

## SPS Project Document - Description of the Action

### 1. RATIONALE

#### 1.1 Strategic Framework

“The European Consensus on Development (ECD)”, signed on 20 December 2005 sets the general policy framework at the EU level. The primary and overarching objective of EU development policy is to reduce poverty in the context of sustainable development, paying particular attention to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Financial development cooperation is one of the three measures adopted by the EC to achieve the objective of smooth and gradual integration of the developing countries, including the Caribbean Forum (CARIFORUM) States, into the world economy. This cooperation is conducted primarily via the European Development Fund (EDF) which is a multiannual financial framework. The 10th EDF constitutes the financial framework for the period 2008-2013, and provides concrete support to the CARIFORUM States. CARIFORUM has been engaged in the formulation and implementation of successive Caribbean Regional Indicative Programs (CRIP), building upon and further consolidating the gains achieved by the region through the implementation of successive development programs and projects, under several EDF cycles.

Some successes have been achieved on the implementation of the 9th EDF CRIP, particularly in the following areas:

- I. Support to a range of measures to implement the CARICOM Single Market & Economy (CSME).
- II. Support for the external trade negotiations carried out by CARIFORUM States.
- III. Support for the improvement and harmonised production of economic statistical data at the regional and national levels in CARICOM.

On the basis of the gains of the 9<sup>th</sup> EDF above, the 10th EDF CRIP proposes programme interventions as follows:

- I. Economic Integration and Trade of the OECS States
- II. CSME and Economic Integration
- III. Wider CARIFORUM Cooperation Programme
- IV. CARIFORUM/DOM/OCT/EU/LAC Cooperation Programme
- V. Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) Implementation Programme

The countries of the Caribbean Forum of the ACP States (CARIFORUM) have all signed the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) with the European Union (EU). The CARIFORUM-EU

EPA is a single negotiated agreement that governs how the two regions will co-operate on a wide range of trade-related issues, including duties charged on imports of goods, the market standards they are required to meet, trade in services, and related policy areas such as competition policy and intellectual property rights.

The countries of the Caribbean Forum of the ACP States (CARIFORUM) intend to honor commitments made in the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA), to participate in the Joint Institutions of the EPA and to seek to take advantage of opportunities created by the EPA. However, these States face a variety of challenges in implementing the EPA and EPA-related commitments and in fully exploiting the opportunities which may be created by the EPA. As such, this Action seeks to provide the tools to strengthen the capacity of CARIFORUM states in critical areas with regard to institutional and technical support in sanitary and phytosanitary measures. The tools provided under the Action will enhance the competitiveness of CARIFORUM states to maintain and/or increase market access by complying with Europe's Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures. The Action will also facilitate CARIFORUM states to enhance the development of regional harmonized SPS measures which are critical to the development of the economies.

## **1.2 Lessons learnt**

IICA implemented an EU-funded project entitled "Strengthening Agricultural Quarantine Services" (SAQS) which was one of several sub-programmes under the Caribbean Agriculture and Fisheries Programme (CAFP) programme. A vital lesson learned from the SAQS programme is the importance of having a clearly defined and closely monitored implementation schedule to ensure that all expected results and objectives are achieved. The review of the project indicated that "the implementation arrangements were fairly complex but were reasonably well defined." Additionally, it is important to have ownership from the CARIFORUM states in order for there to be smooth execution of the project and to ensure sustainability of the actions initiated under the project.

The use of the log frame methodology in the design of the project in collaboration with the main partners provides baseline values without the intervention, and target values with and without the project for the regional interventions. From experience, IICA has demonstrated the effectiveness of the logical framework with Objectively Verifiable Indicators (OVIs) to facilitate Monitoring and Evaluation based on OVIs developed in consultation with the partners and stakeholders.

The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) and the CARICOM Secretariat have all learnt and recognize that involving communities in project design and implementation brings great benefits. Community participation is woven into many areas of project activity, and includes producer organizations and private agribusiness members on the Project Steering Committee (PSC) and the Technical Advisory Management Advisory Committees (TMACs) serviced by the CARICOM Secretariat.

With the decline in traditional export crops, agricultural development in the Caribbean has been focused on the development of a diversified commercial agriculture with a strong emphasis on entrepreneurship and agribusiness. Such interventions have met with limited success due to the limited institutional capacity and issues of on-farm productivity and competitiveness on regional and global markets. Generally, the support given to subsistence farming is inadequate and often with inadequate resources to have any significant impact. Lessons learnt from IICA's involvement in rural communities and with producer organizations, highlight the importance of implementing participatory methodologies to ensure ownership and leadership by the project beneficiaries.

The systematic incorporation of CRFM in the current project will further the goal of institutionalizing the agency's commitment to the letter and spirit of networking and collaborating with other bodies dedicated to supporting the transformation of agriculture in the region. This will also promote a more holistic approach to dealing with SPS issues in the agriculture sector.

IICA, CARICOM and CRFM have all learnt the importance of linking enabling institutional initiatives with appropriate coordination mechanisms regionally and nationally; and the human and physical capacity enhancement components required to improve production and marketing in CARIFORUM States in compliance with international standards and commitments undertaken under the EPA with the European Union (EU).

### **1.3 Complementary Actions**

The Action is consistent with the cooperation provisions contained in the EPA and the CARIFORUM states development strategy as presented in the Caribbean Regional Economic Integration and Cooperation Roadmap and reflects the priorities established by the CARIFORUM states. Progress towards effective and efficient national and regional SPS regimes is a priority area for the Caribbean Region. The CARICOM Secretariat, with assistance from its development partners, has implemented and continues to implement projects aimed at achieving that objective. Donor coordination activities ensure complementarities in the projects to be implemented and ensure that common approaches are applied in the design of programmes and projects.

