



**Republic of Macedonia**  
**Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy**

## **WORK PROGRAMME**

# **CEFTA Subcommittee on Agriculture Including Sanitary and Phytosanitary Issues**

**2014**

*Proposed under the Macedonian Chairing  
of the Subcommittee in 2014*

**February 2014**

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## **INTRODUCTION**

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The Work Programme of the Subcommittee on Agriculture and SPS relies on the three-year Strategic Work Programme (2012-2014) conceptualised under the Chairmanship of Albania.

The paper summarizes the mandate and scope of the Subcommittee, underlines its active collaboration with other CEFTA Structures and spells out the major activities planned for the one-year period.

In line with CEFTA Agreement and SEE Strategy 2020 goals, in its capacity of the Chair, Macedonia is fully committed to carry on with the work of its predecessors in both areas – facilitation of the agricultural trade and improvement of cooperation in sanitary and phytosanitary domain, with the following priorities of the Chairmanship in specific:

- Formalization of the Additional Protocols on further trade liberalisation and their effective implementation,
- The impact and challenges of CEFTA liberalization process to efficient restructuring of the agricultural economies and follow up actions,
- Further reduction of NTB's of trade by scaling up and harmonization of food safety standards and improvement of risk-based inspection control at BIP's, and
- Development of initiatives of common participation of CEFTA parties in other international organizations and initiatives.

In the year 2014, at least one regular meeting of the Subcommittee is envisaged which does not *a priori* exclude holding of other *ad hoc* meetings, workshops and roundtables that could be convened to discuss any item based on the expressed interest.

## **1. THE SUBCOMMITTEE AS A PART OF CEFTA STRUCTURES**

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### ***1.1. Mandate and scope***

The CEFTA Subcommittee on Agriculture including Sanitary and Phytosanitary Issues established by the Joint Committee Decision No. 3/2007, has for the task facilitation of trade in agricultural products and improvement of cooperation in the area of sanitary and phytosanitary matters under the framework of the CEFTA Agreement.

Its main mandate is to:

- Encourage negotiations among the CEFTA Parties to further liberalise trade
- Encourage negotiations to conclude, where appropriate, agreements on coordinated

- harmonisation or mutual recognition of sanitary and phytosanitary measures
- Review internal legislation in force or in the process of being introduced to ensure that it is fully consistent with provisions of the CEFTA Agreement
  - Deal with complaints by a Party concerning the possible discriminatory application by other Parties of measures contrary to the CEFTA Agreement
  - Recommend steps and solutions to remedy the problems
  - Bring the unresolved issues to the attention of the Joint Committee.

### **1.2. Organisation of Work**

The members of the Subcommittee are appointed senior civil servants responsible for agriculture and sanitary and phytosanitary issues from the CEFTA Parties. Under the Macedonian chairmanship with CEFTA the senior civil servants responsible for agriculture and sanitary and phytosanitary issues from the CEFTA Parties will hold the regular official meeting of the Subcommittee members in the period of 7-9 of May in Skopje. It will be held according to the rules and procedures of CEFTA Agreement by the responsible government institution Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management of Republic of Macedonia.

The meeting will provide for two sessions - one the forum for debate on further liberalisation of agricultural trade while the other gathers the experts from sanitary and phytosanitary fields to discuss the most important issues on a regional basis.

The members can also meet on an *ad hoc* basis if and whenever needed. Moreover, the number of workshops, roundtables or consultations can be organised on the request of interested Parties. The Chair will accommodate any need from the Parties to organize additional events to support the fulfilment of its objectives.

In addition one to two SPS experts meetings are envisaged to be held in late spring and autumn of 2014.

## **2. PRIORITIES OF THE CHAIRMANSHIP**

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The Chair of the Subcommittee is committed to work on the activities started in previous years by its predecessors and will introduce some new ones in order to secure the fulfilment of a set of objectives:

### **2.1. Coordination with other CEFTA Structures**

The Chairmanship of the Subcommittee is taken on a rotational basis with the tenure of office of one calendar year. According to the Joint Committee Decision No 2/2007 the Party

that chairs CEFTA also chairs the Subcommittee on Agriculture including Sanitary and Phytosanitary Issues in a given year. In line with these rules, Macedonia has assumed the Chairmanship of the Subcommittee starting from 1 January 2014.

