

REPORT OF THE REGIONAL VALIDATION WORKSHOP FOR THE FISHERIES COMPONENT OF THE 10th EDF SANITARY AND PHYTO-SANITARY MEASURES PROJECT



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Report of the Regional Validation Workshop for the Fisheries Component
of the 10th EDF funded Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary Measures Project

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

ACP	African, Caribbean and Pacific States
AHFS	Agricultural Health and Food Safety
CA	Competent Authority
BARNUFO	Barbados National Union of Fisherfolk Organisations
CAHFSA	Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CARIFORUM	Caribbean Forum
CCCFP	Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy
CCS	CARICOM Secretariat
CNFO	Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisation
CNMSF	Comite Nacional de Medidas Sanitarias y Fitosanitarias
COTED	Council for Trade and Economic Development
CRFM	Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism
CROSQ	CARICOM Regional Organisation for Standards and Quality
EDF	European Development Fund
EEA	European Economic Area
EPA	Economic Partnership Agreement
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations
FP	Fishery Products
HACCP	Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points
IICA	Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding

NAHFSA	National Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency
OSPESCA	Fisheries and Aquaculture Organisation of Central America
SPS	Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary
USA	United States of America
UWI	University of the West Indies
WTO	World Trade Organization

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FOREWORD

The Regional Validation Workshop for Model Legislation, Protocols, Guidelines and Institutional Framework; Environmental Monitoring Programmes; and Mechanisms for Coordination of Issues at National and Regional Levels on Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary Measures Relevant to the Fisheries Sector held August 24 – 25, 2015 evolved as a result of the fisheries component of the 10th EDF programme entitled “Support to the Forum of Caribbean States in the Implementation of Commitments Undertaken under the EPA” which commenced on September 3, 2013.

IICA in collaboration with the CRFM, who are responsible for the implementation of the fisheries component of the programme, embarked on a consultancy in respect to the fisheries sector in eight CARIFORUM States (Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Haiti, Surinam and St. Vincent & the Grenadines) to facilitate these States gaining and improving market access for fisheries products by complying with Europe’s SPS measures and to assist them in developing their own regionally harmonised SPS measures.

The legal consultancy was conducted April to May, 2015, with a scope to look at existing national, legal and coordinating frameworks for SPS measures in the fisheries sector, thus resulting in the preparation of mission reports for each country. The primary objectives of the aforementioned consultancy is the development of model legislation, protocols, standards, measures and guidelines for AHFS in fisheries within the Fisheries Component of the EU-ACP SPS Measures Project as well as the development of effective national and regional coordination mechanisms for the fisheries and aquaculture component and for its incorporation into the overall SPS regime.

The environmental monitoring component was conducted from June to July, 2015. The scope of this component was to evaluate the status of environmental and residue monitoring in the same eight countries as it relates to fisheries; with the resultant outcome being the preparation of proposals for strengthening both national and regional SPS monitoring programmes.

INTRODUCTION

The Regional Validation Workshop for Model Legislation, Protocols, Guidelines and Institutional Framework; Environmental Monitoring Programmes; and Mechanisms for Coordination of Issues at National and Regional Levels on Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary Measures Relevant to the Fisheries Sector was held August 24-25, 2015 at the Accra Beach Hotel & Spa, Christ Church, Barbados. The workshop convened with a brief opening ceremony which commenced with the national anthem of Barbados. This was followed by an opening prayer lead by the President of the BARNUFO and one of the CNFO representatives at the meeting, Ms. Vernel Nicholls.

Dr. Beverley Wood, Project Coordinator, Agricultural Heath & Food Control Programme in the Ministry of Agriculture, Food, Fisheries and Water Resource Management (MAFFW), Barbados, welcomed the participants to the workshop and wished them a pleasant stay in Barbados and a successful workshop; while, performing the duties as Chairperson for the opening ceremony.

Remarks were then given by Ms. Ena Harvey, Representative of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), who briefly spoke about the objectives of the workshop. She spoke about the benefits which the region could derive through capacity building and a harmonised coordinated approach within the fisheries sectors in relation to improving their SPS. Ms. Harvey also stated that there was a need to produce quality wholesome fish and fish products for local, regional and international untapped export markets. She also encouraged the region to make a commitment to guarantee safe and reliable food from the sea for its people and visitors alike.

Mr. Jannik Vaa, Head of Infrastructure and Rehabilitation, Delegation of the European Union expressed pleasure in being present at the workshop. He said that there were a number of components aimed at providing and supporting

development of fisheries in the Caribbean while informing those present of the EU's commitment to continue funding programmes in the region. He also said the EU was close to confirming programmes for 2014 through 2020 and that the amount allocated to Caribbean in the sum of €1B was the largest grant ever provided and by far, to the region. Mr. Vaa spoke about the EPA while describing it as a unique trade and development agreement. He further stated that through the EPA all CARIFORUM countries were afforded access to EU market. Mr Vaa mentioned the importance of SPS requirements and said the workshop was an important milestone. He contended that the participatory process was testimony to the principles that underpinned the EPA.

Mr. Milton Haughton, Executive Director of the CRFM, thanked the EU for its support in relation to fisheries and aquaculture in the region. He said that trade in fish and seafood in the region had increased significantly from US \$15.5B in 2008 to US \$130B in 2012. Mr. Haughton said that developing countries were benefiting most from the export of fish and fish products, that is, seventy-five (75) to eighty (80) thousand metric tonnes valued at US \$150 M each year. He spoke about the complexities associated with SPS requirements in the region in relation to the difficulties being experienced competing in certain markets.

Mr. Haughton stressed the importance of utilising living marine resources as well as the need to maximise those benefits in an effort to alleviate poverty. He also spoke briefly on the region's challenges in relation to fulfilling SPS requirements, the objectives of the fisheries component of the project and the collaboration between IICA, CARICOM Secretariat and the CRFM. Mr. Haughton asserted that the workshop was not only timely but very important to the region to assist in obtaining access to Europe and other export markets. He also said that the consultants were at the workshop to provide insight into the way forward and stressed that fisheries resources could

contribute much more to the economies of the region and there was a need to maximise the full potential of these resources.

The feature address was given by Mr. Elsworth Reid, Permanent Secretary MAFFW. Mr. Reid opined that one of the most abundant resources given to the Caribbean region was the benefits from tourism and fishing. He spoke about fishing as the life blood of many Caribbean communities while asserting the important role it played in respect to healthy food. Mr. Reid told participants that fisheries had not yet been given the recognition it deserved from Caribbean governments unlike Canada and Asia where fisheries were key resources to those economies. He looked at the need to utilise a more formal business approach within the fisheries sector. Mr. Reid suggested that countries in the region pool their resources in an effort to obtain equipment to maximise harvesting and examine ways to utilise all parts of the fish in the production of fish products for export markets. He expressed the personal opinion that the time had come for an open sea resources policy to be used in the region, since it was possible to do so without abusing the sovereign rights of the region. He also suggested the setting of rules and the collection of levies for the benefits of Member States. Mr. Reid opined that the use of a regional approach to fishing would allow for the free movement of fishermen within the Caribbean, while asserting that it was unrealistic to speak about Caribbean integration when fishermen were being subjected to being arrested and placed in prison and catches being confiscated. On the topic of the workshop Mr. Reid posited that it was timely and expressed hope that the outputs addressed the challenges being encountered by the region in relation to international best practices. He also said that it would enable Member States to set both regional and international standards in respect to fisheries, while asserting that the region was looking forward to the project's output and hoped that these measures would satisfy the EU and others in order for export opportunities to materialise. He concluded his address by welcoming both territorial and international participants while wishing them a successful workshop.

The closing remarks were given by Mr. Stephen Willoughby, Chief Fisheries Officer, Fisheries Division, MAFFW. He commenced by stating that the best brains in SPS and fisheries from across the region were present to review and validate the work of the consultants and that by the end of such recommendations would be made. He urged those present not to let the recommendations remain idle which he had seen happening for many years within fisheries, but that they had an opportunity to break that cycle and do all in their power to ensure that they were implemented. He encouraged them to develop a plan that all were committed to and which would become part of the annual work plan supported by budgetary proposals. Mr. Willoughby suggested that if ten percent (10%) of recommendations made over the years had been implemented the region would be much further in achieving sustainable fisheries resources. He expressed gratitude to all those persons who had contributed to the reality of the workshop and wished those participants visiting Barbados an enjoyable stay.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND PROCEDURAL MATTERS

The agenda of the workshop was brought to the attention of the participants and adopted. Participants were informed of the hours and the manner in which the workshop would be conducted. ***Participants list at Appendix I.***

The election of a Chairperson for the duration of the workshop was conducted. The nomination of Barbados by Grenada was seconded by Belize. There being no other nominations, it was taken that Barbados was elected to the chair by acclamation. Following this procedural matter, participants which included legal, environmental, fisheries, public and private sector stakeholders representing various CARIFORUM States and organisations were asked to introduce themselves prior to the commencement of the first presentation. ***The agenda for the workshop is at Appendix II.***

MEETING OBJECTIVES

The primary objectives of the workshop were to:

- i. Review the outputs of the consultancy;
- ii. Endorse the final documents to facilitate the CRFM approval and subsequent recommendations to the COTED and the CARICOM and / or CARIFORUM bodies.

PRESENTATIONS

Introduction to the Project

Mr. Peter A. Murray, CRFM Programme Manager, Fisheries Management and Development provided a brief introductory overview in relation to the fisheries component of the 10th EDF programme entitled “Support to the Forum of Caribbean States in the Implementation of Commitments Undertaken under the EPA” which was instrumental in the convening of the workshop. Information on the overall and specific objectives was given and the partners for the project identified as IICA, CCS, CRFM and CNMSF. It was established that the target groups for the project were regulatory personnel, producer associations / private sector organisations and industry personnel in the agriculture and fisheries sectors within CARIFORUM States. The duration of the project was recognized as forty-two (42) months at a cost of €11.7 Million.

In relation to the scope of the project, three main components were identified; these were legislation, coordination mechanisms and capacity building. The constraints and activities associated with each component were also outlined. Details on the structure and management of the project were presented and the project status from inception in 2013 up to 2016 where the expected deliverables including CRFM (fisheries) training programmes and the provision

of resources for laboratory trials should be achieved. ***Presentation at Appendix III.***

Legal & Coordination Consultancy on Sanitary Standards for Fisheries & Aquaculture Products

Mr. Chris Hedley's presentation in respect to this consultancy commenced with a brief synopsis of the objectives. An assessment of the global perspective followed and the subjects of international trade, ensuring / increasing market access and promoting competitiveness were addressed. Details on the approach used to identify an SPS framework taking into account the role of international standards, regional protocols and the scope of protocols were presented. The national requirements were outlined and focused on governance, operating requirements and controls. Mr. Hedley stated that there was a need for primary and secondary legislation, where primary legislation would be concerned with governance while secondary legislation would focus on both operating requirements and official controls. Building and completing the SPS framework was discussed.

The importance of governing the framework was examined and it was suggested that the primary and secondary legislation be governed at the national level while at the regional level governance should focus on CARIFORUM protocols, guidelines and encompass the national level components. Mr. Hedley said that the regional governance functions were the coordination of cooperation amongst regional institutions, overseeing the development and implementation of the regional framework, managing the procedures for adopting, reviewing and updating regional protocols and overseeing long-term strategies for SPS in the fisheries sectors. It was revealed that the regional approach would utilise a MOU and a protocol review mechanism.

The aspects applicable to national governance were outlined and included defining all powers of government, enabling a competent authority and its role, establishing NAHFSAs were needed and connecting these institutions with the fisheries sector. Key stakeholders were identified which were viewed as being very important in achieving success. ***Presentation at Appendix IV.***

Environmental & Residue Monitoring Consultancy

Ms. Helga Gunnlaugsdottir, Research Group Leader, Matis Limited, presented an overview of the findings applicable to the environmental and residue monitoring component of the project of which the objective was to facilitate CARIFORUM States gaining and improving market access for fishery products by complying with Europe's SPS measures. Details on the scope of the work carried out by the consultants included assess total supply chain process for fisheries and aquaculture products related to SPS measures and to provide advice on developing the necessary accredited laboratories and suitable sustainable environmental monitoring practices.

The methods of work involved gathering background information, visiting the eight CARIFORUM States and preparing the country reports and regional assessment reports. Information in relation to responsible stakeholders for food safety in Europe as well as the strategies employed; legislative requirements and monitoring and surveillance procedures and practices were revealed to participants. The main observations and findings regarding official control of FP in seven of the eight States were outlined. However, it was revealed that in the case of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, due to time constraints, the findings were inconclusive. ***Presentation at Appendix V.***

WORKING GROUPS

Following the presentations of the consultants, participants were divided into three (3) working groups in order to review, assess and validate the outputs of the consultants as well as make recommendations. The first output to be reviewed was the Model Legislative Framework which was part of the Legal and Coordination consultancy. Each group was required to select a Chair and Rapporteur for the duration of their deliberations and to present their findings and recommendations. Participants were also given guidelines and key questions to consider in respect to the concept, legal status, scope and format of the protocols as well as how the protocols should be incorporated at the national level. **Key questions are provided at Appendix VI.**

Model Legislative Framework

Group I: Comments & Recommendations

This group comprised thirteen (13) persons including a Chairperson and Rapporteur.

Comments & Recommendations

The group made the following comments in relation to the questions posed on this topic:

i. Potential benefits

- The protocols were a good starting point for SPS and was ideal for someone without a strong SPS background and was a good foundation builder;

- The protocols ensured organisation, standardization and harmonization among CARIFORUM States;
- They raised the competitive level of the region as a whole; and
- Could be implemented without a legal footprint or emphasis. A legal input only strengthened it, while a legal framework was not mandatory.

ii. Potential Challenges

- Despite the current proposal to build capacity, presently there was a lack of capacity;
- If the protocols were not legally binding the Member State could refuse to implement them;
- They were subject to constant reviews;
- Keeping up with the changes in the EU standard would be challenging; and
- Each Member State would have to update themselves.

iii. SWOT

- Strengths

- Provides hope in relation to accessing the market
- Countries with time would more readily entertain these basic standards

- *Weaknesses*

- Not legally binding and not all countries will be able

- *Opportunities*

- Learn from each other through the sharing of info and EU would recognise the cooperation between member states and region working as a whole

- *Threats*

- Not all the countries are part of CARICOM and may feel left out and view as a threat
 - Maintaining and keeping up to EU standards

iv. Legal Status of Protocol

The group felt that in the short-term there should be a binding mechanism to guarantee full cooperation of all Member States because the EU would see the region as a group.

