



## 10<sup>TH</sup> EDF SPS Project

*Support to the Caribbean Forum of ACP States in the Implementation of Commitments  
Undertaken Under the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA):  
Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS)*

# ANNUAL REPORT

(October 01, 2014–September 30, 2015)



*This publication is funded by the European Union under the 10<sup>th</sup> European Development Fund – Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) Project being executed by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) (Dec 2016). The views expressed herein can in no way be taken to reflect the official opinion of the European Union. November 2015*



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## List of Acronyms

AHFS	Agricultural Health and Food Safety
AMR	Antimicrobial Resistance
CAHFSA	Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency
CaribVET	Caribbean Animal Health Network
CARPHA	Caribbean Public Health Agency
CCS	CARICOM Secretariat
CGPC	Coordinating Group of Pesticides Control Boards of the Caribbean
CNMSF	Comité Nacional para la Aplicación de Medidas Sanitarias y Fitosanitarias
COTED	CARICOM Council for Trade and Economic Development
CPHD	Caribbean Plant Health Directors Forum
CRFM	Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism
CROSQ	CARICOM Regional Organisation for Standards and Quality
CVOs	Chief Veterinary Officers
EDF	European Development Fund
EPA	Economic Partnership Agreement
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations
GAP	Good Agricultural Practices
GFP	Good Fisheries Practices
GLP	Good Laboratory Practices
GMP	Good Manufacturing Practices
HACCP	Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points
IPPC	International Plant Protection Convention
ISPM	International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MOA	Ministry of Agriculture
OECS	Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States
OIE	World Organisation for Animal Health
OVI	Objective Verifiable Indicator
PMU	Project Management Unit
PVS	Performance, Vision, Strategy (Assessment tools for AHFS systems)
ROM	Results Oriented Monitoring
SPS	Sanitary and Phytosanitary
TBT	Technical Barriers to Trade
TNINT	Technical National Implementation Network Team
TOR	Terms of reference
WTO	World Trade Organization

**CARIFORUM COUNTRIES**

ANU	Antigua and Barbuda
BAH	Bahamas, The
BDOS	Barbados
BZ	Belize
DOM	Dominica
DR	Dominican Republic
GRN	Grenada
GUY	Guyana
HAI	Haiti
JAM	Jamaica
SKN	St Kitts and Nevis
SLU	St Lucia
SVG	St Vincent and the Grenadines
SUR	Suriname
TT	Trinidad and Tobago

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(October 01, 2014–September 30, 2015)

**Executive Summary**

The overall objective of the 10<sup>th</sup> EDF Programme is to support the beneficial integration of the CARIFORUM States into the world economy and the overall objective of the SPS programme is to facilitate CARIFORUM States to gain and improve market access by complying with Europe’s Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures and to help CARIFORUM States to better develop their own regionally harmonised SPS measures.

The specific objective of the SPS Project is to increase production and trade in agriculture and fisheries which meet international standards while protecting plant, animal and human health and the environment. The actions of the Project seek to improve the legislative framework, national and regional coordination and the capacity of private and public sectors to comply with the SPS Regime.

During the past year, technical actions resulted in: (i) the initiation of the process of drafting/revision of four model bills which form the basis of a regionally harmonised, regional legislative framework for plant and animal health, food safety and fisheries; (ii) the strengthening of the three groups and the Regional Agency (CAHFA), which seek to coordinate SPS matters in the Region and advance the prioritised programme of work for Agricultural Health and Food Safety (AHFS); (iii) a 50% increase in the representation of CARIFORUM countries at international AHFS meetings, (iv) capacity building of over 300 public and private sector stakeholders in key AHFS areas important for complying with the SPS regime.

Constraints impacting the implementation of the Project during the reporting period included in part, the human resource capacity to undertake the administrative and technical actions associated with the work plan, as well as a delay in the finalisation and signing of agreements with two key partners responsible for implementing actions. A number of these constraints have been addressed over the past two quarters and as such, there has been an increased level of implementation.

The SPS Project is very important for the economic development of the CARIFORUM Region and hence every effort is being made to successfully implement the project actions. IICA and its partners continue to be fully committed to the strategy and are working assiduously to ensure the implementation of high quality actions that will result in the sustained and effective modernisation of Agricultural Health and Food Safety Systems such that there is improved compliance with the SPS Regime within CARIFORUM.

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TECHNICAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES  
(October 01, 2014–September 30, 2015)

## 1.0 Introduction

The 10<sup>th</sup> Economic Development Fund (EDF) Project '*Support to the Caribbean Forum of ACP States in the Implementation of Commitments Undertaken under the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA): Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS)*' seeks to support the beneficial integration of CARIFORUM States into the world economy by facilitating entry and improved market access into the European Union through compliance with their SPS measures. In addition, the Project seeks to assist CARIFORUM States to develop regionally harmonised SPS measures.

During the past year (October 01, 2014–September 30, 2015), the SPS Project has sought to strengthen regional and national SPS systems through a systematic focus on alleviating constraints in the areas of legislation, coordination and capacity building. The specific focus was on (i) fragmented and outdated legislation, (ii) limited national and regional coordination amongst institutions and groups addressing AHFS matters and (iii) limited human resources. As such, the actions undertaken centred on the following goals:

- **Legislation:** Establishment of a sound and comprehensive national and regional legislative framework for plant and animal health, including fisheries and food safety.
- **Coordination:** Development and organisation of an efficient responsive institutional framework and mechanism for coordination of SPS issues at both the national and regional level, including the development of programmes and information systems to aid the coordination process.
- **Capacity Building:** Development of the public and private sector to support the SPS regime. This also includes the strengthening of laboratory systems and development of environmental and residue monitoring systems.

The outcomes of the actions undertaken during the reporting period has assisted in:

- Enhancing AHFS Systems;
- Strengthening the legislative framework in the areas of plant and animal health, food safety and fisheries;
- Improved coordination to support the SPS regime;
- Enhanced institutional capacity of national and regional regulatory bodies and the private sector to meet SPS requirements of international trade.

Actions were conducted in collaboration with the CARICOM Secretariat, Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) and the SPS Committee of the Dominican Republic (Comite´ Nacional para la

Aplicación de Medidas Sanitarias y Fitosanitarias (CNMSF). In addition, key collaborators including regional AHFS groups and other projects also undertook actions during the reporting period.

The report presented, provides the status of project implementation under the main four project components; Legislation, Coordination, Capacity Building and Action Management. For each of the main components, the Objective Verifiable Indicators (OVIs), the proposed actions and the progress for the reporting period are presented.



## 2.0. Technical Actions to Strengthen Agricultural Health and Food Safety Systems and Improve Market Access and Trade

Generally, the actions of the SPS Project seek to increase production and trade in agriculture and fisheries in areas that meet international standards while protecting plant, animal and human health and the environment.

During the past year, actions were undertaken in the main, to:

- Initiate the establishment of a sound and comprehensive national and regional legislative framework for plant and animal health, food safety and fisheries;
- Strengthen national and regional coordination of AHFS groups and agencies (e.g. CAHFSA); and
- Build the capacity of human resources of the public and private sectors in key areas relating to SPS matters.

Please see Appendix 1 for a comprehensive outline of the actions, outputs and outcomes for the period October 01, 2013–September 30, 2015.

### **COMPONENT 1: DEVELOP MODEL LEGISLATION, PROTOCOLS, STANDARDS, MEASURES AND GUIDELINES IN THE AREA OF AGRICULTURAL HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY (AHFS), INCLUDING FISHERIES**

Component 1 seeks to harmonise the legislative framework in the Region, through the revision/development of model bills, protocols, measures and guidelines in the areas of plant and animal health, food safety and fisheries. These instruments will be made available to all CARIFORUM States for incorporation into national legislation.

#### **Actions 1.1 and 1.2 Finalisation of Plant Protection and Animal Health and Food Safety Models**

##### **OVI**

Plant protection and animal health and food safety draft model legislation finalised and available to all CARIFORUM States for incorporation into national legislation.

##### **Specific Actions to Achieve the OVI**

- Review existing model legislation with respect to international requirements.
- Send updated draft to countries for review. Host regional workshop to validate model legislation.
- Send final model to countries.
- Present model to Heads of Government.
- Determine use of model Bill in countries.

**Progress to Date (Action 30% complete)**

The revision of the existing Plant Health, Animal Health and Food Safety Model Bills was initiated along with a review of existing legislation within the region, as well as new international standards for trade. The models are to be completed by March 2016 for endorsement by member states. This action is being conducted in collaboration with the CARICOM Secretariat.

**Action 1.3 Development of Fisheries Legislation**

**OVI**

Model legislation for fisheries developed and reviewed by CARIFORUM States.

**Specific Actions to Achieve OVI**

- Conduct national consultations to gather baseline data on existing legislative framework.
- Draft model legislation with respect to international requirements and validate model.
- Send updated draft to countries for review.
- Present model to Heads of Government.
- Determine use of model Bill in countries.

**Progress to Date (Action 50% complete)**

National consultations were conducted to gather baseline information for the development of the model legislation for fisheries. Consultations were conducted in ten countries; Barbados, The Bahamas, Belize, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Haiti, Jamaica, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago. The draft model Bill was developed and a Regional workshop hosted (August, Barbados) to validate the model. The draft model is being finalised based on country feedback. This action is being conducted by the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM).

**Action 1.4 Relevant Protocols/Standards/Guidelines and Accompanying Regulations Developed**

**OVI**

At least two Regional protocols / standards / guidelines in each of the areas of animal health, plant health, food safety and fisheries developed and available for adoption by CARIFORUM Member States.

**Specific Actions to Achieve the OVI**

- Draft and or revise existing regulations to accompany model legislation.
- Develop protocols, standards and guidelines that facilitate trade regionally and internationally.

**Progress to Date (Action 20% Complete)**

**NATIONAL ACTIONS**

**(i) Framework for Action Developed for Improving Quality Infrastructure (St Lucia)**

With the objective of increasing the awareness among stakeholders of the role and importance of Quality Infrastructure (QI) in enhancing competitiveness of the agriculture sector, a national workshop was held in collaboration with the Bureau of Standards, St Lucia and the German Metrology Institute (PTB). The outputs from the meeting included a prioritisation of QI needs in the agriculture sector and a framework for action.

