

**WORLD TRADE
ORGANIZATION**

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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Original: English

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE – RESPONSES TO THE QUESTIONNAIRE

Submission by South Africa

Addendum

Technical assistance <u>requirements</u>:					
	Information	Training	Infrastructure: (Hard and/or Soft)	Specific concern	Other
Rights, obligations and practical operation of the SPS Agreement:		Pest Risk Analysis with regard to import of plants, plant products and regulated articles.			Investigating the possibility coordinating assistance within the SADC region to increase the benefits from the envisaged training and capacity building
Food safety					
Animal health					
Plant health	Updated information on import requirements for plants, plant products and other regulated articles required by developing countries.	Training in conducting surveys for the interception and control of quarantine pests.	Assistance with the development of harmonised phytosanitary measures and risk management to ensure effective regulatory and control services in the SADC region.		
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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 organizations.)

The South African Fresh Fruit industry is an important export industry. South Africa is also known for its export inspection and certification system, mostly with regard to quality of fresh fruit and vegetables. The major Fresh Fruit Export Industries are currently in compliance with importing country as well as buyer food safety requirements.

The need however exists to implement food safety programmes on a national level instead of only focussing only on export sector. It is therefore necessary to build capacity within government as well as within industry, also including the small growers. The National Department also envisage to establish a food safety component in the new structure which will require that officials in the Food safety component will be required to conduct risk assessments to determine the level of microbiological risk on fresh fruit and vegetables as well as to develop a monitoring programmes for both exports and well as local sales.

Auditing of these food safety programmes would require the inspection personnel to have competencies on GAP, GMP and HACCP auditing.

South African staple food of the poor are produced from grains. Industries such as the maize and wheat industries included mycotoxin surveillance programmes within their annual crop quality surveys. Although South Africa has grading legislation as well as health legislation dealing with mycotoxins there is a lack in official monitoring of mycotoxins as well no official integrated system to reduce and address the possibility of contamination. Assistance would thus be required to address these issues.

To put South Africa in a position to enter into equivalence agreements training on the evaluation of equivalence would be required.