Furthermore, the group said that when the protocol becomes legal there was a need to make sure that all of the Member States are on the same page for movement forward. There also expressed the view that there should be no discrimination among markets.

In the long-term the group felt that the various CARICOM machinery should be involved:

- CAHFSA, CROSQ, Standard setting organisations.
- Dominican Republic is not a member of CARICOM.

On the matter of incorporation of the protocol at the national level the group expressed the following:

- Automatic incorporation of the protocols at the national level is not applicable
- The other two options would be applicable based on each individual country's situation.

v. Scope of Protocols

The group felt that a protocol in relation to bio-security was missing from the proposed protocol and that more time was needed to analyze each protocol to offer a vital input.

vi. Format of protocols

- The format was not as clear as it should be for the various stakeholders and it needs to be refined and presented in a more detailed format; and
- The international standards that are being implemented are very useful because they inform the process for review.

Group II: Comments & Recommendations

This group comprised fifteen (15) persons including a Chairperson and Rapporteur.

Comments & Recommendations

The group made the following comments in relation to the questions posed on this topic:

i. Potential Benefits

- Meeting international standards;
- Transparency;
- Facilitate trade;
- Continuity/record keeping/documentation;
- Clarity and legal basis;
- Harmonization;
- Science-based approach; and
- Increase efficiency; save time.

ii. Potential Challenges

- Cost/Capital;
- Lack of adequately trained personnel;
- Poor buy-in;
- Cultural peculiarities/practices;
- Awareness & political will;
- Lack of capacity; and
- Unclear cost-benefit analysis.

iii. SWOT

- Strengths

- Readily available market
- Available production capacity
- Relative disease-free status.

- *Weaknesses*
 - Lack of adequate training opportunities
 - Lack of capital
 - Lack of laboratory/technical support
 - Designation of the Competent Authority
- *Opportunities*
 - Readily available market
- *Threats*
 - Technical Barriers to Trade
 - Resistance to change
 - Natural disasters
 - Climate change

iv. Legal Status of Protocols

The group opined that protocols should be in the form of voluntary guidelines. Compliance would therefore be via regulations in the form of licences and certificates.

Implementation at the regional or national level should be medium to long term. Incorporation at the regional level could be through the NAHFSA, with consultative oversight from CARICOM/CAHFSA/CRFM.

v. Scope of Protocols

The group is of the opinion that the protocols should cover all aspects of the continuum from the production area to market. That is, from farm-to-fork. This includes:

- harvesting

- transportation
- processing
- packaging
- labelling
- storage

For wild-caught species there could be risk-based monitoring. Established protocols are required for pelagic fishing.

Group III: Comments & Recommendations

This group comprised fourteen (14) persons including the Chairperson and rapporteur.

Comments & Recommendations

The group made the following comments in relation to the questions posed on this topic:

i. Potential Benefits

- Allows for uniformity and a stepping stone for harmonization within the region;
- Provides awareness to Member States through education;
- Properly addresses food safety and would enhance the practices with regards to food safety; and

- Would make trade easier.

ii. Potential Challenges

- Time frame for incorporation might have to be extensive to give Member States adequate time to be up to standard;
- Whether the Protocols are consistent with other upcoming matters that address food safety being carried out by CARICOM, PAHO etc.;
- The need for consistency of terminologies, since this may vary from country to country; and
- Protocols cannot be vague, as this would allow for loop holes.

Overall approach is that the Protocols should be clear and consistent.

iii. Legal Status of Protocols

It was expressed by the group that there should be some binding agreement among Member States to ensure that the practices are consistent within the region and truly allow for harmonization.

With regards to incorporation, it is the opinion of the Group that there should be a Primary Legislation which would make provision for the creation of Regulations that cover the procedures specified in the Draft Protocols. If this is done, it would allow for amendments to be made easily and in a timely fashion.

iv. Scope of Protocols

General consensus is that the Protocols should be comprehensive and cover all aspects concerning food safety, and the areas necessary to satisfy International Trade.

Summary of Groups Comments & Recommendations

The overall consensus amongst the groups was that the proposed protocol was a good starting point to bring about standardisation and harmonisation amongst CARIFORUM States in relation to the fisheries sector and trade of fish and fisheries products. The groups also viewed the protocol as an opportunity to find a unilateral approach to trade within untapped international markets as well as a chance to learn from other countries that had successfully implemented similar protocols.

They were all of the view that capacity building, consistency in relation to national standards and terminologies as well as keeping up with the constant changing of EU and other international standards could be seen as challenges. Hence, they agreed that the protocol should be binding in order to guarantee full cooperation by States as well as consistency.

Moreover, they all saw a need for further assessment, analysis and development of the protocol to cover all aspects applicable to the fisheries sector, that is, from farm –to-fork and to provide more as well as the need to involve other CARICOM machinery and standard setting organisations.

Plenary Discussions on Proposed Protocol

During the [plenary] discussions it was revealed that protocols were based on international best practices and that regional commitments needed to be taken

into account. Hence, it was suggested that the protocol could be broadened to include regional standards or have a separate set of regional protocols. It was also suggested that various instruments in the region be examined, considered and included if not already undertaken such as the Treaty of Chagarramus; OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code and Manual.

Discussion also ensued about dispute resolution to try to intervene before legal action is required. It was proposed that four steps to resolve issues without political and dispute settlement be considered and that the CCJ which has a comprehensive approach be examined and used as a last resort where necessary. A suggestion was also made for the inclusion of advisory opinions.

National and Regional Monitoring Programmes Related to Health and Food Safety in Fisheries and Aquaculture

The output under review was the national and regional monitoring programmes related to health and food safety in fisheries and aquaculture which was part of the Environmental and Residue Monitoring consultancy. The groups were reminded to select a Chair and Rapporteur for the duration of their deliberations and to present their findings and recommendations. The guidelines and key questions were outlined for consideration. ***Key questions provided at Appendix VII.***

Group I: Comments & Recommendations

This group comprised twelve (12) persons with Yolanda Babb-Echteld Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries, Surinam as the Chairperson and Dr. Beverly Wood, Project Coordinator, Agricultural Health & Food Control Programme in the Ministry of Agriculture, Food, Fisheries and Water Resource Management (MAFFW), Barbados as the Rapporteur.

Comments & Recommendations

The group agreed that it was necessary to strengthen SPS measures through a monitoring and surveillance programme. They also felt that countries could learn from each other. The group also agreed with the proposed methods but felt that collaboration could take place with existing organisations. For example it was suggested that the CRFM and CAHFSA could work together in relation to setting up regional training programmes, harmonising inspection manuals and checklist as well as monitoring and surveillance programmes that were already in existence.

On the matter of laboratories the group felt that collaboration amongst the laboratories was necessary. However, they suggested that the strengths of the laboratories in terms of working with various contaminants should be determined in an effort to have laboratories specialising in different parts of the region. It was also recommended that national laboratories be utilised for initial extractions and preparatory work which could then be forwarded to regional labs for analysis. The group however, disagreed with the notion of acquiring additional labs. It was also suggested that laboratories could embark on collaborations with universities throughout the region to affect regional training. The group also recommended that matters such as the maintenance of equipment and calibration of laboratories was necessary and that a cadre of persons to do these types of functions and analysis throughout the region should be ascertained.

It was recommended that a monitoring and surveillance programme in the waters could be done in order to determine water qualities. According to the group this would allow information to be shared with CHAFSA where the regional programme for monitoring and surveillance would be setup. The group also felt that collaborative projects in respect to monitoring and

surveillance could be undertaken with organisations such as the FAO and OSPESCA.

They suggested that a regional audit team be set up so that Member States could be assisted with preliminary audits when international audit teams were coming to conduct audits in their respective States. The group recommended the training of staff through exchanges and country visits to facilities and vessels. They further suggested that a collaborative effort in respect to regional training could be undertaken through CHAFSA with further assistance from the EU.

The group addressed the subject matters of communication and suggested the use of social media to reach younger audience as well as churches and schools. They highlighted the possibility of adding a fisheries component during the Caribbean Week of Agriculture as well as strengthening partnerships with universities in the region. Overall, the group agreed that some of the proposals could be utilised but needed further tweaking as well as a bit more in-depth identification on how they can be achieved.

Group II: Comments & Recommendations

This group comprised thirteen (13) persons including the Chairperson and Rapporteur.

Comments & Recommendations

In respect to the first recommendation, the group agreed that harmonisation and the synchronisation of procedures in writing were critical. However, the group recommended that the procedures should also include information on instrumentation and official calibration of the same. They also felt that the

procedures should be flexible in an effort to facilitate adaption at the national level.

Additionally in the cases where human resources are limited the group suggested that the competent authorities pursue hiring additional personnel through the accreditation of officers to conduct services on their behalf, if their legislation permits, or pursue the option of designating officials to conduct duties on their behalf by hiring contract officers under direct regulatory oversight. They also recommended that other activities could include twinning mechanisms (two countries or agencies depending on what is the objective). The group further suggested that cross-training of personnel and conducting team or joint inspections was another possibility that could be undertaken.

In relation to the accreditation of laboratories the group made the following suggestions:

(a) Several studies have been conducted in the region to determine capacity and identify limitations. As a result the Group proposed that the first step would be to update the most recent report to make it current.

(b) In regards to setting up regional laboratories: due to challenges with logistics it would be necessary to identify more than one regional laboratory. Additionally the recommendations on selection of regional laboratories should take into account criteria for transporting and the analysis of highly contagious or infectious material. One Member State recommended laboratory personnel pursuing IATA Certification for submission of samples to Foreign Reference Laboratories.

On the proposal pertaining to monitoring and collection of data on contaminants and biotoxins (3 & 4) the group accepted them as presented by the consultant. However, in respect to the coordination of different agencies

within the region, the group recommended that consideration should be given to the implementation of the same coordination mechanism that the Plant Health Authorities of the region are implementing.

The group also examined the matter of training programmes and accepted the consultant's proposal as recommended. They however, recommended that on the matter of consumer education that as a region there could be agreement on basic messages, to help improve consumer education and help change perception and behaviour. An example given by one member of the group in relation to educating consumers was in regards to some consumers seeking fish but not purchasing fish on ice due to thinking that the fish was "old" and thus not safe for consumption. The group also suggested that an exchange among Member States on good practices would be beneficial.

The recommendation made by the consultant in respect to assessment and research resulted in the group suggesting the soliciting of assistance from the University or request that they have a specific programme to help strengthen the Fishery Sector in the Region.

Additional recommendations by the group included the establishment of gene bank on fishery species traded in CARIFORUM. The group was of the view that the information generated could be utilized to assist in the implementation of programmes geared towards attaining greater sustainability; key outputs including better preparation for implementation of - disease surveillance programmes and the monitoring for invasive alien species, just to mention a few.

They also felt it necessary to highlight the need to obtain political will since they believed it was critical to the success of this venture. Intense discussion on how this could be addressed was undertaken and some suggestions made were to link the fisheries trade and tourism. The workshop was also informed

that Belize's regulation on foreign inspection and verification does not allow for costs incurred with auditing to be levied on the competent authority but instead these fees must be covered either by the importer or the exporter, which the group said needed to be carefully examined.

The Belize Representative spoke about the feasibility study conducted with funds from the EU in relation to whether Belize needed to have an accredited laboratory as opposed to accrediting laboratory methods. It was revealed that the results of the study supported the latter.

A recommendation was also made to consider the Protocol for Trade in Animals and Animal Products which has been developed by the Chief Veterinary Officers of the region in relation to trade in CARICOM.

Group III: Comments & Recommendations

This group comprised fifteen (15) persons including the Chairperson and Rapporteur.

Comments & Recommendations

This group agreed with the recommendation to have a harmonized standard as long as it ensured that the standard would include various levels/categories/grades to accommodate everyone involved (facilities, vessels, etc.) They felt it was important that the processing of products for export and local sales to have one harmonized standard. In addition, the group referred to the WTO stipulation that Member States needed to ensure consistency (export/import) and non-discrimination (domestic) which they said should be considered.

The group was also concerned about the potential impacts of having one standard; e.g. insulated storage for wooden vessels vs. fibre glass vessels – which they said was very hard to comply with based on the socio-economic nature of the industry. However, they explained that the EU minimum standards required that the storage facility must comply with the following: clean and easy to sanitize, and insulated.

The group made the following additional recommendations in relation to harmonizing standards:

- Grace period for developing country (built in the SPS);
- There is a gap with regards to ‘Aquaculture’ where facilities are (leaving it to international or local accreditation);
- Member states need to be accountable for production and ensure officials are there to conduct the proper inspections and know exactly what they are looking for (pathogens, sanitary conditions, etc.); and
- Private sector should have their own standards, but the Government would still need to select a CA to be responsible for monitoring and regulating the entities.

On the way forward, the group suggested an assessment must be conducted in order to develop the plan; ensures collaboration with stakeholders to obtain their input; assessment would included regulators and producers.

The group asserted that if CARIFORUM States wanted to export to the EU, all needed to be harmonized and get on the same page (if we meet the EU standards, we meet all other importing countries standards). Group members were concerned about the EU minimum standards for exportation; there needs

to be a baseline standard, and it would disallow local operators to even meet those standards and consequently, they will be unable to meet those markets. The group suggested that instead of focusing on EU standards, at this juncture the focus should be striving to meet international best standards and if operators would want to access other markets, then they would need to adopt and implement those standards (EU Standards).

On the way forward, it was accepted that countries that have already developed and implemented these types of written inspection procedures could e.g. share these documents and they could serve as the basis for the regional harmonization of inspection procedures [no need to reinvent the wheel]. This would ensure that all countries would be following the same guideline and procedures.

The group proposed that countries meet basic international standards (CODEX) and the step to the EU would not be far away. It was also felt that operators that did not want to export to the EU market would be affected, but the use of basic international standards would allow them to access other markets.

The group agreed that countries that had already developed and implemented effective official monitoring and surveillance plans that covered the entire production chain for fisheries products could share their procedures. They also said that some Caribbean countries had implemented these types of monitoring plans for fisheries products intended for export and they could be adapted and expanded to cover also fisheries products intended for the domestic market.

On the recommendation applicable to auditing, the group sought further clarification on 'independent individual' auditing of the facility and competent authority.

In respect to the grandfather principle, every country should try to have their own labs and that there were funding agencies that could assist countries in obtaining these laboratory facilities, some group members were not supportive [lab sharing across sectors because of ...] because of possible cross contamination as it relates to equipment. They suggested that:

- The assessment takes into consideration which laboratory capacities could be shared between sectors e.g. in case the same analytical equipment and test procedures could be applied across sectors.

