



Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

**WTO SPS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES IN 2016:
GENERAL INFORMATION, SELECTION PROCESS AND APPLICATION FORM**

NOTE BY THE SECRETARIAT¹

Addendum

1 THEMATIC SPS WORKSHOP

1. The Secretariat will organize a special SPS thematic workshop to focus on maximum residue levels (MRLs), to be held in Geneva, Switzerland. The workshop will take place on Monday, 24 October and Tuesday, 25 October 2016. The SPS informal and regular meetings will be held on 26-27 October 2016.

2. The objective of the workshop is to bring together officials responsible for participation in and implementation of the SPS Agreement, as well as the relevant international standard-setting organization and scientific bodies for an in depth discussion, at a technical level, on maximum residue levels. More specifically:

- a. Participants will review the SPS Agreement and MRLs, including the relevant provisions of the Agreement and jurisprudence;
- b. Participants will review the Codex approach to establishing MRLs. This will include relevant information on the respective work of Codex and scientific bodies, such as the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR), the Joint FAO/WHO Meeting on Pesticide Residue (JMPR), the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods (CCRVDF), and the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA);
- c. Participants will be exposed to the relevant international, regional and bilateral work being undertaken on pesticide residues; and
- d. Participants will discuss their experiences in complying with MRLs and establishing MRLs, including information on their domestic regulatory and legal infrastructures.

3. The workshop is open to participation by all delegates from WTO Members and Observers attending the SPS Committee meeting in October 2016.

4. The WTO, with the financial assistance of the Doha Development Agenda Global Trust Fund (DDAGTF), will sponsor the participation of at least 25 government officials from developing country Members and Observers. The Secretariat will select participants to be sponsored from applications received from capital-based officials holding direct responsibilities in the SPS area.

5. Preference will be given to applications from least-developed countries (LDCs), and from developing country Members and Observers that have not been sponsored to participate in a thematic workshop on the SPS Agreement in the recent past. No more than **one** participant from each country will be selected.

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.

6. Government officials from WTO Members and Observers meeting the above-mentioned criteria and wishing to apply for the thematic workshop must consult the instructions provided in the table below, and complete and submit the online application form available at: <https://worldtradeorganization.wufoo.eu/forms/2016-wto-sps-technical-assistanceapplication-form/>.

7. An economy-class round-trip air-ticket (excursion fare, if applicable), accommodation, daily subsistence allowance, **at least** for the duration of the workshop (24-25 October 2016), and terminal expenses will be provided to the selected participants as of the opening day of the activity. Detailed administrative arrangements shall be communicated directly to the selected participants in advance of the workshop.

Title of the activity	Thematic SPS Workshop on Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs)
Dates	24 to 25 October 2016
Venue	Geneva, Switzerland
Eligible WTO Members and Observers	WTO least-developed and developing country Members and Observers
Pre-requisites for funding	Only for government officials holding direct responsibilities in the SPS area. Preference will be given to applications from least-developed countries (LDCs), and from developing country Members and Observers that have not been sponsored to participate in a thematic workshop on the SPS Agreement in the recent past. No more than one participant from each country will be selected. Fluent in either English, French or Spanish.
Application	Candidates must fill-in and submit the online application form which is available at: https://worldtradeorganization.wufoo.eu/forms/2016-wto-sps-technical-assistanceapplication-form/ Candidates should complete and submit the online application form before <u>17 June 2016</u> . Incomplete forms or forms sent after the deadline will not be considered.
Results of the selection	Only selected candidates will be informed about the results of the selection during July 2016. Administrative and logistical information will be provided in due course to the selected candidates. Selected candidates will be required to immediately provide their passport information, including number, place and date of issue, and date of expiry.