
Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

QUESTIONNAIRE ON TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Note by the Secretariat

1. At the 9 July 2001 informal meeting of the SPS Committee on technical assistance, the Secretariat was requested to circulate a new questionnaire on technical assistance activities that focused on ascertaining developing countries' technical assistance requirements. The new questionnaire is attached. It is intended to offer developing countries the possibility to present their specific needs in the SPS area in a way which helps to better ensure the provision of targeted and efficient technical assistance. The replies received by the Secretariat will be circulated to other Members, and brought to the attention of the SPS Committee so as to assist other Members and international organizations in identifying technical assistance requests to which they may give favourable consideration.
2. Completion of the questionnaire would greatly assist the work of the Committee in the implementation of Article 9 of the Agreement (as set out below). However, it should be stressed that the questionnaire does not prejudice the rights of Members to bring specific requests to the attention of the Committee at any time in the future.

Article 9

Technical Assistance

1. Members agree to facilitate the provision of technical assistance to other Members, especially developing country Members, either bilaterally or through the appropriate international organizations. Such assistance may be, inter alia, in the areas of processing technologies, research and infrastructure, including in the establishment of national regulatory bodies, and may take the form of advice, credits, donations and grants, including for the purpose of seeking technical expertise, training and equipment to allow such countries to adjust to, and comply with, sanitary or phytosanitary measures necessary to achieve the appropriate level of sanitary or phytosanitary protection in their export markets.
2. Where substantial investments are required in order for an exporting developing country Member to fulfil the sanitary or phytosanitary requirements of an importing Member, the latter shall consider providing such technical assistance as will permit the developing country Member to maintain and expand its market access opportunities for the product involved.

3. The design of the questionnaire is based on the Secretariat note on typology of technical assistance (G/SPS/GEN/206). This typology classifies technical assistance according to four broad categories: information, training, soft infrastructure and hard infrastructure. Information activities are aimed at enhancing the awareness and understanding of Members' rights and obligations under the

Agreement and normally take the form of conferences, seminars and workshops. Training activities involve providing detailed explanations of particular aspects of the Agreement such as transparency, equivalence, risk analysis, again through conferences, seminars and workshops. Infrastructural development can be separated into "soft" and "hard" categories. Soft infrastructure covers areas such as procedures and techniques, national regulatory frameworks, human capital in the form of properly trained personnel, food safety programmes and consumer education. Hard infrastructure refers to field equipment and physical systems necessary for testing, monitoring and other functions required of Member governments. From the perspective of the agreement, infrastructure also covers implementation of certain of the transparency provisions of Article 7 and Annex B of the Agreement (i.e. the designation of a single central government authority for notification procedures and of an enquiry point responsible for the provision of answers to all reasonable questions from interested Members as well as the provision of relevant documents).

4. The note by the Secretariat on technical assistance typology makes it clear that the categories listed are not exhaustive. Actions which fall outside the scope of one of these four categories should also be included in the new questionnaire using the "other" column.

5. Members are requested to fill in the relevant Tables and submit the responses to the Secretariat, by e-mail where possible. Members are also encouraged to provide as much relevant additional information as possible on the issues highlighted in the questionnaire. Should Members wish to obtain this document in electronic format, please send an e-mail to michael.roberts@wto.org (cc: irma.bracco@wto.org) with the words "SPS Questionnaire" in the subject line.

6. Members are requested to submit the completed questionnaires to the Secretariat by 31 January 2002, at the latest.

Technical assistance <u>requirements</u> :					
	Information	Training	Infrastructure: (Hard and/or Soft)	Specific concern	Other
Rights, obligations and practical operation of the SPS Agreement:					
Food Safety					
Animal Health					
Plant Health					
Contact details					

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

(Such information could include, inter alia, a more detailed description of the technical assistance required, any relevant background information on the reasons for the request, the possibility of using a regional approach to the provision of the requested assistance and the scope for a coordinated approach among relevant international organisations.)

Empty box for providing additional information.