

# Regionalization

## Provisions (Article 6) & Guidelines (G/SPS/48)



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# Overview

1. SPS Agreement and Regionalization (Article 6)
2. Relevant guidelines on Regionalization (G/SPS/48)
3. SPS Committee and Regionalization
  - Notifications and Specific Trade Concerns



# 1. SPS Agreement and Regionalization

## Article 6: Adaptation to Regional Conditions, Including Pest- or Disease-Free Areas and Areas of Low Pest or Disease Prevalence

### Article 6.1

**Adapt measures to the SPS characteristics of the area**  
*(all or part(s) of a country/several countries)*

+ ...from which the product originated and to which the product is destined +

- prevalence of specific diseases/pests
- eradication/control programmes
- criteria/guidelines developed by “sisters”

### Article 6.2

**Recognize concept of pest- or disease-free areas or areas of low pest or disease prevalence**

+

- geography, ecosystems
- epidemiological surveillance
- effectiveness of SPS controls

### Article 6.3

**Exporting Members to provide evidence**

+ such areas are, and are likely to remain free areas/areas of low prevalence + reasonable access, upon request, for inspection, testing...



# 1. SPS Agreement and Regionalization

## Annex A - Definitions

Article  
6.1

**An area**, whether all of a country, part of a country, or all or parts of several countries, as identified by the competent authorities, in which a **specific pest or disease...**

Article  
6.2

6. "... does not occur."

**Pest- or disease-free area**

7. "... occurs at low levels and which is subject to effective surveillance, control or eradication measures."

**Area of low pest or disease prevalence**

Article  
6.3

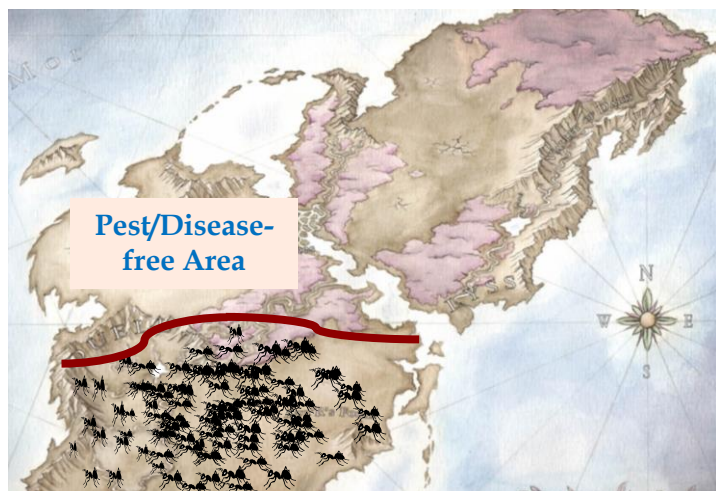


# 1. SPS Agreement and Regionalization

## Annex A – Definitions

(Note to Annex A.6)

### Country A



- may surround, be surrounded by, or be adjacent to an area
- - *whether within part of a country or in a geographic region which includes parts of or all of several countries –*
- in which a specific pest or disease is known to occur
- but is subject to regional control measures which will confine or eradicate the pest or disease

e.g. establishment of protection, surveillance and buffer zones





## 2. Relevant guidelines on Regionalization (G/SPS/48, 2008)

### “Guidelines to further the practical implementation of Article 6 of the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures”

- “..intended to provide **assistance** to Members in the practical implementation of Article 6..” (para. 1)
- “...**not intended to duplicate** the technical and administrative guidance provided to Members by the IPPC and OIE.” (para. 1)
- 5 sections: (i) General considerations; (ii) Initial discussions; (iii) Typical administrative steps in the process; (iv) Expedited process; and (v) Monitoring.