In implementing its activities under the SPS component of the EPA programme, IICA, CCS and CRFM will work closely and collaborate with the three (3) other programmes under the 10th EDF, namely "Technical Barriers to Trade", "Enhanced competitiveness of CARIFORUM service suppliers" and "Increased competitiveness of regional rum producers". In this regard, IICA will coordinate activities with the CARICOM Regional Organization for Standards and Quality (CROSQ), Caribbean Export Development Agency (CEDA) and the West Indies Rum and Spirits

Producers Association Inc (WIRSPA), respectively. In particular, IICA will coordinate with CROSQ and CAHFSA in the development of standards in the areas of AHFS and fisheries and the strengthening the region's capacity to meet the SPS requirements of international trade in areas such as inspection and certification. CROSQ has already developed some standards for fish and fishery products and will be advancing its capacity to promote and harmonize accreditation and conformity assessment and can assist in the strengthening of identified regional laboratories for fisheries certification. CROSQ has already been cooperating and coordinating with CEDA in that CEDA is a member of the Project Steering Committee (PSC) for the recently launched "Strengthening the Capabilities of Testing Laboratories in the Caribbean to Reduce Technical Barriers to Trade" being implemented by CROSQ. CCS will coordinate with WIRSPA in increasing the competitiveness of regional rum producers from a production perspective in collaboration with CROSQ which has already developed a Specification for Rum.

The Banana Accompanying Measures (BAMS) benefitting the seven CARIFORUM states of Belize, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Jamaica, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Surinam, will enable the beneficiary countries to improve competitiveness in the banana sector and to support diversification where a sustained improvement in competitiveness of bananas is not possible, taking into consideration broader social, economic and environmental impacts. The aim of these measures is to support the countries in their adjustment process, as they are faced with new market conditions due to the reform of the Community banana regime. The presence of IICA on the country-specific Banana Accompanying Measures (BAMS) Implementing committees will ensure that we build on past support, and help to tackle broader consequences. Past programs funded by the EU to improve the competitiveness of the banana industries have been successful across the board, particularly with regard to application of SPS measures to maintain and improve the quality of bananas which met supermarket international standards, while protecting the environment. Hence desk review of lessons learnt and best practices of past interventions will ensure sustainability of the proposed Action.

The need for training and strengthening human capacity and physical facilities along the value/industry chain in the many agricultural and fisheries areas and disciplines, is evident from the findings of several recent assessments and studies such as the **CISP/CCS/2.2.2/SER07/08 Study on Strengthening the Capacity and Capability of Agricultural Health and Food Safety Laboratories and Systems in the Caribbean Community.**

The project will complement other EU- ACP initiatives by benefitting from the work being done at present in relation to the alleviation of the key binding constraints to agriculture managed by the CARICOM Secretariat. The implementation of the All ACP Agricultural Commodities Program in the Caribbean provided some basis for continued intervention in the agriculture sector in the Caribbean by further advancing the value chain initiatives started by the FAO/EU. The program will benefit from the development of the trade capacity through the "Trade.com" facility to the ACP member states.

Continuous efforts towards increased trade within the OECS states and at the global level, place a greater demand on quality and healthy foods for human consumption. Consumer and advocacy groups in the UK for OECS produce, continue to express demands for wholesome and nutritious foods and concerns for the protection of the environment and minimization of risk to human health from inputs used in agriculture and food production. The project will complement the 10<sup>th</sup> EDF Economic Integration and Trade of the OECS Region by establishing coordination mechanisms between the OECS secretariat and IICA Trinidad and Tobago to promote and strengthen agricultural practices in the OECS countries, as they relate to food production and distribution along the value chain and the treatment of plant and animal pests. The project will facilitate the adoption of environmentally sustainable and acceptable/advanced technologies to support OECS Member States' efforts to transform the agriculture sector.

IICA, CRFM and the CARICOM Secretariat are all cognizant of the fact that no one institution can implement the various components of this Action on its own. These institutions are involved in a number of agricultural development projects in the three broad areas defined for this Action. IICA has passed the institutional assessment by the EC which establishes that the agency's rules and standards offer guarantees equivalent to internationally accepted standards. All three institutions have a history of collaboration which augurs well for the implementation of the Action.

## **2 REGIONAL CONTEXT**

### **2.1 Economic and Social Situation**

The Caribbean region is highly diverse, with the 15 countries in CARIFORUM indicated for the 10<sup>th</sup> EDF support varying in size and levels of socio-economic development. There exist several distinct groupings of countries, specifically the small economies of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) (comprising Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and St. Kitts and Nevis), Barbados and the Bahamas. The continental countries of Guyana, Suriname and Belize, and the countries with relatively large populations (Dominican Republic, Haiti, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago), comprise the larger economies. Diversity is also reflected in agriculture within these economies, with contributions to Gross Domestic Product (GDP), exclusive of value generated by agro-industry and other agricultural production linkages, ranging from a low of 0.8% in Trinidad and Tobago to highs of 26% and 28% in Guyana and Haiti, respectively. The diversity in terms of resource endowments and development capacity at all levels has imposed certain challenges common to most developing countries.

The CARICOM Heads of Government Liliendaal Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security (July 2009) and the current Strategic Framework of Agricultural Development in CARICOM (formerly known as the "Jagdeo Initiative", which aims at alleviating key binding constraints to agriculture at national and regional levels), both underscore and validate the need for a coordinated, multi-sectorial regional responses to agricultural development in CARIFORUM.

The ongoing integration processes between CARICOM and the Dominican Republic provide further justification for The Action.

Among these key and complementary initiatives, common challenges for priority regional action are:

- i. Inadequate financing and investment in the sector.
- ii. Inefficient and outdated Agricultural Health and Food Safety Regulations.
- iii. Inadequate Land and Water Resource Distribution.
- iv. Deficient and uncoordinated Disaster Risk Management, including Praedial larceny and early warning systems.
- v. Weak marketing systems, linkages and marketing development.
- vi. Inadequate research and development.
- vii. Inadequate skilled human resources.
- viii. Fragmented and disorganized private sector with inappropriate policies and incentives to encourage a strong agriculture private sector with Public-Private sector partnerships.
- ix. Inadequate transportation system.
- x. Insufficient emphasis on the more vulnerable rural groups such as indigenous and other tribal peoples, youth and women to bring them into the economic mainstream.