Summary of Groups Comments & Recommendations

The consensus amongst the groups was that there was a need for harmonisation and synchronisation of inspection services and monitoring and surveillance procedures and standards in CARIFORUM States for fisheries products. However, the groups felt that these procedures and standards should be applicable to both export and import. They also agreed that collaborations amongst existing institutions such as CAHFSA should be more involved and that sharing of information between States was critical for success.

In relation to meeting the EU standards the groups were of the consensus that although the goal was to reach such other standards applicable to other export markets such as the USA should be taken into consideration as well as the level at which the CARIFORUM States are at currently. They also agreed that there should be a level of flexibility in relation to implementation and meeting the standards.

On the matter of having integrated regional laboratories the groups were divided since some felt that there needed to be both national and regional laboratories while others felt that there was no need for every country to have

its own laboratory. They all felt however, that there was a need to further assess the current status of existing laboratories in relation to their strengths and weaknesses as well as evaluate and consider issues such as logistics in respect to transportation, training, calibration of laboratories, types of contaminants/biotoxins which these specialist regional labs would deal with and equipment be conducted.

Plenary Discussions on Proposed Monitoring Programmes

During the discussions clarity was sought as to whether the consultants were expected to develop harmonised inspection procedures and checklist during the consultancy or after its completion. The consultant confirmed that the procedures and checklist would be done after completion. On the matter of collaboration between national agencies with responsibility for different areas of food safety the consultant suggested the use of MOUs between these agencies in an effort to clearly identify responsibilities in instances where some activities overlapped.

An example of the use of similar MOUs in collaborative situations was outlined in respect to Belize and it was suggested that others could learn from their experience. Information on the use of MOUs in collaborative efforts between agencies in Jamaica with responsibilities for food safety was also given. Another issue raised was the lack of a technical entity/person to facilitate food safety within the CHAFSA which was viewed as being critical. It was recommended that such an entity should be instituted with a focus to eventually establish a regional food safety grouping similar to the one of Caribbean TVET or the Directors of Plant Health. It was further recommended that once this component was included some of the work relating to regional food safety could be facilitated through the entity. Participants were informed of an initiative to develop a food safety bill in Jamaica and were told that a provision that deals with MOUs was included.

Clarity was sought in relation to the consultants' recommendation for audits in relation to the persons conducting the audits. The consultant confirmed that audits must be conducted independently and persons could either be from the region or from outside the region once they were qualified to conduct such audits. This then led to queries pertaining to the purpose of the audits. The consultant stated that the audits were proposed as a mechanism to ensure that all Member States were compliant and maintaining the expected standards and reiterated that this was only a proposal. A suggestion was made that the audits concentrate on HACCP compliance. The meeting was cautioned in relation to the financial burden which audits could place on exporters since they were required to conduct several HACCP audits in an effort to satisfy each buyer to which they exported as well as CAs. It was then suggested that audits should be restricted to CA and not the plants.

A recommendation was made that regional training should be conducted for fishermen and included in the proposal since the process started with them. Concern pertaining to how fisherfolk and small processors would be facilitated and included in the overall proposal was voiced.

In relation to regional testing it was suggested that basic test be done nationally, with regional testing being a confirmation mechanism of certain types of results of test conducted at the national level. It was also recommended that at least two national labs should be developed in each country. However, it was asserted that since the labs would need ISO certification which was quite costly it may not be practical for each country to have a certified lab but they should be able to access labs for their monitoring preventions. It was also suggested that consideration be given to accrediting methods instead of the entire lab.

Model Guidelines on Developing Coordinating Mechanisms for Fisheries SPS Governance

Group I: Comments & Recommendations

This group comprised fourteen (14) persons.

Comments & Recommendations

The group considered the key questions and made the following observations and recommendations in relation to the proposed primary legislation “*Fisheries Export Control Act*”:

- *Title of the Act* - Thought not wide enough and misleading as “one act” which should cover: (a) fish for human consumption produced locally, exported and imported. The question was asked if it would also deal with ornamental fish. One suggested title was “Fish Trade Control”.

Some discussion ensued about those countries that already have legislation in place, those approaches could also be looked at and adopted.

- *Objectives* - As mentioned above, the first objective of the act was thought too narrow. Sect.3 (1) (a) only mentions public health and safety of exported fishery products. Remove exported or add locally produced, imported and exported products.
- *Functions of the Competent Authority* - Sect. 5(1) (c) with the all-encompassing documentation list, suggests that different agencies may be involved in the issuing of documents so referred. Therefore the act should speak to the mechanisms or how these links among the agencies

will occur with the main competent authority in section 4. For example Fisheries Departments may do vessel registration and licensing, Ministry of Health establishment licensing.

Advisory Committee -Agree to a committee, but the objectives not clear as there are several functions, some of which strictly apply to the competent authority (CA) and others to different entities involved. This needs further explanation. The focus should be strategic priorities and direction. Agreed to Functions (a) & (d) should be of the CA. Representation from Trade and Consumer bodies should be part of NGO group.

Right of Appeal:

- Section 8 (3). The Minister should be required to consult with the Competent Authority;
- Section 8 (4). Section 14 in the Secondary legislation conflicts with Section 8 (4) of the Primary legislation; and
- Section 8 (8) Reference is made to an Appeal Tribunal. Its Role/scope, Composition, Procedures and Appointments needs to be defined.

Secondary Legislation – Transfer of Licences:

The group thoroughly discussed this proposal and expressed concern about the ability to transfer licences (suggesting they should be cancelled and reissued).

Governance:

A coordinating Committee will be required.

Group II: Comments & Recommendations

This group comprised fourteen (14) persons.

Comments & Recommendations

The group considered the key questions and made the following observations and recommendations in relation to the proposed primary legislation “*Fisheries Export Control Act*”:

- *Scope of the Act* - was discriminatory since it only applied to Export Control and did not encompass Import Control. They recommended that the scope include both import and export control as well as feed;
- *Name of the Act* - Fisheries Export Control Act; Recommended that the title be amended in relation to the scope;
- *Objectives* - Needed to be expanded to incorporate import control as well;
- *Administration* - CA functions need to be revisited. Sections 2 and 3 would need to be revisited since the Minister should not have the prerogative to institute a CA on his own;
- *Advisory Committee* - Section 7 (5) (f) appeared to be redundant since 7 (5) (e) already included the entire sector. Section 7 (5) (f) should be an extension of Section 7 (5) (e), hence should be Roman numeral (vi); and include a new (g) for the legal officer; Section 7 (6) is for the enactment of the regulations;
- *Definitions* in the interpretation should be consistent with international definitions (OIE and CODEX);

- *Rights of Appeal* - One view is for it to be outside of the Ministry under which the competent authority falls. Others felt that it should be under the same Ministry;
- *The appeals process* needed to be properly structured; and the section properly numbered to reflect such structure.
- In the event that a licence is denied; such should be done via a written explanation for such denial.
- Proposed amendment included in brackets: Section 8 Subsection (3) the Minister, [in consultation with the Competent Authority]...; and
- In *Regulations 14* the discretionary powers granted to the Minister to determine the outcome of an appeal on his own....has to be amended

Secondary Legislation

All amendments made in the parent law should be further reflected in the secondary regulations.

- Important considerations to be further elaborated in the subsidiary regulations.

Governance

CROSQ and CAHFSA requested that discussion on the governance section be deferred due to ongoing regulatory discussion with the various regional bodies.

In relation to the strategic priorities (regional/national) the group identified them as follows:

- Coordinating Committees

- Memorandum of Understanding with other agencies for effective implementation.
- National Agency - regulatory oversight

Group III: Comments & Recommendations

This group comprised fifteen (15) persons.

Comments & Recommendations

The group reviewed the proposed legislation while taking the key questions into account and made the following observations and recommendations:

- Some *definitions* needed to be better defined (e.g. fisheries and fisheries products)
- The *Act* should not be a standalone legislation but incorporated into the existing legislation of the countries;
- Review of the *functions of the CA* needed to be undertaken and questioned whether these functions should be included in the Act or the secondary legislation;
- *Contradictory roles* of the advisory committee and the CA, hence, a need to be better define these roles;
- *Conflict of interest* in the composition and role of the advisory committee since there are other stakeholders with responsibilities for recommending the issuance of licenses which needed to be examined;

- The *entire functions* of the advisory committee need to be redrafted (e.g. *sections 3, 3a, 4a & 4b should be removed from document*);
- Composition of the advisory committee should include other key stakeholders such as Customs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Trade, coast guard consumer affairs, etc; and
- Overall there were too many contradictions between the CA & Advisory Committee hence a need to re-examine and redefine where necessary (e.g. who does the advisory committee report to – the Minister or the CA).

Rights of appeal

The consensus of the group was that it might be more prudent if there was a Tribunal (3 – 5 members) to deliberate over appeals instead of just the Minister.

Secondary Legislation

The group had no major concerns in relation to the secondary legislation, however, they suggested the following:

- Powers of authorised officer should be included in the Act and not in the secondary legislation;
- Licensing guidelines should be included in the Act instead of the secondary legislation; and
- Review and remove duplication pertaining to the rights of appeal that exist between act and secondary legislation

Governance

The group felt that both the regional and national framework could work but that it required both the CAHFSA and NAFSHA in each country to be operational

Summary of Groups Comments & Recommendations

The consensus amongst the groups was that the name, scope and objectives of the proposed Act needed to be expanded to include local, export and import fisheries products for human consumption as well as ornamental fish products.

They also agreed that there was a need for an Advisory Committee and other important organisations with responsibilities for food safety needed to be included. It was also asserted that the functions and objectives of the committee needed to be further defined.

On the proposal pertaining to the appeals process it was felt by the groups that the Minister needed to have consultation with the CA prior to making decisions. There was also some concern in relation to conflicts between the primary and secondary legislation which the groups felt needed to be further examined. It was also asserted that in relation to the issuance of licenses some further refinement of the proposal needed to be undertaken.

The groups also agreed that in order for governance to be effective there was a need for a coordinating committee and MOUs for agencies that had similar responsibilities.

Plenary Discussions on Proposed Model Guidelines on Developing Coordinating Mechanisms for Fisheries SPS Governance

A discussion ensued in relation to this topic. It was suggested that the existing institutions /structures with food safety responsibilities should be identified, recognised and enhanced where necessary to meet the mandate. An example given of such a structure was a food and nutrition cluster of organisations within CARICOM which was thought to be important in collaborative efforts in order to reap success.

Queries pertaining to penalties and fees were raised and clarification sought as to whether they would be included in the regulations or in the legislation itself since it was a tedious process to change. The consultant stipulated that penalties and fees could be included in the regulation for easy changing and or updating but that fines would need to be included in the legislation. It was also recommended that clarity be brought to Regulation 37 since it was unclear as to whether the offences were to be approached as summary or indictable ones.

Another matter discussed was that of diseases of aquatic animals and whether this was contemplated during the protocols development process. The consultant said there was a project in progress to examine animal and plant health legislation which would cover such concerns. An observation highlighted was the consistent use of licensing throughout the document and this was discussed extensively. It was suggested that the context in relation to licences needed to be made clear. Clarity was sought in relation to the definition used for licensing in the legislation and regulations. The consultant informed participants that the definition for the term licence was covered under the Act. It was also suggested that the definition in the regulations be consistent with those in the Act.

A matter of contention was that of the discretionary power/authority of the Minister as it relates to the appeals process, since it was felt, that these powers could negatively impact the scientific process. Concern pertaining to the Act and regulations not being consistent with each other was also discussed and a suggestion made that for a re-examination of the two documents in order to rectify this issue. Also brought to the attention of the consultant was that there was nothing relating to trade of live fish in the Act. Another observation made was that traceability was not addressed in the Act and hence, a suggestion that it be embedded in the framework. It was also suggested that the Export & Control Act should not be a standalone Act.

The consultant thanked everyone for their comments and said that the workshop was a very useful exercise. He then addressed several issues that were raised during the discussions.

In response to the query as to whether the Act was to be seen as a standalone one, the consultant said that the act was being done so that it could be inserted into existing legislation if necessary and ultimately being developed as the food safety component of the model legislation that would encapsulate the SPS system which countries needed to look at and adopt into their systems. He further stated that there was a need to ensure that the challenges in relation to exporting to the USA and EU were being addressed.

The consultant said that the Act should be clear in relation to the duties and functions of the CA and the various agencies with food safety responsibilities rather than relying on MOUs. Regarding the issuance of licenses, the consultant outlined the process utilised in Norway where applications to fisheries for a license and done through the fisheries department who in turn liaise with all the other agencies as required.

The consultant acknowledged the importance of having a steering committee and the inclusion of some bodies which were viewed as being very important to the process but cautioned against making the committee too big which he said could be a hindrance to the decision making. He also accepted the argument put forth by the groups in relation to the power of the Minister and stated that the arguments were very good justification to further define the process for written decisions. It was also revealed that the idea of tribunal was to bring a more technically minded body to the approach.

An intervention pertaining to IUU fishing was made and it was suggested that it be made a prerequisite prior to any processing being done. It was also stated that a protocol/standard be put in place to address this issue, since, having the best SPS system would not without the implementation of proper protocols/standards would prove futile. The consultant agreed with this suggestion and revealed that the protocol that was being developed would address IUU fishing. He said in terms of policy lead at the regional level the CRFM would be responsible while at the national level it would fall under fisheries.

The Executive Director informed the meeting that trade methods were being employed to address IUU fishing which he agreed was an important point. In relation to the appeals process, the Executive Director said he had no difficulty with the current formulation while concurring that he understood the concerns of participants in relation to the power of Minister. He explained to participants that the Minister's power was not infinite, but agreed, that clearer procedures in respect to these concerns could be outlined. Another point raised by the Executive Director was that the court was another review process that was available.

The Executive Director said that the legislation should not only cover the immediate challenges of today but should be useful and have a long shelf life.

He also said that the legislation should be as flexible as possible but should deal with situations now and also in the future. He agreed that more work was required before the documents could be finalised and reiterated that the process to achieve harmonised standards and procedures had now begun.

An intervention was made highlighting the need to have supporting documentation to outline the thoughts behind the drafting of the legislation so that it was clear when it being examined by legal persons in the various countries. The consultant concluded that further development of the legislation was needed and that there were a few gaps that needed to be addressed and tweaked based on the feedback received. He however expressed appreciation to participants for seeing the benefits of the use of regional protocols while agreeing that the incorporation of the protocols into the national legislation needed to be clarified. The consultant posited that overall it was a step in the right direction.