The following activities will be performed in 2014:

Activity 2.1.1 Coordination with SC on NTBs and TBT and SC on Customs and RO on areas with common objective

- Coordination of activities in implementation of the recommendations for the SPS to reduce potential NTBs in order to ensure synergies and avoid any overlapping (*Key dates: throughout of a current year*)
- Coordination of activities in implementation of the recommendations in the area of trade facilitation (*Key dates: throughout of a current year*)

Activity 2.1.2 Reporting to other CEFTA Structures

- Reporting on the pace of implementation of the recommendations on elimination of NTBs in the area of SPS to the SC on NTBs and TBT (*Key dates: throughout of a current year*)
- Reporting on results achieved to the Deputy Ministers meeting and the Joint Committee (*Key dates: June and October/November*)
- Simplifying the reporting procedure in order to speed up the process of elimination of NTB's

Activity 2.1.3 Participation at the CEFTA meetings

- Participation of the Chair at the SC on NTBs and TBT meetings (*Key dates: TBC*)
- Participation of the members to the Regional Roundtable on NTBs (*Key dates: Participation of the Chair at the Deputy Ministers meeting and eighth Joint Committee Meeting (Key dates: June and October/November)*)

Activity 2.1.4 Promotion of the achieved results

- Promotion to the business community through events such as CEFTA Secretariat's website, SPS Database, Trade Portal, CEFTA Week 2012, etc (*Key dates: throughout the year, October/November*)
- Exchange of information with the members of the CEFTA Forum Chambers of Commerce (*Key dates: throughout the year*)

**2.2. Harnessing the benefits of the Liberalisation in Agricultural Trade**

The objective set up in the Article 10.3 of the Agreement on granting further concessions in agricultural trade has been fully achieved in 2011. The Additional Protocol and Annex 10 which deal with the further liberalisation among six CEFTA Parties was signed on 11 February 2011 and entered into force in 2011 for Albania, Croatia and Macedonia (13 November), for

Serbia (15 December) and in 2012 for Montenegro (6 January 2012).

The Additional Protocol 3 on further liberalisation between Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina was signed on 20 November 2013 allowing for zero-tariff trade in agricultural products. The Additional Protocol 4 on further liberalisation between Macedonia and Moldova is scheduled to be signed in the first half of 2014.

Acknowledging the positive effects of the liberalisation of the trade in agricultural products done in 2014, Macedonia will continue to monitor the implementation of the Additional Protocols and assess the impact of such liberalisation on the CEFTA Economies. However, analysing of the CEFTA liberalization - of specific agriculture subsectors of high national importance is also needed to assure that the process contributes to sectoral restructuring in sustainable way and mitigating actions of authorities are widely CEFTA acknowledged and acceptable.

Macedonia will also make efforts that the legitimacy of the CEFTA against the Parties' bilateral FTA with third countries is guaranteed.

The following activities will be performed in 2014:

*Activity 2.2.1 Assessment of impact of liberalization on the CEFTA Economies*

- The effects of the liberalisation performed in 2011 and in 2013 will be closely followed through periodical analysis (*Key dates: annually*)
- Assessment of the adverse impact of trade liberalization on the agricultural subsectors indicated by the CEFTA Parties (*Key dates: October/November*)
- Reporting to the Joint Committee on the assessment (*Key dates: annually at the JCM*)

**2.3. Strengthening Cooperation in the Sanitary and Phytosanitary Areas**

The Chair recognizes the need for closer regional collaboration of the national agencies in the sanitary, phytosanitary and veterinary area.

The areas of joint collaboration are:

**a) Institutional framework**

In order to contribute to the improvement in the institutional framework, Macedonia proposes the following activities in 2014:

*Activity 2.3.1 Assessments on possibilities for common framework on the SPS*

- Assessment of current bilateral agreements in the SPS field

- Establishing a common model (template) of bilateral/multilateral agreement in the SPS area

#### Activity 2.3.2 Institutionalized transfer of knowledge and joint training

- Establishing of focal points in the Parties that can transfer their knowledge and expertise to other less developed Parties in the specific field of SPS
- Organizing regional trainings on harmonization of legislation and practices in sanitary and phytosanitary area
- Organizing regional trainings on implementation of legislation and practices in sanitary and phytosanitary area
- Preparing joint trainings in the risk based inspection methodology and approach
- Improving capacities in SPS agencies for development and maintaining of relevant databases

### **b) Legislative framework**

In the framework of the SPS legislation, the situation among Parties differs in relation to the harmonisation progress in the EU accession process and towards WTO accession. The evident differences where some Parties approach the EU best practice, while the others stagnate, can create additional non-tariff barriers to trade.

