



WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION



INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

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## **IMPLEMENTING AID FOR TRADE**

# **SUB-REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON SPS- RELATED TECHNICAL COOPERATION IN CENTRAL AMERICA**

## **ANNOTATED AGENDA**

**GUATEMALA  
11-12 JUNE 2008**

**Organized by the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB), the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF), and hosted by the Government of Guatemala**

# OVERVIEW

As part of the First Regional Aid for Trade Review held last year in Lima, Peru, the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF), in coordination with the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB), held a workshop on 12 September 2007 focusing on issues related to the mobilisation of capacity building resources in the area of food safety, animal and plant health (collectively known as sanitary and phytosanitary or SPS measures). That meeting focused on SPS needs in Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama.

One strong conclusion emerging from the meeting was that: "Standards are a passport for trade. The ability to control sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) risk and meet international standards is a key element determining participation of developing countries in the trading system."

The aim of this follow-up event, hosted jointly by the Government of Guatemala, the STDF and the IADB is to turn the conclusions arising from this first event into tangible outcomes. More specifically, the event will aim to reach agreement on the following:

- an analysis of priority SPS needs not covered by future or planned assistance;
- an action plan to mobilize resources to address these specific priority needs.

The action plan will clearly spell out ways in which SPS priority needs can be addressed by donors, international organizations offering technical assistance in the SPS area or through the STDF itself. The workshop will also look at the conclusions which can be drawn from this process for the other Latin American and Caribbean countries.

## **Days 1: Technical Workshop**

The first day of the workshop will be based around technical discussions on the gap analysis.

The gap analysis examines evaluations of SPS capacity which have been undertaken in each country concerned and will be backed up by research work in the region in February and March 2008. The aim is to link these evaluations with an overview of on-going and planned donor assistance in the SPS area. From this analysis any "gaps" where outstanding needs are not being met through SPS-related assistance will be identified. During the fieldwork, beneficiaries were asked to prioritize outstanding needs. Participants at the workshop would validate those priorities, which should assist matching resources to these areas of on-going need.

## **Day 2: Validation of a Plan of Action**

The second day will focus on adoption of the action plan and agreement on the actions necessary to implement it.

This session will bring together policymakers and representatives of donors and international organizations. Discussions will be based on presentation of the gap analysis of priority SPS needs and an action plan to address these priority needs. The final output will be an agreement on an action necessary to address these priority needs. Conclusions drawn from this process and implications for other Latin American and Caribbean countries will be presented and discussed at the Second Regional Review on Aid for Trade to be held at the end of 2008.

**Day 1 – 11 JUNE**  
**Technical Workshop on SPS**

**VALIDATING SPS NEEDS, PRIORITIES AND COOPERATION**

**08.30 Registration**

**09.00 Introductory remarks**

Romulo Caballero, Minister of Economy, Guatemala  
Alvaro Cubillos, IADB Representative, Guatemala  
Anabel Gonzalez, Director, Agriculture Division, WTO

**09.30 SESSION I:**

**Moderator: Veronica Rojas, Vice-minister, Ministerio de Fomento, Industria y Comercio, Nicaragua**

**Presentation of SPS balance sheet: Jason Hafemeister, Consultant, Allen F. Johnson & Associates**

- Methodology
- Common problems
- National priorities
- On-going and planned assistance
- Recommended actions

**10.30 Networking break**

**11.00 SESSION I (cont.):**

**Open dialogue**

*In Session I, participants may address the following topics, among others:*

- Does the report reflect the reality of the SPS-situation in Central American countries?
- Have national needs and priorities been correctly identified?
- Have common problems of the Central American region been correctly identified?
- Do the actions recommended adequately respond to the needs identified?
- Has the main technical assistance programmes been correctly identified?

**12.30 Lunch**

**14.00 SESSION II:**

**Moderator: Amparo Pacheco, Vice-minister, Ministerio de Comercio Exterior, Costa Rica**

**Presentation of national needs and priorities (15 minutes per country)**

- Fernando Ocampo, Jefe Adjunto para Asuntos Comerciales, Ministerio de Comercio Exterior de Costa Rica
- Maxwell Reyna, Responsable Comercio Mercancías, Ministerio de Fomento, Industria y Comercio de Nicaragua
- Leroy Sheffer, Jefe de Negociaciones Comerciales Internacionales, Ministerio de Comercio e Industrias de Panamá

- Juan Carlos Fernández, Director de Política Comercial, Ministerio de Economía de El Salvador

**15.30 Networking break**

**16.00 SESSION II (cont.):**

- Julio Corado, Director, Dirección de Administración de Comercio Exterior de Guatemala
- Suyapa Andino, Encargada MSF, Secretaría de Industria y Comercio de Honduras

**Open dialogue**

*In Session II, participants may address the following topics, among others:*

- Are country needs considered in the design of assistance programmes?
- Is assistance correctly targeted?
- Is the current level of assistance sustainable?
- How private sector has been engaged in assistance programmes?
- Could priorities identified be considered regionally?

**17.30 Close**

## **Day 2 – 12 JUNE**

### **AGREEING A PLAN OF ACTION TO IMPLEMENT SPS-TECHNICAL COOPERATION**

#### **09.00 SESSION III:**

**Moderator: Johanna Hill, Vice-minister, Ministerio de Economía, El Salvador**

**Presentation of common problems: Allen F. Johnson, Consultant, Allen f. Johnson & Associates**

#### **Open dialogue**

*In Session III, participants may address the following topics, among others:*

- Should we look at common solutions to these common problems?
- What similarities and differences exist at a regional level which should be considered in the design of projects?
- How private sector has been engaged in assistance programmes?
- How to obtain the political commitment from national authorities?

#### **10.45 Networking break**

#### **11.00 SESSION IV: Mobilizing aid for trade to address SPS issues in Central America**

**Moderator: Jaime Turcios, Vice-minister, Secretaría de Industria y Comercio, Honduras**

- Results of the open dialogue on national priorities: Amparo Pacheco, Vice-minister, Ministerio de Comercio Exterior, Costa Rica
- Results of the open dialogue about common problems: Johanna Hill, Vice-minister, Ministerio de Economía de El Salvador
- Outline of forthcoming research work on good practice in SPS-related technical assistance: Michael Roberts, STDF
- Reactions from donors and international organizations

#### **Open dialogue**

*In Session IV, participants may address the following topics, among others:*

- What have been the key drivers of SPS-related assistance in the Central American region?
- What factors will drive future SPS-related assistance?
- How can donor response be better synchronised with beneficiary needs and co-ordinated between assistance providers?
- How can good practices be integrated in the design of future assistance strategies?

#### **12.45 Lunch**

#### **14.00 SESSION V: Way Forward – Elements of an action plan**

**Moderator: Manuel José Paredes, Vice-minister, Ministerio de Industria y Comercio, Panamá**

- Identification of the elements of an Action Plan and the next steps: Michael Roberts, STDF

##### **Discussion**

*In Session V, participants may address the following topics, among others:*

- It is possible to develop a comprehensive action plan that takes into account the priority needs identified in collaboration with different assistance providers?
- How can this assist donors in targeting resources?
- How can ownership of programmes be stimulated, not just at a technical level, but also at a senior political level?
- How can national SPS control authorities raise the political profile of their work, to obtain a political commitment?
- What next steps should be envisaged in this process?

#### **16.00 Wrap-up and closing session: IADB, WTO**