The Executive Director informed the workshop that the revised documents incorporating comments made would be forwarded to participants within a short time frame who in turn would be given one week to make their submission. He also said that the consultant needed to complete this beginning process by the end of September after which the documents would be forwarded to countries for national consultation. It was also revealed that eventually the instruments would be forwarded to the Ministerial Council for endorsement/approval before final submission to the countries for consideration. He then said that he CRFM would be working with the countries in relation to their national consultation in a few months.

CLOSING

The Executive Director expressed sincere thanks to Barbados for hosting the workshop, the organisers for their assistance and the consultants for the work already done including their presentations. He stated that the countries would be given a brief period to review the mission reports and submit their comments to the CRFM and the consultants. The Chairperson for the workshop also thanked the consultant and participants for their work. The IICA representative also expressed gratitude and asserted that it was an excellent start to the fisheries component which was only one part of the overall SPS project. The meeting was then adjourned.

APPENDIX I

LIST OF DELEGATES

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<p align="center">SECRETARIAT FOR THE MEETING</p>	
<p>Ms. Sherlene Audinett Senior Secretary CRFM Secretariat P.O. Box 642 Princess Margaret Drive Belize City Belize Tel: 001-501-223-4443 Fax: 001-501-223-4446 E-mail: sherlene.audinett@crfm.int</p>	<p>Ms. Shernell Marshall Administrative Officer 1 (ag) Ministry of Agriculture, Food, Fisheries and Water Resource Management Graeme Hall Christ Church Barbados Tel: 246-434-5032 E-Mail: marshalllaw320@gmail.com; smarshall@labour.gov.bb</p>
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APPENDIX II

AGENDA

DAY 1 – MONDAY, 24 AUGUST 2015	
09:00 - 9:45	Opening Ceremony <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcoming Remarks - Chair (Project Coordinator, Agricultural Heath & Food Control Programme)• Remarks – Representative of IICA• Remarks – Representative of the Delegation of the European Union• Remarks – CRFM (Executive Director)• Feature Remarks – Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Food, Fisheries and Water Resource Management• Closing Remarks – Chief Fisheries Officer
09.45 - 10.00	COFFEE BREAK
10.00 - 10:15	Election of Chairperson and Introduction of Participants
10:15 – 10:30	Introduction to the Project (Programme Manager, Fisheries Management and Development)
10:30 -11:00	Overview of the findings of the Environmental and Residue Monitoring Consultancy (Helga Gunnlaugsdottir)
11:00 – 12:00	Overview of findings of the Legal and Coordination Consultancy on Sanitary Standards for fishery and aquaculture products (Chris Hedley)
12:00 - 13:00	LUNCH
13:00 – 15:00	Session 1 Review of Consultancy outputs – Model Legislative framework for Sanitary Standards for fishery and aquaculture products (Chris Hedley)
15:00 – 15:15	COFFEE BREAK
15:15 - 16:15	Review of Consultancy outputs – Model Legislative Framework Cont'd.
16:15 – 16:45	Validation of Consultancy outputs – Legislative Framework

16:45	Close for the day
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DAY 2 – TUESDAY, 25 AUGUST 2015	
09:00 – 10:30	Session 2 Review of Consultancy outputs – national and regional monitoring programmes related to health and food safety in the fisheries and aquaculture (Oddur Gunnarsson)
10:30 – 10:45	COFFEE BREAK
10.45 – 12:00	Validation of Consultancy outputs – Monitoring programmes
12:00 - 13:00	LUNCH
13:00 – 15:00	Session 3 Review of Consultancy outputs – Model Guidelines on Developing Coordinating Mechanisms for Fisheries SPS Governance (Chris Hedley)
15:00 – 15:15	COFFEE BREAK
15:15 - 16:00	Review of Consultancy outputs – Coordinating Mechanisms cont'd.
16:00 – 16:30	Validation of Consultancy outputs – Coordinating Mechanisms
16:30 – 16:45	Way Forward (Executive Director)
16:45	Close of the workshop

INTRODUCTION TO THE PROJECT
BY PETER MURRAY



10th 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)"



Overall Objective

- To support the beneficial integration of the CARIFORUM States into the world economy.

Specific Objective

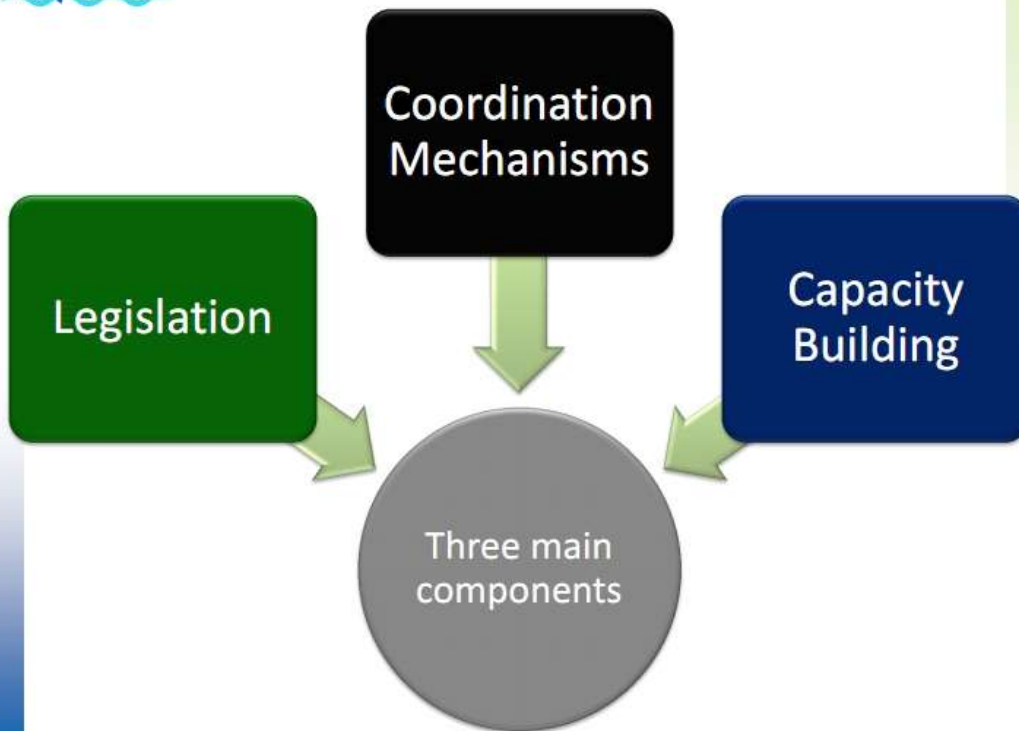
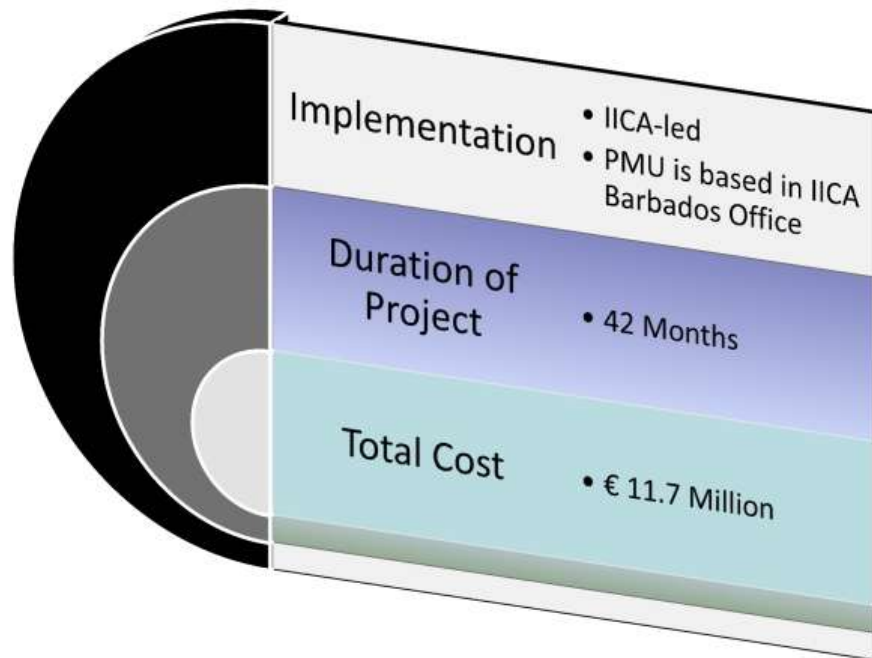
- To increase production and trade in agriculture and fisheries which meet international standards while protecting plant, animal and human health and the environment

Partners

- IICA, CCS, CRFM, Comité Nacional de Medidas Sanitarias y Fitosanitarias (CNMSF)

Target Groups

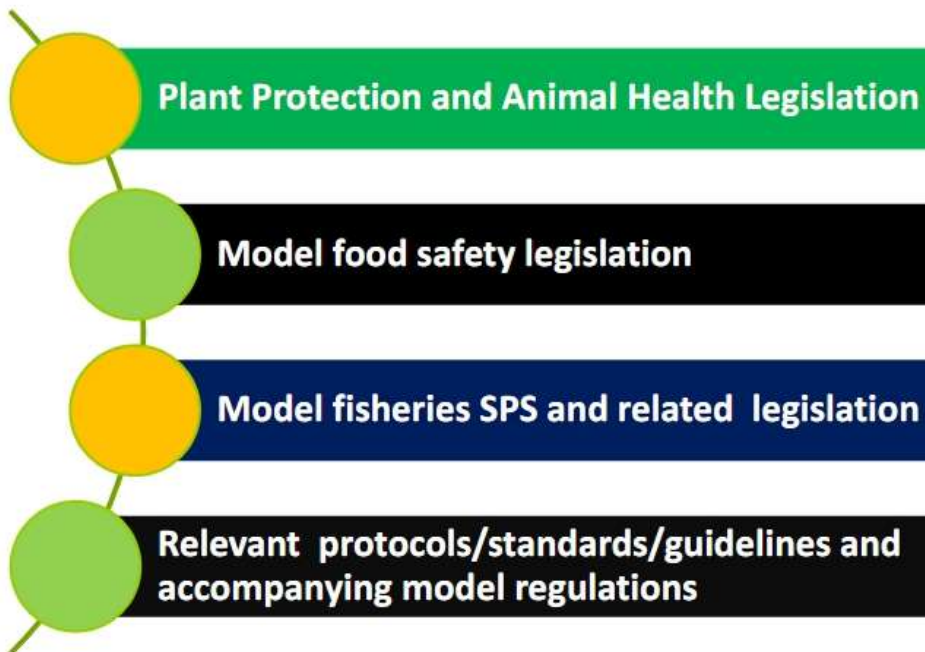
- Regulatory personnel, industry personnel, producer associations/private sector organizations, in the agriculture and fisheries sectors of CARIFORUM countries.



Component 1: Develop model legislation, protocols, standards, measures and guidelines in the areas of agricultural health and food safety (AHFS), including fisheries

Constraint Addressed: Lack of harmonized legislation, regulation, standards, protocols, guidelines

Activities: Development of new or revision of existing legislation, regulations, protocols, guidelines etc.



Component 2: Develop effective national and regional coordination mechanisms in the support of the SPS regime

Constraint Addressed: Fragmentation of Agricultural Health and Food Safety Systems (nationally and regionally)

Activities:

National level : Support for coordinating systems

Regional level: Support for coordinating groups such as CAHFSA, CPHD, CaribVet

2.1 Strengthen or establish national coordination and implementing mechanisms

2.2 Operationalize Regional coordination and implementing mechanisms

2.3 Establish data collection, management, monitoring, and evaluation, and reporting systems for national regulatory agencies.

2.4 Establish communication, information sharing and management technology systems and platforms for the regional agencies





Component 3: Develop/strengthen the national and/or regional regulatory and industry capacity to meet the SPS requirements of international trade

Constraint Addressed: Inadequate capacity and capability of human and physical resources within the public and private sectors.

Activities:

Capacity building for both the public and private sectors, networking of laboratory systems, environmental monitoring (fisheries and aquaculture).



Capacity building of national and regional regulatory agencies and industry

- Training programmes for animal health, plant health and food safety (Risk assessment, Surveillance, Plant quarantine course, Inspection procedures, Diagnostics, GAPs, GLP, HACCP)
- Training programmes for value chain stakeholders (GAP, GMP, GLP, HACCP etc)
- Strengthening and enhancing Laboratory systems and networks (SPS TBT)
 - Identifying laboratories for accreditation
 - Network strategy
- Private industry standards – capacity building needs

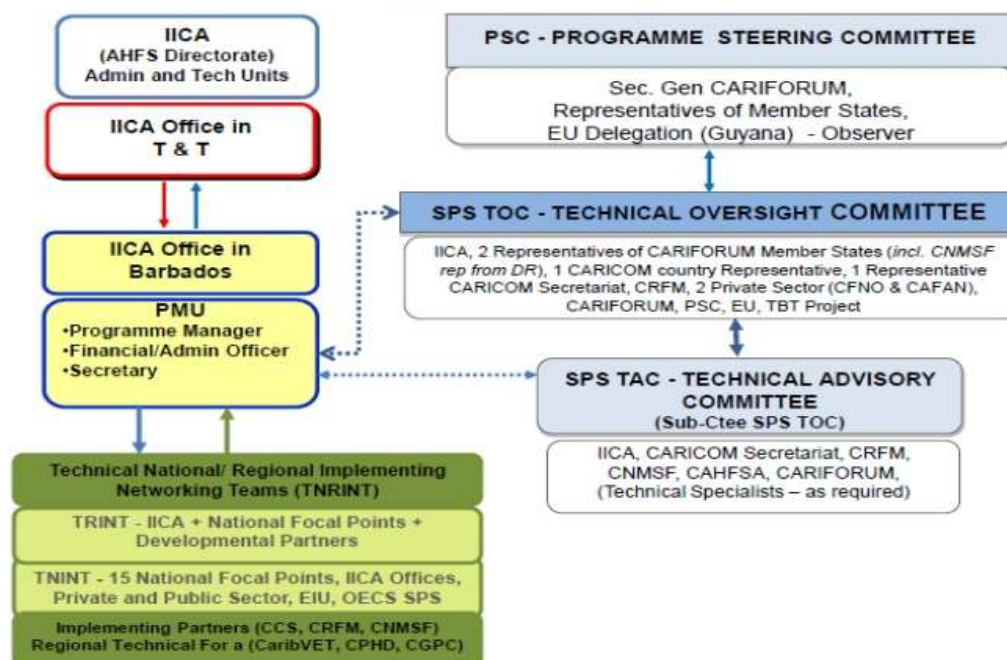


Capacity building of national and regional regulatory agencies and industry

- Establishing national and regional environmental monitoring programmes.
- Establishing national (aquaculture) farm level residue monitoring programmes.



PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT CHART





PROJECT STATUS

2013-14:

Project administration (staff recruitment, office, project governance structure, partner agency agreements) & workplanning, some meetings and training

2015:

Field activities (legislation, stakeholder analysis, environmental monitoring programmes)

Model legal instruments promulgated at national level → Adoption

Proposals for national and regional coordinating mechanisms & relevant MOUs for PPPs

Development of training programmes & Support for formal training

2016:

CRFM inputs into broader regional legal process

Delivery of CRFM (fisheries) training programmes,

Provision of resources for laboratory trials,

Support for short-term and long-term training



Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism

Thank You

Merci

Mèsi

Dank je wel

Muchas gracias

Takk fyrir



***DEVELOPMENT OF MODEL LEGISLATION, PROTOCOLS, GUIDELINES FOR
HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY RELATED TO FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE
IN CARIFORUM STATES
BY CHRIS HEDLEY***



**Development of model legislation, protocols,
guidelines for health and food safety related to fisheries
and aquaculture in CARIFORUM States**



Programme Funded by the European Union
Implemented by CRFM and IICA
Project implemented by Global
Centre for International Law



Preliminary considerations

Development of model legislation, protocols, guidelines for health and food safety related to fisheries and aquaculture in CARIFORUM States

1



The task...

- To strengthen national and regional SPS systems by establishing a comprehensive legislative framework for health and food safety (AHFS) in the fisheries sector.
- To develop and organize an efficient responsive institutional framework and mechanism for coordination of SPS issues at both the national and regional levels.
 - Model CARIFORUM Guidelines on Sanitary Standards for fishery and aquaculture products
 - Model CARIFORUM Sanitary Standards for Fishery and Aquaculture
 - Model Export Control Act
 - Model Supplementary Regulations
 - Model Guidelines on Developing Coordinating Mechanisms for National and Regional Fisheries SPS Governance

Development of model legislation, protocols, guidelines for health and food safety related to fisheries and aquaculture in CARIFORUM States

2

+ Starting point: global perspective

3

- **International trade system**
 - increasing consumer awareness
 - multiple & complex international standards
- **Ensuring / increasing market access**
 - meet standards for difficult export markets, such as the EU
 - ensure long-term access to export markets – challenges are increasing
- **Promoting competitiveness**
 - develop efficient SPS systems which enable CARIFORUM countries to compete in a global market

Development of model legislation, protocols, guidelines for health and food safety related to fisheries and aquaculture in CARIFORUM States

+ Starting point: regional perspective

4

- Small export trade in most countries – scope for expansion
- Most previously exported to EU, but now most cannot
- EU market restricted for 15 years – continuing challenge to meet EU and US export conditions
- Continuing private sector interest in EU exports in most countries
- Intra-regional trade subject to some constraints
- Significant challenges in many countries (legislation, administration, technical, etc.)

Development of model legislation, protocols, guidelines for health and food safety related to fisheries and aquaculture in CARIFORUM States

+ Common problems

5

- ability to keep up with continually developing regulatory demands from importing countries
- increasing technological advances which require capacity-building, training and funding
- severe challenges due to financial, legal, technological and human resource constraints
- effective fisheries/food safety measures undermined by outdated and/or fragmented legislation, multiple jurisdictions, surveillance weaknesses, inadequate monitoring and enforcement of regulations, inadequate budgetary allocations and a lack of facilities and trained personnel

Development of model legislation, protocols, guidelines for health and food safety related to fisheries and aquaculture in CARIFORUM States



The approach

Development of model legislation, protocols, guidelines for health and food safety related to fisheries and aquaculture in CARIFORUM States

6

+ Identifying the SPS framework



+ Role of International Standards

- Set out globally accepted (and regionally adapted) standards for fisheries and food safety management
- Set the fundamental requirements for food safety and offer a comprehensive code for international best practice
- CROSQ: Organization with a mandate and a process for adopting regional standards exists
- In this context, there needs to be no separate process for regional Standards – focus is on how to implement global Standards at regional level



+ Regional Protocols

- Standards do not (necessarily)
 - Provide specific direction on steps to be taken
 - Guarantee compliance with export requirements
 - Indicate steps for a harmonized approach
- Regional Protocols designed to
 - **achieve** these objectives
 - **consistently** with international standards



Development of model legislation, protocols, guidelines for health and food safety related to fisheries and aquaculture in CARIFORUM States

+ Role of Protocols

10

- Describe how to implement the global Standards and export requirements
- Contain all technical requirements typically contained in regulations
- Can replace need for detailed regulations in CARIFORUM States
- Management of Protocols
 - Should be managed at the regional level
 - Regional mechanism should be developed to keep Protocols up to date, provide guidance, distribute information, etc.
- Legal Status of Protocols
 - No legal status at regional level (in the short-term)
 - National mechanisms will “incorporate” standards into national law

Development of model legislation, protocols, guidelines for health and food safety related to fisheries and aquaculture in CARIFORUM States

+ Scope of Protocols

11

- Focus on pre-requisite programme
- Supported by requirement to implement HACCP

Water Quality Control Protocol

Product Processing Protocol

Product Weighing Protocol

Product Packaging Protocol

Product Labeling Protocol

Product Storage Protocol

Material storage protocol

Product Transport Protocol

Personal Hygiene Protocol

Personnel Welfare and Safety Protocol

Waste Disposal Protocol

Facility / Product Protocols

Product Traceability Protocol

Product Sampling Protocol

Facility/Product Bio-security Protocol

Workers Flow Protocol

Equipment Flow Protocol

Product and Process Flow Protocol

Pest Control Protocol

Pesticides Protocol

Development of model legislation, protocols, guidelines for health and food safety related to fisheries and aquaculture in CARIFORUM States

+ National legal requirements

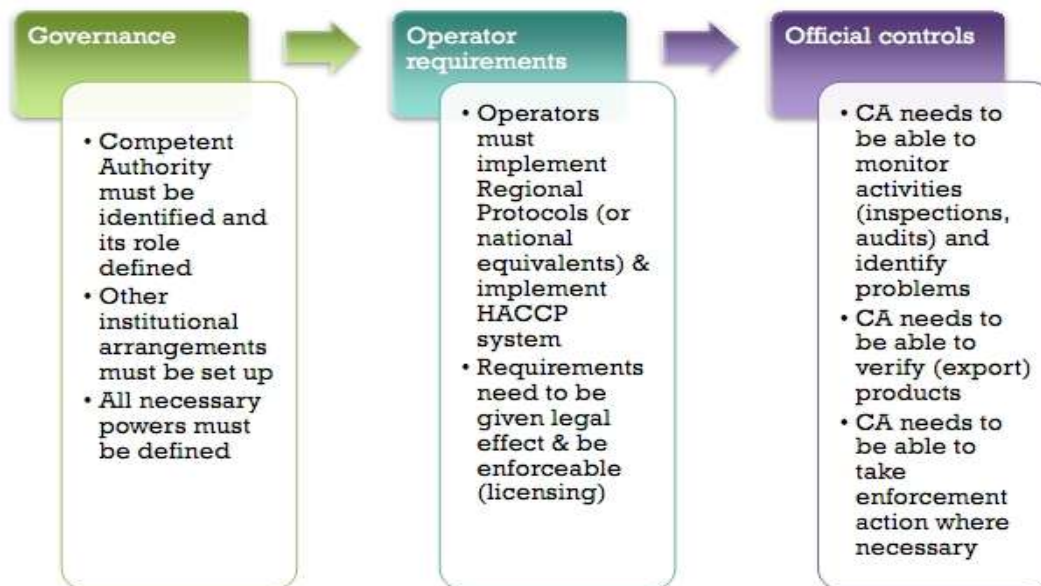
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- System for implementing Regional Protocols
 - **necessary** for a harmonized approach
 - **assists governments:** national legislative implementation
 - **assists operators:** user-friendly Protocols, with built in guidance
- Implementation of Regional Protocols alone is insufficient
 - technical measures need to be **guaranteed by legislation**
 - technical measures need to be enforceable (licensing) and subject to official checks and controls
 - system needs to be supported by proper governance mechanisms (in particular – Competent Authority)

Development of model legislation, protocols, guidelines for health and food safety related to fisheries and aquaculture in CARIFORUM States

+ National legal requirements

13



Development of model legislation, protocols, guidelines for health and food safety related to fisheries and aquaculture in CARIFORUM States

+ Primary legislation

14

- Essentially concerned with national governance mechanism
 - **define** all powers of government (Minister)
 - **define or enable** competent authority and its role
 - **define or enable** other institutional requirements
 - **provide for or enable** implementation of Regional Protocols
 - **provide for** all necessary regulation making powers
- **2 key questions**
 - division between fisheries specific and general food safety law / governance
 - division between primary and secondary legislation



Development of model legislation, protocols, guidelines for health and food safety related to fisheries and aquaculture in CARIFORUM States

+ Secondary legislation

- Concerned with:
 - (1) operations in facilities (licensing)
 - (2) conduct of official controls
- **licensing concerns**
 - procedure for applying and granting licences
 - incorporation of Protocols as licence conditions
 - general duties of licensee
 - export procedures
- **official controls concern**
 - export certification
 - appointment and powers of authorized officers
 - enforcement powers and sanctions



Development of model legislation, protocols, guidelines for health and food safety related to fisheries and aquaculture in CARIFORUM States

+ Building the framework

16

Standards and export requirements

- Codex Alimentarius, ISO, EU requirements, etc.

CARIFORUM Protocols

- PRP, GHP, GMP, etc.

Primary Legislation

- Define governance (e.g. CA), enable Protocol implementation

Secondary legislation

- Licensing
- Official controls

Development of model legislation, protocols, guidelines for health and food safety related to fisheries and aquaculture in CARIFORUM States

+ Completing the framework

17

Standards and export requirements

- Codex Alimentarius, ISO, EU requirements, etc.

CARIFORUM Protocols

- PRP, GHP, GMP, etc.

Primary Legislation

- Define governance (e.g. CA), enable Protocol implementation

Secondary legislation

- Licensing
- Official controls

Guidelines

- Operators: HACCP Planning, SOPs, etc.
- Inspectors: SOPs, Manuals, etc.

- Guidelines need to support implementation
- operators
- inspectors

Development of model legislation, protocols, guidelines for health and food safety related to fisheries and aquaculture in CARIFORUM States

+ Completing the framework

18



Development of model legislation, protocols, guidelines for health and food safety related to fisheries and aquaculture in CARIFORUM States

+ Regional and national governance

Development of model legislation, protocols, guidelines for health and food safety related to fisheries and aquaculture in CARIFORUM States

19

+ Governing the framework

20



Development of model legislation, protocols, guidelines for health and food safety related to fisheries and aquaculture in CARIFORUM States

+ Regional governance: functions



- coordination and cooperation amongst regional institutions concerned with SPS in the fisheries sector
- oversee development and implementation the Regional Framework for SPS in the Fisheries Sector
- manage procedure for adopting, reviewing and updating Regional Protocols
- oversee long-term strategies (e.g. capacity building, national auditing, new cooperation mechanisms)

+ Regional governance: approach



- Regional MOU
 - coordination mechanism for main regional organizations
 - key objectives include:
 - developing and implementing the Regional Framework for SPS in the Fisheries Sector;
 - cooperating in the development and implementation of other regional approaches and actions in support of SPS measures in the fisheries sector;
 - enhancing the action and operation of each party in the fisheries sector; and
 - avoiding unnecessary duplication of efforts by any party in the fisheries sector
 - specific functions to implement regional SPS framework, including management of Protocols

+ Regional governance: approach



- Protocol Review Mechanism
 - includes all key actors – regional and national
 - incorporates a process for separating: Standards, Protocols, Guidelines
 - implements a detailed review and adoption process, which includes expert/technical review and requires “ratification” by national governments

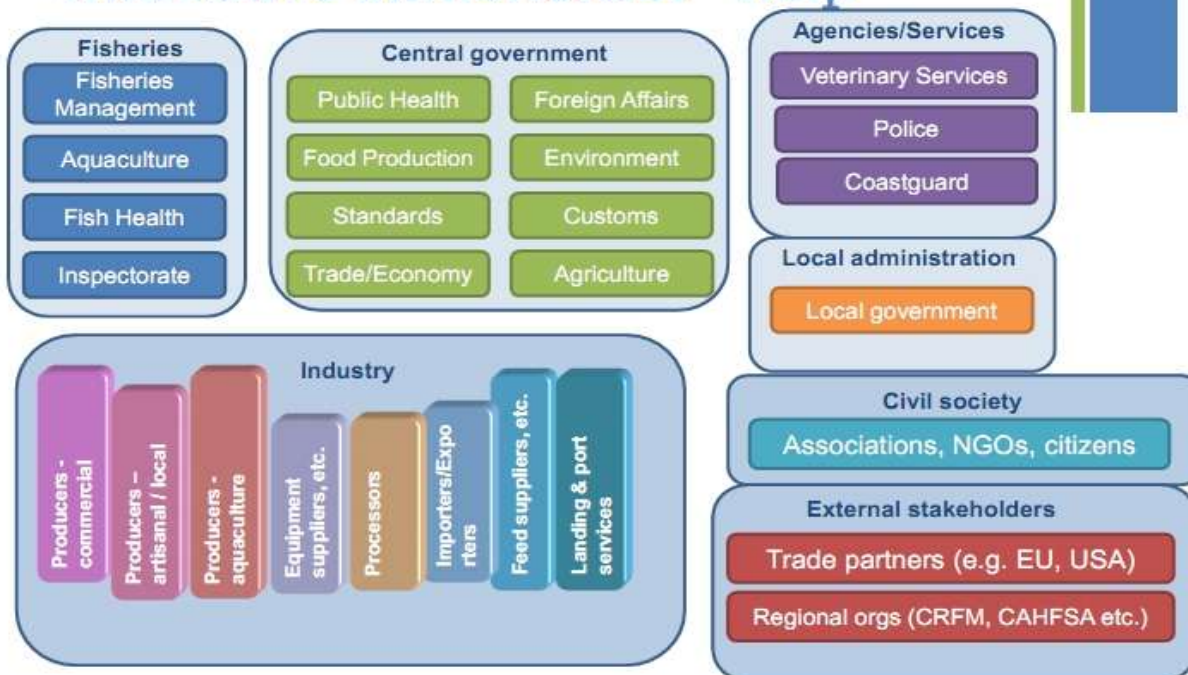
+ National governance



- Clearer definitions of governance in primary legislation
 - **define** all powers of government (Minister)
 - **define or enable** competent authority and its role
 - **define or enable** other institutional requirements
 - **provide for or enable** implementation of Regional Protocols
 - **provide for** all necessary regulation making powers
- Key step is establishment of NAHFSAs
- Key challenge is to connect NAHFSAs with the fisheries sector
 - Fisheries Committee