## 2. Relevant guidelines on Regionalization (G/SPS/48, 2008)

### General Considerations (paras. 4-12):



Publish basis for recognition of areas



No undue delay in the process



No **discrimination** between Members in the recognition process



Maintain **transparency** in the recognition process



Take into account **relevant knowledge and prior experience** with authorities of the exporting Member



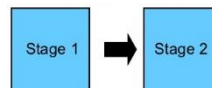
Consider the **strength and credibility** of veterinary/phytosanitary infrastructure in accordance with importing Member's ALOP



Importing Member to **consider all information** previously provided for resubmitted requests, if still valid



Exporting Member to **identify priority**, if multiple requests are submitted



Upon request, importing Member to provide information on the **stage of the request**



## 2. Relevant guidelines on Regionalization (G/SPS/48)

### Initial Discussions, upon request (paras. 13-18)

- Discussions should, *inter alia*, clarify..." (para. 14)

General  
process

General  
information  
required for  
evaluation

Process for  
information  
exchange

Anticipated  
time-frame for  
completion

- Discussions within reasonable period of time, and normally within 90 days of a request or as otherwise mutually decided (para. 15)







## 2. Relevant guidelines on Regionalization (G/SPS/48)

### Initial Discussions, upon request (paras. 13-18)

- Clarifications **recorded**, if necessary, and transmitted to the exporting Member
- Discussions may be **postponed for a reasonable period** of time due to limited resources of importing Member, taking into account, *inter alia*:

1 2 3  
4 5 6

# of requests



Priorities of  
exporting Member



Capacity to work  
on new requests

- Exporting Member to be informed of postponed discussions and explanation provided in writing

