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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

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**TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
INFORMATION FROM MEMBERS**

COMMUNICATION FROM BELIZE

The following communication, received on 25 March 2013, is being circulated at the request of the Delegation of Belize.

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1. The delegation of Belize would like to inform Members on national activities linked to the Application of the Multi-Criteria Decision Analysis Framework.
 2. At the 55th WTO SPS Committee meeting held in October 2012, Belize informed Members of their experience in the Application of the Multi-Criteria Decision Analysis Framework in Belize which resulted in the identification of eight capacity building options, two of which included animal health controls for live cattle exports and animal health and hygiene controls for chicken exports.
 3. In regards to the animal health controls for live cattle exports we would like to thank the Government of Mexico and the European Union for providing both financial and technical assistance for the implementation of surveillance programs for bovine tuberculosis and bovine brucellosis, in addition to assistance with the implementation of the animal identification system. A surveillance program is also in place for Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy. Due to the favourable outcome of the implementation of these activities, which is yet in its early phase, covering at this point only the northern part of Belize, Mexico has allowed for the exportation of two consignments of live cattle from Belize into their country.
 4. We would like to inform Members that one of the key objectives for the implementation these comprehensive surveillance programs is to determine the prevalence of these diseases, thereby having the necessary scientific justification to declare the entire country as free of bovine tuberculosis and bovine brucellosis in accordance with the OIE standards and guidelines. The benefits of having such a status, we believe, will further enhance our capacity to access foreign markets.
 5. In the areas of animal health and hygiene control for chicken exports through a joint partnership between the Belize Poultry Association and the Belize Agricultural Health Authority, we are happy to inform Members that poultry products are also currently exported.
 6. It is our objective to continue applying the Multi-Criteria Decisions Analysis Framework as it has proved to be a very useful tool in Belize.
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