

GRANT APPLICATION FORM

Standards and Trade Development Facility

Applicant:

Countries of the Americas and Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on
Agriculture (IICA)

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GRANT APPLICATION FORM

1. PROJECT TITLE

Development of sustainable institutional capabilities in the countries of the Americas¹ to consolidate their active participation in the Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Committee) and promote implementation of the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures of the World Trade Organization (WTO-SPS Agreement).

2. REQUESTING GOVERNMENT/AGENCY

Countries of the Americas together with the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA).

2.1 Beneficiary countries

Twenty-eight countries benefit directly from the project: Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Haiti, Jamaica, Dominican Republic, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, St. Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana, Suriname, Paraguay, Uruguay, Ecuador, Colombia, Bolivia, Venezuela and Peru.

The “country actions” will be carried out only in the 28 countries will receive the financial benefit, and not in IICA’s 34 member countries, because the Steering Group considered it advisable to focus the efforts of these countries on the exchange of successful experiences and support for the smooth operation of the project.

“Country actions” are those activities that make up the project, of which evaluation is only one. Therefore, the Steering Group decided not to earmark resources (regardless of origin) for their evaluations, preferring instead to attach priority to focusing resources and efforts on strengthening the remaining 28 countries.

The fact that these “country actions” are not going to be carried out in the member countries of the Steering Group does not mean that they will not document or describe their successful experiences, since, in accompanying the other countries in the implementation of the project, one of the key components will be the transfer of experiences.

It is important to point out that the role played by the countries of the Steering Group in the implementation of the project is of the utmost importance because they are contributing the time of selected specialists, their expertise and institutional strengths for transmission to other countries. Other collateral benefits could be derived in some cases in which cooperation actions can be identified and agreement can be reached on their future implementation by the parties.

The monitoring of the project is another important responsibility of the Steering Group since, because it is an advisory group, it can and must analyze the results and progress of the project, which will

¹ Countries of the Americas shall be understood to mean the member countries of the IICA: Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Haiti, Jamaica, Dominican Republic, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, St. Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana, Suriname, Paraguay, Uruguay, Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Ecuador, Colombia, Bolivia, Venezuela, Peru, Mexico, the United States, Canada.

favor or facilitate the external evaluation at a later date. Therefore, these countries will conduct periodic evaluations of progress in the implementation of the project.

3. COLLABORATING GOVERNMENT/AGENCY

Countries of the Americas and the IICA.

4. PROJECT OBJECTIVES

4.1 Objectives

- (a) To promote a common and shared vision in the countries (public and private sectors) and between the countries of the Americas, in order to follow up and consolidate their institutional capacity-building in the SPS field.
- (b) To continue supporting real and potential capacity-building in the countries of the Americas, for the sake of more active and effective participation in the SPS Committee and to contribute to implementation of the WTO-SPS Agreement in the framework of the SPS Initiative for the Americas (the Initiative).
- (c) To consolidate technical cooperation among the countries of the Americas as a mechanism for exchange in the area of technical assistance and for support in the area of special and differential treatment, with the countries of the Steering Group (Argentina, Brazil, Canada Chile, Mexico, USA) providing support to and sharing experiences with the other countries of the hemisphere, seeking practical solutions to problems related to the implementation of the SPS Committee of the WTO.

4.2 Project background and rationale

The WTO-SPS Agreement refers to the necessity for country Members to play a part, within the limits of their resources, in the relevant international organizations, such as the Codex, the OIE and the IPPC. This is of great importance as it will enable them to participate actively in the preparation, development and adoption of international standards, guidelines and recommendations, particularly those that could have a significant impact on their trade in agri-food products.

At the same time, Members, and particularly those capital-based representatives with responsibility in this field, have been constantly urged and encouraged to participate actively in the SPS Committee by the latter's Secretariat.

Historically, many developing countries have argued that a lack of financial resources was responsible for their participating very little or not at all. Given this situation, the IICA and the United States Department of Agriculture decided to join forces, through the Initiative, in an effort to support participation by the countries of the Americas in the SPS Committee.

The Initiative has opened up new areas and opportunities for the countries of the Americas, and their participation in the SPS Committee has increasingly taken the form of specific proposals or statements on subjects that concern them directly.

In the light of this new experience, great importance was attached to the need for supplementary studies, particularly on the strengthening of the countries' institutional capabilities, so as to improve the elements and resources available to them for more active and effective participation in the SPS Committee, thereby benefiting their productive agri-food sectors.

Thus, this project supplements the work carried out under the above-mentioned Initiative, and its results are intended to provide follow-up and continuity to the actions taken in that context.

In short, this project gives added value to the work accomplished up to now under the Initiative, since it is geared to following up and strengthening activities and, where appropriate, providing concrete solutions through technical cooperation and a common vision of specific commitments, at both national and regional level. (See Annex 1, Results of the Initiative)

The project focuses on the development of capabilities identified, through the Initiative, in the countries participating in the project (See inset 1), and in discussions held within the framework of different forums and multilateral negotiating processes.

