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Regional Training of Trainers Workshop on Use of Science-Based
Methods and Development of Scientific Arguments in Standard-setting

Lilongwe, Malawi
12 – 17 April 2010

DRAFT

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGIONAL TRAINING OF TRAINERS WORKSHOP ON USE
OF SCIENCE-BASED METHODS AND DEVELOPMENT OF SCIENTIFIC
ARGUMENTS IN STANDARD-SETTING**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Participation of African Nations in Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standards-Setting Organizations Project (PAN-SPSO) was established as a joint collaboration between the European Commission (EC) and the African Caribbean Pacific Group of States (ACP), on behalf of African Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and being represented by the African Union Commission, to contribute to the reduction of poverty and enhanced food security in Africa through greater access for agricultural products from African countries to international markets. The project is specifically aimed at improving the efficiency of the participation of African countries in the activities of the *Codex Alimentarius* Commission, OIE, and IPPC during the formulation of international standards on food safety, animal and plant through the services of the African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU/IBAR) (project Regional Authorizing Officer (RAO)) and the Inter-African Phytosanitary Council (AU-IAPSC) working with the Regional Economic Communities (RECs).

COMESA in collaboration with AU-IBAR organized a Regional Training of Trainers Workshop for the 8 Member States with whom COMESA is implementing the PAN-SPSO project. A total of 23 participants from Congo DR, Comoros, Eritrea, Madagascar, Malawi, Seychelles and Zambia attended the workshop. Only Mauritius did not attend the workshop. The workshop was held at Pacific Hotel in Lilongwe, Malawi from 12 to 17 April 2010.

The objective of the workshop was to train SPS experts specifically from Animal health, Plant health and Food safety on the use of science-based methods and development of scientific arguments in standard-setting. The SPS experts trained will part of the many other PANSPSO activities that will have to be implemented at national level, such as creating and/or strengthening National SPS Committees, training of the private sector individuals/institutions at national level to encourage linkages with public sectors on SPS issues, etc.

The resource persons came from World Trade Organization (WTO), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and AU-IBAR. Topics of the training included; the WTO and SPS (i.e. WTO, SPS Agreement, OIE, IPPC and Codex), Standard setting processes, Risk Analysis in SPS, Principles of Transparency, Principles of Negotiation and Administration of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, followed by practical exercises.

It was recommended that COMESA applies to the WTO-SPS Committee and the 3 sisters (OIE, IPPC and Codex) for observer status so that it adequately represents its Member states and update on decisions made during meetings. It was also recommended that to harmonise standards, all member states should commence the process of regionalizing standards by preparing databases on different pests/diseases and related problems in their countries. Furthermore, all Member states should orient Policy Makers on their roles and contributions relating to the importance of formulating of SPS standards. Participants should also start preparing and strategizing now for the next PANSPSO activities that will have to be implemented at national level by the trained SPS experts.

PREAMBLE

1. The PAN-SPSO project has been established as a joint collaboration between the European Commission (EC) and the African Caribbean Pacific Group of States (ACP), on behalf of African RECs and being represented by the African Union Commission, to contribute to the reduction of poverty and enhanced food security in Africa through greater access for agricultural products (including livestock and fisheries) from African countries to international markets. The project is specifically aimed at improving the efficiency of the participation of African countries in the activities of the OIE, IPPC and *Codex Alimentarius* Commission during the formulation of international standards on food safety, animal and plant. The project will through the services of the African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources and the Inter-African Phytosanitary Council work with Regional Economic Communities to strengthening the African countries to select, equip and support participants for effective participation in SPS standard setting meetings; promoting technical capacity of African countries as well the technical capacity to assess economic implications of proposed standards; augmenting the knowledge of participants (representing African countries in ISSOs meetings) on available diagnostic and food safety laboratories and other SPS-related facilities, and the understanding of their actual capacities; and acquiring and disseminating relevant SPS-related information.

2. COMESA/PAN-SPSO project has a number of activities to be implemented in the 8 member states and these include; national workshops on creating/strengthening national SPS committees, national trainings that will encourage linkages between the private sector and the public sector on SPS issues in order to enhance their contribution to the assessment of standards/proposal of standards. The member states under this project will also be supported to facilitate development, drafting standards and reviewing existing standards in areas of interest to African countries.

