



TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

SUBMISSION BY THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Addendum

The following communication, dated 17 October 2022, is being circulated at the request of the Delegation of the United States of America.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1. In 1999, the World Trade Organization (WTO) Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Committee) initiated a process to gather information on technical assistance that Members have requested, received, or provided in support of the implementation of the SPS Agreement since it came into force on 1 January 1995 (see G/SPS/W/101). In response to this interest, the United States (G/SPS/GEN/181 and addenda) as well as other donors, including inter alia Canada (G/SPS/GEN/1426), the European Union (G/SPS/GEN/1139 and addenda), and Japan (G/SPS/GEN/1160 and addenda), have submitted periodic reporting on technical assistance provided in support of implementation of the SPS Agreement. This submission marks the fifteenth such submission by the United States.

1.2. The compilation of US technical assistance provided to developing countries and newly acceding countries in this report shows the assistance between 1 October 2019 and 30 September 2020. In this report, the United States provides details on technical assistance projects in the fields of food safety, animal health, plant health, and agricultural biotechnology collectively valued at more than USD 90 million. Forms of assistance include regional trade capacity building workshops, hands-on training programs, fellowships and exchanges, and site visits to US research and academic institutions.

1.3. The United States continues to value the provision of technical assistance in support of implementation of the SPS Agreement. This is a timely topic as the Committee undertakes the work program of the Sanitary and Phytosanitary Declaration for the Twelfth WTO Ministerial Conference: Responding to Modern SPS Challenges (WT/MIN(22)/27).

1.4. US technical assistance programs assist developing countries, least developing countries, and newly acceding countries in developing and implementing effective, transparent, and science-based regulatory systems to protect human, animal, and plant health while facilitating trade in agricultural products. These programs seek to foster a clear understanding of key SPS provisions in international and bilateral trade agreements. The United States continues to develop and implement demand-driven assistance within a framework of mutual respect and accountability which, from our experience, provides the strongest framework for delivering enduring results.

1.5. The US Department of Agriculture (USDA) implements many of these technical assistance activities in partnership with other US Government agencies, international organizations, US universities, agri-businesses, and private consultants. This report includes a list of the key US Government agencies involved in the provision of technical assistance to developing countries,

least developing countries, and newly acceding countries, as well as a list of representative activities conducted in the specified reporting period. The lists are not exhaustive.

2 KEY US AGENCIES INVOLVED IN PROVIDING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

2.1. Animal Plant and Health Inspection Service (APHIS) – APHIS is a lead US government agency in international SPS standard setting activities in the areas of animal health and plant health. APHIS international technical and regulatory capacity building activities are conducted on the basis of requests from other countries or from US government agencies involved in international technical assistance. APHIS has staff positioned globally in 46 overseas offices assisting in both import and export issues. APHIS partners with international agricultural organizations, such as the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH), the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation in Agriculture (IICA) to achieve and advance science-based SPS objectives globally.

2.2. Commercial Law Development Program (CLDP) – CLDP is a division of the US Department of Commerce that helps achieve US foreign policy goals in developing and post-conflict countries through commercial legal reforms. Partnering with the federal judiciary, other US government agencies, and international organizations, CLDP designs and implements conferences and workshops, utilizes long and short-term advisors, and trains foreign delegations in the United States and other countries to improve commercial legal frameworks. These frameworks strengthen standards, food safety, and animal and plant health agencies; utilize international best practices to reduce impediments to trade; increase transparency regarding specific SPS concerns; and develop early notification systems for emerging impediments to bilateral and regional trade.

2.3. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) – EPA works closely with the USDA Foreign Agricultural Service and other US agencies to provide scientific and policy expertise for the establishment of standards and requirements regarding sound pesticide and chemical management practices based on science. EPA, considered one of the world's leading authorities on the regulation of pesticides, has worked extensively with other countries both bilaterally and through international fora to promote harmonized maximum residue limits.

