

**TRAINING –OF- TRAINERS WORKSHOP ON IMPROVING THE
EFFICIENCY OF PARTICIPATION OF AFRICAN NATIONS IN THE
ACTIVITIES OF WTO SPS COMMITTEE AND INTERNATIONAL
STANDARDS-SETTING ORGANIZATIONS**

**PARTICIPATION OF AFRICAN NATIONS IN SANITARY AND
PHYTOSANITARY STANDARDS-SETTING ORGANIZATIONS
PROJECT (PAN-SPSO)**

Bamako, Mali 20-23 July 2009

DAY One: 20th July 2009

Part I: SPEECHES

OIE Coordinator for Africa

Dr. Abdoulaye Bouna Niang welcomed all participants on behalf of the Regional Animal Health Centre's components in Bamako and wished to all a fruitful training.

WTO – Marieme Fall

After welcoming participants, Mrs. Fall emphasized the fact that the objective of the SPSO project is to improve participation of African member states in the ISSOs meetings. She said that the training workshop targets RECS and selected African SPS experts.

IBAREC- Mr. Mwangi

He welcomed all participants. He said that the workshop was a dream come true for AU/IBAR and member states. He emphasized on the need to eradicate epizootics and to improve trade, which is going to be a long term vision and process. Utilization of PANSPSO is going to be enhanced by RECS. Other programs will borrow a lot from its success. However, he highlighted two major challenges to be overcome:

- To cascade implementation of the dream and activities to member states at country level, since beneficiaries are the producers. Business is in the member countries/states. These member states must be reached.
- Since there is an audit starting soon that leads to the second release of funds, there is need to fast track release and utilization of funds. For this one, administrators need to be talked to concerning MOUs and opening of accounts.

AU/IBAR- Regional Coordinator for West Africa – Mrs Oumou Sangaré

She welcomed all participants to the workshop on behalf of the Director of AU-IBAR.

She pointed out that PAN-SPSO project was primarily targeting more effective participation of African nations in ISSOs activities through qualifying national representatives, facilitating SPS standards related to capacity building, and strengthening common Africa/regional policy options.

She highlighted the fact that the project welcomes and supports relevant national/regional/continental initiatives/efforts aimed at developing draft standards. She further pointed out that there is real need to understand well the mechanisms of these ISSOs and to develop the skills and to strengthen the capacities of the African SPS experts for a better participation of African nations in the activities of organizations mandated by WTO to set SPS standards.

Wishing the participants a fruitful workshop, the Coordinator declared the workshop open.

Part II: PRESENTATIONS

1. The World Trade Organization (WTO)-An overview of the WTO and an introduction to the SPS Agreement.

Part I: International trade and the SPS agreement; and Key principles of the SPS Agreement

The presentation was followed by a participatory exercise to help participants differentiate between SPS and TBT requirements.

Questions/Observations/Reactions arising from the presentation and the exercise

(i) One of the problems found is to clarify whether or not documentation is related to SPS certification and control or not. Poor notification obligation to WTO leads to poor results. Notification should go to where it is supposed to go. It should also be very clear whether it is a SPS certificate or not. Nevertheless, whether this is a SPS or TBT issue will depend on whether or not the new requirement documented affects your country or not.

(ii) It is tricky to force non-WTO members to abide by the SPS agreement. What should be done? If the countries can prove that they are committed to observing the WTO rules as a pathway to becoming WTO members, then there is no big problem.

(iii) Labelling has been classified as a TBT, but this could also be tricky. Is it an SPS or a TBT issue? There could be cases in which labelling cannot be described fully as TBT. E.g. in GMO disputes. And in cases where People are sensitive/allergic to GMO products, these cases can qualify as SPS as well.

Note: In case pests cross over to a country from another one and cause damages, this case becomes an SPS issue other than a TBT.

Part II: The SPS Committee and the guidelines it has set

Questions/Observations/Reactions arising from the presentation and the exercise.

