

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

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TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES PROVIDED BY THE UNITED STATES

Submission by the United States

Addendum

The United States is providing additional information describing the functions and responsibilities of two agencies that contribute to the implementation of the SPS Agreement describing the technical assistance and cooperation activities of the agencies. Also, the United States has updated its earlier submission to provide information on technical assistance activities which was omitted, and to report on technical assistance and cooperation provided since June 2000.

Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA)

1. GIPSA's Office of International Affairs (OIA) is the primary liaison to our customers overseas and their governments. OIA works with the Foreign Agricultural Service, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Food and Drug Administration, USDA cooperator organizations, and other US trade associations to facilitate the marketing of US grain, provide technical assistance to other countries, and help resolve technical trade barriers.
2. GIPSA personnel frequently meet with delegations visiting from other countries to brief them on the US grain marketing system, our national inspection and weighing system, US grain standards, and GIPSA's mission. Many of these delegations are sponsored by USDA Cooperator organizations like US Wheat Associates and US Grains Council, which arrange visits to grain production areas, GIPSA field offices, onsite laboratories at export grain elevators, and the Agency's Technical Center in Kansas City, Missouri. At the Technical Center, delegations receive technical training on analytical testing procedures and grain inspection methods and procedures.
3. Briefings are tailored to address each group's interests and concerns. Presentations include explanations of the various services available from GIPSA, the Agency's use of the latest technology to provide grain traders with accurate and reliable inspection and weighing information and, for importers or potential importers new to the US grain market, information on contracting for the quality they desire.
4. These briefings foster a better understanding of the US grain marketing system and the official US grain standards and the national inspection system, and enhance purchasers' confidence in US grain.
5. GIPSA responds to customer's needs for technical assistance overseas. Exporters, importers, and end users of US grains and oilseeds, as well as other USDA agencies, USDA Cooperator organizations, and other governments, frequently ask for GIPSA's technical assistance. These activities include representing the Agency at grain marketing and grain grading seminars, assisting importers with quality specifications, meeting with foreign governments and grain industry representatives to resolve grain quality and weight discrepancies, helping other countries develop domestic grain and commodity standards and marketing infrastructures, installing diverter-type

samplers, establishing grain inspection laboratories, and training local inspectors in US inspection methods and procedures.

Contact: John B. Pitchford, Director of Office of International Affairs, GIPSA, Tel: 202-690-3368
E-mail: jpitchfo@gipsadc.usda.gov

US Environmental Protection Agency

6. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) engages in activities aimed at enhancing technical cooperation with developing countries, working to advance sound pesticide management world wide through both bilateral and multilateral efforts.

7. Specifically with respect to SPS issues, technical assistance and cooperation activities are aimed at promoting better understanding of US requirements governing pesticide residues in food and assisting developing countries in their efforts to build regulatory and information-sharing capacity, which in turn should aid them both in adjusting to sanitary and phytosanitary requirements applicable to their exports and in complying with their obligations under the WTO SPS Agreement.

8. To carry out these objectives, EPA staff (1) provide on-site technical expertise in developing countries, (2) host international visitors to EPA offices and laboratories, and (3) engage in a variety of multilateral activities designed to enhance SPS goals and promote food safety. In general, the types of cooperation and assistance provided include:

- consultation (regulatory, scientific and technical) using EPA staff and technical experts from other US federal agencies, state agencies and commercial entities in the area of food safety, pesticide residue analysis, safe use practices, and management and disposal of pesticide stocks;
- training of national authorities and communities in development and implementation of community-based pesticide management plans;
- training of analytical chemists and regulatory personnel in pesticide residue analysis;
- guidance and training of national authorities in implementation of such international programmes as the Rotterdam Convention/Prior Informed Consent (PIC) Treaty.

