



**The African Union
Sanitary and
Phytosanitary (SPS)
Policy Framework**

**The Department of
Rural Economy and
Agriculture**



**An Integrated, Prosperous
and Peaceful Africa**

The African Union Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Policy Framework for Africa

The Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture

Sanitary or phytosanitary measures are applied according to the World Trade Organization SPS Agreement:

- **To protect human or animal life from risks arising from additives, contaminants, toxins or disease-causing organisms in their food;**
- **To protect human life from diseases in plant or animal;**
- **To protect animal or plant life from pests, diseases, or disease-causing organisms;**
- **To prevent or limit other damage to a country from the entry, establishment or spread of pests.**

Why SPS is key for Africa

- Africa is currently experiencing a rapid growth of the intra-African agrifood market fueled by high population growth, rapid urbanization and income growth
- Intra-African food demand is projected to increase by 178% by 2050
- Africa's net food import bill is over USD 40 billion a year and is projected to reach USD 400 billion by 2030
- Africa has the world's highest incidences of foodborne illness, claiming 137,000 lives a year and causing 91 million cases of sickness, according to the WHO. Children are most affected

- While there is demonstrated political will to expand intra-regional trade, African countries face several challenges to achieving this objective.
- Significant progress is ongoing towards reaching regional integration, which has contributed to reductions in tariffs
- However, the application of non-tariff measures (NTMs), such as SPS measures, still limit effective trade. While the measures are the foundation for domestic consumer health and safe trade because of its role of protecting countries from risks to public health and to animal and plant life and health. system.

Why SPS measures?

- Weak capacities to enforce SPS measures lead to increased illness from foodborne disease
- It also leads to a country being excluded from key markets
- Poorly applied procedures can result in unnecessary costs, creating inefficiencies in the trading

FOOD SAFETY

Established by Codex relating to food additives, veterinary drug and pesticide residues, contaminants, methods of analysis and sampling, and codes and guidelines of hygienic practice.



ANIMAL HEALTH

Developed under the auspices of the Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) relating to animal health and zoonoses (diseases passing from animals to people).



PLANT HEALTH

Governs plant health developed under the auspices of the Secretariat of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) in cooperation with regional organizations.

SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY POLICY

Foundation for domestic consumer health and safe trade, protects countries from risks to public health and to animal and plant life and health.

Timeline of Progress on SPS

A horizontal timeline bar with a dark red background, divided into segments by vertical lines. The timeline starts at 2012 and ends at 2019. Key events are marked with black dots and connected to text boxes. The background features a light gray map of Africa.

2012 Standards and Trade Secretariat for Animal Health and Food Safety (at AU-IBAR)

2012

2014

June 2014 Malabo Declaration signed

2014 AU Continental SPS Committee established.

2016

2008-2016 PAN-SPS project

2012-2016 Vet-GOV project

2016 PACA Phase II begins at AUC

2018-2019

February 2019 FAO/WHO/AU International Conference on Food Safety

October 2019 Formal adoption of AU SPS Policy Framework



*Timeline of Progress on SPS

2012

Secretariat for Animal Health and Food Safety (at AU-IBAR)

Handles SPS and trade issues in a more sustainable manner including coordinating Africa's participation in the work of OIE, CAC, the WTO SPS Committee and promoting compliance with animal health and food safety standards in AU MS.

2014

AU Continental SPS Committee

Guides coordination and implementation of SPS matters at continental level by promoting mainstreaming of SPS issues into CAADP implementation and other Agriculture, Trade- related, health and environmental initiatives and Frameworks.

2016

Partnership for Aflatoxin Control in Africa (PACA), Phase II

AUC PACA Secretariat assumes leadership and coordination role for Phase II.

2018-2019

FAO/WHO/AU First International Conference on Food Safety

AU SPS Policy Framework adopted

AU SPS Policy Framework Development & Implementation

- Following the SPS Committee's August 2019 workshop, AU DREA finalized the *Sanitary and Phytosanitary Policy Framework for Africa*.
- In October 2019, this new continental SPS Policy Framework was endorsed by the Third Ordinary Session of the Specialized Technical Committee (STC) on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment (ARDWE).
- The AUC is now in the process of building an implementation plan for the Framework and identifying indicators for monitoring and evaluation purposes.



New Opportunities in Intra-African Trade



AfCFTA (March 2018) brings together more than 1.2 billion people, resulting in increased trade opportunities for plants, animals, and food products.

Policy Framework seeks to strengthen efficiencies in intra-African trade under AfCFTA through harmonization of SPS standards & border processes, sharing of information, technical capacity.



