



Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

**SPS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES
1 SEPTEMBER 1994 TO 31 DECEMBER 2023**

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 2023. Detailed information is provided in the annexed table on the TA activities undertaken by the Secretariat for the last three years (2021-2023).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. During the period January to December 2023, the Secretariat delivered or participated in SPS-related training held virtually, in-person or in hybrid format.

5. Altogether, 480 SPS training activities have been undertaken by the WTO Secretariat from 1 September 1994 to 31 December 2023. In 2023, 27 SPS training activities were undertaken: 12 national seminars, one regional workshop, one Advanced SPS Course, and 13 other activities.

6. The annexed table identifies, for the period 2021-2023, 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 (WOAH), 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 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

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.

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 is organized on an annual basis in chronological order.

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 WOH), as well as with regional organizations, when appropriate. Since 1994, the Codex secretariat has participated in 126 activities, while the IPPC secretariat participated in 109 activities and WOH in 126 activities.

10. To meet the demands for more advanced SPS TA and training activities, a three-week Advanced Course on the SPS Agreement³ had been offered each year as an in-person activity from 2005 to 2019.⁴ However, this course was not held from 2020-2022, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.⁵ In 2023, the Secretariat organized a revamped Advanced SPS Course, which took place in English from 10-20 October 2023 in Geneva, with participants from 26 technical assistance beneficiaries.

11. In June 2023, the Secretariat also organized a Follow-up Session of the 2022 SPS Transparency Champions Course in Geneva. Furthermore, an in-person regional SPS workshop for Central and Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the Caucasus (CEECAC) Members and Observers, co-organized with the Joint Vienna Institute, was delivered in July 2023 in Vienna, Austria.

12. 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 WTO languages: English, French and Spanish.⁶

13. Since 2010, Members have been informed at the beginning of each year of all planned SPS-related technical assistance activities, and interested officials are invited to submit applications for specific events. For 2023 SPS technical assistance activities, this was done via document [G/SPS/GEN/997/Rev.13](#) of 2 March 2023. Approximately 240 applications were received. All applicants were requested to provide information that indicated how their professional responsibilities were related to the SPS Agreement and asked specific questions related to their activity of interest, where applicable. The endorsement of Members' permanent representations to the WTO was sought before the final selection of participants. For each activity, the Secretariat endeavoured to ensure that the selected participants fulfilled the prerequisites outlined in document [G/SPS/GEN/997/Rev.13](#).

14. Chart 1 below lists the breakdown of the type of activities undertaken in 2023 and Chart 2 shows the number of activities per year.

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 Other specialized courses were developed and delivered during this period: the SPS In-depth Virtual Course, held virtually in September-October 2021; the SPS Transparency Champions Course which was launched in October 2022 and concluded with a Follow-up Session in June 2023; and the Course on Essentials for SPS Committee Participation, held virtually in November 2022.

⁶ More information on the e-Learning course on the SPS Agreement is available in document [G/SPS/GEN/997/Rev.14](#).