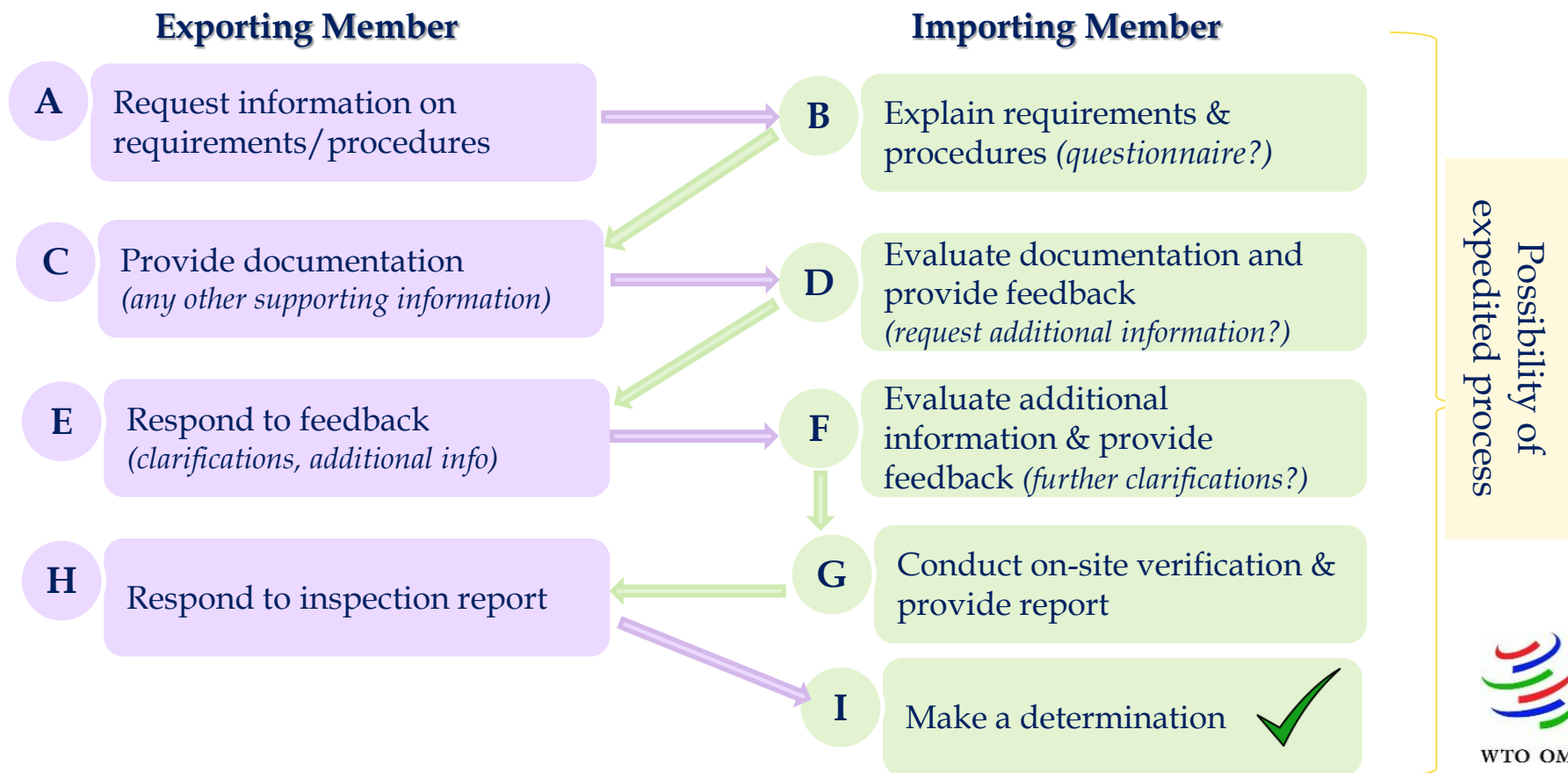




## 2. Relevant guidelines on Regionalization (G/SPS/48)

### Typical administrative steps in the recognition process

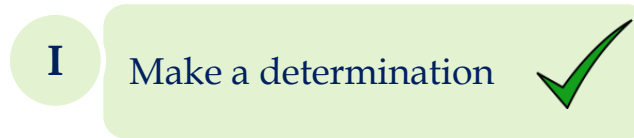
“..Members have the sovereign right to **determine their own processes** for the evaluation of requests for recognition of pest- or disease-free areas” (para. 19)





## 2. Relevant guidelines on Regionalization (G/SPS/48)

### Typical administrative steps in the recognition process



#### Decision **to recognize** areas

- Necessary administrative or legal steps taken to facilitate trade from exporting Member
- Modification of existing SPS regulations or elaboration of new ones, as necessary

#### Decision **not to recognize** areas

- Technical grounds for the determination provided to the exporting Member
- If appropriate, the exporting Member can modify and adapt its system with a view to submit future requests for recognition.



