

QUESTIONNAIRE ON TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Submission by Antigua and Barbuda

Addendum

1. Antigua and Barbuda hereby submits its technical assistance requirements based on the questionnaire developed by the WTO Secretariat as a result of discussions at the 9 July 2001 informal meeting of the SPS Committee on technical assistance. At this meeting the Secretariat was requested to circulate a new questionnaire on technical assistance activities that focused on ascertaining developing countries' technical assistance requirements. This request for technical assistance also complies with Article 9 of the Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures.
2. Antigua and Barbuda reserves the right to make further amendments and additions to this request.

Technical assistance <u>requirements</u> :					
	Information	Training	Infrastructure: (Hard and/or Soft)	Specific concern	Other
Rights, obligations and practical operation of the SPS Agreement:		Training of relevant staff of the Ministry of Agriculture and of the Bureau of Standards on the Agreement on SPS Measures	Computer facility for database and information management as it relates to SPS. This will also assist in notification requirements under Annex B of the Agreement Need information systems for Enquiry Point	Need for greater policy space for development under the SPS Agreement	Participation is key. The IICA/USAID program of assistance is a good model to follow. Either this should continue or a similar program developed.
Food Safety	-Development of an information system (data base) for food safety ,animal health and plant health -Development of a strategic plan of action for food safety, animal and plant health	-Training in Risk Analysis in country -Training on pesticide residue analysis -Attachment training in Risk Analysis Methodologies -An overview of the US food safety programmes in risk analysis, equivalence, and traceability -A training course in growing and marketing of organic and natural foods -Training in food safety statistics for policy making	-Food analysis lab -Computers for statistical management of food safety issues -Inspection and data gathering facilities and equipment (including GIS equipment) needed at the ports -Software for conducting risk assessment, and epidemiological investigation of pest and diseases relative to animal, plant and human health.	-There are no testing of foods, drugs/pesticide residues in Antigua and Barbuda due to lack of lab facilities -Personnel lack practical aspects in risk analysis -Food samples are not routinely collected-poor surveillance system -Lack of capacity to carry out inspection of certain aspects of food safety -Lack of statistics dealing with food safety issues locally -Appropriate software for analysis of food and food safety data lacking	

Technical assistance <u>requirements</u> :					
	Information	Training	Infrastructure: (Hard and/or Soft)	Specific concern	Other
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Training in meats and poultry inspection -Establishment of a National Programme of a modern Meat and Poultry inspection programme. -Field testing equipment for food safety, plant and animal health E.g. thermometers etc -Training in epidemiology relative to food safety and animal Health. -Development of a Inspection and Training Manual for plant and animal health inspectors at the ports of entry -Field testing kits for microbiological analysis of food and water Development of regulations in plant and animal health and food safety 			

Technical assistance <u>requirements</u> :					
	Information	Training	Infrastructure: (Hard and/or Soft)	Specific concern	Other
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Training/Attachment in the implementation of SPS measures -Fellowship Program of the USDA: training in agriculture, health and environmental for public and private sectors. Persons to be trained would include specialist, Central Marketing Corporation Administrators with topics to include inter alia effective agriculture management and marketing strategies and technology transfer. -Assess Food Safety Standard -Food safety evaluation (USFDA) -Conformity assessment programmes -Training workshop on HACCP: plan development, implementation, and maintenance, SSOP programs, E. coli and Salmonella testing and performance standards 			

Technical assistance <u>requirements</u> :					
	Information	Training	Infrastructure: (Hard and/or Soft)	Specific concern	Other
		-Train-the trainer focus on food microbiology analytical laboratory procedures, including data analysis and reporting to support regulatory actions; procedures for selected pathogens; quality assurance and standardized methods for designated food borne pathogens; lab safety precautions; and environmental controls.			
Animal Health		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Microbiological aspects of animal health -Training course or attachment on animal feed substitutes during drought-dry season feeding -Epidemiological surveillance program for Animal Health diseases. -Training in statistical maintenance of animal health issues -Technical assistance to develop standards for meat products. - Code of practice for operation of abattoirs 	Construct an animal quarantine station and incineration facilities	Ambyloma sp. tick problem in ruminants	