Chart 1 - SPS TA and Training Activities in 2023

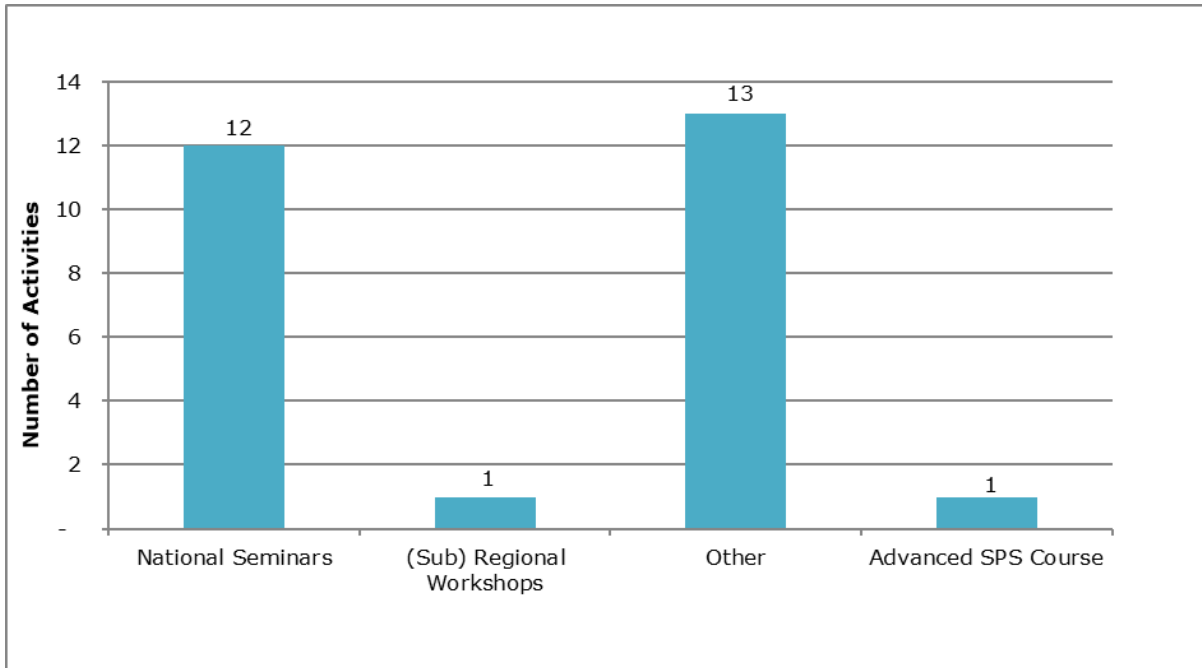
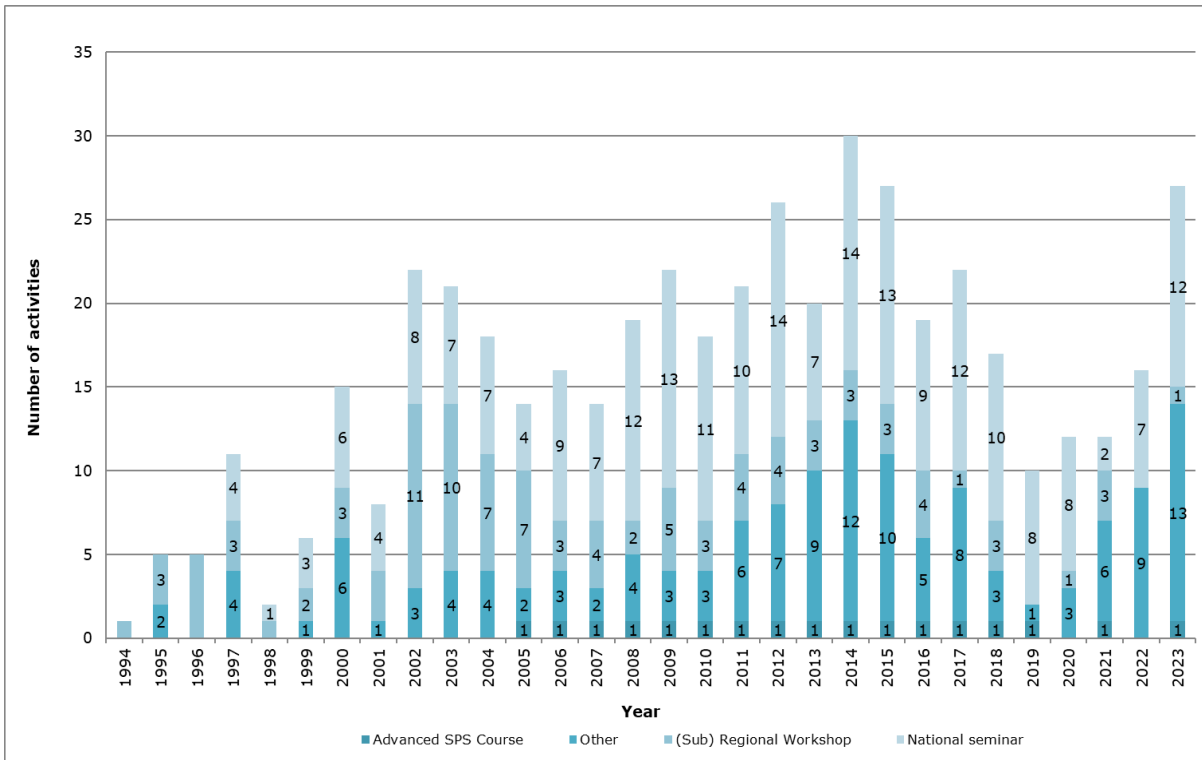