## 2. Relevant guidelines on Regionalization (G/SPS/48)

### Typical administrative steps in the recognition process

I

Make a determination

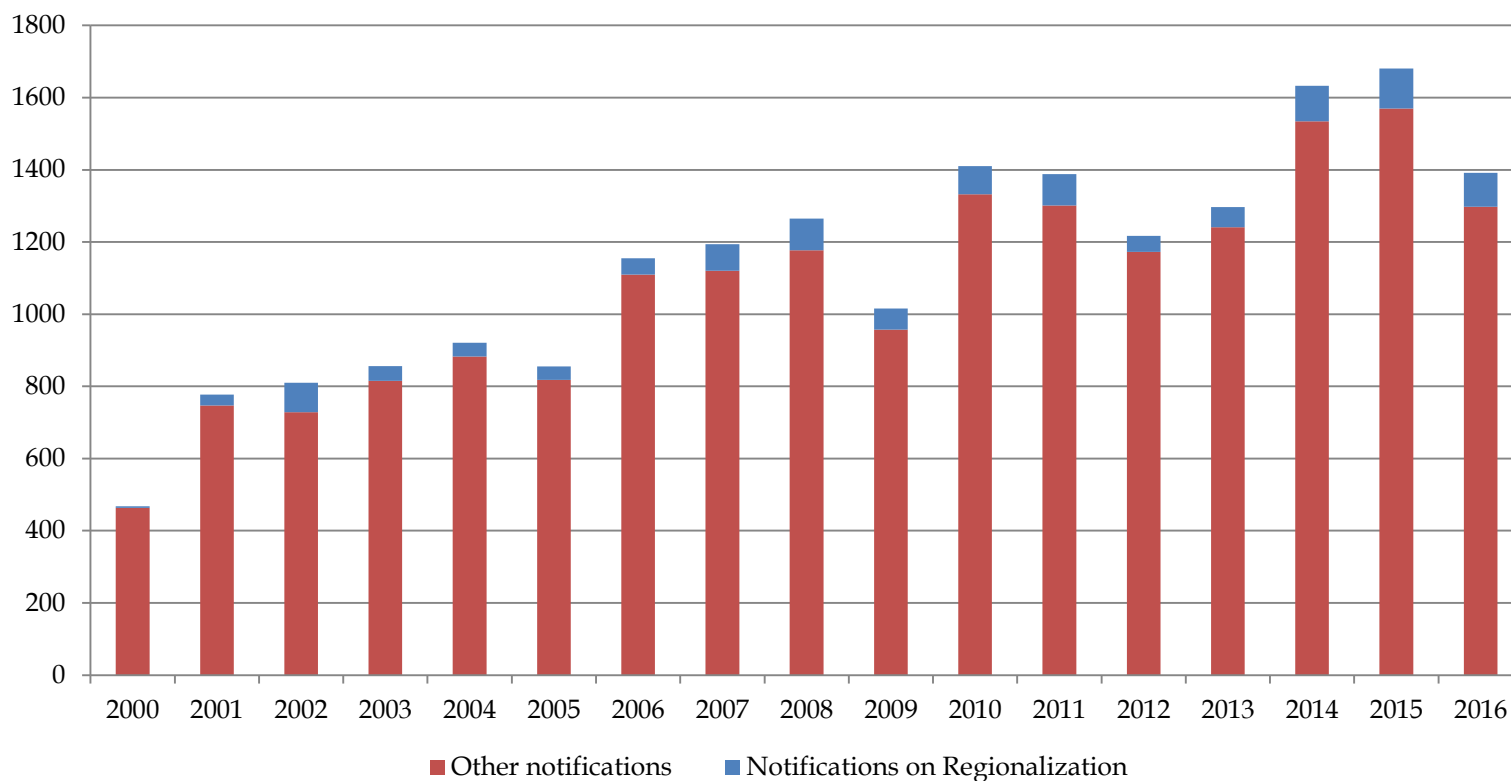


### Monitoring of the Implementation of Article 6

- Members encouraged to provide information on:
  - requests for recognition
  - determinations of recognition
  - experiences in the implementation of Article 6
- Annual report prepared by the Secretariat (most recent report - G/SPS/GEN/1552)



