



SPS-RELATED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR DEVELOPMENT: THE CASE OF FRENCH-SPEAKING AFRICA

WTO, room D, 27 March 2017, 13:30 – 15:00

Session organized jointly by the permanent missions of
Canada and France to the WTO, and the STDF

BACKGROUND

Despite the importance of agriculture in reducing poverty, partly because it employs approximately 70% of the labour force of least developed countries, the sector's share in public spending continues to be insufficient. An estimate suggests that on average African countries allocate less than 4% of their national budget on agriculture. This is far below the target that African countries committed to in Maputo in 2003 to allocate at least 10% of their national budget to agriculture. As a result, agricultural productivity remains largely untapped in Africa. Other factors that contribute to low levels of productivity include infrastructural constraints, unfavourable agro-climatic factors, the presence of diseases and pests that decimate crops and a non-conducive investment environment.

In addition to low productivity that adversely affects the competitiveness of agricultural products from developing countries, challenges in complying with the sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) requirements of the importing countries further restricts access for products to more lucrative markets.

In order to address these constraints and improve market access for agricultural products from developing countries, five international organizations (FAO, OIE, WHO, WTO and World Bank) and 11 donors (including Canada and France) are working within the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) to build up capacity of these countries to implement international SPS standards. **Since its creation, the STDF has supported more than 150 initiatives at national, regional and global levels, with approximately 40% of the resources going to French-speaking countries and other Francophonie members such as Cambodia and Viet Nam.**

The success of STDF projects can be attributed to the collaborative and holistic approach embedded in the design of projects. The impact of SPS-related capacity building can only be sustainable if the assistance provided takes into account the social and environmental dimensions of the agri-sector.

OBJECTIVE

This session will explore the wide array of outcomes resulting from selected STDF projects in Africa. These outcomes range from improved SPS capacity in countries, to increased agricultural exports, to long-term positive impacts that go over and above the intended results of the projects. The session will take stock of and learn from good practice identified in these projects to inform and enhance future SPS capacity building projects. A detailed background note for this session is available here.

PROJECTS

Lessons learned from the "[SPS Cocoa Africa](#)" project implemented in West Africa will be presented, with the overall idea to examine links between SPS issues and sustainable use of resources. Specifically, this project raised awareness of operators in the cocoa sector on the fact that the benefits of adopting sustainable agricultural practices (such as integrated pest management) are not limited only to harvesting a safe and good quality product but additionally they guarantee the longevity of plantations, thereby protecting the long-term revenue of producers.

Drawing on the case of a [West African project](#) in the artisanal fishing sector, the session will examine how a project to develop SPS capacity can incorporate a gender inclusive approach. In West Africa, women sell 80% of fish and seafood, which provides up to 80% of animal protein consumed by coastal countries. Yet women's work is less well remunerated and their contribution to the economy, employment and to food security not adequately recognized. The STDF project is working toward strengthening and "structuring" women's participation in the sector through their systemic involvement in post-capture activities.

Finally, the last session will highlight how implementation of an [STDF project](#) by the Association of Horticultural Unions of the Niayes Region (AUMN) enhanced the quality and safety of cabbage in Senegal. This also resulted in AUMN becoming a key partner for the national SPS authorities regarding issues related to development of the horticultural sector as a whole.

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME:

- 13:00 – 13:30 Buffet
- 13:30 – 13:35 Opening: Introduction and objectives of the session **(5 min)**
Mr Jean-Marie Paugam, Permanent Delegate of France to the WTO
- 13:35 – 13:50 Case 1: Phytosanitary risk control in cocoa plantations to ensure sustainable production and consumer health protection **(15 min)**
Mr Laurent Pipitone, International Cocoa Organization (ICCO)
- 13:50 – 14:05 Case 2: Promoting the empowerment of women involved in the small-scale fishing sector through SPS-related capacity building (15 min)
Mr Raymond Tavares, Task Manager, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
Mrs Marie-Zado Guilavogui (Guinea)
- 14:05 – 14:20 Case 3: Strengthening clusters of small-scale producers through greater involvement in the implementation of SPS-related technical assistance projects **(15 min)**
Mr Mamadou Ndiaye, Coordinator of the Association of Horticultural Unions of the Niayes Region (AUMN)
- 14:20 – 14:55 Discussions with the audience
- 14:55 – 15:00 Conclusion **(5 min)**
Mr Jonathan T. Fried, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Canada to the World Trade Organization

Session moderator: **Mrs Julie Emond, First Secretary (Trade and Development), Permanent Mission of Canada to the World Trade Organization**