WORKSHOP OBJECTIVE

- To train SPS experts on use of science-based methods and development of scientific arguments in standard-setting.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Participants have clear understanding of standard-setting processes in the 3 sisters i.e. the OIE, IPPC and the *Codex Alimentarius* Commission (CAC);
- Skills imparted on the importance and application of the cost-benefit analysis, risk analysis, transparency and negotiations through presentations and practical exercises; and
- Modalities of implementation of future activities discussed.

OPENING SPEECH FROM SECRETARY (2) OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY

3. The training workshop was official opened by the Secretary (2) for Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security – Malawi, Mrs. Erica Maganga, who was the Guest of Honour. Mrs. Maganga welcomed all to the training workshop organized by COMESA in collaboration with AU-IBAR through on the Participation of African Nations in Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Standard-setting Organizations (PAN-SPSO) project.

4. She explained it was common knowledge that agriculture is the mainstay of the economies in most COMESA Member states mainly for the rural communities as it accounts for 31% of the region's Gross Domestic Product, employs 75% of the labour force and provides 50% of the raw materials for domestic industries. Above all, for the most of the member states, agricultural exports comprise the main source of foreign exchange. But empirical evidence shows that member states of COMESA are not able to take full advantage of the available agricultural commodity and product markets in the region and abroad to optimize their foreign exchange earnings. Among others, challenges with respect to poor commodity quality, pests and diseases and failure of member states to meet export standards have been recorded to hamper progress in international trade.

5. Non-compliance with world animal and plant health and food safety standards is deemed as a major barrier to accessing international agricultural trade and thereby prohibiting African nations from exploiting the competitive advantage of their locally produced commodities, thus missing out on the potential benefits of earning Forex. International trade is widely considered as an effective, essential means for promoting the economic growth on the African continent. This is in line with the vision of His Excellency, Ngwazi Dr. Bingu wa Mutharika, President of the Republic of Malawi and Chairman of the African Union, to turn Malawi from a predominantly consuming and importing country to a predominantly and exporting country.

6. But why are we African countries failing to comply with world animal and food safety standards? Different reasons could be attributed to the commonly observed low compliance of international standards. On top of the list of possible reasons is the widely recognized poor participation of African nations in International Standards Setting Organizations (ISSOs) meetings. Effective participation definitely provides nations with opportunity to understand new standards, thus a clue on how to efficiently implement these standards, and to assess the impact of proposed standards on national production, consumption, and trade of concerned commodities, and what actions to take to comply or demonstrate compliance with the SPS measures.

7. The rules laid down in the SPS Agreement require that the standards developed by Codex *Alimentarius* Commission, World Organization for Animal Diseases (OIE) and International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) for human, animal and plant life or health are of international standing and that it is incumbent on all member countries to participate in setting these standards. It is only by taking active part in the formulation of these standards that countries can know what they mean and what actions to take to comply or demonstrate compliance with the SPS measures. Effective participation at ISSO meetings will also increase opportunities for

African countries to advocate for standards that incorporate needs and specificities for African producers.

8. Other reasons contributing to non-compliance of African nations to the set standards include the following:

- (i) Inadequate access to compliance resources such as information on SPS standards, scientific and technical expertise, skilled labour and finance at a commercially viable interest rate;
- (ii) The stretched compliance period directly influences the costs of compliance. In many cases, developing countries like those in COMESA require longer period to comply than the developed countries allowing escalation of operational costs in the end. This is in part due to the problems involved in accessing compliance resources. Failure to comply within the specified time frame may also result in lost export market initially and possible forfeiture of market share to the long-term detriment of the country's export earnings;
- (iii) Some COMESA Member states have good information about the SPS requirements in the European Union (EU) and other developed countries markets, while other COMESA Member states experience difficulties in obtaining up to date technical data from official sources;
- (iv) The level of awareness and understanding of SPS measures in general and the SPS agreement in particular are generally considered to be low. Among others, this is likely to be related to the problems associated with information access on SPS measures in the COMESA Member States; and
- (v) The extent and nature of existing domestic regulatory structures for SPS issues including their operations and management in COMESA Member states affect their ability to comply with standards recommended in the EU and other developed countries markets. The existence of domestic SPS standards better equips firms and public companies to understand the need to comply with EU and other developed countries SPS requirements. Public authorities could find it easier to implement conformity assessment procedures on behalf of the COMESA Member states if they have appropriate infrastructure and are able to operate and manage them. It is likely that those Member states that have most problems with SPS measures are those with least developed SPS domestic infrastructure and inadequate knowledge and skills in operating and managing them.

