



Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

**SPS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES
1 SEPTEMBER 1994 TO 31 DECEMBER 2021**

NOTE BY THE SECRETARIAT¹

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 2021. Detailed information is provided in the annexed table on the TA activities undertaken by the Secretariat for the last three years (2019-2021).²
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. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the Secretariat organized (and participated in) tailored SPS-related training delivered via videoconference, as in-person activities were not possible for the identified period.
5. Altogether, 437 SPS training activities have been undertaken by the WTO Secretariat from 1 September 1994 to 31 December 2021. In 2021, 12 SPS training activities were undertaken: two national seminars, three regional workshops, one SPS in-depth virtual course, and six other activities (including three sessions targeting LDCs, and one Thematic Workshop on Risk held back-to-back with the July SPS Committee meeting).
6. The annexed table identifies, for the period 2019-2021, 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.
7. A national seminar refers to a WTO-organized activity undertaken at the national level only. A regional workshop refers to an activity organized by the WTO in which a region or sub-region was invited to participate. The "other" category refers to all other SPS TA and training activities that do

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 Detailed information on TA activities from previous years is available from the Secretariat upon request.

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 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.

8. 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.

9. 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 121 activities, while the IPPC secretariat participated in 105 activities and the OIE in 119 activities.

10. To meet the demands for more advanced SPS TA and training activities, a three-week Advanced Course on the SPS Agreement³ has normally been offered each year as an in-person activity from 2005 to 2019.⁴ However, this course has not been held since 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2021, the Secretariat continued its efforts to revamp its training activities and develop new materials to effectively deliver virtual trainings in response to the pandemic, and Members' requests for continued SPS capacity building. In this regard, the Secretariat organized and held the first edition of its "SPS In-depth Virtual Course" in 2021. This course, held in English, is a new advanced-level technical assistance activity aimed at equipping government officials from developing Members and Observers with knowledge on various aspects of the SPS Agreement and topical issues to facilitate their effective participation in the SPS Committee. This course responds to the needs of the increased number of capital-based officials attending SPS Committee meetings virtually, since the pandemic.

11. 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.⁵

12. 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 2021, this was done via document [G/SPS/GEN/997/Rev.11](#) of 4 March 2021. Approximately 350 applications were received for the SPS In-depth Virtual 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.

13. 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

³ 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.

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

⁵ In addition to the existing e-Learning Course on the SPS Agreement (available in French and in Spanish), the WTO e-Learning platform offers a set of four new interactive courses on the SPS Agreement in English entitled: SPS Course Series 1 - Overview of the SPS Agreement and Committee; SPS Course Series 2 - The SPS Agreement and Science; SPS Course Series 3 - Trade Facilitating Operational Provisions of the SPS Agreement; SPS Course Series 4 - Implementation, Administration and Enforcement. Please see document [G/SPS/GEN/997/Rev.12](#).

permitted the delivery of more advanced and effective training activities since 2010. The Secretariat will again organize its 2022 training activities in this manner, as indicated in document [G/SPS/GEN/997/Rev.12](#). In addition, most activities planned for 2022 are currently scheduled to be delivered through videoconference or virtual platforms.

14. Chart 1 below lists the breakdown of the type of activities undertaken in 2021 and Chart 2 shows the number of activities per year.

