

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SPS AGREEMENT

Information for the Workshop on 31 March 2006

Communication from Niger

The following communication, received on 30 March 2006, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Niger.

1. In preparation for the Workshop on the Implementation of the SPS Agreement, Members were invited to provide information about their experiences relating to the issues to be discussed.

2. Niger responded as follows.

Question 1

3. Niger realizes the importance of the SPS Agreement and is keen to participate in all meetings relating to it. Nevertheless, this is, to my knowledge, the first time we have attended an SPS Committee meeting. Other ministerial departments (such as those concerned with animal resources, health or trade) may have had the opportunity to attend such meetings in the past, but if so, we have never received any information in that regard.

Question 2

4. Niger does not have a national SPS committee.

5. Exporters find out about trading partners' new SPS requirements through the phytosanitary legislation and regulation service of the Plant Protection Directorate (DPV), which is where notifications are received, and through the livestock service, the health service, trading partners and the national and foreign media. This committee must be provided with resources (such as training, materials and internet access).

6. The best national mechanism would be a national SPS committee with an enquiry point. The committee should include economic operators, civil society associations and the ministerial departments concerned.

7. Stakeholders can be identified on the basis of the functions performed by State services, the activities of economic operators, the mission of civil society associations and the interests of each player.

8. Information about SPS requirements can be transmitted to groups outside of capital by their representatives in the SPS committee.

Question 3

9. There has been no national planning on how to implement the SPS Agreement, but the relevant ministries plan on an ad hoc basis in their various areas of competence.

Question 4

10. Generally speaking, technical assistance needs are identified by establishing priority actions and the constraints to be resolved in order to implement them. The steps to be taken to remove these constraints are then determined.

11. In almost all cases, for technical assistance supply and demand to be most effectively matched, the reasons for the demand must be stated, and clear and concise objectives established.

12. Priority areas can be identified on the basis of requirements in the areas of food security, health, animal and plant health, and trade.
