sps committee thematic session on equivalence (Part 2)

monday, 18 march 2019

WTO, CENTRE WILLIAM RAPPARD, GeNEVA

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In the context of the Fifth Review of the Operation and Implementation of the SPS Agreement, Canada submitted a proposal for the Committee to consider holding a workshop or thematic session on equivalence.[[1]](#footnote-1) Other Members also submitted proposals recommending that the Committee further discuss the concept of equivalence, including examining the existing guidance on the recognition of equivalence (G/SPS/19/Rev.2).[[2]](#footnote-2) At the Committee meeting in July 2018, many Members were in favour of a thematic session or workshop on equivalence.

The first part of a two-part thematic session on equivalence was held on 30 October 2018. It provided an opportunity to introduce the concept of equivalence, and for WTO Members to increase their awareness of the relevant provisions of the SPS Agreement, the guidance from the Committee (G/SPS/19/Rev.2), and related jurisprudence. In addition, representatives of Codex, IPPC and OIE explained how the concept of equivalence was applied in their areas, as well as the relevant international standards.

The second part of this thematic session will focus on Members' experiences with the implementation of equivalence, and will be held in Geneva, Switzerland, on Monday, 18 March 2019, beginning at 10 a.m.

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***Chairperson:*** Ms Noncedo Vutula

# recap on International rules and guidelines

Review of the provisions of the SPS Agreement on equivalence (Article 4), relevant guidelines (G/SPS/19/Rev.2) and jurisprudence

***Speaker:*** WTO Secretariat

Codex, IPPC and OIE: Review of standards, guidelines and recommendations related to equivalence

***Speakers:*** TBC

*Followed by Q&A session and discussion.*

# members' experience implementing the concept of equivalence

This session will provide an opportunity for Members to share best practices concerning the implementation of the obligations, guidelines or recommendations on equivalence.

***Speakers:*** TBC (SPS Committee Members)

*Followed by Q&A session*

sps committee thematic session on Enabling Access to Tools and Technologies: Fall Armyworm Case Study

tuesday, 19 march 2019

WTO, CENTRE WILLIAM RAPPARD, GeNEVA

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# THE SPS AGREEMENT

Review of provisions of the SPS Agreement and WTO dispute settlement reports relevant to regulatory approaches that enable access to safe tools and technologies.

***Speaker(s)***: WTO Secretariat

# Fall armyworm: The Problem, The toolS and Technologies

Authoritative information on impact of spread of invasive pest in Africa, Americas and elsewhere; impact on food security and trade; the particular challenge for small holders; description of tools and technologies for control; efficacy, resistance and economic factors to consider in IPM strategies.

***Speaker(s)***: TBC (Independent experts, national authorities, others?)

# GLOBAL, REgional and national frameworks

Overview of global partnerships and development assistance efforts with focus on efforts to enable regulatory frameworks that facilitate access to safe and effective tools and technologies.

***Speaker(s)***: TBC (FAO, IPPC, CIMMYT, African Union, Regional Economic Communities, EMBRAPA, others?)

# member experiences: successes and challenges in improving regulatory frameworks to support farmer access to safe and effective tools and Technologies

Members report on their experiences and recommend ways in which the SPS Committee could enhance their efforts.

***Speaker(s)***: TBC (SPS Committee Members)

1. G/SPS/W/302/Rev.1. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. G/SPS/W/299, G/SPS/W/301. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)