Chart 1 - SPS TA and Training Activities in 2021⁶

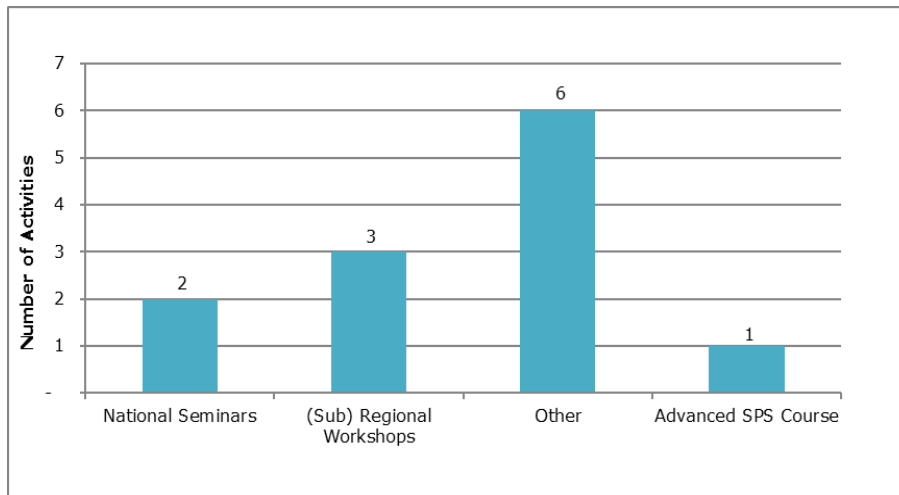
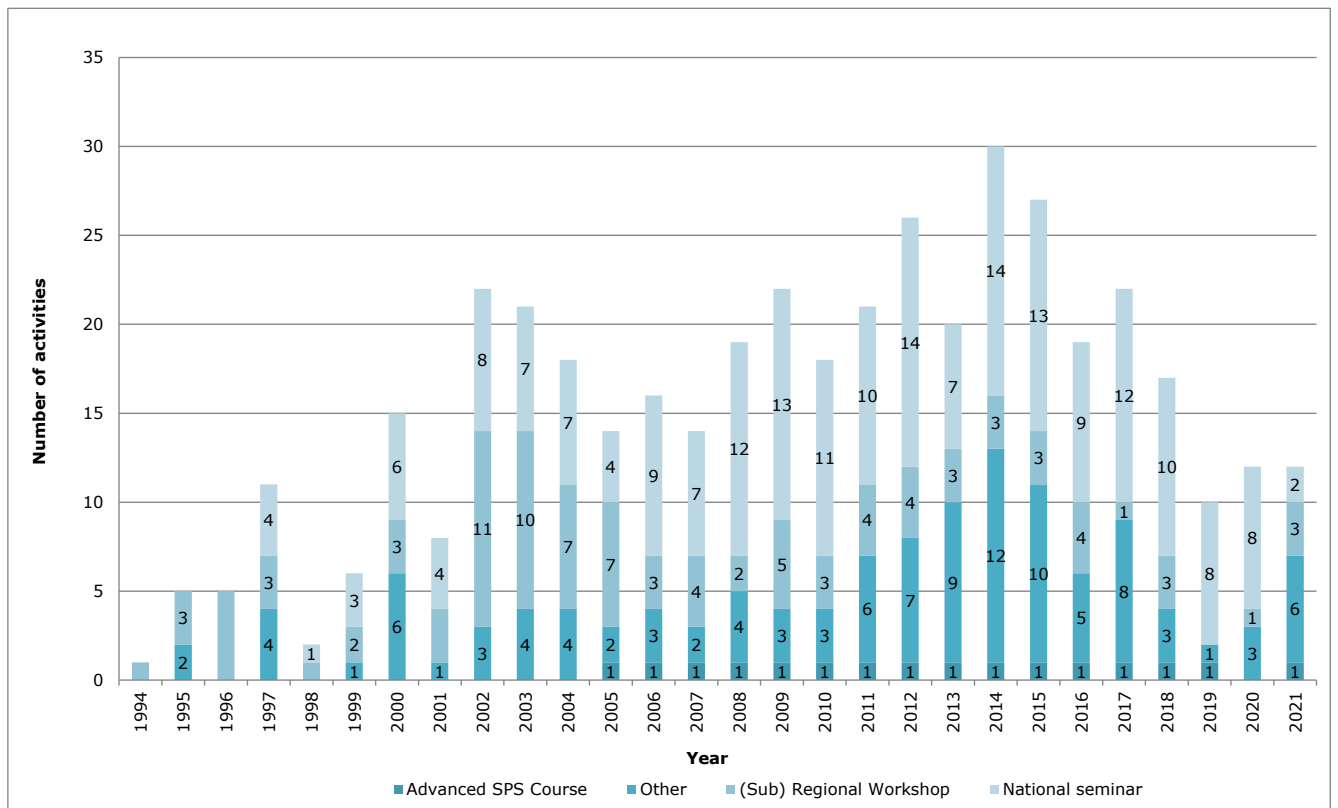


