

Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE SPS COMMITTEE ON
THE OPERATION OF ENQUIRY POINTS
31 OCTOBER 2003**

Presentations by Participants

The SPS Committee held a Special Meeting on the Operation of Enquiry Points on 31 October 2003. Attached are the agenda for the meeting and the presentations made by speakers. The presentations made by the speakers from Senegal and from Thailand have been circulated as documents G/SPS/GEN/441 and G/SPS/GEN/450, respectively.

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE SPS COMMITTEE ON THE OPERATION OF ENQUIRY POINTS

PROGRAMME

Friday, 31 October 2003

This special meeting is organized by the WTO Secretariat. The objective is to use panel presentations and discussions to address specific problems countries might be facing which are inhibiting the effective performance of their Enquiry Points and identify possible solutions. The meeting will immediately follow the meetings of the SPS Committee (29-30 October 2003) so as to facilitate the participation of appropriate experts from capital.

The special meeting is open to Members, Observer Governments and Observer Organizations of the WTO. There is no registration fee. Participants from WTO Members and Observer Governments should come as part of their official delegation.

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE SPS COMMITTEE ON
THE OPERATION OF ENQUIRY POINTS**

Friday, 31 October 2003

Programme

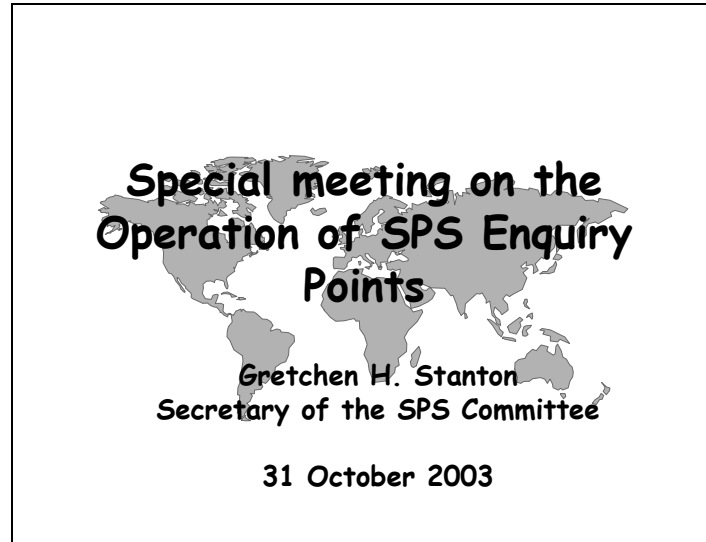
- | | | |
|-----------|---|-------|
| A. | Opening statement | 9:30 |
| | <i>Transparency Obligations under the SPS Agreement and the Operation of Enquiry points</i> | |
| | <i>Ms Gretchen H. Stanton</i>
Secretary, SPS Committee | |
| B. | Constraints faced by SPS Enquiry Points – (Presentations from selected Members) | |
| | • Argentina | 10:15 |
| | <i>Ms Roxana Blasetti</i>
Coordinadora de Legislacion Internacional
Direccion Nacional de Mercados Agroalimentarios
Ministerio Economia Y Produccion – Secretaria de Agricultura | |
| | • Egypt | 10:30 |
| | <i>Mr Abdallah Shafie</i>
General Director & International Relations
Foreign Agricultural Relations Department
Ministry of Agriculture | |
| | • Senegal | 10.45 |
| | <i>Mr Cheikh Saadbouh Seck</i>
Directeur du Commerce Extérieur
Ministère du Commerce | |
| | • Mauritius | 11.00 |
| | <i>Mr M. Chinappen</i>
Ministry of Agriculture, Food Technology and Natural Resources
Plant Pathology Division | |
| | Open discussion | 11:15 |
| | <i>End of the morning session</i> | 12:30 |

--- Lunch break: 12:30 to 14:30 ---

C.	Overcoming the Constraints – (Presentations from selected Members)	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Chile 14:30 <i>Ms Antonieta Urrutia Anabalon</i> Ingeniero Agronomo Asuntos Internacionales – SAG Agricultura● Jamaica 14:50 <i>Ms Carol Thomas</i> Chief Plant Quarantine Inspector Plant Quarantine – Produce Inspection Division Ministry of Agriculture● Thailand 15:10 <i>Mr Anut Visetrojana</i> Senior Officer National Bureau of Agricultural Commodities and Food Standards Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives● South Africa 15:30 <i>Ms Mogajane</i> Assistant Director General National Regulatory Services National Department of Agriculture● Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit – GTZ 15:50 <i>Mr Eckhard Volkmann</i> Division Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Project Agricultural Trade	
	Open discussion	16:10
D.	Concluding Remarks	17:10
E.	End of Session	17:30

*Transparency Obligations under the SPS Agreement and the
Operation of Enquiry Points*

Ms Gretchen H. Stanton
Secretary, SPS Committee



Statistics

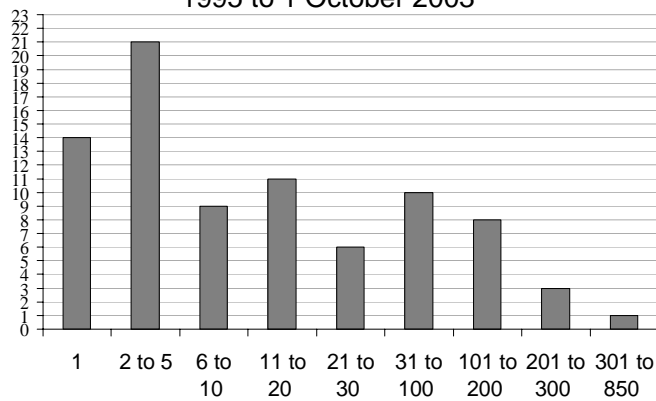
- 135 Members have a National Enquiry Point (91 %)
- 125 Members have a National Notification Authority (84 %)
- 83 out of the WTO's 148 Members have notified SPS measures (56 %)

