

**IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SPS AGREEMENT:
EXPERIENCES AND ISSUES**

Information for the Workshop on 31 March 2006

Communication from Mongolia

The following communication, received on 29 March 2006, is being circulated at the request of the Delegation of Mongolia.

1. In preparation for the Workshop on the Implementation of the SPS Agreement, participants were invited to provide information relating to their experiences in relation to the issues to be discussed. The following are the responses of Mr. Ishdorj Navaanzundui.
2. There have been substantial new developments in food safety regulation in many countries during the 1990s, including new and more stringent standards for many hazards. Both existing and emerging measures to protect human health can affect trade in agricultural products by increasing the costs of imports or prohibiting them entirely. Product standards or process standards may increase foreign producers' costs relative to domestic producers' costs.
3. Food safety is becoming a very important issue in Mongolia as the imports of food and food products are increasing rapidly. Mongolia has brought in a number of measures/regulations to improve the food safety situation in the country.
4. The Law on Food and Food Products was adopted in 1995 and amended in 1999. In this law, the issues related to food production, food safety conditions to be fulfilled in the course of providing related services, food safety indicators as well as the rights and liabilities of those engaged in food production services with relation to food safety issues were defined accordingly.
5. In Mongolia, the State Specialized Inspection Agency was established in 2000.
6. In 2001, the Government adopted a national program – "Food supply, security and nutrition", which was a step forward in solving the issues such as food supply, consumption and sanitary issues in a complex way.
7. In 2003, the Parliament of Mongolia ratified and introduced the Government's policy on food and agriculture. The main objectives of this policy paper were the appropriate use of food resources; fostering and promoting production; increasing the quality and competitiveness of food products.

8. In addition, there have been many programs and projects (animal health, protection of animals from harsh winters, green revolution, meat exports, etc.) that are producing concrete results in improving national food safety issues.

9. All the laws and acts related to the improvement of the legal environment of the agricultural sector were aimed at dealing with food safety issues overall.

10. I would like to introduce some data provided by the State Specialized Inspection Agency. In 2003, there were 90,319 violations with regard to food safety issues in Mongolia. In the same year the Agency penalized the violators for an amount of 77,770.3 million tugrik and destroyed food valued 231,461.4 million tugrik, which did not comply with the national standards.

11. I wish to thank the SPS Secretariat of the WTO in their endeavour to facilitate the transmission of notifications to all Members and their commitment to assist Members to meet their commitments under the SPS Agreement.