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Table 3 Technical Assistance provided to Members and Observers in the process of Accession since 1 January 1995

<i>Sector</i>	<i>Description of Particular Programme:</i>	<i>Form of assistance:</i>	<i>Provided to:</i>	<i>Contacts:</i>
Food Safety	In September/October 1995 in Seattle, Washington, USA, FDA participated in an Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Symposium on Application of HACCP in seafood safety.	Training on seafood HACCP.	Thailand, Philippines, Korea, and Chinese Taipei	Dean Davidson E-mail: ddavids1@cfsan.fda.gov Tel: 202-418-3163
Food Safety	In 1997-2000, the APEC forum has for several years funded a project for the purpose of understanding and dealing with harmful algal blooms such as "red tide" in the APEC region, particularly as they may be an impediment to trade of safe seafood.	FDA chaired a Task Team on Algal Biotoxin Regulations that made technical presentations at four meetings since 1997 in: Pusan, Korea, May 1997; Hsinchu, Chinese Taipei, May 1998; Manila, Philippines, May 1999; Haikou, Hainan, China, May 2000.	Chile, People's Republic of China, Hong Kong, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, Philippines, Russia, Thailand, and Viet Nam	Sherwood Hall E-mail: shall@cfsan.fda.gov Tel: 202-205-4818
Food Safety	In July/August 1996, FDA worked with the Brazilian National Codex Committee to incorporate HACCP principles in the preparation and review of Codex standards, codes and guidelines. FDA drafted training materials needed for implementation of the programme in coordination with the Brazilian national expert, and trained a core group of members of the National Codex Committee on the HACCP principles and procedures.	This project fell under the auspices of a Technical Cooperation Project – Strengthening of the National Codex Committee, Training in HACCP in Brazil.	Brazil	Dean Davidson E-mail: ddavids1@cfsan.fda.gov Tel: 202-418-3163
Food Safety	In February 2000 in Trinidad, CAREC, a WHO/PAHO facility in Trinidad, organized a training workshop on food safety.	FDA organized and presented the portion of the workshop on marine biotoxins, including lecture, laboratory demonstration and exercise, and field work. The workshop had about 20 participants, representing most of the Caribbean region nations.	Caribbean region nations	Sherwood Hall E-mail: shall@cfsan.fda.gov Tel: 202-205-4818

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<i>Sector</i>	<i>Description of Particular Programme:</i>	<i>Form of assistance:</i>	<i>Provided to:</i>	<i>Contacts:</i>
Food Safety	In August 1999 in Puerto Varas, the Chilean government organized a Conference on Red Tides and on harmful algae and marine biotoxins.	FDA participated, providing both lecture and hands-on training in biotoxin management and phytoplankton observation techniques.	Chile	Sherwood Hall E-mail: shall@cfsan.fda.gov Tel: 202-205-4818
Food Safety	HACCP and seafood	In November 1996 in Qingdao, FDA presented an overview of the requirements of the new FDA Seafood HACCP regulation and GMP and sanitation requirements. FDA staff also participated in the concurrent seafood trade show by presenting information on US seafood safety requirements to Chinese and foreign participants.	China	Mildred Benjamin E-mail: mbernam1@cfsan.fda.gov Tel: 202-418-3156
Food Safety	Marine biotoxins	In November 2000, in close cooperation with the First Institute of Oceanography of the State Oceanographic Administration, FDA presented a series of lectures and practical workshops on marine biotoxins and their management in four cities (Qingdao, Shanghai, Guangzhou, and Wuhan). Seven formal presentations were made in these four cities.	China	Sherwood Hall E-mail: shall@cfsan.fda.gov Tel: 202-205-4818
Food Safety	In 2001, FDA is cooperating with Costa Rica (University of Costa Rica) to implement in Costa Rica two food safety surveillance surveys. One survey pertains to consumer attitudes, knowledge and practices related to food safety, and the other pertains to grower and packer food safety practices for fresh fruits and vegetables. Both surveys are currently underway.	The goal of the project is to demonstrate to Costa Rica and other exporting countries the feasibility of reproducing these kinds of tracking surveys, which will help them plan and evaluate their food safety guidelines and education initiatives.	Costa Rica	Alan Levy E-mail: alevy@cfsan.fda.gov Tel: 202-205-9448

