Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures   Original: English

SADC REPORT TO THE WORLD TRADE ORGANISATION SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY COMMITTEE MEETING ON SPS ACTIVITIES

MEETING OF 26-27 MARCH 2015

The following communication, received on 24 March 2015, is being circulated at the request of the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

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1 REGIONAL MANAGEMENT OF SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

1. SADC Secretariat convened regional meetings for the SADC Sanitary and Phytosanitary Coordinating Committee (SPS CC); Food Safety, Livestock and Plant Protection Technical Committees in Pretoria, South Africa on 21–22 January 2015. The objective of the meeting was to discuss implementation of the SPS Annex to the SADC Protocol on Trade in order to enhance food security, regional and international trade while protecting human, plant and animal health/life. The meetings were supported by the European Union (EU) through the Regional Economic Integration Support (REIS) programme.

2. The meetings were attended by member States including regional and international organisations operating in the SPS area. Workplans were developed in the respective thematic areas (food safety, plant and animal health).

2 WORKSHOP ON FOOD SAFETY AWARENESS CREATION

3. SADC Secretariat facilitated a workshop on Food Safety Awareness creation for the private sector in Pretoria, South Africa on 10–12 February 2015. The goal of the workshop was to broaden the understanding of the food safety issues by the private sector so as to enhance their participation in the development and implementation of food safety standards for improved safe regional and international trade in food. Participants included representatives of farmers associations, retailers associations, manufacturers association, consumers associations; and farmers. The workshop was sponsored by the European Union through REIS programme.

4. Participants and workshop facilitators shared their national experiences in the implementation of food safety systems. It was strongly agreed that national food safety regulators should collaborate with the private sector in order to ensure that food safety standards are equally implemented for both domestic and cross international trade.

3 STUDY ON IDENTIFICATION OF PHYTOSANITARY REGULATIONS HINDERING REGIONAL TRADE

5. SADC Secretariat commissioned a regional study in November 2014 to identify phytosanitary measures hindering trade in plants and plant products. The study covered seven member States, namely: Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania and Zimbabwe. The end of assignment report is being compiled by the consultants.

4 WORKSHOP ON HARMONISATION OF PHYTOSANITARY REGULATION

6. SADC Secretariat facilitated a workshop on harmonisation of phytosanitary regulations for horticultural fruits moving in intra-regional trade. The workshop was held in Harare, Zimbabwe on 10–12 February 2015. Participants of the workshop were officials from the National Plant Protection Organisations (NPPOs) responsible for conducting pest risk analysis (PRA) including plant protection experts from research institutions, University and international organisations. The workshop was sponsored by the European Union through REIS programme.

7. Phytosanitary import conditions for 19 horticultural fruits were drafted and circulated for comments from stakeholders in all the member States.

5 REGIONAL MANAGEMENT OF FRUIT FLIES

8. With support from Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) through the regional Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP), member States officials responsible for management of fruit flies are undertaking one month training – ending in March 2015 at the International Centre for Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE) in Kenya.

9. SADC Secretariat would like to thank African Union – Inter-Africa Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) for the support to participate in this meeting.

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