The combined thrust of the Liliendaal Declaration and the focused strategy for the alleviation of the key binding constraints to agriculture, underpin the implementation of intervention strategies to fundamentally transform the agriculture sector in the Caribbean into one that is market oriented, internationally competitive and contributes to the sustainability of food and nutrition security.

Food and nutrition security is a shared objective in the region as most CARIFORUM States have been designated Net-Food Importing Developing Countries (NFIDCs). Anxieties are increasing over the adverse consequences and impacts of rising levels of dietary-related illnesses and diseases (Chronic Non-Communicable Diseases – CNCs) among a wider cross-section of the region's populations. Such impacts are already evident on livelihood systems and income earning capacities, particularly amongst women and youth in the rural communities.

## **2.2 Agriculture Sector Context**

In order for CARIFORUM States to address their food securities concerns and increase their earnings from agricultural and fisheries trade, it is critical for them to develop effective national agricultural and fisheries health and food safety systems. This is especially so in light of the continuing global financial crisis, rising feed and food prices, and rising cost of inputs to agriculture. Often in CARIFORUM States sustainable investments are negated by rejection of shipments of goods, trade disputes and inadequate knowledge and interpretation of

agricultural, forestry and fisheries foreign market requirements among regulators, primary stakeholders and end users in the Region. The current status of the systems and infrastructure in CARIFORUM States for achieving acceptable SPS standards for export of agriculture, forestry and fisheries products is rudimentary and weak. As net food importers, inadequate SPS systems and infrastructure predispose CARIFORUM States to increased probability and possibility of more harmful economic incidences of pest threats to plant and animal life, food borne illnesses and diseases, and zoonotic disease transfer to humans.

In most CARIFORUM States, effective SPS measures are undermined by the existence of fragmented legislation, multiple jurisdictions and inadequate enforcement. Additionally, some countries have been using agricultural health and food safety legislation that dates as far back as the early 1900s. Independent efforts have been made in some countries to upgrade existing legislation and regulations to meet the demands of importing countries especially in the areas of fish and fisheries products, poultry and dairy. The availability of regional models for the legislative framework will assist countries in the process of upgrading their own legislation and bring a degree of harmonization to the SPS legislation across the Region.

In addition, the jurisdiction for management of SPS issues tends to be scattered among various agencies in CARIFORUM States. Coordination of the SPS functions of the various competent authorities at the national and regional levels will serve to more efficiently and coherently coordinate agricultural health and food safety nationally and regionally, and allow meaningful and active participation and influence in the international arena. Fifteen CARIFORUM States have established a regional agency – the Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency (CAHFSA) with the objective of developing and implementing an effective SPS regime which facilitates trade in agricultural products. CAHFSA will deliver those programs which could be delivered more efficiently and effectively at the regional level (for example the harmonization of legislation), assist in coordinating the diverse stakeholders involved in SPS activities across the region and assist Member States to develop and strengthen their own agricultural health and food safety systems. CAHFSA is mandated to avoid duplication of actions engaged in by other agencies, and to make vital links with other regional and international agencies. CAHFSA requires initial support in the development of an effective coordinating mechanism and networking system.

### **2.3 Fisheries Sub Sector Context**

While the fisheries sub-sector has great economic potential, significant improvement is needed in post-harvest handling, preparation, processing, quality control and marketing of fish and fish products in the CARIFORUM States. There has been reduced access to global markets for fishery products due to insufficient capacity in the fisheries sub-sector to respond to international health and sanitary requirements. Health controls will be strengthened by implementing quality and food safety measures at the production level and by implementing quality and food safety measures (such as HACCP). Attention will also be paid to the implementation of regional environmental monitoring and regional residue monitoring programs. Systems for monitoring of water quality used in agricultural industries (including

water for irrigation) are not intensively monitored or regulated. This aspect of the agriculture and fisheries industry is under increasing scrutiny in the markets of the developed countries such as the EU and the USA, and in some instances may result in the non-certification and rejection of products in these markets.

Physical infrastructure must also be established to provide support facilities such as laboratories, modern abattoirs, packing houses and cold storage, so that products entering the domestic and export markets pose insignificant risks to the health of plants, animals and humans.

The Action is directed towards creating and/or strengthening of the Regional and National SPS systems through systematic focus on:

- a) the establishment of a sound and comprehensive national and regional legislative framework for plant and animal health, including fisheries, food safety, and related environmental monitoring;
- b) the development and organization of an efficient responsive institutional framework and mechanism for coordination of SPS issues at both the national and regional level (NAHFS Agencies/Committees/Competent Authorities, CAHFS, CRFM, Comité Nacional para la Aplicación de Medidas Sanitarias y Fitosanitarias – Dominican Republic (CNMSF) and attendant technical committees and groups) including the development of programs and information systems to aid the coordination process; and
- c) The development of the human and physical capacity and infrastructure to support the SPS regime. This will inherently aim to improve the capacity of public and private sector stakeholders in elements related to the application of good agricultural, manufacturing and laboratory practices, HACCP and risk analyses, identification of pests and diseases and food hazards.

### **3 DESCRIPTION**

#### **3.1 Objectives**

The programme on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) is one component of the 10<sup>th</sup> EDF Programme titled “Support to the Forum of Caribbean States in the implementation of the commitments undertaken under the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA)”.

The overall objective of the 10<sup>th</sup> EDF Programme is to support the beneficial integration of the CARIFORUM states into the world economy and the overall objective of the SPS programme is to facilitate CARIFORUM States to gain and improve market access by complying with Europe’s Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures and to help CARIFORUM states to better develop their own regionally harmonized SPS measures.

The specific **objective** of the SPS programme is to increase production and trade in agriculture and fisheries which meet international standards while protecting plant, animal and human health and the environment. The outcomes of the Action are expected to improve the following three components:

- ***Legislation, protocols, standards, measures and guidelines in the area of AHFS and fisheries for national and regional SPS regimes:*** to enhance CARIFORUM Agricultural Health and Food Safety (AHFS) efforts and strengthen enforcement of protocols, standards, measures and guidelines for increased production and marketing in agriculture and fisheries.
- ***National and regional coordination mechanisms in the support of the SPS regime:*** to support implementation of the SPS measures in the CARIFORUM member states.
- ***National and regional regulatory and industry capacity to meet the SPS requirements of international trade:*** to support and enhance the institutional capacity of national and/or regional regulatory bodies and industry in the agriculture sector, including the fisheries subsector, to meet the SPS requirements of international trade.