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Food Safety	During 1998-2001, expert review of Egyptian systems for quality control in foods	Project involved a comprehensive review of Egypt's food regulatory system with an objective of aligning this system more closely with the requirements of the WTO SPS and TBT Agreements. The procedures for establishing and enforcing food safety and quality standards were reviewed and recommendations made for change, including recommendations relating to minimizing duplicative inspection and testing, revising food standards to focus more clearly on food safety issues, establishing regulations relating to the prevention of consumer fraud, and the updating of laboratory and inspection facilities and capabilities.	Egypt	Mostafa Eldakdoky USDA/FAS E-mail: eldakdoky@fas.usda.gov Tel: 202-690-0929
Food Safety	In January 2001, in cooperation with the Institute of Food technologists and the Agriculture Led Export Businesses, an organization funded by USAID, FDA developed and presented seminars on food safety in Cairo.	The seminars were titled Food Laws and Regulations in the United States and Europe and included presentations on the legal requirements for food importation into the United States, specifically food labeling, nutrition labeling and health claims, food adulteration and contamination, good manufacturing practice approach, and the HACCP application to food safety. Representatives of the Egyptian government and food industry participated in the activities.	Egypt	John Tisler jtisler@cfsan.fda.gov Tel: 202-205-4255

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Food Safety	In April 1997, FDA was requested to send a research review team to Egypt and Israel to conduct a final review for several joint Israel-Egypt Seafood Safety research projects.	The projects (3 projects, 14 individual studies) were funded under the US AID Cooperative Marine Technology Programme for the Middle East. Three FDA staff visited the various research sites in both countries over a period of two weeks and provided government officials and US AID with an analysis on accomplishments (and failures) as a final Project Report.	Egypt and Israel	George P. Hoskin ghoskin@fsan.fda.gov Tel: 202-418-3172
Food Safety	In August 2000, FDA conducted dairy farm sanitation and milk safety training in El Salvador.	Representatives from government, academia, and industry participated in the regional training. A second, related activity is currently scheduled for July/August 2001.	Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, and the Dominican Republic	Marion Allen mallen@cfsan.fda.gov Tel: 202-260-1195
Food Safety	In 2000, FDA continued its technical cooperation with Guatemala on issues pertaining to microbiological safety of fresh berries and other fruits and vegetables, specifically those issues relative to good agricultural practices and laboratory testing methods for food borne pathogens (particularly for cyclospora).	The cooperative activity is aimed at developing a "Model Plan of Excellence" for Guatemalan agricultural products.	Guatemala	John Kvenberg jkvenber@cfsan.fda.gov Tel: 202-205-4187]
Food Safety	In May 2000, FDA participated in a seminar on "International Requirements for Food Quality and Safety, Associated Challenges and Optimization of Indian Food Exports in a Competitive Global Environment" in Bangalore.	The activity was part of a FAO project on Manpower Development in Food Quality and Safety.	India	Dean Davidson E-mail: ddavids1@cfsan.fda.gov Tel: 202-418-3163
Food Safety	In May 2000, FDA conducted a short programme on sanitation requirements for fish and fishery	The activity was conducted in conjunction with and in follow up to FDA seafood safety inspections in India.	India	Dean Davidson E-mail: ddavids1@cfsan.fda.gov