**(ii) Amendment of Honey Act initiated (Trinidad and Tobago)**

Based on a request from Trinidad and Tobago, a consultant has been hired (September 2015) to amend existing Beekeeping and Bee Products Act of 1935. This action seeks to facilitate harmonisation with regional and international standards and guidelines. Initial meetings were held with key public and private sector stakeholders to gather baseline information on the existing legislative framework. Information has also been gathered on existing international, regional and national legislation, as well as regional and international agreements to determine the scope of the obligations assumed by Trinidad and Tobago. The revised legislation is to be presented to stakeholders by December 2015 and finalised by January 2016.

**(iii) Animal Health Regulations (Dominican Republic)**

Terms of Reference were developed for the recruitment of a consultant to update and develop six animal health regulations in the following areas; animal welfare, in-transit animals, avian diseases and sanitary regulations for exotic species.

**SUB-REGIONAL ACTION**

**(i) SPS Protocol for Movement of Goods Drafted (OECS - Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States)**

Towards the harmonisation of standards and technical regulations across the Eastern Caribbean Member States and the simplification of technical procedures for intra-regional trade, a Regional workshop was held in St Lucia (June 2, 2015–July 01, 2015). Four key outputs from the workshop included: (i) a Framework for the application of SPS measures on goods moving among OECS Protocol Member States, (ii) a Draft OECS SPS Policy, (iii) a Draft OECS Technical Barrier to Trade (TBT) Public Awareness Plan for the implementation of the Free Circulation of Goods Regime and (iv) a Draft Strategy for Harmonising Technical Regulations and Conformity Assessment Procedures in the OECS. This action was held in collaboration with the OECS Commission and Compete Caribbean.

**REGIONAL ACTIONS**

**(i) Development of Protocols for Fisheries Advanced**

Draft regulations, protocols and Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points (HACCP) guidelines to accompany the Fisheries Model Bill were developed and presented to stakeholders from CARIFORUM countries at a Regional workshop in Barbados (August 24–25, 2015). Over forty-two stakeholders attended the workshop from Fisheries Departments/Divisions, Veterinary Services/Competent Authorities, Legal Affairs/Legal drafters, representatives of the legal and environmental consulting firms, the CRFM Secretariat, CARICOM Secretariat, CAHFSA, UWI Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies, and IICA. These regulations, guidelines and protocols are being finalised based on the feedback from the countries. This action is being led by CRFM.

**(ii) International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs) Reviewed by CARIFORUM Countries**

CARIFORUM Countries were given the opportunity to review draft International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs) which are critical for the trade of plants and plant products. Representatives from 12 countries participated in the International Plant Protection Convention, IPPC workshop, which was held from September 29, 2015 to October 2, 2015 in Trinidad and Tobago. The IPPC is recognised under the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) for setting international standards and guidelines on plant related issues for international trade in agriculture. Along with commenting on the draft standards, participants were exposed to several resource tools and materials that will enable increased understanding and greater implementation of areas such as pest risk analysis, surveillance and pest reporting. They were given the opportunity to review and comment on two draft ISPMs and to upload these comments on the IPPC's Online Comment System (OCS). Individual countries also posted national comments on the OCS, based on the discussions that took place at the workshop.

**SUMMARY OUTCOMES AND CONCLUSION FOR LEGISLATIVE COMPONENT**

- Revision and development of four Models Bills were initiated in all key areas of animal health, plant health, food safety and fisheries.
- Twelve CARIFORUM Countries participated in the review of international standards governing trade of plant and plant products and, in addition, gained an improved understanding of the IPPC standard setting process.
- Initial steps were taken towards having a harmonised SPS approach for the movement of food within the OECS and the regional and international trade of honey.

Actions under the legislative component directly and indirectly impact all aspects of the action. Although, there was a delay in initiating this component, the models will be finalised and endorsed within the next six months, so that countries are able to have documents that can be used to improve their ability to engage in mutual recognition and equivalence initiatives in the conduct of agricultural and fisheries trade.



**Opening Ceremony of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) Workshop**  
Left to right: Mr. Ulrich Thiessen, EU Delegation of Trinidad & Tobago; Ms. Diane Ramroop, Ministry of Agriculture, Land & Fisheries, Trinidad & Tobago; Dr. Lystra Fletcher-Paul, FAO Representative, Trinidad & Tobago and Suriname; Ms Celine Germain, IPPC Secretariat, Rome, Italy; and Mr. Gregg Rawlins, IICA Representative, Trinidad & Tobago (September 2015).



Participants from 13 CARIFORUM States and facilitators at the IPPC Workshop.

**Plate 1:** International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs) reviewed by CARIFORUM Countries at IPPC workshop (September 2015, Trinidad & Tobago)



IICA and EU Representatives with Mission team and Jeannette Mateo, Director of Fisheries, Dominican Council of Fisheries and Aquaculture at the Opening Ceremony of the **Dominican Republic SPS Consultation on Fisheries Legislation**.



Participants attending the **National SPS Consultation on Fisheries Legislation in Belize**.



Mr Peter Murray, Programme Manager, Fisheries Management and Development of the CRFM presenting at the **Jamaica Consultation on Fisheries Legislation**.



Mr. Chris Hedley, International Legal Consultant presenting at the **Jamaica Consultation on Fisheries Legislation**.

**Plate 2:** Development of Fisheries Model Bill – National Consultations conducted in ten CARIFORUM Countries.

## **COMPONENT 2: DEVELOP EFFECTIVE NATIONAL AND REGIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS IN SUPPORT OF THE SPS REGIME**

CARIFORUM States have recognised that the establishment of effective national and regional coordination mechanisms is necessary for complying with national, regional and international SPS requirements and also for facilitating meaningful participation in the international SPS standard setting process (e.g. World Organisation for Animal Health [OIE], International Plant Protection Convention [IPPC], WTO/SPS Committee and Codex Alimentarius). As such, this component seeks to undertake three main actions: (i) development of national coordination mechanisms; (ii) strengthening regional coordination mechanisms amongst agencies and groups; and (iii) developing data management systems for improved coordination.

Activities also focus on strengthening the Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency (CAHFSA), which seeks to provide support to CARICOM countries primarily through dialogue and the design of an information technology platform and communication system. Linking CAHFSA with the National SPS Committee of the Dominican Republic (CNMSF) is also addressed under this component.

### **Action 2.1 Strengthening or Establishment of National Coordination And Implementing Mechanisms**

#### **OVIs**

1. Several models for national coordinating agencies/committees compiled and distributed to and considered by Member States.
2. Increased participation of CARIFORUM States in international standard-setting process.

#### **Specific Actions to Achieve the OVIs**

- Develop models to strengthen and establish national coordination mechanisms for animal health, plant health, and food safety issues for both agriculture and fisheries.
- Present models for consideration and adoption by each beneficiary country.
- Support the participation of CARIFORUM States in international SPS forums (Codex, IPPC, OIE, WTO/SPS Meetings).

#### **Progress to Date (Action 30% complete)**

##### **(i) Assessment and Design of National Coordination Mechanisms**

An Expression of Interest was posted for the identification of a firm/company to assess and develop coordination mechanisms in each of the CARIFORUM states. Three proposals have been received and interviews will be conducted by the end of November 2015.

##### **(ii) National Coordination Mechanisms for the Fisheries Sub-Sector Drafted**

During national consultations undertaken for the fisheries model bill, data were collected on the level of coordination amongst agencies in the fisheries sub-sector and the linkages with plant and animal health, as well as food safety agencies. National and regional coordination mechanisms for the fisheries and aquaculture sector have been developed and will be incorporated into the overall coordination of SPS matters nationally and regionally. This information dovetails into the larger assessment that is to be conducted.

**(iii) Increased Participation of CARIFORUM Countries in International Fora**

Towards the development of capabilities in the countries to boost the effective implementation of the SPS Agreement of the WTO, support was provided for representation at meetings of the SPS Committee (SPSC), IPPC Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (IPPC), OIE World Assembly (OIE) and the Codex Alimentarius Commission (Codex). Guidelines for the participation in these international meetings, which included requirements for a country to benefit from this activity, were prepared and circulated to each country.

During the past year, the Project supported over fifty nationals [50] to actively participate in over ten strategic international AHFS meetings (SPS Committee, IPPC, OIE and Codex). This represents a 50% increase in representation of Caribbean countries in the SPS international standard setting process.

This active participation of Caribbean nationals in the international AHFS standard-setting process has created an increased awareness within the Region of emerging issues relating to international food trade. In addition, countries have an increased understanding of their rights and obligations under the various international SPS agreements, conventions and protocols. It has also increased the opportunity for Caribbean nationals to serve on several international committees and working groups.

Improved representation of CARIFORUM countries in such fora has strengthened national and regional coordination around key SPS topics and issues.

**Action 2.2 Operationalising Regional Coordination and Implementing Mechanisms**

**OVIs**

1. CAHFSA fully operational.
2. Increased two-way communication and collaboration among the beneficiary countries.

**Specific Actions to Achieve the OVIs**

- Establish and initiate prioritised programme of work for the Regional SPS coordinating mechanisms (such as CNMSF, CAHFSA).
- Support Regional AHFS Groups. Formalise relationships between CNMSF, CFRM, and CAHFSA.
- Develop an information technology platform for regional communication.
- Develop a regional platform for food safety.

**Progress to Date (Action 50% complete)**

**(i) Facilitated Regional Coordination through the Operationalisation of CAHFSA**

Towards strengthening CAHFSA's role in regional coordination around SPS issues, support was provided for the Agency's annual Board Meeting as well as representation at national and regional meetings.

In addition, support was given to the development of CAHFSA's visual identity through the execution of a logo competition and the development of the Agency's website. Through this action a suitable logo has been identified for the agency. The logo will be launched during the Board Meeting of the Agency in November 2015. In addition, a Developer was contracted to design CAHFSA's website; work is currently in progress and the site will also be launched at the upcoming Board Meeting.

**(ii) Regional Technical Groups Strengthened For Improved Coordination of AHFS Issues**

Several interventions were made to strengthen regional AHFS fora that play a critical role in improving the capacity of the Region in SPS matters. Groups include: the CARICOM Chief Veterinary Officers (CVOs), the Caribbean Animal Health Network (CaribVET), the Caribbean Plant Health Directors Forum (CPHD) and the



Coordinating Group of Pesticides Control Boards of the Caribbean (CGPC). More specifically, support was provided for the convening of annual and working group meetings that are geared towards improving the coordination of SPS issues and the formulation and implementation of the prioritised AHFS Programme of Work for the Region. Many of the technical issues raised at these meetings have been tabled at the Special Meeting of the Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED) – Agriculture, for the attention and endorsement by the Ministers of Agriculture and senior officials.

