



Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

**SPS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES
1 SEPTEMBER 1994 TO 31 DECEMBER 2022**

NOTE BY THE SECRETARIAT¹

Revision

1. This document provides an update of all the SPS technical assistance (TA) and training activities undertaken by the Secretariat from 1 September 1994 to 31 December 2022. Detailed information is provided in the annexed table on the TA activities undertaken by the Secretariat for the last three years (2020-2022).²

2. The main objective of SPS technical assistance and training activities undertaken by the WTO Secretariat is to increase participants' awareness about Members' rights and obligations under the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement) and its implications for national policymaking. The SPS technical assistance activities also provide an opportunity to inform participants on the discussions held and latest documents considered by the SPS Committee. In addition, participants are informed about upcoming SPS workshops and technical assistance initiatives available to their countries on SPS matters.

3. The programme is adapted to take into account the specific needs identified by the countries, the participants' knowledge of the SPS Agreement, the level of development of the countries, and any specific concerns relating to the implementation of the SPS Agreement, in order to adequately respond to individual requests. SPS technical assistance and training activities typically include presentations on the basic provisions of the SPS Agreement, the transparency provisions, specific trade concerns raised at the SPS Committee, the WTO dispute settlement and SPS-related cases, and specific issues such as risk analysis, regionalization or equivalence.

4. Due to the easing of restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Secretariat organized (and participated in) SPS-related training delivered virtually, in person or in hybrid format for the identified period.

5. Altogether, 453 SPS training activities have been undertaken by the WTO Secretariat from 1 September 1994 to 31 December 2022. In 2022, 16 SPS training activities were undertaken: seven national seminars, and nine other activities (including two new specialized courses on Transparency and the SPS Committee respectively, and one Thematic Workshop on Transparency held back-to-back with the June SPS Committee meeting).

6. The annexed table identifies, for the period 2020-2022, the type of technical assistance activity, the region and venue where it took place, its dates, participating countries, language used, and whether representatives from the FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission (Codex), the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH), and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) Secretariat participated in the activity.

7. A national seminar refers to a WTO-organized activity undertaken at the national level only. A regional workshop refers to an activity organized by the WTO in which a region or sub-region was invited to participate. The "other" category refers to all other SPS TA and training activities that do

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

² Detailed information on TA activities from previous years is available from the Secretariat upon request.

not fall under either of the first two categories. This includes other types of SPS-specific activities organized by the WTO Secretariat as well as activities organized by Members or other bodies in which the WTO Secretariat participated. Training sessions on the SPS Agreement also take place within other general WTO training courses, such as Trade Policy Courses, Regional Trade Policy Courses, Geneva Weeks, Introduction Courses and Agriculture Courses for least-developed countries; which are not included in the list of SPS TA activities in this document.

8. The information provided in the Annex below is organized on an annual basis in chronological order.

9. SPS TA activities are organized in close collaboration with Members, the three international standard-setting bodies referenced in the SPS Agreement (Codex, IPPC and WOH), as well as with regional organizations, when appropriate. Since 1994, the Codex has participated in 122 activities, while the IPPC secretariat participated in 107 activities and the WOH in 121 activities.

10. To meet the demands for more advanced SPS TA and training activities, a three-week Advanced Course on the SPS Agreement³ has normally been offered each year as an in-person activity from 2005 to 2019.⁴ However, this course has not been held since 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2021, in response to COVID-related restrictions on face-to-face activities, the Secretariat organized and held the first edition of its "SPS In-depth Virtual Course". In 2022, the Secretariat continued its efforts to revamp its training activities and develop new materials, taking account of the easing of restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic. In this regard, two new specialized courses targeted at English- and French-speaking African countries were developed; the "SPS Transparency Champions Course" which was held in English, and the Course on "Essentials for SPS Committee Participation" which was held in French. The first week of the "SPS Transparency Champions Course" was held in person in Geneva, and this was followed by virtual sessions via Zoom. The Course on "Essentials for SPS Committee Participation" was held virtually via Zoom. Participants in both of these courses were invited to virtually attend the November 2022 SPS Committee meetings.

