



**Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures**

**SPS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES  
1 SEPTEMBER 1994 TO 31 DECEMBER 2019**

NOTE BY THE SECRETARIAT<sup>1</sup>

*Revision*

1. This document provides an update of all the SPS technical assistance (TA) and training activities undertaken by the Secretariat from 1 September 1994 to 31 December 2019. Detailed information is provided in the annexed table on the TA activities undertaken by the Secretariat for the last three years (2017-2019).<sup>2</sup>
2. The main objective of SPS technical assistance and training activities undertaken by the WTO Secretariat is to increase participants' awareness about Members' rights and obligations under the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement) and its implications for national policymaking. The SPS technical assistance activities also provide an opportunity to inform participants on the discussions held and latest documents considered by the SPS Committee. In addition, participants are informed about upcoming SPS workshops and technical assistance initiatives available to their countries on SPS matters.
3. The programme is adapted to take into account the specific needs identified by the countries, the participants' knowledge of the SPS Agreement, the level of development of the countries, and any specific concerns relating to the implementation of the SPS Agreement, in order to adequately respond to individual requests. SPS technical assistance and training activities typically include presentations on the basic provisions of the SPS Agreement, the transparency provisions, specific trade concerns raised at the SPS Committee, the WTO dispute settlement and SPS-related cases, and specific issues such as risk analysis, regionalization or equivalence.
4. Altogether, 413 SPS training activities have been undertaken by the WTO Secretariat from 1 September 1994 to 31 December 2019. In 2019, 10 SPS training activities were undertaken: eight national seminars, and two other activities (including one Thematic SPS workshop held back-to-back with the October SPS Committee meeting) and one Advanced SPS Course.<sup>3</sup>
5. The annexed table identifies, for the period 2017-2019, the type of technical assistance activity, the region and venue where it took place, its dates, participating countries, language used, and whether representatives from the FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission (Codex), the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) Secretariat participated in the activity.
6. A regional workshop refers to an activity organized by the WTO in which a region or sub-region was invited to participate. A national seminar refers to a WTO-organized activity undertaken at the national level only. The "other" category refers to all other SPS TA and training activities that do not fall under either of the first two categories. This includes other types of SPS-specific activities organized by the WTO Secretariat as well as activities organized by Members or other bodies in

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> Detailed information on TA activities from previous years is available from the Secretariat upon request. In addition, G/SPS/GEN/521/Rev.7 includes details of TA activities from 1994.

<sup>3</sup> The Advanced SPS Course includes a follow-up activity which is held back-to-back with the June/July SPS Committee meeting of the following year.

which the WTO Secretariat participated. Training sessions on the SPS Agreement also take place within other general WTO training courses, such as Trade Policy Courses, Regional Trade Policy Courses, Geneva Weeks, Introduction Courses and Agriculture Courses for least-developed countries; which are not included in the list of SPS TA activities in this document.

7. The information provided in the Annex below is organized on an annual basis and in alphabetical order, based on the region where the activity was undertaken, with the more recent activities listed first.

8. SPS TA activities are organized in close collaboration with Members, the three-international standard-setting bodies referenced in the SPS Agreement (Codex, IPPC and OIE), as well as with regional organizations, when appropriate. Since 1994, the Codex has participated in 119 activities, while the IPPC secretariat participated in 103 activities and the OIE in 117 activities.

9. To meet the demands for more advanced SPS TA and training activities, a three-week Advanced Course on the SPS Agreement has been offered each year since 2005.<sup>4</sup> This Advanced SPS Course provides in-depth and "hands-on" SPS training. During the course, participants must elaborate an action plan to address identified SPS needs in their countries. The implementation of the action plans is monitored after the course, and participants are invited to return to Geneva about eight months after the end of the course to present the achievements reached through their action plans. The next Advanced SPS Course is scheduled for October 2020, and it will be held in French.

10. In addition to the above-mentioned SPS TA and training activities, the WTO offers an E-Learning course on the SPS Agreement. The course is offered each year in all three official languages of the WTO: English, French and Spanish.

11. Since 2010, Members have been informed at the beginning of each year of all SPS-related planned technical assistance activities, and interested officials are invited to submit applications for specific events. In 2019, this was done via document G/SPS/GEN/997/Rev.9. The Codex, IPPC and OIE secretariats also drew attention to this information on SPS training activities in their respective meetings to encourage interested candidates to apply. Almost 378 applications were received for SPS-related activities (aside from national seminars and E-Learning courses) offered by the WTO Secretariat in 2019. For the Advanced SPS Course, candidates were required to have successfully completed the WTO E-Learning course on the SPS Agreement at the time of their application. All applicants were requested to provide information that indicated how their professional responsibilities were related to the SPS Agreement, and the endorsement of Members' permanent representations to the WTO was sought before the final selection of participants. The Secretariat endeavoured to ensure that the selected participants represented a balance of officials with responsibilities in their national administrations' food safety, animal health or plant protection areas, as well as SPS enquiry points and national notification authorities, and other officials responsible for the coordination of WTO trade issues and SPS matters within their governments.

