

SIDF

Standards and Trade
Development Facility



Sanitary and phytosanitary border controls

African Forum for National
Trade Facilitation Committees

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Realities on the ground

SPS measures may result in
justifiable transaction costs
based on the need to protect health

but

Ineffective and inefficient SPS
controls disrupt trade more than
necessary, and sometimes result in
poor health protection





SPS procedural obstacles

Limited information

Multiple inspections

Lack of coordination at borders

Complex and lengthy procedures

Excessive document requirements

No complaints / appeal procedures

Arbitrariness, unpredictability

Influencing factors



Low awareness about importance
of trade facilitation

Trade facilitation not seen as part
of core role

Limited skills, technical capacity

Too little funding for operational
costs

Lack of public-private dialogue

Why this matters

More controls than justifiable

Longer than needed waiting times

Increased costs for traders,
also for governments

SMEs suffer the most

Informal trade



Win-win opportunities to facilitate *safe* trade



Use international standards

Improve transparency

Streamline SPS processes

Use risk-based approaches

Move towards SPS e-cert (STDF projects on e-phyto and e-vet)

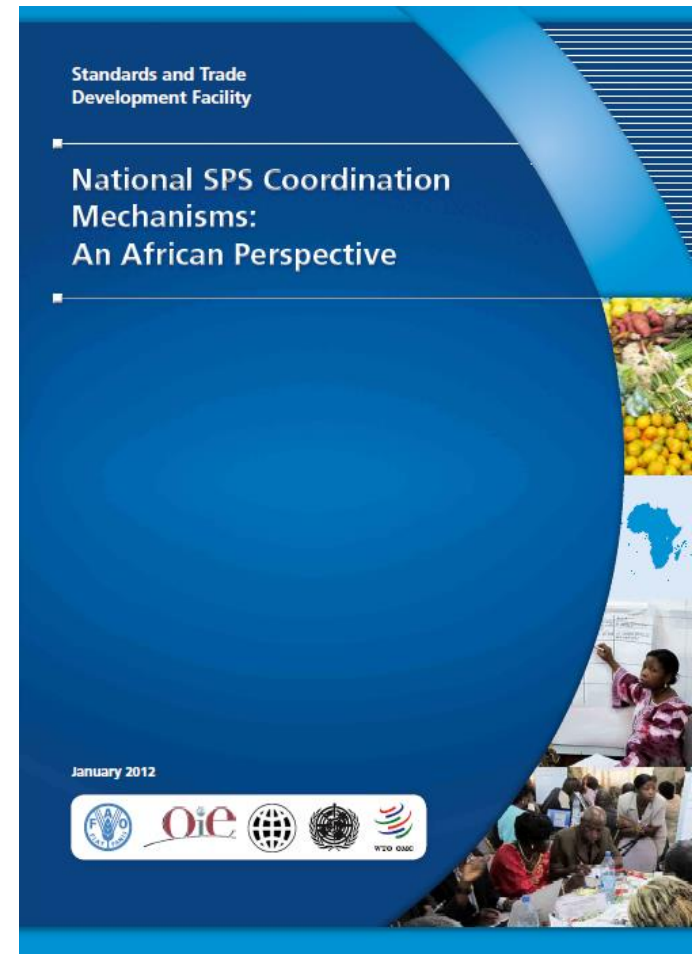
Connect customs and SPS authorities

National SPS coordination mechanisms

Fifth Review SPS Agreement –
strengthen national SPS committees
(G/SPS/W/297)

Include SPS agencies in NTFCs,
include customs in similar SPS
structures

Be pragmatic, use existing
mechanisms, do not overcomplicate
design



What's next?

Enhance understanding of links
between SPS measures and trade
facilitation

Collect good practice examples of how
customs and SPS authorities work
together, including in NTFCs

Leverage TFA resources to improve
SPS border management

