



### 11th European Development Fund (EDF)

“Support to CARIFORUM States in furthering the implementation of their Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) commitments and in meaningfully reaping the benefits of the Agreement”

## SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES (SPS) PROJECT



# NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY POLICY FRAMEWORK



CARIFORUM

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## AGRICULTURAL HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY NATIONAL POLICY FRAMEWORK

Based on a situational analysis prepared by  
Quincetree Limited, United Kingdom



### **11<sup>th</sup> EDF SPS Project:**

*“Support to CARIFORUM States in furthering the implementation of their Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) commitments and in meaningfully reaping the benefits of the Agreement”*

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## ABBREVIATIONS

<b>(ACP)</b>	African Caribbean and Pacific	<b>(CISARA)</b>	Caribbean Integrated Surveillance on Antimicrobial Resistance	<b>(RSCB)</b>	Regional Sectoral Coordination Bodies
<b>(ADs)</b>	Animal Diseases	<b>(CFP)</b>	Ciguatera fish poisoning	<b>(TADs)</b>	Transboundary Animal Diseases
<b>(AHPND)</b>	Acute hepatopancreatic necrosis disease	<b>(CSF)</b>	Classical Swine Fever	<b>(TB)</b>	Tuberculosis
<b>(AHFS)</b>	Agricultural Health and Food Safety	<b>(CAC)</b>	Codex Alimentarius Committee	<b>(UNEP)</b>	UN Environment Programme
<b>(AFPs)</b>	Agriculture and Food Products	<b>(EPAs)</b>	European Partnership Agreements	<b>(USDA-APHIS)</b>	U.S. Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.
<b>(AGE)</b>	Acute Gastroenteritis	<b>(FAO)</b>	Food and Agriculture Organization	<b>(VBDs)</b>	Vector Borne Diseases
<b>(ASF)</b>	African Swine Fever	<b>(FBDs)</b>	Food Borne Diseases	<b>(VPH)</b>	Veterinary Public Health
<b>(ALOP)</b>	Appropriate Level of Protection	<b>(FBIs)</b>	Foodborne Illnesses	<b>(VSHHS)</b>	Veterinary-Sanitary Health, Hygiene and Safety
<b>(CAHFSA)</b>	Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency	<b>(FBPs)</b>	Foodborne poisonings	<b>(WHO)</b>	World health Organisation
<b>(CAEDRS)</b>	The Caribbean AHFS Early Detection and Response System	<b>(FVO)</b>	Food and Veterinary Office	<b>(WTTC)</b>	The World Travel & Tourism Council
<b>(CIDA)</b>	The Canadian International Development Agency	<b>(EH)</b>	Environmental Health	<b>(WTO)</b>	World Trade Organisation
<b>(CARAPHIN)</b>	Caribbean Animal and Plant Health Information Network.	<b>(FMD)</b>	Foot and Mouth Disease	<b>(ZDs)</b>	Zoonotic Diseases
<b>(CDB)</b>	Caribbean Development Bank	<b>(HPAI)</b>	Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza		
<b>(CRFM)</b>	Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism	<b>(IICA)</b>	The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture		
<b>(CPHDF)</b>	Caribbean Plant Health Directors Forum	<b>(IPPC)</b>	International plant Protection Convention		
<b>(CIRAD)</b>	Caribbean Agricultural Research Centre for International Development	<b>(LAC)</b>	Latin America and the Caribbean		
<b>(CAREC)</b>	The Caribbean Epidemiology Centre	<b>(PRRS)</b>	Porcine reproductive and respirator syndrome		
<b>(CPDN)</b>	Caribbean Pest Diagnostic Network	<b>(OECS)</b>	Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States		
<b>(CARPHA)</b>	Caribbean Public Health Agency	<b>(OIE)</b>	World Organisation for Animal Health		

## 1. RATIONALE FOR THIS AHFS NATIONAL POLICY FRAMEWORK DOCUMENT

This Agricultural Health and Food Safety (AHFS<sup>1</sup>) national policy framework document should function as guidance for the substantive technical content of CARIFORUM national AHFS policy documents.

Its structure and content are based on the conclusions of the 10<sup>th</sup> EDF SPS Project “Support to the Forum of Caribbean States in the implementation of the commitments undertaken under the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA): Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Measures” CaRC/BB/SPS-EOICN01/15.

A key output of this project was a checklist of essential elements of an effective and efficient AHFS system ensuring risk-based design and management of all AHFS measures and actions in an **integrated and comprehensive** way along the entire food chain<sup>2</sup> to achieve the appropriate level of protection of human, plant, animal (terrestrial and aquatic) veterinary public and environmental health and optimum facilitation of intra-regional and international trade in Agricultural and Food Products<sup>3</sup> (AFP).

Progress towards this optimised system (as expressed by the fifth option for each element) can and should regularly be checked by the Self- Assessment Questionnaire which was produced and piloted in the course of that project (attached to this document as Annex 1). The extent to which each element is addressed in this national policy document will be determined by the outcome of the self-assessment.

This policy framework document will be of varying relevance and use depending on the degree to which national AHFS policy has already been developed and updated.

It is intended to ensure a degree of **regional harmonisation in AHFS policy approach**, principles, structure and scope amongst CARIFORUM member states and to ensure a **linkage between the national and regional** AHFS policy developments.

For some it may function as a **checklist** against which current policy documents may be cross-referenced and for others it may serve as an **outline of a policy** into which national specific information and targets can be inputted. In any event it is intended as a tool to be used by national AHFS authorities as they deem appropriate.

**NOTE:** Proposed text is highlighted

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<sup>1</sup> AHFS embodies an integrated and comprehensive systemic approach to ensure the appropriate level of protection of human, plant, animal (terrestrial and aquatic) veterinary public and environmental (terrestrial and aquatic) health along the entire food chain and optimum facilitation of intra-regional and international agri-food trade

<sup>2</sup> The series of processes by which food is grown or produced, sold, and eventually consumed

<sup>3</sup> This term is used to refer to means all primary, secondary and processed outputs of the food chain including field crops, forage, fruits, nuts, vegetables, herbs, beverages and dairy products, livestock and the products thereof.

## NATIONAL AHFS POLICY

### 2. BACKGROUND AND JUSTIFICATION

The **Background** should explain the historical and political context for the policy at the national level and should also refer to the ongoing processes and initiatives at the regional level. It should also make reference to the linkage to the regional AHFS policy.

*It is important to mention the considerable efforts which have been made and progress achieved in modernising and aligning SPS regulation across the region with international trade obligations and with systems and norms of key trading partners to facilitate regional and global trade in agri-food products.*

The **Justification** of the policy should refer to the problem analysis which has led to the need for the policy. In some cases, this may be a needs assessment which has been undertaken by an external development or trade partner but often it will be an issue which has been identified in the national policy debate.

