

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SPS AGREEMENT:

Information for the Workshop on 31 March 2006

Communication from Zimbabwe

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

1. In preparation for the Workshop on the Implementation of the SPS Agreement, Members were invited to submit information on their experiences or their suggestions and to identify models of "best practices" for the issues to be discussed.
2. Representatives from Zimbabwe have participated in SPS Committee meetings. Geneva-based trade representatives and international trade officials participate, but veterinary staff have not been involved in SPS Committee meetings. Information is received by fax by the Ministry of International Trade through the Zimbabwe mission in Geneva.
3. The veterinary services receive very limited information regarding the SPS Committee. Some countries, i.e. Australia and Japan, do send regular updates of changes made to trade regulations.
4. Exporters contact the veterinary services directly to get information on any changes in trade protocols. The principal director has direct contact with counterparts in other countries regarding trade protocols and not through the SPS Agreement. Bilateral agreements are established through veterinary departments. Exporters meetings are held every three months to discuss problems being encountered, trade requirements, etc., with stakeholders who are exporting fish, ostriches, crocodiles and meat. These meetings are well recorded and documented. Through these meetings there is effective interaction with stakeholders.
5. There has been previous planning on implementation of the SPS Agreement, but due to high turnover of staff there is limited institutional memory of planning and linkages regarding the SPS Agreement.

Technical Assistance

6. There is need for training workshops in the country for stakeholders and officials from different ministries such as Agriculture, Health, Trade and Commerce in order to understand better the SPS Agreement and its implementation.

Exporters Meetings held every three months

7. Stakeholders who export to European Communities have identified problems with requirements relating to, *inter alia*, fish, ostrich, crocodiles and meat.
