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

Spencer Henson

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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 use 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