

Ministry of Agriculture
National Agricultural Research & Extension Institute (NAREI)

TERMS OF REFERENCE

For

Coordinator for Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Measures

Background

The Ministry of Agriculture through the National Agricultural Research & Extension Institute is seeking to implement measures and establish systems and mechanisms that will primarily be aimed at enhancing Guyana's ability to comply with WTO/SPS requirements for International Trade.

The individual will work to strengthen institutional, operational and management capacities in the area of sanitary and phytosanitary measures (SPS) and enhance capacities needed for operating SPS systems to facilitate trade and protect plant, animal and human health.

The individual will establish, strengthen and implement: (i) surveillance and inspection programs for plant health, animal health food safety; (ii) regional cooperation and harmonization for SPS; and, (iii) enhanced education levels and university training of Quarantine staff. He will selectively strengthen food safety handling capacities of private enterprises.

In more technical SPS terms, there is a shortage of human resource capacity to: (i) undertake surveys on crop pests and diseases; (ii) manage inspections and interceptions of imported goods. There is a need to contain transboundary animal diseases (TAD), to improve surveillance of veterinary drugs, biotic and feed, to maintain the safety of animal food products, and to improve border release procedures.

Objectives

The intended impact is for Guyana's agricultural products to be (i) safer; (ii) more efficiently produced; and (iii) traded in greater quantities and conform to regional and international trade regulations.

Terms of Reference

- *The incumbent is expected to develop and continually review standard operating procedures for biological control laboratory;*
- *Facilitating market access by advising on trade requirements with our trading partners;*
- *Establish, strengthen and implement regional cooperation and harmonization for SPS*
- *Develop a comprehensive SPS policy and action plan*
It is recommended that this policy be underpinned by an action plan based on crosscutting and sectoral needs which take into account the Government's poverty reduction and economic growth objectives.
- *Strengthening the legislative framework for SPS management*
- *Enhance capacity for diagnosis and enforcement*
This could be conducted through assisting relevant institutions to design food safety campaigns and to strengthen consumer association's capacities to act as an intermediary.
- *Promote greater awareness and information for government officials*
- *Enhance awareness and skills of food producers and processors*
This could be implemented through training of trainers to design tailor-made curricula to enhance the skills of operators to achieve compliance with international standards in their particular area of operation. Strengthening of extension capacity and of the link between extensions and applied agronomic research could greatly benefit the farmers. Multiplying Farmers Field Schools and reinforcing producer associations are other possible ways to improve phytosanitary and animal health situations in the country.
- *Enhance awareness of consumers on food safety risks and strengthen food safety handling capacities of the private enterprise.*
- *Develop coordinated surveillance programmes for plant and animal pests and diseases and for food borne disease and enhance capacity for diagnosis.*
- *Oversee the mechanisms employed in the inspection and interception of imported goods.*

There is a need to contain transboundary animals diseases (TAD), to improve surveillance of veterinary drugs, biotics and feed, to maintain the safety of animal food products, and to improve border releases procedures.

- *Analyse cargo movement of goods subject to SPS measures along Guyana's corridors in terms of origin, final destination and main route used.*
- *Be responsible for the effective functioning of the National Enquiry Point for WTO/SPS issues.*

Qualifications

Post graduate university qualification and experience in agricultural health, international development and economic law, international marketing and/or trade.

