

**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)**

Nairobi, Kenya 13-16 July 2009

DAY One: 13th July 2009

Part I: SPEECHES

WTO -Melvin Spreij

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

EC- 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-Director

Recognizing the presence of representatives from the World Trade Organization (WTO), the World Animal Health (OIE), the International Plant Protection Convention, and the Codex Alimentarius Committee, the representatives of Regional Economic Communities and all participants, the director, on behalf of the African Union Commission, and Madam Commissioner of the Rural Economy and Agriculture Commission, and that of IBAR, welcomed everybody to the workshop.

He 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.

He highlighted the fact that the project welcomes and supports relevant national/regional/continental initiatives/efforts aimed at developing draft standards. He 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 Director 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: 14th July 2009

(Break- session with OIE, IPPC and Codex)

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

GROUP I: OIE

Questions/Observations/Reactions arising from the Group work

- 1. How do countries deal with new/emerging issues for example H1N1 in regard to taking them to the code of OIE commission (changing international standards)?** Any country can forward commends/suggestions /proposals to the OIE commission proposing changes in standards. The proposals can be forwarded by either the OIE delegates, other organizations, etc. Nevertheless, these should be supported by scientific justification. The commends/suggestions /proposals to change standards can also be forwarded to OIE as a consultation. The latter will be discussed by the commission and the country advised appropriately. Regional members of different OIE commissions can also be consulted for advice in advance, even before the matter could be referred to the overall OIE commission.
- 2. The issue of countries belonging to several RECs leading to overlapping and duplication is becoming a big issue. What can be done about it?** PAN-SPO is trying to deal with the situation to avoid duplication of activities but it is still a big challenge.
- 3. The OIE list lists only four (4) notifiable diseases, FMD, BSE, RP, and CBPP. Standards have been set for the same for surveillance, control, and eradication. A criterion has also been established for the same diseases. OIE also gives guidelines for recognition of freedom from the same diseases. For the four diseases, there is an official stamp. But for the remaining 20 or so diseases, there is no official system for declaration of freedom. Then, what happens to these diseases? What about emerging diseases like PPR, H1N1, and H1N5?** For the rest of the diseases, OIE only gives guidelines but does not officially recognize freedom from such diseases. But OIE publishes the country's status information in relation to the particular disease in its bulletin. However, there are already requests from some countries official recognition of freedom from some of these diseases but currently, logistics do not allow.

It should be noted that notification of a diseases to OIE by a country should not impact negatively on trade. For example, H1N5 is more important in domestic birds than in wildlife. Diseases in wildlife should not impact on trade. Notification of diseases to OIE is a very good surveillance indicator, and should not be treated negatively.

4. **Does recognition of freedom from a disease such as FMD by the OIE mean that the exporter is completely cleared?** No. Recognition of freedom from a disease by the OIE is not final. The exporter should get additional information concerning the same diseases from the importing country. Nevertheless, there is considerable value from recognition of freedom from a disease by the OIE.
5. **Considering emerging diseases such as Influenza A (Swine flu), which have led to trade measures, how quickly could OIE put up an Ad Hoc group to address such?** Putting up such groups depends on:
 - The urgency
 - Lobbying
 - Earlier recommendations concerning the same from previous meetings
 - Consensus
 - Relevancy to OIE to convene such a group
 - Country or regional need
6. **Is it possible for teams currently doing PVS to be officially recognized by OIE as a permanent OIE commission?** These teams are a good initiative. In fact, currently, they are working almost permanently. But, whether or not the teams will be recognized as an OIE commission is purely a policy issue. Converting a working group to a commission is rather tricky since a group only focuses on a particular goal and most of these goals are already being addressed by sister organizations on the ground. OIE is careful not to cause conflicts with sister organizations implementing activities directly on the ground.
7. **Does animal welfare include aquatic resources? Are they covered in the same committee?** No. Aquatic resources are covered under the Aquatic commission.
8. **In regard to Regional reference labs, do they get full support from OIE or they get from the hosting country?** First, in order to establish these labs, application, done with support from the hosting country, must be forwarded to OIE, after it has been signed by the OIE delegate. It must also be understood

that this lab will serve/support all needy countries in the region. It must also be recognized that when a region recognizes this kind of a lab, OIE only gives support in terms of training, as long as the same has been established/set along the OIE guidelines. It can also assist/facilitate the process of developing the labs. Nevertheless, OIE does not provide support in terms of equipment.

