

**TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
TO ENHANCE NATIONAL SPS CAPACITY IN BELIZE**

Statement at the Meeting of 25-26 February 2009

The following communication, received on 25 February 2009, is being circulated at the request of the Delegation of Belize.

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1. Belize submitted a request for technical assistance to the European Communities via the Commonwealth Secretariat based in London in February 2008. The request included specific training needs in addition to equipment needed to enhance national sanitary and phytosanitary capacity.
 2. On 21 August 2008, personnel from the TradeCom Project Management Unit indicated that they would only be able to address a few components of the request and as a result advised Belize to prioritize its needs and send a detailed proposal. The proposal was submitted that same day and on 2 September 2008 we were informed that the project had been submitted to the EC-ACP Validation Committee for their consideration and approval. Belize was informed that the EC-ACP Secretariat approved the project on 3 October 2008.
 3. The Project entitled "Enhancement of National SPS Capacity" was initiated on 1 February 2009 and has a duration of seven months. Expected results include:
 - Belize Agricultural Health Authority (BAHA) staff trained on prioritized SPS and TBT issues;
 - Technical advice on EC legislative framework;
 - Technical advice on Biosafety legislation for Belize; and
 - Technical advice on modernization and upgrading of laboratory.
 4. To ensure that there is sustainability in the delivery of this technical assistance, where specific training is provided it will include:
 - (a) training for trainers; and
 - (b) manuals, protocols and standard operational procedures.
 5. We extend our thanks to the European Communities for this particular project and look forward to receiving approval of other project proposals which have been submitted to them for their consideration and support.
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