



Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

**SPS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES
1 JANUARY 2020 TO 30 JUNE 2020**

NOTE BY THE SECRETARIAT¹

Addendum

1. This document provides an update on the SPS technical assistance (TA) and the training activities that have been delivered via videoconference by the WTO Secretariat from 1 January 2020 to 30 June 2020.² Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Secretariat has had to review the planned technical assistance activities on the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement) that were to be delivered in 2020.³ In this regard, the Secretariat has been organizing tailored SPS-related training delivered via videoconference, as the previously scheduled in-person activities were not possible during the identified period.
2. In the first half of 2020, five SPS training activities were undertaken via videoconference: two national training activities on the use of the SPS eAgenda,⁴ two on the use of the ePing alert system and one in the context of the follow-up of the 2019 Advanced SPS Course.⁵
3. The annexed table identifies, for the period 1 January to 30 June 2020, the type of technical assistance activity, 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.

¹ 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.

² Similar to previous years, the Secretariat will issue at the beginning of 2021, a revision to [G/SPS/GEN/521/Rev.15](#) detailing the SPS TA activities undertaken for the full period of 2020.

³ Please see document [G/SPS/GEN/997/Rev.10](#) of 3 March 2020 and [G/SPS/GEN/997/Rev.10/Add.1](#) of 10 June 2020. In particular, document [G/SPS/GEN/997/Rev.10/Add.1](#) provides an update on the SPS-specific WTO technical assistance activities to be provided by the WTO in 2020, including information on those which have been postponed/cancelled and those which will be delivered via videoconference.

⁴ The training on the SPS eAgenda was targeted at facilitating Members' use of this online system to submit agenda items for inclusion in the June 2020 SPS Committee meeting agenda. This system was being used for the first time ahead of the June 2020 SPS Committee meeting. It had only previously been used on a trial basis by some Members in the testing phase.

⁵ 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. The face-to-face follow-up activity was originally planned to be held from 17 to 26 June 2020 in Geneva, Switzerland, but had to be postponed. In the interim, the Secretariat has organized short virtual sessions with participants.

ANNEX
SPS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES
(1 JANUARY 2020 TO 30 JUNE 2020)⁶

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	
2020	Africa	Other (Training on ePing alert system)	Virtual delivery (via video-conference)	Virtual delivery (via video-conference)	15/05/2020	15/05/2020	Burundi	Tunisia		2	No	No	No	French
2020	Latin America and the Caribbean	Other (Training on ePing alert system)	Virtual delivery (via video-conference)	Virtual delivery (via video-conference)	19/05/2020	19/05/2020		Colombia, Ecuador, Nicaragua		7	No	No	No	Spanish
2020	Latin America and the Caribbean	National Seminar (Training on SPS Committee eAgenda)	Virtual delivery (via video-conference)	Virtual delivery (via video-conference)	03/06/2020	03/06/2020		Paraguay		10	No	No	No	Spanish
2020	North America	National Seminar (Training on SPS Committee eAgenda)	Virtual delivery (via video-conference)	Virtual delivery (via video-conference)	05/06/2020	05/06/2020			United States	4	No	No	No	English
2020	Global	Advanced SPS Course (Mini interim follow-up sessions) ⁷	Virtual delivery (via video-conference)	Virtual delivery (via video-conference)	16/06/2020	23/06/2020	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	No	No	No	English

⁶ This table only provides information on the SPS TA activities delivered via videoconference during the period 1 January 2020 to 30 June 2020. For the full table of SPS TA activities undertaken within the period 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2019, please refer to [G/SPS/GEN/521/Rev.15](#). Similar to previous years, the Secretariat will also issue at the beginning of 2021, a revision to [G/SPS/GEN/521/Rev.15](#) which will include the entire list of SPS TA activities undertaken for the period of January to December 2020.

⁷ The face-to-face delivery of the Follow-up Session to the Advanced SPS Course was originally planned to be held from 17 to 26 June 2020 in Geneva, Switzerland, but had to be postponed. In the interim, the Secretariat has organized short virtual sessions with participants.