2.4. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) – FDA is the agency within the Department of Health and Human Services responsible for protecting the public health by assuring the safety, efficacy, and security of domestically produced and imported foods, as well as human and veterinary drugs, food additives, and supplements. FDA maintains an international presence and works with many other US agencies to provide public health and food safety technical expertise to our trading partners.

2.5. Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) – FSIS is the USDA's public health agency, responsible for ensuring that the nation's commercial supply of meat, poultry, and egg products is safe, wholesome, and correctly labeled and packaged. FSIS has significant expertise in helping foreign governments understand the regulatory system of the United States.

2.6. Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) – FAS has the primary responsibility for coordinating and implementing USDA's international trade policy, promotion, and capacity building activities. FAS provides technical assistance through fellowships and scientific exchange programs, such as the Cochran and Borlaug fellowship programs, as well as through the dispatch of USDA advisors and experts from other US food regulatory agencies to assist foreign policymakers, regulators, scientists, and the private sector to address complex, trade-related issues such as SPS compliance and applications of agricultural biotechnology.

2.7. US Agency for International Development (USAID) – USAID is the lead US government agency delivering development assistance worldwide. USAID provides assistance to support country, regional, and global strategies that facilitate trade and strengthen SPS systems. Technical assistance builds the capacity needed to support policy and systems change, enabling implementation of the WTO SPS Agreement and adherence to regional and international SPS standards.

**ILLUSTRATIVE DESCRIPTION OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, LEAST DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND NEWLY ACCEDING COUNTRIES
BETWEEN 1 OCTOBER 2019 AND 30 SEPTEMBER 2020**

Sector	Activity Description	Form of assistance	Implementing Subagency	Provided to
Animal Health, Plant Health, Food Safety	The Commercial Law Development Program (CLDP) led Regional Expert Level Working Groups on Customs, Standards/Technical Barriers to Trade, Sanitary/Phytosanitary Measures, Intellectual Property Rights, and Women's Economic Empowerment.	Advice, Training	Department of Commerce	Central Asia Region
Animal Health, Plant Health, Food Safety	The CLDP facilitates capacity building workshop on best practices for Moldovan agriculture and trade officials on best practices in transparent and effective implementation of the WTO SPS Agreement.	Advice, Training	Department of Commerce	Moldova
Animal Health, Plant Health, Food Safety	The Food Safety Network program is intended to strengthen impact, leverage resources, and improve coordination of capacity building for food safety, animal health, and plant health.	Advice, Subject Matter Expert, Training	Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS), US Agency for International Development (USAID)	Global
Animal Health, Plant Health, Food Safety	Contributions to the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) support a variety of SPS activities worldwide.	Technical Assistance	Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS), US Agency for International Development (USAID)	Global
Food Safety	Engagement on food safety technical regulations to support bilateral and regional adoption of science-based, trade-facilitating regulations and practices.	Advice and Training	Food and Drug Administration (FDA)	Latin America and Caribbean Region
Food Safety	Program focuses on improving food safety in Pakistan to help expand its trade, including capacity to accept imported US products by strengthening the national food safety systems and ensuring laws and regulations are based on and aligned with internationally recognized food safety principles and standards.	Advice, Subject Matter Expert, Training	Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS)	Pakistan