Chart 2 - SPS TA and Training Activities per year from 1994 to 2021⁷

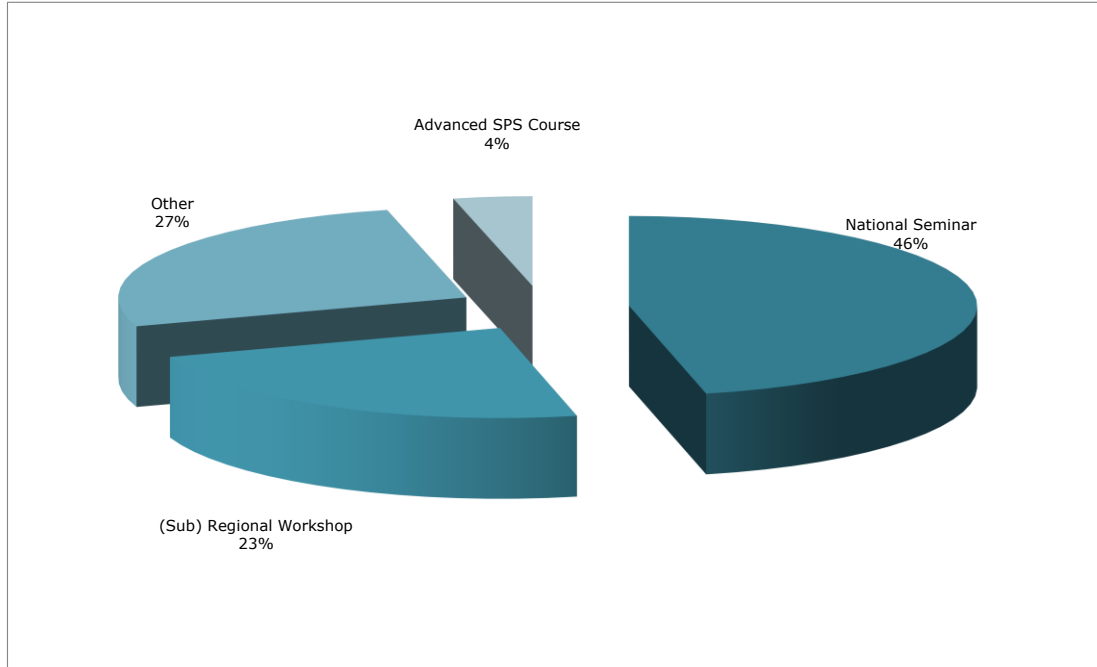


⁶ For the 2021 data, the new "SPS In-depth Virtual Course" has been included in the category of Advanced SPS Course.

⁷ See previous footnote.

15. Chart 3 presents a breakdown of the type of activities undertaken since 1994: 203 national seminars, 102 regional or sub-regional workshops, 116 other activities and sixteen Advanced Courses on the SPS Agreement (including one SPS In-depth Virtual Course held in 2021).

Chart 3 - Type of SPS TA and Training Activities from 1994 to 2021



16. 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, an estimated total of 18,081 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 2021

