



2 October 2015

(15-5114)

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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Original: English

**JAMAICA TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE REPORT
OCTOBER 2015 SPS COMMITTEE MEETING - GENEVA**

COMMUNICATION FROM JAMAICA

The following communication, received on 1 October 2015, is being circulated at the request of the Delegation of Jamaica.

1. Jamaica wishes to thank IICA and the United States of America for facilitating a workshop titled "Requirements for exporting food to the United States Market - Focus on the Food Safety Modernization Act". This activity took place on 16-19 June 2015 and involved a two-day workshop and field visits. The workshop was a timely intervention as it twinned well with our local efforts at sensitizing Jamaica's farmers and exporters regarding good manufacturing practices and good agricultural practices. As we continue to prepare our exporting community for compliance with the various aspects of the US FSMA, we look forward to more collaborative efforts such as this.

2. Within this context, IICA and the USDA-FAS hosted the workshop in Kingston Jamaica, to continue strengthening the country's capacity to allow the exporting sector to face the challenges and opportunities tied to the FSMA regulatory framework in the best way possible.

The Overall Objective

3. The overall objective was to strengthen the knowledge of the FSMA law and the proposed rules that are currently going through the approval process, allowing the export sector to adequately respond to new demands and facilitating access to and a continued presence in the US market.

4. Over 120 representatives from the private and public sectors, producers, exporters and academia attended the two-day workshop, while a select group participated in facility assessments conducted on two pack-houses and two farms on 18 and 19 June, respectively.

5. Jamaica wishes to thank IICA and UDSA-FAS for partnering with us in this effort.