+ Indicative stakeholder “map”

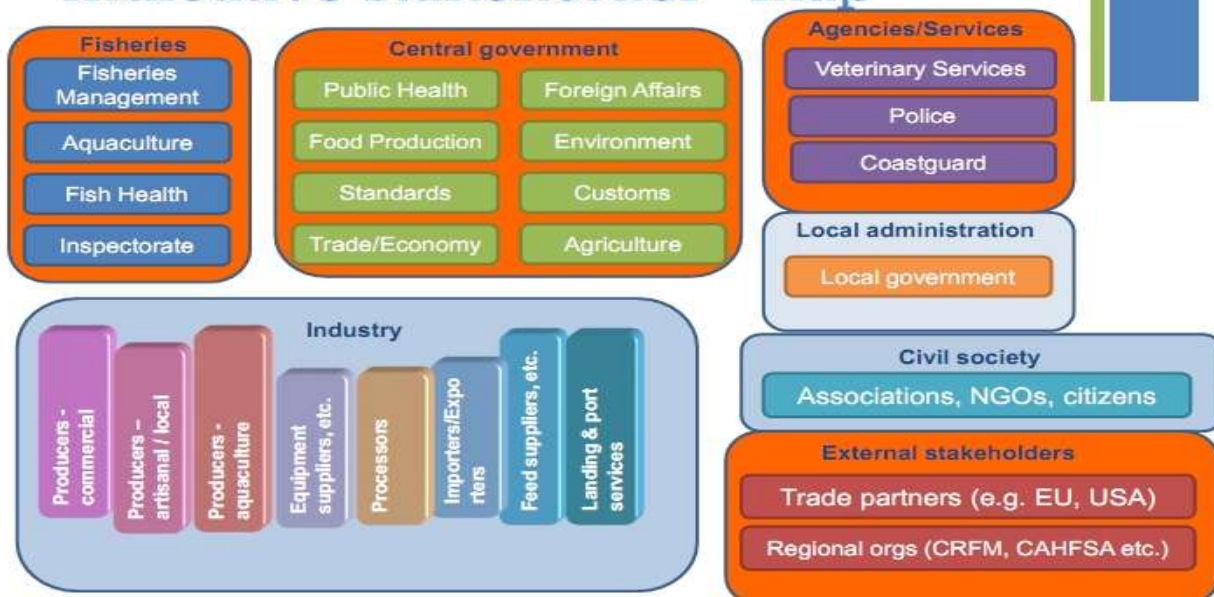
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Development of model legislation, protocols, guidelines for health and food safety related to fisheries and aquaculture in CARIFORUM States

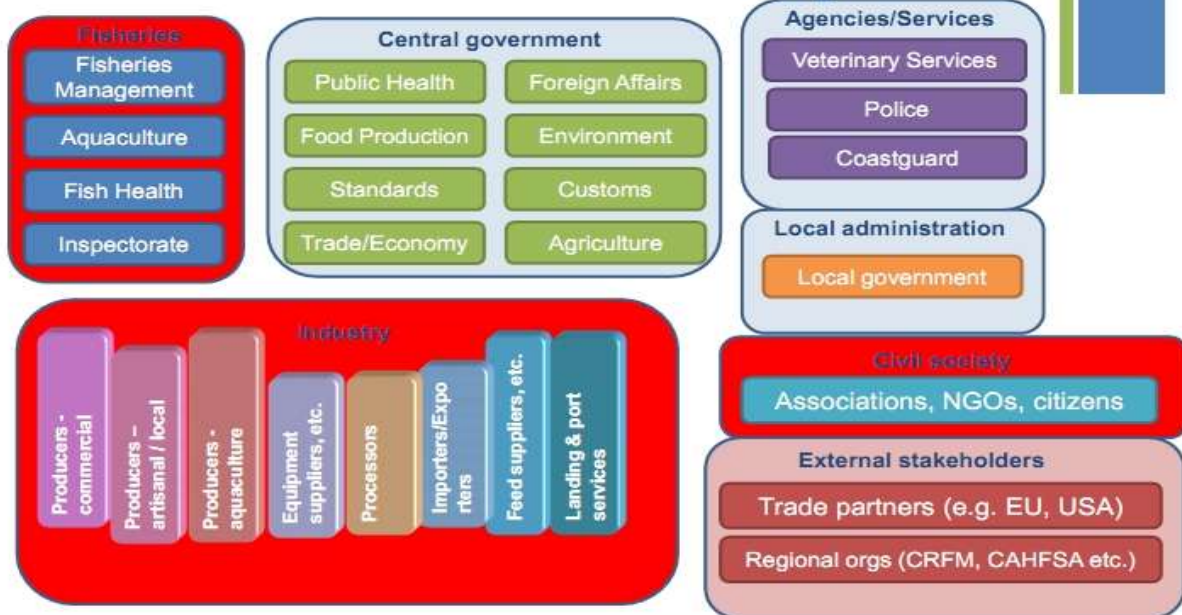
+ Indicative stakeholder “map”

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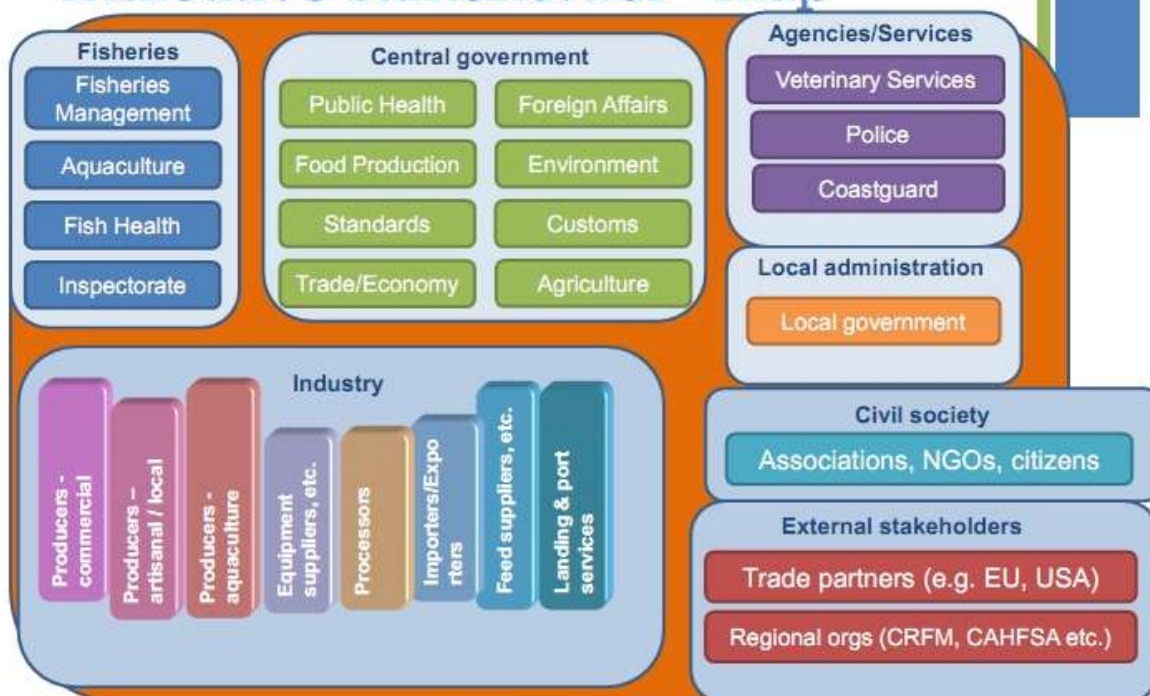
Development of model legislation, protocols, guidelines for health and food safety related to fisheries and aquaculture in CARIFORUM States

+ Indicative stakeholder “map”



Development of model legislation, protocols, guidelines for health and food safety related to fisheries and aquaculture in CARIFORUM States

+ Indicative stakeholder “map”



Development of model legislation, protocols, guidelines for health and food safety related to fisheries and aquaculture in CARIFORUM States



Thank you



Development of model legislation, protocols, guidelines for health and food safety related to fisheries and aquaculture in CARIFORUM States



Programme Funded by the European Union
Implemented by CRFM and IICA

Project implemented by Global
Centre for International Law

APPENDIX V

**OVERVIEW OF THE FINDINGS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND RESIDUE
MONITORING CONSULTANCY
BY DR. HELGA GUNNLAUGSDÓTTIR AND MARGEIR GISSURARSON**



Overview of the findings of the
Environmental and Residue Monitoring Consultancy

Dr. Helga Gunnlaugsdóttir,
Research group leader, Matís

Margeir Gissurarson, Matís

Objective:

To facilitate CARIFORUM states to gain & improve market access for fishery products by complying with Europe's Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures

This requires that the CARIFORUM states achieve good SPS standards

SPS requirements include all issues related to health and food safety in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors

Scope of work carried out by consultants



- 1. Review and analyse existing national and regional SPS monitoring programmes**
- 2. Assess institutional capacity, institutional overlaps**
- 3. Assess total supply chain process for fisheries and aquaculture products related to SPS requirements**
- 4. Analyse farm level residual monitoring**
- 5. Assess and advise on developing the necessary accredited laboratories**
- 6. Provide advice on suitable sustainable environmental monitoring practices.**
- 7. Assess coordination of regional testing and reporting capabilities.**

Method of work

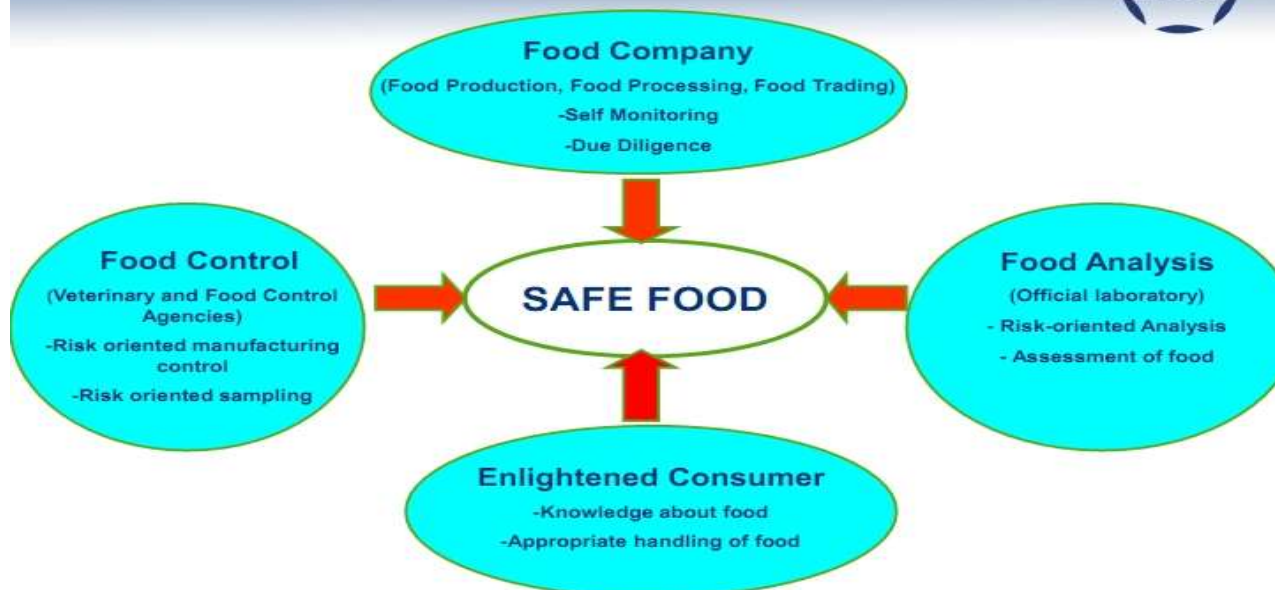


1. Gather background material on SPS measures of the main markets for fishery products from Caribbean countries
2. Visit eight Caribbean countries (in 30 days):
Bahamas, Belize, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Vincent, Suriname
 - Consult with key informants e.g. official agencies
 - Make direct observations in the field: landing sites, vessels, processing establishment, retail/fish market, aquaculture sites
 - Visit official laboratories
 - Undertake national consultations with key stakeholders
3. Prepare seven country reports & regional assessment report

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4

Responsibility for food safety in EU & EEA



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5

EU-Food Safety Aims and Strategy



What means
food safety ?