Why should the exporting country ask for a risk assessment report from the importing country? The importing country has an obligation to provide the risk assessment report. This report shows the measures of security required by the importing country, their level of security and their concerns. In case the exporting country has done a risk assessment as well, they can also give technical assistance to the importing country on the same.

Day Two and Three: 21st & 22nd July 2009

(Break- session with OIE, IPPC and Codex)

THE INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS-SETTING ORGANIZATIONS (ISSOs)-Three sisters-OIE, IPPC, CODEX

OIE WORKING GROUP

- ✦ PRESIDENT: AKAKPO Justin
- ✦ RAPPORTEUR: LALAONIRINA A Bibias
- ✦ MEMBERS:
 - TOURE Ousmane Belco
 - KONIPO Bah
 - NDIKURKURIYO Didace
 - MWAMBA Katshetshe
 - NIANG DIALLO Ousseymou
- ✦ Facilitators
 - Stuardo Leopoldo
 - GONZALEZ Mara

Professional background

- ✦ Which professional status or government officer should ideally represent a country or a region in the review or drafting of an OIE international standards?
 - R. Ideally, a veterinarian officer
- ✦ Which background (education and/or professional) a person should have to efficiently participate in the drafting and review of an OIE international standard?
 - R. University cursus with a proof expertise in the drafting of standards; be a veterinarian officer
- ✦ Is it necessary to have a number of specialists on specific veterinary areas in a country or a region to participate in discussions related to the drafting or discussions on OIE international standards (justify your answer)
 - R. Yes, it is necessary to have specialists: veterinary drugs; animal diseases; health information system; food safety; animal welfare; diseases of aquatic animals ²²
- ✦ Items which gives professional competency to participate efficiently in the drafting and review process of OIE standards shall:
 - Be included in the curriculum/syllabus of educative institutions or others? (Justify your answer)
 - ✦ R. Basic Training Programs and specialization

- Be covered by capacity building activities (OIE, AU-IBAR, RECs) (Justify your answer)
- R. Capacity building activities through continuing training with technical and financial partners

Role of Veterinary Services

- ✦ What kind of things need to be done to assure an efficient participation of veterinary services in the debates related to the drafting and review of OIE international standards?
 - R. Information, Training, Communication ; Respect of missions and attributions of veterinary services
- ✦ At national level, what would be the importance and the level of authority given for the drafting of OIE standards to:
 - OIE Delegates?
 - ✦ R. drafting of standards is mainly to the Delegate responsibility
 - OIE National focal points?
 - ✦ R. under OIE Delegate's supervision they assist him in drafting the standards
 - Involved Parties?
 - ✦ R. Setting up a coordination mechanism to include all institutions involved in drafting OIE standards
 - Regional Economic Communities?
 - ✦ R. RECs have standards harmonization role to play at the regional level, but also financial support in training, communication, coordination, etc...
 - National representatives in SPS Committees?
 - ✦ R. National SPS Committees representatives in collaboration with Commerce support the OIE Delegate
- ✦ At national level how to avoid the nomination of representatives who are not qualified to participate in capacity building and drafting standards?

- R. Nominate the right person at the right place
- ✦ At national level what should be the contribution of each of the following actors to identify sanitary issues:
 - ✦ The OIE Delegate?
 - ✦ The OIE national focal points?
 - ✦ Les involved parties?
 - ✦ The Regional Economic Communities?
 - ✦ The national SPS Committees representatives?

- R. 1) The involved parties identify the issue; 2) The Delegate is informed ; 3) He briefs the focal points to tackle the issue; 4) the Delegate informs OIE 5) the REC informs and coordinates financial and technical supports ; 6) the national SPS representatives inform the private sector on the sanitary issues
- ✦ At national level what should be the contribution of each of the following actors to draft, comment and examine OIE draft international standards, directives, and recommendations:
 - ✦ The OIE Delegate?
 - ✦ The OIE national focal points?
 - ✦ Les involved parties?
 - ✦ The Regional Economic Communities?
 - ✦ The national SPS Committees representatives?