## **3.2 Expected Results (ER) And Main Actions**

### *3.2.1 Expected Results (ER)*

The Action aims to enhance progress towards the development and establishment of effective and efficient national and regional Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) regimes to overcome the challenges of limited regional/national administrative capacity concerning compliance with international Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Measures:

- **ER.1** Strengthened legislation, protocols, standards, measures and guidelines in the area of Agriculture Health and Food Safety (AHFS) and fisheries;
- **ER.2** Enhanced national and regional coordination mechanisms in the support of the SPS regime developed and established in the CARIFORUM states;
- **ER.3** Strengthened national and regional regulatory and industry capacity to meet the SPS requirements of international trade.

The three main results expected under this Programme reflect the common priorities of CARIFORUM and the sense of urgency required to strengthen the response capacities from a regional perspective. Regional multi-stakeholder mechanisms, including but not limited to the Technical Management Advisory Committees (TMACs) established by Council for Trade and

Economic Development (COTED) and the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM), will play an important supportive role in giving effect to this regional response.

*3.2.2 Main Actions – to achieve the expected results, the project will implement the following three sets of actions:*

**Action 1: Develop model legislation, protocols, standards, measures and guidelines in the area of Agricultural Health and Food Safety (AHFS) including fisheries**

While the animal health and plant protection model legislation for CARICOM countries has been discussed and drafted, the required steps for regional and national adoption now need to be implemented. There is yet the requirement for further approval and consensus by the community of regional and national legal authorities and the leaders of Governments to secure harmonization and adoption of legislation. In the area of food safety, strengthening of the existing draft model legislation requires both technical and legal review at all levels before proceeding with finalization.

Additionally, for all three pieces of model legislation, the required supporting regulations must be formulated and finalized in order to achieve the basic SPS legislative reform for CARIFORUM countries. Therefore, activities with respect to legislation will include the finalization of the regional legislation on animal health and on plant protection, as well as the review and closure of the technical and legal gaps in the existing draft Model Legislation and regulations on food safety. In addition, the regulations or protocols to make all these Acts operative will be developed.

In the case of fisheries, model legislation will be developed with the accompanying regulations, protocols, standards, measures and guidelines. The activities will include the review of existing fisheries legislation, including fish health and fisheries products and related legislation, drafting of the model legislation, review by Member countries with a listing/identification of the supporting regulations, protocols, standards, measures and guidelines required to be developed. Attention will also be paid to the necessary legislation/regulations required for instituting environmental and residual monitoring programs.

Expected Results:

While actions in this component will, directly and indirectly, positively impact all aspects of the Action, as a result of specific interventions in reforming and adjusting model legislation, protocols, standards, measures and guidelines in AHFS for the agriculture sector including the fisheries sub sector, it is expected that the following actions will also be undertaken:

- I. ***Plant Protection and Animal Health Model Legislation Finalized-*** Previous drafts of the model Bills for Plant Protection and Animal Health will be taken through the remaining process for finalization and recommendations by the Legal and Technical Officials to Heads of Government for adoption by Member Countries. CARICOM countries will have available model plant and animal health legislation for enactment at the national level, thereby bringing a more harmonized regulatory system for implementation of SPS

measures, while the Dominican Republic will have the opportunity to update its plant and animal legislation as deemed necessary.

II. ***Model Food Safety legislation developed-*** The existing food safety legislation in Member Countries is not comprehensive, neither is it cohesive. Legislation pertaining to many aspects of food safety is spread across multiple jurisdictions, including as in the Ministries of Agriculture, Health, Bureaus of Standards and Pesticide Control Boards and Departments. The preparation of model, all-encompassing food safety legislation will assist countries to manage, monitor and control a cohesive, modern food safety system at both the regional and national levels. It will also lead to a more effective monitoring, control and surveillance system for food borne disease alerts, responses/ preparedness, and enforcement of agreed actions. The duplication of efforts by the various agencies would be minimized giving clarity on jurisdiction of the various actors, stakeholders and consumers. CARIFORUM States will have model food safety legislation available for enactment and for the development of their own legislation.

III. ***Model Fish health and Fisheries products and related legislation developed-*** Legislation (Act and Regulations) is the base that provides guidelines for both the inspection service and the industry. The regulations dealing with post-harvest handling of fisheries products guide the inspectorate in the regulatory and monitoring measures to be taken to control the auto-control systems, implemented by management at the industry level. The regulations will also guide the industry as well as stipulate the requirements for fishery product facilities, establishments or factories, and lay down the base for the implementation of quality and safety assurance systems. The fisheries product Act will empower the inspectorate to enforce the Act and make it possible for the development of regulations. Also, it will empower the competent authority to implement the control, monitoring and inspection systems on land, with the fisheries Act doing the same on sea.

The expected outcome would be the improvement of the national health conditions and regulatory capacity for fisheries products. The legal framework to support inspection and regulation of imports and exports would be in place, thereby allowing for fisheries products to meet the internationally acceptable standards for trade; health of consumers protected at the national and international levels; and model fish health and fisheries products and related legislation finalized and adopted by the Member States.

IV. ***Relevant protocols/ standards/ guidelines /and accompanying model regulations developed-*** In addition to legislation and regulations, relevant protocols, standards and guidelines are necessary for the effective delivery of AHFS and fisheries services and to assist stakeholders to meet the requirements of trading partners. The quality and standard of agricultural and fisheries commodities will be improved through the application of the international best practices set out under the various standards, measures and protocols developed. Trained government officials such as extension, inspection and other officers will also be able to assist new and current enterprises in the use of HACCP, GAP, GMP, and good fisheries and aquaculture practices, while laboratory

officials will improve in their ability to apply modern GLP when engaging in diagnostics and laboratory testing as a consequence of the development of manuals for good laboratory applications. A further result would be the ability of countries to engage in mutual recognitions and equivalence initiatives in the conduct of agricultural and fisheries trade.

