



Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

**SPS COMMITTEE WORKSHOP ON RISK ANALYSIS:
RISK ASSESSMENT, RISK MANAGEMENT, AND RISK COMMUNICATION**

MONDAY, 12 JULY – TUESDAY, 13 JULY 2021

**WTO, CENTRE WILLIAM RAPPARD, GENEVA
PARTICIPATION VIA ZOOM**

Note by the Secretariat¹

PROGRAMME

Revision

The SPS Committee agreed to hold a workshop on risk assessment, risk management, and risk communication at the margins of the July 2021 Committee meeting, based on a proposal submitted by Canada in the context of the Fifth Review of the Operation and Implementation of the SPS Agreement.

The workshop will focus on risk assessment, risk management, and risk communication, building on the Thematic SPS Workshop on Risk Analysis, held on 13-14 October 2014; and the SPS Thematic Session on Risk Communication, held on 15 July 2015.

The workshop will be held via Zoom on 12-13 July 2021, beginning at 10 a.m. CEST. Interpretation in the three official languages will be available. The video recordings will be made available on the WTO website after the workshop.

A [dedicated webpage](#) is available on the WTO SPS gateway, with relevant information on the workshop and useful resources on risk analysis. Participants are invited to familiarise themselves with the tools and resources made available. In particular, participants who may not be familiar with risk assessment are encouraged to complete the WTO eLearning module on risk assessment and/or review other available materials on risk assessment in advance of the workshop.

The Secretariat is circulating this revised version of the programme² after taking into consideration comments received by Members and Observers.

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 and obligations under the WTO.

² A first draft of the programme was circulated by Canada in document [G/SPS/GEN/1769](#), and its subsequent revision ([G/SPS/GEN/1769/Rev.1](#)). Members were invited to submit comments on the revised draft programme and suggest speakers by 23 April 2021, following which a revised version of the programme was circulated by the Secretariat in document [G/SPS/GEN/1911](#). Members were again invited to submit additional comments and suggest speakers by Monday, 7 June 2021.

Moderator: Mr Gregory MacDonald, Chairperson of the SPS Committee

MONDAY 12 JULY 2021

1 OPENING SESSION (10:00 – 10:30)

1.1 Opening remarks

Opening remarks and overview of the workshop and its objectives. This session will also look at basic concepts of risk analysis and developments over the years.

Speaker: Mr Gregory MacDonald, Chairperson of the SPS Committee

Video clip: *Risk analysis in the SPS Agreement, a few introductory remarks with Robert Griffin and Gretchen Stanton*

- **Mr Robert Griffin**, Consultant, Former National Coordinator for Agriculture Quarantine Inspection and Former Director of Plant Epidemiology and Risk Analysis Laboratory with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Former Coordinator for IPPC
- **Ms Gretchen Stanton**, Consultant, Former Secretary of the WTO SPS Committee and Former Chairperson of the Working Group on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures during the Uruguay Round negotiations

1.2 What the SPS Agreement says about risk assessment, risk management, and risk communication

Overview of the provisions of the SPS Agreement, Committee guidance and relevant dispute settlement reports as they relate to risk assessment, risk management, and risk communication.

Speaker: Ms Camille Fléchet, WTO Secretariat, Dispute Settlement Lawyer

2 RISK ASSESSMENT (10:30 – 13:00)

Explore the concept of risk and how to operationalize risk assessment from a trade policy perspective. Share experiences on building technical capacities in risk assessment, including currently available training tools, which can help participants understand and manage some of the challenges associated with risk assessment, such as obtaining and analyzing information required for conducting a risk assessment.

2.1 Roundtable – Relevant international standards and other international tools

Provide an overview of relevant international standards, guidelines or recommendations and other international tools relating to risk assessment, as well as share capacity building tools.

Moderator: Ms Marlynn Hopper, Deputy Head, Secretariat of the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF)

Speakers:

- Codex Alimentarius
- **Dr Francisco D'Alessio**, Deputy Head, Standards Department, OIE Secretariat
- **Dr Sophie von Dobschuetz**, Veterinary Epidemiologist, Animal Health Service, FAO (FAO-OIE-WHO Joint Risk Assessment Operational Tool)
- **Ms Magda Sachana**, Policy Analyst, OECD Pesticides and Hazard Assessment Programme

Followed by Q&A session and discussion.