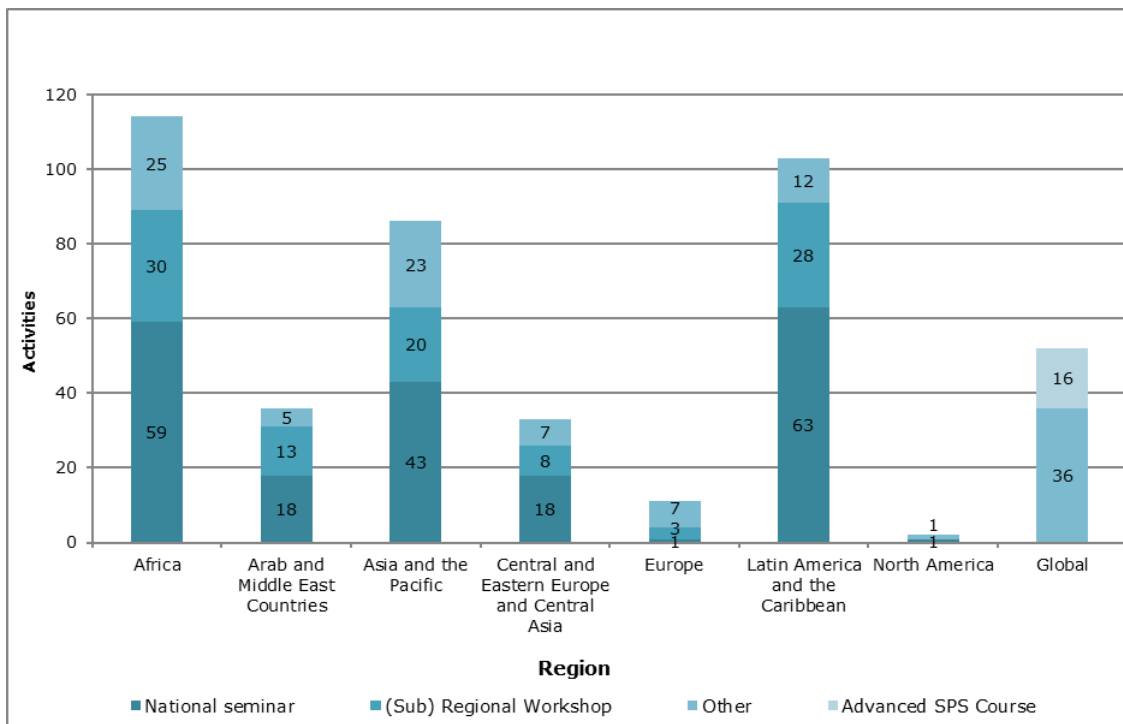
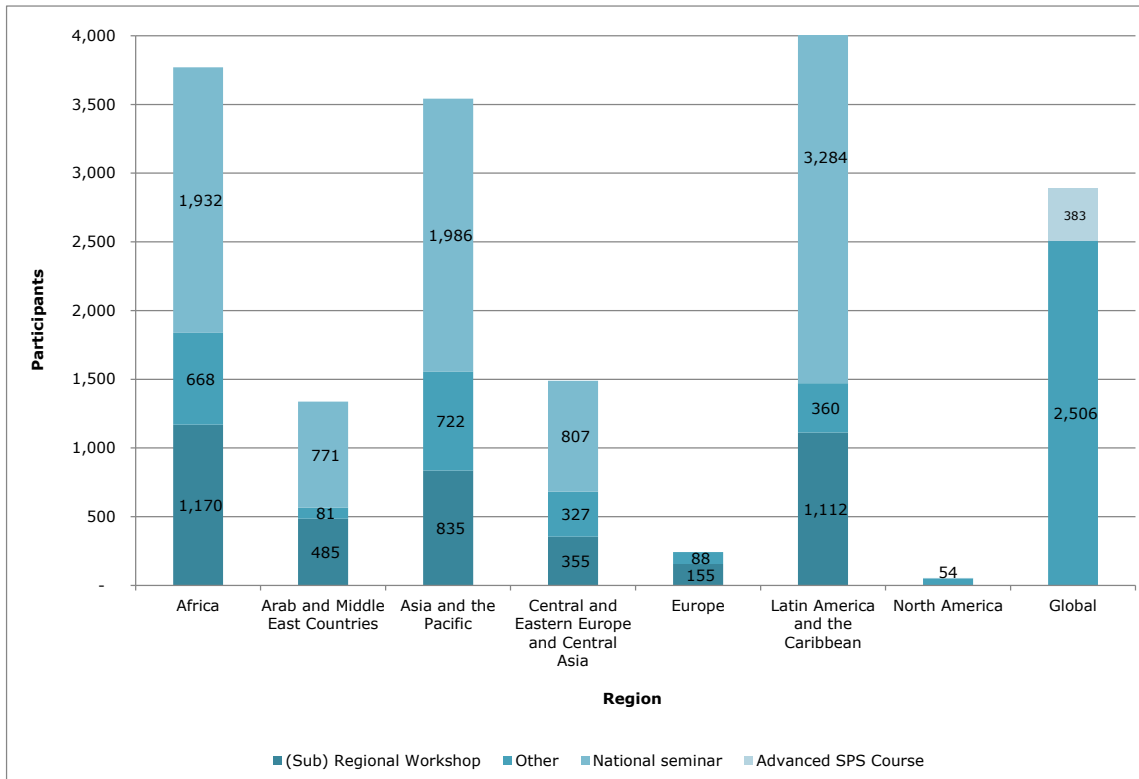
