Role of Technical Cooperation in Enhancing SPS–related Market Access

“Analysis of veterinary drug residues in veterinary food products: Honey, meat and dairy food items”
Main Target: Allow Lebanon to become on the list of eligible countries for honey export to the EU.
- Ensure honey exported to Europe is free from veterinary drug & Pesticide residues and conform with the EU correspondent regulation.

Key activities
1. Coordination with the Ministry of Agriculture
2. Systematic Monitoring of beekeepers practices and residue in the honey locally produced
3. Train Laboratory staffs on residue analysis in honey matrix // Apply for technical assistance through TAIEX
TAIEX is the Technical Assistance and Information Exchange instrument managed by the Directorate-General Enlargement of the European Commission. TAIEX supports partner countries with regard to the approximation, application and enforcement of EU legislation.

Needs Assessment
Expert missions for two weeks//2 TAIEX missions application

Justifying “TAIEX” need
Enhancement of Lebanon’s export potential by modernization of the sanitary and phytosanitary systems
Implementation
◦ TAIEX expert missions approved & executed in Nov 2011 & June 2012.

Outcomes
◦ Lebanon accepted on the list of countries eligible to export honey to Europe since 2012.
◦ Laboratory doing routine analysis of residues in honey since June 2012 & in meat and milk since Nov 2012.
◦ Laboratory is working for accreditation process early 2014
◦ Monitoring of residues opens export opportunities but also improved safety level of all locally produced and imported honey, meat and milk products.
Although we didn’t yet take advantages of honey export… Lebanon’s TAIEX Experience input and output proved very successful and results driven.

- Residue analysis opens export opportunities:
  - For chicken eggs;
  - For the growing organic food sector to Europe.

- Taiex missions can serve developing countries to learn preparing reliable risk assessment studies // key tool in the SPS solving conflicts.