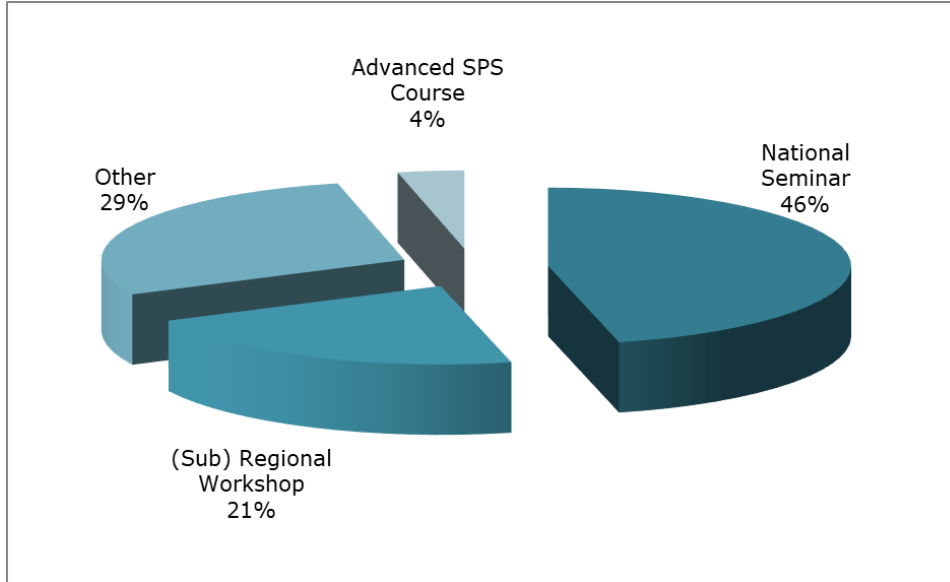
Chart 2 - SPS TA and Training Activities per year from 1994 to 2023⁷



⁷ For the 2021 data, the "SPS In-depth Virtual Course" has been included in the category of Advanced SPS Course. For the 2022 data, the "SPS Transparency Champions Course" and the Course on "Essentials for SPS Committee Participation" have been included in the "Other" category.

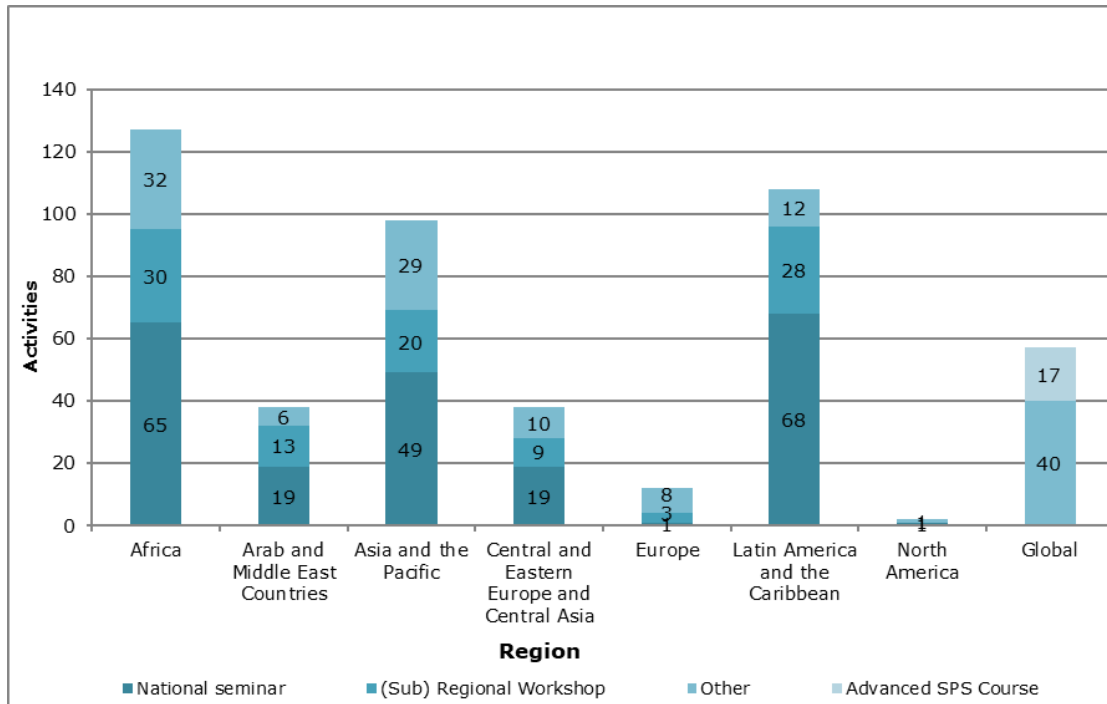
15. Chart 3 presents a breakdown of the type of activities undertaken since 1994: 222 national seminars, 103 regional or sub-regional workshops, 138 other activities and 17 Advanced Courses on the SPS Agreement.⁸