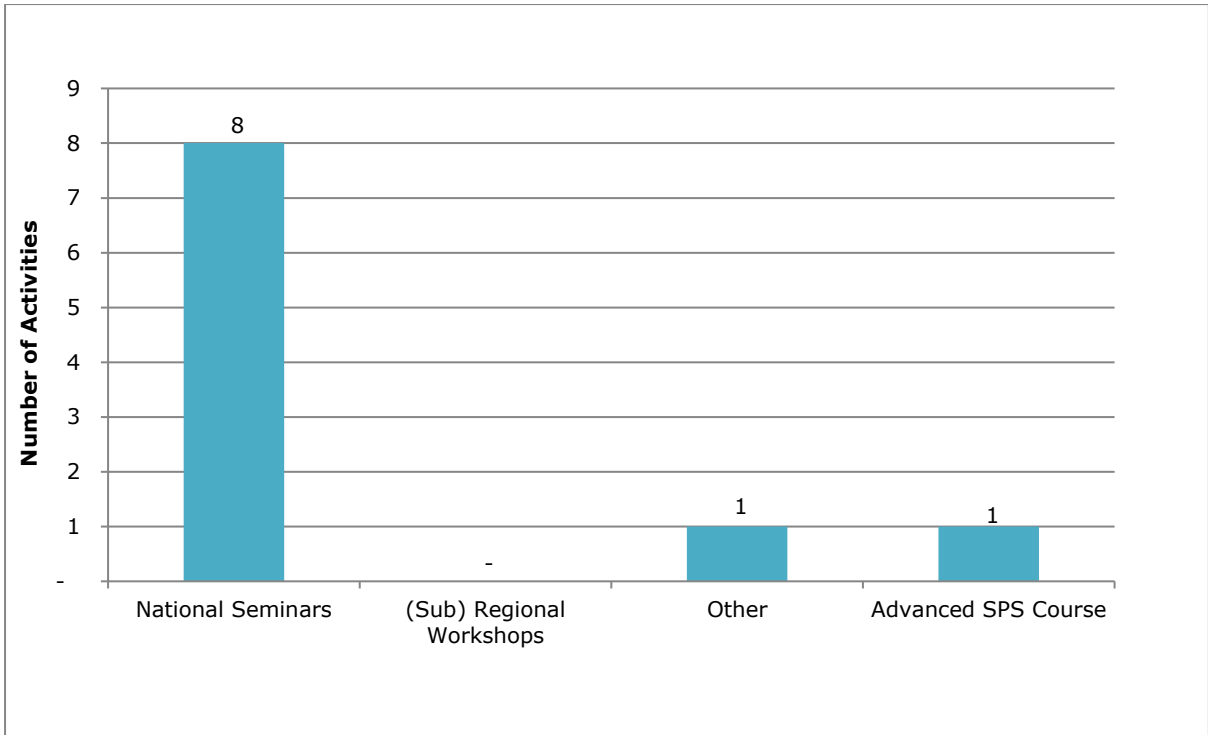
12. The Secretariat considers that this more "demand-driven" approach, based on applications from interested officials, together with the pre-requisite of completion of the SPS E-Learning course, has resulted in a more homogeneous and higher level of background knowledge by participants, and permitted the delivery of more advanced and effective training activities since 2010. The Secretariat will again organize its 2020 training activities in this manner, as indicated in document G/SPS/GEN/997/Rev.10.

13. Chart 1 below lists the breakdown of the type of activities undertaken in 2019 and Chart 2 shows the number of activities per year.

