

**TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE REQUIREMENTS**

Submission by Morocco

Addendum

**Information**

- Support for Morocco's participation in the standard-setting activities of the competent international organizations, as recognized in the SPS Agreement (the Codex Alimentarius Commission and the International Office of Epizootics);
- study of the resources that could be earmarked for the participation of government representatives at different types of meetings and regional consultations;
- assistance in establishing the national network for the surveillance of animal diseases (geographic information system and software for processing information relating to animal health);
- participation in conferences and workshops with a view to broadening the scope of specific aspects of the SPS Agreement: transparency, equivalence, risk analysis, etc;
- organization at national level of workshops and awareness-raising and information days on SPS measures.

**Training**

- Within the framework of the technical assistance granted to developing countries by certain developed countries such as the United States and Canada (G/SPS/GEN/181), some cooperation programmes with the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) are to be expected with regard to the inspection of meat and animal products:
  - Food safety; processing techniques; quality control; dispatch of Moroccan experts with a view to improving the production quality of processed products and to make recommendations on hazard analysis and critical control point projects (HACCP);
  - Partnership with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to establish a Memorandum of Understanding to facilitate the export of Moroccan fishery produce to the United States, and the hosting and training of Moroccan representatives with regard to regulatory enforcement or inspection procedures;

- Training of Moroccan professional staff in the field of biotechnology;
- training of laboratory technicians on how to diagnose fish diseases and analysis techniques used for GM products;
- risk assessment: workshop on the risk analysis procedures that are in compliance with international standards;
- training of laboratory technicians on recent techniques used in the swift diagnosis of certain emergent diseases (BSE, Bluetongue, etc.);
- providing those involved in animal health with training on epidemiology and on how to analyse the risk of disease introduction associated with imports and exports;
- training on internal and external communication methods adapted to crisis situations in the field of animal health;
- support for the implementation of the plan to gain accreditation for the national veterinary services to international quality standard ISO 17020;
- technical and regulatory assistance of those involved in animal health with regard to international cooperation in the trade in live animals;
- acquisition of new techniques for diagnosing and tracing quarantine parasites in seed potatoes, vine plants, strawberry plants and rosaceous plants;
- methods and procedures used in the phytosanitary monitoring of harmful parasites;
- phytosanitary control (sampling, inspection) of wood, containers and fruit;
- acquisition of techniques used in the *in vitro* culture of citrus fruits, sugar cane and potatoes;
- acquisition of inspection standards, methods and procedures used for GMOs;
- production and import control procedures;
- techniques used in import quarantine arrangements.

**Infrastructure (hard and/or soft)**

- Assistance with supplying certain veterinary laboratories with equipment for the diagnosis of fish diseases and detection of GM products;
- assistance with supplying certain veterinary units and laboratories with the computer equipment needed to create a GIS (Geographic Information System) map and the audio-visual equipment and software needed to process epidemiological data;
- assistance with supplying certain veterinary laboratories with equipment for the swift diagnosis of certain animal diseases;

- supplying the plant quarantine unit in Bouznika with basic laboratory equipment for PCR and *in vitro* culture techniques;
- updating the technical instruments used for quality control and information management.

#### **Other**

- Support for the introduction of quality management programmes at production unit level;
- strengthening the participation of Moroccan delegations at Codex Alimentarius committee meetings.

#### **Rights, obligations and practical operation of the SPS Agreement**

- Implementation of the SPS Agreement: application of the rights and obligations under the Agreement relating to ways of improving the technical conditions related to market access for exports.

#### **Food safety**

- Updating food safety legislation, with a view to strengthening the national food safety, quality control and food hygiene systems;
- assistance with the creation and establishment of the Moroccan Food Safety Agency (AMSSA).

#### **Animal health**

- Updating legislation on the protection of animal health so that it complies with the relevant international regulations (recognition of the principle of equivalence);
- updating data on the epidemiological surveillance networks relating to animal disease that exist at international level.

#### **Plant protection**

- Introduction of phytosanitary surveillance procedures based on international standards;
- Support for the introduction of risk-analysis procedures and mechanisms.

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