Chart 3 - Type of SPS TA and Training Activities from 1994 to 2023



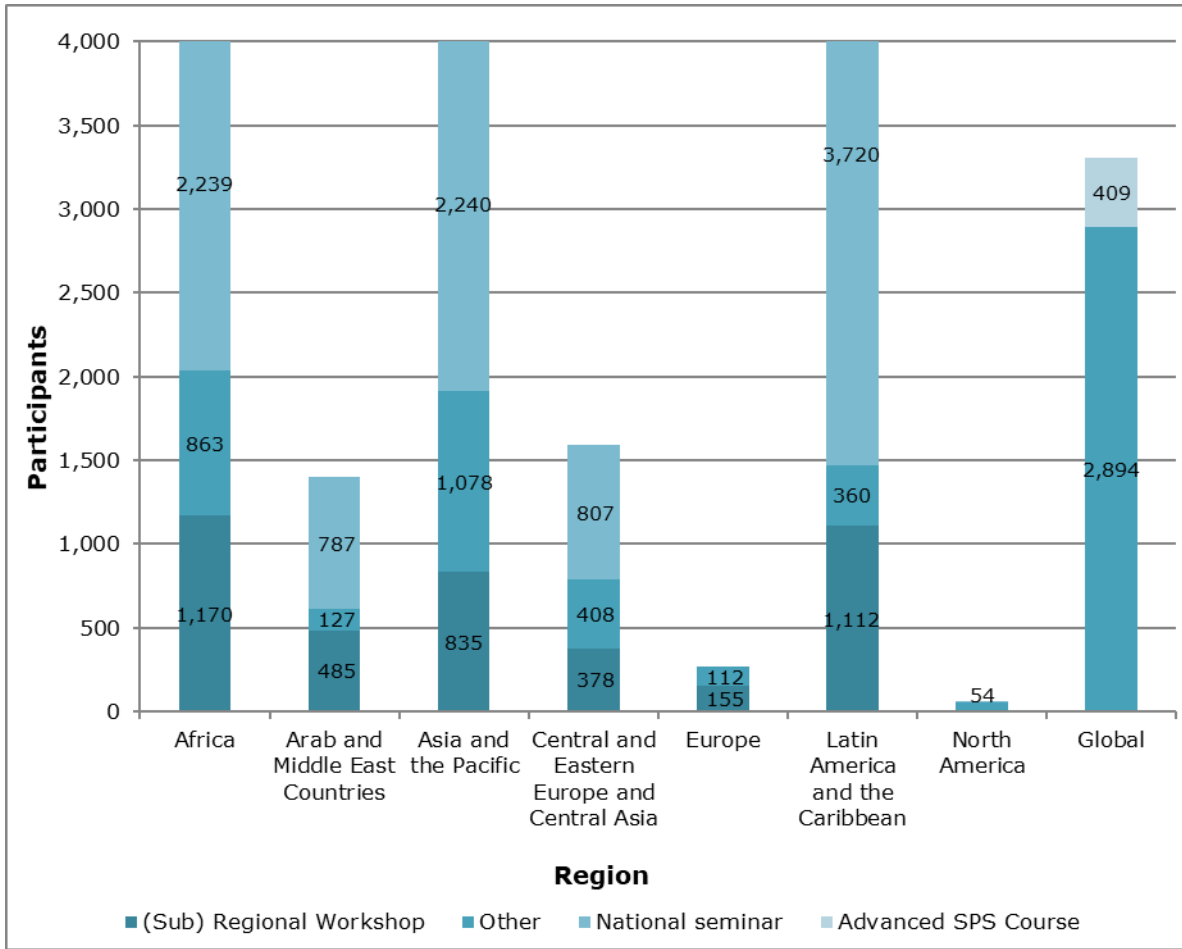
16. Chart 4 shows the number and type of TA activities per region, while Chart 5 presents the total number of participants who have attended SPS TA and training activities per region and per type of activity. Overall, an estimated total of 20,233 persons have received training from the WTO Secretariat on the SPS Agreement since 1994.

