

INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTRE (ITC)

Statement at the Meeting of 25-26 February 2009

The following communication, received on 26 February 2009, is being circulated at the request of the ITC.

1. Export Quality Bulletins

1. The following bulletins have been prepared in 2008 and can be downloaded from the ITC website at www.intracen.org/eqm; ITC will provide hard copies upon request (quality@intracen.org):

- Exporting Seafood to the European Communities (EQ EQ84, available in E, F, S);
- An Introduction to ISO 22000 – Food Safety Management Systems (EQM EQ85); and
- Directory of Marks and Labels related to Food Safety, Environmental Integrity and Social Equity (EQ EQ86).

2. Seminar in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

2. A seminar on "Fostering Trade through Public-Private Dialogue: Business Implications of the Emerging International Trading System for Central American Countries" was organized by ITC on 15-16 December 2008 in Santo Domingo. It was in response to specific requests made by Trade Promotion Organizations and focussed on three issues:

- Food standards and the challenge of traceability;
- "Branding" as a means to improve market position and international profile; and
- Public procurement and competition policy as tools for economic development.

3. There were various presentations on food standards and the challenge of traceability and case studies on SPS issues. A presentation was made by ITC on "Dealing with SPS issues – Some Case Studies from ITC", outlining work done in the Philippines, Yemen, Bangladesh, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, and the lessons learnt from the technical assistance provided there. The presentations can be downloaded from the ITC website at www.intracen.org/btp.

3. Workshop on SPS and Marketing Issues in the Fisheries Sector in Yemen, Sana'a, 22 March 2009

4. A Workshop on "Developing an integrated SPS and Marketing Strategy for the Fisheries Sector in Yemen" is being organized within the framework of STDF 69 project¹ by the Yemeni Seafood Exporters Association (YSEA), as implementing agency of STDF 69 project, and with the supervision of ITC, as supervisory agency.

5. The objective of the workshop is to raise awareness among the sector stakeholders about the main SPS and marketing issues that the fisheries sector in Yemen is currently facing and explore the rationale and the options for the introduction of an integrated marketing and SPS strategy covering all aspects of the supply chain for fishery products to address the most pressing issues. Solutions will be explored through the establishment of a private-public dialogue and cooperation.

6. Representatives of the Ministry of Fish Wealth, Ministry of Trade and Industry, Yemeni Export Supreme Council, YSEA, private sector, European Commission, World Bank, ITC and STDF have been invited to participate and contribute to the discussion.

¹ STDF 69 project: "Improved Capacity for Ensuring the Quality and Safety of Yemeni Seafood Products".