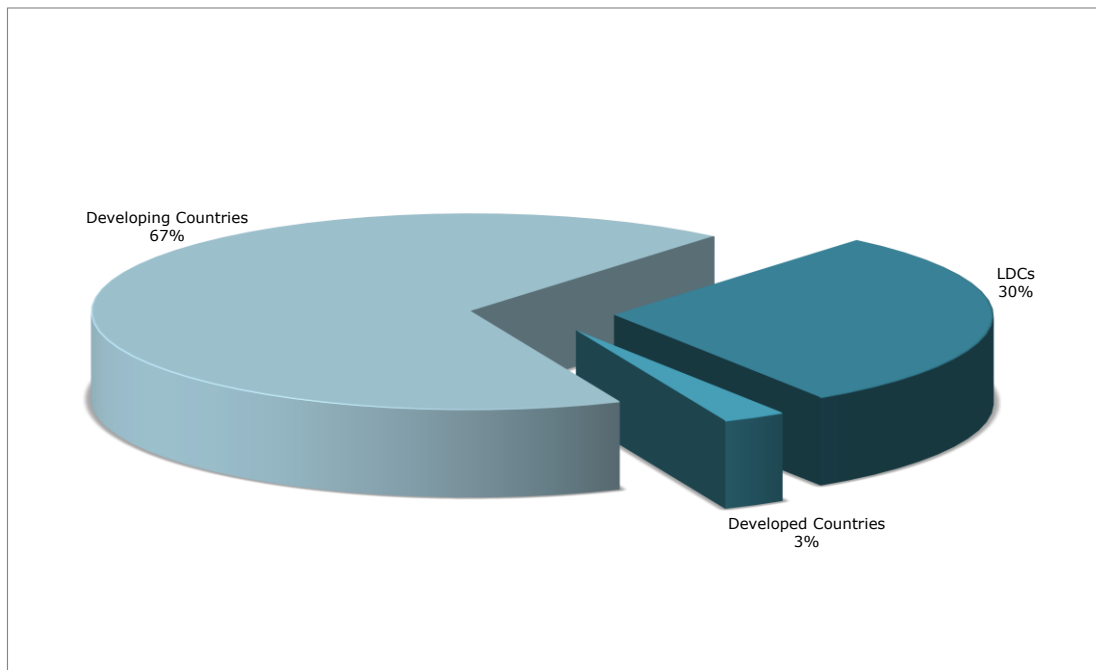