9. The Guest of Honour expressed happiness that PAN-SPSO project was here to help address some of the bottlenecks faced by many African countries with regards to SPS measures, through support to relevant institutions to provide regional and continental harmonization, enhance technical capacity and increased data and information collection and sharing. She was confident that this will help most African nations in reducing poverty and enhancing food security through greater access of their agricultural produce and products to international markets and other regional markets.

10. She appealed to the participants take the workshop with the highest level of seriousness and commitment in the deliberations. She was also happy with the workshop had a high calibre of resources persons with vast experience, and expressed confidence that the participants will greatly benefit from the presentations of the Facilitators. She asked the participants to take advantage of the training to obtain as much information and knowledge as possible so that the skills acquired may be applied in their respective countries.

11. In conclusion, she thanked the organizers of the training both from COMESA Secretariat, AU-IBAR and the host country Malawi.

OPENING REMARKS FROM DIRECTOR – INVESTMENT PROMOTION AND PRIVATE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT DIVISION (IPPSD), COMESA SECRETARIAT

12. The Director of IPPSD, Dr. Chungu Mwila, from COMESA Secretariat gave the opening remarks on behalf of the Secretary General.

13. Dr. Mwila welcomed all the Participants to the Regional Training of Trainers Workshop on Use of Science-Based Methods and Development of Scientific Arguments in Standard-setting.

14. COMESA aims to assist Member States ensure that the SPS measures they implement conform to agreed regional and international standards set by the World Organization for Animal Health, International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and Codex *Alimentarius* Commission (CAC).

15. He was pleased to note the African Union, through the Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR), has taken keen interest in helping Member State to develop their capacities in SPS, particularly those that will enable them to participate fully and effectively in setting of global SPS standards. The Director also expressed confidence that with the coming of the PAN-SPSO Project and COMESA being the partner in the implementation of this project, a number of achievements will be attained.

16. He further informed the participants that COMESA on its part has for some time now been implementing a number of initiatives aiming at assisting Member States to effectively build capacities for complying with global SPS requirements. These have included the following; training of close to 150 SPS experts from Member States, establishment of SPS Regional Reference Laboratories, sensitisation of all the relevant stakeholders at national level and of course the recent adoption of SPS Regulation in the last Council of Ministers meeting held in December 2009.

17. COMESA will continue assisting Member States in this area by ensuring that the SPS Regulations are fully implemented. Besides, we will soon apply for membership with International Standard-Setting Organizations (ISSOs) and indeed with the WTO SPS Committee (on observer status) to start advocating for and representing its Member States.

18. He appealed to participants being representatives of our Member States to take issues of SPS seriously and ensure that you participate effectively in the processes of international standards-setting so that you can access international markets and at same time reduce the risks that may be associated with the health and lives of humans, animals and plants.

OPENING REMARKS FROM PROJECT COORDINATOR OF PAN-SPSO ON BEHALF OF THE DIRECTOR OF AU-IBAR

19. On behalf of the Director of the African Union Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR), Dr. Raphael Coly the Project Manager for PANSPSO expressed gratitude to the Government of Malawi for accepting to host the regional workshop on the use of science-based arguments during the formulation and the discussion of sanitary and phytosanitary standards.

20. He further thanked the authorities of COMESA for organizing the second important workshop after the successful meeting organized in Zambia in December 2009. He indicated to audience that, from the seven regional economic communities involved in the project Participation of African Nations in Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standard-setting Organizations (PAN-SPSO), COMESA was the most active.