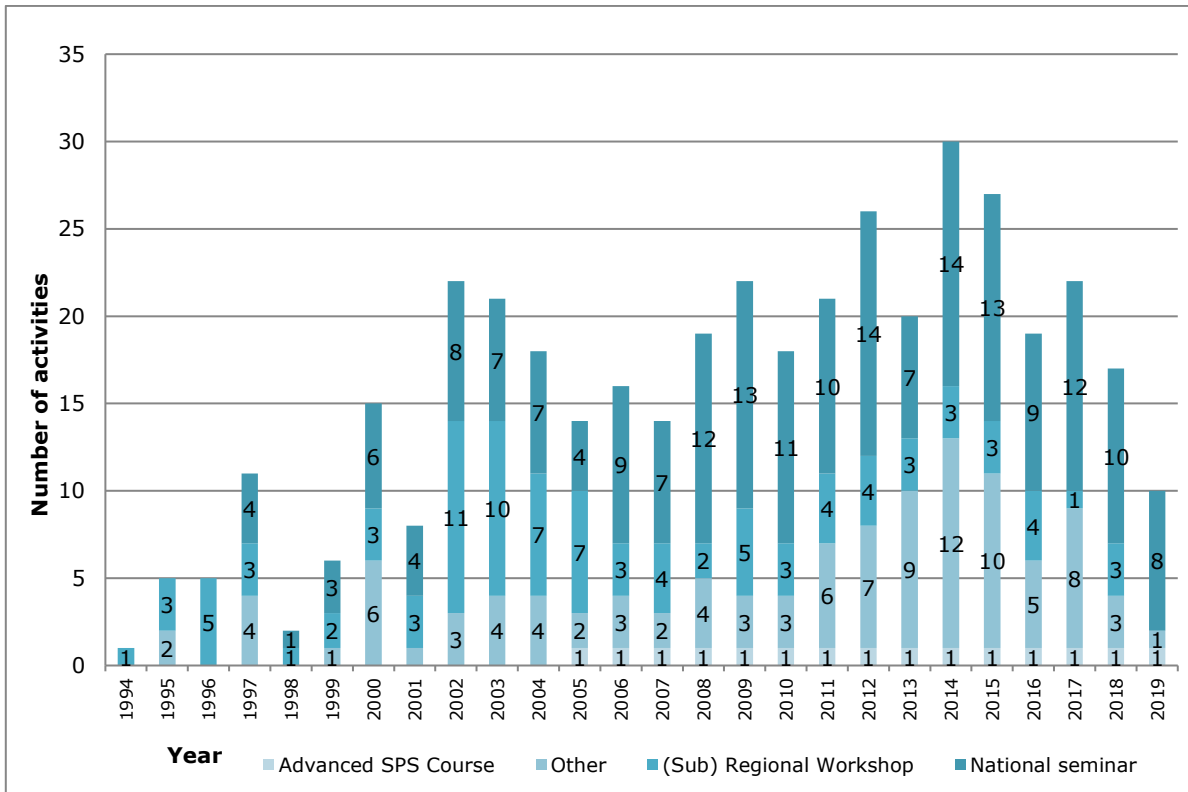
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<sup>4</sup> See Chart 7 for a breakdown of participants who have attended the Advanced SPS Course by region.

