Harmonization in COMESA
OVERVIEW

1. Harmonization in COMESA
2. Harmonization of SPS/TBT regulatory frameworks
3. SPS/TBT issues in the Common Market
4. Examples of initiatives, interventions
5. Next steps to deepen collaboration on AH priorities
1. Harmonization in COMESA

The Treaty – agreement to establish the common market through common policies and programmes aimed at achieving sustainable growth and development, specifically in the field of:
   (i) Trade liberalization and customs cooperation
   (ii) Transport and communications
   (iii) Industry and energy
   (iv) Monetary affairs and finance
   (v) Agriculture

Organs of the Common Market

• The Authority/Heads of State – meets once a year
• The Council/ministers – monitors the devt/ functioning of the common market, makes regulations, issues directives, takes decisions
• The Intergovernmental Committee - PSs
• The Technical Committees, e.g. committee on agriculture
• The Secretariat
2. The framework for harmonization of SPS/TBT measures

**WTO SPS/TBT Agreements**

- Use of international standards and guidelines
- Use of equivalence – accept alternative measures that have same health outcome
- Apply measure that is least trade restrictive
- Risk assessment – assess the risk, factors you took into consideration, assessment methodology used, the level of protection
- Transparency - notifications

**The Treaty/SPS Regns/SQAM Policy/Tripartite FTAA**

- Use of ARSO standards and international standards
- Mutual recognition arrangements
- Specific provisions of the COMESA SPS Regulations

**Recommended actions**

- Harmonize with OIE guidelines
- Identify areas where regional guidelines/standards are necessary
3. SPS/TBT issues – analytical work

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPS/TBT issues</th>
<th>Trade impact</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Different standards and regulations</td>
<td>• trade barriers e.g. grains, milk and milk products</td>
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<td>• Repeat testing - non recognition of certificates of analysis</td>
<td>• High costs of trading</td>
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<td>• Unpredictable border controls/ procedures</td>
<td>• Informal trade</td>
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<td>• Zero risk?</td>
<td>• Trade is not facilitated</td>
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<td>• Certification of products</td>
<td>• Market access constraints</td>
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<td>• Capacity challenges</td>
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4. Examples of ongoing initiatives

(i) Madagascar Litchi exports to RSA - COMESA
(ii) Zimbabwe stone fruit and citrus exports to the EU and RSA – COMESA
(iii) Pest listing, regional quarantine pest lists, mitigation options
(iv) Kenya and Uganda review of milk, fish and fishery products border controls - STDF
(v) Sudan and Egypt review of procedures for beef and citrus - STDF
(vi) QI in Djibouti, Comoros fisheries exports - COMESA
(vii) Risk based approaches for harmonized food safety regulations, e.g. regulatory limits for aflatoxins in maize, groundnuts and animal feed
(viii) Mutual recognition framework for maize trade - COMESA
(ix) SPS and Trade Facilitation – AFDB, STDF
(xi) Economic analysis to inform investments in SPS capacity
Planned Initiatives

1. Upgrading of Standards, Quality Assurance and Metrology (SQAM)
2. Strengthening the regional reference/national laboratory network, coordinated with border management
   (i) Proficiency testing schemes in key parameters significant in regional and international trade
   (ii) Monitoring systems for priority hazards
3. Strengthening SPS compliance across value chains and in cross border trade
4. Risk based approaches
5. Digital FTA – Regional Single Window System
5. Next steps to deepen collaboration on AH priorities

1. Harmonization of AH Legislation and Regulations
   (i) Diagnostics and monitoring/surveillance systems
   (ii) VMD Registration frameworks

2. MOU with OIE – should be specific on areas of collaboration, and partners roles; the secretariat, the OIE and MS

3. MS formal requests for OIE support

4. MOU with SADC on AH diagnostics, VMD registration and other areas