21. The PAN-SPSO project was launched in 2008 and is primary targeting more effective participation of African nations in international standard setting organizations (ISSOs) activities through qualifying national representatives, which is one of the main focus areas of this project, facilitating SPS standards related capacity building, and strengthening common Africa/regional policy options. The Project highly welcomes and supports relevant national/regional/continental initiatives/efforts aimed at developing draft standards.

22. During the year 2009, the Project has organized three Pan-African meetings where all African OIE delegates, IPPC delegates and National Codex Contact Points were invited to discuss and coordinate their positions about animal health, plant health and food safety international standards. The main objectives of these meetings were (i) to reach a common position among African member states (ii) to improve the quality of contributions of African delegates during the ISSOs standard setting process and (iii) to prepare and coordinate the participation of African member states to the ISSOs sessions where international animal health, plant health and food safety standards are discussed and set.

23. So there is a 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.

24. The present workshop entitled “Regional training of trainers on the use of science-based methods and development of scientific arguments in standard-setting” is aiming to this goal and he was sure, with the quality of the speakers from WTO, USAID, AU-IBAR and others in the SPS issues, the participants would reach it.

25. The training will also allow the experts to build capacity at national and regional level in order to enhance the participation of countries in the standard-setting process but more importantly to reach coordinated positions and to set regional standards that allow regional trade.

PRESENTATIONS

The WTO and SPS (General Overview) – Ms. Marieme Fall

26. Ms. Fall gave a presentation on the SPS Agreement, a general overview i.e. the scope and key provisions on the following:

- I. Non-discrimination
- II. Scientific justification
 - a. harmonization
 - b. risk assessment
 - c. consistency
 - d. least trade-restrictiveness
- III. Equivalence
- IV. Regionalization
- V. Transparency
- VI. Technical assistance/special treatment
- VII. Control, inspection and approval procedures

The Codex in Brief - Dr. Raphael Coly

27. Dr. Coly gave a brief overview of the Codex *Alimentarius* Commission (CAC), highlighting the mandate, membership structure and meetings of the CAC.

28. It has a Dual objective i.e. protection of consumer health and facilitating fair trade practices in food trade.

29. Codex standards, guidelines & recommendations are recognized as international food safety benchmarks

30. National sanitary measures based on Codex texts are deemed to meet international requirements for food safety.

The IPPC in Brief - Mr. Brian Nsofu

31. Mr. Nsofu gave an introduction of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), scope and structure and committees of the IPPC.

32. It aims to protect cultivated and wild plants by preventing the introduction and spread of *pests*.

33. IPPC framework allows countries to analyze the possible risk to their national plant resources and use science-based measures to safeguard their cultivated plants and wild flora.

The OIE in Brief – Dr. Patrick Chikungwa

34. Dr. Chikungwa presented an overview of the OIE, indicating the OIE's objectives, membership and structure.

35. The OIE's global objective is to prevent animal diseases from spreading around the world.

The Risk Analysis in SPS - Dr. Solomon Gebeheyu

36. Dr. Gebeheyu presented the components/stages of risk analysis, going through the initiation (hazard identification), risk assessment, management and communication processes.

37. Risk analysis is a systematic way of gathering, evaluating, and recording information leading to recommendations for a position or action in response to an identified hazard.

The Principles of Transparency – Ms. Marieme Fall

38. Ms. Fall gave a presentation on the principles of Transparency.

39. WTO Members are encouraged to notify all proposed regulations that are based on, conform to, or are substantially the same as an international standard, guideline or recommendation, if they are expected to have a significant effect on trade of other Members.

Basic Economic Analysis Methodologies – Dr. Mukanda

40. Dr. Mukanda gave an introduction, types of Economic Analysis, Cost Benefit Analysis (CBA) and Evaluation Criteria for CBA.

41. The use of Economic analysis assists in minimizing the risks of ineffective and inefficient decisions and resource allocations.

42. The use of Economic analysis in decision making promotes transparency, objectivity and accountability.

43. The use of Economic Analysis aids in decision making by providing information on the best option to be adopted.

44. CBA is one such form of analysis and provides information on the “profitability” of the available options.

45. In order to assess the best options of SPS measures, it would be useful to carry out CBA.

46. It may be used to persuade decision and policy makers to invest in SPS measures through the CBA criteria.

The SPS Committee – Ms. Marieme Fall

47. Three (3) regular meetings are held per year in Geneva, Switzerland.

23 The meeting are held to implement the SPS Agreement, review compliance, assess potential trade impacts and for co-operation with technical organizations.