### **Action 2.3 Data Collection, Management, Monitoring and Evaluation and Reporting Systems Established for the National Regulatory Agencies**

#### **OVIs**

1. Database established for the management, monitoring and evaluation, and reporting needs of Competent Authorities (CA).
2. Increased access to accurate data.

#### **Specific Actions for Achieving the OVIs**

Develop national data management systems for the management, monitoring, evaluation and reporting on the inspection services.

#### **Progress to Date (Action 5% complete)**

##### **(i) National Data Management System for the Livestock Sector Developed in Haiti**

Towards the creation of a national livestock identification system in Haiti, a data management system was strengthened. The system consists of three modules which focus on recording data on slaughter capacity and the size and sanitary status of herds.

**Module 1** - Slaughterhouse registration. This module focuses on recording data on contact information for slaughter houses, their slaughter capacity, and death by accident as well as death caused by diseases at the facility.

**Module 2** - Management of veterinary officers. A unique identification number is being assigned to each veterinary official responsible for several hundred livestock.

**Module 3** - Alert/Notification management. This module allows for notifications of changes in the owners, herd size, control by other institutions involved like the Haitian National Police, etc.

The system has been validated and is currently in use by the Ministry of Agriculture. The data system provides important information for the monitoring and management of Bovine livestock production systems in Haiti.

##### **(ii) National Data Management System for the Fisheries Sub-Sector Initiated in the Dominican Republic**

Terms of Reference for hiring a consultant to develop a database and update the website of Consejo Dominicano de Pesca y Acuicultura (CODOPESCA) has been completed. The database will facilitate the storage and management of data collected from different fish landing points of the country, as well as the commercial activity of the sector; both exports and imports. This information is vital for decision making in the management of fish stocks, including the marketing of stocks and policy related to fishery safety and quality management.

**SUMMARY OUTCOMES and CONCLUSION for COORDINATION COMPONENT**

- National coordinating mechanisms drafted for the fisheries sub-sector.
- 50% increase in representation of CARIFORUM Countries at international AHFS meetings, over 50 public sector professionals supported.
- The three Regional Technical Groups strengthened for improved coordination of AHFS issues.
- Regional coordination of AHFS matters facilitated through the operationalisation of CAHFA.
- Databases being developed for improved information management systems.

At present, most CARIFORUM States do not have a single agency or a coordination mechanism for handling animal health, plant protection, food safety and fisheries issues at the national level. These areas are handled by several ministries and agencies. Actions have been initiated to develop efficient and effective coordination mechanism and as such, address the concerns that result from a lack of efficient coordinating mechanisms (e.g. duplication of activities, inefficient use of resources, absence of or uncertainty regarding the competent authority, etc.).

Support for regional groups and agencies has greatly assisted in advancing the coordination of SPS issues at the regional level and bringing to the fore critical issues for policy action by Ministerial Bodies.



Members of the **Coordinating Group of Pesticides Control Boards of the Caribbean** participating in the 20th Meeting held in Roseau, Dominica.



Representatives from the public and private sectors, regional and international organisations in agriculture, research institutes, researchers and other technical experts at the **Avian Influenza Preparedness Meeting** held in Barbados.



Participants at the **Salmonella Surveillance & Risk Management Regional Workshop** held in Kingston, Jamaica.



Ms Virginia Paul, Head of the Trade Policy Unit, OECS Commission, delivering remarks at the **Opening Ceremony of the OECS SPS/TBT Workshop**. Sitting at the Head Table is Mr John King, ECS Representative, IICA.

**Plate 3:** Coordination of AHFS Technical Groups and Capacity Building Actions for Regulatory Professionals

### **COMPONENT 3: DEVELOP/STRENGTHEN THE NATIONAL AND/OR REGIONAL REGULATORY AND INDUSTRY CAPACITY TO MEET THE SPS REQUIREMENTS OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE**

Component three seeks to develop/strengthen the national and/or regional regulatory and industry capacity to meet the SPS requirements of international trade (in areas such as inspection, import/export certification, diagnostics, risk assessment, surveillance, HACCP, good agricultural practices (GAP), and good manufacturing practices (GMP). The component also seeks to develop systems and services that are key for supporting trade (i.e. strengthening laboratory systems, and development of environmental and monitoring programmes for the fisheries sub-sector).

#### **Action 3.1 Training Programmes for Animal Health, Plant Health and Food Safety Developed and Delivered for Competent Authorities and Regulatory Agencies**

##### **OVIs**

1. Increased number of regulatory professionals and technicians trained.
2. Increase in the number of trained personnel available to offer service to stakeholders (HACCP audit and certification, risk assessment of animal diseases, plant pests, food contaminants, inspection and certification, diagnostics, survey and surveillance).
3. Manuals, handbooks and other relevant material developed and available for continuous on-the-job training.

##### **Specific Actions to Achieve the OVIs**

Conduct training programmes on animal health, plant health and food safety for competent authorities and regulatory agencies in the areas of diagnostics, plant pest risk analysis, animal disease risk analysis, and food safety risk assessment; training in inspection procedures and techniques for all sectors (plant, animal, food safety and fisheries); and training in risk communication.

Training programmes include exchange programmes; short courses and seminars in collaboration with regional and international tertiary institutions; on-going projects and AHFS technical groups and agencies; and additionally, post-graduate studies at national and regional universities and other academic entities.

##### **Progress to Date (Action 50% Complete)**

###### **(i) Capacity of Regulatory Personnel Strengthened in SPS Matters**

*In an effort to develop* the Region's human resources to support the SPS regime, a series of actions were undertaken for public and private sector stakeholders. More specifically, actions were conducted to develop/strengthen the national and/or regional regulatory and industry capacity to meet the SPS requirements of international trade in areas such as inspection, import/export certification, diagnostics, risk assessment, antimicrobial resistance, One-Health, and food safety/quality. Over **190** regulatory professionals across the CARIFORUM States have been trained/sensitised in these key areas. See Table1 for the details.

###### **(ii) Capacity Building in Traceability initiated – Pilot Study.**

Exporting food to the major markets in Europe and North America requires countries to have proper food safety systems with effective preventative and control mechanisms. One important aspect of any good food safety system is the existence of an effective traceability and recall mechanism. Towards this goal, the SPS Project is collaborating with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to conduct pilot studies in four countries (Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada). These pilot studies allow small-and medium-sized enterprises to implement traceability systems for selected value chains – fresh

produce, poultry, fisheries, condiments and spices. The information from these studies will be used to build the capacity of additional countries in the principles and practice of traceability systems.

### **Action 3.2 Training Programmes Developed and Delivered Across the Value Chain for Industry Stakeholders**

#### **OVIs**

1. Increased number of industry professionals and technicians trained in GAPs, GMPs, HACCP, etc.
2. Increased number of firms/operations implementing good practices (GAP, GMP, and HACCP).
3. Manuals, handbooks, posters and leaflets available for continuous on-the-job training and awareness.
4. Increased access to export market Increase in the production of safe, high quality food for national consumption.

#### **Specific Actions to Achieve the OVIs**

- Develop and deliver training programmes across the value chain for industry stakeholders in international SPS requirements, GAPs, GMPs, HACCP, good fisheries practices (GFP), etc.
- Develop information products to enhance training actions and improve general awareness among stakeholders of international standards and best practices in the global food market.

#### **Progress to Date (Action 30% complete)**

##### **(i) Training and Awareness Building of Key AHFS Issues Conducted**

Over 140 private sector stakeholders were sensitised in the areas of antimicrobial resistance, (AMR), food safety, the principles of GAP, and the importance of implementing these practices along the value chain. Two national events and one regional event were supported; GAP for crop and livestock systems (The Bahamas), Farmers Food Safety Forum (Suriname) and Food Hygiene Bureau's 7<sup>th</sup> Caribbean International Food Safety and Security Conference (Jamaica).

A technical workshop was held in the Dominican Republic to sensitise private sector stakeholders (business and shipping sector) to the Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures Agreement of the WTO (September). Based on the positive response, another workshop is being planned for the business sector.

##### **(ii) Handbooks, Guidelines and Manuals Developed for Building Improved Capacities of Public and Private Sector**

A series of information products are being developed to assist with capacity-building exercises for extension and private sector stakeholders. Information products include: GAP Audit Manual, Pesticide Management Operators Manual, Leptospirosis Bulletins [3].

### **Action 3.3 Strengthening and Enhancing Laboratory Systems and Networks**

#### **OVI**

1. A mechanism exists to network laboratories within the Region offering services to the AHFS and fisheries sectors.
2. Increase in the number of accredited laboratories. Increase in the number of selected laboratories conducting tests and increase in the number of tests related to agricultural and fisheries exports.

**Specific Actions to Achieve the OVIs**

- Establish/strengthen national and regional laboratory networks for improved rationalisation of use of laboratories in Region.
- Identify selected laboratories for accreditation and provide technical assistance to assist laboratories with attaining accreditation.
- Support training for laboratory staff in member states.

**Progress to Date (Action 10% complete)**

**(i) Laboratories for Accreditation Identified**

A series of meetings was held with the CARICOM Regional Organisation for Standards and Quality (CROSO) to review the profiles of several laboratories in the Region that were assessed for accreditation under the TBT Project. The EU SPS Project will collaborate with the TBT Project to assist the selected laboratories to attain accreditation. Ten conformity assessment bodies have been selected. These include six laboratories that conduct a variety of analytical and diagnostic tests. Currently, a GAP analysis is being undertaken in order to determine the specific interventions for each laboratory.

**(ii) Training in Key Laboratory Tests for the Export Supported**

Based on a national request, six persons from public sector laboratories in Barbados were given support to attend laboratory training sessions in diagnostic techniques, as well as in the conduct of tests required for entry into international markets (e.g. histamines). The information gained has assisted in strengthening the national laboratory system to meet some of the requirements for market entry.

**Action 3.4 Identifying Private Industry Standards Impacting Key Export Areas and Analysing them with a View to Capacity Building**

**OVIs**

1. Report of study to determine external constraints including private standards applicability to key export areas available to all Member States.
2. Increased understanding by Member States of the requirements and implications of private industry.

**Specific Action to Achieve the OVI**

Assess the use of private industry standards in the Region and the opportunities and limitations for adoption/impact for non-adoption.