Chart 5 - Participants per Region from 1994 to 2021



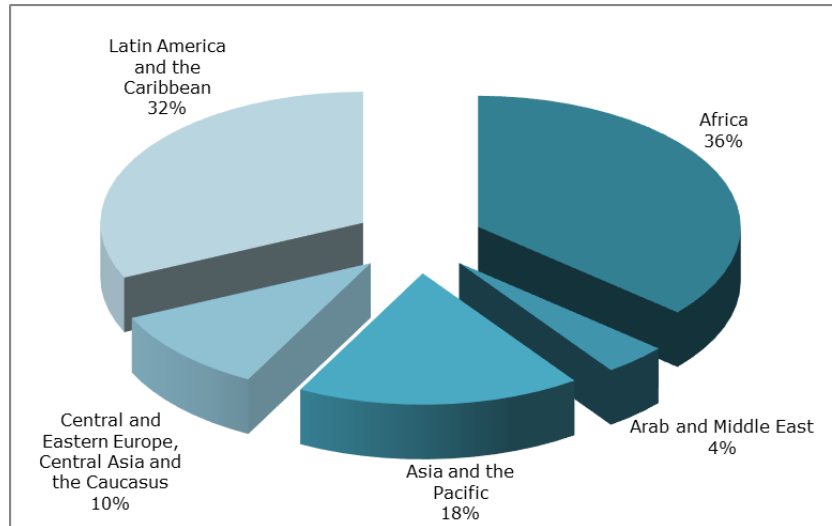
17. As shown in Chart 6, 30% of the beneficiaries of all SPS TA and training activities undertaken by the Secretariat have been from least-developed countries (LDCs), 67% from developing countries, and 3% from developed countries.

Chart 6 - Breakdown of country participation from 1994 to 2021



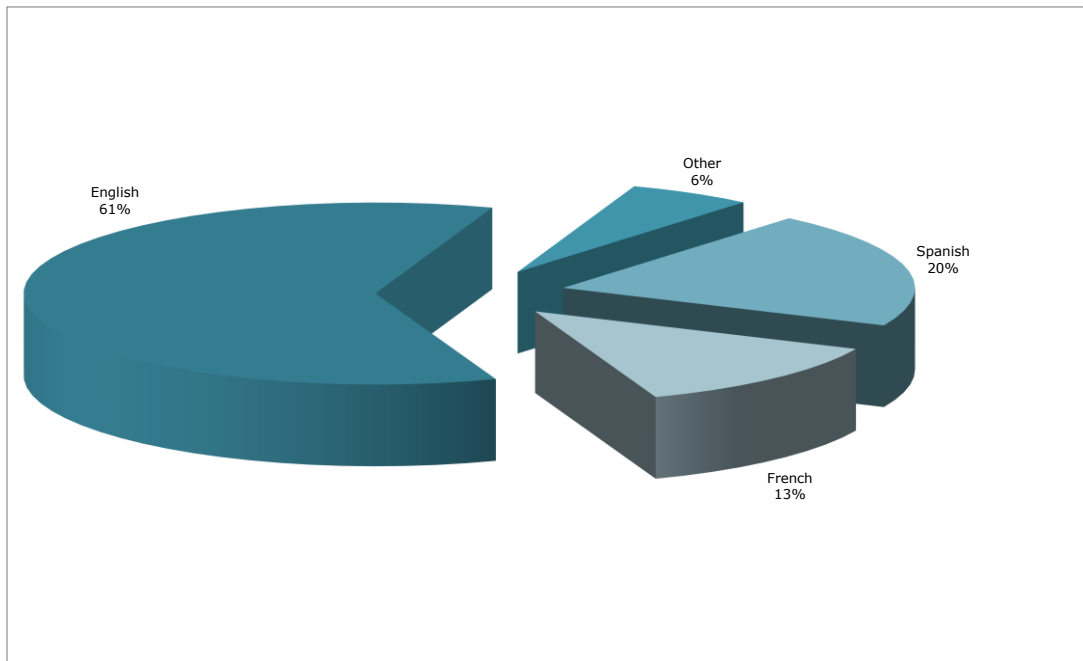
18. Chart 7 presents a breakdown by region of participants who have attended the Advanced SPS Course (including one SPS In-depth Virtual Course held in 2021). Over the period 2005 to 2021, 383 officials have participated from the following regions: 36% from Africa; 32% from Latin America and the Caribbean; 18% from Asia and Pacific; 10% from Central and Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the Caucasus; and 4% from Arab and Middle East countries.

Chart 7 – Breakdown of participants in the Advanced SPS Course by region from 2005 to 2021



19. Chart 8 presents the language breakdown of all SPS TA and training activities that have been undertaken. Overall, 61% of activities have been conducted in English, 20% in Spanish, and 13% in French. The remaining 6% have been undertaken in other languages, including Arabic, Portuguese, Turkish and Russian.⁸

Chart 8 - Language breakdown of SPS TA and Training activities from 1994 to 2021



⁸ 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).

