Application of the Multi-Criteria Decision Analysis Framework in Belize

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The Role of Technical Co-operation in Enhancing SPS-related Market Access
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Background

- Belize - only English speaking nation in Central America
- Population of about 300,000 (2007)
- Agricultural based economy with fisheries being very important along with the growing and vibrant tourism sector
- Modernized its agricultural health services in 2000 through the establishment of a single agency responsible for agricultural health and food safety
Introduction

- The Belize Agricultural Health Authority (BAHA) is responsible for animal health, plant health, food safety and quarantine
- Has four (4) technical departments
- It administers its own budget – thus any programme in the respective disciplines would need to come from the same pool of resources.
- Given the rising demand for services, limited financial allocations – urgent need to prioritize SPS capacity building options
Approach Taken

- Applied to the STDF for a Project Preparation Grant for the application of the MCDA framework/Project Grant to the amount of $30,000.00 USD approved
- An international consultant was hired to work with BAHA (the implementing agency for this Project)
- Stakeholders were invited to participate in the process and these included: exporters, producers, processing facilities, academia, Ministry of Health, Legal Counsel, Ministry of Economic Development, Ministry of Investment and Trade, Ministry of Agriculture, Belize Trade and Investment Development Service, OIRSA, USDA/AHPHIS, staff from the four technical departments in the Authority
Key Considerations

• The country’s capacity and health status
  • existing and potential exports
• SPS requirements (market access)
• Criteria with assigned weights for the prioritization process
• Filtering process to distinguish between production/market/SPS issues
Criteria

• **Cost and Difficulty of Implementation**
  - Upfront investment; Ongoing cost and Difficulty of implementation

• **Trade Impact**
  - Change in absolute value of exports; Trade diversification – products; Trade diversification – markets

• **Domestic Agri-food impact**
  - Agricultural/fisheries productivity; Domestic public health and Environmental protection

• **Socio-economic Impact**
  - Impact on employment; Poverty impact and Impact on vulnerable groups
Results Obtained

- Out of 21, Eight (8) SPS capacity building options prioritized
- Two (2) different government ministries identified national funds to enhance SPS capacity
- Private sector investing more to meet requirements for new markets;
- Data and information available now for future SPS-related project proposals
- A new commodity attained market access & market value for that commodity doubled (rise in price – buyer initiative);
- Agriculture Department seeking to apply the tool to prioritize areas of food security, export diversification and income generation
Conclusion

- More information on the Results can be obtained from the website of the Standards and Trade Development Facility
  - [www.standardsfacility.org](http://www.standardsfacility.org)
  - Project
  - Select Project Grants and click on STDF/PG/365
    - Application Form
    - MCDA report
    - Final Report

- Or by sending an email to Belize’s SPS Enquiry Point at BAHASPS@BTL.NET