Inset 1

Characteristics observed prior to the SPS Initiative for the Americas, at the institutional, financial, human and technical levels, that limit active participation in the SPS Committee of the WTO.

- The topic of SPS is not a priority for the missions of some countries to the WTO, and entities in the capital work only at the national level?.
- Limited coordination among the different agencies of the public sector vis-à-vis the SPS at the WTO.
- Little or no coordination between the public and private sectors.
- Personnel in the field of SPS have multiple responsibilities, meaning international topics are not a priority on their work agenda.
- High personnel turnover.
- Little or no coordination between the work of the SPS Committee and the Three Sisters at the national level.
- Personnel have limited training and do not keep up to date.
- Concern focuses on complying with obligations, and use of the benefits of the Agreement and the Committee is limited.
- No budget allocated for topics and activities related to international organizations.
- Institutional structures have not kept up with changes in the new multilateral, regulatory and trade context.
- Political interference in scientific decisions
- Limited regional coordination.
- Underdeveloped enquiry/notification points

These elements refer to technical cooperation among countries and the development of capabilities for active international participation, which were discussed and set out in the Doha Declaration (WT/MIN(01)/DEC/1, paragraph 44) and in the SPS Committee of the WTO (G/SPS/35).

In the Doha Declaration and in the report presented by the SPS Committee, emphasis is placed on the need to promote active international participation and increase technical cooperation

5. PROJECT ACTIVITIES

The main project activities comprise six stages:

- (a) Collection of country-specific information.
- (b) Analysis of progress in capacity-building.

- (c) Development of a common vision.
- (d) Commitments and agreements on alternative actions to address and resolve priority problems at national and regional level.
- (e) Documentation relating to the experience and establishment of assessment indicators.
- (f) Implementation of the regional project

5.1 Collection of country-specific information

The collection of the necessary available information will provide a preliminary frame of reference regarding institutional conditions and capabilities in each of the countries, and will constitute an additional input to the evaluation processes and the common approach to specific commitments.

Information will initially be obtained from the following sources: the country studied; the Initiative; the common vision and strategy instrument applied by the IICA in certain countries of the Americas; the specialized WTO/IICA Workshop on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures; and any other documents prepared by regional and/or international organizations that are concerned with sanitary and phytosanitary measures.

5.2 Analysis of progress in capacity-building

The degree of progress will be determined by developing an approach based on a common vision and shared commitment, geared to the follow-up, strengthening and consolidation of sanitary and phytosanitary capabilities and, where appropriate, agreement on specific solutions.

This will make it possible, *inter alia*, to continue deepening knowledge of the WTO-SPS Agreement and thus to further its implementation and ensure more active participation in the SPS Committee. These two elements are an important factor for improving agri-food product access to international markets.

In this context, the level of progress and conditions in each of the countries will be analysed on the basis of a systemic methodology serving to link together the public and private sectors in a shared vision.

This systemic approach will be based on five inter-related variables which, without being exhaustive or exclusive, will be the subject of study and analysis under this project. The results will make it possible, on the one hand, to determine the strong points and the needs for follow-up and/or consolidation and, on the other hand, to identify fundamental weaknesses affecting the capacities of the SPS system. They will also make it possible to define and reach agreement on actions serving to strengthen each of the countries and regions of the hemisphere.

Variable 1 Priorities

Consideration will be given to the level or levels of support given to institutional capacity-building in this field by the national authorities responsible for the application of sanitary and phytosanitary measures.

Variable 2 Human resources

An analysis will be made of the problems faced by countries in assigning specialized staff to deal with the following tasks: continuous and systematic follow-up of agreements and

decisions emanating from the SPS Committee: capacity for adequately managing and supervising enquiry and notification points; follow-up to sanitary and phytosanitary topics of commercial interest to the country; promotion of processes of change, etc.

Variable 3 National coordination mechanisms

The importance attached by countries to national coordination mechanisms will be examined as a basis for strengthening capacity-building and the way in which the public institutions and the private sector coordinate strategy-development initiatives in order to address issues of interest that arise in the SPS Committee and the new sanitary and phytosanitary requirements of importing countries.

Variable 4 Coordination between capital officials and Geneva missions

An analysis will be made of the problems faced by countries in the area of coordination and communication between capital officials and their representatives in Geneva, in order to ensure provision of the necessary information and sufficient inputs for the study and analysis of technical issues.

Consideration will be given to the adverse effects on countries which have no mission in Geneva and alternative remedies for that situation.

Variable 5 Financial and technical resources

A study will be made of the problems faced by countries in increasing resource allocation to their national budgets in order to underwrite their participation in future meetings of the SPS Committee and to finance training activities for specialized technical personnel in this field.

This stage will involve the participation of at least one expert from another country, who, in addition to contributing to the analysis of the problems, will promote a dialogue for the exchange of experiences.

5.3 Development of a common vision

Based on identification of the current situation and the state of progress of the fundamental variables and the attendant circumstances, a common and shared public/private sector vision will be developed with a view to determining strengths and weaknesses in the framework of a national SPS agenda and prioritizing the actions needed to optimize continuous growth of the variables in question.

