

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

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(07-3782)

Committee on Sanitary and
Phytosanitary Measures

Original: Spanish

QUESTIONNAIRE ON TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Submission by Costa Rica

Revision

Technical assistance requirements:					
	Information	Training	Infrastructure (hard and/or soft)	Specific concerns	Other
Rights, obligations and practical operation of the SPS Agreement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Application of the SPS Agreement in international trade (information resulting from the work of the SPS Committee) - Work of international reference organizations (Codex, IPPC and OIE) in relation to the SPS Agreement - Dispute settlement cases relating to sanitary and phytosanitary measures 	<p>Training in areas covered by the SPS Agreement and in its implementation, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Equivalence, new proposals with regard to Article 6 of the SPS Agreement (regionalization) - Harmonization - Annex C to the SPS Agreement - Dispute settlement procedures - Outcome of the SPS Agreement review process <p>Such training would be designed for officials of the SFE, SENASA and other public-sector bodies as well as for agricultural producers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Training geared towards the effective participation of officials in multilateral, regional and bilateral negotiations and other specialized SPS fora - Training and awareness-raising for public-sector officials and executives of agri-food enterprises in sanitary and phytosanitary 	<p>Soft:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Advice with regard to the revision of national legislation and the harmonization thereof with international standards and guidelines - Evaluation of the degree of compliance with the requirements in the various markets - Effective system for disseminating notifications of sanitary and phytosanitary information to the various users (National Enquiry Point) <p>Hard:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establishment of a database for the notification and user information system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Access to the market for organic products for Japan (recognition of third countries) - Human resources training in trade negotiations on SPS measures - Strengthening of the country's capacity to comply with and verify sanitary and phytosanitary rules and standards - Efficient articulation of the public and private sectors in order to enhance competitiveness through the proper application of sanitary and phytosanitary measures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Organic farming - Revision/ adjustment of Costa Rican regulations and requirements to be met by the country so as to foster global trade

Technical assistance requirements:					
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		<p>regulations and the importance of compliance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Training in new trends with regard to public-sector SPS regulations and private-sector SPS standards 			
Food safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Risk analysis and determination of the appropriate level of protection - Residues of veterinary drugs, pesticides and other heavy metals - Codex Alimentarius food safety standards - Inspection, control and certification systems and procedures with regard to food safety from farm to table, such as traceability, Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP), and Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) 	<p>Training in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Risk analysis and determination of the appropriate level of protection, geared towards the scientific community, producers and government officials - Education and training in risk analysis for technical and professional staff - Development of inspection, sampling and investigation procedures - Good agricultural practices for producers - Systems for the accreditation and certification of safe products - Expert advice on chemical analyses applicable to the safety of food of animal or plant origin 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strengthening of programmes dealing with residues of veterinary drugs and pesticides in plants, water and substrata - Capacity building for food inspection services and strengthening of laboratories - Development of information technology and data analysis systems for food products, establishments and domestic and international regulations - Advice on implementing new laboratory methods and improving laboratory practices and quality assurance systems - Database of information on the national programme on pesticide residues in plants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strengthening of national food safety policies and strategies by: (i) modernizing infrastructure, (ii) updating food legislation, and (iii) assessing management and organizational requirements for developing modern and effective food control programmes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establishment of consumer communication and participation programmes to improve food safety - Regulatory framework for the production, processing and marketing of fresh food, fruit and vegetables - Establishment of an inter-laboratory network

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Expert advice on radioimmunoassay (RIAs) - Expert advice on screening and confirmation methods - Expert advice on microbiological analyses applicable to the safety of food of animal and plant origin - Training in sampling and collection techniques and residue reduction strategies for officials of the national programme on pesticide residues in plants - Consumer training programmes 			
Animal health	General understanding of the SPS Agreement itself and in relation to international animal health and safety regulations	Training in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Standardization and harmonization of animal health and veterinary public health regulations - Risk analysis, transparency, dispute settlement procedures, equivalency and regionalization - Animal health quality assurance at all levels, in particular in laboratories 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Extension of the Epidemiological Information System (SIVE) - Modernization of the infrastructure of food safety laboratories dealing with animal products and by-products - Implementation of quality standards in compliance with INTE/ ISO/IEC 17020:2000, INTE/ISO/IEC 17025 and ISO 9001 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Facilitating the implementation of traceability, zoning and compartmentalization 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development of epidemiological surveillance projects - Simulations of avian diseases, foot-and-mouth disease and classical swine fever - Training programmes in livestock movement control

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Good manufacturing practices for veterinary drugs - Establishment of a pharmacovigilance system - Establishment of training programmes for law enforcement and judicial authorities on the use of sanitary inspections to control disease and the smuggling of animals and products of animal origin - Training in geographic information systems - Training in veterinary service administration and management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Microbiological and toxicological laboratory equipment - Incinerators at border posts - Design, implementation and training in the use of software for launching the aquaculture disease diagnostic system for live fish (histopathology) 		
Plant health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Quality management systems for procedures relating to surveillance, export, inspection and exempt areas - Inspection systems for entry points and phytosanitary treatments - Pest surveillance systems for crops for domestic consumption and export - Biosafety - Risk analysis 	<p>Training in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In-service training on surveillance systems, phytosanitary certification and inspection at entry points in countries trading with Costa Rica - Inspection systems, phytosanitary treatments, surveillance of crops for domestic consumption and export - Training of technical 	<p><i>Soft:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development and implementation of quality management systems - Evaluation and improvement of the general and specific procedures for surveillance systems - Evaluation and restructuring of inspection and control systems - Identification of treatments and application methods 		

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		experts in pest identification at points of entry - Development of national biosafety strategies - Training of officials in pest risk analysis	- Information system for pest surveillance and monitoring Hard: - Development of an electronic pest surveillance and control system		
Contact details	Servicio Nacional de Información (National Enquiry Point) Centro de Información y Notificación en Medidas Sanitarias y Fitosanitarias (Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measure Information and Notification Centre) Servicio de Protección Fitosanitaria del Estado y Servicio Nacional de Salud Animal (State Plant Protection Service and National Animal Health Service) Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería Apartado Postal 10094-1000 San José, Costa Rica Tel.: +(506) 260-8300 (ext. 2090) Fax: +(506) 260-8301 E-mail: notificaciones@protecnet.go.cr				

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.)