11. In addition to the above-mentioned SPS TA and training activities, the WTO offers an e-Learning course on the SPS Agreement. The course is offered each year in all three WTO languages: English, French and Spanish.⁵

12. Since 2010, Members have been informed at the beginning of each year of all planned SPS-related technical assistance activities, and interested officials are invited to submit applications for specific events. In 2022, this was done via document [G/SPS/GEN/997/Rev.12](#) of 2 March 2022. Approximately 150 applications were received for 2022 SPS Technical Assistance activities. All applicants were requested to provide information that indicated how their professional responsibilities were related to the SPS Agreement and asked specific questions related to their courses of interest. The endorsement of Members' permanent representations to the WTO was sought before the final selection of participants. For each course, the Secretariat endeavoured to ensure that the selected participants fulfilled the prerequisites outlined in document [G/SPS/GEN/997/Rev.12](#). The final selection included participants from 24 WTO Members and Observers in Africa, including 11 least-developed countries.

13. The Secretariat considers that this more "demand-driven" approach, based on applications from interested officials, together with the pre-requisite of (and in some cases a recommendation for) completion of the SPS e-Learning course, has resulted in a more homogeneous and higher level of background knowledge by participants, and permitted the delivery of more advanced and effective

³ This Advanced SPS Course provides in-depth and "hands-on" SPS training. During the course, participants must elaborate an action plan to address identified SPS needs in their countries. The implementation of the action plans is monitored after the course, and participants are invited to return to Geneva about eight months after the end of the course to present the achievements reached through their action plans.

⁴ See [Chart 7](#) for a breakdown of participants who have attended the Advanced SPS Course by region.

⁵ In addition to the existing e-Learning Course on the SPS Agreement (available in French and in Spanish), the WTO e-Learning platform offers a set of four new interactive courses on the SPS Agreement in English entitled: SPS Course Series 1 - Overview of the SPS Agreement and Committee; SPS Course Series 2 - The SPS Agreement and Science; SPS Course Series 3 - Trade Facilitating Operational Provisions of the SPS Agreement; SPS Course Series 4 - Implementation, Administration and Enforcement. Please see document [G/SPS/GEN/997/Rev.13](#).

training activities since 2010. The Secretariat will again organize its 2023 training activities in this manner, as indicated in document [G/SPS/GEN/997/Rev.13](#).

14. Chart 1 below lists the breakdown of the type of activities undertaken in 2022 and Chart 2 shows the number of activities per year.

