

Final Report

STDF 15-Training on the WTO SPS Agreement for new Delegates of OIE Member Countries-*“Training for Trainers”*

1. Background information:

The relations between the OIE and its 168 Member Countries, including 120 developing countries are made by national Delegates appointed by their Governments. A majority of Delegates, particularly of developing countries generally have only a very limited grasp of the way the OIE operates in the field of safety of the international trade of animals and products, the stakes involved, and the SPS Agreement and its implications.

The aim of the project was to integrate developing countries more fully into international trade aspects by raising OIE Delegates' awareness of the provisions of the SPS Agreement and especially of the stakes involved in their capacity to negotiate with developed countries in the sanitary field.

The project was mainly addressed to Delegates of OIE developing Member Countries, and it was aimed at facilitating implementation of the WTO-SPS Agreement while at the same time increasing the awareness of OIE Delegates in the activities of their organisation, particularly market access.

2. Methodology:

The OIE managed the project in collaboration with the “Ecole Nationale des Services Veterinaires” (ENSV), its Collaborating Centre in training Veterinary Services in Lyon, France. It comprised a pilot seminar organised at the OIE Headquarters and five regional seminars

2.1 Pilot Seminar

A Pilot Seminar was organised with the objective to obtain a model for standard seminar which would be carried out in each OIE Region.

The Pilot Seminar was held in June 2005 at the OIE Headquarters and lasted for 3 days. It was attended by all OIE Regional Representatives elected, Members of OIE Regional Commissions, selected OIE Delegates from developing countries and resource persons from the OIE Central Bureau, WTO and the ENSV.

2.1.1. Outline of the contents of the Pilot Seminar.

The seminar consisted of two parts: a theoretical part and a practical part (analysis of concrete examples, tutorial work, etc.).

Theoretical part	Practical part
<p>This part consisted of lectures, followed by questions and discussions with the participants. The method of teaching was aimed at presenting the full range of texts, standards, etc., and sought to highlight the salient points, which were then discussed with the aim of reaching a shared understanding.</p> <p>1. WTO Agreement on the Application of SPS Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures The OIE's mandate from the WTO Integration of OIE rules in international trade Critical presentation of the Agreement, identifying the benefits and constraints for WTO Member Countries</p> <p>2. OIE Organisation and functioning – the Central Bureau, the Regional Representations, Terrestrial Animal Health Code, Role of the various organs of the OIE, Election of members of Commissions and nomination of experts for ad hoc groups and working groups, Relations and complementarities between the OIE and the Codex Alimentarius Commission</p> <p>3. Obligations and rights of OIE Member Countries and Delegates Responsibilities of importing and exporting countries, Quality of the Veterinary Services, Official recognition of the animal health status of a country or zone</p>	<p>This part consisted of tutorial work, largely based on concrete examples. The tutorial sessions were conducted by the lecturers, backed up by the OIE Regional Representatives.</p> <p>1. Organisation of epidemiological information gathering at the national level Organisation of the Veterinary Services, role of laboratories (Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres) and partner institutions (farmers's organisations and auxiliaries, etc.) Availability and quality of information, transparency, chain of command, information communication, etc.</p> <p>2. Notification of epidemiological information Responsibility and transparency: Procedures, tools and methods</p> <p>3. Definition and implementation of import measures Risk analysis, regionalisation, equivalence (reference to SPS Agreement)</p> <p>4. Decision-making procedures when an emergency situation arises Organisation, coordinating bodies, competent authority, information, raising awareness of political decision-makers Responsibility and transparency</p> <p>Practical topics included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Importation of bovine meat and live cattle: using BSE and FMD as examples, - Epidemiological surveillance and monitoring of FMD and exportation of live cattle or bovine meat; - Analysis of unjustified trade restrictions, - Analysis of the potential consequences for a State that applies unjustified trade restrictions – complaints procedure, credibility, disguised form of tariff protection, - Dispute settlement and mediation procedures

2.1.2. Evaluation of the Pilot Seminar

The Pilot Seminar was evaluated in two stages. An assessment was made immediately after the seminar by the trainees themselves and a second assessment was carried out a few weeks later by the ENSV to fine tune the presentations made. Efforts were made to ensure that developing countries secure maximum benefits from subsequent training seminars. Evaluations outcomes were highly positive.

2.1.3. Development of a CD Rom for OIE Delegates

The OIE in collaboration with the ENSV prepared a CD Rom as a teaching aid for seminar participants. This CD Rom comprises a Vademecum of the OIE, with a practical and useful guide for its utilisation, including the main topics of the OIE as follows:

- Presentation of the OIE: Structure, Basic Texts, 4th Strategic Plan, Rights and obligations of the OIE Delegate, List of Member Countries and their contributions;
- The OIE Sanitary Codes;
- Sanitary Notification and Epidemiological Information;
- Official Animal Health Status: List of notifiable diseases to OIE, Disease status recognition procedures;
- OIE Expertise: Specialist Commissions, Collaborating Centres, References Laboratories, Working Groups, Ad Hoc Groups;
- Veterinary Services;
- OIE Publications;

4 copies of the CD Rom were sent to every OIE Delegate worldwide. Copies have also been sent to OIE Regional and Sub-Regional Representations.

