

**WORLD TRADE  
ORGANIZATION**

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18 March 2002

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**Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures**

Original: Spanish

**TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE – RESPONSES TO THE QUESTIONNAIRE**

Submission by Cuba

Addendum

<b>Technical assistance requirements: Institute of Nutrition</b>					
	<b>Information</b>	<b>Training</b>	<b>Infrastructure: (Hard and/or Soft)</b>	<b>Specific concern</b>	<b>Other</b>
<b>Rights, obligations and practical operation of the SPS Agreement</b>	Improve the general understanding of the SPS Agreement with particular reference to transparency and the technical work of the Codex, and focus on issues pertaining to food safety with consumer and media participation.				
<b>Food safety</b>		National technical course on risk analysis. Workshop on equivalence recognition and regionalization. Enhancement of information services and reporting procedures.	Provide technical and scientific personnel with multidisciplinary and multisectoral training in the areas of risk assessment and diagnosis.  Technical and scientific training in Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) procedures.  Harmonization and equivalence of the quality system.	Update and reform legislation and sanitary standard-setting applicable to foodstuffs in accordance with international recommendations, guidelines and standards, with emphasis on the Codex. Establish consumer education programmes focusing on the SPS Agreement.  Technical assistance in connection with preparing, upgrading, and exchanging databases and information systems related to food safety. The need for risk assessment techniques.	
<b>Contact details</b>	Ing. María Victoria Luna, Head of Department, Institute of Nutrition [ <i>Instituto de Nutrición</i> ]. Infanta 1158, esquina a Clavel, Centro Habana, Havana City. Fax. 00 537 70 89 47 E-mail: marvicv@infomed.sld.cu				

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

*(Such information could include, inter alia, a more detailed description of the technical assistance required, any relevant background information on the reasons for the request, the possibility of using a regional approach to the provision of the requested assistance and the scope for a coordinated approach among relevant international organisations.)*

**Institute of Nutrition [Instituto de Nutrición]**

As a member country of the Codex Alimentarius, and in order to implement the SPS Agreement, Cuba must adopt Codex standards. Accordingly, Cuba must update its current standards and harmonize them with the arrangements encountered in the various countries of the region (Mexico, Dominican Republic, Argentina) which are destinations for Cuban exports as well as other regions accounting for the bulk of its imports (Canada, Spain, etc.), including the EU. The current documentation prepared and approved by the Codex Alimentarius is based on risk identification, analysis and assessment—hence the need to acquire greater specialist knowledge of the various country sectors engaged in such activities. Similarly, the need to implement the SPS Agreement will call for miscellaneous training activities for the specialists working in this area.

Over the last two years, the Ministry of the Food Industry has put together a series of projects on Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) with support from UNIDO. The Ministry of Fisheries has also received technical assistance through the FAO in this regard. Accordingly, we believe that there would be a possibility of enlisting your organization's support for technical activities in coordination with both these international organizations with a view to implementing the SPS Agreement. Advisory assistance in regard to the implementation of legislation will be required for this purpose.

Furthermore, it should be noted that Cuba has experts working for central government agencies who can work actively on this technical assistance and share it with other countries in the region or other areas in need.

<b>Technical assistance requirements: Plant health</b>					
	<b>Information</b>	<b>Training</b>	<b>Infrastructure: (Hard and/or Soft)</b>	<b>Specific concern</b>	<b>Other</b>
<b>Rights, obligations and practical operation of the SPS Agreement</b>	Lecture: Non-discrimination in the application of phytosanitary measures. Rights, obligations, and consequences.				
<b>Plant health</b>	Lecture: Practical Operation of the SPS Agreement and the Agreement on Agriculture.		(Hard Infrastructure) Laboratory equipment for diagnosing possible quarantine pests. Laboratory equipment for determining pesticide residues and additives.		Utilisation of questionnaire Assessment of Phytosanitary Capacity in Cuba (Questionnaire proposed by the International Plant Protection convention (IPPC)).
<b>Contact details</b>	Contact for National Plant Health Center [ <i>Centro Nacional de Sanidad Vegetal</i> ]. Cuba: Ing. Humberto Vázquez Vega, Director Ayuntamiento No. 231 e/ San Pedro y Lombillo, Plaza de la Revolución, Havana City, Cuba. Tel. 00 537 791339, 784 976 E-mail: <a href="mailto:cnsv@ceniai.inf.cu">cnsv@ceniai.inf.cu</a>				

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**Plant health**

Reasons for the request: focusing on the need for:

- Correct identification of the State System of Plant Health, through the operation of the SPS Agreement;
- Appropriate application of the provisions of the SPS Agreement;
- National capacity-building to ensure the implementation of the SPS Agreement;
- Ensuring safe and secure trade;
- Achieving a better understanding of the rights, duties and obligations incumbent upon members under the SPS Agreement;
- Enabling all officials and experts to gain a deeper understanding of the implementation of the SPS Agreement;
- Gaining an awareness of the linkages between the SPS Agreement and other international agreements.