48. The SPS Committee has a membership of 153 WTO Members, Observer governments (acceding members) and Intergovernmental organizations (Codex, IPPC, OIE, FAO, UNCTAD, WHO, ISO, World Bank, ACP, EFTA, IICA, OIRSA, OECD).

49. The agenda of the SPS Committee meeting includes; Activities of Members, Activities of observers, Specific trade concerns, Transparency, Special and differential treatment, Equivalence, Pest- or disease-free areas, Technical assistance, Review of SPS Agreement, Monitoring use of international standards, Requests for observer status and Other business.

Using economic analysis to support SPS decision-making - An overview of work by the STDF – Ms. Marieme Fall

50. Ms. Fall gave a presentation on the use of economic analysis in the SPS area and STDF work on economic analysis.

51. Role of economic analysis in SPS:

- a. Sift out' projects with net cost
- b. Identify priorities within capacity building needs:
 - Weaknesses in SPS capacity
 - Products, value chains
- c. Identify efficient approaches to capacity development:

- Alternative solutions
 - Points of intervention
52. How has economic analysis been used?
- a. To examine the impact of past or ongoing investments in SPS capacity building *ex post*
 - b. To consider the expected impacts of prospective investments in SPS capacity building *ex ante*
53. Benefits of using economic analysis
- a. Helps to avoid the risk of inefficient and ineffective decisions – promotes better use of resources
 - b. Supports objectivity, consistency, transparency and accountability in decision-making
54. Common challenges for developing countries
- a. Limited knowledge and skills
 - b. Incomplete data
 - c. Concerns about data quality
 - d. Difficult to quantify unknown and future benefits (especially human health, social or environmental)
 - e. Difficult to measure and attribute costs and benefits
 - f. Time and resources required
55. STDF work on economic analysis
- a. Guidelines on the use of economic analysis to inform SPS-related decision-making (Nov. 2009)
 - b. International workshop (Geneva, 30 Nov. 2009)
 - c. Briefing Note (Dec. 2009)
 - d. Pilot testing economic analysis methodologies (planned, 2010)
56. Promoting the use of economic analysis in SPS decision making – some initial conclusions
- a. Recognize the role and value of economic analysis

- b. Start small
- c. Improve data collection and management
- d. Develop capacity, knowledge and skills
- e. Adopt a clear SPS decision-making framework
- f. Consult and involve stakeholders
- g. Consider the value chain

Solving SPS Trade Problems – Ms Marieme Fall

57. Ms. Fall presented some options of solving SPS trade disputes which included:

- a. Preliminary Stage
- b. Bilateral Efforts
- c. SPS Committee – Specific Trade Concerns
- d. Good Offices by the Chair of the SPS Committee
- e. WTO Dispute Settlement System

CODEX STANDARDS ELABORATION – Dr. Raphael Coly

58. Elaboration procedures (eight-step normal)

- Step 1: The Commission decides to elaborate a standard and assigns the work to a committee. A decision to elaborate a standard may also be taken by a committee.
- Step 2: The Secretariat arranges preparation of a proposed draft standard.
- Step 3: The proposed draft standard is sent to governments and international organizations for comment.
- Step 4: The Secretariat forwards comments to the committee.
- Step 5: The proposed draft standard is sent to the Commission through the Secretariat for adoption as a draft standard.
- Step 6: The draft standard is sent to governments and international organizations for comment.
- Step 7: The Secretariat forwards comments to the committee.

- Step 8: The draft standard is submitted to the Commission through the Secretariat for adoption as a Codex standard.

59. Elaboration procedures (five-step accelerated)

- Step 1: The Commission decides to elaborate a standard on the basis of consensus or a two-thirds majority of votes cast using the accelerated procedure and assigns the work to a committee.
- Step 2: The Secretariat arranges preparation of a proposed draft standard.
- Step 3: The proposed draft standard is sent to governments and international organizations for comment. When standards are subject to the accelerated procedure, Members of the Commission and the interested international organizations are notified.
- Step 4: The Codex Secretariat forwards comments to the committee for consideration and amendments to the proposed draft standard.
- Step 5: The proposed draft standard subject to the accelerated elaboration procedures is sent to the Commission through the Secretariat, along with any written proposals from Members and interested international organizations, for adoption as a Codex standard.