Priority Activities:

The activities under this section will further the development and harmonization of legislation and regulations governing import and export of agricultural and fisheries products, inspection, monitoring and control for safeguarding against the entry of pest and diseases including emergency response mechanisms for pest and disease alerts, preventive measures and common approaches to management. It will also address food safety measures critical to the welfare of the consuming public.

Insufficient common voluntary and mandatory protocols impede economies of scale in the use of national and regional resources for example those which could be derived from analytical and diagnostic systems and certification/accreditation mechanisms.

**Activities 1.1:** *Finalization of Plant Protection and Animal Health Model Legislation* - Validation of the Draft Bills on plant health and animal health to the competent legal authorities for review and recommendations to the Heads of Government; preparation and drafting of the accompanying (more than 20) supporting regulations in consultative meetings with Member States; regional consultation forums to finalize the regulations; meetings with the Competent Authority identified in the Legislation to promote enactment and implementation of the legislation and regulations; review of existing plant and animal health legislation, conduct of national consultations, and updating of the existing plant and animal health legislation for the Dominican Republic.

**Activities 1.2:** *Development of Model Food Safety legislation* - Update and completion of drafts of the model food safety legislation by drafters supported by regional technical and legal discussion forum; identification and drafting of supporting protocols and regulations; review by CARIFORUM States; development and implementation of a food safety framework through the establishment of a national food safety system and implementation of a national food inspection system in the Dominican Republic based on risk.

**Activities 1.3:** *Development of Model Fish Health and Fisheries Products and related Legislation* - Review of existing fish health and fisheries products and related legislation, including regulations (e.g. Fisheries Act and Regulations); draft model fish health and fisheries products and related legislation, including regulations ; conduct of national and regional level consultations to review the draft model fish health and fisheries products and related legislation, including regulations by CARICOM Member States and the Dominican Republic; finalization and adoption of the draft model fish health and fisheries products and related legislation, including regulations; and promotion of the enactment of the legislation in at least two States.

**Activities 1.4:** *Development of Relevant protocols/standards/guidelines / and accompanying model regulations* - Review, prioritization and incorporation, as needed, of relevant existing international protocols, standards and guidelines, including those contained in the already approved Strategic Plan for CAHFSA; preparation of drafts and finalize accompanying plant, animal, food safety and fisheries supporting regulations; development of additional protocols, standards and guidelines in the areas of HACCP, GAP, GMP, good fisheries and aquaculture practices and GLP; and forums for review and validation by the CARIFORUM countries. They will also be guided by lessons from past experiences and good practices and potential solutions emerging from the target groups themselves. Concerted efforts will be made to involve and work closely with national policy stakeholders to ensure alignment/linkages with regional policy and strategies.

**Action 2: Develop effective national and regional coordination mechanisms in the support of the SPS regime**

Based on best practices established internationally with the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), WTO/SPS and Codex Alimentarius, and in support of the role of NAHFS Agencies/Committees/Competent Authorities, CNMSF, Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency (CAHFSA) and CRFM *inter alia*, as coordination agencies, attention will also be paid to the establishment and or the reinforcement of the various national and regional technical and multidisciplinary Committees (for example, the Caribbean Animal Health Network (CaribVET), CPHDs, CVOs, Regional Pesticides Group, Invasive Species focal points fora and the related TWGs). These will be strengthened to provide technical discussion space, advice and recommendations critical to national policy and action and representation in the international community. Attention will also be given to enhancing the effective participation of CARIFORUM States in international SPS forums (Codex, IPPC, OIE WTO/SPS Meetings), by establishing the mechanisms for the much needed discussions and consensus-building at the national level and also for consensus-building and coordination of the positions at the regional level.

CARIFORUM States have also recognized that the development and application of harmonized regional and international agricultural and fisheries health and food safety measures, standards and guidelines, are the foundations and building blocks of a strong agriculture and fisheries trade base. The current challenge of food security reinforces the need for an even more committed and targeted approach to strengthen the agricultural and fisheries health and food safety systems in the Region. Given their small non-contiguous land masses, and human and financial constraints, it is recognized that some SPS actions could be achieved more efficiently and in a more cost effective manner if done collectively. The development of legislation, upgrading and use of laboratories, training, public education, establishment of databases and discussion forums on new and emerging issues, adoption of positions and input into the international forum and standard setting bodies, can all be done better through the development and linking of national and regional coordination mechanisms.

Activities will also focus on strengthening of the existing CAHFSA to provide support to CARICOM countries primarily through engagement and dialogue and the design of an information technology platform and communications system to facilitate the provision of a regional linkage with the NAHFS Agencies/Committees/Competent Authorities and a platform for information sharing, training and dialogue. Formal links will be established between the CNMSF in the Dominican Republic and CAHFSA, and legal instruments will be developed with regional and international organizations such as CROSO, CRFM and the IPPC.

#### Expected Results:

Several studies and assessments of the agricultural health and food safety systems have been conducted in the past and have cited the need for better coordination at both national and regional levels. The most recent being the *Study for the Support for the Caribbean Forum of ACP States in the implementation of commitments undertaken under the SPS Measures Charter of the CARIFORUM\_EC/EPA* (2009); Contract No 36/03/06/CAR '*Study to Improve Compliance with EU Commission Sanitary Standards in the CARIFORUM Fisheries Sector*' (2006) and the STDF-IICA-108 Project '*Sustainable institutional capacity building in the countries of the Americas to consolidate active participation in the SPS Committee and move forward with implementation of the WTO/SPS Agreement*'. The Action is expected to:

1. ***Strengthen or establish national coordination and implementing mechanisms*** - At present, most CARIFORUM States do not have a single agency or a coordination mechanism for handling animal health, plant protection, food safety and fisheries issues at the national level. These areas are handled by several ministries and agencies (agriculture, fisheries, health, commerce, trade, foreign affairs) giving rise to multiple jurisdictions in the regulatory framework and resulting in the duplication of activities, inefficient use of resources (human and otherwise), absence of or uncertainty regarding competent authority and at times a lack of confidence in the AHFS and fisheries system by both local stakeholders and international trading partners.