Annex 7 of AfCFTA aims to protect countries from risks and facilitate trade; guided by the WTO SPS Agreement and ISSB standards (Codex, IPPC, OIE).

Policy Framework seeks to strongly and consistently align African SPS systems with international science-based standards, helping to operationalize Annex 7 of AfCFTA.



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Related Challenges in Food Security/Food Safety



Food demand within Africa is projected to increase by 178% by 2050 due to demographic changes and consumer preferences.

Policy Framework seeks to support more productive & efficient food systems on the continent, in order to help countries meet rising demands.



Africa has world's highest per capita incidences of foodborne illness--- 137,000 deaths and 91 million cases of sickness/year.

Policy Framework addresses African food safety governance and capacity, strengthening prevention and surveillance systems for food hazards..

SPS POLICY CHALLENGES



Weak public sector enforcement of SPS compliance measures



Inadequate or non-existent infrastructure, capacity, and laboratories, and weak coordination mechanisms



Duplicated mandates among agencies within Member States.



Slow pace in ratification of regional SPS protocols and lack of clear continental institutional framework (disunity/disjointed).




Lack of awareness of SPS issues, leading to low priority of SPS among decision makers and inadequate financial resources for SPS.




Limited scientific data sharing among agencies and Member States for policy creation.

Insights from Experts




“The AU should encourage the use of the already established SPS measures by international standard-setting organisations [OIE, Codex, IPPC], but also to use risk analysis processes to ensure least trade restrictive measures when disease status in both importing and exporting country is similar.”

Insights from Experts



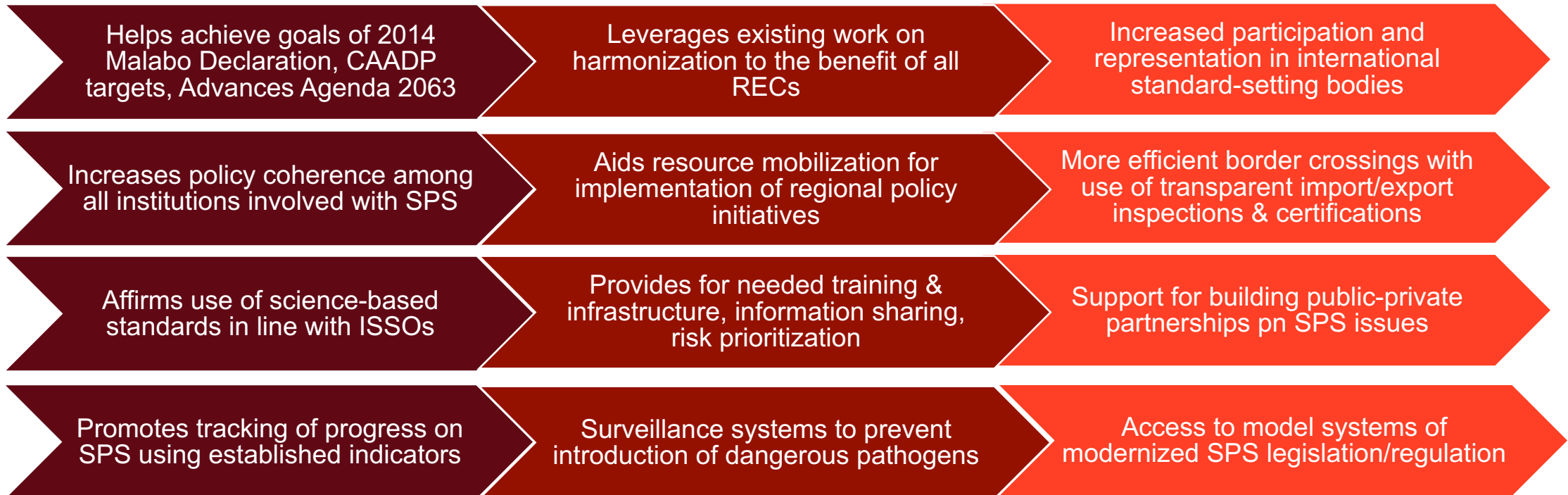
“Provide demand-driven capacity building programmes involving the development of regional accreditation bodies, reference laboratories and the establishment of regional centers of excellence....[and] develop/ encourage PPP programmes to comply with the food safety requirements of larger export markets.”



Who benefits
from investment
in an Africa-wide
SPS policy
framework?



AU SPS policy trade and health benefits to...



...and Africans.