Notifications - Statistics

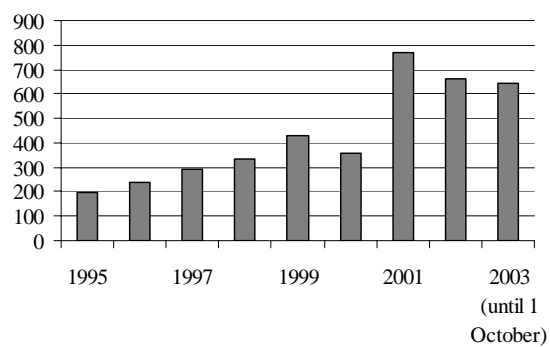
As of 1 October 2003:

- 3,649 notifications circulated (excluding Corrigenda, Addenda and Revisions)
- 3,935 (including Corrigenda, Addenda and Revisions)

Number of Notifications per Member
1995 to 1 October 2003



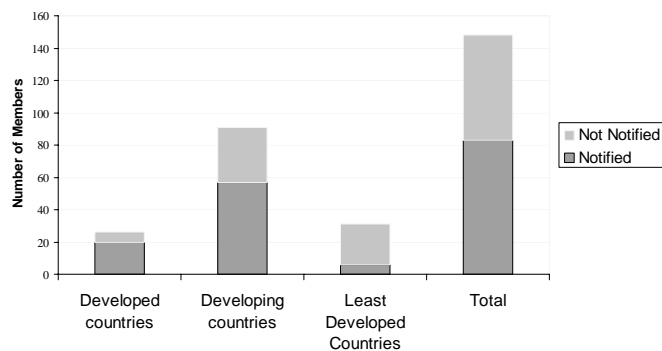
Notifications Circulated



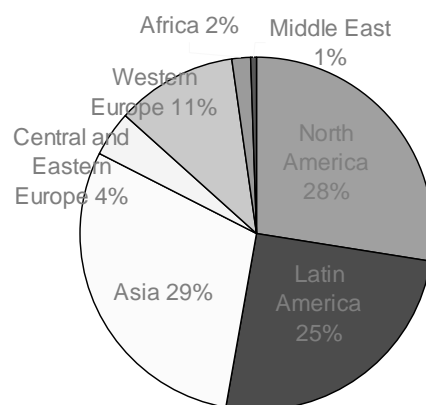
Notifications: some statistics

- USA (820)
- New Zealand (259)
- EC (214)
- Mexico (203)
- Chile (156)
- Korea (141)
- [China (140)]
- Japan (106)
- Thailand (105)
- Philippines (48)
- Indonesia (19)
- South Africa (17)
- Jamaica (6)
- Egypt (0)
- India (0)

Members Notifying 1995 until 1 October 2003



Notifications by Region



Transparency Obligations

Infrastructure

Annex B
Para. 3
Para. 10

- **National notification authority**
 - A single central government authority responsible for the implementation of notification procedures
- **Enquiry Point**
 - Responsible for the provision of answers & documentation to all reasonable questions from interested Members

Tell us who and where you are!

Communication Issues

If the WTO Secretariat cannot get hold of the Enquiry Point/National Notification Authority...



WHO CAN?

Results from Questionnaire G/SPS/W/103/Rev.1

- Of 72 responses to Questionnaire on Operation of SPS EPs and NNAs (49%)

In 50% of Members the EP and NNA are same agency

- Average – 3 staff for EP and for NNA

Annex B
Paragraph 10

National Notification Authority (NNA)

- prepares notifications about new or changed measures
- provides copies of the measure upon request
- receives and takes into account comments

Latest List: G/SPS/NNA/#

Handling of Comments

- After receiving comments:
 - acknowledge receipt
 - explain:
 - how taken into account
 - provide additional relevant information
 - provide:
 - copy of regulation as adopted
 - or, information of non-adoption
 - where possible, make available to other Members comments/questions received and answered

Recommended Notification Procedures
G/SPS/7/Rev.2 - Point E-

Handling requests

Requests for texts of SPS regulations

- 71% of Members have a complete inventory of SPS regulations

Requests for information

How long does it take to respond?

- 10 days on average

Annex B
Paragraph 3

The Enquiry Point

- “answers to all reasonable questions” about:
 - adopted or proposed SPS regulations,
 - control, inspection procedures, quarantine treatment, approval procedures,
 - risk assessment procedures,
 - membership/participation in international and regional organizations, bilateral and multilateral agreements and arrangements

Latest List: **G/SPS/ENQ/#**

Establishing an Enquiry Point

- Government or independent
- Access to information/relationships with responsible agencies
- Can be same as NNA
- Some countries have more than one: clearly define responsibilities of each

*Recommended Notification Procedures
G/SPS/7/Rev.2 - Point D -*

Providing Documents

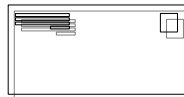
- Responding to requests
 - five working days
 - if not, acknowledge request
 - estimation of time required
- Via
 - fax/e-mail if possible
 - Internet
- *Acknowledge receipt of documents*



*Recommended Notification Procedures
G/SPS/7/Rev.2 - Point D -*

Providing Documents

- Translation
 - If exists / planned -
 - indicate or send along
 - Developed countries:
 - supply translation of document or translated summary in WTO working language
 - Share translations
 - Unofficial translations



Using the Enquiry Point: Beyond Obligations

- Collect/disseminate SPS information
 - SPS documents
 - SPS notifications received
- Inform other government agencies, private sector
- Coordinate comments on other countries' notifications
- Submit comments – follow-up



How to obtain notifications?

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Paper copies:
Copy to Geneva Mission
OR
Single address in
Capital• Electronic copies:
Documents online from the
WTO web site
www.wto.org
(G/SPS/N/+ country symbol
e.g. USA) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Email updates:
(Send e-mail to
listproc@list.unicc.org
with Subscribe SPS +
your name in body of
message
e.g. Subscribe SPS Mickey
Mouse) |
|--|--|

Notifications

90% of EPs receive SPS Notifications

How?