**Progress to Date (Action 5% complete)**

Terms of Reference was developed and interviews conducted for the assignment. The Consultant has been identified and the contract commenced on October 5, 2015.

**Actions 3.5 and 3.6      Establishing National and Regional Environmental Monitoring Programmes and National (Aquaculture) and Farm Level Residue Monitoring Programmes**

**OVIs**

1. Environmental monitoring programmes for fisheries and aquaculture are designed and implemented.
2. National and regional residue monitoring programmes developed and implemented for aquaculture farms.

**Specific Actions to Achieve the OVIs**

**Environmental Monitoring Programmes**

- Assess the status of fish quality along the fish value chain and develop a programme for quality assurance and safety.
- Collect data along the value chain and develop food safety operational manuals (field/environmental, laboratory, market, trade) to support the activities of designated persons and/or entities responsible for the safety of fishery products in countries.

**National (Aquaculture) Farm-Level Residue Monitoring Programmes**

- Assess current status of residue monitoring for drugs in the fish and fish products that are used in the aquaculture farm operations.
- Design and implement appropriate programmes.

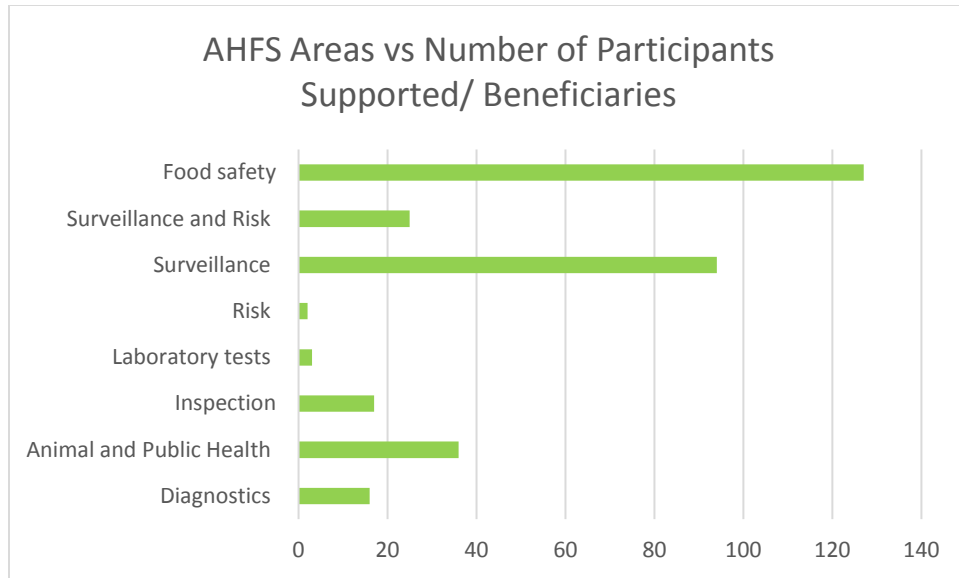
**Progress to Date (Action 30% complete)**

**(i) Development of Environmental Monitoring plans initiated**

Field work was completed in seven countries: The Bahamas, Belize, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica and Suriname. The field work in each country was structured to include: meetings with the Fisheries Department staff, staff of the Competent Authority for SPS, and staff of laboratories involved in conducting tests for SPS; as well as direct observation of SPS operations at landing sites, laboratories, aquaculture farms and processing plants.

The data gathered were used to develop national environmental and residue monitoring plans for CARIFORUM countries. The plans were drafted, disseminated to countries and validated at a Regional workshop (August 2015, Barbados). These plans have been finalised based on the feedback received from countries. The second phase of this work will be the implementation of the programmes in countries.

These programmes will provide data and information on the level of contamination of the different species by different contaminants, and bio-toxins in fisheries and other agricultural products. Monitoring programmes are also necessary to ensure water quality.



**Figure 1:** Public and Private Sector Beneficiaries—  
Capacity Building Actions in Key AHFS Areas

#### **SUMMARY OUTCOMES and CONCLUSION for CAPACITY BUILDING**

- Over 300 regulatory personnel and private sector stakeholders strengthened in SPS matters.
- 2 manuals and 3 bulletins were drafted for improving capacities of public and private sector stakeholders.
- National plans developed for CARIFORUM countries for the development of systems to support trade within the Fisheries sub-sector.

Regulatory personnel and private sector stakeholders were trained across the Region in the various disciplines of animal and plant health and food safety, thereby allowing them to carry out their functions more effectively and efficiently. The increased capacity provided by the training will lead to an overall improvement of the AHFS systems in the countries and the facilitation of intra and extra regional trade.

In addition, the training has created an awareness within the private sector of the importance of SPS regimes.

The development of national plans for environmental and residue monitoring systems is also a significant step towards ensuring high quality fish and fish products for trade in international markets.





Opening Ceremony of the **One Health Leadership Training** and participants during the workshop. Held in collaboration with EU Funded “One Health, One Love, One Caribbean” Project. Jamaica, June 2015.



Participants at the **Integrated Foodborne Diseases and AMR Workshop** held at the UWI in collaboration with PAHO/OIE/FAO/IICA. Trinidad and Tobago 2015.

Participants at the **AMR Training** held at the Ohio State University, USA July 2015.



Participants engaged at the IICA CaribVET training workshop on ‘**Laboratory Methods for Rabies Virus Diagnosis**’, held in Grenada December 2014.

Participants at the **UWI/USDA/FAO/ IICA/Regional Plant Quarantine Inspectors Training Course**, Trinidad and Tobago, August 2015.

**Plate 4:** Capacity Building Actions for Regulatory Professionals

**Table 1:** Public and Private Sector Capacity Building Actions (October 01, 2014–September 30, 2015)

AHFS AREA	Scale of the Action	Training Workshops	Number of Participants Supported/ Beneficiaries	Countries Benefiting
<b>Public Sector</b>				
Diagnostics	National Action	International Diagnostics Laboratory Network Training Workshop. Iowa State University (September 2015; Ames, USA)	1	BDOS
Diagnostics	National Action	Training course in USDA Microbiological methods for Meat and Poultry (September 2015, USA)	1	BDOS
Diagnostics	National Action	Rabies Diagnostic Training Hosted by the Regional Technical Group, CaribVET in collaboration with the St Georges University (December 2014, Grenada).	13	GRN, GUY, SUR, TT, HAI
Diagnostics	National Action	International Diagnostics Laboratory Network training (July 2015, USA). Cochran Fellowship. Partial support provided.	1	SLU
Food safety	Regional Action	One-Health Leadership Series – Four Module Series over two years. Two modules conducted in collaboration with the EU funded 'One-Health, One Caribbean, One-Love' Project (November 2014, Tobago; June 2015, Jamaica).	36	BDOS, BZ, DOM, GRN, GUY, HAI, JAM, SLU, SVG, SUR, TT
Inspection	Regional Action	UWI/USDA/FAO/IICA Plant Quarantine Course. (August 2015, Trinidad and Tobago).	8 (19 participants in total)	All CARIFORUM States
Inspection	Regional Action	Animal and Plant Health Inspection. Conducted by The Mexican National Service for Agro-Food Health, Safety and Quality [SENASICA] (April 2015, Mexico).	8 (31 participants in total)	BDOS,BAH, DOM, GUY, SLU
Inspection	National Action	Meat and Poultry Inspection Seminar for International Government Officials. (October 2015, USA). Cochran Fellowship. Partial support provided.	1	SLU
Laboratory tests	National Action	International Food Safety Training Laboratory [training in molecular techniques for identifying foodborne pathogens—Laboratory Attachment] (August 2015, Ireland).	1	BDOS

AHFS AREA	Scale of the Action	Training Workshops	Number of Participants Supported/Beneficiaries	Countries Benefiting
Laboratory tests	National Action	Training in Histamine Analysis (August 2015, USA).	1	BDOS
Laboratory tests	National Action	International Course on Poultry Production at North Carolina State University (August 2015, USA).	1	BDOS
Risk	Regional Action	Post-graduate Diploma Programme in Pesticide Risk Management (DPRM) at the University of Cape Town [UCT] (February 2015, South Africa). The programme began February 23, 2015 with two weeks of on-campus lectures at the University of Cape Town and thereafter the course will be run online. The expected completion date is the latter part of 2016.	1	GUY (competitive process)
Risk	National Action	Risk Analysis for Animal Health training course. The USDA-APHIS-VS Center for Epidemiology and Animal Health, USA. (March 2015, USA). Cochran Fellowship. Partial support provided.	1	SLU
Surveillance	Regional Action	Avian Influenza Workshop, and joint meetings of Avian Diseases working group, Epigroup and laboratory working group of CaribVET (August 2015, Barbados).	35	BDOS, BZ, DOM, DR, JAM, SVG, GUY, TT
Surveillance	Regional Action	Antimicrobial Use and Antimicrobial Resistance in Agriculture Training. In collaboration with the Ohio State University (July 2015; Columbus, USA).	12	BDOS, BZ, DR, GUY, JAM, SUR, TT
Surveillance	Regional Action	Regional Food Safety and Foodborne Disease Surveillance Workshop. Co-hosted with Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA)/Pan American Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) (May 2015, Trinidad and Tobago).	11 (80 participants in total)	BDOS, BZ, DOM, GRN, GUY, JAM, TT
Surveillance	Regional Action	Strengthening Integrated Surveillance of Food Borne Diseases and Antimicrobial Resistance in the Caribbean Workshop. Held in collaboration with PAHO/WHO, FAO, OIE (January 2015, Trinidad and Tobago).	36	BDOS, BZ, GUY, JAM, SUR, TT
Surveillance and Risk	Regional Action	Regional Salmonella Surveillance and Risk Management Workshop. Conducted in collaboration with the Caribbean Animal Health Network (CaribVET) (May 2015, Jamaica).	25	BDOS, DOM, GRN, GUY, JAM, SUR, TT
Total Number of Public Sector Beneficiaries			<b>193</b>	

AHFS AREA	Scale of the Action	Training Workshops	Number of Participants Supported/ Beneficiaries	Countries Benefiting
<b>Private Sector</b>				
Food safety	Regional Action	The Food Hygiene Bureau's 7 <sup>th</sup> Caribbean International Food Safety and Security Conference. (March 2015, Jamaica).	27	All CARIFORUM States
Food safety	National Action	Good Agriculture Practices workshop for private sector stakeholders, (May 2015, The Bahamas).	20	BAH
Food safety	National Action	A Food Safety Farmers' forum was supported at the Caribbean Food Crops Society Meeting (July 2015, Suriname)	50	SUR
Food safety	National Action	A one-day sensitisation seminar on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) for industry stakeholders held in collaboration with PAHO/WHO, OIE (January 2015, Trinidad and Tobago).	30	TT
<b>Total Number of Private Sector Beneficiaries</b>			<b>127</b>	
<b>Total Number of Beneficiaries</b>			<b>320</b>	

## **COMPONENT 4: ACTION MANAGEMENT**

### **Administrative Actions**

The Project Management Unit is fully operational and undertaking administrative actions for the implementation of the Project. Major actions included the finalisation of Agreements with Partners, operationalisation of the Governance Committees, the establishment of implementation mechanisms at the national level, and the development of an acceleration plan for 2014–2015 and work plan for 2015–2016.