2.1.4. Educational Kit for the organisers of future Standard Seminars

A complete OIE Training Tool Box for “Training for Trainers” sessions was prepared for by the ENSV. It includes the contents of the CD Rom, as well as other teaching materials like practical examples and video-films of the lecturers’ presentations during the Pilot Seminar, in hard and electronic copies (Power Point and PDF files).

It also includes an institutional CD Rom of the OIE and a practical guide with all the necessary organisational and logistical indications to prepare and organise Standard Seminars directed to Delegate’s training.

The Tool Box was distributed to each Department of the OIE Central Bureau and to all OIE Regional and Sub-Regional Representations (one has been sent to WTO).

This OIE Training Tool Box is also being used for other OIE seminars either organised by OIE or where OIE personnel is participating.

3. OIE Regional “Training for Trainers” Seminars

Regional workshops were carried out in order to provide a more in depth and continuous training on the role of the OIE, mainly on its responsibility under the WTO mandate and the implementation of the SPS Agreement. Financial aspects were managed by WTO.

The regional ‘train the trainers seminars were organised in conjunction with the WTO regional seminars on the SPS Agreement. The specific session for the OIE was attended by all Chief Veterinary Officers of the sub region as well as their close collaborators. All the subjects covered during the pilot seminars including the practical work were dealt with.

Participants were provided with teaching materials in the form of electronic and printed handouts and Power Point presentations, in the appropriate languages of the region. They also received guidance on how best to deliver such presentations in their respective countries taking into account national specificities.

The regional workshops were organised as follows:

-Bamako, Mali, from 3 to 7 October 2005 for West African countries:

20 participants, from 10 countries (Bénin, Burkina Faso, Cote D'Ivoire, Guinée, Guinée-Bissau, Mali, Mauritanie, Niger, Sénégal, Togo) attended the workshop. Personnel from OIE Bureau Central, from ENSV and from the Regional Representation for Africa acted as resource personnel.

-Bangkok, Thailand, from 10 to 14 October 2005 for Southeast Asian countries:

10 participants, from 7 countries (Myanmar, Philippines, Indonesia, Vietnam, Thailand, Laos and Singapore) attended the workshop. Personnel from OIE Central Bureau and the OIE Representation for Asia, Pacific and Oceania acted as resource personnel.

-Cairo, Egypt, from 12 to 15 June 2006 For Middle East Countries;

25 participants, from 10 Countries (Egypt, Lebanon, Yemen, Iraq, Libya, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Syria, Oman, and Kuwait) attended the workshop. Personnel from OIE Central Bureau, ENSV and the Regional Representation for the Middle East acted as resource personnel..

-Vienna, Austria, from 17 to 21 July 2006 for European countries

9 participants, from 6 countries (Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Russia, Ukraine) attended the workshop. Personnel from ENSV, the Regional Representation for Eastern Europe and an OIE Consultant acted as resource personnel.

-Bogota, Colombia, from 30 October to 04 November 2006 for Latin American countries:

25 participants, from 10 countries (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela) attended the workshop. Personnel from OIE Central Bureau, from CEBASEV (new OIE Collaborating Centre for Veterinary Services) and from the Regional Representation acted as resource personnel.

During these workshops, the lack of awareness of some countries regarding the OIE and the SPS Agreement, was apparent.

The outcome of each regional workshop was a cadre of well trained professionals capable of providing continuous awareness and capacity for enhanced implementation of the SPS Agreement, particularly in the areas of animal health and food safety. It is hoped that this would lead to greater and more active participation of developing countries in the OIE International Standards' setting process.

4. Budget and Finances- STDF 15

Year: 2004 euros

Expenditure items		
Contribution received		70 842.00
Balance on 31 December 2004		70 842.00

Year: 2005

Expenditure items		
Balance on 1 January 2005		70 842.00
Administrative fees (8%)		-5 666.56
ENSV 1st payment (syllabus)		-47 000.00
Dr Coulibaly, mission to Bamako - STDF meeting		-1 039.50
Balance on 31 December 2005		17 135.94

Year: 2006

Expenditure items		
Balance on 1 January 2006		17 135.94
ENSV 2nd payment (balance)		-15 470.00
Secretarial expenses		-2 445.78
Balance on 31 December 2006		-779.84

5. Conclusion

STDF 15 could be taken as a kick-start for a continuous training programme for all OIE Delegates and their close collaborators on OIE issues, mainly those related to International sanitary standards setting process, and the role of the OIE under the mandate of the WTO. The products of the STDF 15, namely the OIE Training Tool Box will be used worldwide under the auspices of the OIE including its Regional and Sub-Regional Representations, for increasing the awareness of OIE Delegates on OIE issues related to its various objectives particularly on the benefits to OIE Member Countries.

The permanent contact between the OIE Regional and Sub-Regional Representatives with OIE Delegates of their regions has been a key factor within the training process and this can only be of benefit to Member Countries.

It is recommended that a second STDF "Training for Trainers" be developed with certain organisational amendments to provide continuity to this permanent building capacity and also to enable a wider coverage of OIE Member Countries.