This national AHFS policy seeks to be in accordance with all international obligations and in line with the objectives and actions of the Regional AHFS policy.

### 3. THE SCOPE OF AHFS AND THIS POLICY

Agricultural Health and Food Safety (AHFS) addresses all aspects of Animal and Plant Health and represents an integrated Food chain approach to ensure that the linkages and interdependence of the various AHFS elements (including Environmental Health (EH)) and Veterinary Public Health (VPH) are considered at every stage of planning and implementation of this policy.

In the early 2000s, FAO, OIE and WHO collected enough scientific evidence to state that more than 60% of known and 75% of emerging infectious diseases that affect people are zoonotic. Epidemiological information collected by Global Foodborne Infections Network<sup>4</sup> and other global and regional information systems indicated an interconnection between infectious diseases in humans and animals, which laid a foundation for a renewed Veterinary Public Health (VPH) concept based on collaborative surveillance, early detection and neutralization of zoonotic pathogens in the environment and the food chain. To strengthen the AHFS policy framework in the Caribbean there is a need to determine critical links between agriculture and health and to strengthen official SPS controls over these links accordingly.

- *The concept of VPH should therefore be included in the scope of the term AHFS for the purposes of this policy.*

#### **Important risks currently not the focus of CARIFORUM AHFS services**

- **Environmental risks**

The Caribbean sub-region has a history of economic growth based on natural resources and more than any other part of the world depends on well-being of its environments. The available information suggests

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<sup>4</sup> Originally Global Salm-Surv - renamed in 2009

that about 70% of the population in this sub-region lives along the coast and depends on tourism, which in turn depends on the state of marine and coastal ecosystems and diversity of their inhabitants.

Geographical expanse and climate of the Caribbean sub-region has resulted in a wide range of inland ecosystems, which support diversity of fauna and freshwater sites (i.e. rivers, lakes, underground karst networks, etc.). In addition to providing habitat for unique terrestrial and aquatic animal species (both, endemic and migratory), these freshwater sites serve as a source of potable water, clean water for production of food and hydroelectricity for communities. These freshwater sites are especially important for communities of small islands, which are surrounded by salt water, and therefore largely rely on limited, land-based fresh water from functional ecosystems<sup>5</sup>.

One of the examples **of a risk to aquatic ecosystems and aquatic animals** is communicable diseases, which have threatened coral reef communities across the Caribbean sub-region over the past decades. The impact of these diseases on coral reefs in different parts of the Caribbean Sea is yet to be studied, but it is already known that their spectrum is wide enough (i.e. white plague, white pox, yellow band disease, black band disease, dark spot disease, etc.). The information about incidence and prevalence of these diseases is very limited, which makes it difficult to assess and/or predict their potential effects on EH.

Meanwhile, biological and chemical hazards posing threat to inhabitants of ecosystems in countries of the Caribbean sub-region do not receive due attention of national and regional AHFS bodies including effects of run-off on aquatic animal/plant health leading to bioaccumulation, antibiotic and hormonal medicine residues and overuse of pesticides. This sub-region contains areas whose biodiversity is among the richest in the planet, but also, among the most threatened to permanent loss due to development patterns.

There is a group of hazardous agents, which must be considered as a cornerstone, when it comes to strengthening AHFS policy framework in any region. These are **zoonotic pathogens** that have potential to cause severe infection and/or intoxication of animals and humans and contaminate food, feed, water and elements of the environment, thereby turning them into a source of further infection and/or intoxication of animals and/or humans.

- **The health risk of wild animals<sup>6</sup>**

AHFS issues associated with health of wild animals are under considered in almost all countries of the Caribbean sub-region, meanwhile many animal diseases (ADs) (including TADs) and Zoonotic Diseases (ZDs) may persist in captive wild species and wildlife. Examples of wild species that can serve as potential hosts, carriers and shedders of ADs enzootic in this part of the world include wild birds for HPAI, wild hogs for classical swine fever (CSF) and many others.

The lack of surveillance of ZDs in wild animals is a particularly important omission, as bushmeat is a part of the human diet in a number of countries of this part of the world. The consumption of bushmeat is fraught with infection by different zoonotic pathogens, which circulate in populations of wild animals. Examples include *Salmonella spp.*, *Campylobacter spp.*, *Escherichia spp* *Taenia spp.*, and a number of other zoonotic pathogens that have been found in wild rats, green iguanas, cane toads, blue land crabs and

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<sup>5</sup> Caribbean Islands Biodiversity Hotspot: Ecosystem Profile Summary, Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund, 2009.

<sup>6</sup> The OIE defines wild animal as “an animal that has a phenotype unaffected by human selection and lives independent of direct human supervision or control” - ‘living in the natural environment i.e. not domesticated’.



other wild species, meat of which is consumed by some ethno-cultural and/or social groups of the population<sup>7,8,9,10</sup>.

In spite of evidence that the wildlife in the Caribbean sub-region can be a source of infection of domestic animals with ADs (including TADs) and ZDs and that the bushmeat can be a source of human infection with ZDs and FBDs some countries of that sub-region, there are neither specific studies attempting to correlate rates of infections in wild animals with those in domestic ones and/or contamination of bushmeat, nor activities aimed at surveillance and early detection of pathogens in products (by-products) that are derived from wild animals and used for different purposes including from the influx to the islands of “bushmeat” across national borders due to illegal trade.

Among the risks that are currently neglected by national and regional AHFS bodies in the Caribbean sub-region, a risk posed by certain vector-borne ADs (i.e. Blue Tongue Disease (BTD), babesiosis, anaplasmosis, etc.) and ZDs (i.e. heartwater, leishmaniasis, West Nile encephalitis etc.) is of special concern. Transmission cycles of Vector Borne Diseases (VBDs) in this sub-region are maintained mainly by populations of rodents, insects and ticks with spill-over into animals and/or humans and further cross-infection.

These cycles are influenced by general environmental factors (e.g. spectrum reservoirs hosts, availability of suitable habitat for vectors, etc.) and can be transformed by specific abiotic (e.g. changes in temperature and humidity, natural disasters, limits on the carrying capacity of habitats to support vectors and reservoir hosts, etc.) and biotic (e.g. changes in competence and capability of primary vectors, interactions between primary and secondary vectors, adaptability of pathogens to secondary vectors, etc.) factors, which complicates surveillance, control, elimination and prevention of VBDs<sup>11</sup>.

➤ *Due to the importance of the terrestrial and aquatic environment to the health and economic wellbeing of Caribbean citizens and visitors, it is essential that Environmental Health be included in the concept of AHFS being addressed by this policy.*

- **AHFS and Food-Borne Illnesses (FBIs)**

A consistent and challenging feature of the prevailing AHFS approach in the region, encountered when examining practices and programmes, is a tendency to address AHFS and FBIs separately and sectorally.