Chart 4 - SPS TA and Training Activities per Region from 1994 to 2023



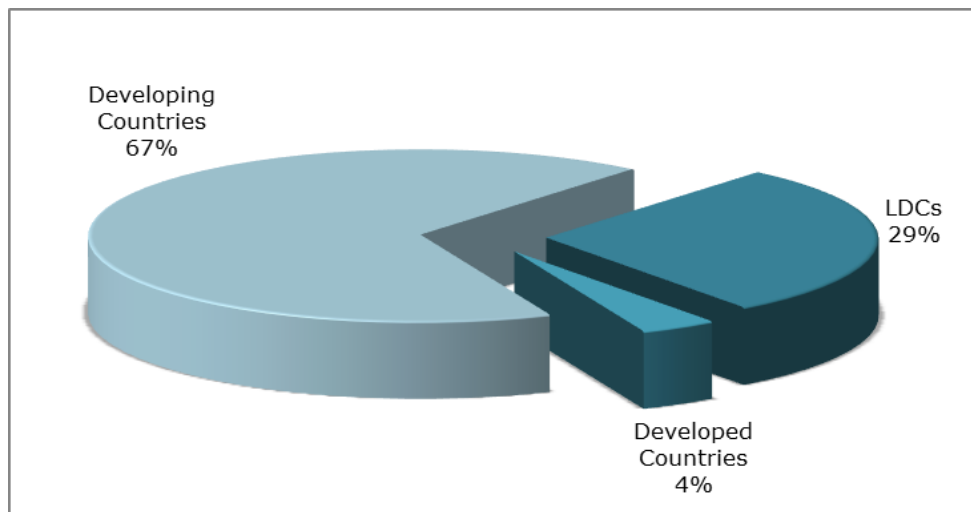
⁸ The 2021 SPS In-depth Virtual Course has been included in the category of "Advanced SPS Course". The 2022 "SPS Transparency Champions Course" and the Course on "Essentials for SPS Committee Participation" have been included in the "Other" category.

Chart 5 - Participants per Region from 1994 to 2023



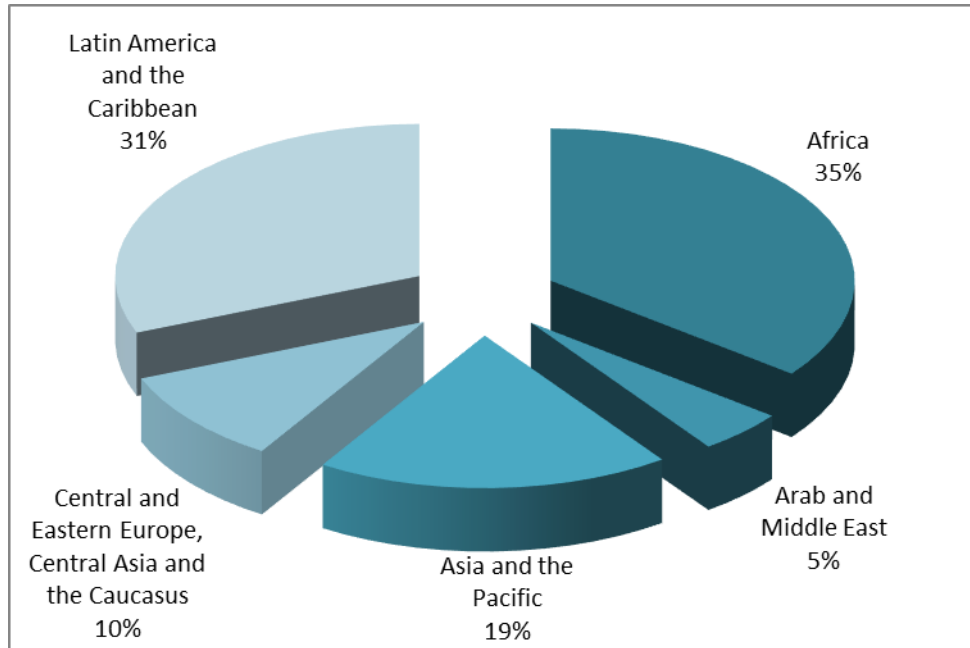
17. As shown in Chart 6, 29% of the beneficiaries of all SPS TA and training activities undertaken by the Secretariat have been from least-developed countries (LDCs), 67% from developing countries, and 4% from developed countries.