To address these issues, Macedonia will continue to work in the following areas:

#### Activity 2.3.3 Increase transparency of legislation

- Regularly notify new legislation through established mechanisms (such as the CEFTA SPS Database)
- Ensure that the new legislation is available for consultation before the process of final adoption

#### Activity 2.3.4 Speeding up the process of harmonization of relevant SPS legislation

- Assessment of current level of harmonization of national with the EU legislation
- Harmonization of by-laws in line with WTO-SPS and EU requirements
- Ensure a synchronized harmonization in areas of common interest in order to avoid creation of potential NTBs

#### Activity 2.3.5 Consolidation of capacities for full implementation of risk analysis

- Sharing information and experiences for control and inspection procedures and risk analysis
- Regional trainings for outsourced technical assistance in this area

### **c) Transposition of EU SPS measures**

In the area of the transposition of SPS measures the situation among Parties varies in relation to the pace and stage of the EU accession process. The Parties have identified the products with the highest priority on their national level, which may or may not be identical or similar to the other Parties' priorities. This in turn can create uneven development on the regional level and induce some impediments in the common trade regime.

With the objective to avoid the creation of the potential hurdles in regional trade that come from different legislative framework, the Chair proposes the following activities:

Activity 2.3.6 Coordination of actions in the process of transposition of EU legislation

- Follow the best experiences on necessary capacities for transposition of EU regulations
- Adopt only measures which are fully harmonized with EU and WTO-SPS principles
- Regularly report on new legislation/practices harmonized with EU requirements

Activity 2.3.7 Identification of applicability of EU/International regulations and standards

- Identify the range of applicable EU regulations/standards for priority sectors and groups of products
- Transpose and implement the relevant standards and regulatory measures in a given timeframe taking into account the international standards given by WTO\_SPS (Codex Alimentarius, OIE, and IPPC)

**d) Joint representation in international organizations, forums etc.**

In the previous period the negotiating power of the CEFTA region was not recognized by representation in the international organisations such as: CAC (Codex Alimentarius Commission), OIE (World Organisation for Animal Health), IPPC (International Plant Protection Convention), OIV (International Organisation of Vine and Wine), and WTO-SPS.

Macedonia will continue to work on activities that could improve the image of the region and strengthen its negotiating power in the relevant international organisations by:

Activity 2.3.8 Joint representation of CEFTA SPS agencies in international organisations, forums

- Identify the areas where CEFTA Parties experts can jointly participate in work of different committees of the CAC, OIE, IPPC, OIV, etc
- Identify regional representatives for each of the committee where they have strategic interest to participate as a region
- Strengthen capacities of the Parties for negotiating in SPS standings at international organizations' meetings



## ***2.4. Identification and elimination of non-tariff barriers in trade in agricultural products***

Macedonia will continue to work in the following areas:

### **Activity 2.4.1 Implementation of the Multilateral Monitoring Framework on Elimination of the NTBs**

- Implement the recommendations from the second cycle of assessment of the MMF related to SPS
- Implement the recommendations stated in the “ OECD Inputs on Strategic Guidelines on NTBs Reduction in CEFTA” where applicable
- Report regularly on the achievements to the SC on NTBs and TBT as well as to the Joint Committee

### **Activity 2.4.2 Implementation of the obligation under Article 12.3 of CEFTA Agreement**

Having in mind Recommendation of the Joint Committee of the CEFTA No. 1/2012 on recognition of test report of the CABs adopted on 8 November 2012, and in compliance with the Article 12 paragraph 3 of the Agreement (“...the Parties shall enter, where appropriate, into negotiations to conclude agreements on harmonisation or mutual recognition in sanitary and phytosanitary matters...”) Macedonia will dedicate due attention to the work of finding ways to approach this goal.

- Perform the mapping and review of the current laboratory testing capabilities of Parties
- Explore possibilities to incorporate the mutual recognition of laboratory testing in the common model (template) of bilateral/multilateral agreements in the SPS area Report to the Joint Committee on the achievements and implementation

### **Activity 2.4.3 Cooperation with the SC on NTBs and TBT**

- Participate at the meetings of the SC on NTBs and TBT and report on the developments in eliminating the NTBs in the field of SPS
- Regularly update the information on the CEFTA SPS Database and CEFTA Trade Portal which relates to the sanitary, phytosanitary and veterinary regulation and legislation

### **Activity 2.4.4 Cooperation with the SC on Customs and ROO**

- Explore potentials to have a common regional approach for cooperation among SPS agencies and customs authorities;
- Participate in meetings of SC on customs issues and ROO when border agencies issues are to be addressed

## ***2.5. Experience Sharing and Transparency***

Transparency is identified as one of important premises of functioning the global trading system. In the region, transparency of key legislation, and especially the SPS measures and its timely notification is considered as the valuable contributor to the elimination of NTBs in common trade.

