

**TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES**

Communication from the European Union

The following communication, received on 9 March 2012, is being circulated at the request of the Delegation of the European Union.

**Overview**

- (i) The European Union leads the way in providing support to developing countries with an emphasis on both development assistance and aid for trade ("<http://ec.europa.eu/trade/wider-agenda/development/aid-for-trade/>").
- (ii) The European Union is the leading, global advocate - and the world's biggest source - of aid for trade which is specifically targeted at helping developing countries develop their ability and capacity to trade. This covers a broad range of areas including the Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) field.
- (iii) Technical assistance is provided in the SPS field to facilitate developing country exporters, especially small operators, to gain access to the EU market. In addition, EU technical assistance is geared towards improving governance *and* towards meeting international standards, both of which help developing countries to take better advantage of the trade opportunities offered on world markets – both within the European Union and elsewhere.
- (iv) The total value of SPS-related technical assistance provided by the EU, for the period from January-December 2011, amounted to approximately **74 million Euro**.

1. The European Union would like to update Members regarding the provision of technical assistance by the European Commission between January and December 2011<sup>1</sup>.
2. Technical assistance from the European Union has been provided to developing countries in accordance with Article 9 of the *Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Measures*.
3. Every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained in the attached table presents all the relevant technical assistance projects undertaken. It should however be noted that individual EU member States also contribute substantially to development aid, be it bilaterally,

<sup>1</sup> The attached table identifies technical assistance committed to developing countries in 2011. The technical assistance provided in previous years has already been communicated to Members (G/SPS/GEN/1074).

regionally or at a multilateral level - through the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) and through the International Standard Setting Bodies. This assistance is over and above that contained in this document.

4. EU assistance is primarily aimed at facilitating the implementation of sanitary and phytosanitary measures in developing countries by building governance frameworks, transferring technical know-how, putting in place infrastructure and giving practical assistance in the field.

5. This communication is based on the document G/SPS/GEN/206 dated 18 October 2000 captioned "Technical Assistance typology", which addressed the following four broad categories:

- (a) Information: Improving the general understanding of the SPS Agreement,
- (b) Training: Specific understanding of the SPS Agreement,
- (c) "Soft" infrastructure development which deals mostly with training activities. This type of technical assistance includes the formation of technical and scientific personnel, including food chemists and microbiologists, veterinarians, epidemiologists, plant pathologists, etc.
- (d) And "hard" infrastructure development. For example, laboratories, testing equipment, veterinary services, processing and storage facilities, computer databases, disease information/monitoring systems, are some of the identified areas where technical assistance is required. This type of technical assistance also covers other aspects of infrastructure related to the SPS Agreement. For example, the establishment of disease-free regions which, in addition to the experts' know-how, requires substantial investments in infrastructure, such as the establishment of "buffer-zones", surveillance systems, etc

6. EU assistance covered most of the "typical areas of competence" listed under the headings of animal health, plant protection and food safety as listed in the Annex of the aforementioned GEN document.

7. Projects can be broadly divided into two main fields: applying SPS standards and developing SPS standards.

8. In applying SPS standards, 84 projects can be seen as having been carried out in the period January to December 2011: 25 in the European Neighbourhood Countries, 21 in the Mediterranean Neighbourhood countries, 11 in Asia, 9 in ACP countries, and 5 in Latin America. The remaining 13 actions were allocated to both individual countries and groups of countries or regional organizations (see Annex 1). In cases where projects are multi-annual projects, projects are only reported once and generally in the year in which the project is initiated, unless subsequent funded project extensions occur.

9. In developing SPS standards, the European Commission - under the specific Aid for Trade budget line - contributes to the three SPS-related International Standard Setting Bodies (ISSBs) of the IPPC, OIE, and Codex. In total, over the period 2011-2014 a total amount of 4 million Euro will be granted via multiannual contribution agreements to facilitate the participation of developing countries in meetings of the ISSBs, for the establishment of the IPPC helpdesk (IRSS) and to help Codex Alimentarius perform a pilot study on aflatoxins.

10. The European Union invites developing countries calling for SPS-related Technical Assistance to approach either the EU delegations based in their country directly or the Directorates of

the European Commission involved in technical assistance – the Directorate General for Development and Co-operation - located in Brussels.