- 22% via the WTO web page
- 57% via e-mail from the Secretariat
- 35% via mail from the Secretariat
- 18% via Geneva-based Missions

How to make it work

- Relationship with other government departments
- Interface with industry
- Relationship with the Geneva Mission
- Contact with the Secretariat



Inter-agency coordination and communication

Does the EP/NNA have regular contact with officials in relevant agencies?

- 87% of EPs have regular contact
- 88% of NNA have regular contact

Other Services

- 79% of EPs provide information about other countries' import requirements to interested domestic producers
- 61% of EPs are regularly informed of developments in Codex, OIE and IPPC

What if a proposed regulation will affect my exports?



- Request text of the draft regulation
- Request extension of comment period, if needed
- Make comments on the proposed regulation
- Request an explanation for measures that are not based on an international standard, guideline or recommendation
- Raise the issue in the SPS Committee
- Bilateral consultations; seek technical assistance
- Dispute Settlement Procedures

Assistance

- The Transparency Handbook – including letters and fax templates
 - 62% of EPs/NNAs have a copy of the WTO Handbook on Transparency
- Questionnaire on Technical Assistance – G/SPS/W/113
 - What are your countries' technical assistance requirements? – information, training, infrastructure (hard and/or soft)

Tell us what you need

Technical Assistance

Responding Members willing to provide technical assistance

- 58% willing to provide technical assistance to EPs
- 54% willing to provide technical assistance to NNAs

Argentina
Ms Roxana Blasetti

Coordinadora de Legislación Internacional
Dirección Nacional de Mercados Agroalimentarios
Ministerio Economía Y Producción – Secretaría de Agricultura

**Special Meeting of the
SPS Committee on
NATIONAL ENQUIRY POINTS**

Presentation by ARGENTINA

Geneva - 31 October 2003

**Transparency
Rights and Obligations**

**OBLIGATION TO NOTIFY THE WTO OF DRAFT
NATIONAL SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY
MEASURES**

**RIGHT TO COMMENT ON SANITARY
MEASURES NOTIFIED TO ARGENTINA'S
FOCAL POINT BY OTHER WTO MEMBERS**

**ARGENTINA'S SYSTEM
FOR THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF
TRANSPARENCY
OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE
SPS AGREEMENT**

**National Commission of the SPS
Committee**

Made up of:

**Relevant national bodies
Private sector**

Nature:

Intergovernmental

Objectives:

- **To provide technical support for the National Notification Authority**
- **To examine and discuss topics on the SPS Committee's agenda**

**Domestic Implementation of
Transparency Obligations**

- **Analysis of notifications made to the WTO Secretariat by other Members**
- **Analysis of draft sanitary and phytosanitary measures for adoption by the relevant national bodies**

In Argentina, the national notification body is

- the Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Food (SAGPyA) of the Ministry of the Economy and Production
- The Under-Secretariat of Agricultural and Food Policy is responsible for the focal point, i.e. the National Notification Authority (NNA)
- The National Agriculture and Food Quality and Health Service (SENASA) is the National Enquiry Point

National Notification Authority

- Argentina's National Notification Authority (NNA) lies within the purview of the Under-Secretariat of Agricultural and Food Policy and is managed by the National Directorate of Agri-Food Markets.
- The NNA has established a series of steps for the analysis of notifications.

Analysis of Notifications Received

- The NNA draws up a weekly list of notifications received, which it forwards to the relevant government bodies and the private sector.
- The NNA examines each notification received in the light of its potential trade implications for Argentina's exports and requests the notifying Member to provide a copy of the full text of the draft.

Analysis of Notifications Received

- Once it has received the draft, the NNA prepares a summary and identifies any restrictive aspects so as to help the domestic sectors involved in their analytical task.
- It then provides the government and the private sector with the full text of the standard, along with the summary, the restrictive aspects identified and a questionnaire.

Analysis of Notifications Received

- The drafts are studied in the light of international standards and scientific evidence.
- The NNA analyses any doubts or comments that may emerge from the study and conveys them to the notifying Member for consideration.

Analysis of Notifications Received

DIFFICULTIES

- Limited human resources
- Limited infrastructure and technological resources
- Failure of the notifying Member to provide the draft
- Delay by the notifying Member in providing the draft
- Text of the draft supplied in a language other than one of the official WTO languages
- The 60-day comment period is not observed
- No response to comments

Review of Draft Domestic Standards Prior to their Adoption

-It has not yet been possible legally to provide for the submission to the NNA of drafts prepared by the various agencies responsible for safety matters prior to their approval.

- The submission of drafts is coordinated within a given Ministry but not yet between Ministries.

Draft Domestic Standards

Argentina is aware of the difficulties facing developing countries.

The existing domestic procedure is being reevaluated.

Draft Domestic Standards

DIFFICULTIES:

- Legal tasks divided among various State agencies
- Poor coordination between these agencies
- Lack of training to determine when notification is necessary
- Shortage of human resources

Specific Problems

Difficulties identified in notifications in 2003, out of a total of 87 notifications reviewed:

38 notifications:

- 60-day period not respected (in some cases less than one month)
- No response to repeated requests (by e-mail and fax) for extension

4 notifications:

- Texts sent in non-official WTO languages
- No translation available

14 notifications:

- No time provided for comments

3 notifications:

- Texts too long to be sent by e-mail
- Texts due to be sent on CD through the post never arrived

2 notifications:

- No response to request for texts by e-mail or fax

3 notifications:

- No e-mail address or web page for requesting the full texts

72 notifications:

- Drafts do not refer to any international reference guidelines or standards

15 notifications:

- 5 refer to OIE standards- 8 refer to the International Plant Protection Convention
- 2 refer to the CODEX

Out of the 15 referring to an international standard:

- 9 point to similarities or differences with the international standard
- 6 make no reference to or indicate any differences with the international standard