#### **(i) Agreements with Key Implementing Partners Signed**

The full implementation of the Project was realised with the signing of Agreements with the CRFM and the CNMSF. The signing of these Agreements enabled the implementation of fisheries actions and actions in the Dominican Republic. These Agreements were signed in March and June, 2015 for the CRFM and CNMSF; respectively. The delays in signing were due to lengthy institutional processes.

In relation to the CRFM, a Specific Letter of Agreement was signed and for the CNMSF, a General Agreement and a Specific Letter of Understanding were signed. The General Agreement outlines the overall objective and guidelines for collaboration under the Project. The Specific Agreement is based on annual submissions by these institutions to undertake various aspects of the work programme supported by the Governance Committees.

#### **(ii) Project Governance Processes Fully Functional**

In order to ensure effective and efficient monitoring and evaluating of the actions under the Project, virtual and face-to-face meetings were held of the Technical Oversight Committee (TOC) and the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) held to keep members abreast of the progress of implementation and to discuss the Project Work Plan. In keeping with the Governance Guidelines, there were four meeting of the TAC (November 2014, and March, May (extra ordinary), and June 2015) and two meeting of the TOC (March and June).

These meetings were convened to: (i) provide an update on the progress of the Project (technical and financial); (ii) support the work plan for 2015–2016 and (ii) finalise the strategy for acceleration. In addition, discussions were held on the proposed actions in relation to collaboration and synergies with other regional activities, as well as coordination and recommendations to address technical difficulties encountered in implementation.

#### **(iii) Project Implementation Mechanisms Fully Operational**

Technical National Implementation Network Teams (TNINT) were established in all CARIFORUM Countries. The TNINT facilitates the development and implementation of Annual Operational Plans at the country level, monitors the implementation and facilitates reporting to the Project Management Unit (PMU).

The teams are managed by National Focal Points. These Coordinators have been selected from the Ministries of Agriculture (including the fisheries sub-sector), private sector agencies or relevant national institutions.

The formation of these teams is critical for the implementation of the actions of the Project. In countries where there were existing AHFS or SPS committees, these committees are serving as the TNINT; in some cases, they were augmented.

### **Scope of Work for TNINTs**

- Liaise with PMU relating to country needs to be included in the Annual Work Plan
- Review Plan of Work
- Liaise with consultants and provide baseline information, and feedback relating to methodology, outcome and outputs associated with activities
- Provide guidance to consultants relating to country needs
- Assist with disseminating Project-related information to stakeholders
- Identify needs for incorporation into Annual Work Plans
- Assist with the implementation of impact assessment activities

### **(iv) Programme Monitoring and Evaluation Conducted**

In addition to meetings with the EU Delegation to discuss the progress of the Project, the Project was evaluated by the EU during the reporting period, this included a Mid-Term Evaluation of EPA Programme and a Results Oriented Monitoring (ROM) mission.

### **Acceleration Strategy developed for work plan 2014–2015**

An Acceleration Strategy to fast-tracking implementation took a multi-pronged approach and included:

- Immediate contracting of a wide cadre of professionals
- Building synergies with other projects with similar focus
- Enhancing collaboration with Project partners, as well as regional and international agencies
- Optimising the inputs of IICA's technical professionals
- Increasing advocacy at the ministerial and policy directorate levels

### **(v) Work plan for 2015–2016 developed and supported by Governance Committees**

A request was sent to countries, Regional AHFS Groups and Agencies on April 1, 2015 for the submission of priority actions for consideration for the 2015–2016 work plan. The submissions were catalogued and scored against selected criteria. High priority actions identified were used to develop the work plan for 2015 – 2016. The plan was supported by Governance Committees in June 2015.

### **Overview of the work plan**

For each of the strategic areas being addressed under the Project (legislation, coordination and capacity building), the following actions are being conducted in the 2015–2016 cycle.

For the area of legislation, actions pertaining to the development of models that can potentially result in a more harmonised regulatory system for the implementation of SPS Measures will continue. In addition, country specific requests to revise existing bills and regulations will be undertaken.

Towards operationalising national and regional coordination mechanisms, actions will continue to address(i) assessing and improving national coordination and regional AHFS systems; (ii) improving the representation of CARIFORUM countries at International AHFS meetings, and (iii) supporting the efforts of Regional technical fora and (iv) operationalisation of CAHFSA.

In order to strengthen the capacity of the public sector and private sector, a series of short- and medium-term training events, will be conducted in several key technical areas identified by national and regional stakeholders. These include: diagnostics, surveillance (Antimicrobial Resistance and Avian Influenza Emergency Response), risk analysis, traceability, certification and food safety. In addition, select national interventions are planned for individual countries. Actions to strengthen laboratory systems and environmental monitoring for fisheries are also included.

Appendix 2 provides the 2015–2016 work plan.

**SUMMARY OUTCOMES and CONCLUSION for ACTION MANAGEMENT**

- Agreements with Key Implementing Partners signed
- Project Governance Processes are fully operational and functioning optimally
- Project Implementation Mechanisms at the country level are fully established and operational
- Two evaluations of the Project highlighted key recommendations for accelerating project implementation.
- Work plan for 2015–2016 supported by Governance Committees is being implemented.
- Over 70% of the first disbursement of funds has been expended or committed.

The Project is fully operational with actions being undertaken in all components. The level of expenditure has increased significantly over the last quarter of the reporting period and this trend is expected to be maintained so that the targets outlined in the work plan are realised.

### 3.0 VISIBILITY

The Communication and Visibility action seeks to ensure that there is a continuous and substantive flow of information and an awareness of Project actions across all stakeholder groupings. To this end, activities conducted over the past year included, in the main, the development of a Visibility and Communication Strategy for the Project, the finalisation of the visual identity of the project, and branding documents with the requisite logos and statements (banners, information products, newsletters, etc.).

The main visibility results over the period included (i) development of a Communications and Visibility Strategy for the Project, (ii) mounting an exhibition at the Caribbean Week of Agriculture (Suriname), (iii) hosting a seminar on AHFS in the Region, (iv) preparation of information products (e.g. posters, banners, leaflets), (v) preparation of a quarterly newsletter, (vi) media articles and releases associated with the implementation of technical actions, and (vii) presentations on the progress of implementation of the Project at Ministerial fora. See Table 2 for details.



**Table 2:** Visibility Actions (October 01, 2014–September 30, 2015)

Description	Title	Date	Clippings/Link
Caribbean Week of Agriculture (CWA) Expo, Suriname	SPS Exhibition mounted and seminar hosted on Agriculture Health and Food Safety (AHFS) in the Caribbean	October 2014	Presentation to 60 persons at the seminar and over 200 patrons exposed to SPS issues.
Special Meetings with Agriculture Ministers and European Union. Provided updates on Priority Interventions and Progress of Implementation	51 <sup>st</sup> Special Meeting of the Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED)- Agriculture	October 2014	PMU Presentation
	European Union - Teams from the European Delegation (Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados) on the progress of the Project.	November 2014	PMU Presentation
	Caribbean Agriculture Ministers at the FAO Meeting attended by the IICA Coordinator for Regional Integration (The Bahamas)	February 2015	
Project Brochure on Fisheries Actions	Development and dissemination of 'The Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) Programme – Positioning CARIFORUM to Fish Where the Big Fish Are' brochure	January 2015	CRFM - copies have been disseminated throughout CARIFORUM States.
'SPS News' Newsletter Issue #1	Quarterly highlights of the SPS Project actions	Jan-April 2015	PMU dissemination via email and hardcopies at meetings/events
'SPS News' Newsletter, Issue #2	Quarterly highlights of the SPS Project actions	June–Sept 2015	PMU dissemination via email and hardcopies at meetings/events

Description	Title	Date	Clippings/Link
Media Releases - Caribbean News Now – Online News - IICA Connection Bulletin (Website Resources) - Go Jamaica – Online News	‘Regional Workshop hosted on Salmonella Surveillance and Risk Management for Egg and Poultry Producers’ <i>Media Release dated 27 May, 2015</i>	May 27, 2015	<a href="http://www.caribbeannewsnow.com/topstory-Jamaica-hosts-regional-workshop-on-salmonella-surveillance-and-risk-management-26316.html">http://www.caribbeannewsnow.com/topstory-Jamaica-hosts-regional-workshop-on-salmonella-surveillance-and-risk-management-26316.html</a>  <a href="http://www.iica.int/en/press/news/regional-workshop-hosted-salmonella-surveillance-and-risk-management-egg-and-poultry">http://www.iica.int/en/press/news/regional-workshop-hosted-salmonella-surveillance-and-risk-management-egg-and-poultry</a>  <a href="http://go-jamaica.com/pressrelease/item.php?id=4725">http://go-jamaica.com/pressrelease/item.php?id=4725</a>
Media Releases - IICA Connection Bulletin (Website Resources) - EU Delegation Online Centre - Go Jamaica – Online News - Novel Approach Systems	‘Agriculture, Health and Environment Leaders benefit from ‘One Health Leadership’ training in Food Security and Food Safety’ and ‘Efforts underway to increase agricultural health in the Caribbean’ <i>Media Release dated July 10, 2015</i>	July 10, 2015	<a href="http://www.iica.int/en/press/news/efforts-underway-increase-agricultural-health-caribbean">http://www.iica.int/en/press/news/efforts-underway-increase-agricultural-health-caribbean</a>  <a href="http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/jamaica/documents/news/one_health_food_safety_and_security_workshop_jamaica.en.pdf">http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/jamaica/documents/news/one_health_food_safety_and_security_workshop_jamaica.en.pdf</a> <a href="http://go-jamaica.com/pressrelease/item.php?id=4980">http://go-jamaica.com/pressrelease/item.php?id=4980</a> <a href="http://novelapproachsystems.com/agriculture-health-environment-leaders-benefit-from-training-in-food-security-safety/">http://novelapproachsystems.com/agriculture-health-environment-leaders-benefit-from-training-in-food-security-safety/</a>
Media Release - The Sun, Dominica	‘Strengthening Pesticide Management towards Sustainable Agriculture in the Caribbean’ <i>Media release dated July 18, 2015</i>	July 18, 2015	<a href="http://sundominica.com/articles/strengthening-pesticides-management-towards-sustainable-agriculture/">http://sundominica.com/articles/strengthening-pesticides-management-towards-sustainable-agriculture/</a>
Media Release	‘Caribbean Scales Up Preparedness Plans for Avian Influenza’	July 27, 2015	<a href="http://gisbarbados.gov.bb/index.php?categoryid=9&amp;p2_articleid=14483">http://gisbarbados.gov.bb/index.php?categoryid=9&amp;p2_articleid=14483</a>

