

**Committee on Sanitary and
Phytosanitary Measures**

Original: French

**IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENT ON THE APPLICATION OF
SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES**

Information for the Workshop on 31 March 2006

Communication from Madagascar

The following communication, received on 29 March 2006, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Madagascar.

-
1. In preparation for the Workshop on the Implementation of the SPS Agreement, Members were asked to provide information on their experiences in relation to the subjects to be discussed.
 2. The representatives of Madagascar participate irregularly in the meetings of the SPS Committee, and it is generally the Geneva-based representatives that attend. Information on meetings of the SPS Committee is received through our representative in Geneva and sent to the different ministries concerned. Owing to this lack of coordination at the national level, the information received on the meetings of the SPS Committee tends to be incomplete.
 3. Madagascar does not have an SPS national committee. There is no technical or scientific committee to advise the control authority, nor are any experts available locally in the external institutions (university, research centre) that the control authority can rely on for support. Madagascar's exporters are informed of the new SPS requirements of their trading partners by the partners themselves, and/or, in some cases, by the ministries responsible for the sectors concerned. In addition to stepping up participation in the technical meetings (Codex, OIE, IPPC) it should be possible to raise the awareness of professionals both in the public and private sectors and to improve the information system at the national level so that the stakeholders are informed in a timely manner of the new SPS requirements.
 4. The modalities for the implementation of the SPS Agreement in Madagascar are not planned at the national level, and as mentioned above, the country does not yet have an SPS national committee.
 5. In identifying its technical assistance needs, Madagascar takes account of the need for action in the following areas:
 - Food legislation and standards;
 - control structures;

- inspection services;
- laboratory services;
- training structure;
- producer's association.

6. The effectiveness of this technical assistance depends above all on the country's capacity to first solve the problem of coordinating its activities and ensuring the availability of experts locally.
