

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

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Committee on Sanitary and
Phytosanitary Measures

Original: Spanish

QUESTIONNAIRE ON TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Submission by Guatemala

Revision

Technical assistance requirements:					
	Information	Training	Infrastructure: (Hard and/or Soft)	Specific concern	Other
Rights, obligations and practical operation of the SPS Agreement:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dissemination of national WTO commitments at the highest political level Strengthening of the national and international electronic intercommunication system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of the WTO SPS Agreement Commitments under the Agreement and remaining phases 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of the electronic intercommunication system; hardware and software 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of a national interconnected support network between the Ministries of Agriculture, Livestock and Food, of Public Health and Social Welfare and of Economy, enabling the development of the national sanitary and phytosanitary measures information system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Human resources training in trade negotiations on sanitary and phytosanitary measures Attendance at and mechanisms for participating in the WTO SPS Committee Implementation and administration of sanitary and phytosanitary measures in Customs Union territory
Food safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SPS Agreement and international food safety obligations Handling of international WTO notifications Information and notification system List of national food safety notifications 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of the WTO SPS Agreement Training in the inspection of cattle, swine and poultry abattoirs and in abattoir audits Training in Codex Alimentarius standards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development and implementation of the national food protection programme established in the Health Code Development and implementation of the quarantine protection system for processed food safety National rapid alert system Implementation of the national network of food safety laboratories 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assistance with and training in technical regulations and standards, in particular Annexes B and C to the WTO SPS Agreement Training in inspection, control and certification systems and procedures for food safety from farm to fork (Good Manufacturing Practices, GMP - Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point, HACCP) Education and training in risk analysis for technical and professional staff 	

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Animal health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of specific electronic information systems for risk analysis (e.g., A Risk, Epi Info) • Specialised documents on animal health and zoonoses • New OIE information system (World Animal Health Information System, WAHIS) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of the weekly animal health information system • Regionalization of diseases in line with the concept of pest-free areas and areas of low pest prevalence • Control of domestic movement • Inspection and sampling techniques • Endemic diseases of economic importance • Laboratory techniques: immunoperoxidase, immunofluorescence and TSL for Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) • Epidemiological surveillance systems for animal health in other countries • Aquatic health • Use and usefulness of Global Positioning Systems (GPS) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of internal quarantine and the national animal health diagnosis laboratory system network • Implementation of regulations on the movement of animals to different regions • Livestock farm register • Development of illustrated animal disease recognition guides • Technical assistance with the implementation of the field sampling and laboratory analysis system, the diagnosis of aquatic diseases and the aquatic health surveillance system • 12 Global Positioning System (GPS) units 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of a national livestock register • Regulations governing the implementation of internal quarantine • Implementation of a risk analysis system for livestock imports • Establishment of programmes to control and/or eradicate endemic diseases • Establishment of an epidemiological surveillance system for animal health 	

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	Information	Training	Infrastructure: (Hard and/or Soft)	Specific concern	Other
Plant health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data accessibility; databases • Collection, analysis and interpretation of phytosanitary data • Development of documents notifying the presence or absence of endemic or exotic pests and diseases on the basis of international regulations (establishment of basic formats and requirements) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training in polymerase chain reaction (PCR) and Experimental Laboratory for Internet Systems and Applications (ELISA) laboratory techniques • Risk analysis training for the Risk Analysis Unit of the Standards and Regulations Unit, UNR (Agriculture) • Training in irradiation techniques for export fruit • Modern techniques for quarantine pest and disease detection (X rays) • Taxonomic identification of fruit flies • Modern pesticide incineration methods 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of areas suitable for carrying out the various activities • Evaluation and rehabilitation of regional laboratories with a view to their intensive use • Establishment and control of regulations on the transportation of plants, plant products and by-products both within and outside the country • Continued operation of the phytosanitary surveillance team • Maintenance of the inputs and reagents required to conduct the various laboratory tests • Implementation of mobile phytosanitary laboratories 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agricultural censuses in different sectors • Establishment of specific regulations on exotic pests • Phytosanitary risk analysis • Monitoring and follow-up of epidemiological surveillance projects • Training courses on field sampling and laboratory analysis methodology and techniques • Training for professionals on the process of globalization and national commitments under international trade agreements 	

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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 organizations.)

Guatemala is the northernmost Central American country, bounded in the north by the Republic of Mexico with which it shares a border of approximately 1,000 kilometres. A bilateral free-trade agreement has been signed by these two countries, together with Honduras and El Salvador, which border on Guatemala to the east and use Guatemalan national territory as a corridor between Mexico and their own countries. Guatemala therefore has greater responsibility with regard to the agricultural protection and food safety system, for which reason it has adapted the organic structures of its Ministries of Agriculture, Livestock and Food and of Public Health and Social Welfare and is doing its utmost to implement the WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures. The administrative structure of these Ministries was reformed in 1996 with a view to facilitating trade without neglecting human, animal and plant health protection. Much remains to be done and any form of technical assistance and cooperation in respect of the implementation of the WTO SPS Agreement would be welcomed. Such assistance and co-operation would preferably take the form of human resources training and development of the sanitary and phytosanitary infrastructure, for example, modern agricultural protection and food safety systems, and electronic epidemiological surveillance and laboratory diagnosis systems.