- Only safe food may be placed on the market
- To safeguard consumers from deception
- To ensure the public receives accurate information

The main
principles
applied
through
the EU

1. The food chain principle
2. The producers' responsibility principle
3. The traceability principle
4. Independent scientific risk assessment
5. Separation of risk assessment and risk management
6. The precautionary principle
7. Transparent risk communication

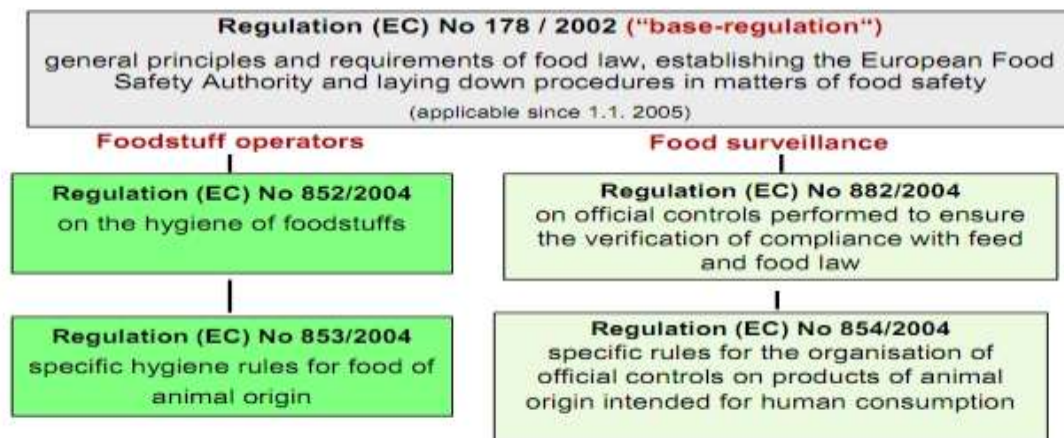
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6

Legal requirements



Basic EU-Legislation on Food and Feed



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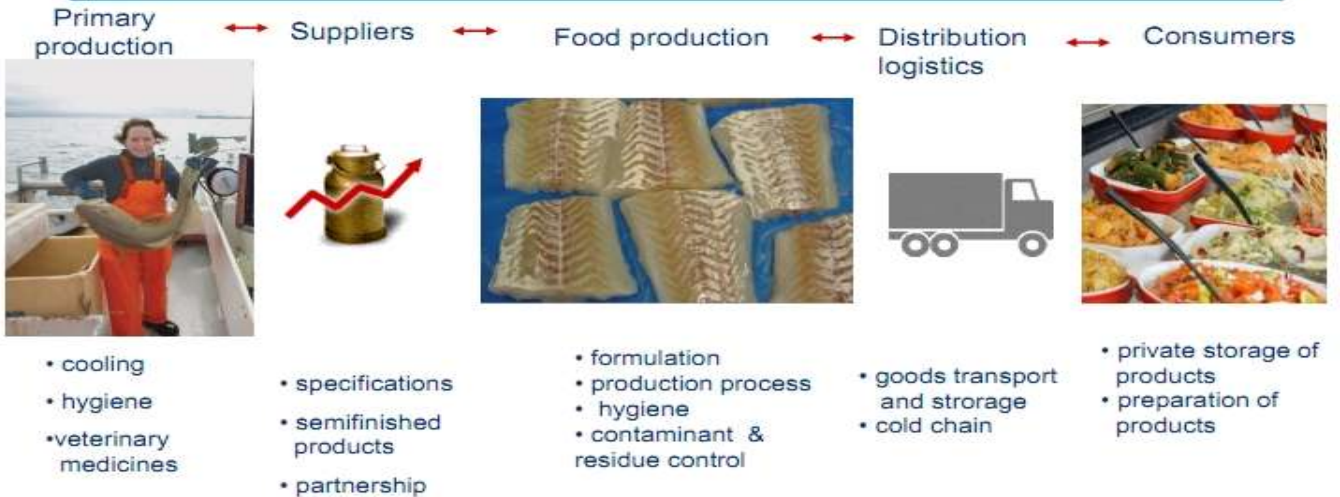
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Official monitoring and surveillance



Traceability through the food chain - "From catch to consumer"
(Regulation (EC) No 178 / 2002, art. 18)

Important instrument of food safety



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Official monitoring and surveillance



Regulation No 882/2004 on official food controls:

- risk-based surveillance and monitoring
- documented procedures
- quality management in surveillance and monitoring
- appropriate competence & training of staff performing controls
- contingency plans for feed and food
- national control plans
- annual reports
- audits



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Official monitoring and surveillance



Sampling and analysis are crucial for the reliability of the results

**Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004
(official control of food and feed law)**

Art. 11: Methods of sampling and analysis

Taking samples of food or feed, for analysis of substance relevant to the production, processing and distribution of feed or food or animal health, **to verify through analysis compliance with feed or food law or animal health rules**

Art. 12: Official laboratories

Competent authority shall designate laboratories that may carry out the analysis of samples taken during official control

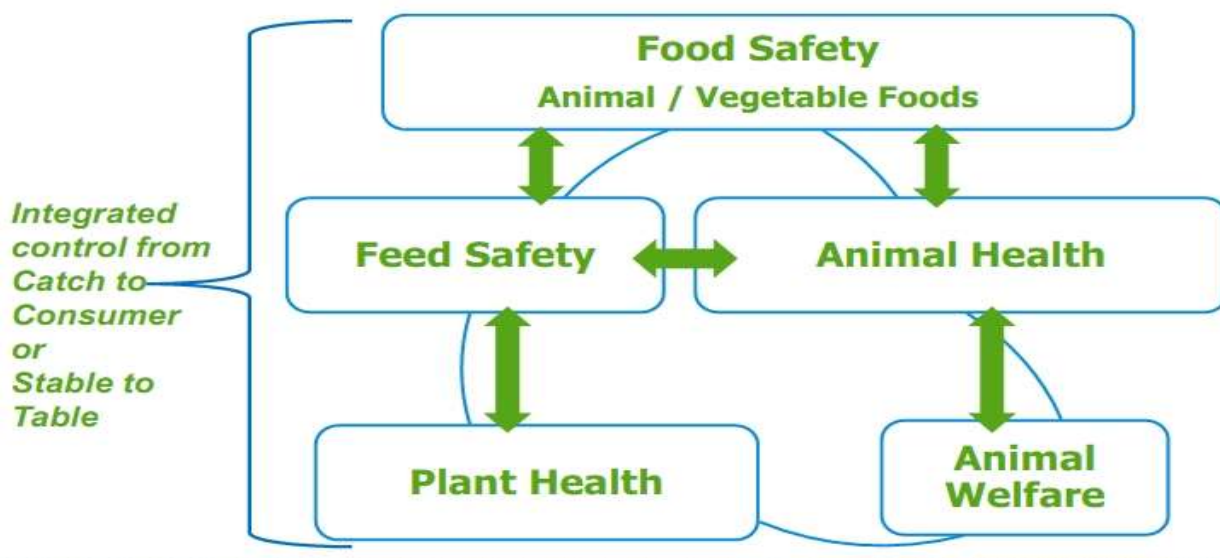
Accreditation of labs may relate to individual tests or groups of tests

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Official monitoring and surveillance

**Risk-based sampling and assaying for key programs
EU multi-annual national control plans of the countries**



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11

Official monitoring and surveillance

EU Multi-annual National Control Plans of the countries



(1) **Official food control** according Reg. (EC) No 882/2004 from production, over processing, to distribution inspections for sample tests

(2) **Nationwide monitoring plan and Food-Monitoring** according Reg. (EC) No 882/2004 (annual program)

(3) **Dioxin-Monitoring** according Reg. (EC) No 1883/2006

(4) **Control programs for Residues of Pesticides** according Reg. (EC) No 396/2005 proposed multi-annual national control program 2013 – 2015

(5) **National Residue Control Plan** according Dir. No 96/23/EC (pharmacologically active substances)

(6) **Zoonoses-Monitoring** according Dir. No 2003/99/EC in the food chain

(7) **Integrated measurement program in radiation protection for food** according Reg. (Euratom) No 3954/87

Objectives of Programs:

Monitoring to assess consumer exposure

Surveillance for compliance with the legislation

Official monitoring and surveillance



Access to the relevant data by all competent authorities in EU



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Overview of the results of the work



**Based on visit to seven Caribbean countries (in 30 days):
Bahamas, Belize, Dominican Republic, Grenada,
Guyana, Jamaica, Suriname**

- Consult with key informants e.g. official agencies
- Make direct observations in the field: landing sites, vessels, processing establishment, retail/fish market, aquaculture sites
- Visit official laboratories
- Undertake national consultations with key stakeholders

Short in-official visit to St. Vincent => results not included in overview

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Main observations regarding official control of Fishery products (FP) in 7 Caribbean countries visited



Observation	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Total Y
CA responsible for SPS monitoring & official control of FP	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	6
Different official control standards applied for FP for export & domestic	Y	Y	Y	X	Y	Y	Y	6
Written inspection procedures available	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	5
Written inspection procedures accessible to all	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	3
Fees for inspection service of CA	X	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	2
CA takes official control samples for analyses (Export)	Y	Y	Y	X	N	N	Y	4
Formal MoU available between all relevant agencies involved in official control	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	X	2

Key: Y= Yes , N= No, X= Information not available

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Main observations regarding official control laboratory capacities in 7 Caribbean countries visited



Observation	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Total Y
Designated official control laboratory accredited	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	1
Designated laboratory carries out all analysis required by EU	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	0
Designated laboratory carries out basic microbiological anal.	Y	Y	Y	X	N	N	Y	4
Capacity for analysis of marine biotoxins & toxin producing algae	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	1
Chemical analysis outsourced by the official control laboratory	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	3

Key: Y= Yes , N= No, X= Information not available

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Main observations regarding monitoring & surveillance of FP in 7 Caribbean countries visited



Observation	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Total Y
Plan for monitoring of contaminants in FP from wild fisheries (Export) in place	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N	2
National Residue Control Plan for aquaculture products in place	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y	2
Regular monitoring of marine biotoxins & toxin producing algae carried out	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	1

Key: Y= Yes , N= No, X= Information not available

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Main observations regarding SPS measures in production chain for FP in 7 Caribbean countries



Observation	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Total Y
Many problems with <u>Vessels</u> : maintenance, hygiene conditions & cleaning – export & domestic	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	5
Many problems with <u>Landing sites</u> : maintenance, handling of FP, hygiene conditions, waste management – domestic	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	4
Many problems with <u>retail</u> : maintenance, handling of FP, hygiene conditions, waste management – domestic	X	Y	Y	Y	X	Y	Y	5
Some problems related to <u>processing facility</u> : maintenance, hygiene conditions – export	N	N	X	X	N	N	Y	1
SPS measures sufficient for high risk ready to eat product – export	Y	N	X	X	N	N	N	1
Problems with Aquaculture site: hygiene conditions, water quality	N	X	Y	X	X	Y	X	2

Key: Y= Yes , N= No, X= Information not available/ Not relevant

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Other observations related to SPS measures in production chain for FP in 7 Caribbean countries



Observation	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Total Y
Persons working in the primary fisheries processing sufficiently trained	X	N	N	N	N	N	N	0
Sufficient consumer knowledge regarding proper handling of FP	X	N	N	N	N	N	N	0
Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) required for starting Aquaculture activity	Y	Y	Y	Y	X	Y	N	5
Sharing of data between official agencies	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	0
Ongoing innovation and product development & planning for future	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	0

Key: Y= Yes , N= No, X= Information not available/not relevant

**VALIDATION PROTOCOLS AND MODEL LEGISLATION WITH
KEY QUESTIONS**



**Development of model legislation, protocols,
guidelines for health and food safety related to fisheries
and aquaculture in CARIFORUM States**



Programme Funded by the European Union
Implemented by CRFM and IICA
Project implemented by Global
Centre for International Law



Introduction

Development of model legislation, protocols, guidelines for health and food safety related to fisheries and aquaculture in CARIFORUM States

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Validation tasks

- Day 1 – Model legislation
 - Model Regulations
 - Model Protocols

Working Groups

- Day 2 – Regional and National Governance
 - Model Primary Legislation
 - Model Governance Framework (MOU, Protocol Review Mechanism)

Plenary

Development of model legislation, protocols, guidelines for health and food safety related to Fisheries and aquaculture in CARIFORUM States

1

+ General objectives

3

- **Provide feedback on overall approach**
 - Identify gaps or opportunities
 - Comment on recommendations / approach
 - Contribute to recommendations for future development
- **Provide feedback on implementation / next steps**
 - Suggestions on how to take process forward
- **Validate recommended CONCEPTS**

Development of model legislation, protocols, guidelines for health and food safety related to
Fisheries and aquaculture in CARIFORUM States

+ Breakout Groups

■ Chair, Rapporteur

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Break-out Group(s)	1	2	3
1 (Review of Model Legislative framework)	<u>Larque Hackshaw</u> (FO)	Felicia Cruz (FO)	Randall Sheppard (LD/CC)
	<u>Delia Cabb</u> (Vet/CA)	<u>Jullan Defoe</u> (FO)	Pearl Richards Xavier (LegAffs)
	Jeannette Mateo (FO)	Jose <u>Altagracia de Jesus Infante</u> (CA?)	Johnson St. Louis (FO)
	Felicia Cruz (FO)	Tracey Challenger (Vet/CA)	Colin James (Vet/CA)
	Paul Wright (FO)	<u>Osbiil Watson</u> (Vet./CA)	Samuel <u>Heyliger</u> (FO)
	<u>Addivi Persaud</u> (FO)	<u>Auria King-Cenac</u> (Vet/CA)	Tricia <u>Cypal</u> (Law)
	Alisa Martin (FO)	Juliette <u>Colli-Wongosoredjo</u> (Vet/CA)	<u>Anand Chokand</u> (P)
	<u>Yolanda Babb-Echteld</u> (FO)	<u>Glaston White</u> CNFO)	<u>Farz Khan</u> (CA)
	<u>Sarika Maharaj</u> (FO)	Reuben Charles (P)	<u>Verne</u> Nicholls (CNFO)
	James Nicholas (P)	<u>Fulgence St. Prix</u> (CROSO)	<u>Olukemi Sobodu</u> (Law)
			Rommel St. Hill (CCS - Law)

Development of model legislation, protocols, guidelines for health and food safety related to fisheries and aquaculture in CARIFORUM States



Protocols

Development of model legislation, protocols, guidelines for health and food safety related to fisheries and aquaculture in CARIFORUM States

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+ Identifying the SPS framework



+ Regional Protocols

- **Achieve** these objectives:
 - Provide specific direction on steps to be taken
 - Guarantee compliance with export requirements
 - Indicate steps for a harmonized approach
- **Consistently** with international standards
- **Capable** of being incorporated into enforceable national obligations

Standards and export requirements

• Codex Alimentarius, ISO, EU requirements, etc.

CARIFORUM Protocols

• PRP, GHP, GMP, etc.

