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**Working Party on the
Accession of the Lao PDR**

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ACCESSION OF THE LAO PDR

Action Plan on the Legislative Work and Implementation of the WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS)

Revision

The following submission, dated 17 May 2010, is being circulated at the request of the Delegation of the Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR).

Issues	Actions	Implementation Timeframe	Technical Assistance Provided/Sought
1. Food Safety	Regulation on Bottled Drinking Water, No. 585/MOH, dated 12 May 2006	Adopted in 2006	TA including recommendations received from FAO and WHO.
	Regulation on Production, Exported-Imported Safe Food, No. 586/MOH, dated 12 May 2006	Adopted in 2006	TA including recommendations received from FAO and WHO.
	National Policy on Food Safety, No. 028/PM dated 3 February 2009	Adopted in 2009	TA including recommendations received from FAO and WHO. TA requested from Trade Development Facility (TDF) for publication, dissemination and training for all stakeholders.
	Regulation on Basic Principles in Application of Sanitary and Technical Measures in Food Safety Management in accordance with the SPS Agreement (formerly referred to as Decree on Implementation of Food Law)	Adopted in 2009	Recommendations received from FAO and WHO. TA to be requested from TDF for publication, dissemination and training for all stakeholders.
	Regulation on Labelling of Pre-Packaged Food	Adopted in 2009	TA received from WHO on drafting.
	Regulation on Food Inspection (formerly referred to as Regulation on Food Control System)	Regulation being drafted by MOH and to be adopted by 2011	TA received from WHO and FAO in drafting regulation and to be requested from TDF and WHO for finalizing the regulation and guidelines as well as training for food inspector.
	Regulation on Food Additives	Expect to be adopted in 2011. The assessment and gathering data on additive use in Lao PDR is ongoing.	TA to be requested from TDF, FAO and WHO for drafting and finalizing the regulation.
	Adopting Codex Alimentarius Standards for Lao PDR	Priority standards have been selected. Adoption is ongoing.	TA to be requested from TDF for translation, publication, training and implementation.
	Establishment of an independent food laboratory	Deferred	No funding.
Improving food processing by introducing food hygiene practice, GMP	GMP Guidelines developed and training provided in 2009-2010	TA provided by EC, FAO and WHO in November 2009 for training and developing guidelines. TA requested from Japan for GMP through APO project.	

Issues	Actions	Implementation Timeframe	Technical Assistance Provided/Sought
2. Animal Health	Livestock Production and Veterinary Law No. 03/NA, dated 25 July 2008 (formerly referred to as the Veterinary Law)	Adopted in 2008	Recommendations received from FAO and EU. TA requested from FAO and TDF for publication, dissemination and training for all stakeholders.
	Law on Fisheries	Adopted in 2009	TA to be requested for publication, dissemination and training for all stakeholders.
	Ministerial Decision on Meat Inspection (formerly referred to as Decree on Meat Inspection)	To be adopted in 2010	Recommendations received from EU.
	The amendment of Decree on Inspection of Live Animals on Import and Transit	To be adopted in 2010	Recommendations received from EU.
	The amendment of Decree on Animal Epidemic Diseases	To be adopted in 2010	Recommendations received from EU.
	Decree on Livestock Production Management	Decree is unnecessary as required provisions already included in Livestock Production and Veterinary Law	N/A
	Decree on Animal Quarantine	Decree is unnecessary as required provisions already included in Livestock Production and Veterinary Law	N/A
	Establishment of a diagnostic laboratory	Design finished in 2010	Implementation funding requested from the World Bank.
	Identification of animal disease free areas	To begin in September 2010	TA to be requested.
3. Plant Health	Regulation on Criteria for Livestock Production and Veterinary Business	To be adopted in 2010	N/A
	Law on Plant Protection and Quarantine (formerly referred to as Law on Plant Protection and Plant Quarantine)	Adopted in 2008	Recommendations received from FAO legal experts, practices of neighbouring countries. TA received from TDF for publication, dissemination and training for all stakeholders.
	Regulation on Plant Quarantine to be updated	To be drafted by 2011	TA requested from TDF for drafting the update.

Issues	Actions	Implementation Timeframe	Technical Assistance Provided/Sought
	Regulation on Plant Inspection and Certification	To be drafted by 2011	TA requested from TDF for drafting the regulation.
	Establishment of a laboratory on plant diseases and pests	Deferred	No funding.
	Identification of pest and disease free areas	To be completed in 2010	TA to be requested.
	Regulation on Pesticide Management	Adopted in 2010	TA requested from TDF.
4. Information Procedures	Decree on the SPS and TBT Notification Centre and Enquiry Points	To be adopted in 2010	TA received from EU on drafting and to be requested from USAID and ADB for implementation.
	Establishment of the SPS Enquiry Point at the Department of Planning, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry	Operational upon accession	TA to be requested from USAID and ADB for implementation.
	Establishment of the SPS and TBT Notification Centre at the Foreign Trade Policy Department, Ministry of Industry and Commerce	Operational upon accession	TA to be requested from USAID and ADB for implementation.

Note: Lao PDR has requested a transitional period until 2012 for the full implementation of the SPS Agreement based on technical assistance and national capacity.

Technical assistance on SPS is being elaborated under a multi-donor trust fund, the Trade Development Facility, under the Integrated Framework. The key components of the project are the strengthening of SPS capacity, focussing on:

- (i) Strengthening SPS institutional, legal and regulatory framework;
 - (ii) Determining risk-based policies and control measures for SPS; and
 - (iii) Strengthening the role of the private sector in the SPS regime.
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