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

- To grant the 60-day period for submitting comments
- To grant an extension of that period should a developing country justifiably so request
- To indicate in the notification whether there is an international reference standard
- To single out aspects of the notified draft that depart from the international standard

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

- **Institutional consolidation**
- **Training of human resources**
- **Financial assistance**
- **Follow-up by the SPS Committee**

Egypt
Mr Abdallah Shafie

General Director & International Relations
Foreign Agricultural Relations Department
Ministry of Agriculture

Special Meeting of SPS Committee on
Enquiry points
The Operation of the Egyptian National
Enquiry Point and Notification Authority

Presentation by
Mr Abdallah Shafie
Director General

International Relations Department
Ministry of Agriculture and Land
Reclamation

**The organizational structure of the
National Enquiry Point and
Notification Authority
in EGYPT**

- The International Relations Department in the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation is **BOTH** the National Enquiry Point and the National Notification Authority notified to the WTO,
- The department takes over these responsibilities through a designated unit (the SPS unit),
- However, due to lack of resources, the staff of the SPS unit are sometimes required to carry over other responsibilities (not necessarily related to the SPS agreement).

How do we operate ?

- **Arrival of notifications and Enquiries:**
- The SPS unit receives **HARD** copies of the notifications submitted by other members through our mission in Geneva (mostly used, but takes time) .
- Moreover, notifications could be reached on the WTO Web Page (rarely used due to lack of probable facilities).

How do we operate ? (Continued)

- **Sorting of information and notifications**
- Once received, notifications are sorted according to: the notifying member; the sector or field concerned (Animal, Plant, or Pesticides); the date of circulation; and the deadline for comments.
- Sorting is undertaken manually, and notifications are then photocopied for circulation.

How do we operate ? (Continued)

- **Dissemination of information and notifications**
- Copies of notifications, together with the coordinates of the notifying member, are then **FAXED** to the relevant Technical Authority with a request to scientifically examine and comment on the notified measure.
- Copies of notifications are also sent to the National Commodities Council for dissemination among stakeholders from the business sector for consideration and compliance .

How do we operate ? (Continued)

- **Having finished the scientific examination process in the relevant Technical Authority;**
- The SPS unit, together with the Technical Authority and the National Agriculture commodities Council, hold *Special meetings* with the participation of private sector importers and exporters,
- This meeting allows the later to be informed about the Scientific content of the measure in question,
- In addition, it allows exporters to identify problems in complying with the notified measure
- Depending on the outcome of the *Special meeting*, Requests/ comments/ enquiries are sent to the notifying member's Enquiry Point.

How do we operate ? (Continued)

- In addition, the SPS unit (enquiry point and national notification authority) is responsible for organizing technical visits for inspectors from other WTO member countries to, *inter alia*, evaluate a pest free area, scrutinize the laboratory activities of the technical Authorities, and/or factory processes

With whom do we function ?

The Unit maintains contact with the following Technical Authorities:

- The General organization for Veterinary Services (GOVS) for notifications and enquiries related to animal health and food/feed from animals.
- Central Administration for Plant Quarantine (CAPQ) for notifications and enquiries related to Phytosanitary issues,
- Central Laboratory for Food and Feed (CLFF) – ISO 17025 certified – for notifications and enquiries related to food and feed quality,
- Central Laboratory for Pesticides (CLP) for notifications and enquiries related to Pesticide residues and heavy metal traces in products
- Animal health Research Laboratory for notifications and enquiries related to food/feed based on animal products
- Potato Brown Rot Laboratories for notifications and enquiries related to potato brown rot disease.
- National Commodities Council with participation from private sector importers and exporters

Constraints facing the SPS unit

- **Two major categories:**
 - **Logistical constraints:**
 - **Coordination and organization of the system (networking at the national level)**

“Logistical” constraints

The most pertinent of which are;

- Low awareness about the role and impact of SPS measures,
- Cost implications can be prohibitive for our exporters,
- Shortage of office equipments and facilities, (up-to-date computers, telephone lines for internet connections...etc.),
- Shortage in secondary (but extremely important) facilities like translation of technical documents from/into Arabic and from/into one of the WTO official languages,
- Inadequate financing for investment in compliance (especially for SMEs),
- Lack of well functioning information management infrastructure,

“System organization” constraints

General ;

- Notifications arrive too late that we most probably miss the “rather short” comment period,
- No mechanism to compel the authorities to publish SPS measures at an early stage.
- Uncertainty about the manner in which article 10.1 (S&Dt for developing countries) is being implemented,
- Do not receive replies to some of our comments/enquiries,
- Enquiries triggered by the media are not always justified by the concerned technical authority. Thus, generate additional work load.

“System organization” constraints

Specific;

- Shortage of trained staff exclusively committed to carrying out enquiry point activities and notification procedures,
- Lack of coordination mechanism at the domestic level,
- Systemic collection and storage of record is lacking and research capacity is weak (both in the SPS unit as well as in the technical authorities),
- Inability to participate in the SPS committee meetings due to lack of human and financial resources.

Needs

- Increase the level of awareness through exchange of experience with other members, especially the developed ones,
- Increase awareness of the impact and role of the SPS Agreement through dedicated seminars and workshops,
- Seminars for the private sector
- Assistance to establish the legal framework and to develop infrastructural framework ,
- Assistance in translating the SPS documents into Arabic,
- Training our staff on providing technical justification when a measure deviates from international standards,
- Assistance to participate in the activities of the THREE SISTERS,

Needs

- Assistance to gather information and to obtain documents on measures applied by other members,
- Assistance to establish a system to promote permanent cooperation between the public sector and official regulators,
- Assistance to SMEs to comply with SPS measures adopted in our major export markets,
- Funding participation in the activities of the international standard setting bodies as well as in the the SPS committee meetings.