Seeing the launching of the CEFTA SPS Database as an important action towards the better information visibility in the area of sanitary, phytosanitary and veterinary area, the Chair will take further steps in its upgrading and invites Parties to dedicate its full attention towards regular updating of relevant information. The online notification of the SPS measures is envisaged to be introduced in the course of 2014. The easily accessible database will significantly contribute to the reduction of SPS related non-tariff barriers to regional trade.

A set of activities with a number of necessary steps are developed in order to achieve upgrading of the transparency and information of measures sharing to the next level:

### ***Activity 2.5.1 Upgrade and update of SPS Database***

- Adding new features such as list of food and feed producers, registered importers and exporters, transporters
  - Setting up of the on line notification system
- Regular update of the CEFTA SPS Database and Trade Portal on the SPS section

### ***Activity 2.5.2 Promotion and information sharing on SPS regulation***

- Promotion of database to the wider circle of users
- Presentation of achievements in SPS (agencies cooperation, removal of NTBs, conclusion of mutual recognition agreements, etc) in the CEFTA Week, international conferences, forums, etc.

## **3. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND RELATED REGIONAL PROJECTS**

The implementation of the Work Programme for 2014 will require the active participation of all the CEFTA Parties, and will be supported adequately by the technical tailor-made assistance.

### ***Coordination with other CEFTA Structures***

#### ***Activity 2.1.1 Coordination with SC on NTBs and TBT and SC on Customs and RO on areas with common objective***

- These activities does not require outsourced technical assistance

#### Activity 2.1.2 Reporting to other CEFTA Structures

- These activities does not require outsourced technical assistance

#### Activity 2.1.3 Participation at the CEFTA meetings

- These activities does not require outsourced technical assistance

#### Activity 2.1.4 Promotion of the achieved results

- These activities does not require outsourced technical assistance

### ***Harnessing the benefits of the Liberalisation in Agricultural Trade***

#### Activity 2.2.1 Assessment of impact of liberalization performed

- This activity would require outsourced technical assistance

### ***Strengthening Cooperation in the Sanitary and Phytosanitary Areas***

#### *Implementation of the Multilateral Monitoring Framework on Elimination of NTBs*

The Multilateral Monitoring Framework is developed with the assistance of the OECD Private Sector Development Division. The main objective of this assistance is to conduct regular independent monitoring of the elimination of NTBs, perform the extensive analysis of trade flows in intermediary and final goods among CEFTA Parties with the aim of identifying a set of priority sectors and goods for NTBs elimination.

The OECD MMF project on elimination of NTBs will continue to support CEFTA in 2014. The Project will build on the results of the OECD-RCC Working Group on New Generation Competitiveness Initiative that supports the implementation of SEE 2020 Strategy, and will focus on the identification of trade barriers in the selected supply chains/subsectors (agri-food).

#### Activity 2.3.1 Assessments on possibilities for common framework on the SPS

- No additional technical assistance is envisaged

#### Activity 2.3.2 Institutionalized transfer of knowledge and joint training and consolidation of capacities for full implementation of risk analysis through:

- TAIEX multicountry workshop on horizontal level in the field of risk analysis
- TAIEX multicountry workshop on risk assessment
- TAIEX multicountry workshop on risk management
- TAIEX multicountry workshop on risk communication

- TAIEX multicountry workshop on harmonization of legislation and practices in sanitary and phytosanitary area
- TAIEX multicountry workshop on implementation of legislation and practices in sanitary and phytosanitary area
- TAIEX multicountry workshop on common market standards related to labelling of food of animal origin (milk and milk products, meat, fish and aquaculture products, eggs)

Activity 2.3.3 Increase the transparency of legislation

- Creation of permanent notification systems might require additional technical and financial support by interested donors

Activity 2.3.4 Speeding up the process of harmonization of relevant SPS legislation

- No additional technical assistance is envisaged

Activity 2.3.5 Coordination of actions in the process of transposition of EU legislation

- Technical expertise will be required in organization of regional trainings. TAIEX technical support is needed

Activity 2.3.6 Identification of applicability of EU/International regulations and standards

- Technical support is needed

Activity 2.3.7 Joint representation of CEFTA SPS agencies in international organisations, forums

- Technical expertise might be needed in identifying the areas of interest and capacity building of experts who will participate in the various committees of FAO, IPPC, OIE.