Technical assistance <u>requirements</u> :					
	Information	Training	Infrastructure: (Hard and/or Soft)	Specific concern	Other
Plant Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Tech Packs in crop production (using integrated pest management) for cotton, vegetables and tropical fruits -GIS & other software for acquiring & processing surveillance & other data -Appropriate reference software, books (with colour photos) & other information for use in pest identification & management in the lab & on the field. -Plant Protection training manual & training materials for orientation & refresher purposes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Training for farmers - Manufacturing standards and quality of US agricultural inputs -Training for agricultural extension officers and farmers on costing of farm produce -Marketing training for Central Marketing Corporation employees and agricultural officials -Technical assistance to develop standards for agricultural produce -Training of trainers workshop in crop production/protection methods for cotton, vegetables & tropical fruits -Training in use of appropriate GIS software for data management in plant health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Provision of adequate plant protection facilities (to include those for pest identification, incineration, quarantine, fumigation, inspection, data management & processing) -Construction of a centralized agricultural health & food safety laboratory 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Farmers are unaware of foreign standards and quality requirements -Farmers are unaware of how to cost their products -Weak marketing skills at Central Marketing Board -Currently available tertiary level training in crop protection in the Caribbean is limited to the M.Sc. level -Appropriate facilities for fumigation, quarantine, inspection, etc. are currently very limited or non-existent -Antigua & Barbuda is very vulnerable to the entry of plant pests and diseases (net importer of goods; cruise, yacht & air tourist destination; hub to many countries including the Caribbean, South, Central & North America & Europe) due to the current inadequacies of its quarantine & other facilities 	

Technical assistance <u>requirements</u> :					
	Information	Training	Infrastructure: (Hard and/or Soft)	Specific concern	Other
		<p>-Training attachments of plant health regulators to plant protection agencies of main exporters of produce from Antigua & Barbuda</p> <p>-Certification training courses for plant protection and extension officers in surveillance (including GIS technology), quarantine measures, conduct of PRAs, data management, and other areas covered by the ISPMs</p> <p>Bachelor of Science degree or associate degree or certificate level training in plant protection for officers, for whom experience in the area could be accepted in lieu of academic requirements</p>			
Contact details	Director, Antigua and Barbuda Bureau of Standards, Ministry of Trade and Industry, P.O. Box 1550, St. John's, Antigua, West Indies. Telephone (268) 562-4011, fax: (268) 462-1625, (268) 462-2424				

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

(Such information could include, inter alia, a more detailed description of the technical assistance required, any relevant background information on the reasons for the request, the possibility of using a regional approach to the provision of the requested assistance and the scope for a coordinated approach among relevant international organisations.)

The Government of Antigua & Barbuda has agreed to the formation of a National Agricultural Health & Food Safety Agency and to membership in the Caribbean counterpart: the Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency. To this end, the matter of instituting a system in country to coordinate all stakeholder Government Ministries and relevant stakeholders in the private sector of the country is being discussed. One of the components of this policy is the amalgamation of all laboratories as far as possible into one central facility in which major equipment can be shared and through which human and other resources would be better managed. Currently, existing agriculture and food safety labs are inadequately outfitted and extremely limited in capacity and basic resources.

With respect to Animal & Plant Health Facilities at the ports of entry, facilities are currently either non-existent or limited to seating for officers. Facilities at the central plant and animal health facilities are also extremely limited and only very basic entomological inspections can be carried out. There are no facilities for the other areas of crop or animal protection (quarantine, pathology, nematology, virology, etc.) and no animal veterinary laboratory.

Due to financial constraints, the government is currently unable to provide the necessary facilities to allow the country to adequately meet its obligations under the WTO-SPS Agreement in a timely fashion. It must be reinforced that Antigua & Barbuda is very vulnerable to the entry of pests and diseases of plants and animals due to the high level of importation of agricultural produce and the high degree of tourist and other passenger travel through the country's ports. To this end, therefore, technical assistance must be solicited as a matter of urgency. As listed, the nature of the technical assistance would include training, provision of equipment (laboratory & data management, computers, printers and software), and provision of infrastructure such as buildings to house the centres of operation for animal and plant health and food safety in both Antigua and Barbuda.