Chart 1 - SPS TA and Training Activities in 2022⁶

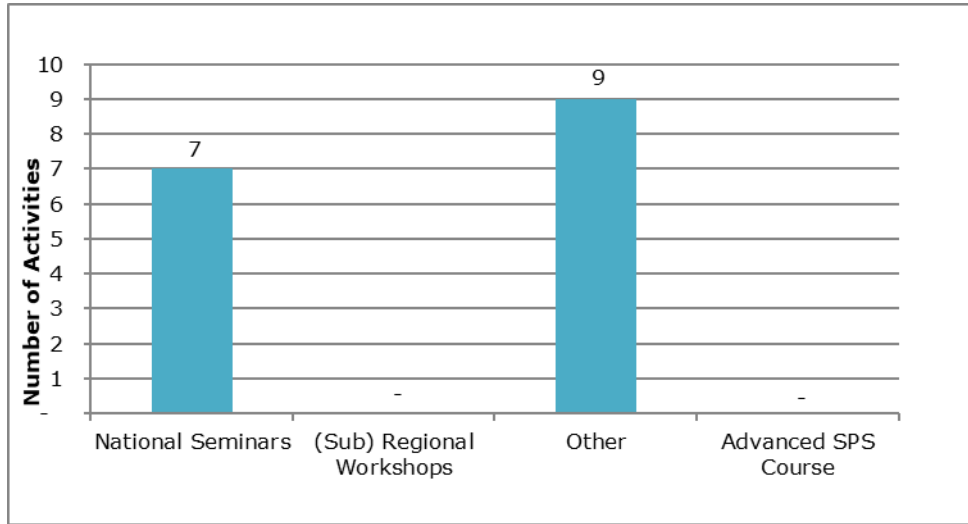
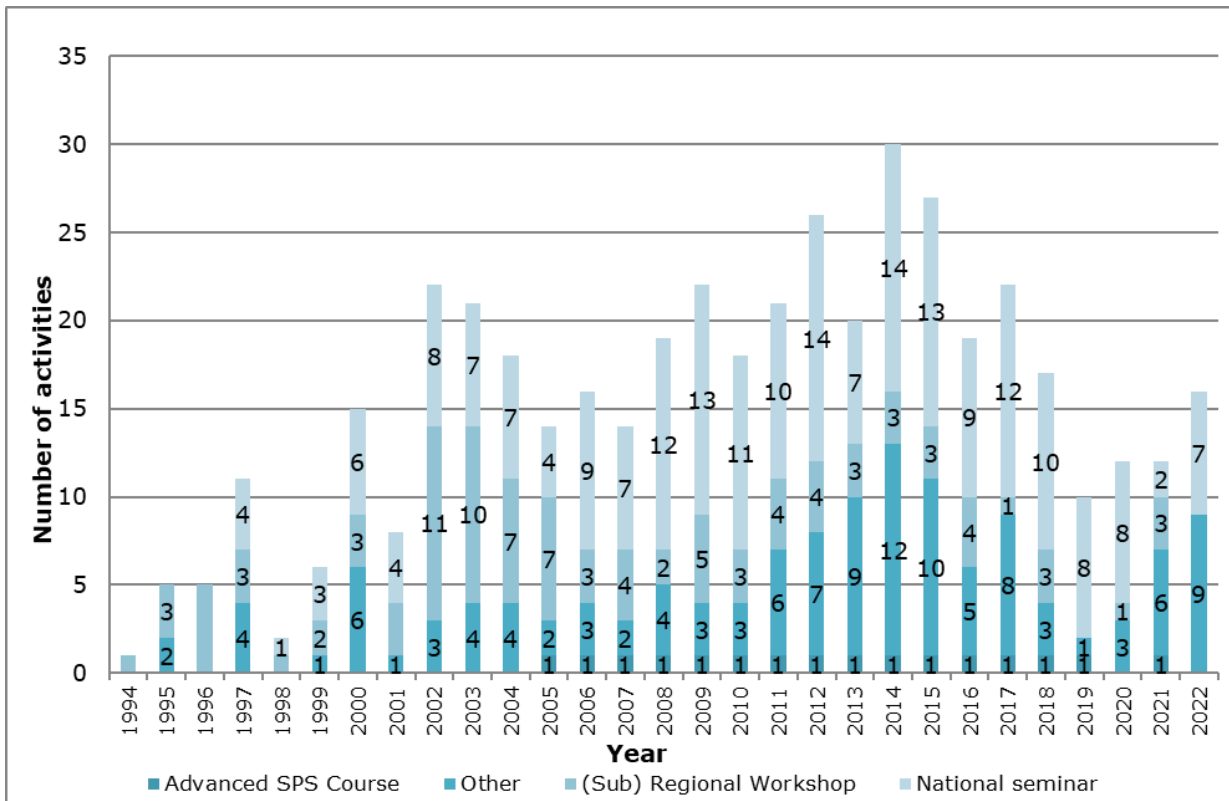


Chart 2 - SPS TA and Training Activities per year from 1994 to 2022⁷

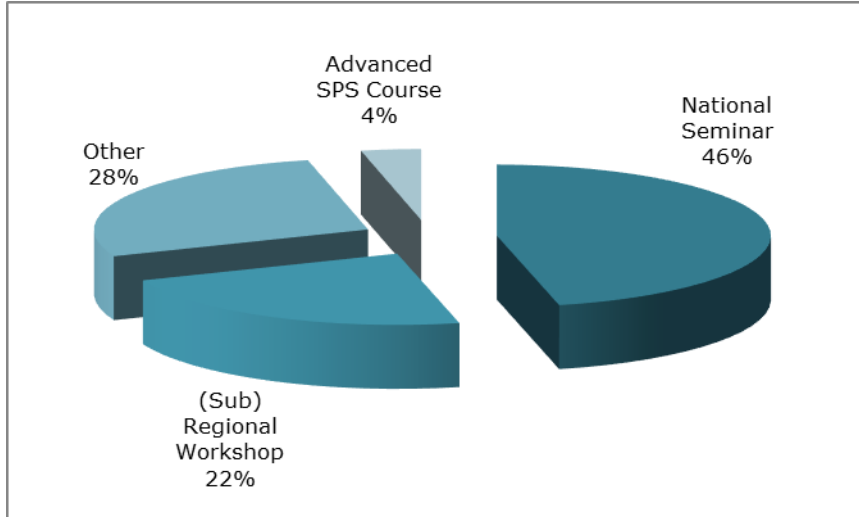


⁶ For the 2021 data, the "SPS In-depth Virtual Course" has been included in the category of Advanced SPS Course. For the 2022 data, the "SPS Transparency Champions Course" and the Course on "Essentials for SPS Committee Participation" have been included in the "Other" category.

⁷ See previous footnote.