**3.4. Identification and elimination of non-tariff barriers in trade in agricultural products**

Activity 2.4.1 Implementation of the Multilateral Monitoring Framework on Elimination of the NTBs

- The OECD team of experts provides technical assistance. Implementation of recommendations might require additional technical support

Activity 2.4.2 Implementation of the obligation under Article 12.3 of CEFTA Agreement

- Technical expertise is secured through the Secretariat

Activity 2.4.3 Cooperation with the SC on NTBs and TBT

- No additional technical assistance is envisaged

Activity 2.4.4 Cooperation with the SC on Customs and ROO

- No additional technical assistance is envisaged

### **3.5. Experience Sharing and Transparency**

#### **Activity 2.5.1 Upgrade and update of SPS Database**

- Technical expertise is secured through the Secretariat
- Further stages such as online notification and further upgrading of the system will need assistance. The partner is GiZ

#### **Activity 2.5.3 Promotion and information sharing on SPS regulation**

- No additional technical assistance is required.

## **4. EXPECTED RESULTS**

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### **4.1. Coordination with other CEFTA Structures**

#### **Activity 2.1.1 Coordination with SC on NTBs and TBT and SC on Customs and RO on areas with common objective**

- The regular coordination is achieved through consultation process at the meetings and coordination of the work programmes

#### **Activity 2.1.2 Reporting to other CEFTA Structures**

- Report to the Deputy Ministers meeting and the Joint Committee meeting

#### **Activity 2.1.3 Participation at the CEFTA meetings**

- The Chair participate at the meeting of the other two Subcommittees
- The Chair participate at the meeting of the Deputy Ministers and Joint Committee

#### **Activity 2.1.4 Promotion of the achieved results**

- The CEFTA Trade Portal and the CEFTA SPS Database are promoted to the wider audience

### **4.2. Harnessing the benefits of the Liberalisation in Agricultural Trade**

#### **Activity 2.2.1 Assessment of impact of liberalization on the CEFTA Economies**

- The report on the Assessment of the Impact of liberalization is prepared and presented to the Joint Committee

### **4.3. Strengthening Cooperation in the Sanitary and Phytosanitary Areas**

#### **Activity 2.3.1 Assessments on possibilities for common framework on the SPS**

- A common model (template) of bilateral/multilateral agreement in the SPS area is established
- The number of signed bilateral/multilateral agreement in the SPS area is raised

Activity 2.3.2 Institutionalized transfer of knowledge and joint training and consolidation of capacities for full implementation of risk analysis

- Regional trainings on harmonization and implementation of legislation and practices in sanitary and phytosanitary area
- Regional trainings on risk based methodology (risk analysis, risk assessment, risk management, risk communication) are realized

Activity 2.3.3 Increase the transparency of legislation

- Permanent notification mechanisms on SPS legislation are fully operational
- A new legislation is available for consultation before the process of its final adoption

Activity 2.3.4 Speeding up the process of harmonization of relevant SPS legislation

- Assessment of current level of harmonization is completed
- Harmonization of by-laws in line with WTO-SPS and EU requirements is ensured
- Regional trainings and sharing information and experiences are organized

Activity 2.3.5 Coordination of actions in the process of transposition of EU legislation

- Report on new legislation/practices harmonized with EU requirements is published annually

Activity 2.3.6 Identification of applicability of EU/International regulations and standards

- The range of applicable EU regulations/standards for priority sectors and groups of products are identified
- The relevant standards and regulatory measures in a given timeframe are transposed and implemented

Activity 2.3.7 Joint representation of CEFTA SPS agencies in international organisations, forums

- Regional representatives for participation at the meetings of CAC, IPPC and OIE are identified

**4.4. Identification and elimination of non-tariff barriers in trade in agricultural products**

Activity 2.4.1 Implementation of the Multilateral Monitoring Framework on Elimination of the NTBs

- The recommendations in the area of SPS are implemented
- The report on successful implementation is submitted to the Joint Committee

Activity 2.4.2 Implementation of the obligation under Article 12.3 of CEFTA Agreement

- The mutual recognition testing is incorporated in the common model (template) of bilateral/multilateral agreements in the SPS area Report on the implementation submitted to the Joint Committee

#### Activity 2.4.4 Cooperation with the SC on Customs and ROO

- The joint areas of cooperation between the SPS agencies and customs authorities in the region are identified
- The participation at the SC on customs and ROO meetings secured

#### Activity 2.4.3 Cooperation with the SC on NTBs and TBT

- The Chair/members of the SC on Agriculture and SPS report on the achievements at the regular meetings of the SC on NTBs and TBT