- R. 1) The Delegate receives the draft OIE documents and send them to all parties for comments; 2) Edits and comments are taken into account at national level; 3) The Delegate sends the final document to OIE with copy to the OIE Regional Commission, and to the REC

Role of Regional Economic Communities

- ✦ At Regional level, during the drafting process of OIE standards what are and what should be the role and the activities of:
 - ✦ OIE Delegate?
 - ✦ OIE national focal points?
 - ✦ Involved parties?
 - ✦ Regional Economic Communities - RECs?

- R. The RECs should facilitate the setting of regional standards harmonized with OIE standards through coordinated meetings of Delegates, focal points and involved parties
- ✦ At regional level, what is, and what should be the role of the following actors in identifying sanitary issues of interest to African countries:
 - ✦ OIE Delegate?
 - ✦ OIE National focal points?
 - ✦ Involved parties?
 - ✦ RECs?

- R. 1) Information of REC by a member country; 2) REC sends the information to countries and call for a meeting; 3) REC gives means for a rapid and efficient response
- At regional level, how to avoid the nomination of representatives who are not qualified to participate in capacity building and drafting standards?
- - R. The representatives should be selected through a competitive process (position announcement, CV, interview)
 - How to train and to give means to the Delegate to play his role at OIE (scientific training, rights and obligations, competencies, others)?
 - R. Provide continuing training to the OIE Delegate; provide annual budget support from the National budget for the participation of the OIE delegate
- At regional level what should be the contribution of each of the following actors to draft, comment and examine OIE draft international standards, directives, and recommendations:
 - The OIE Delegate?
 - The OIE national focal points?
 - Les involved parties?
 - The Regional Economic Communities?
 - The national SPS Committees representatives?
 - R. RECs shall be well instructed so they can play their roles of coordination and harmonization of OIE draft standards, directives and recommendations.
- How to promote the participation of African countries in the system, in order to influence the development and the comment of OIE international standards?
- R. The participation of African countries in the system could be done through consultative facilitation of OIE international standards by IBAR
- How to coordinate effort of common interest and coordinate positions?
- R. The consultation should be prepared and sustained at IBAR level. Result of these consultations shall be spread among people of all countries

IPPC WORKING GROUP

FACILITATOR: Marcel P. BAKAK Consultant expert IPPC

Rapporteurs: 1. JADI AMINOU (NIGER)

2. SOUOP Daniel (Cameroon)

Members: Alain SY Traore (CEDEAO/NIGERIA)

Pascal NDAYIRAGIJE (Burundi)

Raphael NANA SANI (CPI/UA/Cameroun)

Two topics of interest have been identified:

- 1- IPPC process for drafting standards
2. Phytosanitary risk analysis procedures

I- PROCEDURE FOR DEVELOPING PHYTOSANITARY STANDARDS

The procedure for developing standards in IPPC follows 8 steps (see figure below).

In case of emergency, this procedure can be reduced to 5 steps but the decision to prioritize is made by the Commission of Phytosanitary measures (CPM)