### 3. SPS Committee and Regionalization Statistics on Notifications



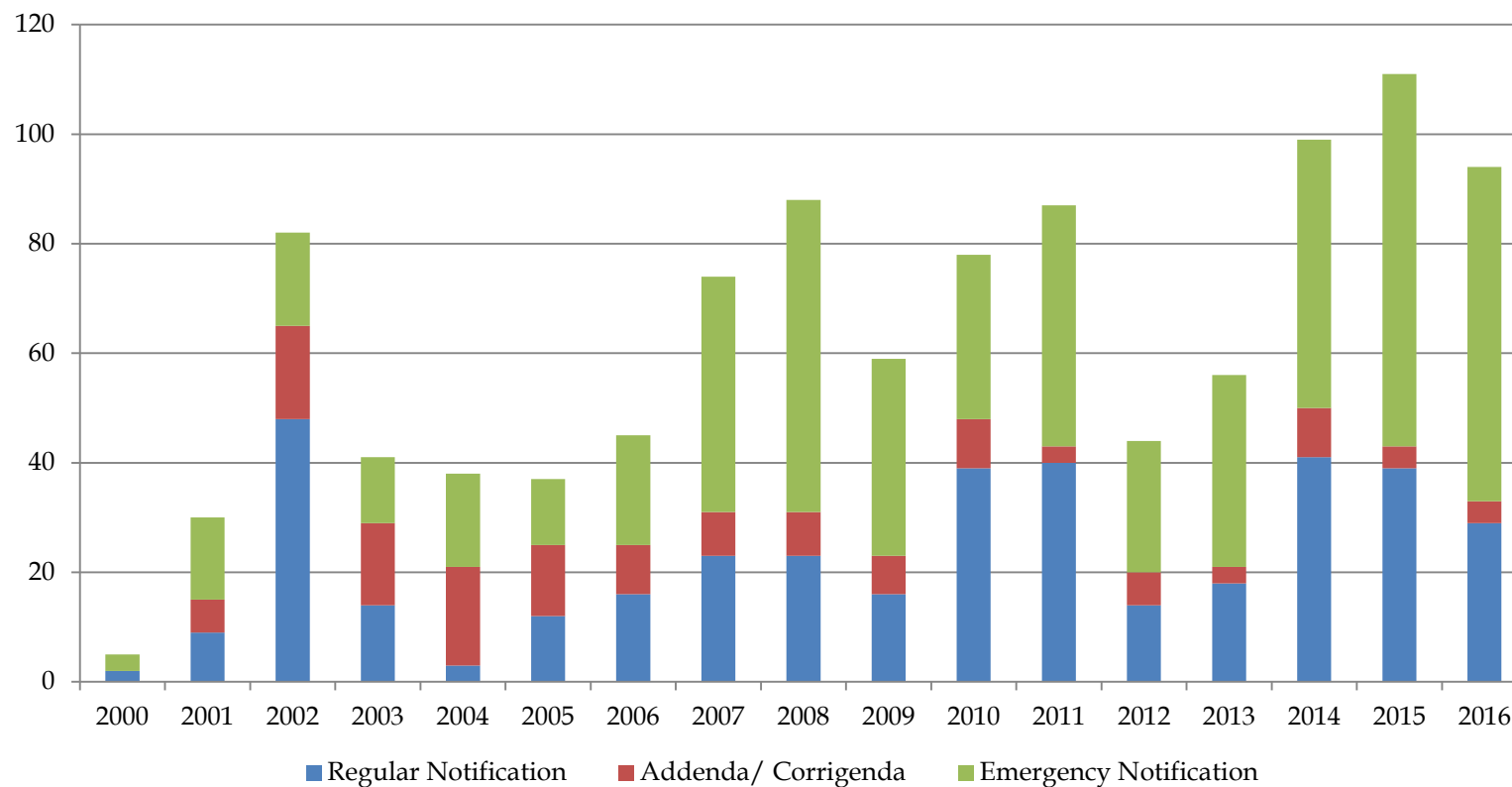
Total notifications = 19,335

Notifications on Regionalization = 1,068



### 3. SPS Committee and Regionalization Statistics on Notifications

Notifications on Regionalization





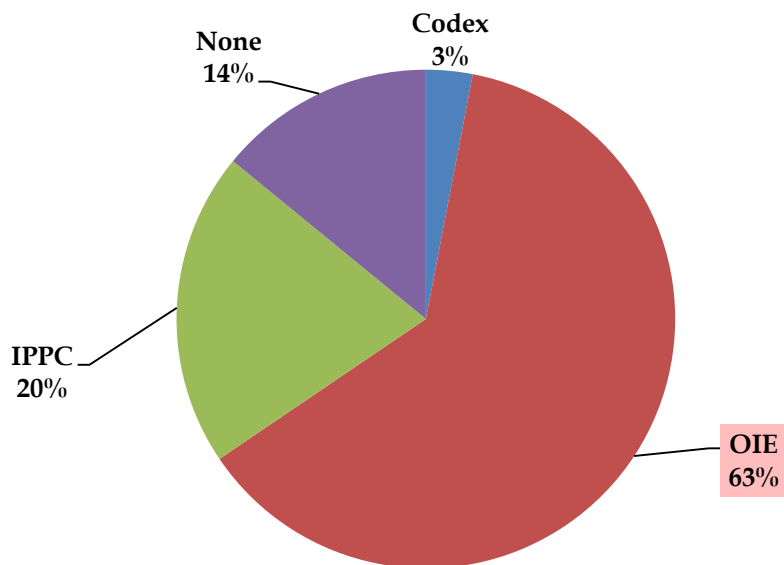


### 3. SPS Committee and Regionalization

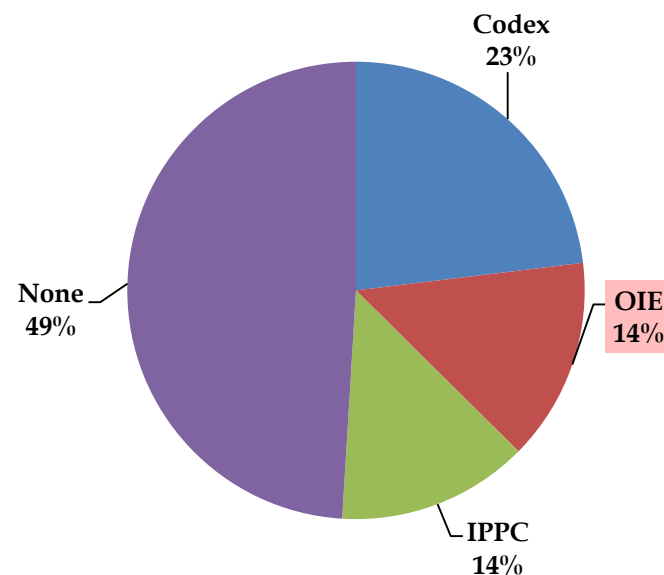
## Statistics on Notifications

Is there a relevant international standard?