5.4 Commitments and agreements on alternative actions to address and overcome priority problems at the national and regional level

This stage will facilitate a coordinated approach, based on a common and shared public/private sector vision, to determining immediate priorities and defining time-frames for their implementation.

On the basis of the national needs identified, it will be possible to determine and prioritize activities at the regional level as a starting point for the design of a regional capacity-building initiative. One of the key economic aspects will be the Fund to be established for this purpose under the project, and its implementation will be the responsibility of the beneficiary countries, with IICA support.

5.5 Documentation on experience and establishment of assessment indicators

A case portfolio will be prepared to document the agenda, the baseline situation, the recommendations and agreed commitments and the profile of alternative actions.

In addition, performance indicators will be established with periodicity tables, and the persons responsible for monitoring and notification will be identified.

5.6 Identification and implementation of the regional project

To identify common topics and weaknesses among countries in a single region, with a view to developing a regional project. The project will be identified and formulated once the initial mapping of the countries that make up the regions in question has been completed.

6. PUBLIC/PRIVATE SECTOR COOPERATION

The project provides for no prior or initial agreements between the public and private sectors; however, its success depends on the active participation of both sectors and on the expectation of formal or informal agreements between them, once the project has been implemented.

7. PARTNER INSTITUTIONS INVOLVED

Not applicable.

8. PROJECT OUTPUTS

The project satisfies the main conditions laid down in document G/SPS/GEN/523 with regard to promoting the implementation of the WTO-SPS Agreement, promoting and consolidating technical commercial expertise and the capacity to analyse and apply sanitary and phytosanitary measures, which will contribute to trade facilitation for the purpose of improving sanitary and phytosanitary conditions in local markets, thereby boosting economic and social development in the countries of the Americas.

In overall terms, and on the basis of a common vision, specific strategies, action plans and commitments will be devised in line with the characteristics and levels of progress in sanitary and phytosanitary development in each of the countries under study, with a view to continuing to strengthen their institutional capacities for the implementation of the WTO-SPS Agreement and their participation and active role in the SPS Committee, with the commercial impact that this entails and the social and economic benefits that it represents for the populations of those countries.

Main results expected:

- a. Continued boosting and consolidation of institutional capacities in the SPS field, with a view *inter alia* to providing the necessary elements for active and effective participation in the SPS Committee.
- b. Consolidation of expertise and capabilities for the improved implementation of the WTO-SPS Agreement and international sanitary and phytosanitary standards, with a view to continuing to strengthen the situation in respect of human, animal and plant health, and thus to maintain and/or extend the capacity for access to international markets, while coping with possible barriers or restrictions in those markets.

- c. Continued public and private capacity-building, in order to consolidate the coordination and collaboration mechanisms and promote the processes of defining policies, strategies and priorities and allocating resources.
- d. Progress in the establishment and, where appropriate, consolidation of the (formal or informal) national SPS forums, the purpose of which is to act as agencies for the coordination and strengthening of activities and channels of communication and dissemination between the various sectors involved.
- e. Continued application of national SPS planning instruments, in order to increase training and technical assistance.
- f. Initiatives for the establishment of effective channels of communication and coordination between the different countries, using non-traditional strategies, with the aim of promoting special and differential treatment and technical assistance, and establishment of follow-up and assessment indicators for the effective measurement of cooperation delivery.
- g. Documenting problems and progress in each country's capacity, on the basis of an analysis of the variables, and designing a regional and hemispheric map of the results.
- h. Preparation of a portfolio of national and regional experiences and expert recommendations for specific situations and activities implemented, to serve as a frame of reference for possible applications in other countries or regions.
- i. Regional projects identified, formulated, implemented and documented.

9. PROJECT IMPACT

Trade liberalization has reduced tariff barriers; however, it has exposed other trade practices that may account for certain technical limitations, some of which are difficult for developing or least developed countries to overcome. Hence the strategic importance of sanitary and phytosanitary measures in international agri-food trade, since importing countries are introducing increasingly strict requirements,.

In order to satisfy those requirements, the project provides for evaluations, recommendations and action schemes under a system of shared commitment and vision, which will have a considerable impact on the strengthening of existing institutional SPS capabilities in each of the countries of the Americas, and will further more encourage them to maintain a presence and increase their active participation in the SPS Committee, as well as to continue making a greater commitment to implementation of the WTO-SPS Agreement.

Other significant factors will have a major direct or indirect impact on the countries concerned:

- a. Development and strengthening of their institutional capabilities, in terms of both human and financial resources, so as to prevent them being marginalized from the trading system and, in certain cases, exposed to sanitary and phytosanitary risks.
- b. Strengthening and systematic application of sanitary and phytosanitary planning instruments and development of continuous capacity-building programmes, with defined priorities, convincing results and specific benefits.