Development of model legislation, protocols, guidelines for health and food safety related to fisheries and aquaculture in CARIFORUM States

+ Role of Protocols

- Describe how to implement the global Standards and export requirements
- Contain all technical requirements typically contained in regulations
- Can replace need for detailed regulations in CARIFORUM States
- **Management of Protocols**
 - Should be managed at the regional level
 - Regional mechanism should be developed to keep Protocols up to date, provide guidance, distribute information, etc.
- **Legal Status of Protocols**
 - No legal status at regional level (in the short-term)
 - National mechanisms will “incorporate” standards into national law

Development of model legislation, protocols, guidelines for health and food safety related to fisheries and aquaculture in CARIFORUM States

+ Standard Format for Protocols

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1. Rationale
2. Standards Implemented
3. Procedures (Technical)
4. Management & Control
5. Documentation / Reporting
6. Guidance

Development of model legislation, protocols, guidelines for health and food safety related to fisheries and aquaculture in CARIFORUM States

+ Key questions

- Concept of Protocols
 - What are the potential benefits?
 - What are the challenges?
 - SWOT analysis?
- Legal Status of Protocols
 - What should be the legal status?
 - short-term
 - long-term
 - CARICOM machinery?
 - How should they be incorporated at national level?
 - automatic (subject to opt-out)
 - incorporation via licensing (pick'n'mix)
 - conversion into national protocols and/or regulations
- Scope of Protocols
 - What should the Protocols cover?
- Format of Protocols
 - Is the format useable for operators, CAs/authorized officers, legal officials?
 - Is the format clear / helpful for stakeholders (cf. current regulatory tools)
 1. Rationale
 2. Standards Implemented
 3. Procedures (Technical)
 4. Management & Control
 5. Documentation / Reporting
 6. Guidance

Development of model legislation, protocols, guidelines for health and food safety related to Fisheries and aquaculture in CARIFORUM States



Legislation

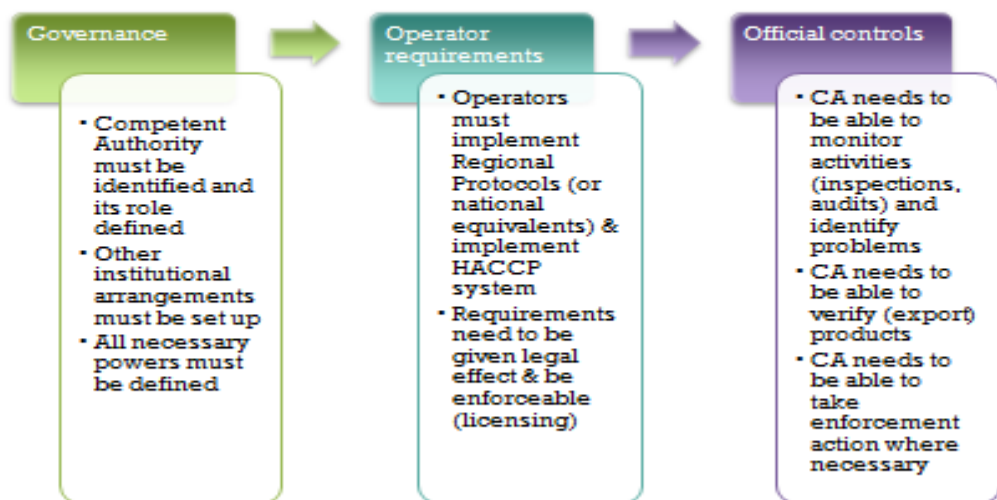
Development of model legislation, protocols, guidelines for health and food safety related to fisheries and aquaculture in CARIFORUM States

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National legal requirements

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Development of model legislation, protocols, guidelines for health and food safety related to fisheries and aquaculture in CARIFORUM States

+ Secondary legislation

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- Concerned with:
 - (1) operations in facilities (licensing)
 - (2) conduct of official controls
- **licensing concerns**
 - procedure for applying and granting licences
 - incorporation of Protocols as licence conditions
 - general duties of licensee
 - export procedures
- **official controls concern**
 - export certification
 - appointment and powers of authorized officers
 - enforcement powers and sanctions



Development of model legislation, protocols, guidelines for health and food safety related to fisheries and aquaculture in CARIFORUM States

+ Key questions

- Concept of Licensing Controls
 - What are the potential benefits?
 - What are the challenges?
 - SWOT analysis?
- Official controls
 - As read with Protocols, are official controls sufficient and capable of providing enforcement?
- Scope of Legislation
 - What should the Legislation cover?
 - Are any aspects better placed in primary legislation?
 - Are all aspects of a licensee's obligations covered?
- Do they incorporate sufficient flexibility?

Development of model legislation, protocols, guidelines for health and food safety related to Fisheries and aquaculture in CARIFORUM States

**PROPOSAL ON STRENGTHENING NATIONAL AND REGIONAL SPS
MONITORING PROGRAMME WITH KEY QUESTIONS**



**Proposal on strengthening national and regional
SPS monitoring programmes**

Dr. Helga Gunnlaugsdóttir,
Research group leader, Matís

Margeir Gissurarson, Matís

Overview of the results of the work



**Based on visit to seven Caribbean countries (in 30 days):
Bahamas, Belize, Dominican Republic, Grenada,
Guyana, Jamaica, Suriname**

- **Consult with key informants e.g. official agencies**
- **Make direct observations in the field: landing sites, vessels, processing establishment, retail/fish market, aquaculture sites**
- **Visit official laboratories**
- **Undertake national consultations with key stakeholders**

**Short in-official visit to St. Vincent => results not
included in overview**

Main observations regarding official control of Fishery products (FP) in 7 Caribbean countries visited

Observation	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Total Y
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Different official control standards applied for FP for export & domestic	Y	Y	Y	X	Y	Y	Y	6
Written inspection procedures available	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	5
Written inspection procedures accessible to all	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	3
Fees for inspection service of CA	X	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	2
CA takes official control samples for analyses (Export)	Y	Y	Y	X	N	N	Y	4
Formal MoU available between all relevant agencies involved in official control	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	X	2

Key: Y= Yes , N= No, X= Information not available

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Main observations regarding official control laboratory capacities in 7 Caribbean countries visited

Observation	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Total Y
Designated official control laboratory accredited	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	1
Designated laboratory carries out all analysis required by EU	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	0
Designated laboratory carries out basic microbiological anal.	Y	Y	Y	X	N	N	Y	4
Capacity for analysis of marine biotoxins & toxin producing algae	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	1
Chemical analysis outsourced by the official control laboratory	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	3

Key: Y= Yes , N= No, X= Information not available

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Main observations regarding monitoring & surveillance of FP in 7 Caribbean countries visited



Observation	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Total Y
Plan for monitoring of contaminants in FP from wild fisheries (Export) in place	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N	2
National Residue Control Plan for aquaculture products in place	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y	2
Regular monitoring of marine biotoxins & toxin producing algae carried out	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	1

Key: Y= Yes , N= No, X= Information not available

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Main observations regarding SPS measures in production chain for FP in 7 Caribbean countries



Observation	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Total Y
Many problems with <u>Vessels</u> : maintenance, hygiene conditions & cleaning – export & domestic	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	5
Many problems with <u>Landing sites</u> : maintenance, handling of FP, hygiene conditions, waste management – domestic	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	4
Many problems with <u>retail</u> : maintenance, handling of FP, hygiene conditions, waste management – domestic	X	Y	Y	Y	X	Y	Y	5
Some problems related to <u>processing facility</u> : maintenance, hygiene conditions – export	N	N	X	X	N	N	Y	1
SPS measures sufficient for high risk ready to eat product – export	Y	N	X	X	N	N	N	1
Problems with Aquaculture site: hygiene conditions, water quality	N	X	Y	X	X	Y	X	2

Key: Y= Yes , N= No, X= Information not available/ Not relevant

Other observations related to SPS measures in production chain for FP in 7 Caribbean countries



Observation	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Total Y
Persons working in the primary fisheries processing sufficiently trained	X	N	N	N	N	N	N	0
Sufficient consumer knowledge regarding proper handling of FP	X	N	N	N	N	N	N	0
Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) required for starting Aquaculture activity	Y	Y	Y	Y	X	Y	N	5
Sharing of data between official agencies	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	0
Ongoing innovation and product development & planning for future	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	0

Key: Y= Yes , N= No, X= Information not available/not relevant

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Proposal on strengthening national and regional SPS monitoring programmes



Summary

The proposal consist of:

One Suggestion on strengthening **national** SPS monitoring programmes & Some ideas on the way forward

Eight Suggestion on strengthening **regional** SPS monitoring programmes & Some ideas on the way forward for each of them

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Proposal on strengthening national and regional SPS monitoring programmes



Suggestions on strengthening national SPS monitoring programmes

1. Strengthen national official control and enforcement of deficiencies & make sure that the competent authority is enforcing one harmonized standard for all fishery products (currently two standards are applied i.e. one for domestic & another for export market)

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Suggestions on strengthening national SPS monitoring programmes cont.



This strengthening of official control has to be based on:

- Appropriate legislation and regulation on official control for the fishery products sector.
- Food Business Operators (FBOs) fulfil their responsibilities in order to ensure the safety of their products
- Official control through the entire production chain for fishery products (from catch to consumer), that consists of supervision and official monitoring as well as management of crises related to food safety

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Suggestions on strengthening national SPS monitoring programmes cont.



Suggested way forward:

- Prepare a roadmap and a plan (with input from relevant stakeholders) regarding how to deal with the main weakness.
- This plan has to have clearly defined priorities and deadlines regarding when the suggested activities should be finalised
- This plan has to be based on a previous National assessment on the SPS measures in the entire production chain for fishery products to identify where the main weaknesses presently are (may already exist)
- Obtain consultation from suitable experts to help with the National assessment

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Suggestions on strengthening **regional** SPS monitoring programmes - Official control



1. Harmonize the official inspection service carried out by the official food control authorities in the CARIFORUM states with the aim to comply to EU requirements.

It is proposed that this harmonization should include:

- Synchronisation of written inspection procedures, i.e. inspection manual & check list, which interprets the SPS regulatory requirement.

Suggested way forward:

Caribbean countries that have already developed and implemented these type of written inspection procedures could e.g. share these documents and they could serve as the basis for the regional harmonization of inspection procedures

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- **Harmonize official monitoring and surveillance of fisheries product as well as of water and ice used in the production**

Suggested way forward:

- **Monitoring & surveillance should be risk based !**
- **Caribbean countries that have already developed and implemented effective official monitoring and surveillance plans that cover the entire production chain for fisheries products could e.g. share these procedures..**
- **Obtain consultation from suitable experts regarding the main features of the risk based inspection of FBOs and sampling applied for the EU market**

- **Organise regional training of staff performing official controls**
- **Regional audits to evaluate compliance according to the regionally harmonized inspection service, carried out by independent individuals with the capacity to conduct such audits**

Suggestions on strengthening **regional** SPS monitoring programmes - laboratories



2. Carry out an assessment to evaluate possibilities for integrated regional laboratories for the analysis of official control samples

Suggested way forward:

To prepare assessment regarding regional laboratories including:

- Evaluation, including a cost-benefit analysis, on which laboratory analyses can be accredited and conducted nationally and which would be more beneficial to carry out regionally
- Which laboratory capacities are available in the CARIFORUM states
- Weaknesses in terms of necessary laboratory capacities in the region (e.g. equipment, availability of analytical expertise, accreditation and validation of the analytical procedures) and the cost related to building up these capacities in the Caribbean region
- Logistic related to transport of samples within the Caribbean region, the logistic aspects e.g. need to take into account; cost, time and reliability of the transport
- The assessment should also take into consideration which laboratory capacities could be shared between sectors

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Suggestions on strengthening regional SPS monitoring programmes - Monitoring & data collection.



3. Monitoring and collection of data on contaminants/undesirable substances detected in fishery products from wild fisheries could be shared within the region

Suggested way forward:

- **Monitoring should be risk oriented and risk based => requires some data regarding common fish stocks, occurrence and level of biological and chemical hazards in wild fishery products , consumption data**
- **Monitoring should cover all economically important marine species caught/harvested in Caribbean waters**

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Suggestions on strengthening regional SPS monitoring programmes - Monitoring & data collection.



4. Monitoring and collection of data on marine biotoxins like ciguatera toxin, PSP, DSP detected in in fishery products could be shared within the region

In addition, the CARIFORUM states could increase their research collaborations on marine biotoxin

Suggested way forward:

- **Monitoring should be risk oriented and risk based => requires some data**

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Suggestions on strengthening **regional SPS monitoring programmes – Monitoring & data collection.**



- 5. Improve the coordination of the different agencies within the region e.g. different organizations are collecting various types of data**

Suggested way forward:

- **CARIFORUM states cooperate in the development of a comprehensive data and information exchange system that could be used to monitor, share information and knowledge and report on SPS practices**

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Suggestions on strengthening **regional SPS monitoring programmes - Monitoring & data collection.**



- 5. Improve the coordination of the different agencies within the region e.g. different organizations are collecting various types of data**

Suggested way forward:

- **CARIFORUM states cooperate in the development of a comprehensive data and information exchange system that could be used to monitor, share information and knowledge and report on SPS practices**

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Suggestions on strengthening **regional SPS monitoring programmes -training**



- 6. Increase collaborations regarding training programs for persons working in the primary fisheries processing e.g. regarding general SPS requirements in fisheries and aquaculture sectors as well as the specific requirements of the EU and USA markets.**

Suggested way forward:

- Carry out an assessment of existing training programs in the region and best practice regarding reaching out and transferring knowledge to this target group.**

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Suggestions on strengthening **regional SPS monitoring programmes -training**



- 7. Increase collaborations regarding consumer education to improve their understanding and perception regarding food safety of fishery products.**

Suggested way forward:

- Carry out an assessment of best practise regarding reaching out and transferring knowledge to this target group and whether different approach may be needed in different countries**

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Suggestions on strengthening **regional** SPS monitoring programmes - expertise & research



- 8. Carry out an assessment to evaluate how technical expertise and research related to the fisheries and aquaculture sector could be increased to boost value addition and better use of marine resources in the CARIFORUM states**

Suggested way forward:

To prepare assessment comprising:

- Which university programs are essential to boost value addition and better use of marine resources and how to address the weaknesses observed e.g. would it be necessary to build up new academic programs or revise existing ones
- Possibilities for building bridges between academia and private sector to increase their collaboration and define common goals regarding innovation and future developments of the fisheries and aquaculture sector
- Funding/ financing of research & development

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Summary



Proposal

One Suggestion on strengthening **national** SPS monitoring programmes & Some ideas on the way forward

Eight Suggestion on strengthening **regional** SPS monitoring programmes & Some ideas on the way forward for each of them

Documents available at CRFM website:

http://crfm.int/index.php?option=com_k2&view=item&id=455:regional-validation-workshop-fisheries-component-of-the-10th-edf-funded-sanitary-and-phytosanitary-sps-measures-project-24-25-august-2015-barbados&Itemid=434

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Key questions



Do you agree with the proposed suggestion regarding how to strengthening **national** SPS monitoring programmes?

Do you have additional ideas?

Do you agree with the suggested way forward?

Do you have other ideas regarding the way forward?

Do you agree with the eight proposed suggestion regarding how to strengthening **regional** SPS monitoring programmes?

Do you have additional ideas?

Do you agree with the suggested way forward?

Do you have other ideas regarding the way forward?

CRFM

The CRFM is an inter-governmental organisation whose mission is to “Promote and facilitate the responsible utilisation of the region’s fisheries and other aquatic resources for the economic and social benefits of the current and future population of the region”. The CRFM consists of three bodies – the Ministerial Council, the Caribbean Fisheries Forum and the CRFM Secretariat.

CRFM members are Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago and the Turks and Caicos Islands.