### **4.5. Experience Sharing and Transparency**

#### Activity 2.5.1 Upgrade and update of the SPS database

- Upgrade of database successfully completed
- Relevant information is regularly updated

#### Activity 2.5.2 Promotion and information sharing on SPS regulation

- The achievements in the SPS cooperation are widely promoted at the conferences, forums, workshops

## **5. CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

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The tentative calendar for the year 2014 is as follows:

<b>MEETING/EVENT</b>	<b>DATES in 2014</b>
Seventh meeting of the Subcommittee on Agriculture and SPS	<b>7-9 May</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> SPS Meeting	<b>May/June</b>
Participation at the meetings of the Subcommittee on NTBs and TBT	<b>End of May</b>
CEFTA Week 2014	October/November
Eight Joint Committee Meeting	October/November

### Annex 1: ACTION PLAN FOR 2014

OBJECTIVE	PHASES	ACTION	KEY MILESTONES	TIMEFRAME
<b>Coordination with other CEFTA Structures</b>	1. Coordination of activities with SC on NTBs and TBT on common areas	1.1. Coordination of activities in implementation of the recommendations for the SPS with the SC on NTBs and TBT	Recommendations in the area of SPS are implemented	January-December
	2. Reporting to the other CEFTA structures	2.1. Reporting on the pace of implementation to the SC on NTBs and TBT 2.2. Reporting on results achieved to the Joint Committee 2.3 Simplifying the reporting procedure in order to speed up the process of elimination of NTB's	Semi-annual Report submitted to Deputy Ministers Annual Report submitted to the Joint Committee	June October
	3. Participation at the CEFTA Meetings	3.1. Participation of the Chair at the SC on NTBs and TBT meetings 3.2. Participation of the Chair at the eighth JCM	CEFTA Parties are regularly participating at the official CEFTA meetings	May October October/November
	4. Promotion of the results	4.1. Promotion to the business community through CEFTA Trade Portal, CEFTA Week 2012 4.2. Exchange of information with the CEFTA Forum Chambers of Commerce	Implemented recommendations and results are promoted at the CEFTA Trade Portal, CEFTA Secretariat's website, CEFTA Week, at international conferences, forums	Continuous October/November
<b>Harnessing the benefits of the liberalisation in agricultural trade</b>	1. Assessment of impact of liberalization on the CEFTA Economies	2.1. Following of the effects of the liberalisation through periodical analysis 2.2. Analysis of negative impact of liberalization on agriculture sectors indicated by CEFTA parties. 2.3. Reporting to the Joint Committee on the assessment	Report on the assessment of the impact of the liberalisation is submitted to the Joint Committee	October/November
<b>Strengthening the cooperation in SPS area</b>	1. Assessments on possibilities for common framework on the SPS	1.1. Assessment of current bilateral agreements in the SPS field; 1.2 Establishing a common model (template) of bilateral/multilateral agreement in the SPS area	Assessment of bilateral agreements done A common model (template) of bilateral/multilateral agreement in the SPS area is established The number of signed bilateral/multilateral agreement in the SPS area is raised	April – December
	2. Institutionalized transfer of	2.1. Establishing of focal points in the Parties	Discussions on potential focal points in some of the Parties held	April –December 2014



	knowledge and joint training	that can transfer their knowledge to other less developed Parties in the specific field of SPS; 2.2.Organizing regional trainings on harmonization of legislation and practices in phytosanitary area 2.3 Organizing regional trainings on implementation of legislation and practices in sanitary and phytosanitary area	Identification of regional trainings need completed	
	3.Increase the transparency of legislation	3.1.Create permanent notification mechanisms on SPS legislation; 3.2.Ensure that a new legislation is available for consultation before the process of final adoption	The type and frequency of notifications discussed and common solutions agreed	April –December 2014
	4.Speeding up the process of harmonization of relevant SPS legislation	4.1.Assessment of current level of harmonization of national with the EU legislation; 4.2.Harmonization of by-laws in line with WTO-SPS and EU requirements	The Parties' stage and dynamics in EU, WTO accession processes reported	April -December
	5.Consolidation of capacities for full implementation of risk analysis	5.1.Sharing information and experiences for control and inspection procedures and risk analysis; 5.2.Regional trainings and joint bidding for outsourced technical assistance in this area	Information shared, needs for training in specific areas at the regional level agreed	April -December
	6.Coordination of actions in the process of transposition of EU legislation	6.1.Follow the best experiences on necessary capacities for transposition of EU regulations 6.2.Circulate a questionnaire on new legislation/practices harmonized with EU requirements on the annual basis	Questionnaire on new legislation/practices harmonised with the EU requirements published on the CEFTA SPS Database and Trade portal	By December
	7. Identification of applicability of EU/International regulations and standards	7.1.Identify the range of applicable EU regulations/standards for priority sectors and groups of products 7.2. Transpose and implement the relevant standards and regulatory measures in a given timeframe taking into account the international standards given by WTO_SPS (Codex Alimentarius, OIE, and IPPC)	The range of applicable EU regulations/standards for priority sectors and groups of products are identified  The relevant standards and regulatory measures in a given timeframe are transposed and implemented	January 2014-2015
	8.Joint representation of CEFTA SPS	8.1.Identify areas of interest and regional	Areas of interest at the international	April

