



Overview of UNCTAD programmes related to Sanitary and Phytosanitary measures and capacity building

- **Institutional coordination on Trade Facilitation – unctad.org/TF:**
 - ✓ The Trade Facilitation (TF) Agreement requests WTO Members to establish national committees, which are responsible for the implementation of the Agreement and in which SPS agencies are key members.
 - ✓ For them, UNCTAD has created the Empowerment Programme for National Trade Facilitation Committees (NTFC), which is an intensive professional training, composed of 5 modules:
 - Conduct a stakeholder analysis to identify the agencies and traders who should sit at the NTFC
 - Train members in specific measures upon request. For example, special training on test procedure and quality Infrastructure in Ghana and Liberia.
 - Provide the NTFC with soft skills to better coordinate and handle meetings
 - Finally, assist the NTFC in the elaboration of a TF Roadmap, which is a 5 to 6 years plan containing a set of activities to reach TF goals
 - ✓ As of today, UNCTAD has empowered over 15 NTFCs in developing and least developed countries. There are more countries in the pipeline.

- **Regulatory transparency and policy support on non-tariff measures – unctad.org/NTM**
 - ✓ TRAINS is the world's largest database on non-tariff measures (NTMs): trains.unctad.org
 - Comprehensive information on trade-related regulations applied in over 100 countries, covering 90% of world trade;
 - Contains 50'511 distinct measures, thereof 19'556 SPS measures and 16'645 TBT;
 - Allows exporters, importers and policy makers to search applied measures by product and country.
 - ✓ Regional NTM Integration Reviews: Assessment of the impact of SPS and other NTMs, and the welfare benefits of regulatory cooperation in regional trade agreements. Reports on SADC and MERCOSUR have been published; ECOWAS and ASEAN reports are forthcoming soon.
 - ✓ Support for negotiation and implementation of trade agreements with respect to SPS, TBT and other NTMs.
 - ✓ Tailored workshops and online training on regulatory transparency, research and policy.
 - ✓ Support for evidence-based domestic policy reform and NTM streamlining for increased competitiveness.

- **Procedural transparency through Trade Portals -- businessfacilitation.org**
 - ✓ UNCTAD also assists developing countries with the set-up of Trade Portals
 - ✓ SPS agencies can publish and disseminate information regarding processing periods, fees and charges, requirements related to control, inspection and approval procedures.
 - ✓ What is particular to UNCTAD Trade Portals is that the information is presented step by step from the traders' perspective. For instance, exporters will know how many steps they



need to expedite their shipment, how many documents they need to submit, the average processing time and costs.

- ✓ UNCTAD has supported Kenya, Rwanda, Nigeria, Mali and Benin in the implementation of Trade Portals
- ✓ UNCTAD Trade Portal help countries in facilitating and streamlining their procedures to become more competitive

- **SPS digital certification in ASYCUDA -- unctad.org/ASYCUDA:**
 - ✓ UNCTAD ASYCUDA (Automated System for Customs Data) programme has developed a special module on SPS electronic certificate called ASYCER, which stands for Automated System for Certification
 - ✓ This was developed in the framework of a project for horticultural products in Ethiopia, financed by Netherlands
 - ✓ It is part of the Single Window offered by ASYCUDA
 - ✓ Benefits:
 - Cutting clearance time, reducing delays and wastage
 - Reducing the total costs of verification and certification
 - Increasing the transparency of trade transactions, minimizes the opportunities for bribery
 - Protecting population against pests and disease
 - ✓ It is currently in its pilot phase in Ethiopia; Rwanda developed a national SPS control system based on ASYCER.