Countries are fully responsible for the analysis of standards submitted

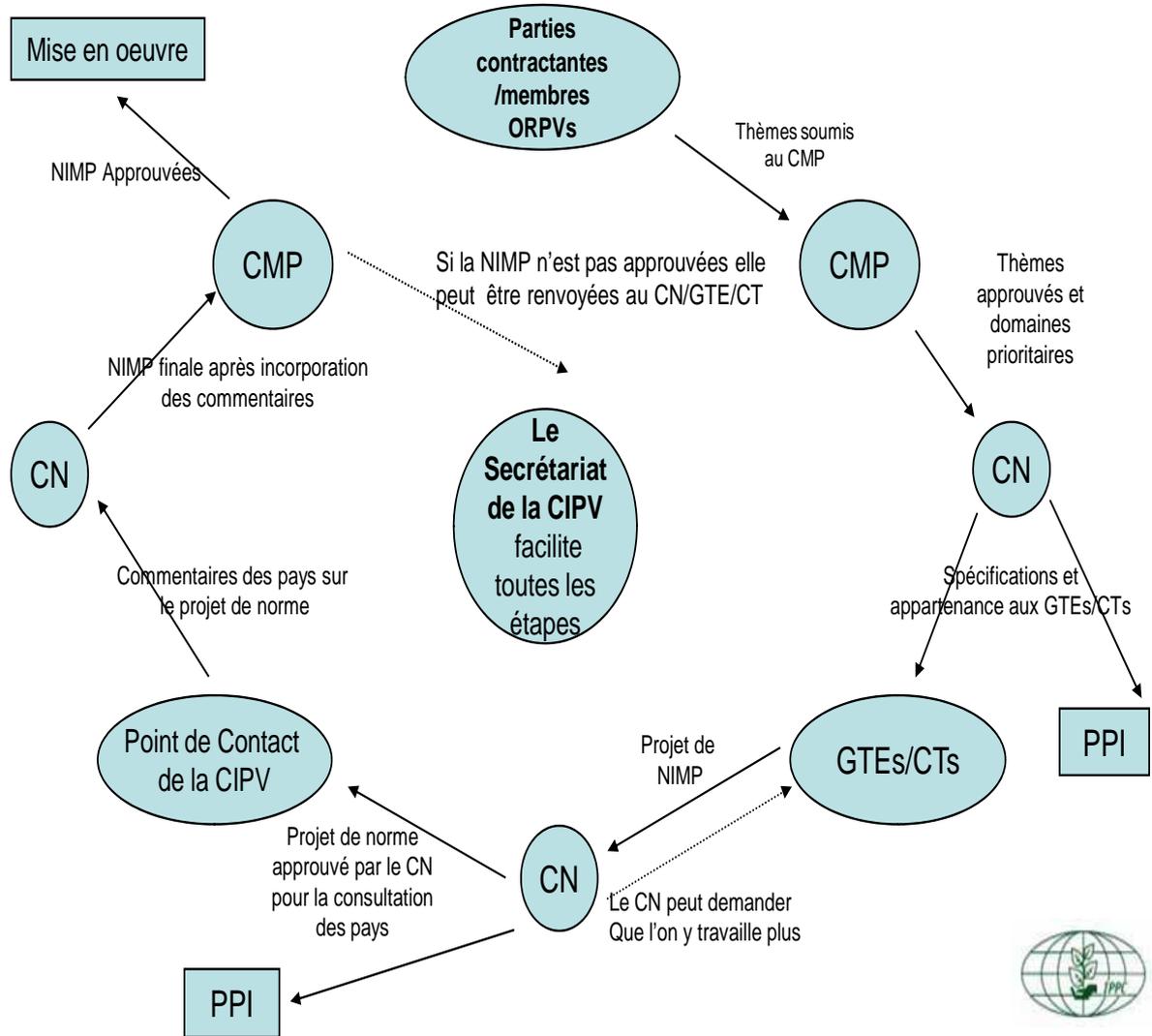
There is a weak implication of countries in developing, commenting and amending draft standards.

There is no coordination and dialogue at country level compared to Codex committees.

The group recommends the creation of IPPC National Committees



Procédure de fixation des normes –CIPV



Atelier de Formation du PPI – Présentation. no. 4b

II – PHYTOSANITARY RISK ANALYSIS

What is a PRA?

This is a process to assess biological data, or scientific data, or economic data, to determine a pest is of economic importance, if it needs to be regulated, and which mitigation measures should be taken;

PRA is done by RPPOs, NPPOs and private sector

Why doing PRA

To assess and mitigate the risk caused by pests to vegetables

- Identify and assess risk to agriculture and to environment;
- Establish a list of non-regulated pests;
- Establish a list of prohibited plants
- Develop mitigation options

PRA steps are as follow

- 1- Initiation
- 2- Risk assessment
- 3- Mitigation of the risk
- 4- Communication (cross-cutting step)
- 5- Documentation (report)

The goal of a PRA is to provide a scientific proof to the formulation of phytosanitary measures.

These phytosanitary measures shall comply with IPPC standards and with SPS agreements.

The working group recommends that African countries be strengthened in PRA procedure.