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<i>Sector</i>	<i>Description of Particular Programme:</i>	<i>Form of assistance:</i>	<i>Provided to:</i>	<i>Contacts:</i>
	products in Cochin.			Tel: 202-418-3163
Food Safety	In October and December 2000, FDA conducted food safety inspections for five manufacturers of canned ackees.	FDA invited representatives of the Jamaican Bureau of Standards to observe the five inspections to become aware of US requirements and inspection procedures for the manufacture of low acid canned foods.	Jamaica	Jeffrey M. Brown jbrown1@cfsan.fda.gov Tel: 202-205-4045
Food Safety	In November 1997, an FDA food additives chemist presented several lectures and conducted analytical methods training in the areas of preservatives, antioxidants and food colors.	The WHO-sponsored activities were conducted at the Central Laboratory of the Ministry of Health in Amman.	Jordan	Charles Warner cwarner@cfsan.fda.gov Tel: 202-205-2912
Food Safety	In March-September 2000, FDA provided technical assistance to the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research.	Conducting probabilistic risk assessments for exposure to food borne chemical contaminants.	Kuwait	Clark Carrington ccarring@cfsan.fda.gov Tel: 202-205-4704
Food Safety	In February 2000, the government of Kuwait, following algal blooms in the Arabian Gulf, organized a Conference on Harmful Algal Blooms.	The conference included representatives from most of the Gulf States and focused on the problem of harmful algal blooms and their implications for public health and trade in the Gulf region. FDA providing a lecture, consultation, and practical workshops on field plankton observation techniques.	Kuwait	Sherwood Hall E-mail: shall@cfsan.fda.gov Tel: 202-205-4818
Food Safety	June 1999, FDA conducted an 11-day train-the-trainers programme on HACCP principles in Riga, Latvia. The programme was sponsored by FAO.	HACCP instruction	Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia	Dean Davidson E-mail: ddavids1@cfsan.fda.gov Tel: 202-418-3163

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<i>Sector</i>	<i>Description of Particular Programme:</i>	<i>Form of assistance:</i>	<i>Provided to:</i>	<i>Contacts:</i>
Food Safety	In March 1997, FDA conducted a workshop on marine biotoxins in Acapulco. The Mexican Ministry of Health requested and hosted the workshop.	FDA provided extensive training (lecture, lab, and field) in marine biotoxins, their management, toxin detection, and phytoplankton observation. More than 30 people participated, representing most of the coastal states of Mexico.	Mexico	Sherwood Hall E-mail: shall@cfsan.fda.gov Tel: 202-205-4818
Food Safety	In 2000, FDA participated in three programmes on good agricultural practices and fruit and vegetable safety sponsored by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development, the Mango Growers Association, and the University of Guadalajara, respectively.	Instruction in good agricultural practices	Mexico	Camille Brewer E-mail: cbrewer@cfsan.fda.gov Tel: 202-260-2314
Food Safety	In September 1999, FDA provided technical training to the Mexican National Laboratory of Public Health.	Instruction on analytical methods for water soluble vitamins in cereal products.	Mexico	Evelyn Bonnin ebonnin@ora.fda.gov Tel: 404-253-1200 x5210
Food Safety	In 2001, FDA and the Arizona Department of Agriculture (ADA) will formalize a cooperative agreement on training and technical assistance on Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) and Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) to be conducted in the State of Sinaloa, Mexico.	FDA will be assisting ADA on GMP/GAP training, food safety outreach programmes, workshops, and will participate in reviewing progress of the selected facilities in Mexico once the pilot programme is operational.	Mexico	Robert Deinginger rdeining@ora.fda.gov Tel: 214-655-5310 x338
Food Safety	In February 2000, FDA participated in the USDA/FAS technical assistance seminar on WTO notification procedures and	The seminar included a general overview of the WTO SPS and TBT Agreements. FDA provided an overview of regulatory processes, rulemaking and transparency in	Oman	Jeffrey M. Brown jbrown1@cfsan.fda.gov Tel: 202-205-4045