- c. Progress in the process of harmonizing their sanitary and phytosanitary legislation with the international standards, guidelines and recommendations of the Codex, OIE and the IPPC, with a view to enhancing the levels of sanitary and phytosanitary protection and achieving greater participation in international trade.
- d. Allocation and/or reinforcement of staff dedicated to devising and elaborating standards and monitoring their application, with active private sector participation.
- e. Establishment and/or consolidation of notification points and appointment of officials responsible for evaluation, technical justification and economic/commercial effects of notifications submitted by other countries to the SPS Committee.

9.1 Links to other projects

The proposed project provides for a long-term strategy aimed at continuing effective and sustainable institutional SPS capacity-building in the countries of the Americas.

The project is neither isolated nor unique in terms of the development of such capacity, since 34 countries of the Americas have been participating in the SPS Committee, through the Initiative, since October 2002.

Last but not least, the common vision and action instrument is being implemented by the IICA in certain countries of the Americas. This activity entails combined public and private sector involvement in determining the level of development of official services in the light of proper implementation of the WTO-SPS Agreement. Measurement instruments have been developed for the areas of animal health (with OIE support), food safety (with INPPAZ-PAHO-WHO support) and plant health. The results of these activities will provide important additional inputs to the project.

9.2 Sustainability of the project

The project will have medium- and long-term sustainability, enabling countries to make the necessary adjustments and changes based on the ordering of priorities for the lines of action agreed under the common and shared vision.

The success of the project depends on the level of responsibility and commitment assumed by the beneficiaries and on the implementation of technical cooperation schemes between countries. Its impact and sustainability may therefore differ from country to country.

Bearing in mind that the project is geared to institutional capacity-building, and on the basis of that objective, it may be considered that its sustainability depends not on individual training, but on making the different sectors and institutions aware of the importance of investment in SPS-related activities.

Another important element which will command special attention concerns action to ensure the continuity of beneficiaries and their responsibilities, since the direct or indirect strengthening of their leadership capacity will influence the changes required by countries in the SPS field.

In addition, inasmuch as permanent communication between officials, specialists and technical staff in the various countries is envisaged under the action plan, the establishment of a regional or hemispheric community will be promoted to facilitate technical assistance and training and the exchange of information and experiences.

9.3 Application of the project in other areas

The implementation methodology for the project enables it to be applied in any other developing or least developed country, since its central features may be adapted or expanded to suit the particular characteristics of the individual countries concerned. It could also serve as an important frame of reference for the study of its results by countries interested in this experience.

A noteworthy aspect already mentioned in point 9.2 (links to other projects) is the fact that this initiative fits into a long-term strategy linked to other institutional activities, and that persistence and planning have the greatest impact on capacity-building. Consequently, future attempts to replicate or make use of experiences generated in the countries concerned should be analysed in their proper context.

10. PROJECT INPUTS

IICA and the U.S. Department of Agriculture joined forces to implement the SPS Initiative for the Americas. By the end of October 2006, the Initiative will have cost around US \$1,680,000 and if, as planned, it runs through October 2007, it will have cost a total of some two million dollars. The funds for this Initiative came from a specific budget appropriation from USDA and special resources from IICA's budget. Consequently, no further resources are available from these two agencies.

Conceptually speaking, the Initiative for the Americas got under way in October 2002 and will conclude in October 2007. In other words, it will have provided five years of uninterrupted support to the countries of the Americas to enable them to play an active role in the SPS Committee. The concept of supporting the developing countries' participation in international forums calls for a firm commitment from the countries themselves and a clear objective in subsidizing their involvement: namely, that once the Initiative has concluded, the countries will continue to take part in the international processes and cover their own costs. Therefore, alternative funding sources are needed to complement the work carried out in recent years. Given the characteristics of the STDF, financing the work of this project with resources from this fund seems a particularly good fit. IICA and its cooperation partners are not in a position to continue financing the project.

The amount requested from the Facility is US\$575,588, 52 per cent of which is to be used to finance specific national activities (workshops and meetings, 22 per cent) and regional activities (28 per cent). These activities are explained in sections 5.2, 5.3 and 5.4 (see Table 1).

Thirty-seven per cent of the funding requested is to be earmarked for the recruitment and travel of project consultants, and the remaining 11 per cent is to cover the travel costs of the expert who will accompany the consultants. The latter item represents the technical cooperation component between countries.

The purpose of this activity is, where necessary, to finance the participation of an expert who will support the process, promote the exchange of experiences and provide recommendations for specified situations.

Table 1: Cost Structure. Inputs from the Facility

Item	Amount	Subtotal	Total
1. Consultants			19.7%
Consultant 1	\$57,750		
Consultant 2	\$57,750		
Subtotal			
2. Travel			11.3%
Consultant 1 travel	\$15,600		
Consultant 2 travel	\$18,000		
Expert travel	\$33,600		
Subtotal			
3. Subsistence allowances			16%
Consultants subsistence	\$65,568		
Expert subsistence	\$27,320		
Subtotal			
4. Activities			24%
Common vision week, 1 per country (28 countries):	\$5,000	\$140,000	
Fund for specific activities, 1 per region (4 regions):	\$40,000	\$160,000	27.3%
External Evaluation (requested by the STDF) – estimated cost		\$10,000	1.7%
TOTAL		\$585,588	100%

Table 2: Consultant costs

	Cost per month	Months worked	Total
Consultant 1	\$3,500	16.5	\$57,750
Consultant 2	\$3,500	16.5	\$57,750

Note: The consultant will work in the countries of the Central, Andean and Southern regions, and the other consultant in the Caribbean region (see Table 5 on the implementation of the project).

