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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

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INFORMATION ON SPS ACTIVITIES OF THE AFRICAN UNION

The following communication, received on 29 June 2017, is being circulated at the request of the African Union.

1 INTERAFRICAN BUREAU FOR ANIMAL RESOURCES (AU-IBAR) SPS-RELATED ACTIVITIES

1.1 INTRODUCTION

1.1. The Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources is a technical office of the African Union Commission with the mandate of providing leadership in the development of animal resources for Africa through supporting and empowering AU member States and Regional Economic Communities. The SPS-related activities undertaken by AU-IBAR include supporting member States to harmonize SPS regulatory frameworks, supporting the participation of member States to participate effectively in the WTO SPS Committee, in the standard setting processes of OIE and CAC and promoting compliance with international standards through targeted capacity development programs.

1.2 ANIMAL HEALTH

1.2. The 9th PanAfrican Chief Veterinary Officers meeting and three meetings of African animal health experts to analyze and comment on OIE proposed changes to the Terrestrial and Aquatic Animal Health Codes were held between December 2016 and June 2017.

1.3. Outcome: Animal health issues of common interest to African countries were identified, coordinated positions proposed and articulated during the OIE Code Commission in and 85th OIE General Session in 2017.

1.3 FOOD SAFETY

1.3.1 Expert meetings

1.4. The 8th Panafrican National Codex Contact Point Officers meeting was held in June 2017 to develop common positions on draft standards to be adopted by the 40th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission. African food safety experts consultation on nutrition and foods for special dietary uses, Food Additives, Contaminants in Foods and Pesticide Residues were organized to examine agenda items for the respective session of the Codex committees between November 2016 and March 2017.

1.5. Outcome: The meeting of food safety experts provided scientific advice to African Union member States during their preparation of national positions for the Codex committees. This is an effort of African Union to improve the effective participation of AU member States in the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and was implemented in collaboration with the Coordinator for CCAfrica.

1.6. AU-IBAR jointly organized a colloquium with the US Codex Office between Africa and US Delegates to share experiences and information on issues pertaining to the Codex Committee on Food Additives, Pesticide Residues and Contaminants in Foods.

1.3.2 African Pesticide Residue Data Generation Project

1.7. The project has been running from 2013 and will end in 2017. It is sponsored by the STDF and co-implemented by AU-IBAR and USDA. The objective for this project is to strengthen regional capacity in pesticide residues data generation and monitoring for establishing, implementing, and complying with Codex Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) for pesticides. The project is intended to enhance the capacity of African countries to meet pesticide-related export requirements based on Codex standards. It provides practical experiences for African countries in conducting standard practices in residue field trials and risk analysis based on internationally accepted procedures.

1.8. Residue field trial have been conducted in all five participating countries namely Senegal, Ghana, Tanzania, Uganda, and Kenya. The field trial was conducted for sulfoxaflur (a reduced risk insecticide) to be applied on mango crops. Several laboratory technicians have also been trained in Laboratory Quality Assurance and GLP pesticide residues analysis. Results from laboratory analysis of the field trial samples will be sent to the Joint FAO/WHO Meeting on Pesticide Residues for the development of Codex Maximum Residue Levels. The objective for this training is to enhance expertise in generating, reviewing, and interpreting field trial data.

1.4 ACTIVITIES RELATED TO SPS COMMITTEE

1.4.1 Workshop for members of the Pan African Parliament (PAP) on improving the understanding of the sanitary and phytosanitary issues

1.9. AU-IBAR organized two workshops to improve the understanding of members of the Pan African Parliament (PAP) on Sanitary and Phytosanitary issues for French-speaking PAP members in Côte d'Ivoire and for English-speaking PAP members in November 2016. Forty PAP members attended the workshop. The workshops are part of AU-IBAR's advocacy strategy on facilitating domestication of SPS requirements into national legislations and their implementation.

2 AU-IBAR DISCUSSION FORUM ON SPS MATTERS IN PREPARATION FOR THE 68TH AND 69TH SESSIONS OF THE SPS COMMITTEE IN MARCH 2017

2.1. AU-IBAR organized discussion forum for African delegates to the SPS Committee in order to discuss and prioritize SPS issues of interest to the African region. Priority matters for the 68th and 69th session of the SPS Committee were agreed on.

2.2. AU-IBAR organized a 4-day training workshop on SPS and Codex in June 2017 for members of the Liberia SPS Committee and National Codex Committee on SPS and Codex issues.