CODEX WORKING GROUP

Members :

- ❑ **Countries** : Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Mali and Senegal
- ❑ **Institutions**: CEN-SAD, UEMOA, IAPSC/AU, EISMV, FAO/OMS (Codex)

Codex activities at country level

Codex National Committee or similar structure – Point of Contact: ministry in charge – activities – functioning difficulties

- Existence of point of contact (technical secretariat) in all countries
 - Two cases regarding their institutional linkages: (i) Ministry in charge of agriculture (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote D'Ivoire) and (ii) Ministry of Health (Mali and Senegal)
 - Relationship with other focal points: (i) Codex, IPPC and OIE in the same ministry of agriculture, (ii) IPPC, Codex in the ministry of agriculture and OIE in the ministry of livestock (iii) IPPC in the ministry of agriculture, Codex in the ministry of health and OIE in the ministry of livestock and fisheries
 - PNI/SPS: (i) PNI Ministry of Agriculture, point of contact SPS in the Ministry of commerce; (ii) PNI/SPS in the Ministry of Agriculture.
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- ANSA in place in Mali to coordinate all activities related to food safety
 - Activities conducted: receive incoming correspondences, dispatch, and distribute, organization of meetings, debriefings, coordinate and prepare the adoption of national position to submit to the Codex Secretariat
 - Main difficulties : lack of budget to run the activities, lack of coordination of activities at national level, the function of point of contact is linked to the name of a person, lack of relevant scientific data, weak technical capacities
 - Solution to strengthen the functionality of the Codex committee:
 - Update and adapt the regulation creating national committees and their function modalities,
 - Budget in place to support the activities of the national committees and
 - Involve all other departments
 - Recommendation : the National Codex committees shall conduct national consultations in order to come up with a national position prior to Codex meetings

International Participation level

- Participation in meetings: possible with fiduciary funds (3 to 5 meetings/year) and with national budget (RCI and Mali) or private sector – case of Mali –
- Set priorities during national meetings and technical sub-committees (BF and Mali);

- Difficulties: insufficient funds to assure the participation of many delegates (principle of 50% from 2011)
- Recommendation: program, preparation and debriefing meetings of codex to national codex committee members

Food safety at national level

- **Food Legislation – Food hygiene**
 - The existing regulation is out of date and no longer relevant (1961, 1962, 1984); use of European regulation on food hygiene and food safety in order to comply with export requirements;
 - In some cases, non involvement of all actors (consumers, private sector, Academia, and Research institutions);
 - Existence standards institutions, control and inspection services, laboratories
 - Insufficient coordination of the control activities
 - National standards are applied to some products and are compulsory (technical rules)
 - Codex standards are applied in case of lack of national standards

- Existence of a national policy on food safety and of a Food Safety Board in Mali;
- The Board elaborates the National plan on food safety and monitors its implementation; updates all standards and harmonizes with the Codex standards
- For control matters, the regulation says that SPS inspections/control should be done prior to custom control (BF, Mali, RCI, Senegal);
- Problem found in the practice of the control: sanitary services and phytosanitary services are not aware of pre-import documents like their colleagues of commerce (BF, Mali, Benin);
- Existence of good relationship with INFOSAN food safety alerts (Mali, RCI and Benin)
- Existence of standards rules in WEAMU (UEMOA) to be implemented

Day Four: 23rd July 2009

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE OFFERED BY WTO

WTO offers some technical assistance which countries and regions may benefit from. These include the following:

1. **Technical assistance in national seminars-** WTO supports 2 such seminars in developing countries and 3 for least developed countries per year. For application for such support, countries should liaise with their foreign ministry for trade. SPS and TBT are handled together during the seminars, which run for 1-4 days. While applying for assistance, the objectives should be very clear.
2. **Full Sub-regional WTO seminars-** These are scheduled each calendar year, one in the Anglophone region and one in Francophone region. In these seminars, WTO covers expenses for OIE, WTO, and for 5 participants from each invited country. The five participants should be from different disciplines. In total, 6-12 countries are invited. WTO requests that in future, let the RECS organization for the meeting and WTO will do the facilitation.
3. **Specialized SPS training-**Held in Geneva for three (3) days. It is a hands on course that takes in 25 participants. The course is held every October and alternates between Spanish and English.
4. **WTO also participates in seminars organized by other organizations**
5. **Specialized training workshops-**One held each year in Geneva. It targets 50 participants.
6. **STDF workshops**
7. **E-learning**
8. **If one is identified as an observer, they will be invited to all WTO meetings, however, they will not be funded/facilitated to attend since this is not a training.**