- 9. Observation 1 on training:** Veterinarians need to be trained properly to acquire good knowledge of OIE international standards, the SPS agreement, and how the OIE works. If our local experts do not understand these issues, then it will be difficult for the policy makers to understand them as well. The above issues should also be included in the veterinary curriculum, in the veterinary school.

Observation II on training: There is a very high turn over of CVOs to the OIE representation. This leads to lack of sustainability to CVOs training at the OIE level. It forces OIE to always start from the scratch whenever they are training CVOs.

Observation III on training: In most veterinary schools, the veterinary curriculum is lacking, it is outdated and needs overhauling.

Regarding the high turn over of CVOs, it was suggested that member states should form teams so that a lot of people are exposed to OIE rules and regulations. Team spirit should be encouraged.

Regarding training of CVOs and veterinarians, it was observed that the OIE has various training modules/opportunities that can be used:

- E-learning
- Programs in International Public health law (IPPC, OIE, Codex)
- WTO SPS experts willing to meet with Universities and do quest lectures.
- Internship opportunities are available.
- OIE is currently working to get Deans of African Veterinary schools before the main next OIE meeting for a discussion on the above issues.

- 10. Observation:** In order to avoid delays while updating the International standards, the delegates should follow all steps and know the timings per each step. The OIE focal points should also be kept in the picture. A leaf could be borrowed from COMESA which has an SPS discussion forum. In the groups, they involve the OIE focus person. Usually, the OIE, Codex, and IPPC send issues to the above forum for comments. The forum then

discusses and sends the same to member countries (delegates) for their input before giving their feedback. The delegates are not supposed to make individual decisions; they are supposed to consult with all stakeholders. By doing this, the region establishes a common stand before giving a feedback to the OIE, Codex, and IPPC.

11. What is involved in Risk Analysis? Conducting of a risk analysis should involve risk identification, risk management, and risk communication.

12. What is involved in a PVS? A PVS is a very broad tool. It covers all aspects of veterinary services including obligation of countries to WTO, OIE, etc.

GROUP EXERCISE I

How to contribute to the identification of SPS related problems, as well as to the elaboration, commenting and review of drafts and existing International standards.

ACTIVITY	Feasibility Yes or No	Relevance 1 to 4*	Ranking priority	Comments
1. Implementing of effective National SPS Committee (OIE) delegate assisted by FPS representing OIE)	Yes	1	1	National delegates should be aware of National SPS
2. Regional meetings to discuss problems that countries of the region are facing in relation to animal health and trade	Yes	1	4	To promote trade and participation in Standard setting
3. Proposals to participate in OIE working groups and Ad Hoc groups as observer (and potentially as active member). Real possibility to identify knowledgeable experts for specific areas of concern.	Yes	1	10	Our "houses" should be set in order (capacity building) before we participate fully in OIE meetings
4. Asking for technical assistance from OIE ref Labs and CCs	Yes	1	9	
5. To encourage OIE delegates to nominate OIE FPs to help him/her (Alert signs on reports from OIE sp commissions and respective comments	Yes	1	3	Delegates need assistance and participation by others

6. To encourage OIE delegates to nominate “KNOW” and “use’ OIE codes and manuals	Yes	1	7	Very important
7. Regional meetings to comment on OIE specialist commissions reports. Common position and Comments?	Yes	1	5	
8. To invite African members of OIE specialist commissions to regional meetings and workshops to assist on discussions and proposals.	Yes	1	8	Important to enable delegates to assume a common stand and an effective participation
9. Participation of OIE delegates, OIE FPs, RECS, Private sector (when relevant) in OIE capacity building activities.	Yes	1	6	Involvement of stakeholders necessary
10. Involvement of all stakeholders (private veterinarians, farmers, consumers, governments, industry) in standard setting process	Yes	1	2	Important for building consensus and understanding.
Other suggestions				

*1: Very relevant; 2:Relevant; 3: Not very relevant; 4: Not relevant

GROUP II: CODEX

Questions/Observations/Reactions arising from the Group work.