60. The Commission or the Executive Committee decides on the elaboration of a new standard and which Committee should undertake the new work.

Standard setting process – Dr. Solomon Gebeheyu/Brian Nsofu

- Step 1: Call for topics

Topics for International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs) are submitted by National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs), Regional Plant Protection Organizations (RPPOs), international organizations or the IPPC Secretariat

- Step 2: Adjustment and adoption
- Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) decides which topics are added to the work programme and corresponding priorities for development
- Step 3: development of specifications
- A steward is appointed by Standards Committee (SC) to draft specifications. 60 day consultation period.
- Step 4: preparation of a draft ISPM
- Expert working groups/Technical panels draft ISPMs

- Step 5: SC reviews drafts
- Step 6: Member consultation on drafts
- 100 day consultation period
- Step 7: SC incorporates comments
- Step 8: Adoption by the CPM

Principles of Negotiation – Dr. Mukanda

61. Negotiation is a back and forth communication designed to reach an agreement when the parties involved have some interest that is there to be shared with others that are opposed.

62. 3 styles of negotiations include; soft, hard bargaining and principled negotiations.

63. Basic Principles (3 things)- Should; produce a wise agreement, should be efficient, improve and not damage relationships.

64. What constitutes an agreement? (4 things)

- a. Must meet legitimate interests of each side to the possible extent;
- b. Be able to resolve conflicting interests;
- c. Must be durable; and
- d. Must take the interest of the community (stakeholders) into account.

65. Preparing for negotiations

- a. Selection of negotiators;
- b. Who should be Psychologically comfortable;
- c. Be sober and balanced personalities; and
- d. Well versed with the subject of interest.

**Reflect on your position (set clear goals, objectives should be smart, be content of your position).*

**Base your decision on facts and figures - be scientific.*

66. Know your BATNA (best alternative to a negotiated agreement)

- a. Do background information the other members of the team (personalities, history of previous negotiations, decision mandate);
- b. Structure your approach; and
- c. Define roles.

67. The process of negotiation

- a. Plan on how information and communication during the discussion will be presented – if possible identify a person in charge of references;
- b. Planning and preplanning – plan on making moves and counter moves;
- c. The temporal process – plan on time management during the process of negotiating.;
- d. Psychological stage – know the personalities of the other team members;
- e. Process of negotiation – play by the rules and be flexible;
- f. Be diplomatic – be courteous, polite, show sympathy and also use humour but be firm;
- g. If they don't play your game then demonstrate to them there loss; and
- h. Intensify objectivity, demonstrate their loss, use your BATNA.

Conducting a Negotiation

68. Most critical stage of negotiations – remember that the ultimate purpose is not signing of the agreement but accomplishing the objective of the negotiation.

69. To bring awareness at all levels (producers, consumers, decision makers, researchers, The following should be accomplished:

- a. Consider the interest of the stakeholders;
- b. Clarify the purpose of the deal;
- c. Both parties should understand what it takes to impact I; and.
- d. You should have built a relationship after the agreement.

70. Negotiations can be used during:

- a. The SPS process requiring negotiations on standard setting;
- b. Discussions with stakeholders when requesting for adoption; and
- c. Trade negotiations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- It was strongly recommended that COMESA applies to the WTO-SPS Committee and the 3 sisters (OIE, IPPC and Codex) for observer status so that it adequately represents its Member states and update on decisions made during meetings;
- Participants requested that a topic on Harmonisation should be done in detail;
- It was also recommended that to harmonise standards, all Member states should commence the process of regionalizing standards by preparing databases on different pests/diseases and related problems in their countries;

- All Member states should orient Policy Makers on their roles and contributions relating to the importance of formulating of SPS standards; and
- Participants should start preparing and strategizing now for the next PANSPSO activities that will have to be implemented at national level.

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