Description	Title	Date	Clippings/Link
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Government Information Service, Barbados</li> <li>- Nation News - Barbados</li> <li>- CaribVET Website</li> <li>- CARICOM Website</li> <li>- Carib Daily Website</li> </ul>	<p><i>Media Release dated July 27, 2015</i></p>		<p><a href="http://www.nationnews.com/nationnews/news/70416/barbados-region-scale-preparedness-plan-avian-influenza">http://www.nationnews.com/nationnews/news/70416/barbados-region-scale-preparedness-plan-avian-influenza</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.caribvet.net/en/news/2015/caribbean-scales-up-preparedness-plans-for-avian-influenza">http://www.caribvet.net/en/news/2015/caribbean-scales-up-preparedness-plans-for-avian-influenza</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.facebook.com/caricom.org/posts/709169512528624">https://www.facebook.com/caricom.org/posts/709169512528624</a></p> <p><a href="http://today.caricom.org/2015/07/29/barbados-region-scale-up-preparedness-plan-for-avian-influenza/">http://today.caricom.org/2015/07/29/barbados-region-scale-up-preparedness-plan-for-avian-influenza/</a></p> <p><a href="http://caribdaily.com/a/2732507/barbados-and-the-region-scale-up-preparedness-plan-for-avian-influenza/">http://caribdaily.com/a/2732507/barbados-and-the-region-scale-up-preparedness-plan-for-avian-influenza/</a></p>
<p>Media Release</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CTN World Online News- Trinidad and Tobago</li> <li>- IICA Connection Bulletin (Website Resources)</li> <li>- TT Online – Trinidad and Tobago</li> <li>- IPPC Online News</li> </ul>	<p>'CARIFORUM Countries Review International Standards for Plant Health and Agricultural Trade'</p> <p><i>Media Release dated October 6, 2015</i></p>	<p>Oct. 6, 2015</p>	<p><a href="http://ctvtt.com/ctv/index.php/c-news/news/item/2100-cariforum-countries-review-international-standards-for-plant-health-and-agricultural-trade">http://ctvtt.com/ctv/index.php/c-news/news/item/2100-cariforum-countries-review-international-standards-for-plant-health-and-agricultural-trade</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.iica.int/en/press/news/cariforum-countries-review-international-standards-plant-health-and-agricultural-trade">http://www.iica.int/en/press/news/cariforum-countries-review-international-standards-plant-health-and-agricultural-trade</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.ippc.int/en/news/the-ippc-regional-workshop-for-the-caribbean-region-2015/">https://www.ippc.int/en/news/the-ippc-regional-workshop-for-the-caribbean-region-2015/</a></p>

## 4.0 CONCLUSION

The SPS Project is very important for the economic development of the CARIFORUM Region and hence every effort is being made to successfully implement the Project actions.

Several challenges were faced over the past year. However, through corrective actions these challenges have been (or will be) minimised, and there are already outcomes from the measures that have been implemented. This was most evident over the last quarter where activities that were lagging behind were initiated, in particular: Component 1 – Legislative strengthening. Inclusive of commitments, approximately 70% of the first tranche of funds have been expended/committed. This represents approximately 14% of the total project budget.

IICA and its partners continue to be fully committed to the project and are working assiduously to ensure the implementation of high quality actions that will result in the sustained and effective modernisation of Agricultural Health and Food Safety Systems, such that there is improved compliance with the SPS Regime within CARIFORUM.

## 5.0 APPENDICES

### Appendix 1

#### SPS PROJECT

Support to the Caribbean Forum of ACP States in the Implementation of Commitments Undertaken Under the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA): Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS)

#### Status of Implementation

Progress, Outputs and Outcomes (October 01, 2013–September 30, 2015)

OVis	Activity	Outputs	Outcomes
<b>COMPONENT 1 - Develop Model Legislation, Protocols, Standards, Measures and Guidelines in the Area of Agricultural Health and Food Safety (AHFS), including Fisheries</b>			
Plant protection and animal health draft model legislation finalised and available to all CARIFORUM States for incorporation into national legislation.	1.1 Finalisation of Plant protection and animal health model legislation.	(30% complete) Plant and Animal Health Model Legislation – revision of existing Model Bill in progress.	Initial steps towards the improvement and the harmonisation of plant and animal health legislation in the Region.
Model legislation for food safety developed and reviewed by CARIFORUM States.	1.2 Development of model food safety legislation.	(30% complete) Food Safety Model Legislation – Revision of existing Model Bill in progress.	Initial steps towards the improvement and the harmonisation of food safety legislation in the Region.
Model legislation for fisheries developed and reviewed by CARIFORUM States.	1.3 Development of Model Fish Health and Fisheries Products and Related Legislation.	(50% complete) Model Bill and protocols drafted.	Significant steps in the development of Model Fish Health and Fisheries Products legislation towards harmonisation and updating of such legislation in the Region.

OVI	Activity	Outputs	Outcomes
<p>At least two Regional protocols / standards / guidelines in each of the areas of animal health, plant health, food safety and fisheries developed and available for adoption by CARIFORUM Member States</p> <p>Modern regulations, protocols and guidelines</p>	<p>1.4 Relevant protocols/ standards/ guidelines and accompanying regulations developed</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Overall, 20% complete</li> <li>- Protocols to accompany the Fisheries Model Bill drafted.</li> <li>- Modification of Honey Act TOR in progress</li> <li>- Capacity of public sector developed in 12 CARIFORUM countries in the standard setting process for plant health (ISPM)</li> <li>- Public and private sector stakeholders sensitised to the importance of quality infrastructure (standards) in agriculture sector in the Caribbean and areas identified for building QI [60 persons – St Lucia]</li> <li>- Framework for the application of SPS measures on goods moving among OECS Protocol Member States and a draft OECS SPS Policy (in progress)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Initial steps towards the modernisation of the honey trade in Trinidad and Tobago.</li> <li>- Improved understanding of the IPPC standard setting process and the importance and benefit of participating in the process. In 2015 approximately 50% of the countries in the Region submitted comments on draft International Standards on Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs) to the IPPC.</li> <li>- Initial steps towards harmonised SPS approach for the movement of food within the OECS.</li> </ul>
<b>COMPONENT 2: Develop Effective National and Regional Coordination Mechanisms in Support of the SPS Regime</b>			
<p>Several models for national coordinating agencies/ committees compiled and distributed to by Member States for consideration.</p>	<p>2.1 Strengthening and establishment of national coordination and implementing mechanisms</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- (10% complete) Expression of Interest disseminated and proposals are being reviewed for the hiring of a company/ firm to execute development of national coordination mechanism models.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- First step towards improved coordination of SPS systems in countries in the Region.</li> </ul>
<p>Application of the Performance, Vision, Strategy tools in animal health, plant health and food safety in Member States.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- (100% complete) PVS Tool applied in all 15 CARIFORUM States and baseline information on the current status of AHFS and priority needs gathered.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A clearer understanding and contextualising by the countries of AHFS priorities and needs.</li> </ul>

OVI	Activity	Outputs	Outcomes
Increased participation of CARIFORUM States in international standard setting process	2.1 strengthening and establishment of national coordination and implementing mechanisms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- (100% complete; ongoing) Over 50 CARIFORUM Nationals supported to attend international standard setting meetings:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o 15 countries - WTO SPS meetings (Geneva)</li> <li>o 13 countries - 10th CPM meeting (Rome)</li> <li>o 6 countries - Codex Committee meetings (India, China, Mexico, Costa Rica)</li> <li>o 9 countries OIE (Paris)</li> <li>o 12 countries - Codex Alimentarius Commission. (Geneva).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Countries have an increased understanding of their rights and obligations under the international SPS Agreements and standard setting bodies.</li> <li>- Active participation of countries in the SPS international standard setting process increased by 50%.</li> </ul>
CAHFSA fully operational Increased two way communication and collaboration among the beneficiary countries	2.2. Operationalising Regional coordination and implementing mechanisms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Operationalisation on CAHFSA through support to:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Board meeting [1]</li> <li>o Representation at Regional meetings [1]</li> <li>o Visual identity (logo and website (in progress)).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Framework developed for regional coordination in the areas of AHFS and fisheries.</li> <li>- Increased opportunity for discussing and addressing AHFS issues regionally and with more effectively.</li> </ul>
CAHFSA fully operational Increased two way communication and collaboration among the beneficiary countries	2.2. Operationalising Regional coordination and implementing mechanisms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Four annual meetings of the three major AHFS Regional Technical groups supported - CPHD [2], CaribVET [1], CPGC [1].</li> <li>- Supported 5 meetings of the Regional AHFS Technical Groups - CPHD (mollusc) [1]; CaribVET (Public Health, Avian Diseases, Epigenesis, Diagnostics) [4].</li> </ul> <p><b>TOTAL - Over 200 professionals supported to participate in these meetings.</b> Overall 30% complete.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The framework for Regional coordination in the areas of AHFS and fisheries is developed.</li> <li>- Increased opportunity for discussing and addressing AHFS issues regionally and more effectively.</li> </ul>