Mauritius
Mr M. Chinappen

Ministry of Agriculture, Food Technology and Natural Resources
Plant Pathology Division

**THE MAURITIAN EXPERIENCE :
OPERATING THE SPS ENQUIRY POINT**

- Nearly four years of experience in fulfilling transparency obligations of the SPS agreement – para 3 of annex B.
- Committed to the good functioning of the Enquiry point
- Responsible for receipt and dissemination of information pertaining to sanitary and phytosanitary measures
- Always committed to answer queries on sanitary and phytosanitary measures

SEAT OF THE SPS ENQUIRY POINT

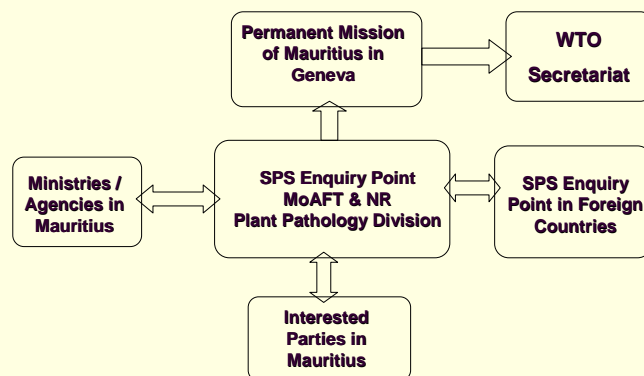
- The seat of the SPS Enquiry Point is at the Plant Pathology Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Technology & Natural Resources (MoAFT&NR).
- **WHY MoAFT&NR ?**
Because it generates almost all phytosanitary measures – the source of SPS measures.

SEAT OF THE SPS ENQUIRY POINT

Contact point:

Mr. M Chinappen
**Ministry of Agriculture, Food Technology
& Natural Resources**
Plant Pathology Division
Reduit, Mauritius
Tel (230) 464-4872
Fax (230) 465-9591
E-mail plpath@intnet.mu
or moa-pathology@mail.gov.mu

SEAT OF THE SPS ENQUIRY POINT



STAFF & FACILITIES

- A team of six officials (3 technical and 3 administrative) under the supervision of the head of the SPS Enquiry Point (the Principal Research & Development Officer of the Plant Pathology Division.
- We operate a database of all SPS Notification from all other country member, notified by the WTO. The database is available for reference to all local organisations / stakeholders concerned with the SPS measures – Telephone/Fax/E-mail facilities.

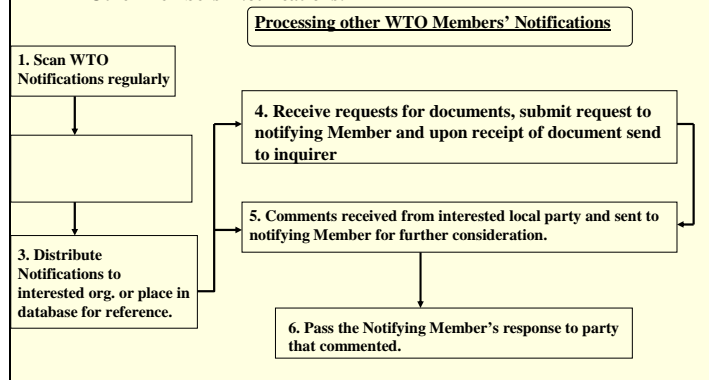
OPERATING THE SPS ENQUIRY POINT

- Responsible for answering “all reasonable questions” and for providing information / documents relevant to those questions – a whole range of SPS issues.
- Handling of inbound comments and other members’ notifications

Inbound comments : The SPS Enquiry point is the liaison between various governmental and non-governmental organisations. Regular SPS Committees are held to keep pace with new developments on sanitary and phytosanitary measures world-wide.

OPERATING THE SPS ENQUIRY POINT

Other members’ Notifications:



LOCAL COLLABORATORS

- Ministry of Health & Quality of Life – Sanitary and Health issues
- Ministry of Fisheries – Issues pertaining to fish and fish products
- Veterinary Division, Ministry of Agriculture, Food Technology & Natural Resources – Issues pertaining to meat and meat product

PROCESSING SPS NOTIFICATIONS

- **Routine Notification :- form as per para 5 annex B**

Local collaborators informed us of any sanitary and phytosanitary decision, such as to either impose a ban on importation/exportation or to lift a ban etc. from a specific country or region.

We processed the Notification form with relevant information and sent to the National Notification Authority for onward transmission to the WTO, Geneva.

PROCESSING SPS NOTIFICATIONS

- **Emergency Notification :- form as per para 6 annex B**

Local collaborators informed us of any sanitary and phytosanitary decision, such as to either impose a ban on importation/exportation or to lift a ban etc. from a specific country or region.

We processed the Notification form with relevant information and sent to the National Notification Authority for onward transmission to the WTO, Geneva or in case of urgency the Notification is directly communicated to the Permanent Representative in Geneva by the SPS Enquiry Point, for quick response and implementation of the decision/measures.

EXAMPLE OF QUERIES

- **During the nearly four years of operation, we have received only around three to four inquiries.**

- **An example of an inquiry :-**

In 2001 due to an outbreak of cholera in Republic of South Africa, we received an inquiry regarding importation of canned fish products from the said country. The concerned party was advised accordingly upon receipt of the requested information

EXAMPLE OF NOTIFICATION

- 1 **G/SPS/N/MUS/5 :- Temporary suspension of importation of live cattle, sheep and goats from Zimbabwe and the Republic of South Africa**
WHY? Due to prevalence of Foot and Mouth Disease

- 2 **G/SPS/N/MUS/6 :- Temporary ban on importation of horses and other equidae into Mauritius with immediate effect.**
WHY? Due to prevalence of FMD

EXAMPLE OF NOTIFICATION

- 3 **G/SPS/N/MUS/8 :- Lift of ban on import of chilled processed pork from France and on import of live cattle from FMD free zones in South Africa.**
WHY? On basis of OIE report sep 2001 Vol 14 No. 38