1. **What is the requirement for a member organization such as EU to be a member observer of CODEX?** They need to apply to the secretariat for consideration.
2. **Does CCODEX secretariat fund CODEX technical meetings (venues, translations etc)?** Host country fund venues and translations whereas CODEX secretariat coordinates invitations, letters etc. But hosting is voluntary. Co-hosting is allowed. The hosting country enters an agreement with the co-hosting country. Sometimes the co-host can share but Charing is also voluntary.
3. **Which committees deal with SPS and TBT?** Food hygiene, contamination, pesticides residues, veterinary antimicrobials resistance, food labelling SPS/TBT, nutrition SPS/TBT, food expert SPS/TBT etc.
4. **What are conference room documents (CRDs)?** These are documents only made available during the meetings, and are not translated. These are documents that reach the CODEX secretariat. Sometimes CRDs are session discussions documents mainly written in English. Especially kept when it has been decided that further discussions on the same comments are required. All CRDs are made available later after the meeting to all participants.
5. **Observation 1 on Codex Contact Points-point with which the secretariat communicates (CCPs):** In providing details of the CCP, it is important that names are not entered but details of the organization e.g. KEBs, general email address, and real contact person.
6. **When do SPS matters appear in CODEX?** SPS matters are discussed in the CAC meetings (relations between the CAC and other international organizations).
7. **Do regions have different guidelines for codex contact points?** Yes, and these are based on regional funding systems, structures, organizations of activities etc. Each region is unique in its own way. However, there is a procedural manual, core functions which apply to all CCPs.
8. **Would a regional codex CCP e.g. EAC follow guidelines of the African region?** The regional CCP can borrow the guidelines at National level and co-opt members from partner states.

GROUP III: International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)

Questions/Observations/Reactions arising from the Group work.

1. **Observation 1:** The revised text of 1997 was matched with the SPS principles in protecting plant health while facilitating trade. Countries set tolerance limits for regulated non-quarantine pests on plants for planting. Mostly this is found in the seed certification schemes. Members were encouraged to understand the process so that they could participate fully in the process and make relevant submissions. Draft standards are posted on the IPP 6 weeks before the CPM so that members can make final comments. However, it has been observed that getting comments from the stakeholders on draft standards is a challenge.
2. **Observation 2:** Nomination of experts to the committees is a problem because some experts do not write saleable CVs. Besides, continuity of participation is a challenge due to high staff turn-over in the NPPOs.
3. **Observation 3:** Members should prepare before CPM meetings in order to go with a common position. SADC has been very instrumental in this.
4. **Observation 4:** **IAPSC** should develop a list of trained SPS experts so that it can be provided to the **IPPC**. **IAPSC** has to concentrate on regional issues in capacity building while upholding the mandate of AU.

Day Three: 15th July 2009

(Break- out session with OIE, IPPC and Codex)

Topic I: Overview of International standards, Guidelines and Recommendations and their potential implications for international trade.

GROUP I: OIE

Questions/Observations/Reactions arising from the Group work

1. **Observation 1 on OIE work on trade in commodities:** Concerning the new concept of 'safe commodities', and in regard to FMD and other diseases, the OIE is developing some research in order to capture all the scientific work done and the scientific in knowledge formation/evidence and understanding of current beef processing technique. This information will be included in each diseases article in the Terrestrial Animal Health Code.
2. **Observation 2 on the Merck's manual:** Although the Merck's manual describes the scientific background of diseases such as mortality, morbidity and epidemiology of diseases in details, this Veterinary manual is not a standard but can be consulted during meetings. However, information from textbooks like the Merck's manual should be correlated with the information from the OIE codes and standards.
3. **What is the OIE doing about developing standards in animal food safety? Is it addressing animal health issues related to food safety?** This issue is being addressed by a specialized group (the animal production and safety working group). The report will be circulated. And concerning animal feeds, the issue of animal production feed safety is also being addressed.

Moreover, the OIE is currently developing standards, in relation to food safety, relating to farm levels, and some controls at slaughter level. Since food safety and animal production are interlinked, the OIE is doing a wide consultation to ensure coverage of all stakeholders involved in the whole food chain.

