

**WORLD TRADE
ORGANIZATION**

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(02-6823)

Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Original: Spanish

QUESTIONNAIRE ON TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Submission by Costa Rica

Addendum

Technical assistance requirements:					
	Information	Training	Infrastructure (Hard and/or Soft)	Specific Concerns	Other
Rights, obligations and practical operation of the SPS Agreement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to the WTO and the international trading system • Importance of the SPS Agreement in international trade • Introduction to the work of the CODEX, IPPC and OIE • Information on: determination of the appropriate level of sanitary protection, non-discriminatory trade measures, analysis of dispute settlement cases relating to sanitary and phytosanitary measures, and the work of standard-setting bodies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application of provisions on transparency • Recognition of equivalence and regionalization • Harmonization of requirements • Risk analysis • Dispute settlement procedures • Dispute analysis 	<p>Soft:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advice on the establishment / revision of national regulatory systems and their harmonization with international standards and guidelines <p>Hard:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consumer education programmes on sanitary and phytosanitary measures. Establishment of a database for the notification system 	To receive information on existing Japanese regulations on access of Costa Rican organic products	<p>Organic farming</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harmonization of requirements • Revision / adjustment of Costa Rican regulations and procedures with regard to organic products to facilitate their access to world markets
Food safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information seminars on the SPS Agreement for producers, farmers, industrialists and government officials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training seminars on risk analysis and determination of the appropriate level of protection, geared towards the scientific community (risk assessment) and producers and government officials (risk management and communication) • Training in the development of inspection, sampling and investigation procedures • Good agricultural 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food inspection service capacity enhancement and laboratory strengthening. Creation of a Food Safety Institute to support the National Food Safety System and recommendations as regards equipment, facilities and resource (personnel and budgetary) requirements for its development. • Development of information and data analysis systems for food products, food establishments and domestic and international regulations • Advice on implementing new laboratory methods and improving laboratory practices 	Strengthening of national food safety policies and strategies by modernizing food legislation and assessing management and organizational requirements for establishing modern and effective food-control programmes	<p>Establishment of consumer communication and participation programmes to improve food safety</p> <p>Regulatory framework for the production, processing and marketing of fresh fruits and vegetables</p>

Technical assistance requirements:					
	Information	Training	Infrastructure (Hard and/or Soft)	Specific Concerns	Other
		practices for producers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Systems for the accreditation and certification of safe products 	and quality assurance systems		
Animal health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General understanding of the SPS Agreement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk analysis, transparency, dispute settlement procedures, equivalency and regionalization • Standardization and harmonization of animal health and veterinary public health regulations • Training at all levels in animal health quality assurance (mainly in laboratories) • Course on good manufacturing practices for veterinary drugs • Creation of training programmes for law enforcement and judicial authorities on the use of sanitary inspections to control disease and the smuggling of animals and products of animal origin 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laboratory equipment (3 atomic absorption spectrophotometers, 3 gas chromatographs, 2 liquid chromatographs, 1 microwave digester for heavy metals, 5 incubators, 3 large -20°C freezers, 1 400-pound capacity incinerator) • 200 m2 construction to house the animal feed registry and a laboratory • Training in geographic information systems • Extension of the Epidemiological Information System 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training in the economic assessment of animal health campaigns • Development of epidemiological surveillance projects • Training in the veterinary service administration and management • Simulations of avian diseases, foot-and-mouth disease and classical swine fever • Training programmes in livestock movement control
Plant health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk analysis • Quarantine treatments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phytosanitary certification systems of countries with which 	Soft <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Control and monitoring by GPS 		

Technical assistance requirements:					
	Information	Training	Infrastructure (Hard and/or Soft)	Specific Concerns	Other
		Costa Rica trades. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspection, quarantine treatment, epidemiological surveillance and risk assessment systems • Training of technical experts in pest identification at points of entry. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modernization of plant quarantine services • Assessment and improvement of the general and specific procedures of plant quarantine services • Organization of quarantine procedures Hard <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treatment facilities • Installations for post-quarantine centres, greenhouses, etc. 		
Contact details	National Enquiry Point Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock State Plant Protection Service Plant and Animal Health Information and Notification Centre P.O. Box 10094-1000 San José, Costa Rica Tel.: (506) 260-8300 (ext. 2090) Fax: (506) 260-8301 E-mail: notificaciones@protecnet.go.cr				

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.)

Food safety:

Our country has set up an Intersectoral Food Safety Committee, which is made up of representatives of the productive and industrial sector, academic and research sector, public sector and consumer organizations. Its aim is to establish a National Food Safety System which coordinates the sectors and institutions involved with a view to developing domestic resources and bringing about a significant improvement in the safety levels of food for both domestic consumption and export. Technical assistance is required to develop organizational capacity in order to bring the food safety policy to a successful conclusion, improve inspection services and laboratories and establish a national food safety information system (products, establishments, regulations, information on methodologies and general information for producers, industrialists and consumers). Technical assistance is also required to develop expertise in the establishment of appropriate safety levels and risk assessment methodologies, management and communication. Finally, strategies need to be developed to achieve greater consumer participation, since consumers are both the most prominent food safety critics and the people who come most into contact with food products.

Animal health:

The Costa Rican Animal Health Directorate has done its utmost to keep up to date in the face of trade liberalization. It is difficult for such a small country with a relatively poor economy to find the high levels of investment required to modernize its public and private port sector. Substantial investment has been made in updating information systems, providing training and implementing laboratory techniques in line with WTO and OIE recommendations. Furthermore, efforts are being made to improve domestic sanitary conditions throughout the whole process relating to products of animal origin so as to guarantee their quality to consumers.

Existing national and international legislation needs an ever-increasing amount of work in the area of quality assurance. The Animal Health Directorate requires training in this field as well as improvements in its "hard" infrastructure, in addition to which there is an urgent need to renew obsolete laboratory equipment which often prevents analyses from being conducted efficiently.

Each of these activities is extremely important as regards ensuring compliance with sanitary measures in relation to animal production and protecting both consumers and users of products of animal origin, both in Costa Rica and abroad.