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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

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**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN SENEGAL AND CHINA ON
PHYTOSANITARY REQUIREMENTS FOR GROUND-NUT EXPORTS**

**COMMUNICATION CONCERNING ARTICLE 4 OF THE WTO AGREEMENT ON SANITARY
AND PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES: PRINCIPLE OF EQUIVALENCE**

Communication from Senegal

The following communication, received on 18 October 2015, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Senegal.

1 BACKGROUND

1.1. Due to the high volume of ground-nut production in the 2000-2010 period, the Government of Senegal decided to open its market by liberalizing exports of ground-nuts other than those for sowing (Decree No. 2010-2015 of 13 January 2010).

1.2. Following the enactment of Decree No. 2010-2015, our Chinese partners expressed an interest in importing ground-nuts from Senegal, on the condition that phytosanitary requirements were met. A memorandum of understanding was subsequently signed by the two governments. Technical consultations to finalize this memorandum took place over a three-year period (from September 2011 to September 2014).

1.3. In 2011 and 2012, prior to the signing of the memorandum, the Directorate-General of Sanitary Control and the Chinese quarantine services undertook a number of phytosanitary risk determination and analysis missions to Senegal, with a view to gaining a proper understanding of the existing system and evaluating the phytosanitary certification procedures in place.

1.4. Through its meetings with various actors from the ground-nut sector and its evaluation of certification procedures, the Chinese delegation was able to identify certain shortcomings that needed to be addressed and to recognize the equivalence of our methods. The memorandum was subsequently signed in Beijing on 3 September 2014 by the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Infrastructure of Senegal and the Vice-Minister of the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine of the People's Republic of China.

1.5. The following three-part approach, which is deemed equivalent, has been implemented in all areas of the country where ground-nuts are produced for export.

1.1 Organizational aspects

- Registration of producers/operators wishing to enter this market in the NPPO database and evaluation of export crop forecasts;
- Identification and mapping of the country's ground-nut warehouses and packing plants for mandatory post-harvest control purposes.

1.2 Production-related technical aspects

- Dissemination of good production practices (application of crop management techniques, from sowing through to harvesting) through the Agricultural and Rural Advisory Board;
- Phytosanitary monitoring of ground-nut production through detailed surveys conducted throughout the territory in accordance with IPPC standards 6 and 9 (in particular the guidelines for surveillance); where necessary, monitoring of pest management methods (pesticides used, dose, effectiveness of treatment, etc.);
- Regular transmission of growing-crop inspection reports to the Chinese quarantine services;
- Observance of harvesting periods, and farm-based management of quarantine organisms specified by China (e.g. *Caryedon serratus*, commonly known as ground-nut bruchid; *Elasmolomus sordidus*, known as ground-nut pod bug; and aflatoxin-producing pathogen *Aspergillus flavus*).

1.3 Post-harvest activities (certification procedures)

1.6. China first had to validate Senegal's phytosanitary certificate, in accordance with IPPC standards 7 and 12. In this certificate, Senegal is required to state that the products meet the requirements of the memorandum of understanding between its Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Infrastructure and the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine of the People's Republic of China on phytosanitary requirements for ground-nuts exported to China.

1.7. The Chinese quarantine services were also provided with specimen signatures and a list of approved Senegalese plant health inspectors.

1.8. The product certification procedure itself involves various inspection authorities and specialized laboratories, most notably:

- The phytosanitary control services, which are responsible for inspecting and monitoring all warehouses and stored crops for the presence of harmful organisms and which ensure that the necessary quarantine treatments have been applied;
- Trade services, which check the packaging and commercial quality of the products (including sorting and labelling aspects), in accordance with Decree No. 85-178 of 16 February 1985 establishing ground-nut marketing standards and quality control requirements (impurity levels, mouldy or rotten kernels and breakage rates should not exceed certain values in product samples);
- The final stage of the certification procedure is conducted by the following SPS analysis laboratories, which take representative samples from stocks nationwide (ISPM No. 31 of the IPPC):
- The CERES-Locustox Foundation laboratory, accredited by COFRAC in March 2013 in accordance with ISO Standard 17025:2005, which assists in food safety-related decision-making and analyses pesticide residues (MRLs) at the limit of determination;
- The Food Technology Institute, which, through its mycotoxin laboratory (accredited under ISO Standard 17025 and specializing in the determination of levels of aflatoxins B1, B2, G1 and G2), is responsible for determining the level of aflatoxin B1 in ground-nuts. This level must not exceed 20 micrograms/kg in exports to China;
- The Plant Protection Directorate's plant pathology laboratory, which is responsible for microbiological testing; and
- An operator, approved and supervised by plant health inspectors, who issues the certificate of quarantine treatment (disinfection by fumigation).

1.9. The phytosanitary certificate is issued or rejected only after all the analysis results have been received and their content reviewed against international standards (in particular those of China).

1.10. This approach has enabled us to ensure an appropriate level of SPS protection for our Chinese partners, and the results for the first export season are more than satisfactory.

1.4 Results obtained

1.11. Senegal was the leading exporter of ground-nuts to the Chinese market in 2014/2015, with a 52% share of the total volume exported by the countries signatory to the memorandum of understanding on the phytosanitary requirements for ground-nuts exported to China.

1.12. On the whole, the destination markets consider the level of conformity to be satisfactory, with only a few negligible shortcomings.

1.13. In terms of impact, opening up to the Chinese market has considerably improved the income of ground-nut producers and exporters.

1.14. Senegal is, without any doubt, a safe source of ground-nuts for importing countries.

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank:

- The SPS Committee Secretariat;
 - Our Chinese partners, for their interest in the ground-nut sector;
 - The African Union/IBAR, for strengthening the capacity of African nations to participate in the activities of sanitary and phytosanitary standard-setting organizations;
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 - The Permanent Mission of Senegal to the United Nations Office in Geneva, for its unwavering support at the 64th regular meeting of the SPS Committee.
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