4. **Is the OIE developing any guidelines in relation to surveillance of diseases in wildlife?** Currently no, but the OIE is developing terms of reference for a working group that will be dealing with developing guidelines for the surveillance of diseases where wildlife is involved.
5. **Observation 3 on veterinary services:** A country cannot ensure observation of codes and OIE standards unless it has good and quality veterinary services.

6. **In the Codes and OIE standards, there are usually some standards followed by brackets, written (understudy). What is the interpretation of this?** This shows that the standards have been discussed during a general session but have not been finalized. However, these standards can be used as transitional until they are confirmed at a later session.
7. **Among the things the OIE code takes into accounts while developing standards include risk analysis, quality of veterinary services, disease surveillance and quality notification. Does the code also take into consideration emergency preparedness and response?** Yes. Early detection and rapid response are covered in the chapter dealing with quality of veterinary services and PVS.
8. **When is the next code going to be published?** By October, 2009. And once published, all OIE delegates get copies. An update is also done in the OIE website. The same happens with the OIE manual as well.
9. **In relation to dispute settlement procedures, how do OIE procedures differ from procedures used to settle SPS disputes?** Dispute settlement procedures used by the OIE have no legal basis as is the case with SPS. They are rather scientifically based (based on scientific facts). Legal procedures are time consuming and rather expensive.
10. **Observation 4 on imposition of additional standards by a country:** If a country (importer) is imposing an additional standard measure, they should then give a scientific based justification for the additional standard, which should be based on results of a risk analysis, done at the country's expense.
11. **Observation 5, sanitary concern:** It is a big concern that African countries are getting a lot of cheap animal products dumped into their countries. This can lead to disease introduction into the country. This also has to do with price differentials between the two countries, if done on commercial basis. The country affected could increase tariffs on the incoming products in order to discourage this.
12. **In cases where we have cross-cutting risks e.g. food risk cross-cutting with sanitary risks, for example in honey production, what mechanisms do the specialized OIE committees have to deal with this?** In such cases, the OIE works on the main functions of the veterinary services i.e to enable countries to decrease food borne diseases. The commission set up by the OIE (Animal production food safety) would deal with such issues. However, we need coordination at national levels of the three sisters, OIE, IPPC, and Codex so that such cross-cutting issues are not neglected.
13. **In reference to number 12 above, is there a way RECS could assist in such coordination?** Where countries need to form national SPSs, the three

sisters need to come up with a common stand as a country. In case of COMESA, the REC has formed an SPS regional sub-committee. All the three sisters are involved in formation of these technical committees and this assists in coordination.

GROUP EXERCISE II:

TO DEVELOP AN IMPORTANT HEALTH CERTIFICATE FOR BEEF

Situation

- Country Z wishes to import beef from country A
- Exporting country (A) disease status is as follows
- Is FMD free but where vaccination is developed
- Presents a controlled BSE risk (this means that BSE is present but it is controlled)
- Is infected with Rift Valley Fever with disease
- Is Rinderpest disease free
- Is infected with CBPP

Importing country (Z) claims freedoms from FMD, BSE, RVF, Rinderpest and CBPP

Task:

Importing country group

1. Using the *Code*, develop the import health measures based on the country disease status described above
2. support the measures you would implement prior to allowing trade
3. Approach the Exporting country Group and start the process of negotiation

Exporting country group

1. Using the code, develop the export health measures for beef based on your country to support your disease status claims.
2. What dossiers of information would you prepare to provide to the importing country to support your disease status claims.

REPORT BACK: Each group to provide a report back to the whole group covering:

- What measures they would require for the importation
- The basis for their answers

CONCLUSION: A discussion about the process and what information would be engaged between the 2 groups as part of the negotiation process.