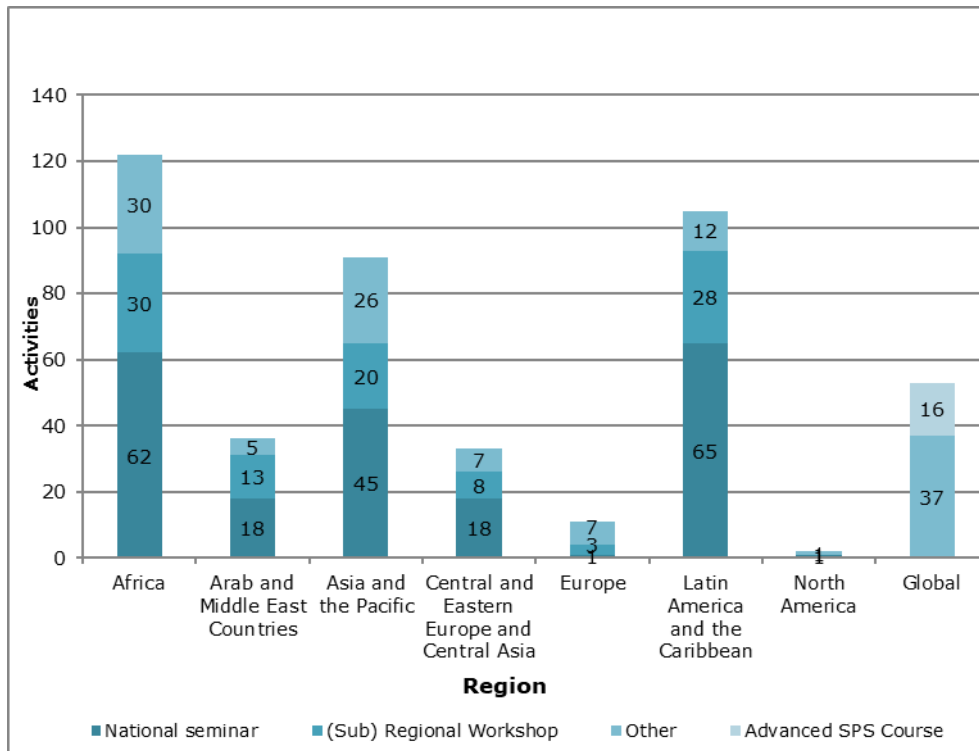
15. Chart 3 presents a breakdown of the type of activities undertaken since 1994: 210 national seminars, 102 regional or sub-regional workshops, 125 other activities and 16 Advanced Courses on the SPS Agreement.⁸