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<sup>7</sup> C. Nkogwe, J. Raletobana, A. Stewart-Johnson, S. Suepaul, A. Adesiyun “Frequency of Detection of Escherichia coli, Salmonella spp., and Campylobacter spp. in the Faeces of Wild Rats (Rattus spp.) in Trinidad and Tobago”, Veterinary Medicine International, 2011, Apr 12:686923.

<sup>8</sup> V.A. Amadi, R. Peterson, V. Matthew-Belmar, R. Sharma, H. Hariharan “Prevalence and antibiotic susceptibility of gram-negative aerobic bacteria cultures from the intestine and hepatopancreas of blue land crab (Cardisoma guanhumi) in Grenada, West Indies”. British Microbiology Research Journal. 2015/5(2), pp. 169-179.

<sup>9</sup> W.R. Sylvester, V. Amadi, R. Pinckney, C.N. Macpherson, J. S. McKibben, R. Bruhl-Day, R. Johnson, H. Hariharan “Prevalence, serovars and antimicrobial susceptibility of Salmonella spp. from wild and domestic green iguanas (Iguana iguana) in Grenada, West Indies”, Zoonoses Public Health. 2014/ 61(6), pp. 436-441.

<sup>10</sup> M. Drake, V. Amadi, U. Zieger, R. Johnson, H. Hariharan “Prevalence of Salmonella spp. in cane toads (Bufo marinus) from Grenada, West Indies, and their antimicrobial susceptibility”, Zoonoses Public Health. 2013/60(6) pp. 437-441.

<sup>11</sup> Vector competence refers to the genetic factors (usually heritable) that enable a vector to transmit a disease, while vector capability is a wider concept which includes environmental factors that influence the ability of the vector to transmit a pathogen (e.g. population densities of vector and host and/or changes in temperature and humidity). Another problem posed by adaptability of pathogens. One of the examples is a spread of BTD to northern Europe, where its main vector, flies *Culicoides imicola* is not present. It was confirmed that this unexpected change in geographic distribution was due to a switch from its primary vector *Culicoides imicola* to secondary vectors, other *Culicoides spp.*, which adapted to cold climate of northern Europe (Maclachlan N.J., Mayo C.E., Daniels P.W. & Gibbs E.P.J. “Bluetongue. In New developments in major vectorborne diseases” Revue scientifique et technique, 2015, Vol. 34/2).

This is evidenced by initiatives to address the FBI threat by strengthening official food safety controls over production, import and distribution of ready-to-eat and ready-to-cook foods rather than addressing the control issues at the source (including the terrestrial and aquatic environment) and throughout the food chain.

The current structures of agricultural health and food safety systems in some of the Member States should be modernized in an integrated and comprehensive entire food chain approach to allow for a more effective mechanism to address FBIs in the region. This requires difficult systemic changes but is more efficient and sustainable in the long run.

Responsibility for managing risk of foodborne illnesses in many CARIFORUM member states is assigned to public health authorities, which deal mainly with the consequences of incidents. Many efforts and initiatives of national AHFS authorities (whether with or without support from specialised regional bodies and international development partners) towards addressing issues of AHFS and public health (including the problem with FBIs) were undertaken in isolation from each other.

- *To strengthen the AHFS policy framework in the Caribbean there is a need to focus on and target efforts at the critical links between agriculture and health and to strengthen official AHFS controls over these links accordingly.*

#### 4. APPROACH AND PRINCIPLES

It is important to make reference to a recognised modern science-based WTO-compliant approach and most effectively to an approach of one of the major trading partners e.g. The EU Farm to Fork Approach<sup>12</sup> which reflects global best practice in many respects and is indeed used by many major agri-food trading economies. The proposed approach is fully in line with and indeed reinforces the One Health<sup>13</sup> concept and fully compatible with previous One Health and AMR initiatives.

It is important that the **private sector** are encouraged and supported to support the public sector bodies in identification and prioritisation as well as gathering and communicating data in respect of regional AHFS threat, to actively participate in the dialogue on solutions to addressing the threats and to provide resources to support agreed actions.

The **Approach** to AHFS followed in this policy is “**Farm<sup>14</sup> to Fork**” The comprehensive integrated food chain approach will ensure that the linkages and interdependence of the various AHFS elements (including EH and VPH) are considered at every stage of planning and implementation Health protection will be the focus whilst of course ensuring compliance with all international obligations

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<sup>12</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/food/system/files/2016-12/fs\\_infograph\\_from-farm-to-fork\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/food/system/files/2016-12/fs_infograph_from-farm-to-fork_en.pdf)

<sup>13</sup> One Health is a collaborative, multisectoral, and trans-disciplinary approach - working at local, regional, national, and global levels - to achieve optimal health and well-being outcomes recognizing the interconnections between people, animals, plants and their shared environment. [https://www.onehealthcommission.org/en/why\\_one\\_health/what\\_is\\_one\\_health/](https://www.onehealthcommission.org/en/why_one_health/what_is_one_health/)

<sup>14</sup> The farm in this sense extends to include the aquatic and terrestrial environment as a source of food and source of risk to the food chain.

## Principles

The principles guiding the design and implementation of this policy include

- **Achieving the Appropriate Level of Protection (ALOP)** will be the focus whilst of course ensuring compliance with all international obligations
- The **Farm to fork** principle ensure that the entire food chain is considered when identifying and addressing threats to human, animal, plant and environmental health.
- **Inclusiveness** will ensure the involvement of all relevant stakeholders including public-private sector cooperation
- **Traceability** ensures that the source of a threat can be identified wherever it is along the food chain and Primary Responsibility ensures accountability.
- **Transparency** ensures the publication and availability of all applicable regulation to all stakeholders and participants of the agri-food market
- **Sustainability** will be built into all interventions from the outset so that outcomes will ensure long after any external support.
- All interventions will be **targeted and focused** to ensure that they are realistic and achievable with the available resources
- **Harmonisation** with global and regional best practice and standards will ensure compatibility and integration into the world agri-food trading system
- **Inclusiveness** will ensure the involvement of all relevant stakeholders
- **Risk-based and data driven decision-making** will ensure rational and WTO-compliant outcomes.
- Leadership in **joint task-based planning** will be preferred to pure institutional responsibility

## 5. POLICY OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES

The policy **Objective** should reflect what should be achieved by the policy i.e., the solution to the problem.

In most cases the problem can be expressed in terms of the efficiency and effectiveness of the AHFS system i.e. the system is not solving the AHFS problems with the available resources.

In due course, the policy may not need to address systemic issues but may focus on specific AHFS issues.

The **Outcomes** of a policy are the changes which occur as a result of the implementation of the actions foreseen by the policy and the **Results** are how the world should look after the policy has been successfully implemented.