2.2 Roundtable – Member perspectives

Explore and discuss Member perspectives and experiences related to risk assessment, including elements such as hazard identification, hazard characterization, exposure assessment, consequence assessment, and risk characterization, and related issues concerning the implementation of relevant provisions of the SPS Agreement. Share experiences related to building capacity and tools currently available to help countries strengthen their technical capacities in risk assessment.

Moderator: Ms Lucy Namu, Senior Principal Analytical Chemist, Head Quality Assurance and Laboratory Accreditation, Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service

Speakers:

- **Ms Anastasia Alvizou**, Deputy Head of Unit D1, European Commission Directorate General Health and Food Safety
- **Dr Knut G. Berdal**, Senior Science and Technology Adviser, Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Norway
- **Ms Alison Neeley**, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) program, Plant Epidemiology and Risk Analysis Laboratory
- **Dr Lei Zhang**, Head, Risk Assessment Division II, China National Center for Food Safety Risk Assessment
- **Dr Karima Zouine**, Head, Risk Assessment Service, Risk Assessment and Legal Affairs Directorate, Morocco

Followed by Q&A session and discussion.

Informal discussions (13:00 – 14:00): Participants will have an opportunity to interact informally and raise follow-up questions with speakers on the topic of risk assessment in two breakout rooms. One breakout room will be available to exchange with the relevant international organizations and a second breakout room to exchange with Members that participated in the roundtable. Discussions in these breakout rooms will not be moderated or recorded; the rooms will provide an opportunity for informal conversations. Interpretation will not be provided.

3 RISK MANAGEMENT (15:00 – 18:00)

Explore the concept of risk management, including the evaluation of risk management options, implementation, monitoring and review, and related issues concerning the implementation of relevant provisions of the SPS Agreement. Additionally, challenges with risk management can be explored, such as identifying appropriate types of SPS risks to consider for risk management and identifying and evaluating risk management options.

3.1 Roundtable – Risk management and international standards

Explore the use of relevant international standards, guidelines or recommendations in risk management. This session will also highlight the difference between activities conducted by international standard-setting bodies and the competence of, and actions conducted by, national authorities.

Moderator: Ms Delia Grace, Professor Food Safety Systems, University of Greenwich, United Kingdom and Joint Appointed Scientist, International Livestock Research Institute, Kenya

Speakers:

- Codex Alimentarius
- **Mr Masahiro Sai**, Senior Researcher (Section Head), Research Division, Yokohama Plant Protection Station, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), Japan and Steward of the IPPC Standards Committee
- **Ms Joanne Wilson**, Principal Adviser, Animal & Plant Health Directorate, Biosecurity New Zealand, Ministry for Primary Industries and Steward of the IPPC Standards Committee

- **Dr Francisco D'Alessio**, Deputy Head, Standards Department, OIE Secretariat

Followed by Q&A session and discussion.

3.2 Roundtable – Member perspectives

Sharing of successes, challenges, considerations, impacts and best practices related to risk management. This session will focus on Member perspectives. It will also include short video clips reflecting the perspective of various private sector actors.

Moderator: Professor Steve Hathaway, Chief Food Safety Scientist, New Zealand Food Safety, Ministry of Primary Industries

Video clips: *Private sector perspectives*

- **Ms Ludovica Verzegnassi**, Global Head of Regulatory & Scientific Affairs, Nestlé S.A.
- TBC

Speakers:

- **Mr Kuan-Yu Lin**, Technical Specialist, Division of Food Safety, Food and Drug Administration, Ministry of Health and Welfare, Chinese Taipei
- **Mr Taluí Espíndola Zanatta**, Brazil
- **Mr Johnny Marchan Peña**, Executive President, National Fisheries Health Agency (SANIPES), Peru

Followed by Q&A session and discussion.