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	transparency.	the United States.		
Food Safety	In August 2000, FDA co-sponsored a Regional Outreach Meeting on Food Safety in Wellington, New Zealand for Pacific Island nations and five Southeast Asian nations.	The meeting, attended by over 150 delegates consisted of a review of US food safety programmes and initiatives and US import requirements. The meeting was co-sponsored by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of New Zealand. The US presenters consisted of representatives of FDA, USDA, and CDC.	Pacific Islands and Southeast Asia	Camille Brewer E-mail: cbrewer@cfsan.fda.gov Tel: 202-260-2314
Food Safety	In June 1996, FDA conducted an APEC HACCP Evaluation Workshop in Quezon City. The workshop was hosted by the Bureau of Aquatic Resources and the Food and Drug Administration, Philippines and included 48 participants.	The workshop included the application of HACCP Principles to Fishery Processing, Hazard Analysis and Auditing of HACCP and Quality Systems for government personnel involved in the implementation of HACCP.	Philippines	Dean Davidson E-mail: ddavids1@cfsan.fda.gov Tel: 202-418-3163
Food Safety	In May 1999, FDA helped to organize and conduct the First Conference on Harmful Algae Management and Mitigation (HAMM) in Subic Bay, The Philippines.	The goal of this conference was to minimize the extent to which harmful algae and their toxins, which may be present in seafood, adversely affect food safety and seafood trade throughout the Asia-Pacific region. HAMM 99 had more than 100 participants, the majority of whom were from developing countries in Asia. A second HAMM conference is planned for November 2001 in China.	Philippines and the Asia-Pacific Region	Sherwood Hall E-mail: shall@cfsan.fda.gov Tel: 202-205-4818
Food Safety	In February 1997, FDA provided technical training to the Philippines Bureau of Food and Drugs (BFAD) under the US Agency for International Development (USAID) sponsored Opportunities for Micronutrient Interventions Project	Eight private laboratories were audited as per the Programme for Appropriate Technology in Health and OMNI guidelines to compare and train members of the Philippine staff laboratories (government and private) on quality assurance in	Philippines	Evelyn Bonnin ebonnin@ora.fda.gov Tel: 404-253-1200 x5210

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	(OMNI).	micronutrient analysis.		
Food Safety	In 1998, FDA presented two, one-week training courses on sensory evaluation for seafood decomposition to representatives of the Southeast Asian tuna industry.	Instruction	Philippines	James Barnett jbarnett@ora.fda.gov Tel: 425-483-4981
Food Safety	In October 2000 FDA met with seven Polish Federal and State government veterinary inspection personnel on a USDA/FAS/ICD/FID Cochran Fellowship Programme to the United States.	Seafood safety, in particular HACCP, its implementation, and audit of HACCP systems, plus GMPs and LACF were discussed and materials supplied for use upon their return to Poland.	Poland	Janet Walraven jwalrave@cfsan.fda.gov Tel: 202-418-3168
Food Safety	In July/August 1995, FDA assisted FAO in a train-the-trainers project on HACCP Principles in Food Safety Control.	The project resulted in development of a training manual used subsequently by FAO in other HACCP training projects in the region.	Thailand	Dean Davidson E-mail: ddavids1@cfsan.fda.gov Tel: 202-418-3163
Food Safety	In September 2000, FDA participated in the USDA/AMS technical assistance seminar on low acid canned foods regulations in the United States.	The three-day seminar included the technical safety requirements of low acid canned foods, inspection procedures, Good Manufacturing Practices, HACCP, and reference information on how to access additional technical information via the internet.	Ukraine	Jeffrey M. Brown jbrown1@cfsan.fda.gov Tel: 202-205-4045
Food Safety	In October 1996, FDA conducted a workshop on chromatographic analytical methods for amino acids and vitamins. This workshop was sponsored by the University of Central Venezuela.	Workshop	Venezuela	Evelyn Bonnin ebonnin@ora.fda.gov Tel: 404-253-1200 x5210