**Chart 1 - SPS TA and Training Activities in 2019**

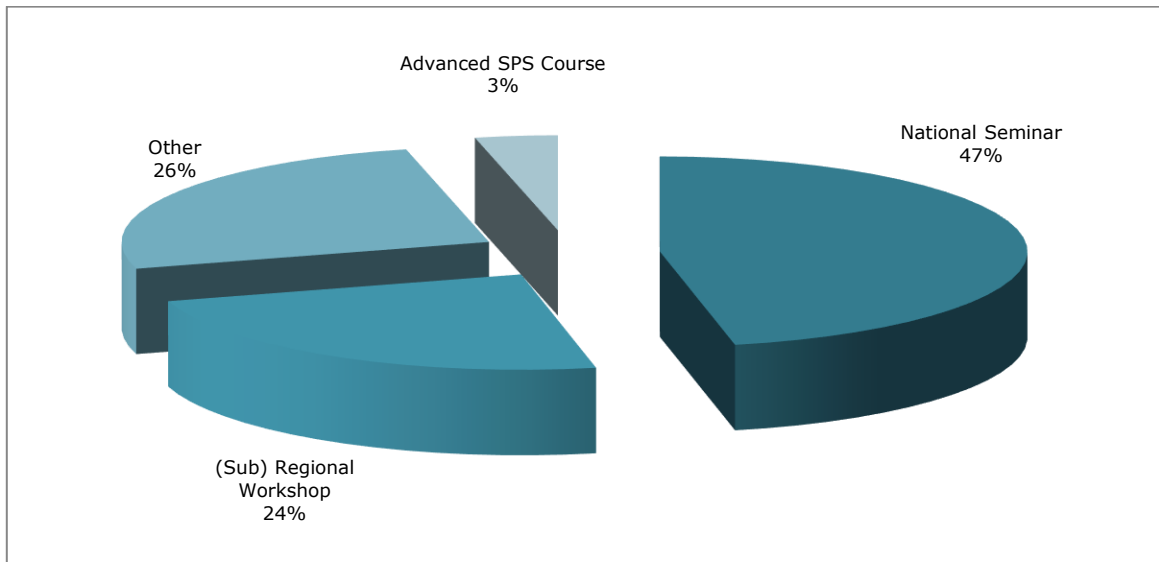


**Chart 2 - SPS TA and Training Activities per year from 1994 to 2019**



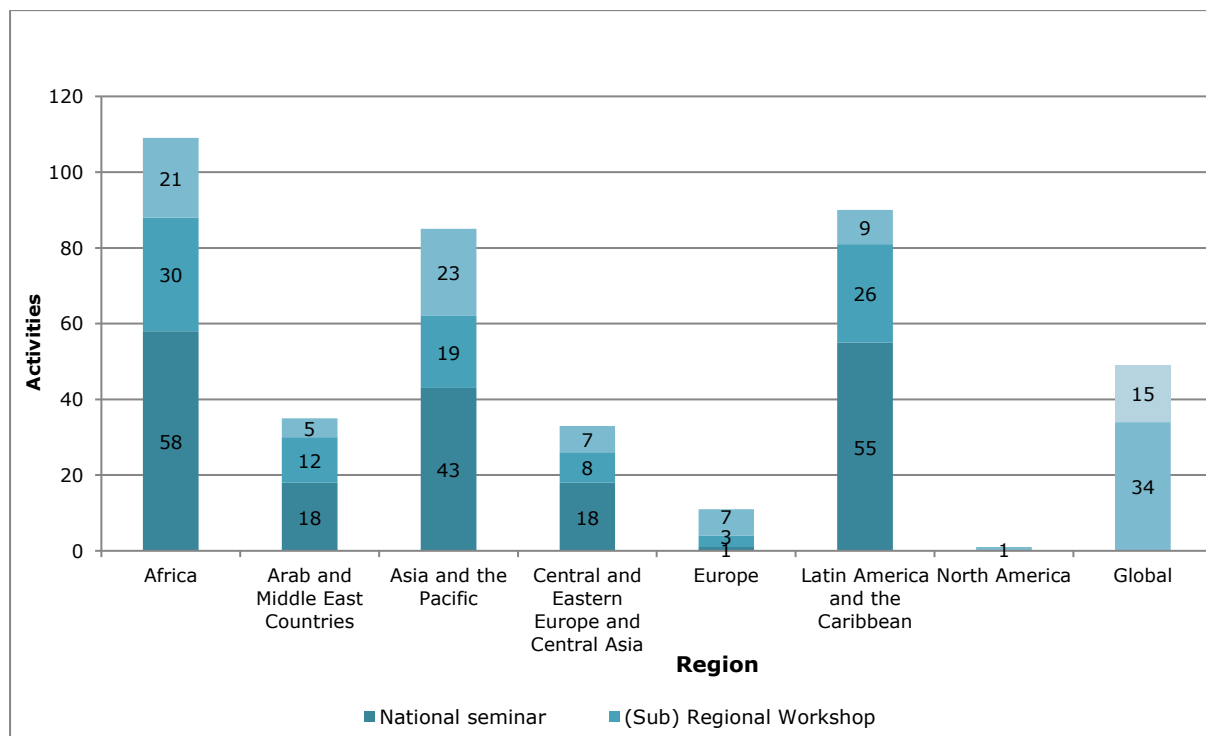
14. Chart 3 presents a breakdown of the type of activities undertaken since 1994: 193 national seminars, 98 regional or sub-regional workshops, 107 other activities and fifteen Advanced Courses on the SPS Agreement.