**Technical assistance provided to Members, Observers and other countries: Year 2011**

**Member: The European Union**

<b>Sector</b>	<b>Description of programme:</b>	<b>Form of Assistance:</b>	<b>Provided to:</b>
Animal Health	AFRICAN REFERENCE LABORATORY (WITH SATELLITE STATIONS) FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF POLLINATOR BEE DISEASES AND PESTS FOR FOOD SECURITY: To establish a central reference laboratory (CRL) at ICIPE (International centre for insect physiology) located in Kenya, to generate new knowledge as recommended by OIE regarding bee diseases and pests and their control measures for the Farmers' Federations (FF) and beekeepers. ICIPE is providing the infrastructure and technical support services to the national laboratories (four satellite stations, one based in Cameroon, Ethiopia, Burkina Faso and Senegal that will be provided by the NARS).	Hard and soft infrastructure	ICIZE and AU-IBAR <sup>2</sup> (African Union Inter African Bureau for Animal Resources)
Animal Health	Support the implementation of public policy in the dairy sector as defined in CONPES 3675 [" CONSEJO NACIONAL DE POLITICA ECONOMICA Y SOCIAL] in order to improve the competitiveness of the sector, with initiatives focused on primary production (small producers of raw milk) and vertical and horizontal productive chain integration.	Budget support for the dairy sector in Colombia	Colombia
Animal Health	OIE Regional seminars dedicated to National Focal Points for sanitary information systems, for animal production food safety, for aquatic animal health and for veterinary products and to train new OIE Delegates of Europe.	Training	Eastern European countries of OIE incl. Central Asia
Animal Health	Contribution to International Organisations on SPS related Technical Assistance for Developing Countries (OIE) - Payment of travel and subsistence costs of delegates from Developing Countries attending meetings of the Office International des Epizooties (OIE).	Budget support	Over 50 developing countries
Animal Health	BTSF <sup>3</sup> Laboratory training: to train laboratory technicians from developing countries in state of the art diagnostic techniques for rabies and for African swine fever.	Soft infrastructure	Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon (rabies) Russia, Ukraine, Moldova, Belarus, Armenia, Georgia (African swine fever)

<sup>2</sup> IBAR= African Union Inter African Bureau for Animal Resources

<sup>3</sup> BTSF= Better Training for safer Food

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<b>Sector</b>	<b>Description of programme:</b>	<b>Form of Assistance:</b>	<b>Provided to:</b>
Animal Health	BTSF sustained training on African Swine fever : to train participants from all over the country on the prevention, diagnostics and crisis management measures to be taken for African Swine fever.	Training	One week in Belarus and One week in Ukraine
Animal Health	Diagnosis of African Swine Fever	Information (Study Visit)	Belarus
Animal Health	Workshops: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. on field diagnostics of ASF and Bluetongue (two days)</li> <li>2. on Animal Health : Emergencies and Crises (two days)</li> <li>3. on Bluetongue control measures (two days) and on Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy control measures</li> <li>4. on Animal Health for the Mediterranean Neighbourhood Countries (two days)</li> </ol>	Training	Many ENP countries Egypt Ukraine  Mediterranean Neighbourhood Countries
Animal Health	Adequate measures taken to protect the European Union from rabies in particular vaccination buffer zone, prevention of reinfection neighbouring member States.	Hard infrastructure	Kaliningrad
Animal Health	Assist the campaign against foot and mouth disease towards trust fund	Hard infrastructure	Third countries neighbouring the EU MS
Plant Protection	Contribution to International Organisations on SPS related Technical Assistance for Developing Countries Facilitating developing country attendance at IPPC meetings	Facilitating developing country attendance in IPPC meetings	Least developed and developing countries
Plant Protection	Contribution to International Organisations on SPS related Technical Assistance for Developing Countries IPPC Implementation Review and Support System (IRSS)	Funding support for the IPPC Implementation Review and Support System	Least developed and developing countries
Plant Protection	BTSF regional workshop on plant health	Training	ASEAN countries, hosted by Thailand
Plant Protection	Laboratory analysis of food products	Soft infrastructure (expert mission)	Azerbaijan

