US DOMESTIC SUPPORT NOTIFICATION PRACTICES

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Key Points from US Experience

• A transparent and sustainable process is essential

• Principles remain the same, no matter how complex or simple the policy regime
  • Dedicated resources
  • Transparency of practices & good documentation
  • Strategies to incorporate change
Outlines of the US Process

• Preparing US domestic support notifications is multi-agency data management and reporting process involving
  • Data collection, calculation, drafting, and verification
  • Review for careful application of WTO rules, accuracy of data & methods
Data Sourcing

• Wide range of sources across USDA and other agencies

• In early years, dependent on personal contacts and special computer runs using internal administrative databases

• Transitioned to public web sourcing and simplified spreadsheet calculations wherever possible
Report Management

• Unified coordination to maintain control of report within and across agencies throughout a lengthy process

• Electronic processes simplify and increase transparency in update, correction, and review
  • Linked spreadsheets in a single workbook
  • Transparent footnotes to the tables
  • Summary table with extensive notes for review process
Policy Tracking and Classification

• New Farm Acts—classify new programs (and submit DS2s for exempt programs)
• Insufficient data detail and data lags—classify and report using best available data, submit corrigenda as needed
• Other legislation and related programs for reporting—not all US domestic programs are governed by Farm Acts or implemented by USDA
Summary

• Core lessons that we have learned over the years are
  • Simplify data handling processes
  • Increase transparency of data sources and methods

• These principles produce both internal and external benefits
  • A clear, sustainable reporting process
  • Improved public accessibility of notifications