Sector	Activity Description	Form of assistance	Implementing Subagency	Provided to
Plant Health, Food Safety	Program focuses on increasing Bangladesh's ability to sustainably adopt and implement its obligations under the SPS Agreement. The program strengthens the National Plant Protection Organization's phytosanitary capacity and the government's function to comply with pesticide international trade standards.	Advice, Subject Matter Expert, Training	Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS)	Bangladesh
Animal Health, Plant Health, Food Safety	The Cochran Fellowships Program supports short-term, U.S.-based training opportunities to agricultural professionals from developing and middle-income countries.	Advice, Subject Matter Expert, Training	Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS)	Global
Animal Health, Plant Health, Food Safety	Scientific Cooperation Research Program supports joint research, education, and extension projects between US and international agricultural professionals.	Advice, Subject Matter Expert, Training	Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS)	Global
Animal Health, Plant Health, Food Safety	Part of the Global Food Security Program (GFSP), the Feed the Future (FTF) initiative, the Initiative to End Hunger in Africa (IEHA), and the African Growth Opportunity Act (AGOA). The Sub-Saharan Africa Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) program includes capacity building in plant health, animal health, and food safety systems. The objective is to harmonize SPS regulations with international standards to enhance food security and increase export opportunities for horticultural, animal, and processed food products through scientific and regulatory capacity building.	Advice, Training	Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS)	Sub-Saharan Africa Region
Animal Health, Plant Health, Food Safety	The Faculty Exchange Program supports agricultural educators from institutions of higher learning in developing countries who come to the US for one academic semester to acquire new knowledge and enhance their ability to teach and build curricula at the university level.	Advice, Subject Matter Expert, Training	Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS)	Sub-Saharan Africa Region
Plant Health, Food Safety	Strengthening the cacao value chain in Colombia by strengthening key agricultural institutions in the public and private sectors concerning cacao, in order to improve the net income of cacao producers and associations.	Advice, Training	Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS)	Colombia

Sector	Activity Description	Form of assistance	Implementing Subagency	Provided to
Animal Health, Plant Health, Food Safety	The Borlaug Fellowship Program promotes food security and economic growth by providing training and collaborative research opportunities to fellows from developing and middle-income countries. Borlaug fellows are generally scientists, researchers, or policymakers who are in the early or middle stages of their careers. Each fellow works one-on-one with a mentor at a US university, research center or government agency, usually for 8-12 weeks.	Advice, Subject Matter Expert, Training	Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS)	Global
Animal Health, Plant Health, Food Safety	Engagement with Ukraine on the adoption of science-based, trade-facilitating SPS regulations.	Advice, Subject Matter Expert, Training	Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS)	Ukraine
Animal Health, Plant Health, Food Safety	The Food for Progress Program helps developing countries and emerging democracies modernize and strengthen their agricultural sectors. US agricultural commodities donated to recipient countries are sold on the local market and the proceeds are used to support agricultural, economic or infrastructure development programs. Food for Progress has two principal objectives: to improve agricultural productivity and to expand trade of agricultural products.	Technical Assistance	Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS)	Bangladesh; Dominican Republic; Uganda
Food Safety	Global Maximum Residue Levels (MRL) Capacity Building Program focusing on harmonization of pesticide MRL standards and registration process in Latin America, Africa and Asia	Advice, Training	Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS), US Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA)	Global
Plant Health, Food Safety	Engagement on trade related technical regulations to support bilateral and regional adoption of science-based, trade-facilitating regulations and practices.	Advice, Training	Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS)	Latin America and Caribbean Region
Animal Health, Plant Health, Food Safety	The Scientific Exchanges Program aims to educate a new generation of agricultural scientists and foster collaborative research internationally. The program can also help open markets and decrease or eliminate trade barriers, which ultimately creates new opportunities for US agricultural exports.	Advice, Subject Matter Expert, Training	Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS)	Global
Animal Health, Plant Health, Food Safety	Engagement with Georgia on the adoption of science-based, trade-facilitating SPS regulations.	Advice, Subject Matter Expert, Training	Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS)	Georgia