Supporting improved
animal and plant
health for farmers,



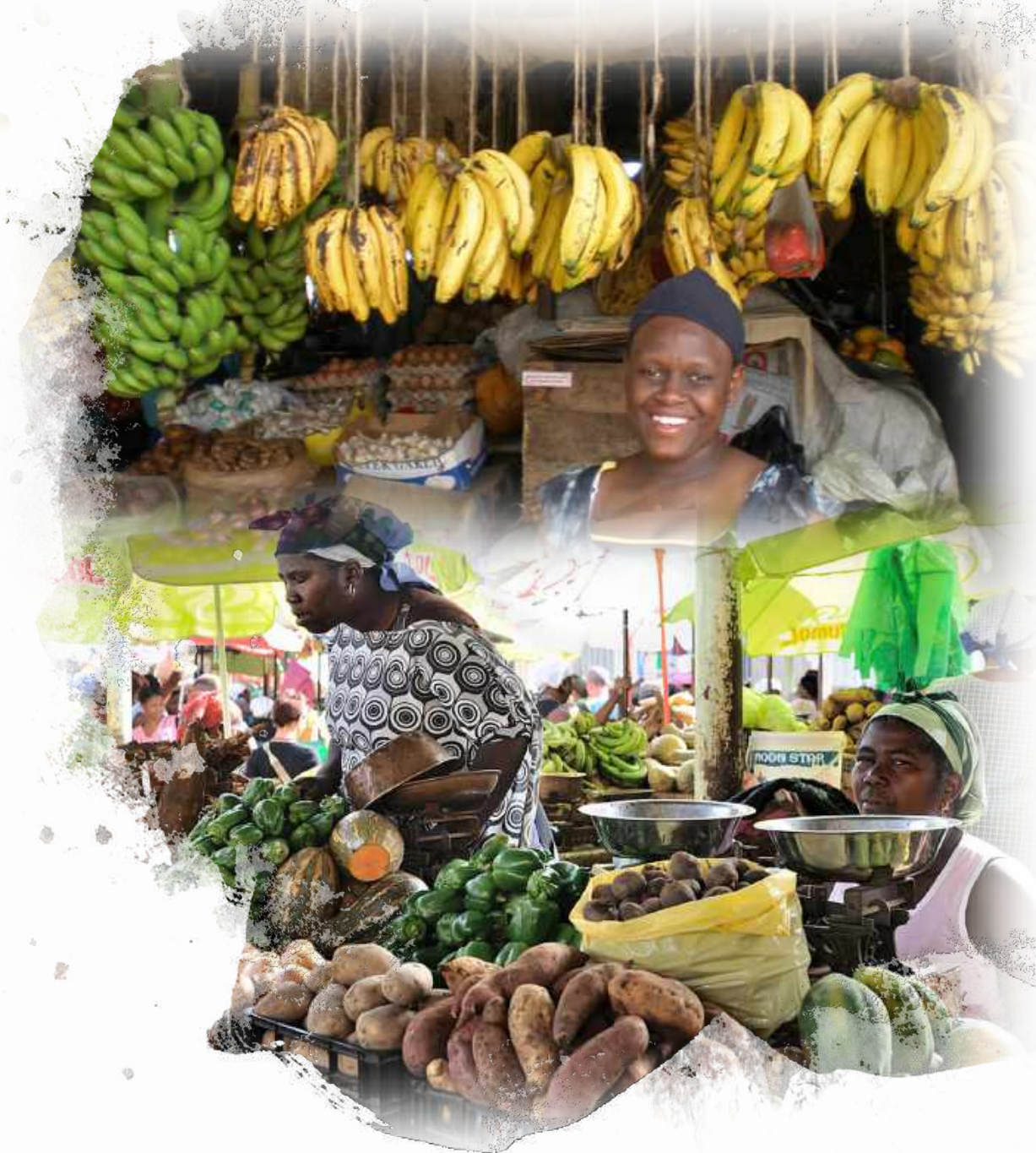
Supporting improved
animal and plant
health for farmers,

food security and food
safety for consumers,



Supporting improved
animal and plant
health for farmers,
food security and food
safety for consumers,

and market access for
business owners,
ultimately leading to
job creation and
economic prosperity.



Alignment with Development Priorities



SPS measures support agriculture-led poverty reduction strategies (e.g. CAADP)
More advanced SPS systems expand market access, increase business & work opportunities, & have the potential to lift the economic burden of illness from the most vulnerable populations



Strong and compliant SPS systems can contribute to zero hunger through improved access to nutritious and safe foods that meet international standards. Less food waste...



Human health and well-being are inextricably linked to the health of the plants and animals sharing our environment (e.g., zoonoses, foodborne diseases, chemical environmental hazards).



The establishment of more collaborative, coherent, and facilitative SPS systems on the continent will bolster intra-African trade of goods, including plants, animals, and food, and reduce inequities in market access.



Information and communications technology; capacity-building; trade; systemic issues of multi-stakeholder and public-private partnerships; and data, monitoring and accountability.