	agencies in international organisations, forums	representatives for each of the committee where they have strategic interest to participate,	organisations meetings discussed	
<b>Identification and Elimination of NTBs in trade in agricultural products</b>	1. Implementation of the Multilateral Monitoring Framework on Elimination of the NTBs	1.1.Implement the recommendations from the second cycle of assessment of the MMF related to SPS 1.2.Reporting on the achievements to the SC on NTBs and TBT and to the Joint Committee	The recommendations are implemented Report on activities submitted to the SC on NTBs and TBT and to the JC	April 2014 - 2015
	2. Implementation of the obligation under Article 12.3 of CEFTA Agreement	2.1.Explore possibilities to incorporate the mutual recognition testing in the common model (template) of bilateral/multilateral agreements in the SPS area  2.2.Reporting to the Joint Committee	The mutual recognition testing is incorporated in the common model (template) of bilateral/multilateral agreements in the SPS area	January-December April May October/November
	3.Cooperation with the SC on NTBs and TBT and SC on Customs and Rules of Origin	3.1.Perform regular exchange of information with the SC on NTBs and TBT and SC on Customs and Rules of Origin 3.2.Participate at the meetings of the expert groups 3.3.Regularly update the information on the CEFTA Trade Portal which relates to SPS 3.4. Explore potentials to have a common regional approach for cooperation among SPS agencies and customs authorities	Exchange of information performed Participation of chair/members secured	January - December
<b>Improved experience sharing and transparency</b>	1.Upgrade and update of SPS Database	1.1. Adding new features such as list of food and feed producers, registered importers and exporters, transporters 1.2.Setting up of the on line notification system 1.3.Regular update of the CEFTA SPS Database and Trade Portal on the SPS section	Upgrade of database successfully completed  Relevant information is regularly updated	January –November

	3.Promotion and information sharing on SPS regulation	3.1. The achievements in the SPS cooperation are widely promoted at the conferences, forums, workshops. 3.2 Promotion of database to the wider circle of users	CEFTA Trade Portal regularly updated Achievements of the SPS cooperation widely promoted	January-December October/November
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## ANNEX 2: Logical Framework Matrix

LOG FRAME PLANNING MATRIX FOR PRIORITIES OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON Agriculture and SPS		Period: 2012 -2014	
<b>Overall objective</b>	<b>Indicators of Achievement</b>	<b>Sources of verification</b>	
To develop further actions, particularly in the following priority areas, with the objective to fully implement the Chapter III of the Agreement, in specific Articles 10, 11 and 12; improve the cooperation in the SPS area; work on eliminating NTBs and strengthen the cooperation with other CEFTA Structures.	All meetings of the Subcommittee are held with the active participation of CEFTA Parties	Report of the Subcommittee	
<b>Priorities</b>	<b>Indicators of Achievement</b>	<b>Sources of Verification</b>	<b>Assumptions</b>
1) Coordination with other CEFTA Structures  2) Harnessing the benefits of the liberalisation in agricultural trade  3) Strengthening the cooperation in the sanitary and phytosanitary area  4) Identification and Elimination of NTBs in trade in agricultural products  5) Improved experience sharing and transparency	1) The full synergies among the CEFTA Structures achieved with no overlapping of activities and efforts  2) The positive impact of liberalisation is proved  3) The number of transposed SPS legislation is increased  4) The number of NTBs that have origin in SPS area have decreasing tendency  5) The CEFTA Parties are timely informed about the new regulations with a potential hindering impact on trade	Report of SC on Agriculture and SPS Report of SC on NTBs and TBT CEFTA Market Access Database CEFTA SPS Database	1) Each CEFTA Party remains committed to the CEFTA process and its provisions.  2) Bilateral problems between the CEFTA Parties which do not have any direct relevance to the implementation of the Agreement do not affect the smooth functioning of the Agreement.  3) International donors keep committed to support financially the CEFTA.
<b>Activities</b>	<b>Results</b>	<b>Means</b>	<b>Assumptions</b>
<u>Priority 1 :</u> 1) Implementation of the MMF  2) Reporting to the other CEFTA	<u>Priority 1:</u> 1) Recommendations from the MMF implemented 2) Annual and semi-annual reports of the SC on Agriculture and SPS submitted to the JC 3) Parties are regularly participating at the official CEFTA	SC on Agriculture and SPS SC on NTBs and TBT meetings Regional Roundtable on NTBs OECD MMF Project CEFTA Trade Portal	1) Each CEFTA Party remains committed to the CEFTA process and its provisions.  2) Bi-lateral problems between the CEFTA Parties which do not have any direct relevance

