Canada’s National SPS Coordination Mechanisms

Annie Bourque,
Canadian Food Inspection Agency
Purpose

• Provide an overview of Canada’s national coordination mechanisms relating to SPS matters
Use of Coordination Mechanisms

• Canada uses coordination mechanisms to undertake consultations to develop positions and strategies for international initiatives on SPS matters

• For example:
  – Develop positions for international organizations including WTO activities and engagement at Codex, the OIE, and the IPPC
  – Formulate approaches to seek to resolve trade concerns
SPS Responsibilities in Canada

**Canadian Food Inspection Agency**
- Sets measures and enforces regulations for plant and animal health
- Enforces food safety measures
- Head of delegation at WTO SPS Committee.
- Co-leads FTA negotiations on SPS.
- Leads Canada’s engagement at OIE and IPPC
- Co-leads Canada’s engagement at Codex.
- Facilitates market access

**Health Canada**
- Conducts risk assessment and sets food safety measures
- Evaluates safety and sets MRLs for veterinary drugs used in food producing animals and for pesticides
- Codex Contact Point for Canada and co-leads Canada’s engagement at Codex

**Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada**
- Improves and maintains market access for agriculture and agri-food products
- Promote agriculture competitiveness, sustainability, and innovation

**Global Affairs Canada**
- Works to improve and maintain market access for Canadian businesses, including the negotiation of international trade agreements.
- Co-leads FTA negotiations on SPS
- Houses Canada’s Notification Authority and Enquiry Point for the WTO SPS Agreement

Safeguards the health of Canadians and Canada’s resource base while facilitating market access for Canadian food, plants, and animals
Characteristics of Canada’s Coordination Mechanisms

• Holistic approach to incorporate a broad range of views

• Utilize formal and informal mechanisms that are flexible in order to address a wide range of topics

• Include regulatory and trade policy experts

• Include external stakeholders’ perspectives – industry, academia, and consumers

• Adaptive to evolving priorities in international trade

• Consult with trading partners, as appropriate
Example: SPS Committee Preparations

• Canada’s approach to the WTO SPS Committee meeting undergoes a rigorous consultation process

• Regular consultations are held with technical and trade policy experts to achieve consensus on:
  • Policy work
  • Bilateral meetings held on the margins of the WTO
  • Interventions to raise during the formal meeting.

• Detailed meeting report is used for information sharing following the Committee meeting.
Outcome

• Through National SPS Coordination Mechanisms Canada’s SPS positions and strategies are consistent with Canada’s regulatory approach, reflect Canada’s trade interests, and take into consideration stakeholder perspectives
Questions?

cfia.wto-omc.acia@canada.ca