FAO support to the COMESA Trade Facilitation Programme (TFP)

SPS component and output 4.1.2: Adoption of good practices in food import control
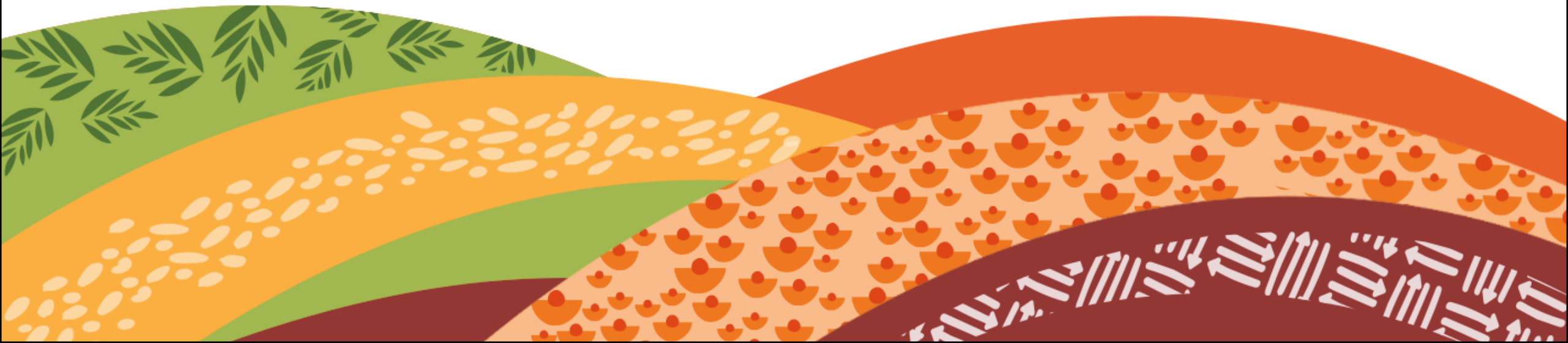
Context of our assistance: COMESA Trade Facilitation programme,

Funded by the EU under the 11th EDF

5 result areas

- Improved resolution of Non Tariff Barriers

- Enhanced implementation of the WTO Trade Facitlitation Agreement

- Strengthen Coordinated Border Management and trade transport facilitation at targeted Border Posts

- Improved levels of implementation of harmonized science based SPS measures and technical standards

- Enhanced trade services, free movement of persons, trade negotiations and trade promotions

Result Area	Description	Responsible
RA-1	Improved monitoring and resolution of NTB	
RA-2	Enhanced implementation of the WTO TFA	COMESA/UNCTAD
RA-3	Strengthen CBM and Trade Transport Facilitation - at targeted border posts in COMESA /tripartite region	COMESA/UNCTAD
RA-4	Improved levels of implementation of harmonized, science based SPS measures and technical standards	COMESA/FAO
RA-5	Enhanced Trade in Services, Free Movements of Persons, Trade Negotiations, and Trade Promotions	COMESA

- COMESA NTB's Elimination Mechanism
- Design and implementation of regional standards and uniform procedures

- Establishment of the COMESA Regional Trade Information Portals (CRTIP)
- training for electronic single window ASYCUDA World

COMESA Electronic Certificate of Origin system
Border upgrade projects

4.1. Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary measures: FAO's work focus

4.1.1 Capacities built for risk-based food safety decision making and regional harmonization of regulatory measures for selected commodities of regional trade importance