Chart 3 - Type of SPS TA and Training Activities from 1994 to 2022

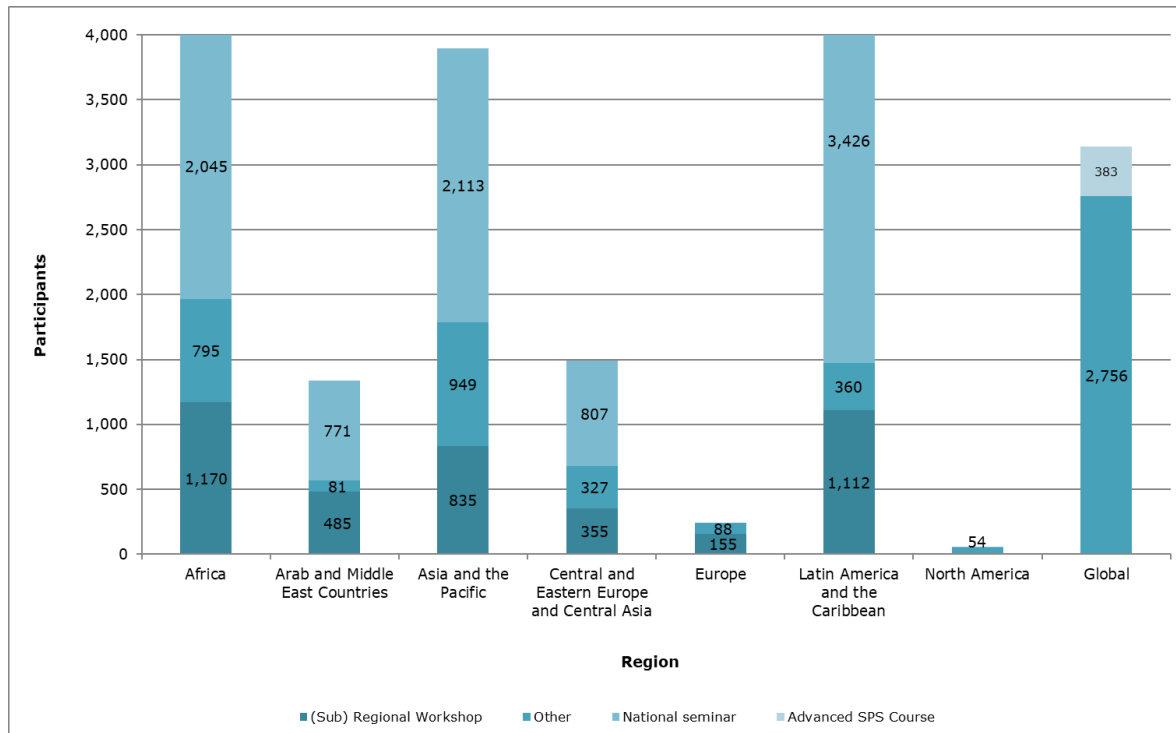


16. Chart 4 shows the number and type of TA activities per region, while Chart 5 presents the total number of participants who have attended SPS TA and training activities per region and per type of activity. Overall, an estimated total of 19,067 people have received training from the WTO Secretariat on the SPS Agreement since 1994.

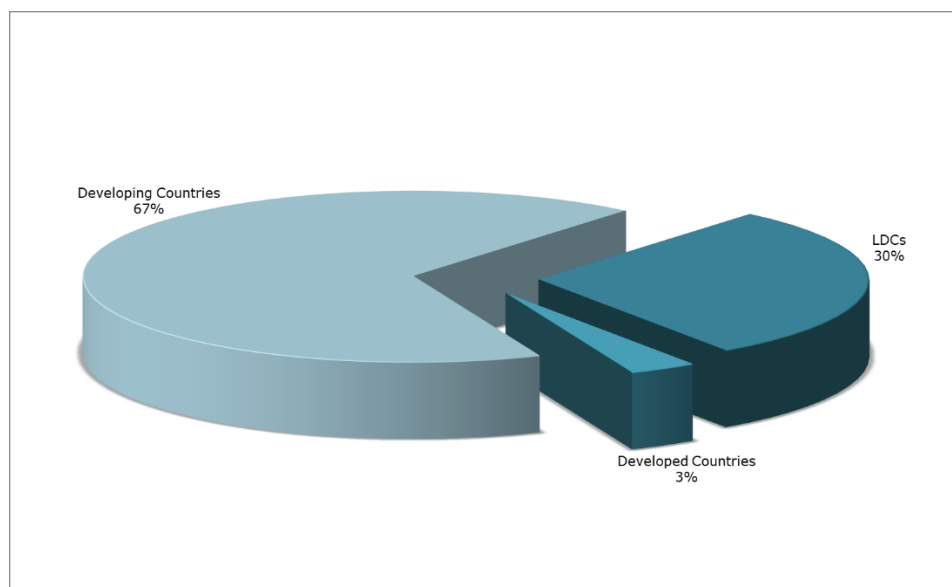
Chart 4 - SPS TA and Training Activities per Region from 1994 to 2022



⁸ The 2021 SPS In-depth Virtual Course has been included in the category of "Advanced SPS Course" in [Chart 3](#).

Chart 5 - Participants per Region from 1994 to 2022

17. As shown in Chart 6, 30% of the beneficiaries of all SPS TA and training activities undertaken by the Secretariat have been from least-developed countries (LDCs), 67% from developing countries, and 3% from developed countries.

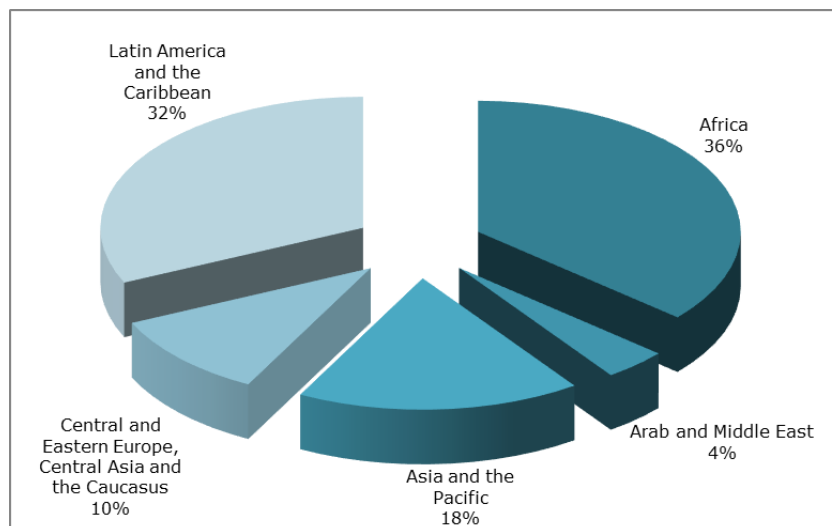
Chart 6 - Breakdown of country participation from 1994 to 2022