It is expected that the action to *Establish and/or strengthen national coordination mechanisms* will result in efficient and effective delivery of AHFS and fisheries services to stakeholders, remove duplication of efforts, establish competent authorities for specific areas and generally improve the confidence level of national stakeholders and international trading partners. A strong and effective national coordination mechanism will, in the long run maximize returns from agricultural and fisheries production, improve the food safety and quality record of the country and so better position the country to access markets both regionally and internationally. It will also assist both individual countries and the region in addressing SPS issues and participating in the international SPS fora.

2. ***Operationalize regional coordination and implementing mechanisms*** - CAHFSA will provide regional and national support for the National Agricultural Health and Food Safety Systems (NAHFSS) and will execute on behalf of those countries such actions and activities that can be more effectively and efficiently executed through a regional mechanism. For

example, CAHFSA could coordinate and facilitate the development of common positions for representation of countries at meetings of the OIE, SPS Committee, IPPC Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM), Codex Alimentarius and other international SPS fora, given the inability of many countries to participate or participate on a regular basis due to economic and human resource constraints.

While a CAHFSA Strategic Action Plan and Medium Term Work Programme has been formulated (CISP /CCS/1.2.2 SER10.11 EU funded Consultancy), much more needs to be done in order for CAHFSA to be fully operational. The activities of this project are intended to assist in the implementation of the functions of CAHFSA and provide support to the Technical Advisory Committees of CAHFSA. It is expected that resulting from the intervention of the ***Action for the operationalizing of the regional coordination mechanism***; CAHFSA will be able to carry out such functions as:

- Developing programs and projects for strengthening agricultural and fisheries health and food safety systems in the region;
  - Providing a mechanism for the coordination and integration of technical support to stakeholders by relevant regional and international organizations;
  - Facilitating the development, implementation and use of regional and international standards, measures and guidelines in collaboration with CROSQ and other regional and international standard setting bodies; and
  - Establishing the framework and mechanism for achieving regional consensus on SPS issues that can be represented in international fora.
3. ***Develop and establish data collection, management, monitoring and evaluation and reporting systems for the national regulatory agencies*** - An appropriate electronic database will offer the competent authority a tool designed for the management, monitoring and evaluation, and reporting needs of the fisheries export sector and competent authority. This will create confidence in the monitoring programs and substantiate the required guarantees. A traceability thread will exist throughout the entire database from fishery production through inspection, processing and marketing. The action is expected to establish a database for the management, monitoring and evaluation, and reporting needs of the national and regional competent authorities.
4. ***Develop and establish communication, information and management technology systems and platform for the regional agencies*** - Adequate and effective communication and information sharing among the various regional agencies and organization is very important in the efficient and effective delivery of technical support and assistance to beneficiary countries. This is required in order to minimize or even eliminate duplication of efforts and to ensure appropriate use of scarce resources. The action is expected to establish a mechanism for information and communication sharing among the various regional and national agencies and organizations.

Priority Activities:

Activities in these action areas will have national and regional scope.

**Activities 2.1:** *Strengthening or establishment of National coordination and implementing mechanisms* - At the national level, the main activities will focus on the establishment or strengthening of institutional arrangements and mechanisms for the coordination of animal health, plant health, and food safety issues for both agriculture and fisheries. Models for establishment or strengthening of these national Agencies/Committees/Competent Authorities will be prepared and presented for consideration and adoption by each beneficiary country. Included will be support given to the formulation of guidelines and recommendations for the establishment of specific sub-committees to support the functioning of the NAHFS Agencies/Committees/Competent Authorities (for example to address matters related to Codex, IPPC, OIE and the WTO/SPS agendas).

**Activities 2.2:** *Operationalizing regional coordination and implementing mechanisms* – Establishment and initiation of a prioritized Programme of Work for the regional SPS coordinating mechanism (such as CAHFSA, and CNMSF); establishment of the necessary databases and information technology platform for communicating and sharing information with Members; coordination of inputs into the IPPC, OIE and CODEX using existing groups and focal points fora; provision of support for the technical fora, and for consultations with the Committee of CVOs, and CPHDs, and the CaribVET network in the formulation of the prioritized Programme of Work of the regional coordination mechanism; formalization of relationships between CNMSF, CRFM and CAHFSA; and establishment of a regional food safety forum.

**Activities 2.3:** *Data collection, management, monitoring and evaluation and reporting systems established for national regulatory agencies* - based on the objectives and indicators for evaluation, the data required for monitoring will be identified to be included in an appropriate electronic database for management, monitoring and evaluation, and reporting needs of the inspection services; conduct of pilot activities to optimize the effectiveness of the database in relation to the intended objectives; organization of national and regional consultations to review the proposed data management system for the management, monitoring, evaluation and reporting needs of the AHFS and fisheries competent authorities/inspection services; and establishment of management, monitoring and evaluation, and reporting systems for the AHFS and competent authorities /inspection services using the electronic database.

**Activities 2.4:** *Establishing communication, information and management technology systems and platform for the regional agencies* – Convening of consultations with relevant regional agencies and organizations; investigation of the best systems for communication and information sharing; and implementation of systems developed. The proposed activity will collaborate and complement the Intra-ACP Policy Programme in the areas of marketing information/intelligence systems development, and the development of an enhanced regional agricultural statistical system. The leadership of IICA and the experience of the CARICOM Secretariat in the implementation of the Intra-ACP Policy Program will ensure that the

information that is important to the management of SPS issues is prioritized and that duplication of efforts in data collection does not take place.

