

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SPS AGREEMENT

Information for the Workshop on 31 March 2006

Communication from Kenya

The following communication, received on 24 March, 2006, is being circulated at the request of the Delegation of Kenya.

Kenya regularly participates in the WTO-SPS Committee meetings.

Institutions dealing with SPS issues in Kenya

- (a) The Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS), responsible for all matters related to plant health;
- (b) Department of Veterinary Services within the Ministry of Livestock Development and Fisheries. The Department of Veterinary Services division of veterinary public health is responsible for the quality and safety of livestock and livestock products including meat, dairy products, eggs and so forth. It provides meat inspection services;
- (c) The Department of Fisheries within the Ministry of Livestock Development and Fisheries. The department is responsible for fish development in Kenya;
- (d) Director of Medical Services is responsible for human health;
- (e) Ministry of Trade and Industry.

Information received include meeting schedules, standards requirement notification, non-conformances.

Information received through:

- Director of External Trade
- WTO-SPS National Enquiry Points
- E-mails
- WTO websites
- Publications/Newsletters
- IPPC/CODEX/OIE
- WTO Documentation in Committee on SPS measures and notifications.

- Kenya has a WTO National Committee working group at the Ministry of Trade and Industry, although most organizations have ad hoc committees working on their mandated areas.
- KEPHIS also receive information directly from competent authorities on sanitary and phytosanitary issues in other countries.
- KEPHIS, through the Director of Agriculture, is the SPS plant health contact point in Kenya and thus able to download any information forwarded. This information is summarized and distributed to exporters and shared in different forums like meetings.
- The exporters are encouraged to visit the KEPHIS contact point and download any new information on SPS.

I. MECHANISMS OF INFORMING STAKEHOLDERS

The SPS competent authorities (KEPHIS, DVS, etc) encourage information circulation through newsletters, paid up adverts in local dailies and electronic media, hold talk shows and give regular updates on public forums.

Information is also notified through e-mails and letters.

II. IDENTIFICATION OF STAKEHOLDERS

Regular consultative forums/meeting where all relevant stakeholders are invited. At such forum other stakeholders are identified for invitation to the next meeting. There is a National Horticultural Task Force which is a public/private sector initiative to address all issues pertaining to horticultural trade with emphasis on SPS issues and market requirements.

The Parliamentary Select Committee on Agriculture is considered as relevant stakeholder so as to assist in fast-tracking legal domestication on issues relating to SPS.

III. PASSING INFORMATION TO OTHERS

The information can be passed to other stakeholders outside the capital, through extension staff agencies in the different corners of the republic.

The information can also be disseminated through exhibition, public barazas, shows, and farmer's field days. In addition, various non-governmental organisations facilitate information dissemination through publications, workshops and seminars and certain circumstances engaging the Government on the various issues related to WTO and trade in general.

IV. NATIONAL PLANNING ON IMPLEMENTING SPS AGREEMENTS

There is National Committee on WTO issues that oversees activities undertaken by the different institutions of the Government but also has members from the private sector. Individual Government organizations carry out their own mandate depending on their roles in SPS agreements.

There have also been informal consultation through task forces such as Horticultural Task Force that has its secretariat at KEPHIS.

Technical Assistance Needs

- Capacity building, including setting up sustained SPS training programmes in diagnostics, inspection protocols and laboratories.
- Developing programmes for private sector producers and processors in order to meet SPS requirements.
- Laboratory infrastructure.
- Assistance in undertaking SPS risk management at production and processing levels. There is need to conduct pest risk analysis that will assist in establishing pest-free areas that can be used for export market. Such an initiative is being used by the veterinary department in export of live animals.
- Upgrade of national level systems (legal and operational) to meet international SPS standards/requirements.
- Assistance in improving capacity to implement systems for management of quarantine disease for both plants and animals, including transboundary disease e.g., Avian flu, Rinderpest etc.

Identification of Needs

- Trade facilitation meetings organized by the Ministry of Trade where different SPS competent authorities and private sector players identify needs and prioritize them.
 - Undertaking consultancy surveys and reports on SPS needs like those undertaken by the Commonwealth Secretariat, World Bank study report and other studies funded by different organizations.
 - Needs assessment for phytosanitary capacity building.
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