18. Chart 7 presents a breakdown by region of participants who have attended the Advanced SPS Course.⁹ Over the period 2005 to 2022, 383 officials have participated from the following regions: 36% from Africa; 32% from Latin America and the Caribbean; 18% from Asia and the

⁹ The 2021 SPS In-depth Virtual Course has been included in the category of "Advanced SPS Course" in [Chart 7](#).

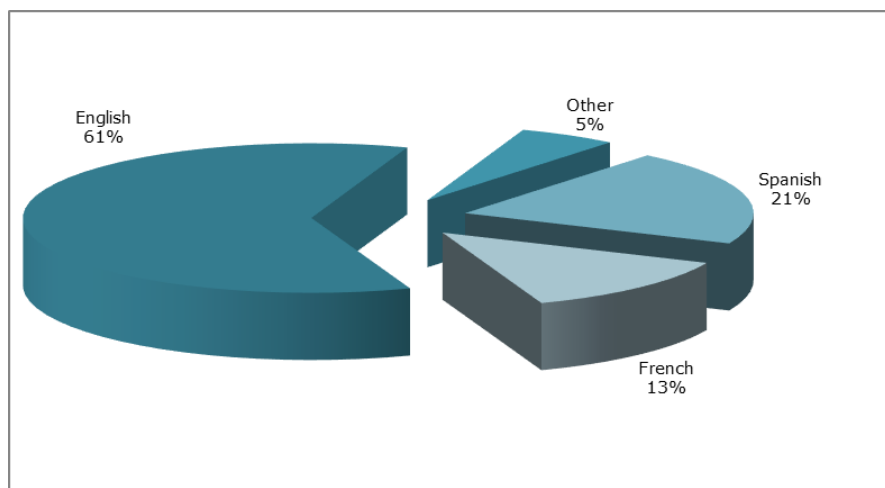
Pacific; 10% from Central and Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the Caucasus; and 4% from Arab and Middle East countries.¹⁰

Chart 7 – Breakdown of participants in the Advanced SPS Course by region from 2005 to 2022



19. Chart 8 presents the language breakdown of all SPS TA and training activities that have been undertaken. Overall, 61% of activities have been conducted in English, 21% in Spanish, and 13% in French. The remaining 5% have been undertaken in other languages, including Arabic, Portuguese, Turkish and Russian.¹¹

Chart 8 - Language breakdown of SPS TA and Training activities from 1994 to 2022



¹⁰ There has been no change in the 2021 data as the Advanced SPS Course was not held in 2022.

¹¹ For all the SPS TA and training activities undertaken in other languages, at least one of the official WTO languages was also used (with the exception of activities conducted in Portuguese).

ANNEX
SPS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES

(1 JANUARY 2020 TO 31 DECEMBER 2022)

Year	Region	SPS TA Activity	Host	Location	From	To	Participants ¹²			Participants	Participation of representatives from the standard-setting organizations			Language
							LDCs	Developing	Developed		Codex	WOAH	IPPC	
2022	Asia and the Pacific	National Seminar	Virtual delivery (via video conference)	Virtual delivery (via video conference)	23/02/2022	24/02/2022		Thailand		110	No	No	No	English
2022	Africa	Other	Virtual delivery (via video conference)	Virtual delivery (via video conference)	29/03/2022	29/03/2022	Lesotho	Botswana, Eswatini, Namibia, South Africa		60	No	No	No	English
2022	Asia and the Pacific	Other	Virtual delivery (via video conference)	Virtual delivery (via video conference)	31/03/2022	01/04/2022		Pakistan		76	No	No	Yes	English
2022	Africa	National Seminar	Kenya	Nairobi	10/05/2022	12/05/2022		Kenya		44	No	No	No	English
2022	Africa	Other	Virtual delivery (via video conference)	Virtual delivery (via video conference)	17/05/2022	17/05/2022		Equatorial Guinea		8	No	No	No	Spanish
2022	Global ¹³	Other	Hybrid (Switzerland and virtual delivery via video conference)	Hybrid (Geneva and virtual delivery via video conference)	20/06/2022	20/06/2022	Global	Global	Global	250	No	No	No	English, French, Spanish
2022	Latin America and the Caribbean	National Seminar	Virtual delivery (via video conference)	Virtual delivery (via video conference)	04/07/2022	05/07/2022		Mexico		118	No	No	No	Spanish
2022	Africa	Other	Hybrid (Uganda and virtual delivery via video conference)	Hybrid (Kampala and virtual delivery via video conference)	29/08/2022	31/08/2022	Uganda			30	No	Yes	No	English