**Action 3: Develop / strengthen the national and/or regional regulatory and industry capacity to meet the SPS requirements of international trade ( in areas such as inspection, import/export certification, diagnostics, risk assessment, surveillance, reporting in the areas of plant, animal and food safety/quality for both agriculture and fisheries, HACCP, GAP, GMP)**

CARIFORUM States are limited by the cadre of expertise in the public and private sector and the quality of the supporting animal, plant and food safety diagnostic facilities. Additionally, industry infrastructure generally requires upgrading to meet the SPS conditions required for trade. Usually, there is a limited number of personnel utilizing inadequate, outdated or no equipment and facilities to address the wide array of issues involved in SPS measures. Generally, the cadre of staff, while multitasking, is also in need of upgrading of skills and information to keep abreast with the knowledge, tools and techniques required. An effective and efficient regime for agricultural and fisheries health and food safety is dependent on informed technical expertise and advice supported by strong infrastructural capability. Laboratory capacity and capability are critical in the support of safe and good quality agricultural and fisheries products. Pest and disease identification and diagnostics are critical to safeguarding, management and control measures. Inadequate capacity and capability also often result in delayed or no responses to the exporters, importers and producers interested in agricultural and fisheries trade requests.

Based on consultations with officials and industry stakeholders and guided by the reports and recommendations of previous studies, the activities for building the human and physical capacity and capability will include wide cross-sectional training of varying durations to stakeholders and the provision of selected basic minimal laboratory and related equipment. This Action will address training personnel and improving the physical resources which strengthen the inspection, regulatory and other support required to ensure that the threat to plant, animals and humans from imported and exported products, is minimized. Specific attention will be paid to the areas of risk assessment, risk management and risk communication for plant pests, animal diseases, and food safety; surveillance; diagnostics and import/export certification. In this regard, attention will also be directed to improving the network and promoting best practices among laboratories in the Region and assisting selected laboratories towards accreditation.

Attention will also be directed to improving the preparedness of private sector and industry stakeholders to acquire the desired level of knowledge and competence in achieving international SPS/industry standards required along the value chain for the production of safe domestic and exports products. Stakeholders will be exposed to quality assurance requirements (such as hazard analyses), international and regional best practices (as for agriculture, fisheries, manufacturing), standard setting processes, and generally those

conditions which impact access and acceptability of their commodities in the domestic and export markets (such as EU law and requirements).

Additionally, national environmental monitoring programs do not exist in many CARIFORUM countries. As such, no guarantee can be provided for the safety of the raw materials landed in the countries from the sea to produce fisheries products due to the absence of regular monitoring of such materials by the competent authority at the national or regional levels, on a yearly and long-term basis. National and regional environmental monitoring programs will be established to monitor accidental contaminants such as heavy metals (e.g. mercury, lead, and cadmium), pesticides and herbicides (e.g. chlorinated substances). National and farm level residue monitoring programs will be developed and implemented for aquaculture operations.

In the case of fisheries, monitoring and implementation of effective control measures are impacted by inadequate laboratory capacity to conduct the necessary tests on products and the environment. Effective inspection, monitoring, control and surveillance are also impacted by weak official inspectorate systems including inspections of vessels, crafts and ships. In relation to the fishing industry, a review of the prevailing conditions from the point of catch to processing and export will be undertaken in all the Member States. The Programme for capacity building, including training for good quality management, will be designed and implemented.

#### Expected Results:

At present, most CARIFORUM countries do not have a single agency handling animal health, plant protection and food safety issues. In most cases, the former two areas are managed by the Ministries of Agriculture, whereas food safety tends to be the responsibility of the Ministries of Health. In either case, there are important needs regarding training that this action will address, in response to technical areas where there are serious weaknesses in the region. The priority actions described below will, directly and indirectly, positively impact all aspects of the action. As a result of the proposed capacity enhancement interventions to support SPS measures, it is expected that:

- 3.1. *Training programs for animal health, plant health and food safety developed and delivered for competent authorities and regulatory agencies.*** - Regulatory personnel across the Region will be trained in the various disciplines of animal and plant health and food safety, as required by both the agriculture and fisheries sectors, thereby allowing them to carry out their functions more effectively and efficiently. The increased capacity provided by the proposed training will also result in the overall improvement of the AHFS systems of the countries and the facilitation of trade intra and extra regionally.
  
- 3.2. *Training programs developed and delivered across the value chain for industry stakeholders*** - the action will include activities geared toward capacity building in the private sector, to facilitate the insertion of more producers and processors in the regional and international trade of agricultural and fisheries products. Some of these activities will focus on creating awareness about the importance of SPS regimes, and an understanding of the impact on regional and international norms on trade. Other

activities will focus on compliance with such requirements and regulations. In collaboration with agricultural and fisheries associations and groups, selected industries/commodity chains will be targeted for strengthening of the SPS systems. The intervention is expected to have private sector stakeholders more knowledgeable and skilled on the SPS requirements and measures and the importance of implementing and observing good practices along the value chain.

**3.3. *Laboratory systems and networks enhanced and strengthened*** - Networking of laboratories under the CARIFORUM umbrella in collaboration with CROSO could result in improved collaboration, harmonization of methods, and bulk procurement of materials, capacity building and sharing of information among the different national and regional laboratories. The action is expected to increase the number of laboratories, and strengthen the networking of laboratories that support the delivery of safe products (local and imported) to the consuming public; facilitate trade; and assist in the early identification of pest and diseases which pose a threat to agriculture, fisheries and the environment.

**3.4. *Identifying private industry standards impacting key export areas and analyzing them with a view to capacity building*** - In recent years there has been a proliferation of private standards which have imposed import measures that are considered to be above and beyond the requirements of international and national standards. It is estimated that there are over 400 private standards and schemes existing worldwide. Schemes range from those developed by individual firms to collective industry-wide international schemes. Examples of Private Standards are Global GAP, Nature's Choice, British Retail Consortium (BRC), ISO 22000, Global Food Safety Initiative, and Marine Stewardship Council.

Many CARIFORUM States have had experience with a variety of these private standards relating to the export of products such as bananas to countries of the European Union. On the one hand private schemes are said to facilitate market access and to benefit economic growth and are advocated as having potential for poverty reduction. However, on the other hand, especially for developing countries there is the perception that the opposite is true. There is anecdotal evidence that numerous small farmers have been forced out of production as a result of the high requirements of these private schemes.