Chart 6 - Breakdown of country participation from 1994 to 2023



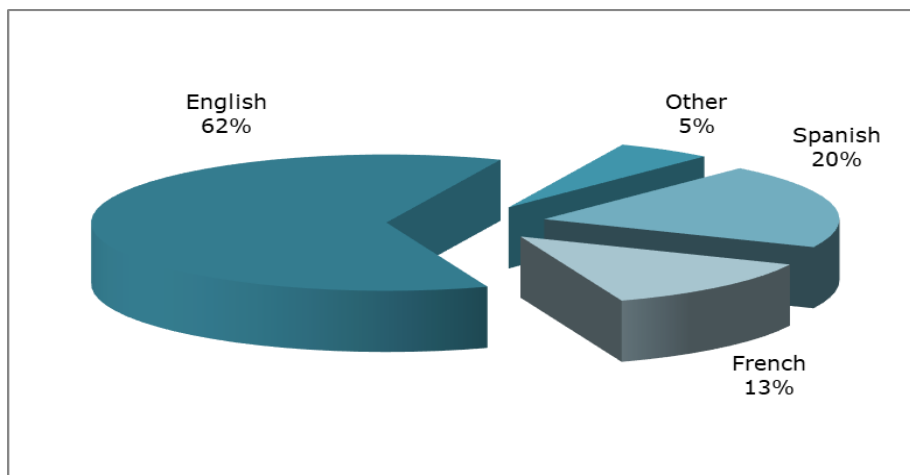
18. Chart 7 presents a breakdown by region of participants who have attended the Advanced SPS Course.⁹ Over the period 2005 to 2023, 409 officials have participated from the following regions: 35% from Africa; 31% from Latin America and the Caribbean; 19% from Asia and the Pacific; 10% from Central and Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the Caucasus; and 5% from Arab and Middle East countries.

Chart 7 – Breakdown of participants in the Advanced SPS Course by region from 2005 to 2023



19. 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, 20% in Spanish, and 13% in French. The remaining 5% have been undertaken in other languages, including Arabic, Portuguese, Turkish and Russian.¹⁰

Chart 8 - Language breakdown of SPS TA and Training activities from 1994 to 2023



⁹ The 2021 SPS In-depth Virtual Course has been included in the category of "Advanced SPS Course" in [Chart 7](#).

¹⁰ 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 2021 TO 31 DECEMBER 2023)

Year	Region	SPS TA Activity	Host	Location	From	To	Participants ¹¹			Participants	Participation of representatives from the standard-setting organizations			Language
							LDCs	Developing	Developed		Codex	WOAH	IPPC	
2023	Africa	Other	Hybrid (Ethiopia and virtual delivery via video conference)	Hybrid (Bishoftu and virtual delivery via video conference)	16/01/2023	18/01/2023	Djibouti, Ethiopia, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Uganda	Kenya		34	No	No	No	English, French
2023	Global	Other	Thailand	Bangkok	06/03/2023	07/03/2023	Global	Global	Global	70	No	Yes	No	English
2023	Africa	Other	Virtual delivery (via video conference)	Virtual delivery (via video conference)	08/03/2023	08/03/2023	Africa	Africa		34	No	No	No	English
2023	Asia and the Pacific	Other	Hybrid (Cambodia and virtual delivery via video conference)	Hybrid (Phnom Penh and virtual delivery via video conference)	15/03/2023	16/03/2023	Cambodia			80	No	No	No	English
2023	Global	Other	Switzerland	Geneva	22/03/2023	22/03/2023	Global	Global	Global	32	No	No	No	French
2023	Latin America and the Caribbean	National Seminar	Virtual delivery (via video conference)	Virtual delivery (via video conference)	18/04/2023	20/04/2023		Chile		175	No	No	No	Spanish
2023	Africa	National Seminar	Nigeria	Abuja	25/04/2023	27/04/2023		Nigeria		131	No	No	No	English
2023	Latin America and the Caribbean	National Seminar	El Salvador	San Salvador	25/04/2023	27/04/2023		El Salvador		37	No	No	No	Spanish

¹¹ As of 2022, the categories of level of development rely on WTO working definitions as identified in the WTO Reference Database for analytical purposes (idb@wto.org). They can be consulted through the [ePing SPS&TBT Platform](#) by clicking on "Facts & figures", "Definitions of groups" in the top menu bar.

