

## IPC seminar

# Sustainability in the food & agricultural sector: the role of private sector and government

## Panel IV: Best practices / sustainability along the production chain

Stratford-Upon Avon, England (15-16 October 2007)  
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## ■ Content

- Context of EU legislative standards
  - EU single market
  - EU crises
  - COM White Paper on food safety (2000)
- EU legislative standards & best practices
- EU legislative import conditions
  - Benefits for DCs
  - Challenges for DCs
- COM (FVO) assessment of SPS conditions in DCs
- Key EU SPS actions towards DCs

## Context of EU legislative standards

### ■ Single market

- Free movement of goods + live animals

### ■ EU crises

- BSE 1990s, dioxin 1999, FMD 2001, CSV 2003

### ■ White paper on food safety 2000

- Comprehensive reform legislation: from farm-to-table
- Food & feed safety, hygiene, nutrition, labelling, OGM, seeds, pesticides, increased transparency & information...
- Placing on market (import and trade), transit and export

## ■ EU Legislative standards encourage practices that best:

- Address economic, social and environmental sustainability for on and off-farm activities in ensuring food safety and quality of produce in the food chain
- Draw inspiration from international standards of the OIE, Codex, IPPC, etc
- More and more reference to HACCP, GAP, GMP, etc

## ■ EU legislative import conditions

- **Import conditions no more or less favourable than conditions applicable to EU producers**
- Third Countries & plants must be approved to export to EU
- Certain basic conditions: OIE membership, surveillance & control system, residue monitoring, FVO inspection etc
- All animal products must enter EU *via* an approved BIP and must be checked for compliance with EU requirements

## ■ Benefits for DCs arising from EU legislative standards

- Access to EU markets (EU=US+Jap+Can+Aust+N.Zealand)
- improve the safety & quality of food & non-food products
- reduce the risk of non-compliance with international regulations, standards and guidance (OIE, Codex, IPPC)
- promote sustainable & competitive agriculture & food chains via better management of key inputs

## ■ Challenges for DCs arising from EU legislative standards

- High standards demanded by EU consumers
- Standards adoption often increases production & compliance costs
- Small scale farmers may not be able to seize benefits (e.g. export market opportunities) unless assisted, etc

## ■ FVO inspections findings: most common deficiencies in DCs

- Country legislative framework and standards
- Structure & organisation of CA (management, staff training)
- Unreliable enforcement mechanisms (inspection, certification, monitoring & surveillance, controls)
- Sampling, laboratories/ analysis, residue control, authorisation & control of vet. medicines & pesticides
- Operators' own checks

## ■ Key EU SPS actions towards DCs

### 1. EPA negotiations

- Partnership
- Regional integration
- Development
- Link to WTO (SPS chapter)

## 2. SPS Technical assistance

- Direct country and regional assistance  
(10th EDF – CSP + RSP)
- Member States (bilateral)



### 3. Better Training for Safer Food

- food and feed law, animal health and welfare, plant health
- Higher protection, uniform controls, business level playing field, TC familiarity with EU standards
- COM financed, implemented by external contractors, for EU & TC inspectors & operators
- 2005-2007: organisation of ad-hoc training activities
- 2008 -: Development of a permanent training system
  - AI, food safety standards, Africa specific projects



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