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<b>Sector</b>	<b>Description of programme:</b>	<b>Form of Assistance:</b>	<b>Provided to:</b>
Plant Protection	Study Visit on Integrated Pest Management (four days)	Information/Trainings	Jordan
Plant Protection	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Expertise mission : to put in place the information system in view to follow the approvals of plant establishments (5 days)</li> <li>2. Expert mission on pesticides homologation used for agricultural purpose (five days)</li> <li>3. Study Visit on the safety of plant products (five days)</li> <li>4. Expertise Mission on the legislation on plant products</li> </ol>	Information	Morocco
Food Safety	Organisation of seminars to provide training to laboratory technicians, on residues and contaminants in foodstuff of animal and plant origin from developing countries (DC), at DC laboratory, DC regional reference laboratory and/or EU reference laboratory	Soft infrastructure (Hands on training)	Ukraine, Malaysia, India, Egypt, Georgia
Food Safety	Contribution to International Organisations on SPS related Technical Assistance for Developing Countries - Payment of travel and allowances costs of delegates from Developing Countries attending Codex meetings FAO/WHO Project and Fund for Enhanced Participation in Codex	Budget support	234 participants from 65 developing countries
Food Safety	<p>BTSF regional workshops: Organisation of trainings</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. on food safety crisis management</li> <li>2. one for national residues monitoring plans and one on Codex Alimentarius, jointly between FAO and EU</li> <li>3. on animal welfare during transport and at slaughter</li> <li>4. on EU rules and import requirements for honey and honey products</li> <li>5. plant health and pesticide residues</li> </ol>	Training	<p>ASEAN countries, hosted by Thailand</p> <p>CIS countries, hosted by Ukraine</p> <p>Latin-American countries hosted by Chile</p> <p>Kenya, Madagascar, Mozambique, Uganda, Zimbabwe, hosted by Tanzania</p> <p>Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia and Turkey, and some EU MS, hosted by Malta</p>

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Food Safety	Organisation of a BTSF training workshops <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. on food irradiation</li> <li>2. on food safety control systems</li> <li>3. on scientifically-based control of mycotoxins in food and management of contaminated arable lands</li> <li>4. SPS and food safety requirements according to EU legislation and standards (two days)</li> </ol>	Training	China Armenia Azerbaijan  Moldova
Food Safety	BTSF sustained training missions <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. ASEAN training needs assessment</li> <li>2. EU food safety requirements for poultry meat and red meat</li> <li>3. Fisheries and aquaculture</li> <li>4. Official controls on fishery products</li> <li>5. Methods for determination of mycotoxins in food matrices for the delegates from the SENASA laboratory</li> <li>6. Laboratory training on veterinary drug residues</li> <li>7. Plant health issues</li> </ol>	Training	ASEAN countries Russia Myanmar Myanmar Peru  Malaysia Bangladesh
Food Safety Contaminants Laboratory training	A two-week hands-on training in state of the art laboratory techniques to test for the presence of: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. mycotoxins in food,</li> <li>2. pesticides' residues in food,</li> <li>3. microbiological contaminants in food</li> </ol>	Soft infrastructure	ID, BH, EG, RW, BR, BD, VN, PE, TH, GE, UY, ZA, JO, TN, MW <sup>4</sup> JO, IL, MX, SD, MY, GH, CR, KE, VN, TH, EG, BR, MD, CN, CL <sup>5</sup> EG, JO, ID, GH, JM, NG, BR, AE, BF, TG, PY, BD, MW, BN, PH, MX, TH <sup>6</sup>

<sup>4</sup> Indonesia, Bahrain, Kingdom of, Egypt, Rwanda, Brazil, Bangladesh, Viet Nam, Peru, Thailand, Georgia, Uruguay, South Africa, Jordan, Tunisia, Malawi

<sup>5</sup> Jordan, Israel, Mexico, Sudan, Malaysia, Ghana, Costa Rica, Kenya, Viet Nam, Thailand, Egypt, Brazil, Moldova, China, Chile

<sup>6</sup> Egypt, Jordan, Indonesia, Ghana, Jamaica, Nigeria, Brazil, United Arab Emirates, Burkina Faso, Togo, Paraguay, Bangladesh, Malawi, Brunei, Philippines, Mexico, Thailand

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<b>Sector</b>	<b>Description of programme:</b>	<b>Form of Assistance:</b>	<b>Provided to:</b>
Food Safety	Preparation meeting SPS assessment mission to Georgia + Assessment Mission on Georgia's progress in the SPS sector + Workshop on EU requirements for fish and fishery products imported from third countries	Training (Expert mission/workshop)	Georgia
Food Safety	Expert Mission on the prioritization of the approximation process of Moldovan SPS legislation towards the EU acquis	Information	Moldova
Food Safety	Expert Mission on Approximation of legislation on food safety (four days) + Egypt's veterinary framework law	Information/Training (Workshop)	Egypt
Food Safety	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Expert Mission on Analysis of Vitamins in Food Using HPLC Technique (one week)</li> <li>2. Expert Mission on the assessment of control systems for meat safety in slaughterhouses (one week) and Assessment mission on Food Safety</li> <li>3. Workshop on Food Balance Sheets (one day)</li> <li>4. Study Visit on Detection of Food borne Norovirus (four days)</li> </ol>	Soft infrastructure  Information  Training Information/training	Jordan
Food Safety	Expert Mission on detection and quantification of veterinary drugs residues (five days)	Information and soft infrastructure	Lebanon
Food Safety	Expert Mission to support the strategy of the harmonization of the veterinary teaching (five days)	Information	Morocco
Food Safety	Expert Mission on the accreditation of laboratories according to ISO/IEC standards – fishery products (5 days) and one related to the accreditation of laboratories according to ISO/IEC standards 17025:2005 (five days)	Information and soft infrastructure	Morocco
Food Safety	Assessment mission on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Policies (five days)	Information	Palestinian Authority
Food Safety	Workshop on salmonella control measures in poultry, poultry products and feed	Training (Workshop)	Ukraine