ANSWER

Model International Veterinary Certificate

Should attest that the entire consignment of meat:

- Comes from animals which have been kept in the FMD free country where vaccination is practised since birth, or which have been imported in accordance with terrestrial code articles dealing with the importation of live cattle into FMD free countries
- Comes from animals which have been kept in the country since birth or for at least 3 months prior to slaughter (in case of Rinderpest)
- Comes from animals which have been slaughtered in an approved abattoir, and have been subjected to ante-mortem and post-mortem inspections with favourable results (all diseases)
- Excludes meat from the feet, head or viscera (FMD) and mechanically separated meat (In case of BSE)
- Is deboned (in case of BSE)
- Comes from cattle which were not subjected to a stunning process prior to slaughter with a device injecting compressed air or gas into the cranial cavity, or to a pithing process (in case of BSE)
- Has been prepared in a manner to avoid contamination with brains, eyes, spinal cord, tonsils, distal ileum, skull and vertebral column (In case of BSE).
- Comes from carcasses which were submitted to maturation at a temperature above +2°C for a minimum period of 24 hours following slaughter (in case of Rift Valley Fever)
- Comes from animals which showed no sign of CBPP

Supporting information

OIE disease recognition status for FMD, BSE, Rinderpest and CBPP for both Importing Country and Exporting Country. Dossiers from Importing country regarding self-declaration of freedom from RVF/credibility of Veterinary service

For exporting country, the following should be demonstrated:

- Credibility of Veterinary Service e.g. PVS evaluation
 - Surveillance and reporting systems/WAHID data
 - Recent Risk analysis conducted by other countries
- (a) information on the animal health situation and national animal health information systems to determine whether that country is free or *has free zones of listed diseases*, including the regulations and procedures in force to maintain its free status
- (b) regular and prompt information on the occurrence of *notifiable diseases*
- (c) Details of the country's ability to apply measures to control and prevent the relevant *listed diseases*
- (d) Information on the structure of the *veterinary services* and the authority which they exercise according to chapters 3.1. and 3.2
- (e) Technical information, particularly on biological tests and vaccines applied in all or part of the national territory.

GROUP TWO: CODEX

1. **Observation 1:** The EAC is planning to get inputs from IPPC, OIE and others in the formation of EAC SPS Committee.
2. **Since the standards by codex are international standards, should countries set stricter standards than codex, will these be considered as double standards?** Countries are allowed to set stricter standards than codex as long as risk assessment has been done and scientific justification provided. An exporter should go through the requirements by the importing country to understand the standards required by the importer and comply.
3. **Observation 2:** There is concern, however, on the fact that private standards by importing companies e.g. TESCO are putting up stricter standards than the government standards. This matter was discussed at the last session of CAC and will still be discussed further at the WTO SPS committee. The set standards by TESCO may no be met by small producers. Countries should

provide examples of the disadvantages of the standards. Demand for private standards should also be considered. Codes of practise are developed by codex to help producers meet requirements e.g. levels of mycotoxins e.g. pistalline. It is always good to refer to notifications and raise concerns early enough.

4. **Is the online survey on the CODEX website individual or at country level?** It is on individual level.
5. **Is it possible/advisable to form one committee to handle codex, food safety and TBT matters?** In terms of functions (feed standardisation), the CCP should be in a standard body e.g. KEBs, TBS, UBS. The best option is for a country to recognize itself and work out a coordination mechanism.
6. **Does CODEX accept international non governmental organizations as observers?** Yes. Regional organizations, both political and economic such as ECOWAS, AU/IBAR, EAC, and COMESA are accepted. Nevertheless, they need to apply for the same officially through the CODEX secretariat.
7. **Does CODEX consult with various stakeholders before making decisions?** Yes. In the National CODEX coordinating committee, membership involves as many stakeholders involved in the food chain as possible. However, more engagement by all stakeholders is still required. Proper and broad consultation need to be done before meetings and hence the engagement of CCPs by CODEX. The CCPs have the right expertise, and equipment to enable it to collect responses from stakeholders at national level and forward it to the secretariat.
8. **Are CODEX regulations mandatory or voluntary?** CODEX regulations are voluntary. But since CODEX is inter-governmental and governments representatives have agreed on the terms and conditions of CODEX, it is expected that countries will implement and comply. However, CODEX has no legal or territorial control to enforce compliance. Nevertheless, the governments could.

