



21ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE INTER-AFRICAN PHYTOSANITARY COUNCIL
 DAKAR, SÉNÉGAL, 24-28 MAI 2004

Announcement :

The 21st General Assembly of the Inter-African Phytosanitary Council will take place on 24-28 May 2004 in Dakar, Senegal. The theme for this Assembly:

Improving market access through standards compliance (WTO- Sanitary And Phytosanitary Standards) for African agricultural products in the 21st Century.

There is a strong need to promote , strengthen and support programs and initiatives to improve the ability of African countries to comply with international standards and to harmonise technical regulations regionally. Without addressing market access and international standards African farms and farmers will be unable to take full advantage of international market opening initiatives. **Concrete actions require immediate identification and attention, with steps/ plans** that will complement Africa's market development objectives as outlined by the New partnership for Africa's development, (NEPAD).

The following key areas will form the basis for the discussions;

1. Documentation of data and factors contributing to losses in intra-regional, inter-regional and international trade encountered by RECS /African states upon failure to meet sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) standards required by importers of agricultural products within and outside the region.
2. The potential constraints and challenges in domestic capacity to meet production and quality standards that are required in foreign markets (human capital & infrastructure).
3. Opportunities in the areas of institutional arrangements, technical expertise, information dissemination and policies related to promotion of export of African agricultural products within the context of WTO- SPS .

DRAFT PROGRAM

Until Sunday, 23.05		Arrival of participants in Dakar Gathering at Hotel ALAFIFA (venue of the assembly)
Monday, 24.05	09:00 - 13:00	Final Meeting of the Executive Committee of IAPSC and its dissolution
	14:00 - 15:00	Opening of the General Assembly by the Minister of Agriculture and Hydraulics
	15:00 - 15:30	Coffee break with group photo
	15:30 - 16:00	Report by the Executive Committee and discussion
	16:00 - 17:30	Report by the Scientific Secretary of IAPSC and discussion
	19:00 - 20:30	Opening cocktail (offered by IAPSC)
Tuesday, 25.05	09:00 - 10:30	Presentation of the Common African Program on Agriculture, Commissioner of Agriculture & Rural Development, African Union
	10:30 - 11:00	Coffee Break
	11:00 - 12:30	Report of the Scientific Secretariat, IAPSC SS Dr. Nkouka
	12:30 - 14:00	Lunch
	14:00 - 15:30	Introduction of the 21 GA Theme, IAPSC ASS Dr. S. Olembo
	15:30 - 16:00	Coffee break
	16:00 - 17:30	General discussion
Wednesday, 26.05	09:00 - 10:30	Presentation of WTO-SPS, WTO Secretariat, Geneva
	10:30 - 11:00	Coffee break
	11:00 - 12:30	Presentation from the Interim Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (FAO)
	12:30 - 14:00	Lunch break
	14:00 - 15:30	Regional reports by COMESA, SADC and CEEAC
	15:30 - 16:00	Coffee break
	16:00 - 17:30	Regional reports by CILSS, ECOWAS and CEMAC
Thursday, 27.05	09:00 - 12:00	Working groups:
		1. Documentation of data and other factors militating the implementation of WTO-SPS in Africa
		2. Institutional requirements: technical, information dissemination and policy frameworks to implement WTO-SPS in Africa
	12:30 - 14:00	Lunch break
	14:00 - 17:00	Report writing
	17:00 - 18:00	Presentation and adoption of reports
	18:00 - 18:30	Closing ceremony
	19:00 - 21:00	Closing cocktail (offered by MINAGRI)
Friday, 28.05	Morning	Facultative excursion to the surroundings of Dakar Departure of participants