Initially the outcomes will be observable at the system level (changes in systems and procedures) and eventually over time the results will be observable in the wider world i.e. environment, farms, plantations, tourism sector, trade.

### Objective

The objective of this policy is to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the national AHFS system through **cooperation and coordination** in the design and management of all AHFS measures and actions in an **integrated and comprehensive** way along the entire food chain to achieve the **appropriate level of protection** of human, plant, animal, veterinary public and environmental health to ensure access by the

local population to a supply of safe and nutritious food and optimum **facilitation of intra-regional and international trade** in Agricultural and Food Products (AFP).

It is harmonised with **national wider economic and societal objectives** and other development policies, is fully in line with the **Caribbean regional approach** and Regional AHFS Policy and is justified by data, analysis **risk-based** needs identification, **tasked-based planning** and **collaborative resource allocation**.

#### **Outcome**

AHFS risk assessment, communication and management along the food chain are enhanced by ensuring data-sharing and science-based governance and decisions in line with international standards and best practice and by using modern approaches and technology to gather, process and disseminate human, plant, animal, veterinary public and environmental health intelligence and data.

#### **Leading to expected results:**

- Enhanced protection of human, plant, animal, veterinary public and environmental health
- Improved efficiency and effectiveness of AHFS risk assessment, planning and operational mechanisms and systems leading to access to safe and nutritious food by the regional population.
- Facilitation of intra-regional and international trade and especially export to high value markets and support for economic development including agri-food and tourism business

## **6. STRATEGIES TO ACHIEVE EACH OBJECTIVE**

The strategies should explain how the objective or elements of the objective will be achieved. They should guide the programming of the actions and should be referred to after the initial definition of the actions.

Below the strategy to achieve each key (highlighted in bold) element of the objective is explained:

- Effectiveness will be achieved through clear identification and prioritization of existing problems, clear identification of tasks for their solution and task-based planning and resource allocation.
- Efficiency will be achieved by optimisation and rationalisation of limited resources through modern and readily available methodologies, tools technology.
- Cooperation and coordination will be achieved through identification of cross-cutting points, clarification of common purposes, consensus and task-based responsibilities and enhanced communication mechanisms.
- Integrated, comprehensive and collaborative approach along the entire food chain will be ensured by focusing on systems and processes and considering production, processing and distribution of agricultural and food products as a seamless continuum
- The appropriate level of SPS protection throughout the agri-food continuum will be achieved by relying on science- and risk-based needs assessment and decision-making.
- Optimum Facilitation of regional and international trade in agricultural and food products will be ensured by compliance with regional and international SPS standards and best practices in official SPS controls, including border systems and procedures.

## 7. GUIDELINES FOR IDENTIFYING PRIORITY OUTCOMES

The below statements reflect the elements of an effective AHFS system as outlined in the previous 10th EDF Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Measures project. The Self-Assessment questionnaire itself (annex 1) gives five levels of achievement in order to allow an assessment of the current situation and provide concrete milestones in the progression to the optimum achievable level. It can be used as a checklist to provide guidance for **identifying priority outcomes** of the policy and should be revised in accordance with the results of the Self-Assessment.

	✓
<b>Planning of AHFS controls and services</b>	
A joint, formal planning process shall be undertaken to ensure that there is a comprehensive approach across all AHFS controls to service delivery and the planning process includes ensuring that services are delivered in a way to help meet broader, strategic objectives, such as economic development, poverty alleviation and environmental objectives	
<b>Horizontal environmental issues</b>	
Environmental health (aquatic and terrestrial) and water quality issues shall always be carefully taken into account when action on ensuring an appropriate level of SPS protection at all stages of the food chain is being considered. The environmental impact of AHFS matters is always factored into action on food chain issues.	
<b>Access to international high value markets</b>	
The AHFS agencies shall have full competence capacity and infrastructure to support exporters to meet high value markets requirements	
<b>Mechanism for the coordination of adoption of better regulation practices</b>	
A structured approach shall be in place across all areas of the AHFS control system to improve the quality and to reduce the complexity of legislation. Inspections and other interventions are always risk based and intelligence led.	
<b>Food chain (AHFS) implementation bodies</b>	
<b>Scope:</b>	
Competence shall be divided clearly between the involved AHFS control bodies without any duplications and gaps in the coverage of the food chain	
<b>Planning:</b>	
The AHFS control bodies shall jointly identify and plan all their inspection and official control activities	
<b>Data collection and exchange:</b>	
The AHFS control bodies shall integrate all data into a joint database for joint processing and use for policy and operational planning purposes	

<b>Record keeping and Information sharing</b>	
Regular management reports shall be produced from the database and used to help set work priorities across the entire AHFS system	
<b>Integration of resource management</b>	
Resource management shall be fully integrated across all official controls and service delivery areas covered by the AHFS system to enable priorities to be determined and resources allocated to priority areas and/or areas of greatest need	
<b>Coordination and access to laboratory testing resources</b>	
All laboratories available and/or feasible for AHFS activities shall be viewed as a common resource and shared	
<b>Inspection services</b>	
The AHFS agencies shall implement a fully risk-based and task-oriented cross-sectoral approach	
<b>Integration of standards into food chain control</b>	
Voluntary standards of SPS safety shall be harmonized with respective regional and/or international standards and as required by target markets complement AHFS control is recognised and actively encouraged as a mechanism to reduce the burden of inspection activity in a number of areas of the AHFS system with extension to other areas under active consideration	
<b>Relationships with citizens and consumers</b>	
<b>From the state to Citizens and consumers</b>	
There shall be a strategic approach to educating of citizens and advising consumers, which is planned jointly across all AHFS services and the effectiveness of the citizen and consumer advice and education programme is jointly assessed regularly and adjusted as required	
<b>From Citizens and consumers to the State</b>	
A comprehensive approach shall be taken across all Ministries, Agencies or Inspectorates to review intelligence, identify trends and priorities across all services and jointly plan activities to ensure an appropriate level of SPS protection at the national level accordingly	
<b>Choice of intervention strategies and approaches</b>	
A range of intervention strategies shall be consistently used in all areas covered by the AFHS system to ensure desire policy objectives are met.	
<b>Traceability</b>	
All ingredients and inputs used in production of agricultural and food products are easily and rapidly traced to their source of origin and the documentation chain is always reliable and accessible during the shelf life of produced products and for appropriate periods of time thereafter	