- 4 **G/SPS/N/MUS/9 :- Lifting of ban on import of pork and pork products from the European Communities (except United Kingdom) and on import of live cattle, live sheep and live goat from FMD free zones in South Africa with immediate effect..**
WHY? On basis of OIE report sep 2001 Vol 14 No. 38

WHAT ARE OUR + POINTS

- **A committed and dynamic technical and administrative staff**
- **Up-date database on all SPS Notifications and other SPS related issues**
- **Existing legal framework – a new wave of modern legislation is underway (in compliance with international obligations WTO/SPS, TRIPS, UPOV, etc.)**
- **Good interaction between governmental bodies and private organisations – various sub-committees**
- **Linkages with regional organisations e.g SADC, COMESA etc.**
- **Up-date diagnostic facilities & Pest Risk Analysis to cater for our import and export market**

WHAT MAURITIUS COULD DO BETTER

- **More awareness in other standard-setting agencies:
Conduct seminars and convene meetings with other
local and regional stakeholders.**
- **Develop better links to industries:
More interaction between government officials and
private industries**
- **Get smarter with electronic media (e-mail and world -
wide web):
Preparation of a keyword database for all SPS issues &
a web-site for the Enquiry Point is in preparation**

WHAT MAURITIUS CAN PROVIDE

- **Assistance in the setting-up & operation of the SPS
Enquiry Point to other Member Country**
- **Technical help in other related SPS areas**
- **Provide necessary documents related to the
implementation of SPS Enquiry Point**

Chile

*Ms Antonieta Urrutia Anabalón
Ingeniero Agronomo
Asuntos Internacionales – SAG
Agricultura*

CHILE

***NATIONAL NOTIFICATION
POINT FOR THE WTO SPS
AGREEMENT***

*ANTONIETA URRUTIA ANABALÓN
AGRONOMIST*

***DESCRIPTION OF CHILE'S NATIONAL
NOTIFICATION /ENQUIRY POINT***

***THE CHILEAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
HAS ENTRUSTED THE AGRICULTURE AND
LIVESTOCK SERVICE (SAG) WITH THE
RESPONSIBILITY OF COORDINATING AND
OPERATING THE SPS NOTIFICATION /ENQUIRY
POINT.***

CONTACT POINT IN CHILE

*MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK SERVICE (SAG)
DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS*

CHILE'S SPS REGULATORY AGENCIES

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE:

- AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK SERVICE (animal and plant health, and safety of primary products for export)*

MINISTRY OF HEALTH:

- ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMMES DIVISION (food safety)*

MINISTRY OF THE ECONOMY:

- SERNAPESCA (animal health and safety of hydrobiological products)*

RESOURCES

HUMAN RESOURCES:

- 1 PROFESSIONAL*
- 1 SECRETARY*

RESOURCES

EQUIPMENT:

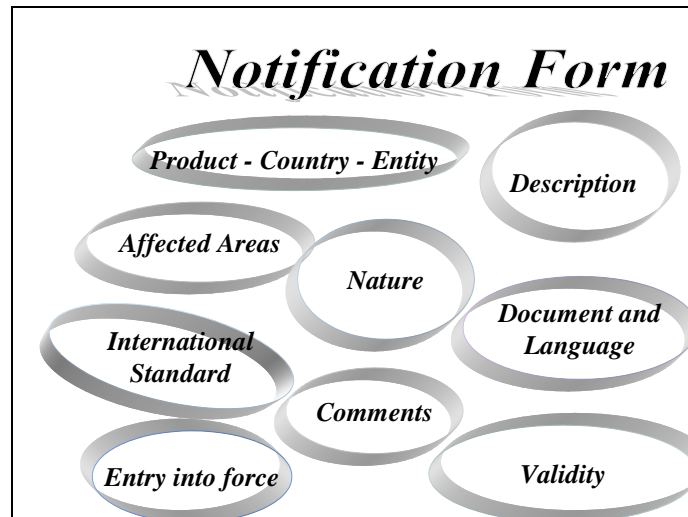
- *1 COMPUTER*
- *E-MAIL*
- *ELECTRONIC AND PAPER ARCHIVES*

ELECTRONIC DATABASE

- *Chilean notifications (dispatch format)*
- *Supporting documentation for notifications*

To obtain these documents, each regulatory agency or SAG technical unit sends the notification request by e-mail and ordinary mail.





PROVISIONAL IDENTIFICATION

"NOTIFICACIONES CHILE" FOLDER:

- *G-SPS-abbreviated title*
- *Entry in general index ("Indice")*

"TEXTOS CHILE" FOLDER:

- *Sps-abbreviated title-
Text designated by symbol
G/SPS/N/CHL/ ____*

FINAL IDENTIFICATION

"NOTIFICACIÓN CHILE" :

- *G-SPS-number*
- *Number and date entered in index
("Indice")*

"TEXTO CHILE":