<p>structures</p> <p>3) Participation at the CEFTA Meetings</p> <p>4) Promotion of the results</p> <p><u>Priority 2:</u></p> <p>1) Assessment of impact of liberalisation on the CEFTA economies</p> <p><u>Priority 3:</u></p> <p>1) Assessment on possibilities for common framework on the SPS  2) Institutionalized transfer of knowledge and joint training  2) Increase the transparency of legislation  3) Speeding up the process of harmonization of relevant SPS legislation  4) Consolidation of capacities for full implementation of risk analysis  5) Coordination of actions in the process of transposition of EU legislation  6) Identification of applicability of EU/International regulations and standards  7) Joint representation of CEFTA SPS agencies in international organisations, forums</p> <p><u>Priority 4:</u></p> <p>1) Implementation of the Multilateral</p>	<p>meetings</p> <p>4) Implemented recommendations and achieved results are promoted at the CEFTA Trade Portal, Secretariat's website, CEFTA SPS Database, CEFTA Week, international conferences, forums</p> <p><u>Priority 2:</u></p> <p>1) Report on the assessment of the impact of the liberalisation on CEFTA economies is submitted to the JC</p> <p><u>Priority 3:</u></p> <p>1) Assessment of bilateral agreements done  2) Focal points for dissemination of knowledge in more advanced CEFTA Parties are established  2) Regional training is held in the areas such as: harmonization and implementation of legislation and practices in sanitary and phytosanitary area  3) Permanent notification mechanisms on SPS legislation is developed  4) A new legislation is available for consultation before the process of its final adoption  5) Assessment of current level of harmonization is completed  6) regional representatives for participation at the meetings of CAC, IPPC and OIE are identified  7) The range of applicable EU regulations/standards for priority sectors and groups of products are identified  8) Questionnaire on new legislation/practices harmonized with EU requirements is published annually</p> <p><u>Priority 4:</u></p> <p>1) The recommendations in the area of SPS are implemented  2) The report on achievements and implementation is submitted to the Joint Committee  3) The members are actively involved in the assessments</p>	<p>CEFTA Secretariat website</p> <p>SC on Agriculture and SPS meetings  Joint Committee</p> <p>SC on Agriculture and SPS  External donors</p> <p>IPPC, CAC, OIE, WTO</p> <p>SC on NTBs and TBT  SC on Agriculture and SPS  OECD MMF Project  CEFTA SPS Database  CEFTA Trade Portal</p>	<p>to the implementation of the Agreement do not affect the smooth functioning of the Agreement,</p> <p>3) International donors keep committed to support financially the CEFTA.</p>
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<p>Monitoring Framework on Elimination of the NTBs</p> <p>2) Implementation of the obligation under Article 12.3 of CEFTA Agreement</p> <p>3) Cooperation with the SC on NTBs and TBT</p> <p><u>Priority 5:</u></p> <p>1) Upgrade and update of a Database on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures</p> <p>2) Promotion and information sharing on SPS regulation</p>	<p>process of the MMF in the SPS field</p> <p>4) The bilateral/plurilateral agreements among respective Parties are concluded where appropriate</p> <p>5) Exchange of information is performed regularly</p> <p>6) The Chair/members of the SC on Agriculture and SPS are present at the regular meetings of the SC on NTBs and TBT</p> <p>7) The members are active in updating of the SPS section of the CEFTA Trade Portal</p> <p><u>Priority 5:</u></p> <p>1) Upgrade of database successfully completed</p> <p>2) Relevant information is regularly updated</p> <p>3) The achievements in the SPS cooperation are widely promoted at the conferences, forums, workshops.</p>	<p>SC on Agriculture and SPS</p> <p>Outsourced technical assistance</p>	
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