GROUP III: IPPC

1. **Some organizations have been listed as IPPC members, hence they have not been invited to IPPC activities and meetings. What is the explanation?** RECS and other organizations are assumed to be IPPC members; however, they have to apply officially for membership. IBAR has been provided with a document by IPPC to forward to countries and RECS guiding them on how to apply for observer status.
2. **Locusts do not observe standards. They are also trans-border and affect plants. How does IPPC address the issue of pests in relation to control of movement of pests across the region?** In cases where mechanisms can be developed to restrict movement, IPPC would assist if the matter is forwarded to them by the affected country/countries.
3. **Concern:** IPPC has contacts, enquiry and focal points in countries. Stakeholders do not seem to recognize the importance of these centres. Moreover, policy makers do not seem to be aware also of the importance of these offices and as a result, it is difficult committed to the same. These centres need to be functionalized and RECs should take key leads in functionalizing whatever is existing. Information from these centres should be shared with the ministry of trade. Government commitment and support is also required to functionalize the institutions.
4. **Risk analysis:** PRA is used as a bargaining tool with the trading partner. NPPO should collaborate with research and learning institutions in this aspect. Countries need to draw up pests lists and also come up with bio-security bodies to conduct risk analysis effectively. Resources are scarce, and hence the need to utilize what we have effectively.
5. **Information exchange:** Administrative structures are different in all the countries, and hence the need for coordination. Manuals are available to give guidelines on how the information should be shared. SADC is making efforts in creating contact points. COMESA has already done so. For information sharing, national SPS bodies need to meet at least once in a year.
6. **ISPM 24:** Rwanda has detected several species of formite flies; Chile has successfully used PFA for medfly to facilitate trade and use the equivalence principle.
7. There is need to prioritize crops for food security and what is important for trade when creating pest lists.

Group II Exercises

Exercise 1

Identify one or two topics of concern to your region which you wish to propose for development of ISPM.

Answer

'Soil and growing media'

'Important of plant breeding material'

Exercise II

Assuming that the topic is included in the list of priorities for standard development, how would you track what is happening to determine if the specifications properly address your concerns?

-Note time of appearance

-Country consultations. Take advantage of the 100 days allowance

-Compare the anticipated with what is there

-Comment before topics

Determine the main considerations and preparatory steps you would take to maximise the probability that the proposed topic be urgently considered. Outline the procedure for doing so.

- I. Economic Loss-Loss of market access, export ban, food insecurity, cost of production, poverty.
- II. Biological-Spread, wide host range, containment, eradication.

Exercise III

How many of the approved standards were proposed by your region? What topics have you submitted recently for consideration? And who are your regional representatives on the SC? (Answers to these questions are region specific).

Exercise IV

Approved topics and their specifications have been decided for development by EWG. For which of these topics can you nominate an expert? (Answer is region/country specific).

What other provisions or actions can you take to ensure adequate participation in the development of the ISPMs? Answer is region/country specific, but in order to beat competition, a country should prepare a dossier, for regional endorsement.

TOPIC II: 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.**

Day Four: 16th July 2009

TOPIC I: 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.

9. 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).

TOPIC II: COMMUNICATION SKILLS FOR EFFECTIVE PRESENTATIONS

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.
- Effective speakers are audible, clear, must project, and must be expressive (speak clearly and explain; connect to the audience emotionally). Your voice can spoil for you; the voice can take you places.
- Most of the audience want you to succeed and that is why they have given you a chance to present.
- If you sense any form of boredom, please change the topic.
- **In case of training presentations**, it is important to give exercise in between the session as a way of facilitation. Examples of exercises include evaluations, measuring of retention, measuring the ability to apply, and reinforcement of messages through illustrations i.e. how the topic applies in real life. Exercises break monotony (a killer of the presentation). When you notice people dozing or yawning, give them time to stretch.
- **Comments:** presentation has its own challenges, but should be done with an open mind. Peoples' facial expression is very important. If the expressions are from people you understand, then you will be able to know if to continue in that direction or not, making sure you are not thrown off your fit.
- **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.
- **Attitude problems:** How does one proceed with communication especially when the person they are talking to seem not to be interested? Until recently, a lot of organizations did not have a communication strategy. In every organization, there must be proper channels of communication.

Nevertheless, in case the above scenario happens in a working environment and the communication is work related, try to understand the background of the attitude, and pursue the matter until you pass the message. Pass the message as clearly as possible even it means writing down what you want to communicate.

- **Are there trainings available on voice training?** Yes, there are trainings on voice.
- **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.

TOPIC III: 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.

TOPIC IV: WAY FORWARD AFTER THE TOT WORKSHOP

REMARKS

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.