Year	Region	SPS TA Activity	Host	Location	From	To	Participants ¹¹			Participants	Participation of representatives from the standard-setting organizations			Language
							LDCs	Developing	Developed		Codex	WOAH	IPPC	
2023	Arab and Middle East Countries	Other	Jordan	Amman	08/05/2023	11/05/2023	Mauritania, Sudan, Yemen	Algeria; Bahrain, Kingdom of; Egypt; Iraq; Jordan; Kuwait, the State of; Lebanese Republic; Morocco; Oman; Palestine; Qatar; Syrian Arab Republic; Tunisia; United Arab Emirates		46	No	No	No	English
2023	Africa	National Seminar	Morocco	Rabat	22/05/2023	24/05/2023		Morocco		47	No	No	No	French
2023	Latin America and the Caribbean	National Seminar	Dominican Republic	Santo Domingo	23/05/2023	25/05/2023		Dominican Republic		67	No	No	No	Spanish
2023	Global Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia	Other (Sub) Regional Workshop	Belgium	Brussels	20/06/2023	20/06/2023	Global	Global	Global	36	No	Yes	No	English
2023			Austria	Vienna	18/07/2023	21/07/2023		Azerbaijan; Bosnia and Herzegovina; Georgia; Israel; Kazakhstan; Kyrgyz Republic; North Macedonia; Montenegro; Serbia; Moldova, Republic of; Tajikistan; Türkiye; Turkmenistan; Ukraine		23	Yes	Yes	Yes	English
2023	Asia and the Pacific	National Seminar	Philippines	Manila	15/08/2023	17/08/2023		Philippines		26	No	No	No	English

Year	Region	SPS TA Activity	Host	Location	From	To	Participants ¹¹			Participants	Participation of representatives from the standard-setting organizations			Language
							LDCs	Developing	Developed		Codex	WOAH	IPPC	
2023	Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia	Other	Hybrid (Azerbaijan and virtual delivery via video conference)	Hybrid (Baku and virtual delivery via video conference)	14/09/2023	15/09/2023		Azerbaijan; Belarus; Bosnia and Herzegovina; Georgia; Kazakhstan; Kyrgyz Republic; Moldova, Republic of; North Macedonia; Serbia; Tajikistan; Türkiye; Turkmenistan; Uzbekistan	Austria; European Union; Germany; Greece; Italy; Norway; Poland; Spain; United States	63	Yes	No	No	English
2023	Europe	Other	Norway	Bergen	18/09/2023	19/09/2023			Denmark, Faroe Islands, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden	24	No	No	No	English
2023	Africa	National Seminar	The Gambia	Serrekunda	26/09/2023	28/09/2023	The Gambia			16	No	No	No	English
2023	Global	Advanced SPS Course	Switzerland	Geneva	10/10/2023	20/10/2023	Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Solomon Islands, Zambia	Argentina; Bhutan; Botswana; Brazil; Cameroon; Egypt; El Salvador; Eswatini; India; Indonesia; Jamaica; Jordan; Malaysia; Nicaragua; Nigeria; Oman; Philippines; Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of; Sri Lanka; Vanuatu	Russian Federation	26	Yes	Yes	Yes	English
2023	Asia and the Pacific	National Seminar	India	New Delhi	17/10/2023	19/10/2023		India		67	No	No	No	English
2023	Asia and the Pacific	National Seminar	Hybrid (Sri Lanka and virtual delivery via	Hybrid (Colombo and virtual delivery via	19/10/2023	19/10/2023		Sri Lanka		6	No	No	No	English

Year	Region	SPS TA Activity	Host	Location	From	To	Participants ¹¹			Participants	Participation of representatives from the standard-setting organizations			Language
							LDCs	Developing	Developed		Codex	WOAH	IPPC	
2023	Arab and Middle East Countries	National Seminar	video conference) Bahrain, Kingdom of	video conference) Manama	23/10/2023	26/10/2023		Bahrain, Kingdom of		16	Yes	No	No	English
2023	Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia	Other	Switzerland	Geneva	13/11/2023	13/11/2023		Ukraine		9	No	No	No	English
2023	Latin America and the Caribbean	National Seminar	Guyana	Georgetown	28/11/2023	30/11/2023		Guyana		15	No	No	No	English
2023	Asia and the Pacific	Other	Switzerland	Geneva	29/11/2023	29/11/2023		Korea, Republic of		15	No	No	No	English
2023	Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia	Other	Switzerland	Montreux	30/11/2023	30/11/2023		Kazakhstan		9	No	No	No	English
2023	Asia and the Pacific	National Seminar	Chinese Taipei	Taipei	05/12/2023	07/12/2023		Chinese Taipei		28	No	No	No	English
2023	Asia and the Pacific	Other	Hybrid (Thailand and virtual delivery via video conference)	Hybrid (Bangkok and virtual delivery via video conference)	12/12/2023	14/12/2023	Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar	Brunei Darussalam, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam	Australia, New Zealand, United States	34	No	Yes	No	English
2022	Asia and the Pacific	National Seminar	Virtual delivery (via video conference)	Virtual delivery (via video conference)	23/02/2022	24/02/2022		Thailand		110	No	No	No	English
2022	Africa	Other	Virtual delivery (via video conference)	Virtual delivery (via video conference)	29/03/2022	29/03/2022	Lesotho	Botswana, Eswatini, Namibia, South Africa		60	No	No	No	English