All Notifications on Regionalization



All Notifications

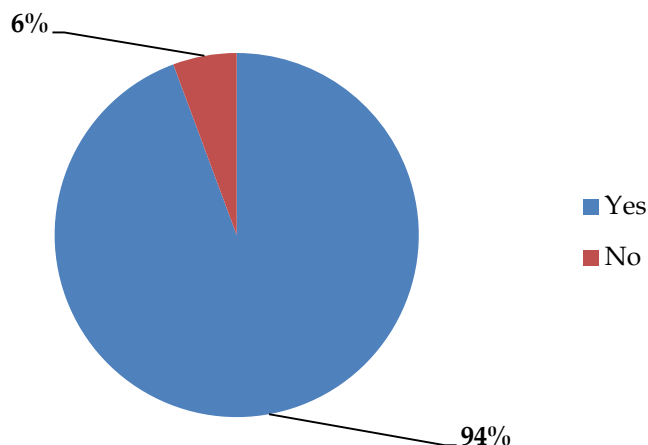




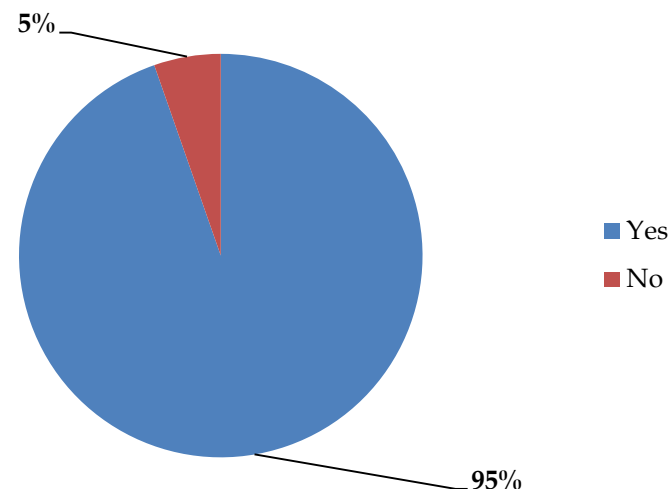
### 3. SPS Committee and Regionalization Statistics on Notifications