TUESDAY 13 JULY 2021

4 RISK COMMUNICATION (10:00 – 13:00 AND 15:00 – 15:45)

Explore the concept of risk communication, including developing the goals for a risk communication plan, how to develop a risk communication plan, how to ensure through internal and external communications that the results of the risk assessment, risk management options, and assumptions and uncertainty of the risk assessment are clearly communicated to internal and external audiences/stakeholders. Explore the importance of forming trust, working with transparency, and developing confidence in regulatory decisions; discuss strategies to overcome challenges associated with significant institutional, capacity, and technical constraints; and related issues concerning the implementation of relevant provisions of the SPS Agreement.

4.1 Relevant international standards and guidance from other international organizations

Explore the relevant international standards, guidelines or recommendations relating to risk communication and role of the international standard-setting bodies in risk communication. Explore the available guidance on risk communication from other international organizations.

Speakers:

- Codex Alimentarius
- **Ms Sarah Brunel**, Implementation Facilitation Deputy Leader, IPPC Secretariat
- **Dr Francisco D'Alessio**, Deputy Head, Standards Department, OIE Secretariat
- FAO
- WHO

Followed by Q&A session and discussion.

4.2 Sharing of successes, challenges, considerations, impacts and best practices related to risk communication

Explore and discuss various perspectives and experiences related to risk communication.

4.2.1 Internal risk communication

This session will focus on exploring and discussing effective communication between and among risk assessors and risk managers.

Speakers:

- **Dr Wei-Chih Cheng**, Deputy Director, Division of Food Safety, Food and Drug Administration, Ministry of Health and Welfare, Chinese Taipei. *Risk Communication based on Scenario Assumption*
- **Ms Madeline Beal**, Senior Risk Communication Advisor, United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Followed by Q&A session and discussion.

4.2.2 Translating risk assessment and risk management into communication messages

This session will focus on experiences with translating risk assessment and risk management into communication messages, including communicating uncertainty and leveraging new communication tools. The session will also explore and discuss effective ways to target communication, who are the audiences, what is the government's responsibility and role in risk communication, and when to communicate.

Speakers:

- **Ms Andrée-Anne Girard**, Senior Communications Advisor, Canadian Food Inspection Agency
- **Ms Yuqiong Deng**, Chief of International Trade Rules Research Section, Customs National Targeting Bureau (Huangpu), General Administration of Customs of China (GACC). *Risk communication helps restore gelatin trade between China and the EU*
- **Ms Anastasia Alvizou**, Deputy Head of Unit D1, European Commission Directorate General Health and Food Safety
- **Ms Laura Whitlock**, Communication Lead, Outbreak Response and Prevention Branch, Division of Foodborne, Waterborne, and Environmental Diseases, United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Followed by Q&A session and discussion.

Informal discussions (13:00 – 14:00): Participants will have an opportunity to interact informally and raise follow-up questions with speakers on the topic of risk communication in two breakout rooms. One breakout room will be available to exchange with the relevant international organizations and a second breakout room to exchange with Members that have made presentations. Discussions in these breakout rooms will not be moderated or recorded; the rooms will provide an opportunity for informal conversations. Interpretation will not be provided.

5 CASE STUDIES (15:45 – 18:00)

Explore case studies of practical examples of experiences undertaking risk assessment, risk management, and risk communication for SPS issues in order to examine how these three components of risk analysis are interlinked and where there may be common challenges with the application of these concepts.

Speakers:

- **Mr Alan MacLeod**, Pest Risk Analyst, Risk and Horizon Scanning Team, Plant and Animal Health Directorate, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, United Kingdom

- **Ms Amy Philpott**, Risk Communicator, Watson Green LLC, United States
- **Ms Yi-Tzu Weng**, Deputy Director and **Dr Fu-Kuan Juan**, Section Chief, Bureau of Animal and Plant Health Inspection and Quarantine, Council of Agriculture, Chinese Taipei
- **Ms Lilian de Luna**, Section Head, Science and Submission Management Section, Registration Directorate, Canada
- **Ms Barbara Gallani**, Head, Communication Engagement and Cooperation Department, European Food Safety Authority

Followed by Q&A session and discussion.

6 CLOSING REMARKS

Mr Gregory MacDonald, Chairperson of the SPS Committee