¹² As of 2022, the categories of level of development rely on WTO working definitions as identified in the WTO Reference Database for analytical purposes (ldb@wto.org). They can be consulted through the [ePing SPS&TBT Platform](#) by clicking on "Facts & figures," "Definitions of groups" in the top menu bar.

¹³ Participants were from least-developed, developing and developed Members or Observers worldwide.

Year	Region	SPS TA Activity	Host	Location	From	To	Participants ¹²			Participants	Participation of representatives from the standard-setting organizations			Language
							LDCs	Developing	Developed		Codex	WOAH	IPPC	
2022	Asia and the Pacific	Other	Virtual delivery (via video conference)	Virtual delivery (via video conference)	13/09/2022	13/09/2022		Viet Nam		7	No	No	No	English
2022	Asia and the Pacific	National Seminar	Mongolia	Ulaanbaatar	19/09/2022	21/09/2022		Mongolia		17	No	No	No	English
2022	Africa	Other	Switzerland	Geneva	03/10/2022	07/10/2022	The Gambia, Lesotho, Liberia, Mozambique, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda	Botswana, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Zimbabwe		18	Yes	Yes	Yes	English
2022	Asia and the Pacific	Other	Virtual delivery (via video conference)	Virtual delivery (via video conference)	13/10/2022	14/10/2022		Chile; Hong Kong, China; Korea, Republic of; Malaysia; Mexico; Peru; Singapore; Chinese Taipei; Thailand; Viet Nam	Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, Russian Federation, United States	144	No	No	No	English
2022	Africa	Other	Virtual delivery (via video conference)	Virtual delivery (via video conference)	15/11/2022	24/11/2022	Benin, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mali, Togo	Cameroon, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Gabon, Morocco, Tunisia	Peru	11	No	No	No	French
2022	Latin America and the Caribbean	National Seminar	Peru	Lima	22/11/2022	24/11/2022				24	No	No	No	Spanish
2022	Africa	National Seminar	Tanzania	Dodoma	29/11/2022	01/12/2022	Tanzania			37	No	No	No	English
2022	Africa	National Seminar	Togo	Lomé	29/11/2022	01/12/2022	Togo			32	No	No	No	French
2021	Latin America and the Caribbean	(Sub) Regional Workshop	Virtual delivery (via video conference)	Virtual delivery (via video conference)	22/01/2021	22/01/2021		Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama		25	No	No	No	Spanish
2021	Africa	National Seminar	Virtual delivery (via video conference)	Virtual delivery (via video conference)	24/03/2021	24/03/2021	Djibouti			37	No	No	No	French
2021	Africa	Other	Virtual delivery (via video conference)	Virtual delivery (via video conference)	22/04/2021	22/04/2021	Lesotho			15	No	No	No	English

Year	Region	SPS TA Activity	Host	Location	From	To	Participants ¹²			Participants	Participation of representatives from the standard-setting organizations			Language
							LDCs	Developing	Developed		Codex	WOAH	IPPC	
2021	Asia and the Pacific	(Sub) Regional Workshop	Virtual delivery (via video conference)	Virtual delivery (via video conference)	17/05/2021	21/05/2021	Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar, Nepal, Timor-Leste	China; India; Indonesia; Hong Kong, China; Korea, Republic of; Malaysia; Maldives; Philippines; Singapore; Sri Lanka; Thailand		75	No	No	No	English
2021	Africa	Other	Virtual delivery (via video conference)	Virtual delivery (via video conference)	27/05/2021	27/05/2021	Madagascar			12	No	No	No	French
2021	Latin America and the Caribbean	Other	Virtual delivery (via video conference)	Virtual delivery (via video conference)	23/06/2021	23/06/2021		Paraguay		¹⁴	No	No	No	Spanish
2021	Global ¹⁵	Other	Virtual delivery (via video conference)	Virtual delivery (via video conference)	12/07/2021	13/07/2021	Global	Global	Global	1294	Yes	Yes	Yes	English, French, Spanish
2021	Latin America and the Caribbean	Other	Virtual delivery (via video conference)	Virtual delivery (via video conference)	30/08/2021	30/08/2021		Peru		¹⁶	No	No	No	Spanish
2021	Global	SPS In-Depth Virtual Course	Virtual delivery (via video conference)	Virtual delivery (via video conference)	20/09/2021	08/10/2021	Bangladesh, The Gambia, Mali, Nepal, Uganda, Zambia	Belarus, Botswana, Brazil, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, El Salvador, Honduras, Iran, Israel, Nigeria, Paraguay, Saint Lucia, Chinese Taipei, Thailand, Uruguay, Zimbabwe	Ecuador	23	Yes	Yes	Yes	English
2021	Latin America and the Caribbean	National Seminar	Virtual delivery (via video conference)	Virtual delivery (via video conference)	07/10/2021	07/10/2021				42	No	No	No	Spanish