- *Sps-number*
- *Text given final number*

TEXT DISTRIBUTION

*FINAL NOTIFICATION SENT TO THE
TECHNICAL UNIT OR REGULATORY AGENCY*

*SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION FOR THE
NOTIFICATION SENT TO CONTACT
POINTS ON REQUEST*

COMMENTS

*RECEIPT AND FORWARDING OF COMMENTS
ON CHILEAN NOTIFICATIONS*

FOLLOW-UP ON COMMENTS SUBMITTED

*RECEIPT OF NOTIFICATIONS FROM OTHER
COUNTRIES*

*RECEIPT AND ELECTRONIC ARCHIVING OF
NOTIFICATIONS*

*PRINTING AND CLASSIFICATION BY INTEREST
GROUP*

MAILING TO SPECIFIC GROUPS

DISPATCH OF NOTIFICATIONS

DISPATCH OF PRINTED DOCUMENTS TO SELECTED AGENCIES

ARCHIVING OF PAPER COPIES AT THE SECRETARIAT

RECEIPT/CHECKING AND DISPATCH OF PAPER COPIES OF NOTIFICATIONS RECEIVED

VERIFICATION OF NOTIFICATIONS

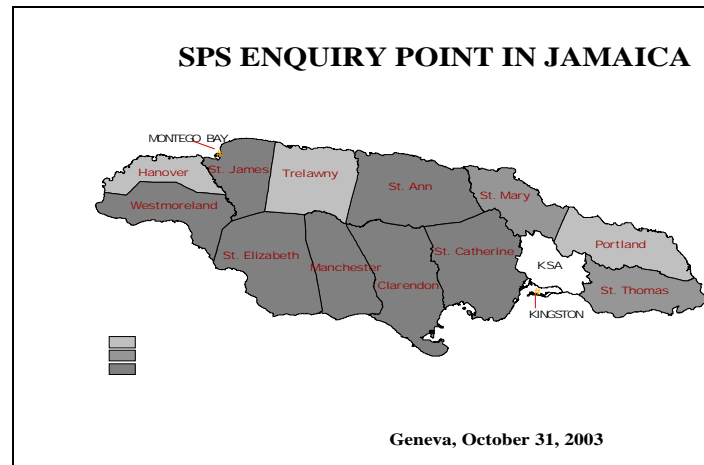
CHECKING OF PRINTED DOCUMENTS AGAINST ELECTRONIC ARCHIVES

CHECKING OF WTO WEB SITE TO DOWNLOAD ELECTRONIC VERSIONS OF MISSING NOTIFICATIONS

ADDITIONAL DISPATCH AND ARCHIVING

Jamaica
Ms Carol Thomas

Chief Plant Quarantine Inspector
Plant Quarantine – Produce Inspection Division
Ministry of Agriculture



Agencies involved with SPS

- ✓ Four agencies are involved in SPS matters
 - Ministry of Agriculture
 - Ministry of Health
 - Ministry of Commerce, Science & Technology
 - Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade
- ✓ Inter-agency coordination is important in achieving desired objectives.

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ENQUIRY POINT

- ✓ The National Enquiry Point was established in the Ministry of Agriculture in July 1999
- ✓ The Enquiry Point is located in the Plant Quarantine Unit
- ✓ Two members of staff received training in the operation of the Enquiry Point

Establishment of Enquiry Point

- ✓ National sensitization workshops on the role of the Enquiry Point were held in 2000 and again in 2002
- ✓ Participants drawn from:
 - Exporters
 - Importers
 - Government agency representatives
 - Consumer groups

Functioning of the Enquiry Point

- ✓ There are two members of staff assigned to the Enquiry Point (one technical person and a secretary)
- ✓ WTO/SPS website is accessed daily
- ✓ SPS Notifications relevant to Jamaica are identified and downloaded
- ✓ A weekly newsletter of these notifications is produced and distributed to relevant agencies & individuals via e-mail or fax

Functioning of the Enquiry Point

- ✓ The Enquiry Point provides information on Jamaica's SPS requirements
- ✓ It also provides information on the SPS requirements of other countries upon request.
- ✓ Responds to requests for full texts of notifications made by Jamaica.

Notification Authority

- ✓ The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign trade is the National Notification Authority
- ✓ There is a close link between the Enquiry Point and Notification Authority
- ✓ Information for national notifications are compiled by the relevant agencies, sent to the Enquiry Point for formatting and then passed on to the Notification Authority for submission to the WTO Secretariat.

Steps taken to ensure effective functioning of the Enquiry Point

- ✓ On-going capacity building – participation in workshops and training opportunities (USDA, FAO, WTO Secretariat).
- ✓ Support from the Ministry for the activities of the Enquiry point
 - Funding participation in APEC Symposium on Notification Procedures in Peru in July 2002.
 - Dedicated staff for the enquiry point
 - Provision of equipment and material

Steps taken to ensure effective functioning of the Enquiry Point

- ✓ Continued dialogue with stakeholders to ensure full participation and awareness of the work of the Enquiry Point and its relevance to them.
- ✓ Co-ordination with all the government Ministries and agencies involved in SPS activities

Conclusion and recommendations

- ✓ Expand the circulation of the newsletter to include a wider cross-section of persons
- ✓ Greater emphasis on public awareness and sensitization
- ✓ Promote greater involvement of the regulatory agencies in the notification of SPS measures
- ✓ Physically upgrading the Enquiry Point

Conclusions and Recommendations

- ✓ Greater involvement of the private sector in SPS matters
- ✓ SPS issues must be accorded priority at national policy level and backed up by the necessary budgetary support .

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit – GTZ
Mr Eckhard Volkmann

Division Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
Project Agricultural Trade

Technical Assistance for SPS Enquiry Points

(Eckhard Volkmann, GTZ, Eschborn)

**Special Meeting of the WTO SPS Committee on the
Operation of Enquiry Points**

31 October 2003
Geneva, Switzerland

**Technical Assistance for NEP
Overview of Presentation**

1. **GTZ activities in TRTA**
2. **Objectives and Tasks of NEP**
3. **Constraints of NEP**
4. **Prerequisites for well operating NEP**
5. **Support for NEP (donors and GTZ)**
6. **Requirements for Support**

GTZ activities in TRTA
General Introduction to GTZ

- **GTZ “Ltd”:** technical implementation agency
 - for BMZ
 - other ministries
 - international clients
- **Facts and Figures:**
 - Focused, world wide engagement (130-70 partners)
 - More than 2000 projects in various sectors (programs)

GTZ activities in TRTA
Project Scope

- **SPS relevance:**
 - about 70 projects (related to products of plant / animal origin)
- **Project scope:**
 - Crop Protection, Animal health protection
 - Pesticide Management
 - Certification, Laboratory Management
 - Food Quality Assurance
 - Organisational Development of Producer Associations
 - Curriculum development and training

GTZ activities in TRTA
Trade Program

- **Trade Program components**
 - Trade and Investment Project
 - Trade Fund (Monterrey)
 - Agricultural Trade Project
- **Agricultural Trade Project Topics:**
 - Value-added chains
 - WTO (AoA, SPS, TBT)
 - Etc.