Year	Region	SPS TA Activity	Host	Location	From	To	Participants ¹¹			Participants	Participation of representatives from the standard-setting organizations			Language
							LDCs	Developing	Developed		Codex	WOAH	IPPC	
2022	Asia and the Pacific	Other	Virtual delivery (via video conference)	Virtual delivery (via video conference)	31/03/2022	01/04/2022		Pakistan		76	No	No	Yes	English
2022	Africa	National Seminar	Kenya	Nairobi	10/05/2022	12/05/2022		Kenya		44	No	No	No	English
2022	Africa	Other	Virtual delivery (via video conference)	Virtual delivery (via video conference)	17/05/2022	17/05/2022		Equatorial Guinea		8	No	No	No	Spanish
2022	Global ¹²	Other	Hybrid (Switzerland and virtual delivery via video conference)	Hybrid (Geneva and virtual delivery via video conference)	20/06/2022	20/06/2022	Global	Global	Global	250	No	No	No	English, French, Spanish
2022	Latin America and the Caribbean	National Seminar	Virtual delivery (via video conference)	Virtual delivery (via video conference)	04/07/2022	05/07/2022		Mexico		118	No	No	No	Spanish
2022	Africa	Other	Hybrid (Uganda and virtual delivery via video conference)	Hybrid (Kampala and virtual delivery via video conference)	29/08/2022	31/08/2022	Uganda			30	No	Yes	No	English
2022	Asia and the Pacific	Other	Virtual delivery (via video conference)	Virtual delivery (via video conference)	13/09/2022	13/09/2022		Viet Nam		7	No	No	No	English
2022	Asia and the Pacific	National Seminar	Mongolia	Ulaanbaatar	19/09/2022	21/09/2022		Mongolia		17	No	No	No	English
2022	Africa	Other	Switzerland	Geneva	03/10/2022	07/10/2022	The Gambia, Lesotho, Liberia, Mozambique, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda	Botswana, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Zimbabwe		18	Yes	Yes	Yes	English
2022	Asia and the Pacific	Other	Virtual delivery (via video conference)	Virtual delivery (via video conference)	13/10/2022	14/10/2022		Chile; Hong Kong, China; Korea, Republic of; Malaysia; Mexico; Peru; Singapore; Chinese Taipei; Thailand; Viet Nam	Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, Russian Federation, United States	144	No	No	No	English

¹² Participants were from least-developed, developing and developed Members or Observers worldwide.

Year	Region	SPS TA Activity	Host	Location	From	To	Participants ¹¹			Participants	Participation of representatives from the standard-setting organizations			Language
							LDCs	Developing	Developed		Codex	WOAH	IPPC	
2022	Africa	Other	Virtual delivery (via video conference)	Virtual delivery (via video conference)	15/11/2022	24/11/2022	Benin, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mali, Togo	Cameroon, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Gabon, Morocco, Tunisia, Peru		11	No	No	No	French
2022	Latin America and the Caribbean	National Seminar	Peru	Lima	22/11/2022	24/11/2022				24	No	No	No	Spanish
2022	Africa	National Seminar	Tanzania	Dodoma	29/11/2022	01/12/2022	Tanzania			37	No	No	No	English
2022	Africa	National Seminar (Sub) Regional Workshop	Togo	Lomé	29/11/2022	01/12/2022	Togo			32	No	No	No	French
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		¹³	No	No	No	Spanish

¹³ The participants' list was not available for this virtual activity.

Year	Region	SPS TA Activity	Host	Location	From	To	Participants ¹¹			Participants	Participation of representatives from the standard-setting organizations			Language
							LDCs	Developing	Developed		Codex	WOAH	IPPC	
2021	Global ¹⁴	Other	Virtual delivery (via video conference)	Virtual delivery (via video conference)	12/07/2021	13/07/2021	Global	Global	Global	1294	Yes	Yes	Yes	English, French, Spanish
2021	Latin America and the Caribbean	Other	Virtual delivery (via video conference)	Virtual delivery (via video conference)	30/08/2021	30/08/2021		Peru		15	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	Ecuador	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				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
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

¹⁴ Participants were from least-developed, developing and developed Members or Observers worldwide.

¹⁵ The participants' list was not available for this virtual activity.