Sector	Activity Description	Form of assistance	Implementing Subagency	Provided to
Food Safety	The Producers to Market Alliance (PMA) program seeks to improve the capacity of rural producers to respond to the market requirements in selected conflict-affected areas where success is key to advancing Colombia's peace.	Technical Assistance	US Agency for International Development (USAID)	Colombia
Food Safety	The Lebanon Investment in Quality program aims to increase the competitiveness of selected agro-food subsectors.	Technical Assistance	US Agency for International Development (USAID)	Lebanon
Food Safety	Feed the Future Bangladesh Improving Trade & Business Enabling Environment	Advice, Subject Matter Expert, Technical Assistance, Training	US Agency for International Development (USAID)	Bangladesh
Plant Health	Central Africa Regional National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO) and Partners Taskforce and Pre Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) 15	Advice, Subject Matter Expert, Training	Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)	Angola, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Republic of Congo, Rwanda, and Sao Tome and Principe
Plant Health	The Greater Caribbean Region Safeguarding and Trade Support Initiative	Advice, Subject Matter Expert, Training	Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)	Bahamas (the), Trinidad and Tobago
Plant Health	Fruit Fly surveillance: Regional early warning, detection, surveillance and management of emerging pests of concern	Advice, Subject Matter Expert, Training	Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)	Mozambique
Plant Health	Quarantine Pest Surveillance: Regional early warning, detection, surveillance and management of emerging pests of concern	Advice, Subject Matter Expert, Training	Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)	Mauritius, Mozambique
Animal Health	Harmonization Workshop on Avian Influenza (AI) surveillance in wild birds	Advice, Subject Matter Expert, Training	Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)	Mauritania, Senegal
Animal Health	Review of Regulated Garbage at Panama International Airport	Advice, Subject Matter Expert, Training	Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)	Panama
Animal Health	In Service Applied Veterinary Epidemiology Training (ISAVET) Program and Risk Analysis Workshop	Training	Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)	Botswana, South Africa

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Plant Health, Food Safety	Support for biotechnology experts to engage the SPS committee on biotech approval practices through Thematic Session on Approval Procedures	Subject Matter Expert	US Department of State	Paraguay
Food Safety	Presented to government officials on regulatory oversight and verification sampling program for Salmonella in raw and ready to eat poultry products	Subject Matter Expert, Technical Assistance, Training	Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS)	Morocco
Food Safety	Shared information with industry on export certification and ports of entry procedures	Subject Matter Expert, Technical Assistance, Training	Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS)	Mexico
Food Safety	Meeting with government officials from a few Caribbean countries (St. Lucia, Grenada, and St. Vincent) to share information on regulatory oversight/food safety system	Subject Matter Expert, Technical Assistance, Training	Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS)	Caribbean
Food Safety	Presentation to government officials on its regulatory oversight and role in the interagency process	Subject Matter Expert, Training	Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS)	Kenya
Animal Health, Food Safety	Middle East seminar on poultry health, avian influenza, and food safety	Subject Matter Expert, Technical Assistance, Training	Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS)	Middle East and North Africa
Food Safety	Presentation to government officials on the equivalence process	Subject Matter Expert, Technical Assistance, Training	Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS)	Central America
Food Safety	Equivalence information session	Subject Matter Expert, Technical Assistance, Training	Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS)	Global
Food Safety	Technical assistance to government officials related to equivalence	Subject Matter Expert, Technical Assistance, Training	Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS)	Dominican Republic
Food Safety	Technical assistance and training to foreign governments on equivalence requirements pertaining to chemical residue monitoring programs	Subject Matter Expert, Technical Assistance, Training	Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS)	Global
Food Safety	Technical assistance to government officials on equivalence	Subject Matter Expert, Technical Assistance, Training	Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS)	Honduras
Food Safety	As part of the Philippine Risk Profiling Project for conducting food safety risk assessments, provided presentations to University of the Philippines on conducting risk assessments for food safety benchmarks	Subject Matter Expert, Technical Assistance, Training	Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS)	Philippines

Sector	Activity Description	Form of assistance	Implementing Subagency	Provided to
Food Safety	Technical assistance to government officials on the equivalence request	Subject Matter Expert, Technical Assistance, Training	Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS)	Paraguay
Food Safety	Technical assistance to government officials on equivalence	Subject Matter Expert, Technical Assistance, Training	Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS)	Mexico
Food Safety	Technical assistance to government officials regarding the equivalence process	Subject Matter Expert, Technical Assistance, Training	Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS)	Costa Rica
Food Safety	Provided multiple presentations to industry groups on regulatory oversight and export procedures	Subject Matter Expert, Technical Assistance, Training	Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS)	Western Hemisphere
Food Safety	Regulatory Approaches for Agricultural Applications of Animal Biotechnology seminar	Subject Matter Expert, Technical Assistance, Training	Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS), Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS)	Global