OBJECTIVE 1. ESTABLISH HARMONIZED SCIENCE-BASED SPS SYSTEMS

Support MS efforts to establish harmonized science-based SPS systems, taking into account both international standards and regional conditions.



SPS legislative and regulatory review in MS

science-based SPS measures

regionalization, zoning & compartmentalization

use of risk assessment for health & trade goals

systems of surveillance according to priorities



OBJECTIVE 2. INCREASE EFFICIENCIES AND REDUCE TRADING COSTS BY WORKING TOWARDS A HARMONIZED CONTINENTAL SPS SYSTEM.

Increase efficiencies and reduce trading costs by working towards a cohesive continental SPS system.



leverage existing REC SPS harmonization

science-based equivalence & mutual recognition

participate in CAC, OIE, IPPC, & WTO SPS

harmonized SPS audit & verification systems

transparent import/export inspections & certifications

border crossing infrastructures & systems

info exchange & sharing via AfCFTA Secr, AU tech offices



OBJECTIVE 3. BUILD TECHNICAL CAPACITY

Maximize technical capacity in RECs, Member States, and stakeholders through cooperation and sharing of resources.



inclusive, demand-driven capacity building

strong regional centers of excellence for SPS TA

physical infrastructure (regional testing labs)

early warning and response systems (EWARS)

information sharing (digital & web-based platforms)



OBJECTIVE 4. INCREASE POLITICAL SUPPORT AND INVESTMENT IN SPS SYSTEMS

Enhance opportunities to expand intra-African trade of plants, animals, and food through strengthened public-private cooperation, awareness raising, and resource mobilization.



transparency within & among MS

technical capacities for developing & supporting PPP

comply w/SPS & transition informal to formal trade

advocate and raise govt/priv awareness on SPS

financial resource mobilization for SPS in MS

Roles and Responsibilities



**African Union
Commission
(AUC)**

AfCFTA Sub-
Committee for
Sanitary and
Phytosanitary
Measures



**Regional
Economic
Communities
(RECs)**



**Member States
(MS)**



**International
Standard Setting
Bodies (ISSB)
(IPPC, OIE,
Codex)**



**The United
Nations System
and
International
Organizations
(UN and IO)**



**Development
Partners (DP)**



**Civil Society,
Non-
Governmental
Organizations
and the Private
Sector (CSO,
NGO, PS)**



Includes action tables for each objective/strategy

OBJECTIVE 1

ESTABLISH HARMONIZED SCIENCE-BASED SPS SYSTEMS

Support Member State efforts to establish harmonized science-based SPS systems, taking into account both the international standards and regional conditions.

Strategy 1.1. Support Member States' legislative/regulatory review, harmonization, and modernization of SPS legal/regulatory frameworks based on international standards.

| | Responsible Institutions | Priority Level |
|---|--------------------------|----------------|
| Action 1.1.1: Identify countries that require legislative review of their laws/regulations to facilitate modernization of legal frameworks on SPS. | AUC, REC, MS, ISSB, DP | short |
| Action 1.1.2: Support countries to use tools of ISSBs for legislative review. | AUC, REC, MS, DP, ISSB | short |
| Action 1.1.3: Encourage MS to facilitate compliance with SPS measures through legal enforcement and self-regulation. | AUC, REC, MS | short |

OBJECTIVE 4

INCREASE POLITICAL SUPPORT AND PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR INVESTMENT IN SPS SYSTEMS

Enhance opportunities to expand intra-African trade of plants, animals, and food through strengthened public-private cooperation, awareness raising and resource mobilization.

Strategy 4.2. Provide technical capacities for developing and supporting public-private partnerships to achieve mutual SPS goals (e.g., engage existing farmer/producer organizations, trader groups, SMEs, miller associations, retailers).

| | Responsible Institutions | Priority Level |
|--|--------------------------------|----------------|
| Action 4.2.1: Support national-level dialogues between public and private sector on regulatory environment and the technical support that is needed for compliance. | AUC, REC, MS, PS, CSO, NGO, IO | short |
| Action 4.2.2: Develop and disseminate technical guidance and case studies on how to facilitate effective public-private sector partnerships for SPS. | AUC, REC, MS, CSO, NGO, IO | medium |

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Economy and Agriculture
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Next Steps

- Catalogue existing and planned SPS activities
- Identify gaps, priorities, and linkages within activities
- Move priority activities into action (such as through project proposals) and scale up existing efforts
- Draft communication plan for sharing Framework with key stakeholder groups
- Consider monitoring and evaluation of progress on SPS within the context of Framework
- Link to existing indicators and reporting mechanisms