**Chart 3 - Type of SPS TA and Training Activities from 1994 to 2019**

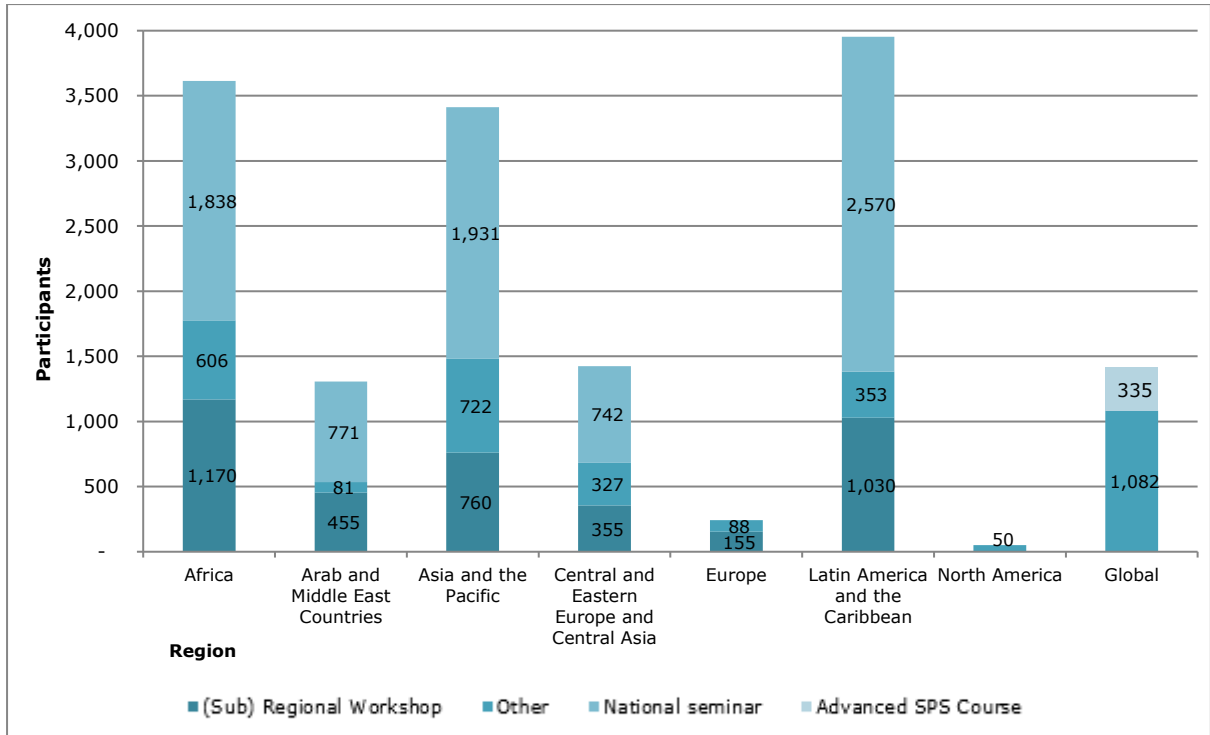


15. Chart 4 shows the number and type of TA activities per region, while Chart 5 presents the total number of participants who have attended SPS TA and training activities per region and per type of activity. Overall, a total of 15,755 people have received training from the WTO Secretariat on the SPS Agreement since 1994.

**Chart 4 - SPS TA and Training Activities per Region from 1994 to 2019**

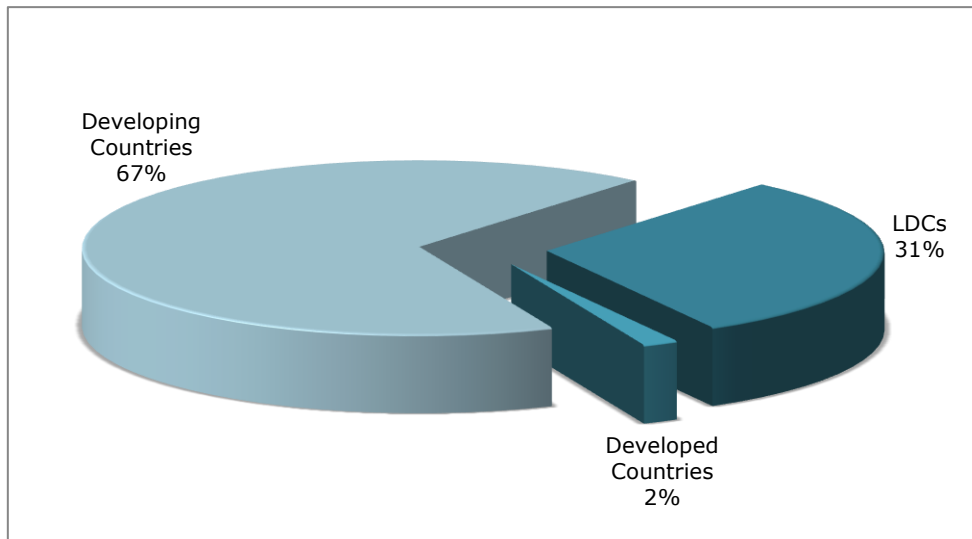


**Chart 5 - Participants per Region from 1994 to 2019**



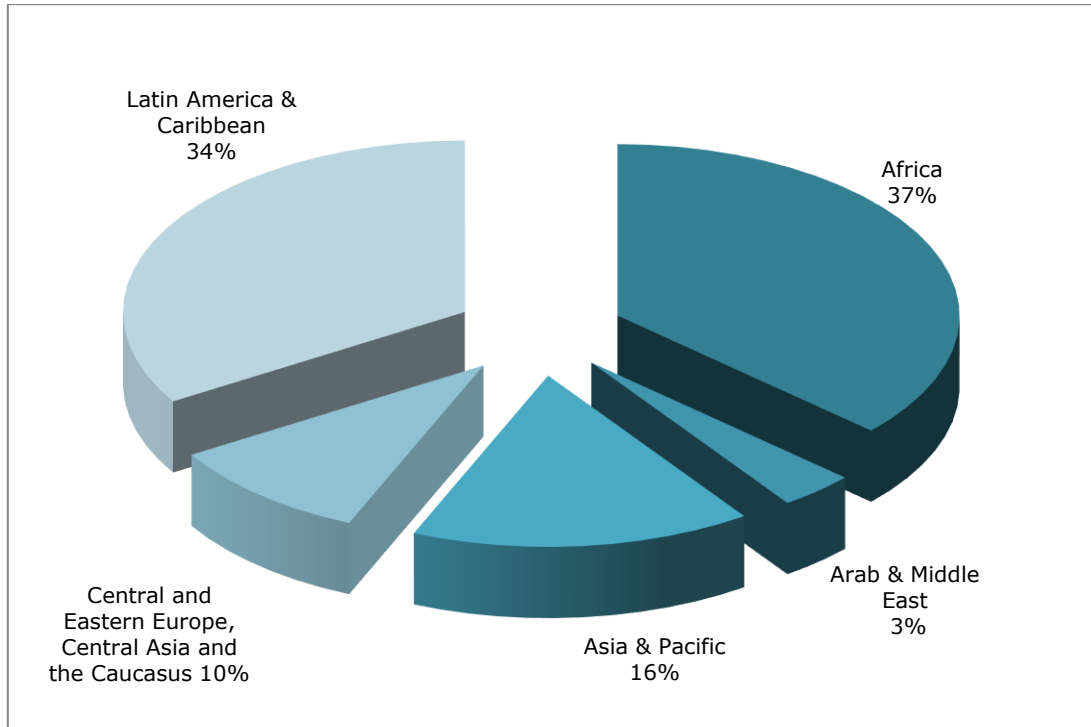
16. As shown in Chart 6, 31% of the beneficiaries of all SPS TA and training activities undertaken by the Secretariat have been from least-developed countries (LDCs), 67% from developing countries, and 2% from developed countries.