ANNEX
SPS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES

(1 JANUARY 2019 TO 31 DECEMBER 2021)

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	
2021	Latin America and the Caribbean	(Sub) Regional Workshop	Virtual delivery (via video conference)	Virtual delivery (via video conference)	22/01/2021	22/01/2021		Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama		25	No	No	No	Spanish
2021	Africa	National Seminar	Virtual delivery (via video conference)	Virtual delivery (via video conference)	24/03/2021	24/03/2021	Djibouti			37	No	No	No	French
2021	Africa	Other	Virtual delivery (via video conference)	Virtual delivery (via video conference)	22/04/2021	22/04/2021	Lesotho			15	No	No	No	English
2021	Asia and the Pacific	(Sub) Regional Workshop	Virtual delivery (via video conference)	Virtual delivery (via video conference)	17/05/2021	21/05/2021	Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar, Nepal, Timor-Leste	China; India; Indonesia; Hong Kong, China; Korea, Republic of; Malaysia; Maldives; Philippines; Singapore; Sri Lanka; Thailand		75	No	No	No	English
2021	Africa	Other	Virtual delivery (via video conference)	Virtual delivery (via video conference)	27/05/2021	27/05/2021	Madagascar			12	No	No	No	French
2021	Latin America and the Caribbean	Other	Virtual delivery (via video conference)	Virtual delivery (via video conference)	23/06/2021	23/06/2021		Paraguay		⁹	No	No	No	Spanish
2021	Global	Other	Virtual delivery (via video conference)	Virtual delivery (via video conference)	12/07/2021	13/07/2021	Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Chad, Democratic Republic of	Albania; Algeria; Argentina; Armenia; Azerbaijan; Bahamas; Barbados; Belarus; Belize;	Australia, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Denmark, England, Estonia,	129 4	Yes	Yes	Yes	English, French, Spanish

⁹ The participants' list was not available for this virtual activity.

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	
							the Congo, Ethiopia, The Gambia, Kiribati, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Yemen, Zambia	Bosnia and Herzegovina; Botswana; Brazil; Cabo Verde; Cameroon; Chile; China; Colombia; Costa Rica; Dominica; Dominican Republic; Ecuador; Egypt; El Salvador; Fiji; Georgia; Ghana; Guatemala; Guyana; Honduras; Hong Kong, China; India; Indonesia; Iran; Iraq; Israel; Jamaica; Jordan; Kazakhstan; Kenya; Korea, Republic of; Kuwait, the State of; Kyrgyz Republic; Lebanese Republic; Libya; Macao, China; Malaysia; Mauritius; Mexico; Mongolia; Montenegro; Morocco; Nicaragua; Nigeria; North Macedonia; Pakistan; Panama; Papua New Guinea; Paraguay; Peru; Philippines; Russian Federation; Saint Lucia; Saint Vincent and the Grenadines; Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of; Serbia; Seychelles; Singapore;	European Union, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Scotland, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States					

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	
								South Africa; Sri Lanka; Suriname; Chinese Taipei; Thailand; Trinidad and Tobago; Tunisia; Turkey; Turkmenistan; Turks and Caicos Islands; Ukraine; Uruguay; Uzbekistan; Vanuatu; Venezuela, Bolivarian Republic of; Viet Nam; Zimbabwe						
2021	Latin America and the Caribbean	Other	Virtual delivery (via video conference)	Virtual delivery (via video conference)	30/08/2021	30/08/2021		Peru		¹⁰	No	No	No	Spanish
2021	Global	SPS In-Depth Virtual Course	Virtual delivery (via video conference)	Virtual delivery (via video conference)	20/09/2021	08/10/2021	Bangladesh, The Gambia, Mali, Nepal, Uganda, Zambia	Belarus, Botswana, Brazil, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, El Salvador, Honduras, Iran, Israel, Nigeria, Paraguay, Saint Lucia, Chinese Taipei, Thailand, Uruguay, Zimbabwe		23	Yes	Yes	Yes	English
2021	Latin America and the Caribbean	National Seminar	Virtual delivery (via video conference)	Virtual delivery (via video conference)	07/10/2021	07/10/2021		Ecuador		42	No	No	No	Spanish
2021	Africa	Other	Virtual delivery (via video conference)	Virtual delivery (via video conference)	11/10/2021	11/10/2021	Ethiopia			33	No	No	No	English

¹⁰ The participants' list was not available for this virtual activity.