<b>Feedback to incident related to safety of agricultural and food products</b>	
Official SPS control agencies have a coordinated functional mechanism (including database/alert system) for rapid incident feedback and collaborative approach to its management.	
<b>Horizontal Hygiene requirements</b>	
There shall be a set of horizontal hygiene requirements which applies to all food and feed products	
<b>Food chain residue monitoring</b>	
There shall be a single national annual / multi annual plan for monitoring of residues and pathogens in agricultural and food products, whose results are analysed and used for programming of risk-based control	
<b>Responses to AHFS emergencies</b>	
The AHFS control agencies have coordinated contingency plans and procedures in place and the ability to rapidly respond to an incident in the food chain and operatively coordinate its management with other relevant national, regional and international agencies.	
<b>Trade Facilitation</b>	
<b>Meeting international transparency requirements</b>	
The public sector notifies the WTO totally about its sanitary and phytosanitary regulations, informs users about changes in national sanitary and phytosanitary regulations and in the sanitary and phytosanitary regulations of other countries, and educates them about the importance of maintaining a policy of transparency. In addition, the public sector entities responsible for sanitary and phytosanitary measures, in collaboration with other State entities, audit their transparency procedures.	
<b>Harmonisation</b>	
The public sector participates at the international level in the development of sanitary and phytosanitary standards, guidelines and recommendations.	
<b>Addressing technical barriers to trade – trade facilitation.</b>	
There are highly effective mechanisms for identifying discussing and removing barriers to trade and those actions are subsequently implemented along the entire food chain in a coordinated manner	
<b>Mechanism for the coordination (gathering and use) of scientific inputs into policy and delivery</b>	
The AHFS control system shall demonstrate a scientific evidence-based approach to implementation of preventive and/or protective SPS measures, policies and delivery acceptable to international standards.	

## 8. ACTIONS

This section should contain the specific actions required to fulfil the above Policy outcomes as prioritised and selected by the results of the self-assessment. For example, if the self-assessment determines that inadequate “traceability” is a cause of threats to human plant or animal health, then the appropriate level of **policy outcome** should be selected from the questionnaire and included in the policy. Actions to achieve this policy outcome are then defined accordingly depending on the current situation and the desired outcome.

The actions should be precise enough to define the task but the Action Plan will define the detailed steps for each task.

Below are examples of actions for cooperation on implementation of regional AHFS policy.

## 9. ACTIONS FOR COOPERATION ON IMPLEMENTATION OF REGIONAL AHFS POLICY

The national AHFS bodies will cooperate with CAHFSA and RSCBs to ensure linkage, synergies and cooperation between the national and regional policy definition and implementation.

1. To designate reference laboratories<sup>15</sup> for priority pests<sup>16</sup> and diseases, including
  - priority pests and diseases in crops
  - priority animal diseases and zoonotic diseases (first of all TADs) in livestock
2. To designate expert teams to conduct an initial inventory of national AHFS threats with categorization of threats and delineation of priority threats in the fields of:
  - plant health
  - animal health (animal and zoonotic diseases, including TADs);
  - veterinary public health (zoonotic diseases, foodborne infections and intoxications);
  - environmental health (terrestrial and marine wildlife);
3. To collect and analyse results of the inventory and preparation of a report containing a consolidated list of AHFS threats in descending order of their importance for health, economy, and biodiversity in the Caribbean region (using prioritization tools where available)
4. To review, revise where necessary and endorse national legislation with the list of notifiable pests, diseases and illnesses (harmonised as appropriate with the regional list) subject to a mandatory notification including:
  - pests and diseases in plants;
  - animal diseases (most notably TADS) and zoonotic diseases in animals;
  - pests and diseases in terrestrial and marine wildlife;
  - zoonotic (food-, water- and vector-borne) diseases in humans;
  - anthroponotic foodborne diseases and intoxications in humans and poultry;
  - priority pests and diseases in terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems;
  - priority diseases in terrestrial and marine wildlife;

<sup>15</sup> Note – for each category (i.e. plant, animal, human) it should be different laboratories, but not necessarily to be different for diseases within the category. The selection of the most appropriate laboratories should be undertaken based on objective rationalisation criteria.

<sup>16</sup> Pests are defined as Any species, strain or biotype of plant, animal or pathogenic agent injurious to plants or plant product [https://www.ippc.int/largefiles/adopted\\_ISPMs\\_previousversions/en/ISPM\\_05\\_2007\\_En\\_2007-07-26.pdf](https://www.ippc.int/largefiles/adopted_ISPMs_previousversions/en/ISPM_05_2007_En_2007-07-26.pdf) Priority pests are quarantine pests that have been identified as top priorities based on the severity of the economic, social and environmental problems they can cause including insects, pests, diseases and weeds.



- priority zoonotic infections in humans
    - priority zoonotic foodborne infections;
    - priority zoonotic waterborne infections;
    - priority vector-borne infections;
    - priority anthroponotic foodborne diseases and intoxications in humans;
5. To develop and adopt regulation with standardized forms for notification of AHFS threats at national and regional levels, including those for notification of:
    - pests and diseases in plants;
    - animal diseases and zoonotic diseases in animals;
    - pests and diseases in terrestrial and marine wildlife;
    - zoonotic (food-, water- and vector-borne) diseases in humans;
    - anthroponotic foodborne diseases and intoxications in humans;
  6. To develop and adopt a regulation on adoption and implementation of CAEDRS, including:
    - procedures of reporting notifiable diseases
    - standardized forms for reporting notifiable diseases
    - CAEDRS semester and annual report forms
  7. To designate national CAEDRS contact point and responsible personnel
  8. To develop national guidelines for priority AHFS threat risk analysis, including AHFS risk analysis reporting forms
  9. To establish an AHFS risk analysis unit
  10. To designate expert teams to conduct an initial national inventory of AHFS threats with categorization of threats and delineation of priority threats in fields of plant health, animal health (animal and zoonotic diseases, including TADs), veterinary public health (zoonotic diseases, foodborne infections and intoxications) and environmental health (terrestrial and marine wildlife);
  11. Draft national legislation and guidance to implement CAEDRS system

## 10. SPECIFIC SUPPORTING OPERATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS (LEGAL, ADMINISTRATIVE, TECHNICAL)

- Legislative

The laws and regulations required to achieve the objectives of the policy should be listed in generic terms e.g. the legislation required to set up and operationalise the CAEDRS.

- Administrative

The arrangements required for the management of the implementation of the policy. This might include the decision-making and reporting structure, the creation of Task Forces and the mechanism for monitoring progress.

- Technical

The logistical arrangements required for the implementation of the policy. This might include the assignment of premises and purchase of equipment

## 11. MONITORING OF IMPLEMENTATION

- Milestones

Initially the progress of the implementation can be measured against the reaching of milestones. These may be expressed in terms of the completion of specified activities or the delivery of specified outputs e.g. risk analysis units / CAEDRS created and operationalised.

- Indicators

In due course, the reaching of milestones e.g. the creation of risk analysis units and the CAEDRS should lead to changes in the real world and the indicators can be expressed in terms of improvements.

