regional experiences (Colombia and Ecuador).

**Budget**

Priority	%	US\$
SPS Committees	26.7	20,000
Risk assessment	46.6	35,000
Transparency	26.7	15,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>70,000</b>



## **PROJECT PROFILE**

### **Regional SPS Activities Project STDF 108 – Caribbean Region**

Antigua & Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize,  
Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica,  
Saint Kitts & Nevis,  
Saint Lucia,  
Saint Vincent & Grenadines,  
Trinidad & Tobago,  
Suriname

#### **Countries:**

#### **Duration:**

**1 year**

#### **Estimated Funding:**

**\$150,000**

**THE PROBLEM TO ADDRESS:** Project IICA-STDF 108 has implemented the application of the IICA instrument “*Performance, Vision and Strategy for PS Systems*” in 24 out of the 28 countries participating in the project. As planned, this activity has resulted in the identification of national and regional needs on SPS that the continuation of the project will address.

A number of common issues on SPS areas were identified in the Caribbean Region that require immediate attention because of their impact on the implementation of the national SPS agendas. These cross-cutting issues are either technical or institutional, but they are interrelated.

The identified regional priority issues to be addressed are the following:

4. Creating awareness among high level decision makers on the importance SPS issues.
5. Establishing a national SPS Enquiry Point or improving the functionality of an existing national Enquiry Point.
6. Creating or strengthening official or informal national SPS committees comprising public and private sector representatives for implementation of the SPS agendas developed under Project IICA-STDF 108.
7. Train staff from national sanitary and phytosanitary services, Enquiry Point, and private sector on the meaning, scope and requirements of the SPS Agreement and related issues.

**Targeted Beneficiaries:** Caribbean Region Countries (Antigua & Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Kitts & Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent & Grenadines, Trinidad & Tobago, Suriname) plus Belize.

## **Objectives**

**Specific:** To improve regional capacity to implement SPS and facilitate international trade through strengthening technical and institutional.

## **Project Approach:**

The following activities will be conducted in the region during February 2009 – April 2010:

For Issue No.1 (Creating Awareness on SPS):

10. Conduct a sensitization program for two high-level decision makers from each country (14 Permanent Secretaries of Agriculture and 14 Chief Agricultural Officers). The 3-4 day program will be conducted in the United States (in coordination with the United States Department of Agriculture, USDA) or in Canada (in coordination with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, CFIA). [NOTE: there is already an expression of interest on such a program from the USDA].

For Issue No.2 (National SPS Enquiry Points):

1. Course on good practices for participation in international forums (a Manual for this course is already being developed by IICA).
2. Development of a model manual of procedures for handling notifications.
3. Proposal for a model system for knowledge and information management on SPS based on other countries' experiences (horizontal cooperation from Andean Region).

For Issue No. 3 (SPS Committees and 4 (National SPS Services and Public/Private Sector Communication):

1. Conduct a training course on the SPS Agreement and related issues for Enquiry Points, National SPS Committees and national sanitary and phytosanitary services staff. The course will be delivered as a distance learning course and will be coordinated with CARICOM.
2. Conduct a regional SPS Workshop (in cooperation with WTO).

**Expected Outcomes:**

1. Topic 1: Top-level decision makers aware of the importance of SPS.
2. Topic 2: Relevant staff of SPS services trained on participation in international forums; manual on notification procedures available; and a model system for knowledge and information management on SPS also available.
3. Topics 3 and 4: Enquiry Points, National SPS Committees and public and private staff trained on SPS issues.

**Budget**

Priority	%	US\$
Awareness program	50	75,000
SPS Enquiry Points	10	15,000
SPS Committees	6.7	10,000
Regional Training on SPS	33.3	50,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>150,000</b>

**PROJECT PROFILE****Regional SPS Activities Project STDF  
108 – Central Region**

<b>Countries:</b>	<b>Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama</b>
<b>Duration:</b>	<b>1 year</b>
<b>Estimated Funding:</b>	<b>\$70,000</b>

**THE PROBLEM TO ADDRESS:** Project IICA-STDF 108 has implemented the application of the IICA instrument “*Performance, Vision and Strategy for SPS Systems*” in 24 out of the 28 countries participating in the project. As planned, this activity has resulted in the identification of national and regional needs on SPS that the continuation of the project will address.

A number of common issues on SPS areas were identified in the Central Region and Dominican Republic (the latter country has been included in this region and not in the Caribbean because of language) that requires immediate attention because of their impact on implementation of national SPS agendas. These cross-cutting issues are either technical or institutional, but they are interrelated. The process of identifying regional common SPS issues within Project IICA-STDF 108 has been complemented with an analysis of needs defined by the Central American Agricultural Policy (Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, and and Belize) and the priorities set by the countries that constitute the SPS Sub-Group under the Central American Customs Union framework, in coordination with the Secretariat of the Central American Agricultural Council (CAC, for its name in Spanish). Furthermore, the commercial links that Dominican Republic has with the Central Region and their implication regarding SPS measures have been taken into account.

The identified regional priority issues to be addressed are the following:

8. Creating awareness among high-level decision makers on the importance of SPS issues.
9. Strengthening risk assessment units.
10. Strengthening of regional capabilities to comply with the SPS Agreement and to participate effectively in SPS international forums.