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Food Safety	From 1995 to date, FDA routinely distributes reference standards of various seafood toxins to food safety laboratories around the world as part of the "Seafood Toxin Programme – Analytical Reference Standards."	These standards, and the technical support frequently provided to the recipient laboratories, help other countries conduct reliable monitoring programmes for seafood toxins and ensure that regulatory decisions are based on uniform and internationally consistent data. The seafood toxin standards are provided free-of-charge by FDA.	Argentina; Brunei Darussalam; Chile; Indonesia; Mexico; China/Hong Kong S.A.R.; Peru; Trinidad & Tobago; Republic of Korea; Singapore; Philippines; Turkey.	Sherwood Hall E-mail: shall@cfsan.fda.gov Tel: 202-205-4818
Food Safety	FSIS Meat and Poultry Inspection Seminar for Foreign Government Officials	Training	75 officials from 37 developing countries	Virginia Olson Tel: 202-720-7400 E-mail: Virginia.Olson@usda.gov
Food Safety	Provided training to a visiting technical team on US grain standards, inspection methods and procedures.	Training on 5 June 2000	Former Russian Republics	John B. Pitchford, Director of Office of International Affairs, GIPSA E-mail: jpitchfo@gipsadc.usda.gov Tel: 202-690-3368
Food Safety	Conducted a wheat grading seminar at GIPSA's Technical Center.	Training on 16 June 2000	Lebanon and Jordan	John B. Pitchford, Director of Office of International Affairs, GIPSA E-mail: jpitchfo@gipsadc.usda.gov Tel: 202-690-3368
Food Safety	Visiting technical team on US rice, wheat, and corn standards, inspection methods and procedures.	Training on 14 June 2000	Panama, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica	John B. Pitchford, Director of Office of International Affairs, GIPSA E-mail: jpitchfo@gipsadc.usda.gov Tel: 202-690-3368
Food Safety	Visiting technical team on the use of near infrared transmittance for determining wheat protein and instructions on biotech testing methodology.	Training on 20 June 2000	Taiwan	John B. Pitchford, Director of Office of International Affairs, GIPSA E-mail: jpitchfo@gipsadc.usda.gov Tel: 202-690-3368

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Food Safety	Visiting technical team on US wheat standards, inspection methods, and procedures.	Training on 22 June 2000	China	John B. Pitchford, Director of Office of International Affairs, GIPSA E-mail: jpitchfo@gipsadc.usda.gov Tel: 202-690-3368
Food Safety	Visiting technical team on US grain standards and US grain marketing procedures.	Training on 20 July 2000	Romania	John B. Pitchford, Director of Office of International Affairs, GIPSA E-mail: jpitchfo@gipsadc.usda.gov Tel: 202-690-3368
Food Safety	Visiting technical team on Tanzania US grain standards, inspection methods and procedures.	Training on 22 August 2000	Kenya and Uganda	John B. Pitchford, Director of Office of International Affairs, GIPSA E-mail: jpitchfo@gipsadc.usda.gov Tel: 202-690-3368
Food Safety	Provided training to a visiting technical team on US corn, sorghum and soybean standards, inspection methods, and procedures.	Training on 22 August 2000	Mexico	John B. Pitchford, Director of Office of International Affairs, GIPSA E-mail: jpitchfo@gipsadc.usda.gov Tel: 202-690-3368
Food Safety	Visiting technical team on US biotech testing methodology.	Training on 1 September 2000	South Korea	John B. Pitchford, Director of Office of International Affairs, GIPSA E-mail: jpitchfo@gipsadc.usda.gov Tel: 202-690-3368
Food Safety	Visiting technical team on US grain standards, inspection methods and procedures.	Training on 6 December 2000	Bulgaria	John B. Pitchford, Director of Office of International Affairs, GIPSA E-mail: jpitchfo@gipsadc.usda.gov Tel: 202-690-3368
Food Safety	Visiting technical team on US grain standards, inspection methods and procedures.	Training on 26 February 2001	Tunisia	John B. Pitchford, Director of Office of International Affairs, GIPSA E-mail: jpitchfo@gipsadc.usda.gov Tel: 202-690-3368

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Food Safety	Visiting technical team on biotech testing methodology.	Training on 2 March 2001	South Korea	John B. Pitchford, Director of Office of International Affairs, GIPSA E-mail: jpitchfo@gipsadc.usda.gov Tel: 202-690-3368
Food Safety	Visiting technical team on Republic of Georgia and US wheat and corn standards, inspection methods and procedures.	Training on 2 March 2001	Ukraine	John B. Pitchford, Director of Office of International Affairs, GIPSA E-mail: jpitchfo@gipsadc.usda.gov Tel: 202-690-3368