Table 3: Estimated Subsistence Costs

	Per diem	Permanent consultant	Additional expert	Permanent consultant	Additional expert	Total
Country	\$	No. of days	No. of days	\$	\$	
Belize	\$158	12	5	\$1,896	\$790	\$2,686
Costa Rica	\$147	12	5	\$1,764	\$735	\$2,499
El Salvador	\$151	12	5	\$1,812	\$755	\$2,567
Guatemala	\$169	12	5	\$2,028	\$845	\$2,873
Honduras	\$162	12	5	1,944	\$810	\$2,754
Nicaragua	\$154	12	5	\$1,848	\$770	\$2,618
Panama	\$171	12	5	\$2,052	\$855	\$2,907
Ecuador	\$167	12	5	\$2,004	\$835	\$2,839
Colombia	\$141	12	5	\$1,692	\$705	\$2,397
Bolivia	\$132	12	5	\$1,584	\$660	\$2,244
Venezuela	\$213	12	5	\$2,556	\$1,065	\$3,621
Peru	\$213	12	5	\$2,556	\$1,065	\$3,621
Paraguay	\$172	12	5	\$2,064	\$860	\$2,924
Uruguay	\$111	12	5	\$1,332	\$555	\$1,887
Antigua and Barbuda	\$233	12	5	\$2,796	\$1,165	\$3,961
Bahamas	\$210	12	5	2,520	\$1,050	\$3,570
Barbados	\$335	12	5	\$4,020	\$1,675	\$5,695
Dominica	\$204	12	5	\$2,448	\$1,020	\$3,468
Grenada	\$296	12	5	\$3,552	\$1,480	\$5,032
Haiti	\$203	12	5	\$2,436	\$1,015	\$3,451
Jamaica	\$236	12	5	\$2,832	\$1,180	\$4,012
Dominican Republic	\$174	12	5	\$2,088	\$870	\$2,958
St. Kitts & Nevis	\$248	12	5	\$2,976	\$1,240	\$4,216
St. Vincent & the Grenadines	\$244	12	5	\$2,928	\$1,220	\$4,148
St. Lucia	\$237	12	5	\$2,844	\$1,185	\$4,029
Trinidad & Tobago	\$285	12	5	\$3,420	\$1,425	\$4,845
Guyana	\$151	12	5	\$1,812	\$755	\$2,567
Suriname	\$147	12	5	\$1,764	\$735	\$2,499
Total				\$65,568	\$27,320	\$92,888

Table 4: Consultant Travel Costs (Airline Tickets)

Country	Average cost	Permanent consultant 1	Permanent consultant 2	National expert	Total
Belize	\$1,200		\$1,200	\$1,200	\$2,400
Costa Rica	\$1,200	\$1,200		\$1,200	\$2,400
El Salvador	\$1,200	\$1,200		\$1,200	\$2,400
Guatemala	\$1,200	\$1,200		\$1,200	\$2,400
Honduras	\$1,200	\$1,200		\$1,200	\$2,400
Nicaragua	\$1,200	\$1,200		\$1,200	\$2,400
Panama	\$1,200	\$1,200		\$1,200	\$2,400
Ecuador	\$1,200	\$1,200		\$1,200	\$2,400
Colombia	\$1,200	\$1,200		\$1,200	\$2,400
Bolivia	\$1,200	\$1,200		\$1,200	\$2,400
Venezuela	\$1,200	\$1,200		\$1,200	\$2,400
Peru	\$1,200	\$1,200		\$1,200	\$2,400
Paraguay	\$1,200	\$1,200		\$1,200	\$2,400
Uruguay	\$1,200	\$1,200		\$1,200	\$2,400
Antigua & Barbuda	\$1,200		\$1,200	\$1,200	\$2,400
Bahamas	\$1,200		\$1,200	\$1,200	\$2,400
Barbados	\$1,200		\$1,200	\$1,200	\$2,400
Dominica	\$1,200		\$1,200	\$1,200	\$2,400
Grenada	\$1,200		\$1,200	\$1,200	\$2,400
Haiti	\$1,200		\$1,200	\$1,200	\$2,400
Jamaica	\$1,200		\$1,200	\$1,200	\$2,400
Dominican Republic	\$1,200		\$1,200	\$1,200	\$2,400
St. Kitts and Nevis	\$1,200		\$1,200	\$1,200	\$2,400
St. Vincent & the Grenadines	\$1,200		\$1,200	\$1,200	\$2,400
St. Lucia	\$1,200		\$1,200	\$1,200	\$2,400
Trinidad & Tobago	\$1,200		\$1,200	\$1,200	\$2,400
Guyana	\$1,200		\$1,200	\$1,200	\$2,400
Suriname	\$1,200		\$1,200	\$1,200	\$2,400
Total		\$15,600	\$18,000	\$33,600	\$67,200

Note: The average airline ticket costs are estimates; any excess will be used to cover insurance costs.