¹⁴ The participants' list was not available for this virtual activity.

¹⁵ Participants were from least-developed, developing and developed Members or Observers worldwide.

¹⁶ The participants' list was not available for this virtual activity.

Year	Region	SPS TA Activity	Host	Location	From	To	Participants ¹²			Participants	Participation of representatives from the standard-setting organizations			Language
							LDCs	Developing	Developed		Codex	WOAH	IPPC	
2021	Africa	Other	Virtual delivery (via video conference)	Virtual delivery (via video conference)	11/10/2021	11/10/2021	Ethiopia			33	No	No	No	English
2021	Arab and Middle East Countries	(Sub) Regional Workshop	Virtual delivery (via video conference)	Virtual delivery (via video conference)	22/11/2021	25/11/2021	Comoros, Sudan, Yemen	Bahrain, Kingdom of; Egypt; Iraq; Jordan; Kuwait, the State of; Lebanese Republic; Morocco; Qatar; Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of; Tunisia		30	No	No	No	English
2020	Africa	Other	Virtual delivery (via video-conference)	Virtual delivery (via video-conference)	15/05/2020	15/05/2020	Burundi	Tunisia		2	No	No	No	French
2020	Latin America and the Caribbean	Other	Virtual delivery (via video-conference)	Virtual delivery (via video-conference)	19/05/2020	19/05/2020		Colombia, Ecuador, Nicaragua		7	No	No	No	Spanish
2020	Latin America and the Caribbean	National Seminar	Virtual delivery (via video-conference)	Virtual delivery (via video-conference)	03/06/2020	03/06/2020		Paraguay		10	No	No	No	Spanish
2020	North America	National Seminar	Virtual delivery (via video-conference)	Virtual delivery (via video-conference)	05/06/2020	05/06/2020			United States of America	4	No	No	No	English
2020	Global	Other	Virtual delivery (via video-conference)	Virtual delivery (via video-conference)	08/07/2020	14/07/2020		Chile, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, Philippines, Russian Federation, Thailand, Viet Nam	Australia, New Zealand	97	No	No	No	English
2020	Latin America and the Caribbean	National Seminar	Virtual delivery (via video-conference)	Virtual delivery (via video-conference)	27/07/2020	31/07/2020		Mexico		218	No	No	No	Spanish
2020	Latin America and the Caribbean	National Seminar	Virtual delivery (via video-conference)	Virtual delivery (via video-conference)	08/09/2020	08/09/2020		Dominican Republic		115	No	No	No	Spanish

Year	Region	SPS TA Activity	Host	Location	From	To	Participants ¹²			Participants	Participation of representatives from the standard-setting organizations			Language
							LDCs	Developing	Developed		Codex	WOAH	IPPC	
2020	Latin America and the Caribbean	National Seminar	Virtual delivery (via video-conference)	Virtual delivery (via video-conference)	18/09/2020	18/09/2020		Guatemala		5	No	No	No	Spanish
2020	Latin America and the Caribbean	National Seminar	Virtual delivery (via video-conference)	Virtual delivery (via video-conference)	06/10/2020	06/10/2020		El Salvador		2	No	No	No	Spanish
2020	Latin America and the Caribbean	National Seminar	Virtual delivery (via video-conference)	Virtual delivery (via video-conference)	10/11/2020	03/12/2020		Brazil		183	No	No	No	English
2020	Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia	National seminar	Virtual delivery (via video-conference)	Virtual delivery (via video-conference)	30/11/2020	04/12/2020		Belarus		38	No	No	No	English
2020	Latin America and the Caribbean	(Sub) Regional Workshop	Virtual delivery (via video-conference)	Virtual delivery (via video-conference)	30/11/2020	04/12/2020		Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay		57	No	No	No	Spanish