



Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

APPLICANTS FOR OBSERVER STATUS

NOTE BY THE SECRETARIAT¹

Addendum

An application for observer status in the SPS Committee was received on 17 May 2016 from the Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency (CAHFSA). Information provided by CAHFSA is summarized below.

1 MEMBERSHIP

1.1. Membership is open to all Members and associate members of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). Current Membership includes 15 Members and five associate member States.

Members

Antigua and Barbuda*
Bahamas**
Barbados*
Belize*
Dominica*
Grenada*
Guyana*
Haiti*
Jamaica*
Montserrat
Saint Kitts and Nevis*
Saint Lucia*
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines*
Suriname*
Trinidad and Tobago*

*WTO Member

**WTO Observer

Associate Members

Anguilla
Bermuda
British Virgin Islands
Cayman Islands
Turks and Caicos

2 MANDATE, SCOPE AND AREA OF WORK

2.1. CAHFSA is an intergovernmental organization for consultation, coordination and cooperation among CARICOM member States on issues related to the WTO SPS Agreement. The Agency, which was operationalized in October 2014, has the primary objectives to:

- a. establish an effective regime of sanitary and phytosanitary measures in support of the goals of CARICOM as set out in the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas Establishing Caribbean Single Market and Economy (CSME);

¹ This document has been prepared under the Secretariat's own responsibility and is without prejudice to the position of Members or to their rights and obligations under the WTO.

- b. provide regional and national support to CARICOM in the establishment and management of National Agricultural Health and Food Safety Systems (NAHFSS) as they relate to sanitary and phytosanitary measures; and
- c. execute on behalf of those countries such actions and activities that can be more effectively and efficiently executed through a regional mechanism.

3 CONTRIBUTION TO THE WORK OF THE SPS COMMITTEE

3.1. CAHFSA is expected to develop technical measures and protocols that complement and build upon existing Caribbean programmes in animal health, plant health, and food safety so as to achieve relevant SPS certification. The Agency works in support of the development and use of regional and international SPS standards. Particular focus is placed on the following critical functional areas:

- a. promotion of the development and use of regional and international sanitary and phytosanitary measures, standards and guidelines;
- b. strengthening of the legislative framework with respect to sanitary and phytosanitary measures;
- c. harmonization of technical procedures in relation to matters such as quarantine systems and their protocols, surveillance, laboratory analyses, safe management and use of agrochemicals and other relevant processes and procedures in collaboration with other existing organizations in the Community;
- d. provision of a coordination mechanism for sanitary and phytosanitary related issues;
- e. development of protocols for the conduct of regional and international risk assessments, including site visits and other investigations; and
- f. establishment of partnerships with existing regional and international organizations in matters of agricultural health and food safety.

4 RECIPROCITY

4.1. All documents related to the implementation of the SPS Agreement are available on the CAHFSA website. CAHFSA offers to grant the WTO Secretariat observer status in the meetings of its governing Board of Directors as well as broad access to CAHFSA documents and proceedings.