STANDARDS AND TRADE DEVELOPMENT FACILITY (STDF)

A joint initiative of FAO, OIE, the World Bank, WHO, and WTO

1. **Concerning sub-regional training, how do countries get the right documents? All relevant documents are available at the net.**
2. **Is the funding for SPS projects only available at national levels only and can neighbouring countries do joint SPS proposals for funding in case they face similar challenges? Yes, neighbouring countries are encouraged to do so.**

3. **How are working groups representatives selected?** There is a consultation mechanism in place for selection of representatives from developing countries. However, individuals showing interest could also be considered.
4. **SPS projects have policy implications that may interfere with sustainability. How do you deal with such?** While requesting for SPS project funding, the proposal should indicate clearly how the objectives align with national policies and strategies. Besides, proposals are also circulated to donors, governments and partners for review.
5. **What is the difference between STDF grant and STDF project funding?** A grant goes up to USD 30,000 and other funds are sourced for from other donors. A project fund goes up to between USD 150,000-600,000. Projects should not go for more than two (2) years.
6. **Are the STDF funds applicable to the private sector?** Yes. But the application has to be endorsed by the government. Besides, a well prepared document has to be presented. It is advisable to also get assistance from development partners as the proposals are being prepared.
7. **What is the nature of the projects funded, Manufacturing of production?** Any project could be funded as long as there is an SPS problem.
8. **What are the benefits of involving RECS in SPS implementation?** RECS are regional groups. There is a lot of intra-RECs trade and as such, RECS are going to be very crucial in coordination of SPS matters. Regional block are also committed to harmonization of regional standards based on international standards.
9. **Experiences on SPS issues at national and regional levels:** Participants highlighted the following challenges:
 - (a) Problems related to setting up effective communication committees where representation is wanting.
 - (b) Lack of financial and legal back up
 - (c) Problem with setting up a secretariat where experts from different sectors feel like they own the process better than other.
 - (d) In some cases, Committees are in place but sending down information to frontline offices is not possible due to poor communication networks.
 - (e) Poor information sharing
 - (f) Lack of understanding of SPS issues at various levels
 - (g) Decision makers also not educated on SPS issues (private sector involvement wanting). Several SPS public-private sector sensitization

seminars conducted showed that these people were not sensitized on SPS matters. Sensitization is very crucial and once sensitization has been done, stakeholders will definitely support SPS issues.

Nevertheless, the opportunities are still there to set up SPS committees.

2. SPS experiences with RECS

- (a) The **EAC** is in the process of setting up SPS coordination structures at both national and regional levels. The EAC treaty has a chapter on SPS as well. There is a protocol being prepared which is also going to be signed by the council of ministers and this is going to be legally binding. Meanwhile, in place is a national committee of experts appointed to coordinate SPS issues on various aspects. However, the committee faces low performance due to lack of legal back up.
- (b) **COMESA** highlighted on the need for regulations to be put in place to implement SPS agreements since these are in line with international standards.
- (c) **ECOWAS**- Standards need to be harmonized; however, a lot of members do not understand what international standards are. They do not even seem to know who should do what. Nevertheless, in COMESA region, non WTO members are meant to understand that they are not exempted from complying with regional regulations (Standards).

COMMUNICATION SKILLS FOR EFFECTIVE PRESENTATIONS

Mr Adam Thiam was the consultant who did this part of the program.