OVI	Activity	Outputs	Outcomes
Database established for the management, monitoring and evaluation, and reporting needs of Competent Authorities (CA). Increased access to accurate data.	2.3 Data collection, management, monitoring and evaluation and reporting systems established for the national regulatory agencies	- (5% complete) Database for the traceability of cattle completed (Haiti).	- Improved ability to manage and monitor livestock in Haiti
<b>Component 3: Develop/Strengthen the National and/or Regional Regulatory and Industry Capacity to Meet the SPS Requirements of International Trade</b>			
Increased number of regulatory professionals and technicians trained.	3.1 Training programmes for animal health, plant health and food safety developed and delivered for competent authorities and regulatory agencies .	- (100% complete, ongoing) Strengthened capacity of over 190 Regulatory personnel in key AHFS priority areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Plant Quarantine [40; 15 countries fully supported]</li> <li>o Diagnostics (Rabies) [13]</li> <li>o Diagnostics [3]</li> </ul>	Improved capability across the region in important areas of AHFS; contributing to stronger AHFS systems thereby setting the stage for improved market access and strengthened capacity for the production of safer food.
Increased number of regulatory professionals and technicians trained.  Increase in the number of trained personnel available to offer service to stakeholders (HACCP Audit and certification, risk assessment of animal diseases, plant pests, food contaminants, inspection and certification, diagnostics, survey and surveillance). Manuals, handbooks and other relevant material developed and available for	3.1 Training programmes for animal health, plant health and food safety developed and delivered for competent authorities and regulatory agencies.	- (100% complete, ongoing) Strengthened capacity of over 150 regulatory personnel in key AHFS priority areas (continued): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Regional Salmonella Surveillance and Risk Management Workshop [25]</li> <li>o Foodborne Disease Surveillance, Risk Communication (CARPHA, PAHO) [80 total; 11 supported]</li> <li>o Food Borne Disease Surveillance/Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) [48]</li> <li>o Animal and Plant Health/Meat and Poultry Inspection [9]</li> <li>o One-Health Leadership series [36; 13 countries]</li> </ul>	- Improved capability across the region in important areas of AHFS; contributing to stronger AHFS systems thereby setting the stage for improved market access and strengthened capacity for the production of safer food.



OVIs	Activity	Outputs	Outcomes
<p>continuous on-the-job training</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Highly Pathogenic Avian influenza [35]</li> <li>o Risk –Animal Health [1]</li> <li>- (30% complete; ongoing) Post-graduate scholarship awarded [1] in Pesticide Risk Analysis (Diploma)</li> <li>- (50% complete) GAP Audit Manual [1] being developed.</li> </ul>	
<p>Increased number of industry professionals and technicians trained in GAPs, HACCP, GMPs, good fisheries practices and animal rearing practices.</p> <p>Increased number of firms/operations implementing good practices (GAP, GMP, and HACCP).</p> <p>Manuals, handbooks, posters and leaflets available for continuous on-the-job training and awareness.</p> <p>Increased access to export market</p> <p>Increase in the production of safe, high-quality food for national consumption</p>	<p>3.2 Training programmes developed and delivered across the value chain for industry stakeholders</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- (10% complete) SPS Non Action Study – Consultants being identified.</li> <li>- (100% complete, ongoing) Over 120 persons trained in key areas of food safety/GAP: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Private sector stakeholders supported to attend the Food Safety Conference (Jamaica) [27; all 15 CARIFORUM Countries + Caribbean Farmers Network (CaFAN), and Caribbean Network Fisherfolk Organisations (CNFO)]</li> <li>o Private sector stakeholders trained in GAP (The Bahamas) [20]</li> <li>o Private Sector sensitised to AMR and the implications on industry development (Trinidad and Tobago) [30]</li> <li>o Private Sector sensitised to food safety issues at Farmers Forum at the CFCS Meeting (Suriname) [50]</li> </ul> </li> <li>- (80% complete) Manual drafted for Pesticide Control Operators. Three bulletins on Leptospirosis completed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Initial steps towards greater understanding by policy makers of the importance of strong AHFS systems nationally and regionally.</li> <li>- Greater understanding within private sector of the importance of the application of good AHFS principles.</li> </ul>

OVI	Activity	Outputs	Outcomes
<p>A mechanism exists to network laboratories within the Region offering services to the AHFS and fisheries sectors.</p> <p>Increase in the number of accredited laboratories.</p> <p>Increase in the number of selected laboratories conducting tests</p>	<p>3.3 Strengthening and enhancing laboratory systems and networks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- (10% complete) Short list of labs to be accredited developed (in conjunction with TBT Project/CROSOQ)</li> <li>- 3 Technicians trained in laboratory testing techniques.</li> </ul>	<p>Initial steps towards increasing accredited laboratory testing capacity in the Region</p>
<p>Report of study to determine external constraints, including private standards applicability to key export areas, available to all Member States.</p> <p>There is increased understanding by Member States of the requirements and implications of private industry</p>	<p>3.4 Identifying Private industry standards impacting key export areas and analysing them with a view to capacity building</p>	<p>(5% complete) TOR developed for the Assignment and consultant contracted.</p>	<p>Initial steps towards increase in market access and compliance with market requirements for exports to EU and other major markets.</p>
<p>Environmental monitoring programmes for fisheries and aquaculture are designed and implemented.</p>	<p>3.5 Establishing national and regional environmental monitoring programmes</p>	<p>(30% complete) Baseline data on the status of environmental monitoring programmes collected in all 8 countries targeted and national plans developed.</p>	<p>Safer fish and fisheries products available for export and domestic markets.</p>
<p>National and regional residue monitoring programmes developed and implemented for aquaculture farms</p>	<p>3.6 Establishing national (aquaculture) and farm-level residue monitoring programmes</p>	<p>(30% complete) Baseline data collected on the status of residue monitoring programmes in all 8 countries targeted and national plans developed.</p>	<p>Safer fish and fisheries products available for export and domestic markets.</p>

OVIs	Activity	Outputs	Outcomes
<p>Improved communication on the SPS Project and the contribution of Project Partners (CCS;CRFM;CNMSF) to stakeholders across CARIFORUM States</p> <p>Increased visibility and knowledge of the SPS Project actions in modernising the agricultural and fisheries health and food safety systems across CARIFORUM States</p>	<p>4.1 Promote SPS Project actions, Partners activities and brand throughout CARIFORUM States</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Progress reports presented at COTED meetings and Special Ministerial meetings [4]</li> <li>- Exhibition (Caribbean Week of Agriculture 2014)</li> <li>- Regional seminar on AHFS and the role of the SPS Project (at the CWA)</li> <li>- Communications strategy developed</li> <li>- Media releases on actions [4]</li> <li>- Newsletter (quarterly)</li> <li>- Brochure on Fisheries actions under the SPS Project</li> <li>- Country Updates (quarterly) [3]</li> <li>- Project brief [1]</li> <li>- Visual identity of the project finalised</li> <li>- Website development initiated.</li> </ul>	<p>Wider understanding and awareness of the 10<sup>th</sup> EDF SPS Project and the support provided to improve AHFS in the CARIFORUM Region increase market access opportunities.</p>

## Appendix 2

### SPS PROJECT: Support to the Caribbean Forum of ACP States in the Implementation of Commitments Undertaken Under the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA): Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS)

#### Plan of Action (2015 -2016)

COMPONENT 1 - Develop Model Legislation, Protocols, Standards, Measures and Guidelines in the Area of Agricultural Health and Food Safety (AHFS), including Fisheries				
OVI	Action Step	Main Elements	Specific Actions	Partners
Plant protection and animal health draft model legislation finalised and available to all CARIFORUM States for incorporation into national legislation.	1.1 Finalisation of Plant protection and animal health model legislation.	1.1.1 Validation of Draft Bills on plant health and animal health to the competent legal authorities for review and recommendations to the Heads of Government.	1.1.1.1 Review and revise existing model legislation with respect to international requirements and also country requests.	CCS, CNMSF, FAO
Model legislation for food safety developed and reviewed by CARIFORUM States.	1.2 Development of model food safety legislation.	1.2.1 Initiate review of draft model food safety Bill.	1.2.1.1 Review existing model legislation with respect to international requirements and also country requirements.	CCS, CNMSF, FAO
Model legislation for fisheries developed and reviewed by CARIFORUM States.	1.3 Development of Model Fish Health and Fisheries Products and Related Legislation.	1.3.1 Host national consultations - situational analysis.	1.3.2.1 Develop model legislation with respect to international requirements and also country requests.	CRFM
At least two Regional protocols / standards / guidelines in animal health, plant health, food safety and fisheries developed and available for adoption by CARIFORUM Member States	1.4 Relevant protocols/ standards/guidelines and accompanying regulations developed.	1.4.1. Develop regulations and protocols.	1.4.1.1 Identification, drafting and finalisation of accompanying plant, animal, food safety and fisheries supporting regulations, protocols, standards, guidelines.	CRFM, CAHFS, FAO, CNMSF

OVI	Action Step	Main Elements	Specific Actions	Partners
<b>COMPONENT 2: Develop Effective National and Regional Coordination Mechanisms in Support of the SPS Regime</b>				
Several models for national coordinating agencies/committees compiled and distributed to and considered by Member States.	2.1 Strengthening or establishment of national coordination and implementing mechanisms.	2.1.1 National Institutional coordination mechanism models prepared and presented.	2.1.1.1 Assessment of coordination of AHFS systems/services.	TNINT, MOAs
			2.1.1.2 Design/strengthen and implement coordination mechanisms for AHFS systems.	TNINT, MOAs, CRFM, CNMSF
Application of the Performance, Vision, Strategy tools in animal health, plant health and food safety in Member States. Increased participation of CARIFORUM States in international standard setting process	2.1 Strengthening or establishment of national coordination and implementing mechanisms.	2.1.2 Application of PVS tools (assessment and analysis of AHFS services).	2.1.2.1 Conduct PVS (x2 SKN)	TNINT, MOAs
		2.1.3 Support to national coordination bodies (CODEX, IPPC, OIE, SPS) and attendance to selected SPS, Codex, IPPC and OIE meetings.	2.1.3.1 Undertake logistical arrangements for nationals to international attend meetings.	TNINT, MOAs
CAHFSa fully operational.	2.2. Operationalising Regional coordination and implementing mechanisms.	2.2.1 Establish and initiate prioritised programme of work for the regional SPS coordinating mechanisms (such as CNMSF, CAHFSa).	2.2.1.1 Support operationalisation of CAHFSa - Board meeting, Working Group meetings and attendance at international meetings, communication strategy and implementation (website, visual identity).	Regional AHFS Groups, CAHFSa, CCS, CNMSF, CRFM,