Please indicate which one of the following statements in your opinion most accurately reflects the current situation in your country:

**POLICY, PLANNING AND STRATEGY**

**Policy responsibility for the entire food chain.**

*This reflects a comprehensive approach to food and more broadly AHFS policy (in line with the one health approach) which can be developed to encompass the entire food chain and integrated to reflect the interrelated and interdependent nature of its elements (animals and plant health and food safety).*

**1. Development of policy:**

- There is no AHFS policy
- Where policies exist, these are developed at the level of a single Ministry or Agency
- Policy is developed separately in existing Ministries and Agencies with informal ad hoc consultation
- Policy is developed in an integrated way across most of the food chain
- Policy is developed in an integrated and comprehensive way along the entire food chain

**2. Linkage between regional and national AHFS bodies**

*This reflects the various regional bodies which play a role in coordination of food chain matters such as CAHFSA, CRFM, CARIBVET etc. and their relationship with national AHFS bodies.*

- No formal or informal linkage between regional sectoral coordination bodies and national policy and control bodies
- Informal ad hoc linkage between regional sectoral coordination bodies and national policy and control bodies
- Formal linkage between some regional sectoral coordination bodies and national policy and control bodies
- Formal and structured two-way linkage between national and regional sectoral AHFS policy making and implementation so that some national inputs influence regional policy making and some national administrations implement the decisions taken at regional level.
- Formal and structured two-way linkage between national and regional AHFS policy making and implementation so that national inputs influence regional policy making and all national administrations implement the decisions taken at regional level.

**3. Links to wider economic and societal objectives**

*AHFS issues impact widely across other priorities of Governments and the effective delivery of these services enables the Government to drive other priorities and objectives such as economic development, poverty alleviation and environmental objectives*

- AHFS policy is developed independently without any consultation with Ministries or linkage to policies developed outside of the AHFS system
- AHFS policy is developed independently but with ad-hoc consultation with Ministries but without real linkage to policies developed outside of the AHFS system

- AHFS policy is developed independently but with formal consultation with Ministries and with weak linkage to policies developed outside of the AHFS system
- AHFS policy is developed with some participation of some other Ministries and is linked to all other development policies
- AHFS policy is developed with full participation of other Ministries and as an integral part of all other development policies

#### **4. Planning of AHFS services**

- AHFS services are delivered on a reactive basis and there is no strategic planning on a proactive basis
- Planning for the delivery of AHFS services on a proactive and reactive basis takes place with individual Ministries, Agencies and Inspectorates, but is limited to achieving those objectives within that particular service.
- Joint planning for the delivery of AHFS services on a proactive and reactive basis takes place with individual Ministries, Agencies and Inspectorates, taking into account the objectives of other services
- A joint, formal planning process is undertaken to ensure that there is a comprehensive approach across all AHFS services to service delivery
- A joint, formal planning process is undertaken to ensure that there is a comprehensive approach across all AHFS services to service delivery and the planning process includes ensuring that services are delivered in a way to help meet broader, strategic objectives, such as economic development, poverty alleviation and environmental objectives

#### **5. Private and public sector interaction**

*Traditional regulatory systems have tended to operate without fully understanding the food business community or engagement with it. Engaging the business community as customers helps to ensure more effective use of both public and private resource to deliver required outcomes.*

- There is no dialogue between businesses and the AHFS system.
- The views of business are sometimes taken into account, but the nature of dialogue is ad hoc and issue specific only.
- Arrangements are in place to listen to business views for some areas of the AHFS system only. Sometimes decisions will be made and controls implemented without real dialogue and consultation with the business community.
- Arrangements exist to engage the business community in the operation of most AHFS controls.
- The business community are fully engaged as partners in the operation of AHFS. Formal and informal dialogue and consultation mechanisms exist, and business views are always taken into account as interventions are designed and implemented.

#### **Meeting international transparency requirements**

*This refers to the capacity and degree of authority of the public sector to notify WTO about national sanitary and phytosanitary regulations, following the notification criteria and procedures established by the SPS Agreement and the SPS Committee.*

## 6. Notification

- The public sector does not comply with the obligation to notify WTO about national sanitary and phytosanitary regulations.
- The public sector notifies WTO partially about its sanitary and phytosanitary regulations.
- The public sector notifies WTO totally about its sanitary and phytosanitary regulations.
- The public sector notifies WTO totally about national sanitary and phytosanitary regulations and informs users about changes in these regulations and in the sanitary and phytosanitary regulations of other countries. In addition, it educates users about the importance of maintaining a policy of transparency.
- The public sector notifies WTO totally about its sanitary and phytosanitary regulations, informs users about changes in national sanitary and phytosanitary regulations and in the sanitary and phytosanitary regulations of other countries, and educates them about the importance of maintaining a policy of transparency. In addition, the public sector entities responsible for sanitary and phytosanitary measures, in collaboration with other State entities, audit their transparency procedures.

## 7. Harmonisation

*This refers to the capacity and authority of the public sector to ensure that the national regulatory standards within their mandate conform to international standards, guidelines and recommendations*

- The public sector entities responsible for sanitary and phytosanitary measures lack a process to harmonize national regulatory standards with international standards, guidelines and recommendations.
- The public sector entities responsible for sanitary and phytosanitary measures have identified the national regulatory standards that are in disagreement with international standards, guidelines and recommendations.
- The public sector is revising the national regulatory standards and harmonizing them with international standards, guidelines and recommendations.
- The public sector studies new international sanitary and phytosanitary standards, guidelines and recommendations to harmonize national regulatory standards with them.
- The public sector participates at the international level in the development of sanitary and phytosanitary standards, guidelines and recommendations.

## 8. Horizontal environmental issues

*AHFS in the food chain is dependent upon the environment in which the food is produced and processed and directly affects the environment with its activities. There is therefore an important linkage between environmental stewardship and AHFS controls.*

- The AHFS system operates entirely separately from those areas of Government responsible for environmental controls with little or no dialogue between the two areas.
- Food chain issues are seldom taken into account when action on environmental matters is being considered and environmental impact of AHFS is seldom factored into action on food chain issues. Contact is ad hoc, informal and unstructured.
- Food chain issues are sometimes taken into account when action on environmental issues are being considered and environmental impact of AHFS is sometimes factored into action on food

chain issues. In some areas of AHFS this is structured but in other areas informal and on an ad hoc basis.

- Mechanisms exist to ensure that food chain needs are usually taken into account when action on environmental issues are being considered and environmental impact of AHFS is usually factored in to action on food chain issues.
- Mechanisms exist to ensure that food chain needs are always carefully taken into account when action on environmental issues is being considered. The environmental impact of AHFS matters is always factored in to action on food chain issues.