He made three presentations:

1. Presentations skills
2. PowerPoint presentation techniques
3. Negotiation skills

Questions/Observations/Reactions arising from presentation

PRESENTATIONS: **While making a presentation, the following must be**

Observed:

- Try to understand your audience. Who are they, what do they want, what do they think about you and the organization you are going to represent? etc. This removes fear. Also make sure that people take you as one of them. It is important to also

understand the cultural background in which the communication is taking place. Maintenance of eye contact is very important.

- The transmitter has the obligation to make sure that the information recipient fully understands whatever is being communicated.
- Confidence is very important while presenting.
- **In case of training presentations**, it is important to give exercise in between the session as a way of facilitation. When you notice people dozing or yawning, give them time to stretch.
- **Preparation:** Make sure you are fully prepared in the topic you are talking about. This gives you more confidence, and avoids having presentations that have many unnecessary slides.
- **What communication tools are best to use?** Each audience has its own characteristics, and before you decide on the communication tool to use (power point, flip charts, videos etc) analyse your audience as much as possible (whether they are policy makers, middle class managers, or herders), and develop specific messages for each group, and try them on a sample audience before you finally decide on the specific tool you would like to use.

POWERPOINT TECHNIQUES

The message should be specific, clear and short

Insert key messages in the slide

Avoid surcharge of the slides

NEGOTIATION SKILLS

Questions/Observations/Reactions arising from presentation

NEGOTIATION STEPS:

1. Negotiation preparation- identify the characteristic of the audience. What is their temperament?
2. Actual process- The proper negotiation
3. Implementation and following up on the agreement to ensure total/adequate implementation

Before you start any negotiation, you must set up objectives i.e. to determine either your ideal expectation or the next possible deal. Know for sure what level of settlement you want to go for, highest, lowest, or the worst you can accept.

PRINCIPLES GUIDING A NEGOTIATION PROCESS:

1. There is existence of a common interest (the subject matter)
2. Results must be mutually acceptable
3. The parties must have the same degree of interest in the matter, since they expect some degree of solution
4. Negotiation is the preferred better way of dealing with the situation to reach some settlement of the issue at hand
5. Give room of a possibility of modifying your position. Be susceptible to be talked to
6. During negotiations, if you cannot get your ideal, accept the best outcome
7. There must be the same level of interactions during negotiations
8. Cease the fire before you can start talking

WAYS TO OVERCOME DIFFICULTIES DURING NEGOTIATIONS

1. It must be realised that negotiations are not shouting matches
2. Keep your voice low and maintain it. If your opponents speak hundred words, do only a quarter of that and space up the same
3. If they interrupt, caution them for you have the right to be listened to, after you have given the others sufficient time to speak. Sometimes people get personal. Declare your stand on the language you cannot stand or take in. Do not take in insults and abuses, being at the same time very careful not to loose your temper. Some people will blame you as a way of provoking you. Do not blame them back.
4. Some negotiators think that they are more powerful than you, and may end up threatening you. **BUT** do not fall prey to their tricks.
5. Finally, note that **THE POWER OF YOUR VOICE WORKS MIRACLES.** You must always try to avoid loosing your voice. Even in cases where your answer is a no, try the skill of using different ways of saying the same.
6. Invite for lunch, coffee or tea for relaxation. During this time don't mention any topic related to the negotiations.

WAY FORWARD AFTER THE TOT WORKSHOP

1. While PANSPO is organizing future trainings and workshops, IBAR should liaise with the regions and other organizations to find out what other/similar activities are taking place. This will be important to avoid duplication and overlapping. Since some issues covered may be similar, let all stakeholders including IBAR coordinate all trainings and workshops.
2. Concerning working groups in WTO, RECS should identify the experts from their regions that would participate. The experts must be conversant with SPS.
3. In relation to regional trainings organized by PANSPO, IBAR will channel training funds through the RECS. Meanwhile, financial MOUs with IBAR and the RECS are currently being done. After funds have been released, RECs will organize for the workshops in consultation with the countries in their regions.
4. Before the general WTO SPS sessions, it is important for organizations to have a briefing session in partnership with STDF and the three sisters (WTO, SPS, and Codex).
5. To avoid duplication during SPS committees and ISSO sessions, plans must be shared.