**Chart 6 - Breakdown of country participation from 1994 to 2019**



17. Chart 7 presents a breakdown by region of participants who have attended the Advanced SPS Course. Over the period 2005 to 2019, 360 officials have participated in the Advanced SPS Course from the following regions: 37% from Africa; 34% from Latin America and the Caribbean; 16% from Asia and Pacific; 10% from Central and Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the Caucasus; and 3% from Arab and Middle East countries.

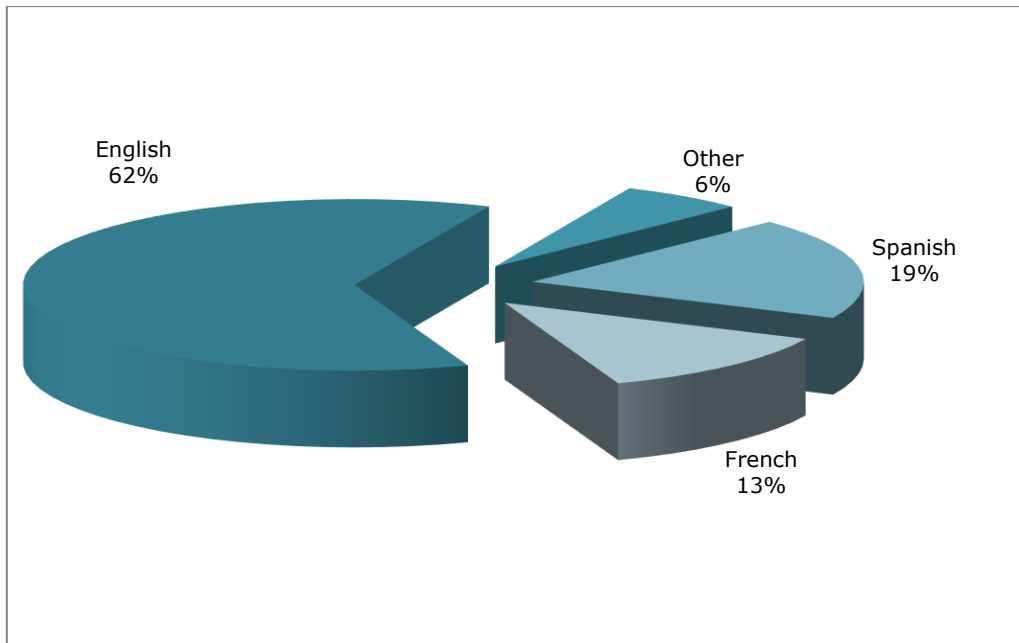
**Chart 7 – Breakdown of participants in the Advanced SPS Course by region from 2005 to 2019**



18. Chart 8 presents the language breakdown of all SPS TA and training activities that have been undertaken. Overall, 62% of activities have been conducted in English, 19% in Spanish, and 13% in French. The remaining 6% have been undertaken in other languages, including Arabic, Portuguese, Turkish and Russian.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>5</sup> For all the SPS TA and training activities undertaken in other languages, at least one of the official WTO languages was also used (with the exception of activities conducted in Portuguese).

**Chart 8 - Language breakdown of SPS TA and Training activities from 1994 to 2019**



**ANNEX**  
**SPS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES**  
**(1 JANUARY 2017 TO 31 DECEMBER 2019)**

Year	Region	SPS TA Activity	Host	Location	From	To	Participants			Participants	Participation of representatives from the standard-setting organizations			Language
							LDCs	Developing	Developed		Codex	OIE	IPPC	
2019	Africa	National seminar	Angola	Luanda	11/12/2019	12/12/2019	Angola			58	No	No	No	Portuguese
2019	Asia and the Pacific	National seminar	China	Beijing	10/09/2019	12/09/2019		China		19	No	No	No	English
2019	Asia and the Pacific	National seminar	Nepal	Kathmandu	10/12/2019	12/12/2019		Nepal		38	No	No	No	English
2019	Central and Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the Caucasus	National seminar	Turkey	Ankara	02/05/2019	03/05/2019		Turkey		28	No	No	No	English
2019	Global	Other	Switzerland	Geneva	15/07/2019	16/07/2019	Bangladesh, Benin, Burkina Faso, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Mali, Myanmar (Burma), Rwanda, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda	Argentina, Bahamas, Belize, Cameroon, Chile, Chinese Taipei, Côte d'Ivoire, Ecuador, Ghana, Honduras, Morocco, Mauritius, Paraguay, Peru, Dominican Republic, Russian Federation, Samoa, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Turkey, Vietnam		34	No	No	No	English, French, Spanish
2019	Latin America and the Caribbean	National seminar	Jamaica	Kingston	20/05/2019	22/05/2019		Jamaica		37	No	No	No	Spanish
2019	Latin America and the Caribbean	National seminar	Peru	Lima	19/11/2019	21/11/2019		Peru		73	No	No	No	Spanish