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	
2021	Arab and Middle East Countries	(Sub) Regional Workshop	Virtual delivery (via video conference)	Virtual delivery (via video conference)	22/11/2021	25/11/2021	Comoros, Sudan, Yemen	Bahrain, Kingdom of; Egypt; Iraq; Jordan; Kuwait, the State of; Lebanese Republic; Morocco; Qatar; Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of; Tunisia		30	No	No	No	English
2020	Africa	Other	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	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	Virtual delivery (via video-conference)	Virtual delivery (via video-conference)	03/06/2020	03/06/2020		Paraguay		10	No	No	No	Spanish
2020	Latin America and the Caribbean	National Seminar	Virtual delivery (via video-conference)	Virtual delivery (via video-conference)	05/06/2020	05/06/2020			United States of America	4	No	No	No	English
2020	Global	Other	Virtual delivery (via video-conference)	Virtual delivery (via video-conference)	08/07/2020	14/07/2020		Chile, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, Philippines, Russian Federation, Thailand, Viet Nam	Australia, New Zealand	97	No	No	No	English
2020	Latin America and the Caribbean	National Seminar	Virtual delivery (via video-conference)	Virtual delivery (via video-conference)	27/07/2020	31/07/2020		Mexico		218	No	No	No	Spanish
2020	Latin America and the Caribbean	National Seminar	Virtual delivery (via video-conference)	Virtual delivery (via video-conference)	08/09/2020	08/09/2020		Dominican Republic		115	No	No	No	Spanish
2020	Latin America and the Caribbean	National Seminar	Virtual delivery (via video-conference)	Virtual delivery (via video-conference)	18/09/2020	18/09/2020		Guatemala		5	No	No	No	Spanish
2020	Latin America and the Caribbean	National Seminar	Virtual delivery (via video-conference)	Virtual delivery (via video-conference)	06/10/2020	06/10/2020		El Salvador		2	No	No	No	Spanish

Year	Region	SPS TA Activity	Host	Location	From	To	Participants			Participants	Participation of representatives of the standard-setting organizations			Language
							LDCs	Developing	Developed		Codex	OIE	IPPC	
2020	Latin America and the Caribbean	National Seminar	Virtual delivery (via video-conference)	Virtual delivery (via video-conference)	10/11/2020	03/12/2020		Brazil		183	No	No	No	English
2020	Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia	National seminar	Virtual delivery (via video-conference)	Virtual delivery (via video-conference)	30/11/2020	04/12/2020		Belarus		38	No	No	No	English
2020	Latin America and the Caribbean	(Sub) Regional Workshop	Virtual delivery (via video-conference)	Virtual delivery (via video-conference)	30/11/2020	04/12/2020		Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay		57	No	No	No	Spanish
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, Rwanda, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda	Argentina, Bahamas, Belize, Cameroon, Chile, Côte d'Ivoire, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Ghana, Honduras, Morocco, Mauritius, Paraguay, Peru, Russian Federation, Samoa, South Africa,		34	No	No	No	English, French, 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	Latin America and the Caribbean	National seminar	Jamaica	Kingston	20/05/2019	22/05/2019		Sri Lanka, Chinese Taipei, Thailand, Turkey, Viet Nam 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
2019	Global	Advanced SPS Course	Switzerland	Geneva	28/10/2019	15/11/2019	Lao People's Democratic Republic, Liberia, 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 Paraguay		24	Yes	Yes	Yes	English
2019	Latin America and the Caribbean	National seminar	Virtual delivery (via video-conference)	Virtual delivery (via video-conference)	17/10/2019	17/10/2019				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