

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

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CASE STUDIES – ENQUIRY POINTS / NATIONAL NOTIFICATION AUTHORITIES

Presentation made by Malawi at the Special Meeting
of the SPS Committee on Transparency Provisions
held on 9 November 1999

Notification Authority: Ministry of Commerce and Industry

Enquiry Points: Malawi Bureau of Standards
Bvumbwe Agricultural Research Station
Department of Animal Health and Industry

Roles and activities: Ministry of Commerce and Industry

- Coordinator of the national network
- Signatory to the WTO Agreements

Malawi Bureau of Standards

- Responsible for sanitary matters on food products
- Receive queries on sanitary issues related to food products
- Receive notifications from other WTO members
- Request for comments from local institutions
- Establish national standards on food products

Bvumbwe Agricultural Research Station

- Controls imports and exports of plants, plant parts, plant products and other living organisms
- Controls registration and inspection of nurseries and sales or removal of plants from nurseries
- Receive notifications on phytosanitary outbreaks in other countries
- Notify other members within SADC region on sanitary measures
- Train Malawian agricultural produce exporters in fumigation for pest control

- Inspect imports and exports of plants and plant products to meet local/foreign requirements
- Also performs some functions related to TBT on agricultural chemicals

Department of Animal Health and Industry

- Controls imports and exports of animals and animal products
- Inspects imports and exports of animals and animal products
- Receive notifications from other WTO Members
- Notify other WTO Members on animal health matters

Areas of concern:

Many bodies involved in SPS measures

- Forestry Research Institute of Malawi
- National Parks and Wildlife
- Local Government and Authority
- Ministry of Health and Population
- Pharmacy, Medicines and Poisons Board
- Department of Fisheries
- [Biotechnology Board]

Capacity to implement measures for new or traditional areas

- Lack of sufficient and trained personnel
- Lack of equipment

Coordination of actors and players

- Notification and registration of new proposals and draft measures
- Organising effective participation of the private sector and industry

Knowledge of other WTO Agreements