11. NON-STDF CONTRIBUTIONS

Additional inputs may be provided by the beneficiary countries and by the IICA, and may include the following:

- (a) Trained technical staff to support the process, from both the IICA and the official services. They will act as enquiry points, national coordinators, monitors and facilitators. (US\$45.000)
- (b) Logistical support staff. (US\$5.000)
- (c) Possible provision of infrastructure for the organization of the events. (US\$12.000)
- (d) Equipment and movement within the country. (US\$5.000)
- (e) Input from staff that will accompany the country missions (technical cooperation). (US\$17.000)

For its part, IICA and countries will provide the following:

- A network of Offices in its 34 member countries, some of which can assume responsibility for national activities.
- Its reputation as leader in the field
- Audiovisual equipment
- A network of specialists who can support implementation of the project. We have agricultural health and food safety specialist in a number of countries and in those where we will not have a counterpart or focal point to help us with technical coordination. The specialists will devote part of their time to supporting the project.
- Operating and coordination facilities (logistic support personnel)
- Resources to facilitate coordination (cost of personnel for secretarial support and coordination, communications –telephone, fax, internet, mobilization of personnel, translation or simultaneous interpretation, if required), etc.
- Coordination with other regional or international organizations who could contribute to the implementation of the project.
- Other contributions difficult to quantify at this time, which may take the form of special contributions by each IICA Office.

An important aspect, but one difficult to quantify, concerns each country's set of post-implementation commitments or responsibilities geared to improving the state of its critical variables and the general conditions for greater and more active participation in the SPS Committee; this will involve a series of staff or other resource inputs which will increase the level of counterpart contributions by countries. The situation will be similar with regard to the implementation of regional activities.

Amount being requested:	\$585,588	87%
Contribution from IICA and countries:	\$ 84,000	13%
Total	\$669,588	100%

12. TIMETABLE

A period of 16.5 months is envisaged for project implementation, with coverage in 28 countries of the Americas.

An advance period of two weeks will be required for overall project planning for purposes of coordination with each of the countries and the collection of available information to support the process in each country.

One month of activity is envisaged for each country, with planning and organization to be completed in the first two weeks. The collection and analysis of available country-specific information will be effected during this period. Part of this period of preparation may be used to draw up reports on the previous month's experience.

The sequence of country activities reflects a strategy for development of their capacities, and it is therefore to be hoped that the work done initially in one region will serve as an input to the other countries.

Over the last 45 days, the team of consultants may draw up a consolidated summary of applied experiences and analyse the information obtained at the national, regional and hemispheric levels.

During this period, replicable information of interest to other countries or regions may be made available in the different electronic media authorized for that purpose (Agrosalud/IICA, STDF, WTO, etc.).

Table 5: Project Implementation Timetable

Month	Region and number of countries			
	Central (7)	Andean (5)	Southern (2)	Caribbean (14)
1	Preparation			Preparation
2	Costa Rica			Jamaica
3	Panama			Trinidad & Tobago
4	Nicaragua			Barbados
5	Honduras			Bahamas
6	El Salvador			Belize
7	Guatemala			Dominica
8	Dom. Rep.			St Vincent
9		Colombia		Guyana
10		Venezuela		Suriname
11		Peru		St Lucia
12		Bolivia		Grenada
13		Ecuador		Antigua & Barbuda
14			Paraguay	St Kitts & Nevis
15			Uruguay	Haiti
16.5	Drafting of report, material and dissemination			

Table 6: Breakdown of operations over one month

Week	Organization & preparation	Workshop or event	Evaluation, planning
1			
2			
3			
4			

13. CONTACT POINT

For queries or additional information on this funding application please contact:

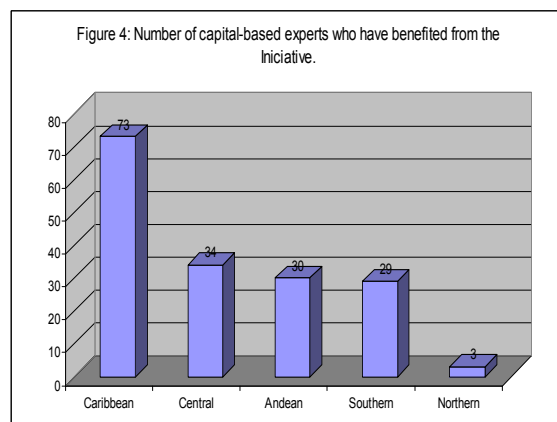
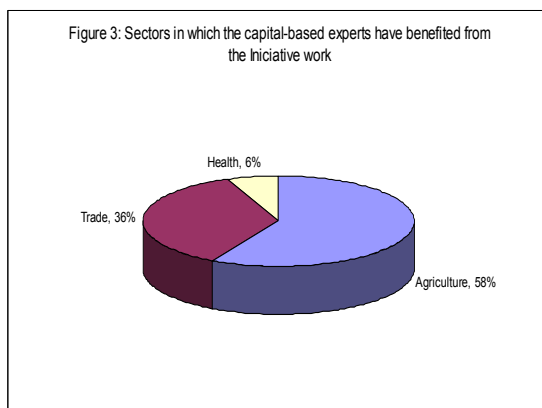
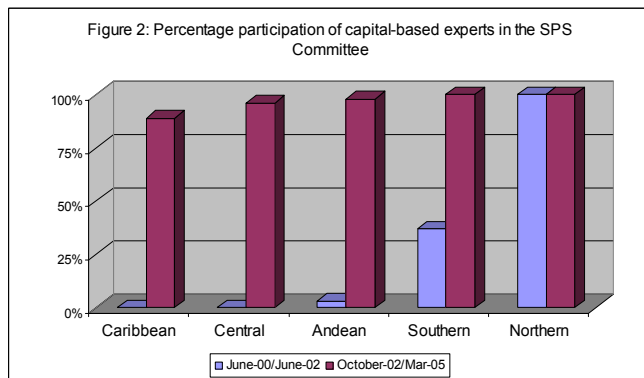
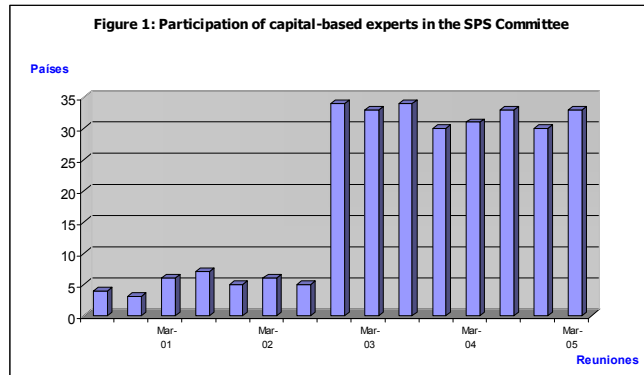
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Initiative on SPS for the countries of the Americas

Results of the Initiative

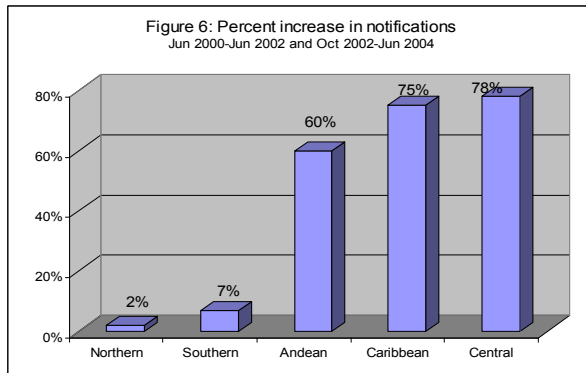
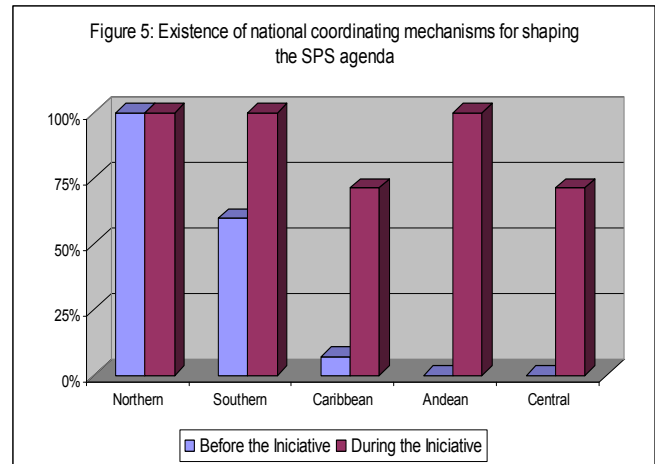
1. Attendance at the meetings of the SPS Committee: the objective of the Initiative is to promote the presence of capital-based experts at the SPS Committee meetings and to encourage the development of national capabilities. During the period June 2000-June 2002, the attendance of delegates from the Americas at SPS Committee meetings averaged 28%. Between October 2002 and March 2005 this figure rose to 97%. In regional terms, the participation from the Caribbean and Central regions went from 0 to 89% and 96%, respectively. Likewise, the Andean region increased its participation from 3% to 98%. (See Figures 1 and 2)

The Initiative has benefited 169 capital-based experts in the Americas, 58% of whom work for ministries of agriculture, 36% for the ministries responsible for trade and/or the WTO negotiations (foreign trade, foreign and economic affairs), and 6% for ministries of health. (See Figures 3 and 4)



2. Institution building within the countries:

The Initiative has promoted dialogue in the countries on issues forthcoming from the SPS Committee. To achieve this, the creation of intersectoral and interinstitutional coordination mechanisms have been encouraged that bring together the private sector and the ministries of agriculture, trade and health in order to generate a national agenda including country positions on the matters under discussion within the SPS Committee. According to information provided by the participants, before the implementation of the Initiative, only 21% of the 34 countries of the Americas had some kind of formal or informal coordination mechanism for establishing an SPS national agenda. This figure currently stands at 82% (see Figure 5).