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Sector	Description of programme:	Form of Assistance:	Provided to:
Food Safety	Towards Global Harmonisation of GMO Analysis by creating and supporting Regional Networks of Excellence: Respond to the overall growing need for enhanced harmonisation of means and methods in GMO analysis, aimed at building capacity by providing training to third countries enforcement laboratories in different geographical areas and at stimulating the establishment of regional networks outside the European Union following the concept of the ENGL in the framework of the EU policy.	Soft infrastructure	Two groups of countries covered: 1. Argentina, Barbados, Belize, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Honduras, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Uruguay hosted by Mexico 2. Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Lao, People's Democratic Rep.; Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, Viet Nam, China, Japan, South Korea hosted by Singapore
Animal Health, Plant Protection and Food Safety	To further develop Vietnam's integration into the global, ASEAN and sub-regional trading systems and to enhance EU-Vietnam trade and investment relations, maximizing the benefits for the country's economic development, inclusive growth and poverty reduction.	Information, training, soft infrastructure	Viet Nam
Animal Health, Plant Protection and Food Safety	To support Moldova in the preparation and implementation of new contractual relations with the European Union (Association Agreement, DCFTA <sup>7</sup> and visa liberalization dialogue) and in meeting the objectives of the EU-Moldova ENP Action Plan.	Soft infrastructure	Moldova
Animal Health, Plant Protection and Food Safety	2 Projects : one to enhance Armenia's capacity to negotiate, conclude and implement the future Association Agreement, DCFTA, Visa Facilitation and Readmission Agreements between Armenia and the European Union and to meet the objectives of the EU-Armenia ENP Action Plan and the second one to assist in the implementation of a number of selected key areas of the ENP Action Plan, while assisting the Government of Armenia to prepare for the negotiations for a DCFTA and improving overall economic performance.	Soft infrastructure	Armenia

<sup>7</sup> DCFTA= Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area

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<b>Sector</b>	<b>Description of programme:</b>	<b>Form of Assistance:</b>	<b>Provided to:</b>
Animal Health, Plant Protection and Food Safety	To support Georgia in the preparation and implementation of new contractual relations between Georgia and the European Union (Association Agreements, DCFTA, Visa Facilitation and Readmission Agreements and, eventually, a visa liberalisation road-map) and in meeting the objectives of the EU-Georgia ENP Action Plan.	Soft infrastructure	Georgia
Animal Health, Plant Protection and Food Safety	Creation of a competitive regional market in the context of the Economic Partnership Agreement	Soft infrastructure, hard infrastructure	Central African region
Animal Health, Plant Protection and Food Safety	To support increased and more diversified exports of agricultural and agri-processed products to the EU markets	Information, training, soft infrastructure	Jamaica
Animal Health, Plant Protection and Food Safety	Expertise mission to support the construction of a laboratory	Information and hard infrastructure	Algeria
Rapid alert system for food and feed (RASFF) and TRACES <sup>8</sup> system	BTSF regional workshop: to inform beneficiary countries of how a RASFF can be established, what benefits it can bring at national level, and by extension what benefits it can bring at regional level to identify hazards related to food and feed trade. For TRACES the overall objective is to explain the system and to demonstrate the benefits it has in terms of trade facilitation.	Training	One for Latin America countries hosted by Peru One for Eastern Africa countries hosted by Kenya
TRACES system	For TRACES to explain the system and to demonstrate the benefits it has in terms of trade facilitation  1. BTSF regional workshop 2. BTSF sustained training mission	Training	One for Eastern African countries hosted by Tanzania and one for SADC countries hosted by South-Africa One training mission for Senegal and

<sup>8</sup> Traces = TrAde Control Export System

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Sector	Description of programme:	Form of Assistance:	Provided to:
			one for Tanzania
Rapid alert system for food and feed	BTSF sustained training mission to inform beneficiary countries of how a RASFF can be established, what benefits it can bring at national level, and by extension what benefits it can bring at regional level to identify hazards related to food and feed trade.	Training	Lao, People's Democratic Rep.