Year	Region	SPS TA Activity	Host	Location	From	To	Participants			Participants	Participation of representatives from the standard-setting organizations			Language
							LDCs	Developing	Developed		Codex	OIE	IPPC	
2019	Global	Advanced SPS Course	Switzerland	Geneva	28/10/2019	15/11/2019	Lao People's Democratic Republic, Liberia, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Rwanda, Sudan	Bahamas, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Cameroon, China, Egypt, India, Jordan, Kenya, Malaysia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine		24	Yes	Yes	Yes	English
2019	Latin America and the Caribbean	National seminar	Paraguay	Asunción	17/10/2019	17/10/2019		Paraguay		9	No	No	No	Spanish
2019	Latin America and the Caribbean	National seminar	Guatemala	Ciudad de Guatemala	29/08/2019	30/08/2019		Guatemala		24	No	No	No	Spanish
2018	Africa	National seminar	Côte d'Ivoire	Abidjan	05/12/2018	07/12/2018		Côte d'Ivoire		50	No	No	No	French
2018	Africa	(Sub) Regional Workshop	Benin	Cotonou	25/06/2018	27/06/2018	Angola, Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Madagascar, Mali, Senegal, Togo	Cameroon, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Guinea, Morocco, Tunisia		37	No	No	No	French
2018	Arab and Middle East Countries	(Sub) Regional Workshop	Kuwait, the State of	Kuwait City	16/04/2018	19/04/2018	Somalia, Sudan	Bahrain, Kingdom of; Djibouti; Egypt; Jordan; Lebanese Republic; Syrian Arab Republic; Tunisia		20	Yes	Yes	Yes	English
2018	Arab and Middle East Countries	(Sub) Regional Workshop	Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of	Jeddah	09/10/2018	11/10/2018		Bahrain, Kingdom of; Kuwait, the State of; Oman; Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of		25	No	No	No	English
2018	Asia and the Pacific	National seminar	Chinese Taipei	Taipei	04/12/2018	06/12/2018		Chinese Taipei		38	No	No	No	English
2018	Asia and the Pacific	National seminar	Tonga	Nuku'alofa	29/05/2018	31/05/2018		Tonga		28	No	No	No	English

Year	Region	SPS TA Activity	Host	Location	From	To	Participants			Participants	Participation of representatives from the standard-setting organizations			Language
							LDCs	Developing	Developed		Codex	OIE	IPPC	
2018	Asia and the Pacific	Other	India	New Delhi	11/04/2018	13/04/2018	Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar, Nepal	India, Maldives, Sri Lanka		29	No	No	No	English
2018	Central and Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the Caucasus	National seminar	Belarus	Minsk	23/01/2018	24/01/2018		Belarus		58	No	No	No	English
2018	Central and Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the Caucasus	National seminar	Moldova, Republic of	Chisinau	07/08/2018	08/08/2018		Moldova, Republic of		25	No	No	No	English
2018	Latin America and the Caribbean	National seminar	Bolivia, Plurinational State of	La Paz	15/05/2018	18/05/2018		Bolivia, Plurinational State of		19	No	No	No	Spanish
2018	Latin America and the Caribbean	National seminar	Chile	Santiago and Concepción	20/11/2018	22/11/2018		Chile		108	No	No	No	Spanish
2018	Latin America and the Caribbean	National seminar	Costa Rica	San José	03/12/2018	05/12/2018		Costa Rica		51	No	No	No	Spanish
2018	Latin America and the Caribbean	National seminar	Ecuador	Quito	05/11/2018	08/12/2018		Ecuador		49	No	No	No	Spanish
2018	Latin America and the Caribbean	National seminar	Saint Kitts and Nevis	Basseterre	13/11/2018	15/11/2018		Saint Kitts and Nevis		32	No	No	No	English
2018	Global	Other	Peru	Lima	21/06/2018	22/06/2018		Chile, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, Philippines, Russian Federation, Thailand, Viet Nam	Australia, New Zealand	56	No	No	No	Spanish