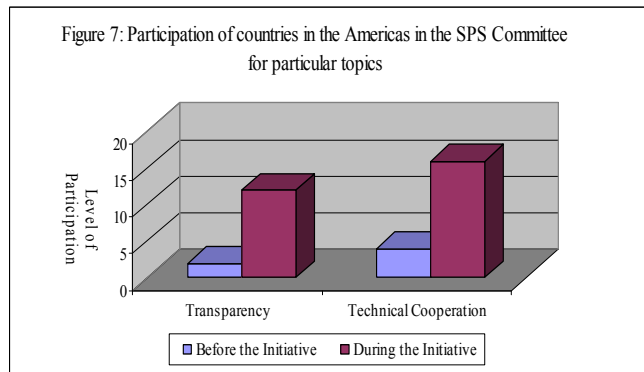


3. Strengthening of transparency processes:

All the countries of the Americas have reported to the WTO the establishment of information and notification points. However, in many cases, the national capabilities for meeting transparency requirements are limited as is their ability to tap the benefits and opportunities that these mechanisms provide. Despite this, the number of notifications issued by some countries in the Americas has increased significantly. (see Figure 6).

4. Participation in the discussions within the SPS Committee:

since the Initiative began, the participation of the countries of the Americas in the SPS Committee has evolved positively. This is reflected in their high profile and the thematic leadership that has been demonstrated in meetings regarding technical issues. For example, in the case of special and differentiated treatment, equivalence and regionalization, the comments and contributions of developing countries have contributed a great deal to the discussion.



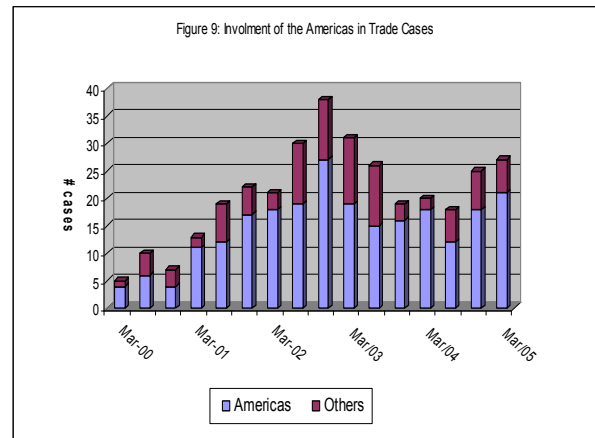
Interventions by Americas on the issue of transparency at four meetings held since the Initiative began increased 500% compared to the four previous meetings. The increase with regard to the topic of technical cooperation increased by 300%. (see Figures 7).

The Americas have also participated actively in trade cases. Although only a few countries account for most of the issues presented, many more of the countries in the Americas are beginning to advance

their trade positions or interests before the Committee. The countries of the Americas account for only 22% of the WTO's members, but have an interest in more than 70% of the trade cases presented to the SPS Committee. (see Figure 9).

This report summarizes the results achieved to date under the Initiative for the Americas in Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS). This report focuses on the first two years of the implementation of the Initiative, which includes financial support for the active participation of the Americas in six consecutive meetings of the WTO/SPS Committee and the development of national SPS capabilities.

In addition to the results presented, countries have also benefited from the Initiative and the meetings of the SPS Committee in a number of ways, including: 1) the establishment of channels of communication with the missions in Geneva; 2) an understanding of the dynamic of the meetings, the issues addressed and their impact at the national level; 3) a better grasp of the benefits and opportunities to be derived from participating actively in the Committee; 4) the establishment of regional and international contacts with their technical counterparts; 5) the strengthening of the information and notification points; 6) the utilization of mechanisms offered by the agreement and the Committee in order to advance their positions; 7) the increased ability to participate in bilateral negotiations; and 8) the formation of a hemispheric community to discuss and explore technical issues.



Conclusions

Traditionally, many developing countries have had the belief that to make headway in implementing the SPS Agreement, is only possible through major investments of money and in technology. However, the SPS for the Americas Initiative has shown that developing countries have within their reach, options or actions that allow considerable progress to be made without waiting for large infusions and technology.

This experience has also shown that there are five actions that distinguish countries that are making the most progress in advancing the area of SPS, specifically: (1) they have active liaison mechanisms operating between the public and private sectors; (2) they have ongoing, fluid channels of communication between capital institutions and the mission in Geneva; (3) they have officers whose main responsibility is SPS measures at the international level; (4) decision makers define and implement initiatives relating to SPS measures; and (5) resources are earmarked for continuous participation at the international level. The principal characteristic of these key actions is that they are based on leadership, institution strengthening and an integrated approach.