**Targeted Beneficiaries:** Central Region countries (Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama) plus Dominican Republic

**Objectives:**

- III. SPECIFIC:** TO IMPROVE REGIONAL CAPACITY TO IMPLEMENT SPS AND FACILITATE INTERNATIONAL TRADE THROUGH STRENGTHENING TECHNICAL AND INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITIES.

**Project Approach:**

The following activities will be conducted in the region during February 2009 – April 2010:

**For Priority No.1 (Creating Awareness on SPS):**

- a. Prepare and implement a sensitization program on SPS issues and their impact on public health, commerce, and the sanitary and phytosanitary wellbeing of the region for decision makers and management levels in the public and private sectors .
- b. Document successful experiences.
- c. Preparation of cost/benefit studies of SPS measures.

**For Priority No.2 (Risk Assessment):**

1. Conduct regional courses on risk assessment of animal diseases and plant pests.
2. Conduct regional courses on risk assessment of microbiological and chemical hazards in foods.
3. Preparation of material and protocol for a course on risk and crisis communication for heads and press officers of sanitary and phytosanitary services.

**For Priority No.3 (Strengthening of Capabilities on SPS):**

1. Conduct a regional SPS workshop in collaboration with the WTO.
2. Regional course on good practices for participation in international forums.

**Budget**

Priority	%	US\$
SPS awareness	28.6	20,000
Risk assessment	21.4	15,000
SPS capabilities	50	35,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>70,000</b>

**PROJECT PROFILE****Regional SPS Activities Project STDF  
108 – Southern Region**

<b>Countries:</b>	<b>Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay</b>
<b>Duration:</b>	<b>1 year</b>
<b>Estimated Funding:</b>	<b>\$70,000</b>

**THE PROBLEM TO ADDRESS:** The IICA-STDF-108 Project has implemented a number of activities at the national level aimed at enhancing institutional capacity in the area of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS). These national activities, particularly the application of the Performance, Vision and Strategy (PVS) tool for SPS, have made it possible to identify actions or needs at the regional level, which have guided the design and formulation of the present regional project to accompany the efforts carried out nationally.

The Southern Region, (as defined by IICA: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay) has the peculiarity of including three countries (Argentina, Brazil and Chile) cooperating in the implementation of Project #108 as part of the 6-country Steering Group (together with Canada, the United States and Mexico). The other two countries in the region are those in which the SPS project is being applied (Paraguay and Uruguay). Given this situation, it is important and useful that the regional project cover all five countries, given their trade and institutional links and considering also the benefits that the Andean, Caribbean and Central Regions may derive from experiences gained as a result of the participation of Argentina, Brazil and Chile in the Southern Region project.

Based on the national common vision sessions and the institutional knowledge acquired, the countries have identified some common topics that require immediate intervention, since these affect the implementation of their national SPS agendas. These cross-cutting topics are of a technical and institutional nature, but are articulated with each other.

The topics identified as regional priorities are:

The identified regional issues to be addressed are the following:

1. Capacity building in preparation of phytosanitary risk profiles (a new concept for rapid risk assessment of specific hazards, such as needed at borders or other commercial entry ports for perishable products).
2. Implementation and management of microbiological risk assessments.
3. Generating cost opportunity information on international SPS participation.
4. Establishing mechanisms for auditing and verification of national transparency procedures.

**Targeted Beneficiaries:** Southern Region Countries



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**Objectives:**

- IV. SPECIFIC: TO IMPROVE REGIONAL CAPABILITIES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SPS, FACILITATE INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND STRENGTHEN TECHNICAL INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITIES, TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE REGION'S OWN EXPERIENCES.**

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**Project Approach:**

The following activities will be conducted in the region during February 2009 – April 2010:

*For Issue No.1 (Capacity building in the area of phytosanitary risk profiles):*

11. Preparation of manuals.
12. Implementation of training workshops.

*For Issue No.2 (Implementation and management of microbiological risk assessments):*

13. Design, prepare and deliver a training course on risk assessment of microbiological and chemical hazards in foods (if countries provide matching funds, the coverage could be expanded) with a strong emphasis on generating and documenting data and information.

*For Issue No.3 (Generate cost opportunity information on international SPS participation):*

14. Generate cost opportunity information on international SPS participation.

*For Issue No.4 (Establish mechanisms for the auditing and verification of national transparency procedures):*

15. Preparation of manuals of procedures for notification processes.
16. Implement an audit model for the notification processes, both of the WTO and of other organizations related to SPS.
17. Develop a proposal for a knowledge management model on SPS through the articulation of different communication and information media (SPS observatory).

**Expected Outcomes:**

Topic 1: Countries develop capabilities in the design of phytosanitary risk profiles. Improved capacities of the inspection system.

Topic 2: Microbiological risk analysis units strengthened, with better tools for decision-making and for making an impact on the political sectors.

Topic 3: Successful cases documented, helping to position SPS among decision-makers and to increase their relative importance.

Topic 4: Notification and auditing of procedures implemented.

**Budget**

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<b>Priority</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>US\$</b>
Phytosanitary risk profiles	42.8	30,000
Microbiological risk assessment	28.6	20,000
Documentation of cases	14.3	10,000
Transparency	14.3	10,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>70,000</b>

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