



SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY (SPS) MEASURES ARE AN IMPORTANT PART OF TRADE FACILITATION, HELPING PROTECT THE LIFE AND HEALTH OF HUMANS, ANIMALS, AND PLANTS.

SPS measures include all relevant laws, decrees, regulations, requirements and procedures concerning the application of food safety and animal and plant health regulations in order to:

- protect from the entry, establishment, or spread of parasites, diseases, disease-carrying organisms or pathogenic organisms;
- protect the health and life of people and animals from additives, contaminants, toxins, or pathogenic organisms present in food products, beverages, or animal feed;
- protect from the entry, establishment, or spread of pests.



WHY ARE THEY IMPORTANT?

Without SPS measure, trading agricultural products, for example, would be extremely difficult. The application of SPS measures decreases import and export risks, giving traders and countries access to international markets while guaranteeing the safety of food and other products.



WHAT IS THE CURRENT STATE OF SPS IN THE WEST AFRICA?

In West Africa, most countries have a national SPS committee. In April 2009—following a conference on institutionalizing SPS measures in Africa—several acts transformed country-level SPS procedures.

These acts reinforced capacity related to SPS agreements, improved the functioning of national SPS committees and their ability to coordinate participation on normative issues, established a regional taskforce and partnership with the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), and pooled the actions of countries in SPS-related projects impacting the development of trade.



WHAT IS THE SPS AGREEMENT?

In 1995, the World Trade Organization created the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (the "SPS Agreement"). The SPS Agreement outlines international standards to increase health security while trading. This leads to improved income and contributes to the reduction of food and nutritional insecurity.



WHAT ACTIVITIES WOULD IMPROVE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SPS MEASURES?



Strengthening the capacities of inspectors at border checkpoints.



Improved equipment for phytosanitary inspectors, including tables, magnifying glasses, dissection knives, and sampling boxes



Training of phytosanitary inspectors on the recognition and management of certain pests

HOW IS THE TFWA PROGRAM SUPPORTING SPS MEASURES?

The TFWA Program is holding training workshops and engaging operators and other key players on SPS and its impact on trade. Specifically, the program is:



Providing training on the harmonized guide of inspection and decision-making procedures



Providing financial and technical support for SPS Committees



Supporting the development of national action plans, and building capacity for the development of these action plans

At the regional level, SPS efforts includes a pest monitoring system, quarantine treatments for pest control, and an ECOWAS regulatory convergence forum on food safety. Also, a number of regulations and other policy documents have been adopted, notably:

- The revised version of the regulations common to Member States of the Permanent Interstate Committee for drought control in the Sahel (CILSS) on the registration of pesticides in December 1999;
- Regulation C / REG.3 / 05/2008 on the harmonization of the rules governing the approval of pesticides in the ECOWAS region in May 2008;
- Regulation No. 04 / 2009 / CM / UEMOA relating to the harmonization of rules governing the approval, marketing and control of pesticides within the UEMOA region in March 2009;
- The implementing regulation 02/ 06/12 relating to the attributions, the organization, and the functioning of the West African Pesticides Approval Committee (COAHP) in June 2012;
- Letter N ° EWC / CAERE / ADR / RegPesticides / AST / 14/04/13 / MOC of April 15, 2013 from the President of the ECOWAS Commission giving mandate to the Executive Secretariat of CILSS for the establishment and operation of the COAHP and National Pesticide Management Committees (CNGP);
- The Pesticides Cooperation Agreement between ECOWAS, UEMOA, and CILSS in June 2018;
- Harmonized Regulation C / REG.21 / 11/10 relating to the structural and operational rules for plant health, animal health, and food safety in the ECOWAS region.
- Annex 7 on SPS measures of the Agreement on the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA),
- The adoption of the Continental SPS Framework for the operational implementation of AfCFTA Annex 7.