Experiences of Papua New Guinea and other Pacific Island Countries in leveraging resources for Risk Assessments

Papua New Guinea (PNG) and the Pacific Island Countries (PICs) of Fiji, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu have the same problem of resource constraints as any other developing country. PNG applies stringent border (biosecurity) controls and institutes restrictive import controls on all imported products of animal or plant origin, a practice that is not too dissimilar to the aforementioned PICs.

The countries undertake varying (appropriate) levels of risk assessments depended on their capacity, their policy space, perceived importance of a particular industry, biodiversity and to achieve their appropriate level of protection. The capacity of the countries to undertake risk assessments is greatly hampered by resource constraints and the absence of relevant policy and regulatory support.

The presentation discusses how RAs are undertaken in the above mentioned countries, provides some examples of leveraging resources to address financial, technical including skilled human resources and information generation, sourcing and exchange deficiencies. It also shares some of the lessons learnt.

Sidney Suma
STDF Developing Country Expert, Papua New Guinea.