



Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

**DRAFT PROGRAMME FOR WORKSHOP
ON SPS-RELATED MARKET ACCESS CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES**

NOTE BY THE SECRETARIAT¹

1. The Secretariat of the World Trade Organization is organizing a special workshop on SPS-related market access challenges and opportunities, to be held in Geneva, Switzerland, on Monday, 14 October 2013. The workshop will be followed by training sessions with the participants of the 2013 Advanced SPS Course on Tuesday 15 October, and by informal and formal meetings of the SPS Committee, from Wednesday 16 October until Friday 18 October. Representatives of Members, Observers and Observer Organizations are all invited to participate in the workshop on 14 October, as well as the subsequent meetings of the Committee.
2. Document G/SPS/GEN/997/Rev.3 contains detailed information on the workshop and on the application process. More than 250 applications were received by the deadline of 7 June 2013. The WTO, with the financial assistance of the Doha Development Agenda Global Trust Fund (DDAGTF), will sponsor the participation of approximately 50 government officials from developing country Members and Observers. The Secretariat will select participants to be sponsored among applications from former participants to the Advanced SPS Course who are government officials.
3. The workshop is intended to be a highly interactive activity focussing, in particular, on the funded participants' and other speakers' experiences in addressing specific SPS-related market access challenges. It will provide a unique, open platform for discussion and experience sharing, with a view to identifying common elements and lessons learned. For each session, one speaker will be invited to briefly present an illustrative experience. A moderator will direct questions to designated discussants and the audience at large to focus on particular experiences and present conclusions and recommendations, where relevant, at the end of each session.
4. The following is the proposed programme of the workshop. Delegations wishing to provide any specific comments regarding this programme should submit them to the WTO (email: hanna.vitikkala@wto.org) by 26 July 2013. For further enquiries about the workshop, please contact Ms Hanna Vitikkala (Tel: +(41 22) 739 6544; Fax: +(41 22) 739 5760, E-mail: hanna.vitikkala@wto.org).

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

DRAFT PROGRAMME**WORKSHOP ON SPS- RELATED MARKET ACCESS CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES
MONDAY, 14 OCTOBER 2013, COUNCIL ROOM**

10.00 – 10.15	Workshop overview and objectives Speaker: WTO Secretariat (TBC)
10.15 - 13.00	<p><u>Session 1: Different Governmental Roles in Enhancing SPS-related Market Access</u></p> <p>In this session, governmental officials will present, through practical case stories², how they have addressed SPS-related market access challenges in their work. The session aims to identify factors that are essential in creating and enhancing market access (such as alignment and common objectives within the government), and to illustrate how individual actions can make a difference in this respect.</p>
13.00 – 15.00	Lunch break
15.00 - 16.15	<p><u>Session 2: The Role of Collaboration between the Public and Private Sectors in Enhancing SPS-related Market Access</u></p> <p>Speakers in this session will explore, again through practical case stories, the role that partnerships between government agencies and the private sector can play in facilitating SPS-related market access. The session will group together speakers from the public and private sectors, and hence give different points of view on the drivers behind such partnerships, various partnership modalities, scopes, objectives, challenges faced and lessons learned. On the basis of discussions, the session will aim to identify some of the key characteristics of successful partnership arrangements.</p>
16.15 - 17.45	<p><u>Session 3: The Role of Technical Co-operation in Enhancing SPS-related Market Access</u></p> <p>Speakers in this session will present, also through practical case stories, how technical cooperation projects can contribute to creating and enhancing SPS-related market access. The session will discuss different project modalities, the development partners involved, project outputs etc., with a view to identifying factors in SPS capacity needs assessment, project design and implementation that both recipients and providers should take into account to optimize the projects' market access impact.</p>
17.45 – 18.00	Closing remarks and wrap-up of the workshop

² The case stories are based on the funded participants' action plans (developed during the SPS Advanced Course and implemented afterwards) and other relevant experience.