



# COMESA SPS Work Programme

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## Background – some of the challenges

- Different legal frameworks and SPS systems
- Institutional , governance, SPS infrastructure
- varying SPS capacities, countries with weaker SPS capacity find it difficult to trade with countries that have stronger SPS systems
- **The Lusaka Workshop** - reviewed the COMESA work programme against this background in the CAADP and Tripartite frameworks
- **Outcome:** A 5 year work programme to address existing challenges, to generate the science & systems that will inform “equivalence”

# Background – some of the challenges

- Fruit flies – avocado exports (Kenya Vs South Africa)
- Fruit flies – passion fruit, bananas (Rwanda Vs South Africa)
- Aflatoxins – Maize trade (Uganda Vs Malawi)
- American foul brood - Honey exports (Zambia Vs South Africa)
- Aflatoxins – Composite flour exports (Rwanda Vs EU)
- Food Safety – Dairy (Kenya Vs Zambia)
- Fruit flies – banana exports (Mozambique Vs South Africa)
- Shared problems that can be resolved collectively through regional SPS goods driven by private-public partnerships
- **The COMESA SPS Regulations – central is the “Green Pass” to facilitate mutual recognition and equivalence**



## The COMESA SPS Work Programme

- Coordination and exchange of SPS related information between public and private sector at national and regional level
- Monitoring and surveillance programmes, emergency preparedness for selected animal ,food safety diseases and plant pests
- SPS information exchange
- Improved regional leadership, coordination and collaboration on SPS matters



## The COMESA SPS Work Programme

- Conformity assessment procedures, common certification schemes/protocols and private sector driven regional standards for selected food and agricultural products (Ref: According to a World Bank assessment of EA regional dairy standards;
- “This has taken place without a clearly defined demand from the private sector. Instead the upgrading and harmonization process have been donor and public agency-driven
- “The microbiological levels are set at a level which are at present unreachable for nearly the entire EAC dairy industry “.



## The COMESA SPS Work Programme

- The COMESA SPS work programme (draft) stipulates regional priorities and clear result areas
- COMESA's role – Setting priorities, aligning development assistance and coordination
- Various projects are under development
- In partnership with sub regional specialized institutions - partnerships with the private sector very crucial
- The CAADP framework, COMESA policy organs provide the mechanism for harmonised actions and coordination at country level

# The “Green Pass Certification Scheme”

- The “Green Pass Certification Scheme” serves both food security and trade
  - Majority of cases international standards are developed for international export supply chains
  - Development assistance skewed towards export development and international trade but not intra regional trade
  - Yet, increasingly food insecurity is attributed to inability to move food from surplus to deficit areas with SPS barriers contributing significantly to this
- The “Green Pass” will facilitate intra regional trade

# Aflatoxin free maize – the “Green Pass”

## The Green Pass Components include:

- Commercially driven regional standard on aflatoxin limits
- Food safety legal/ regulatory framework – monitoring & surveillance protocols
- Regional registration protocol for biocontrols
- ***Compliance tools*** - Regional Codes of Practice, laboratory protocols/procedures, certificate of analysis, SOPs, certified HACCP systems



# Policy regulations and standards

- Regional standards
- Food safety regulations on aflatoxin control
- Harmonised legal/regulatory framework
- Harmonised Codes of Practice
- Harmonised Standards Operating Procedures/audit tools for the “Green Pass”



**I THANK YOU !!!**

Aflatoxin meeting - Brussels - 2, March  
2011

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Agriculture and Food Security

Partnership for Aflatoxin Control in Africa (PACA) collection

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# COMESA SPS work programme

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