4.1.2 Process of adoption of good practices in food import control and in domestic food facility inspection is advanced

6 COMESA MS

4.1.4 Creation of a networking platform for sharing information on risks to plant health

4.1.5 National Plant Protection Organizations are strengthened

Codex texts and FAO guidance

CXG 19-1995	Principles and Guidelines for the Exchange of Information in Food Safety Emergency Situations
CXG 20-1995	Principles for Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification
CXG 25-1997	Guidelines for the Exchange of Information between Countries on Rejections of Imported Foods
CXG 26-1997	Guidelines for the Design, Operation, Assessment and Accreditation of Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems
CXG 34-1999	Guidelines for the Development of Equivalence Agreements Regarding Food Imports and Export Inspection and Certification Systems
CXG 38-2001	Guidelines for Design, Production, Issuance and Use of Generic Official Certificates
CXG 47-2003	Guidelines for Food Import Control Systems
CXG 53-2003	Guidelines on the Judgement of Equivalence of Sanitary Measures associated with Food Inspection and Certification Systems
CXG 60-2006	Principles for Traceability / Product Tracing as a Tool Within a Food Inspection and Certification System
CXG 82-2013	Principles and Guidelines for National Food Control Systems
CXG 89-2016	Principles and guidelines for the exchange of information between importing and exporting countries to support the trade in food
CXG 91-2017	Principles and Guidelines for Monitoring the Performance of National Food Control Systems
CXG 93-2021	Principles and Guidelines for the assessment and use of voluntary third-party assurance programmes
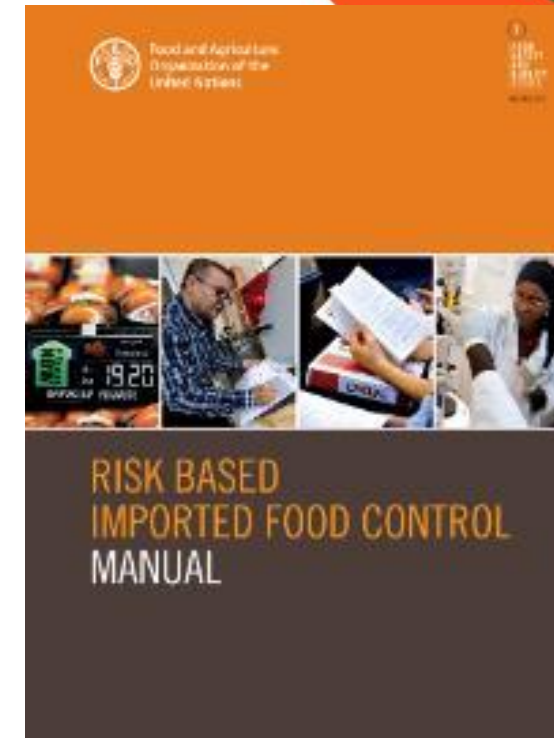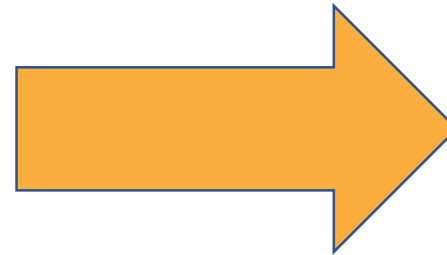
RISK BASED IMPORTED FOOD CONTROL MANUAL

Output 4.1.2 : Adoption of good practices in food import control and in domestic food facility inspection

Achievements to date

Egypt, Comoros, Djibouti, Madagascar, Sudan & Tunisia

Step 1: At country level

- Establishment of national inter-institutional **task forces** (NTF).

- Preparation and validation by NTFs of **national situation analysis reports** on the current status of import control and priorities needs for improvements.

- Finalization and endorsement of **strategic action plans** for the strengthening of imported food control programme.

- **Analysis of trade flows**, and elaboration of technical material for preparing training pathways

Step 2: At sub - regional level

- Implementation of **2 sub-regional training workshops** to develop risk-based food import framework:

  - Imported food control legislation- reflecting Codex Alimentarius principles

  - Coordination between competent authorities responsible for food imports and border control;

  - Risk-based food import control framework that characterises, prioritises and integrates hazards and risks

  - Determine support functions and resources

  - Food importers know and use good importing practices in line with regulations.

  - Establish relevant linkages with the domestic food control system

Step 3: At country level

⦿ Implementation of **training workshop** for Competent Authorities (CAs) on the risk categorization framework applied to food import control, as well as good import practices and operational inspection procedures

⦿ Development and stepwise validation of **standard operating procedures** (SOPs) for inspectors:

- Legal authority

- Information on collaboration and information flow

- Step by step process on review of documentation

- Process of physical product inspection

⦿ Development of **good import practices** (GIP) for operators (importers): 2 sections

- Definition and documentation.

- Storage and transport

Step 4: At sub - regional level

- Development and validation by NTFs of a **technical document for the exchange of information** between COMESA countries to support the trade in food:

  - Identification of the type of information pertaining to food trade and rejections of imported food

  - Codex guidance on the exchange of information among countries as the basis

  - A draft document on information exchange with two annexes: i) a standard format of information exchange about food rejections and, ii) A standard format of information exchange on food control systems

Thank you