

**TECHNICAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES:  
INFORMATION FROM MEMBER COUNTRIES<sup>1</sup>**

Addendum

MOROCCO

Information on Morocco's technical and financial cooperation activities relevant to the implementation of the TRIPS Agreement has been received from the Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Morocco in a communication dated 18 September 2001. The present document reproduces this information.

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**I. ACTIVITIES RELATED TO THE PROTECTION OF INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY**

The Moroccan Trade and Industrial Property Office (OMPIC) has in recent years developed considerably, more particularly in structural and organizational terms.

Its management tools have also been modernized with a new information system known as the Trade and Industrial Property Information System (SIPIC), which makes for better management of the various trade and industrial property titles.

OMPIC's development efforts have improved the calibre of the services for users of the National Trade and Industrial Property System.

OMPIC has been regarded by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) as a lead office in the Arab world. Moreover, WIPO has designated OMPIC as an industrial property training office for Arab and African offices.

OMPIC therefore provides major technical assistance to these countries in developing human resources by organizing industrial property training courses for executives from Arab and African offices.

OMPIC has hosted more than 20 training sessions for various Arab and African countries which have benefited from training in industrial property rights management and have scrutinized the national system, the organization of the office and the latest legislative developments in this

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<sup>1</sup> The TRIPS Council agreed at its meeting on 18-22 June 2001 that Members which are not developed country Members and provide technical cooperation are also encouraged to share information on their activities if they so wish (document IP/C/M/32, paragraph 58).

connection, more particularly the introduction of a new law, Law No. 17/97 on industrial property protection.

The Arab and African countries concerned include Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Djibouti, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Egypt, Jordan, United Arab Emirates, Oman, Palestine, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia and Yemen. Heads of national liaison offices with the African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI) have also received this training.

## **II. ACTIVITIES RELATED TO THE PROTECTION OF NEW VARIETIES OF PLANTS**

Well before the enactment of Law 9-94 on the protection of new varieties of plants, the departments of the Ministry of Agriculture kept a national selected seed catalogue. Most of the requisite analyses for implementing Law 9-94 were therefore used for seed certification. This experience had thus been gained by the competent Moroccan authorities some decades ago.

Therefore Morocco has, since 1995, organized six training workshops for Arab and African countries, including Benin, Chad, Egypt, Mauritania and Tunisia. The training has, in particular, been on methods of conducting tests for differentiation, homogeneity and stability of plant varieties.

It should be noted that Morocco provided this training well before the WTO was established (see the annexed tables).

## ANNEX

## ACTIVITIES RELATED TO THE PROTECTION OF NEW VARIETIES OF PLANTS

Table 1. Moroccan Department of Agriculture activities in plant identification and certification.<sup>2</sup>

Year	Activity
1985	Formulation of a draft national seed plan in Burundi (DHS and seed certification)
1989	Consultation in Egypt: study of the seed production and monitoring system in Egypt (DHS and seed certification)
1990	Consultation on DHS and seed monitoring and certification in the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen
1993	Conducting a training course on DHS and quality control and certification of seeds and plants in Cotonou, Benin
1997	Identification and description of potato varieties and production in Egypt
1998	DHS test methods for grains in Egypt
1999	Identification and description of grain varieties in Egypt
2000	DHS test methods for pulses in Egypt
2001	Identification and description of varieties of pulses in Egypt

Table 2. Summary of courses given by the Moroccan Department of Agriculture<sup>1</sup> in plant identification and certification.

Year	Number and origin of candidates	Training
1988 - 89	11 Egyptians 1 Guinean 1 Yemeni	DHS and seed certification
1989 - 90	16 representatives of 15 countries in Africa and the Middle East	In collaboration with ICARDA on DHS and seed production and certification of seeds
1989 - 90	7 Egyptians 7 Libyans 1 Yemeni	DHS and field control Electrophoresis laboratory analysis
1990 - 91	6 Egyptians	DHS and seed certification
1991 - 92	3 Egyptians	DHS and seed certification
1992 - 93	4 Egyptians	DHS
1993 - 94	1 Mauritanian	DHS
1994 - 95	1 Beninese 1 Chadian	Plant identification (DHS)
1995 - 96	1 Beninese 4 Egyptians	DHS and seed certification
1996 - 97	2 Tunisians 2 Egyptians	DHS of plants (fruit trees) DHS and seed certification

<sup>2</sup> Seed and Plant Monitoring Service/Directorate of Plant Protection, Technical Controls and Suppression of Fraud.

1997 – 98	2 Egyptians	DHS test methods
1998 – 99	7 Egyptians	DHS and seed certification
1998 – 99	20 representatives from 7 francophone countries	In collaboration with ICARDA on DHS and seed production and certification

Note: DHS = Differentiation, Homogeneity and Stability

ICARDA = International Center for Agricultural Research for the Dry Areas (Aleppo, Syria)

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