
Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

SPS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES IN 2008

Information from the Secretariat¹

The following information describes the SPS technical assistance activities undertaken and planned by the WTO Secretariat for 2008, based on the "Biennial Technical Assistance and Training Plan 2008-2009" (WT/COMTD/W/160).²

1. Regional Seminars

Date	Region	Venue	Organized by	Other participating organizations
22-24 February 2008	Latin America	Paraguay	WTO – IDB/INTAL	Codex, IPPC and OIE
Early November 2008 (TBC)	Pacific	Fiji	WTO	Codex, IPPC and OIE
Week 17 November 2008	Arab and Middle East countries	Qatar	WTO	Codex, IPPC and OIE
Early December 2008	Africa (English-speaking)	TBC	WTO	Codex, IPPC and OIE

¹ This document has been prepared under the Secretariat's own responsibility and is without prejudice to the positions of Members and to their rights and obligations under the WTO.

² The venues and dates for planned activities are subject to changes. Tables have been updated to reflect more recently available information. Additional information, including draft programmes, eligible countries/customs territories, participants' requirements, are available at: http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/devel_e/train_e/course_details_e.htm.

2. National Seminars³

Date	Venue	Organized by	Other participating organizations
30 January – 1 February 2008	Costa Rica	WTO	-
11-13 March 2008	Belize (SPS/TBT)	WTO	-
17-18 April 2008	Cape Verde (SPS/Agriculture)	WTO	-
12-14 May 2008	Chile	WTO	-
26 May 2008	Burkina Faso (SPS/TBT)	WTO	-
11-12 June 2008	Laos (SPS/TBT)	WTO	-
Week 7 July 2008	Rwanda (SPS/TBT)	WTO	-
31 July – 1 August 2008	Indonesia	WTO	-
Week 10 November 2008	India	WTO	-
December 2008	China	WTO	-
TBC	Fiji (SPS/TBT)	WTO	-
TBC	Lebanon	WTO	-
TBC	Mozambique	WTO	-
TBC	Turkey	WTO	-
TBC	Zimbabwe	WTO	-

3. Geneva-based Specialized Courses

Date	Activity	Venue	Organized by
19 – 20 June 2008	Follow-up 3 rd Specialized Course on SPS (held in 2007)	Geneva	WTO
29 September – 17 October 2008	4 th Specialized Course on SPS (English)	Geneva	WTO

³ The delivery of national activities in 2008 depends on Members' requests, on the resources of the Secretariat to undertake them and on whether the request could be addressed through a regional activity.

4. Geneva-based Topic-specific Symposium

Date	Activity	Venue	Organized by
31 March 2008	STDF Workshop on SPS Capacity Evaluation Tools	Geneva	WTO (STDF) ⁴
26 June 2008	STDF Information Session on Private Standards	Geneva	WTO (STDF) ⁵
6 October 2008	Special Workshop on Good Practices and SPS related Technical Cooperation, held back-to-back with the SPS Committee Meeting	Geneva	WTO

5. Geneva-based Trade Policy Courses covering, *inter alia*, the SPS Agreement

Date	Name of course (language)	Organized by
January-April 2008	43 rd Trade Policy Course (English)	WTO (ITTC)
January-April 2008	44 th Trade Policy Course (English)	WTO (ITTC)
April-July 2008	45 th Trade Policy Course (Spanish)	WTO (ITTC)
September - December 2008	46 th Trade Policy Course (French)	WTO (ITTC)

6. Regional Trade Policy Courses covering, *inter alia*, the SPS Agreement

Date	Region	Venue	Organized by
January – April 2008	Caribbean	Jamaica	WTO (ITTC)
March – May 2008	Asia and Pacific	Singapore	WTO (ITTC)
September - December 2008	Africa (French-speaking)	TBC	WTO (ITTC)
TBC	Africa (English-speaking)	TBC	WTO (ITTC)

⁴ This event was organized by the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF). Therefore, it is not included in the general WTO "Biennial Technical Assistance and Training Plan 2008-2009" (WT/COMTD/W/160) aforementioned.

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7. Geneva-based Introduction Courses covering, *inter alia*, the SPS Agreement

Date	Activity	Venue	Organized by
June 2008	13 th Introduction course for Least-Developed countries (English)	Geneva	WTO
TBC	14 th Introduction course for Least-Developed countries (French)	Geneva	WTO

8. eTraining: Online Courses

Date	Name of course (language)	Organized by
February – April 2008	Introduction to Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (English)	WTO (ITTC)
May – June 2008	Introduction to Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (English)	WTO (ITTC)
September – October 2008	Introduction to Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (Spanish and French)	WTO (ITTC)