## **9. Access to international high value markets**

*Technical and information support for businesses wishing to access high value markets is an important function of AHFS system. The AHFS system needs to make use of appropriate international standards and support with inspection testing and certification that is internationally recognised. The more efficient and effective the AHFS bodies are in providing their services the more competitive the exporters will be on the high value markets*

- The AHFS agencies do not have competence, capacity or infrastructure to provide integrated support to exporters to meet high value markets requirements
- The AHFS agencies have inadequate competence, capacity and infrastructure to support exporters to meet high value markets requirements
- The AHFS agencies have some competence capacity or infrastructure to support exporters to meet high value markets requirements
- The AHFS agencies have competence capacity adequate or infrastructure to support exporters to meet high value markets requirements
- The AHFS agencies have full competence capacity and infrastructure to support exporters to meet high value markets requirements

## **10. Addressing technical AHFS barriers to trade – trade facilitation**

*Non-tariff barriers to trade (e.g. import quotas, subsidies, customs delays, technical barriers) persist in global agri-food commerce and can be dealt with through an integrated coordinated approach.*

- There are no mechanisms for identifying, discussing and removing AHFS barriers to trade.
- There are informal mechanisms for identifying and discussing and agreeing on actions to remove AHFS barriers to trade
- There are effective mechanisms for identifying discussing and agreeing on actions to remove AHFS barriers to trade
- There are effective mechanisms for identifying discussing and agreeing on actions to remove AHFS barriers to trade and those actions are subsequently implemented sectorally.
- There are highly effective mechanisms for identifying discussing and removing AHFS barriers to trade and those actions are subsequently implemented along the entire food chain in a coordinated manner

## **11. Mechanism for the coordination of adoption of better regulation practices**

*AHFS control systems can be administratively complex, causing unnecessary burdens for both businesses and control bodies. Many countries across the world are reviewing their regulatory activities to simplify them and to ensure that controls are based on 'better regulation principles' i.e. that controls are – risk based, transparent, accountable, proportionate, Intelligence led.*

- No efforts have been taken to improve the quality of regulation or to introduce Risk Based approaches to prioritise inspections or other intervention activity.
- There are isolated examples across the AHFS system of efforts to reduce bureaucratic requirements imposing unnecessary costs on business and the public sector.
- Efforts have been made in some areas of the AHFS system to tackle bureaucracy and to implement risk-based practices. There is much further work to do in this area.
- A risk-based approach to inspection and intervention applies in many areas of the AHFS system and data is collected and proactively shared across the system and for this purpose.
- A structured approach is in place across all areas of the AHFS system to improve the quality and to reduce the complexity of legislation. Inspections and other interventions are always risk based and intelligence led.

## **DELIVERY**

### **Food chain (AHFS) implementation bodies**

*This relates to the planning and execution of activities by AHFS bodies in an integrated manner in order to ensure maximum effectiveness and efficiency for both the state and the private sector. This is grouped under three sub-headings, scope, planning and data exchange.*

#### **12. Scope:**

- There has been no assessment on the coverage and gaps in the coverage of the food chain
- There are many duplications of coverage and gaps in the coverage of the food chain
- There are some duplications of coverage and gaps in the coverage of the food chain
- Competence has been divided between the involved AHFS control bodies with almost no gaps and duplications in the coverage of the food chain
- Competence has been divided clearly between the involved AHFS control bodies without any duplications and gaps in the coverage of the food chain

#### **13. Planning:**

- The AHFS control bodies are unaware of each other's inspection activities.
- The AHFS control bodies do not advise each other of their control inspection activities
- The AHFS control bodies advise each other of their control inspection activities
- The AHFS control bodies coordinate their inspection activities
- The AHFS control bodies jointly plan all their inspection activities

#### **14. Data collection and exchange:**

- The AHFS control bodies do not make data available
- The AHFS control bodies do not exchange data
- The AHFS control bodies exchange data on an ad hoc basis
- The AHFS control bodies regularly and systematically exchange all data
- The AHFS control bodies integrate all data into a joint database for joint processing

#### **15. Record keeping and Information sharing**

*This relates to both record keeping and information sharing between organisations involved in the AHFS system to enable risks to be determined and for services to be based on accurate information*

- Basic records are kept within individual service areas, but are not routinely shared with other Ministries, Agencies or Inspectorates within the AHFS system

- Basic records are kept within individual service areas, but are not routinely shared with other Ministries, Agencies or Inspectorates within the AHFS system but information is shared on an ad-hoc or on a 'need to know' basis
- Information from each of the Ministries, Agencies and Inspectorates is stored on a database which is not integrated but is accessible by each of those bodies
- Information from each of the Ministries, Agencies and Inspectorates is stored on a database which is integrated and accessible by each of those bodies
- Regular management reports are produced from the database and used to help set work priorities across the entire AHFS system

#### **16. Integration of resource management**

*An integrated approach to budget management enables resources to be more easily utilised to address greatest need across the entire food chain*

- Resources (budgetary and human) are kept and managed to address priorities within individual service areas. There is no integrated approach to budget management across the AHFS system.
- Some information on resource allocation is shared informally and, in an ad-hoc way across Ministries, Agencies and Inspectorates
- Some information on resource allocation is shared formally across Ministries, Agencies and Inspectorates
- Some resource management integrated and others remain managed within Ministries, Agencies and Inspectorates, but active steps are taken to ensure a consistent approach to budget management across the whole AHFS system
- Resource management are fully integrated across all service areas within the AHFS system to enable priorities to be determined and resources allocated to areas of greatest need

#### **17. Coordination and access to laboratory testing resources**

*This refers to the capacity and authority of the AHFS agencies to use diagnostic laboratory capacity in a flexible way across the AHFS system in order to maximise efficient use of available resources.*

- The AHFS agencies do not have a laboratory rationalisation strategy.
- The AHFS agencies have two or more AHFS laboratories that operated independently of one another.
- The AHFS agencies do share laboratory resources on an ad hoc basis
- The AHFS agencies have a mechanism for sharing laboratory resources
- All laboratories available to AHFS are viewed as a common resource and shared

#### **18. Inspection services**

*This refers to the capacity and authority of AHFS agencies to implement a risk and process-based (as opposed to product-based) inspection service. An approach focused on processes rather than products uses system wide thinking such as Good Agricultural Practice, HACCP etc. and a risk-based system is targeted at focusing scarce resources where the risk is assessed as highest which also improves efficiency and removes barriers to trade.*

- The AHFS agencies do not have a risk-based and process-orientated approach
- The AHFS agencies have some elements of a risk-based and process-orientated approach
- The AHFS agencies have a partially risk-based and process-orientated approach



- The AHFS agencies have a mostly risk-based and process-orientated approach
- The AHFS agencies have a fully risk-based and process-orientated approach

### **19. Mechanism for the coordination (gathering and use) of scientific inputs into policy and delivery**

*This refers to the capacity and authority of the AHFS agencies to incorporate scientific inputs into their AHFS policy in order to ensure a risk-based approach to government control services is met.*

- No gathering and analysis of scientific data for inputting into policy and delivery development
- Scientific data in few areas is gathered and inputted into policy and delivery
- Scientific data in some areas is gathered and inputted into policy and delivery
- Scientific data in most areas is gathered and inputted into policy and delivery
- The AHFS system can demonstrate a scientific evidence-based approach to AHFS policies and delivery acceptable to international standards.