OVI	Action Step	Main Elements	Specific Actions	Partners
Increased two way communication and collaboration among the beneficiary countries.	2.2. Operationalising Regional coordination and implementing mechanisms.	2.2.1 Establish and initiate prioritised programme of work for the regional SPS coordinating mechanisms (such as CNMSF, CAHFSA).	2.2.1.2 Develop regional coordination mechanism.	Regional AHFS Groups, CAHFSA, CCS, CNMSF, CRFM
		2.2.2 Information technology platform established for regional communication include CNMSF (forward and backward linkages with hub).	2.2.2.1 Assessment of Regional fora and AHFS Institutions to determine information needs and design and implement mechanism for information sharing.	Regional AHFS Groups, CAHFSA, CCS, CNMSF, CRFM
			2.2.2.2 Host a meeting of all TNINTs (Focal persons and IICA Personnel).	TNINT
		2.2.3 Support the technical regional AHFS fora: CVOs, Plant Health Directors, CaribVET, CGPC, etc.	2.2.3.1 Support annual meetings of AHFS fora as well as working group meetings (CPHD, CaribVET, CVOs, CGPC).	Regional AHFS Groups, CCS
Database established for the management, monitoring and evaluation, and reporting needs of Competent Authorities (CA). Increased access to accurate data.	2.3 Data collection, management, monitoring and evaluation and reporting systems established for the national regulatory agencies.	2.3.1 Develop the data acquisition, management, and M&E systems for AHFS and Fisheries CA/Inspection Services.	2.3.1.2 Design data systems for management, monitoring, evaluation and reporting on the inspection services technical assistance and training).	CRFM
Communication and information sharing system established and implemented. Improved	2.4 Establishing communication, information and management	2.4.1. Strengthen information and communication flow among regional agencies.	2.4.1.1 Build capacity in information and communication flow among regional AHFS agencies.	CRFM

OVI	Action Step	Main Elements	Specific Actions	Partners
<p>coordination and collaboration among regional organisations.</p> <p>Improvement in the delivery of technical assistance and support to the Member States.</p>	<p>technology systems and platform for the regional agencies.</p>			
<p><b>Component 3: Develop/Strengthen the National and/or Regional Regulatory and Industry Capacity to Meet the SPS Requirements of International Trade</b></p>				
<p>Increased number of regulatory professionals and technicians trained.</p> <p>Increase in the number of trained personnel available to offer service to stakeholders (HACCP Audit and certification, risk assessment of animal diseases, plant pests, food contaminants, inspection and certification, diagnostics, survey and surveillance).</p> <p>Manuals, handbooks and other relevant material developed and available for continuous on-the-job training.</p>	<p>3.1 Training programmes for animal health, plant health and food safety developed and delivered for competent authorities and regulatory agencies.</p>	<p>3.1.1 Strengthen capacity of Regulatory personnel in all AHFS disciplines.</p>	<p>3.1.1.1 Conduct national and regional training in Diagnostics (plant, animal and food safety).</p>	<p>TNINT, Regional AHFS Groups</p>

OVI	Action Step	Main Elements	Specific Actions	Partners
<p>Increased number of regulatory professionals and technicians trained.</p> <p>Increase in the number of trained personnel available to offer service to stakeholders (HACCP Audit and certification, risk assessment of animal diseases, plant pests, food contaminants, inspection and certification, diagnostics, survey and surveillance.</p> <p>Manuals, handbooks and other relevant material developed and available for continuous on-the-job training.</p>	<p>3.1 Training programmes for animal health, plant health and food safety developed and delivered for competent authorities and regulatory agencies.</p>	<p>3.1.1 Strengthen capacity of Regulatory personnel in all AHFS disciplines.</p>	<p>3.1.1.2 Develop surveillance, monitoring, inspection programmes for animal health, plant health, food safety, pesticides (manuals, action plans, training, pilot studies).</p>	<p>TNINT, Regional AHFS Groups</p>
			<p>3.1.1.3 Develop training manuals, SOPs, Courses to support the implementation of AHFS systems (includes CNMSF).</p>	<p>TNINT, Regional AHFS Groups</p>
			<p>3.1.1.4 Support training in Risk Analysis (plant, animal, food safety, pesticides).</p>	<p>TNINT, Regional AHFS Groups, Firm/University</p>
			<p>3.1.1.5 Develop traceability, certification systems, international standards (manual, training, pilot studies).</p>	<p>TNINT, FAO, Firm/University</p>



OVIs	Action Step	Main Elements	Specific Actions	Partners
<p>Increased number of regulatory professionals and technicians trained.</p> <p>Increase in the number of trained personnel available to offer service to stakeholders (HACCP Audit and certification, risk assessment of animal diseases, plant pests, food contaminants, inspection and certification, diagnostics, survey and surveillance.</p> <p>Manuals, handbooks and other relevant material developed and available for continuous on-the-job training.</p>	<p>3.1 Training programmes for animal health, plant health and food safety developed and delivered for competent authorities and regulatory agencies.</p>	<p>3.1.1 Strengthen capacity of Regulatory personnel in all AHFS disciplines.</p>	<p>3.1.1.6 Development of GAP certification systems (national/regional framework, training, manual, pilot studies).</p>	<p>TNINT, Regional AHFS Groups, OECS Secretariat</p>
		<p>3.1.2 Support post-graduate training in AHFS disciplines.</p>	<p>3.1.1.7 Train the Trainers; Auditors (GMO, GLP, HACCP, GFP).</p>	<p>TNINT, Regional AHFS Groups, Consultancy Firm/University</p>
		<p>3.1.2.1 Internships, attachments and medium-term academic training.</p>	<p>TNINT, Regional AHFS Groups</p>	
<p>Increased number of industry professionals and technicians trained in GAPs, HACCP, GMPs, etc.</p> <p>Increased number of firms/operations implementing good practices (GAP, GMP, and HACCP).</p> <p>Manuals, handbooks, posters and leaflets available for continuous on-the-job training and awareness.</p> <p>Increased access to export market.</p> <p>Increase in the production of safe, high quality food for national consumption.</p>	<p>3.2 Training programmes developed and delivered across the value chain for industry stakeholders.</p>	<p>3.2.1 Training in international SPS requirements.</p>	<p>3.2.1.1 Conduct study on SPS non-action (5 Member States used as case studies; including the DR).</p>	<p>TNINT</p>

OVI	Action Step	Main Elements	Specific Actions	Partners
<p>Increased number of industry professionals and technicians trained in GAPs, HACCP, GMPs etc. Increased number of firms/operations implementing good practices (GAP, GMP, and HACCP).</p> <p>Manuals, handbooks, posters and leaflets available for continuous on-the-job training and awareness.</p> <p>Increased access to export market.</p> <p>Increase in the production of safe, high quality food for national consumption.</p>	<p>3.2 Training programmes developed and delivered across the value chain for industry stakeholders.</p>	<p>3.2.2 Strengthen private sector enterprises to meet international standard for export.</p>	<p>3.2.2.1 Provide support to stakeholders to guide compliance with international standards (technical assistance, equipment, training programmes in GAP, GMP, HACCP and GFP).</p>	<p>TNINT</p>
<p>A mechanism exists to network laboratories within the Region offering services to the AHFS and fisheries sectors.</p> <p>Increase in the number of accredited laboratories.</p> <p>Increase in the number of selected laboratories conducting tests and increase in the number of tests related to agricultural and fisheries exports.</p>	<p>3.3 Strengthening and enhancing laboratory systems and networks.</p>	<p>3.3.1 Establish/ strengthen national and regional laboratory networks.</p>	<p>3.3.1.1 Formation of a networking strategy for AHFS laboratories— private and public (in collaboration with 10th EDF TBT Project).</p>	<p>CROSO</p>
		<p>3.3.2 Rationalisation of use of labs in Region.</p>	<p>3.3.2.1 Facilitate the strengthening/accreditation of laboratories— technical assistance, training, equipment (in collaboration with CROSO; 4)</p>	<p>CROSO</p>
			<p>3.3.2.2 Support training for laboratory staff in member states.</p>	

OVI	Action Step	Main Elements	Specific Actions	Partners
<p>Report of study to determine external constraints, including private standards applicability to key export areas available to all Member States.</p> <p>There is increased understanding by Member States of the requirements and implications of private industry.</p>	<p>3.4 Identifying private industry standards impacting key export areas and analysing them with a view to capacity building.</p>	<p>3.4.1 Analysis of impact of private industry standards and implementation of related capacity building.</p>	<p>3.4.1.1 Assess the use of private industry standards in the Region and the limitations for adoption/impact for non-adoption.</p>	<p>TNINT</p>
<p>Environmental monitoring programmes for fisheries and aquaculture are designed and implemented.</p>	<p>3.5 Establishing national and regional environmental monitoring programmes.</p>	<p>3.5.1 Assess the status of fish quality along the fish value chain and develop a programme for quality assurance and safety.</p>	<p>3.5.1.1 Collect data along the value chain and develop food safety operational manuals (field/environmental, laboratory, market, trade) to support the activities of designated persons and/or entities responsible for the safety of fishery products in countries.</p>	<p>CRFM</p>
<p>National and regional residue monitoring programmes developed and implemented for aquaculture farms.</p>	<p>3.6 Establishing national (aquaculture) and farm-level residue monitoring programmes.</p>	<p>3.6.1 Review existing residue monitoring programmes for aquaculture in the CARIFORUM Member States.</p>	<p>3.6.1.1 Develop monitoring programmes in Member States.</p>	<p>CRFM</p>

OVIs	Action Step	Main Elements	Specific Actions	Partners
<b>Visibility</b>				
<p>Improved communication on the SPS Project and the contribution of Project Partners (CCS, CRFM, CNMSF) to stakeholders across CARIFORUM States.</p> <p>Increased visibility and knowledge of the SPS Project actions in modernising the agricultural and fisheries health and food safety systems across CARIFORUM States.</p>	<p>Promote SPS Project actions, Partners' activities and brand throughout CARIFORUM States.</p>		<p>Develop partnerships with national and regional media entities to raise awareness about the SPS Project activities and Partners contributions.</p> <p>Develop online tools, information sharing/educational materials, and promotional items to engage stakeholders.</p> <p>Host regional competitions and symposia/lecture series.</p>	<p>TNINT, AHFS Groups, CRFM, CNMSF, CCS, CAHFSA</p>