

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SPS AGREEMENT

Information for the Workshop on 31 March 2006

Communication from Mauritania

The following communication, received on 31 March 2006, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Mauritania.

1. In preparation for the Workshop on the Implementation of the SPS Agreement, Members were asked to submit information on their experiences with respect to the subjects to be discussed.
2. At central level, the Directorates of Agriculture and Livestock have participated in the following meetings:
 - Regional seminar at Cotonou from 14 to 16 May 2003; and
 - Sub-regional JITAP workshop on SPS measures from 13 to 16 September 2005.
3. The Directorate of Foreign Trade Promotion, which is the reference centre at national level, informs us of SPS meetings and workshops.
4. It is through these meetings that we receive SPS information.
5. There is no national SPS committee.
6. At the moment exporters know little about SPS measures. However, as part of the dissemination of the Law on plant protection and its enabling regulations, three workshops have been organized by the Directorate of Agriculture with the support of the FAO, for the benefit of the Ministries concerned (Health, Trade, Finance, Trade Federation and Farmers' Federation.) The SPS Agreement was briefly presented during these workshops.
7. Through its two phytosanitary control offices the Directorate of Agriculture keeps in permanent contact with exporters and importers and often informs them of the SPS requirements of trading partners.
8. The legislation already notified to partners consists of:
 - Law 042/2000 on plant protection;
 - Decree No. 062/2002 implementing Law 042/2000;

- Ministry of Rural Development and the Environment (MDRE) Order No. 1248 establishing a list of the plants and plant products barred from entry into the national territory;
- MDRE Order No. 1256 establishing a list of the plants and plant products the importation of which is subject to prior authorization or to phytosanitary certification;
- MDRE Order No. 1257 establishing a list of quarantine harmful organisms;
- Order No. 1350 issued by the MDRE, the Ministry of Finance (MF) and the Ministry of Trade, Crafts and Tourism (MCAT), establishing a list of points and border posts through which plants or plant products may enter or transit through the national territory;
- MDRE Order No. 1921 appointing the members of the Advisory Board for Plant Protection; and
- MDRE Order No. 929 on the inspection of material likely to carry the bayoud parasite along the Adrar road network to other regions.

9. The mechanisms to be established so that the stakeholders are informed in a timely manner of the new requirements can be summarized as follows:

- The national enquiry point must have the necessary technology and equipment, and a clear and realistic communication strategy. It must also work together with, in particular, the technical Directorates responsible for sanitary and phytosanitary measures;
- a national SPS committee needs to be created as a first step. It must include the technical departments (Ministries of Agriculture, Trade, Health and Finance) and the private sector represented by occupational associations, the Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture.

10. The information on SPS requirements must be analysed and provided in a way that is accessible to the group outside of capital.

11. SPS Agreement implementation modalities have not yet been planned at national level. Since no coordination has as yet been set up, each technical body establishes its own needs.

12. As for phytosanitary technical assistance, the most important priority areas are:

- Constructing and equipping a plant protection laboratory covering entomology, phytopathology and nematology;
 - training horticultural staff;
 - training phytosanitary inspectors;
 - organizing specialized workshops; and
 - introducing an efficient information system.
-