Objectives and Tasks of NEP **Objectives and Activities**

- **Fulfil transparency obligation**
- **Information and Knowledge Management**
 - Work on document and information requests
 - Process and answer general enquiries
 - Deliver and charge information (national and foreign organisations and institutions)

SOURCE:

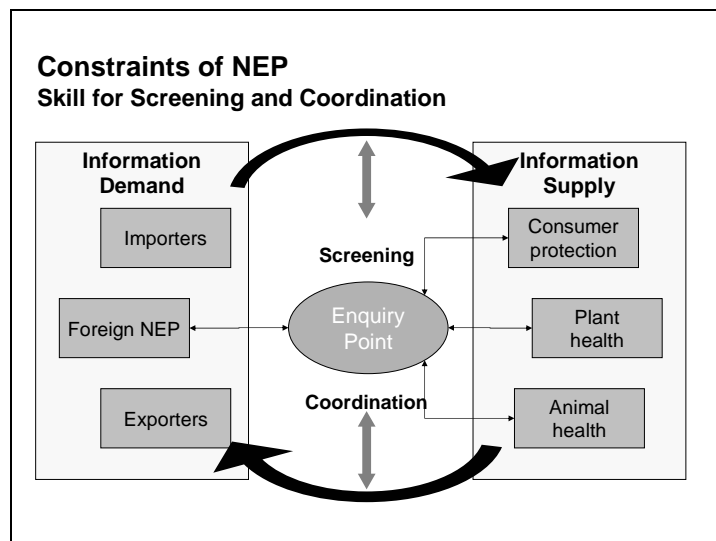
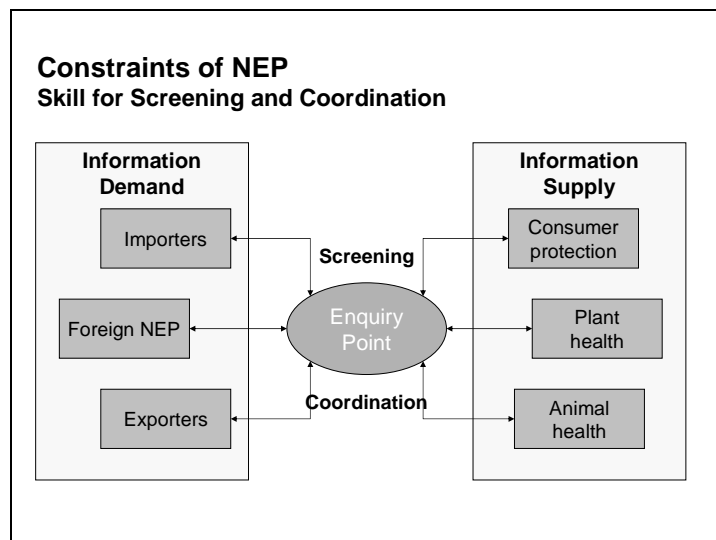
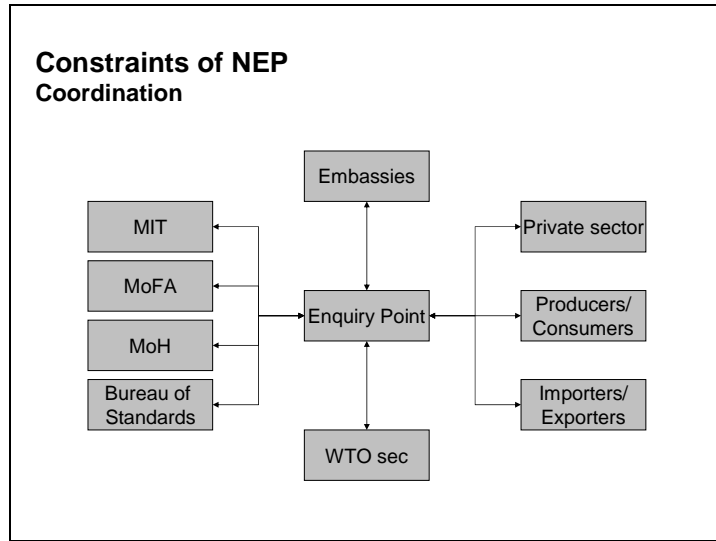
WTO, 2000: How to Apply the Transparency Provisions of the SPS Agreement,
A Handbook from WTO Secretariat

Objectives and Tasks of NEP **General Fields of Activity**

- **NEPs gather and disseminate information on SPS interventions among a multitude of national and international stakeholders. This demands:**
 - Documentation
 - Coordination
 - Communication

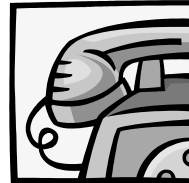
Constraints of NEP **Overview**

- **Coordination between multitude of stakeholders**
- **Lack of analytical skill for screening**
- **Technical Constraints**
 - Weak communication facilities
 - Weak documentation facilities
- **Financial resources**



Constraints of NEP

- **Technical Constraints:**
 - PCs; IT-facilities
 - Telecommunication;
 - www, @



Prerequisites for well operating NEP

- **Analytically and technically skilled staff (2-4 persons)**
- **If possible in vicinity of notification authority**
- **Technical equipment**

Support for NEP Sources

- **WTO support (SDTF)**
- **JITAP (e.g. Cluster 15)**
- **Bilateral Donors (DFID, SIDA etc.)**
- **GTZ**

Find more information on

- STDF at www.standardsfacility.org
- JITAP at www.jitap.org
- GTZ and links to other donors (coming during November) at <http://www.gtz.de/themen/economic-development/english/>

**Support for NEP
GTZs Approach**

- Training material is abundant
- Analysis of existing best practises
- Needs assessment
- Participatory institutional development
- Capacity development on the job
- South-south cooperation
- Twinning
- Peering

Requirements for Support

- Existing notification authority and enquiry point
- Commitment / ownership
- Government institutions only

Contact

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Thank you for your attention