### **20. Integration of private standards into food chain control**

*Recognition of the role of private and voluntary standards schemes with independently accredited inspection requirements can complement official controls and drive improvements in performance*

- No consideration has been given to the potential for use of voluntary standards to complement AHFS controls.
- Little consideration has been given to the potential for use of voluntary standards to complement AHFS controls
- Use of voluntary standards has been considered and rejected as a mechanism to complement AHFS.
- The potential for use of voluntary standards to complement AHFS controls is under active consideration in a number of areas of the AHFS system.
- Use of voluntary standards to complement AHFS control is recognised and actively encouraged as a mechanism to reduce the burden of inspection activity in a number of areas of the AHFS system with extension to other areas under active consideration.

### **Relationships with citizens and consumers**

*Citizens and consumers are an integral part of an effective AHFS system. It is a two-way flow of information which is an important characteristic of this relationship. There are two sub-categories recognising this two-way flow.*

#### **21. From the state to Citizens and consumers**

- Basic information is available to citizens and consumers on request. These resources are created within Ministries, Agencies or Inspectorates and are not comprehensive across services.
- Individual Ministries, Agencies or Inspectorates plan to provide support and information to citizens and consumers, but this is specific to that service.
- Individual services use all communication channels available to get a message across to citizens and consumers including through the media in a systematic and planned way. In addition, food and public health issues are addressed in schools
- There is a strategic approach to citizen and consumer advice and education which is planned jointly across all AHFS services

- There is a strategic approach to citizen and consumer advice and education which is planned jointly across all AHFS services and the effectiveness of the citizen and consumer advice and education programme is jointly assessed regularly and adjusted as required

## **22. From Citizens and consumers to the State**

- Information from citizens and consumers is responded to on a case by case basis within individual Ministries, Agencies or Inspectorates. Trends are not routinely analysed and do not feed back into the planning process
- Information from citizens and consumers is passed between Ministries, Agencies or Inspectorates when received by the 'wrong' Service area.
- Individual Ministries, Agencies or Inspectorates review information on an ad-hoc and informal basis within individual service areas to identify emerging trends
- Individual Ministries, Agencies or Inspectorates share intelligence and data received from consumers and citizens and work jointly on specific projects or programmes based on that information.
- A comprehensive approach is taken across all Ministries, Agencies or Inspectorates to review intelligence, identify trends and priorities across all services and jointly plan services accordingly.

## **23. Choice of intervention strategies and approaches**

*A modern AHFS system which is outcome focussed will use a variety of tools and techniques to secure compliance with requirements applying a light touch approach where appropriate but also acting robustly where necessary. Advice, support and guidance for business is an alternative in many cases to enforcement-based controls*

- Inspections and follow up to complaints where AHFS issues are identified will always result in formal warnings and/or legal action.
- Formal warnings and legal actions as follow up to most issues identified on inspections and in follow up to complaints is the usual intervention strategy applied across the AHFS system.
- In some areas of the AHFS system some alternatives to formal warnings and legal action are used to secure compliance.
- A range of intervention strategies are used in most areas of the AHFS system.
- A range of intervention strategies are consistently used in all areas of the AHFS system to ensure desired regulatory outcomes are met.

## **ACTIVITIES**

### **24. Traceability of products**

*This reflects the ability to trace the ingredients of products and inputs to their production from farm / catch to fork. Traceability provides the information to be able to rapidly identify the source of contaminants and other issues and to ensure corrective actions are implemented.*

- It is not possible in practice to easily trace product ingredients back to their source of origin. Traceability systems and data are often lacking or data is not available.
- There is only partial traceability of a limited number of ingredients back to their source of origin. Traceability systems and data are sometimes lacking or data is not available.

- There is full traceability to source of origin for some ingredients (e.g. several of the main meat species, Fish and Eggs). Partial traceability exists for other ingredients for example with no direct link between food processing inputs and outputs.
- Most ingredients in food products are easily and rapidly traceable to their source of origin. Traceability exists for meat and animal products such as Milk and Eggs and Fish.
- All ingredients in food products are easily and rapidly traceable to their source of origin and the documentation chain is always reliable and accessible during the shelf life of products and for appropriate periods of time thereafter.

## **25. Agri-food safety incident feedback**

*This refers to the capacity and authority of the public health agencies to implement a food safety incident feedback system between themselves and the AHFS bodies.*

- The public health agencies do not have any type of coordinated incident feedback system in place
- Some public health agencies have informal incident feedback mechanisms
- The public health agencies do have informal incident feedback mechanisms
- The public health agencies have a formal coordination mechanism for incident feedback
- The public health agencies have a coordinated functional mechanism (including database/ alert system) for rapid incident feedback.

## **26. Horizontal Hygiene requirements**

*Many hygiene requirements are common to all foods. Some foods such as meat fish and eggs, require specific requirements. The focus in this question is the extent to which thinking is extended across the wider system on this issue.*

- Hygiene requirements for different food and feed products are entirely different and separate
- Some hygiene requirements are common to all food and feed
- There is a set of horizontal hygiene requirements which applies to some food and feed products
- There is a set of horizontal hygiene requirements which applies to most food and feed products
- There is a set of horizontal hygiene requirements which applies to all food and feed products

## **27. Food chain residue monitoring**

*This relates to the application of a systematic risk-based approach to monitoring of food and feed products and their ingredients for residues.*

- There is no monitoring of residues
- There is no planned programme of residue monitoring
- There are various separate national annual / multi annual residue monitoring plans whose results are used for risk-based control programming
- There is a single national annual / multi annual residue monitoring plan
- There is a single national annual / multi annual residue monitoring plan whose results are analysed and used for programming of risk-based control

## **28. Responses to AHFS emergencies**

*This refers to the capacity and authority of the AHFS agencies to ensure that there is a coordinated response to sudden emerging AHFS issues such as contingency plans for pest outbreaks, animal disease and food poisoning, etc.*

- The AHFS agencies respond in a reactive and ad hoc manner to AHFS emergencies

- The AHFS agencies do not have any contingency plans and procedures in place
- The AHFS agencies have an incident response group to coordinate published procedures.
- The AHFS agencies individual contingency plans and procedures in place and the ability to quickly coordinate a food chain incidence response with other relevant national and international agencies.
- The AHFS agencies have coordinated contingency plans and procedures in place and the ability to quickly coordinate a food chain incidence response with other relevant national and international agencies.





# SPS

## 10<sup>th</sup> EDF Sanitary & Phytosanitary Measures Project



CARIFORUM

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