Transition from using Email to disseminate SPS and TBT Notifications to Adoption and Implementation of ePing Notification Alert System in Uganda

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Background

- United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) in collaboration with Uganda Govt. (Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives)
  - Conducted a survey to establish level of utilization of Trade-related International Support Measures (ISMs)
    - Special & Differential Treatment in WTO Agreements
  - Identify & implement measures to address constraints impeding utilization of ISMs
  - Existing SPS & TBT National Notification Mechanism was not disseminating notifications to final users (Fragmented)
  - Recommendation: establish an Electronic SPS/TBT Notification Alert System (ePing)
- Uganda: Among ePing pilot countries (Australia, Lesotho, Nepal, The Gambia)
Notifications Dissemination Mechanism Prior to Adoption and Implementation of ePing

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**WTO SECRETARIAT**
**(SPS/TBT IMS, WEEKLY EMAIL)**

**SPS/TBT NEPs**
**(REVIEWED & SORTED FOR RELEVANCY)**

**NATIONAL TBT/SPS COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

**EMAIL TRANSMISSION**

- **MINISTRIES**
- **DEPARTMENTS**
- **REGULATORY BODIES**
  - **PRODUCERS**
  - **MANUFACTURERS**
  - **EXPORTERS**

- **MTIC/UN DESA** Kampala Joint workshop, **July 2015**:  
  - ePing was introduced to stakeholders (public/private);  
  - Stakeholders reviewed the functionalities of ePing  
    ✓ Proposed new functionalities e.g. Discussion forum, Favourites  
  - Hands-on familiarization training was conducted by DESA
- **Tested** ePing functionalities (existing/new);  
- Provided **feedback** to ePing Development Team  
  - Used to refine ePing
Adoption and Implementation of ePing in Uganda – Training, Promotion and Registration of Users

• Training on **SPS & TBT Agreements & Transparency Procedures**
  - Build capacity for reviewing notifications & notified draft TBT/SPS measures

• Training in using **ePing** functionalities

• **Registration of Stakeholders** in ePing
  - Receive **SPS/TBT notifications** as **Email Alerts**
Implementation of ePing in Uganda – Training and Registration of Private Sector Stakeholders

- EPs collaborated with Private Sector Associations to Promote, Train & Register stakeholders
- Board approach: adopted to mitigate funding challenges
- Sectoral approach - used to promote, train & register users:
  - Manufacturing
  - Organic
  - Fisheries
  - Flowers/fruits & vegetables
Implementation of ePing in Uganda – Training and Registration of Public Sector Stakeholders

• Central government: officials of Ministries, Departments & Regulatory Authorities

• District Local Governments - In-country Regional Approach adopted

• 4 Regional Trainings:
  ▪ Eastern region (March 16);
  ▪ Northern region (May 16);
  ▪ Western region (June 16);
  ▪ Central region (June 16).

  • Marketing, Commercial, Veterinary and Production Officials;
  • District level Enterprises & Private sector associations and Institutions.
Take Home Points

• Use National SPS/TBT Committees to obtain feedback from Stakeholders on ePing;

• Regular promotion, training and registration of new users: Staff turn-over, new enterprises, etc.;

• Special attention be given to promote ePing to MSMEs: bigger change in obtaining SPS & TBT import requirements;

• Take advantage of National, Regional & International SPS/TBT trainings/workshops/seminars/side events to promote and register new users.
Thank you