#### Conformity with OIE standards?

Conformity with OIE - Notifications on  
Regionalization



Conformity with OIE - All notifications

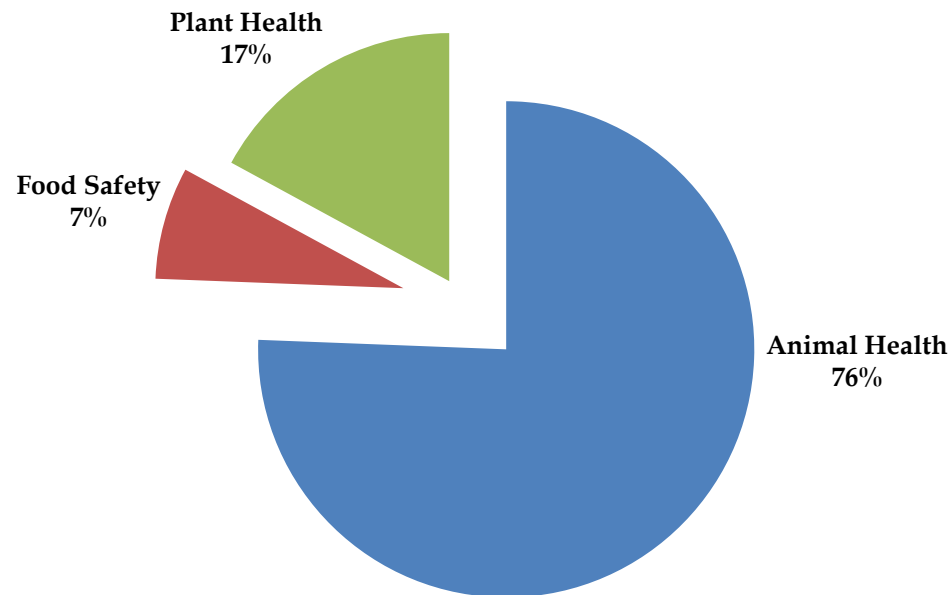




### 3. SPS Committee and Regionalization Statistics on Specific Trade Concerns (STCs)

ALL STCs = 421

#### Specific Trade Concerns on Regionalization



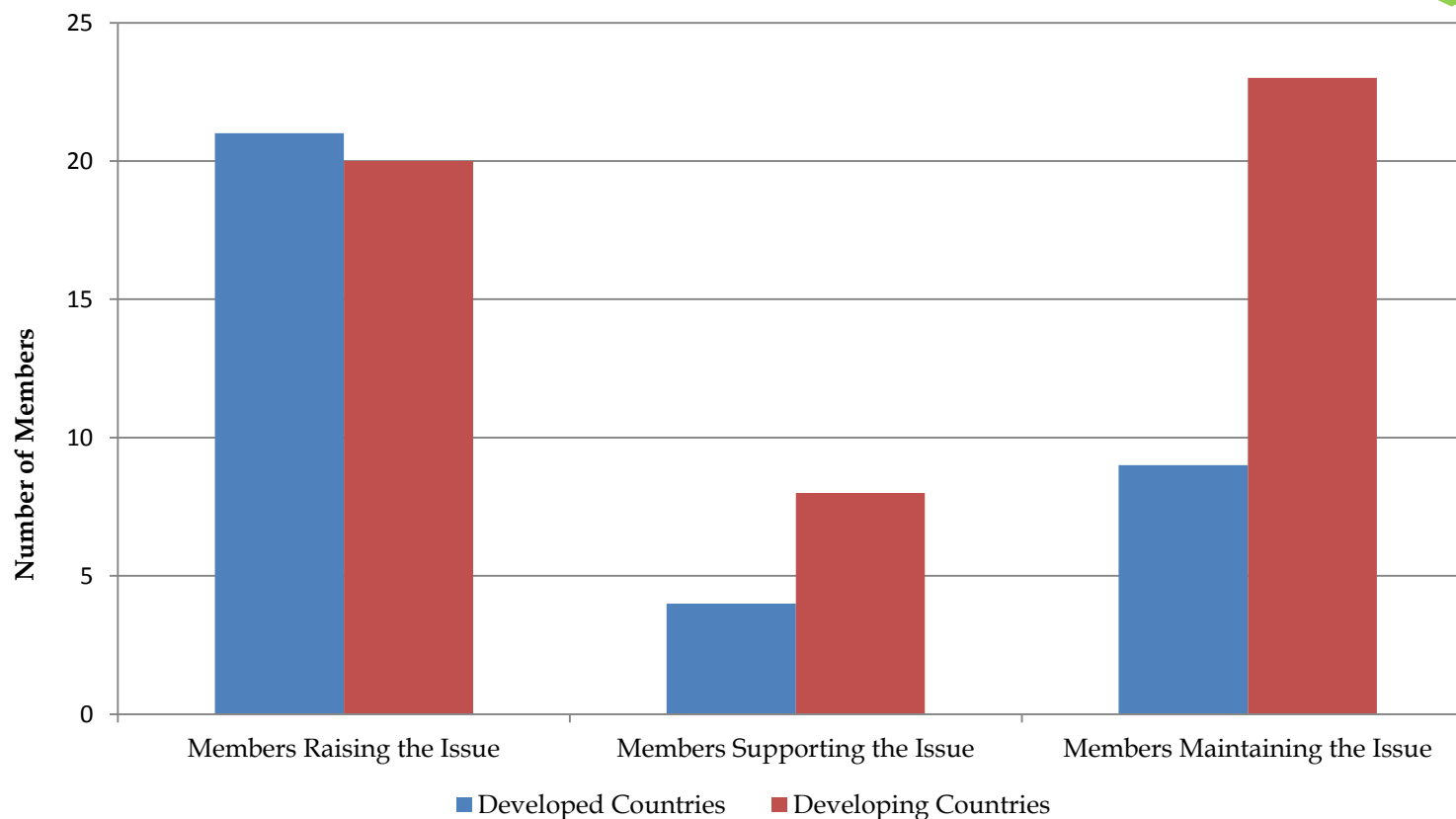
STCs on Regionalization = 38



### 3. SPS Committee and Regionalization Statistics on Specific Trade Concerns (STCs)

#### STCs on Regionalization

16 STCs resolved or partially resolved



Thank you!

