Use of Multi-Criteria Decision Analysis to Inform Decision-Making on Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Capacity-Building

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Date: 12th November 2012

Why are we here?

- Many countries face challenges complying with SPS measures in international trade

- SPS capacity-building needs are often substantial

- Challenges are faced in establishing priorities in face of resource constraints

- Processes of priority-setting often lacks coherence and transparency

- As a result there is often a struggle to raise resources, whilst those resources that are available are often used inefficiently

Development of the MCDA Framework

- Looked at various ways in which SPS capacity-building needs might be prioritised:
  - Cost-benefit analysis (CBA)
  - Cost-effectiveness analysis (CEA)
  - Multi-criteria decision analysis (MCDA)
- MCDA considered 'best' approach':
  - Relatively simple to understand and apply
  - Flexible
  - Easy to communicate results
- Process developed around the sue of MCDA
- Framework now been applied and tested in four countries

What is MCDA?

- Way of making choices on basis of multiple criteria
- Applied when:
  - Choices driven by more than one criterion
  - No one option is clearly the best
- Recognises the need to make trade-offs when options perform well on some criteria and less well on others
- Wide range of methods
- Widely used family of techniques in private and public sectors

What the workshop will do

- Provide you with an overview of the framework
- Provide you with a hands-on experience with the framework and the related software
- Provide those who have actually used the framework to communicate their experiences to you:
  - Belize
  - Vietnam
- Allow you to reflect on whether and how you might be able to use the framework in your own country

After the workshop you…..

- Will have an understanding of what the framework can do….
- and also what it can't
- Will have at least a basic understanding of what is involved in applying the framework
- Will be able to go back to your country and engage in discussions on the scope for applying the framework
- Will have an understanding of what is needed to apply the framework in your country
- Will be aware of the support that the STDF is able to provide