Year	Region	SPS TA Activity	Host	Location	From	To	Participants			Participants	Participation of representatives from the standard-setting organizations			Language
							LDCs	Developing	Developed		Codex	OIE	IPPC	
2018	Global	Advanced SPS Course	Switzerland	Geneva	22/10/2018	09/11/2018		Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru		25	Yes	Yes	Yes	Spanish
2018	Global	Thematic SPS Workshop	Switzerland	Geneva	09/07/2018	10/07/2018	Benin, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Comoros, Madagascar, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Vanuatu, Zambia	Algeria, Argentina, Chile, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Guatemala, Jordan, Kyrgyz Republic, Montenegro, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Saint Kitts and Nevis, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Swaziland, Zimbabwe		32	Yes	Yes	Yes	English, French, Spanish
2017	Africa	National seminar	Liberia	Monrovia	22/04/2017	24/04/2017	Liberia			46	No	No	No	English
2017	Africa	Other	Switzerland	Geneva	20/03/2017	20/03/2017	Benin, Burkina Faso, The Gambia, Guinea, Madagascar, Senegal, Togo, Zambia	Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Seychelles		12	No	No	No	English
2017	Arab and Middle East Countries	National seminar	Jordan	Amman	02/10/2017	04/10/2017		Jordan		23	No	No	No	English
2017	Asia and the Pacific	National seminar	Bangladesh	Dhaka	20/11/2017	22/11/2017	Bangladesh			30	No	No	No	English
2017	Asia and the Pacific	National seminar	Pakistan	Bhurban	09/5/2017	12/5/2017		Pakistan		56	No	No	No	English
2017	Asia and the Pacific	National seminar	Papua New Guinea	Port Moresby	05/12/2017	07/12/2017		Papua New Guinea		30	No	No	No	English
2017	Asia and the Pacific	National seminar	Sri Lanka	Colombo	21/02/2017	23/02/2017		Sri Lanka		43	No	No	No	English
2017	Asia and the Pacific	Other	Switzerland	Geneva	24/01/2017	24/01/2017	Afghanistan			17	No	No	No	English

Year	Region	SPS TA Activity	Host	Location	From	To	Participants			Participants	Participation of representatives from the standard-setting organizations			Language
							LDCs	Developing	Developed		Codex	OIE	IPPC	
2017	Central and Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the Caucasus	National seminar	Kazakhstan	Astana	24/04/2017	25/04/2017		Kazakhstan		50	No	No	No	English
2017	Central and Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the Caucasus	National seminar	Montenegro	Podgorica	03/10/2017	05/10/2017		Montenegro		9	No	No	No	English
2017	Latin America	National seminar	Argentina	Buenos Aires	21/11/2017	23/11/2017		Argentina		15	No	No	No	Spanish
2017	Latin America	National seminar	Colombia	Bogotá	21/11/2017	23/11/2017		Colombia		34	No	No	No	Spanish
2017	Latin America	National seminar	Paraguay	Asunción	02/05/2017	04/05/2017		Paraguay		33	No	No	No	Spanish
2017	Latin America	National seminar	Peru	Lima	01/03/2017	03/03/2017		Peru		77	No	No	No	Spanish
2017	Latin America	(Sub) Regional Workshop	Costa Rica	San José	20/06/2017	23/06/2017		Costa Rica		47	No	No	No	Spanish
2017	Global	Other	Sweden	Stockholm	15/02/2017	17/02/2017		Algeria, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanese Republic, Morocco, Palestine, Tunisia		27	No	No	No	English
2017	Global	Other	Sweden	Stockholm	26/04/2017	28/04/2017	Sudan	Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanese Republic, Morocco, Palestine, Tunisia		28	No	No	No	English
2017	Global	Other	Sweden	Stockholm	20/09/2017	21/09/2017	Sudan	Algeria, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanese Republic, Morocco, Palestine, Tunisia		25	No	No	No	English

Year	Region	SPS TA Activity	Host	Location	From	To	Participants			Participants	Participation of representatives from the standard-setting organizations			Language
							LDCs	Developing	Developed		Codex	OIE	IPPC	
2017	Global	Other	Sweden	Stockholm	25/10/2017	27/10/2017	Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia	South Africa, Swaziland, Zimbabwe		27	No	No	No	English
2017	Global	Other	Sweden	Stockholm	08/11/2017	10/11/2017		Algeria, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanese Republic, Morocco, Tunisia		27	No	No	No	English
2017	Global	Advanced SPS Course	Switzerland		23/10/2017	10/11/2017	Afghanistan, The Gambia, Lesotho, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Sudan, Tanzania	Belarus; Belize; Botswana; Brazil; China; Ghana; Guyana; Malaysia; Maldives; Moldova, Republic of; Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of; South Africa; Thailand; Russian Federation; Viet Nam		23	Yes	Yes	Yes	English
2017	Global	Thematic SPS Workshop	Switzerland	Geneva	30/10/2017	31/10/2017	Burkina Faso, Chad, Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mali, Mozambique, Sudan, Uganda	Cameroon; Chile; Colombia; Costa Rica; Côte d'Ivoire; Dominican Republic; Ecuador; Ghana; Indonesia; Jordan; Kyrgyz Republic; Lebanese Republic; Malaysia; Mauritius; Mexico; Moldova, Republic of; Paraguay; South Africa; Sri Lanka; Chinese Taipei; Thailand; Trinidad and Tobago; Turkey		35	No	No	No	English, French and Spanish