Many studies have been conducted on the impact of private standards on developing countries; however none have been done for CARIFORUM States. It is the intention of this Action to provide an insight into the impact of private standards in the Region thus enabling affected countries to make the necessary adjustments. The action is expected to strengthen the capacity of producers and exporters to comply with the requirements of private industry standards.

**3.5. National and regional environmental monitoring programs established and operational** - Environmental monitoring programs are established by the competent authorities in collaboration with official laboratories. They are set up to monitor accidental contaminants such as heavy metals (mercury, cadmium and lead) in fisheries and other products, pesticides and herbicides (e.g. organo-chlorinated substances) and bio-toxins (e.g. ciguatera, DSP, PSP, ASP). These programs will provide data and information on the level of contamination of the different species by different contaminants, and bio-toxins in fisheries and other agricultural products. Monitoring programs are also necessary to ensure water quality.

The information provided by the national and regional environmental monitoring programs and the monitoring of “process related hazards” by HACCP during production will replace final product control and will serve as a guarantee for health certification. The official laboratories, together with the inspectorates, are the principal stakeholders in the implementation of environmental monitoring programs. The action is expected to design and implement environmental monitoring programs for fisheries and agriculture.

**3.6. National (aquaculture) farm level residue monitoring programs established and operational** – it is anticipated that every aquaculture farm will develop and implement a residue monitoring program for residues of drugs in the fish and fish products which are used in the aquaculture farm operations. Residue monitoring programs have to be established on a national as well as at the individual aquaculture farm levels, with the use of the types of drugs determining the parameters for the monitoring program. The action is expected to design and implement residue monitoring programs.

#### Priority Activities:

The main interventions that will be undertaken will focus on activities that build human and physical capacities and support the development of training and education programs for animal health, plant health and food safety competent authorities and regulatory agencies.

**Activity 3.1: Training programs for animal health, plant health and food safety developed and delivered for competent authorities and regulatory agencies** – Training to strengthen the cadre of expertise in the conduct of plant pest risk analysis, animal disease risk analysis, food safety risk assessment; training in inspection procedures and techniques for all sectors (plant, animal, food safety and fisheries); training in risk communication, including activities to initiate change towards the development of effective communication between the national SPS services, their stakeholders and the public in the following areas: media training for public officials; stakeholder communications; educational and persuasive communications and crisis communication; diagnostics of animal diseases, food borne disease agents and identification of plant pests (this will include but not limited to application of diagnostic tests, IATA training for analytical sample delivery and building capacity in the identification of priority animal and plant pests and diseases of economic importance to the region).

Current initiatives will be supported and strengthened for example, in pest and disease diagnostics for pests of palms, *Musa*, and other animal and plant and micro-organism invasive species. These will include exchange programs, short courses and seminars in collaboration with regional tertiary institutions for example UWI and other universities, and other agencies such as the USDA/APHIS, and CABI; monitoring and measurement of pesticide, hormone and veterinary drug residues in agriculture and fisheries products with training in sample collection, preparation, transportation protocols and training of laboratory and field personnel; epidemiological surveillance, including but not be limited to the use of GIS, basic epidemiology related to animals and basic and advanced data analysis in collaboration with existing international agencies such as the FAO/Codex/OIE/IPPC and CaribVET.

The post graduate programs will be developed in collaboration with national and regional universities and other academic entities. Public administration and planning will be given attention in the development and delivery of on-line courses/training to directors and managers in the animal health, plant health, food safety and fisheries services of all CARIFORUM States. Emergency response training will build capacity in responding to AHFS emergencies and will include outbreak simulations and food borne disease outbreak investigations.

“Train the Trainers” training will be undertaken for regulatory and industry personnel in the development of guidelines for:

- Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs), with an emphasis on food safety, total quality and environmental preservation;
- Good Manufacturing Practices (GMPs) with an emphasis on the observance of effective pre-requisite programs and standard operation procedures;
- Good Laboratory Practices (GLPs);
- Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) targeting producers, processors, and abattoir operators;
- Good Fisheries Practices (GFPs) and Good Animal Rearing Practices (GARPs) emphasizing food safety and animal well-being.

“Train the trainers” training will include exchange programs, short courses, seminars, and the development of training materials. Hands-on training of public sector officials will be provided in various areas for which internship/attachment programs with durations not exceeding two weeks, to medium-term academic training including South-South cooperation for durations of 3 months maximum, will be conducted in such areas as identification and diagnostics for plant and animal diseases; chemical and microbiological contaminants in food safety; food inspection; WTO/SPS courses; Codex training; OIE programs and other areas of need. These training activities will be executed in close collaboration with international development partners and agencies such as the European Food Safety Agency (EFSA), the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), FAO and the international standard setting bodies. Training will also be delivered by the creation of a virtual Caribbean Food Safety Inspectors School which will be developed in consultation with the regional food safety regulatory personnel and teaching

institutions within the Region. The lessons learnt by IICA in the establishment of a Virtual Food Safety Inspectors School in Central America will be considered in this action.

**Activity 3.2:** *Training programs developed and delivered across the value chain for industry stakeholders in international SPS requirements, GAPs, GMPs, HACCP, GFP and GARP– to facilitate the understanding of the importance of SPS issues, GAPs, GMPs, HACCP targeting producers, fishers and processors, and GTPs and GARPs emphasizing food safety and animal well-being in general, PRA and RA for plant, animals, fish and their products, Codex standards, EU regulations and the points along the production, export and distribution chain.*

**Activity 3.3:** *Laboratory systems and networks enhanced and strengthened in CARIFORUM- Identification and review of existing national and regional laboratory networks; development and implementation of a mechanism to establish and strengthen a network of national and regional laboratories; implementation of mechanisms for strengthening the established network for AHFS; facilitation of the accreditation of selected laboratories in collaboration with CROSQ; provision of equipment for selected laboratories; and preparation of laboratory manuals and protocols for adoption by CARIFORUM States.*

**Activity 3.4:** *Private Industry standards impacting key export areas are identified and analyzed with a view to capacity building - Assessment of the impact of private industry standards on the production and marketing of agricultural and fisheries produce from CARIFORUM States and the preparation of the analysis and findings report; and development and implementation of a - program for capacity enhancement of industry stakeholders and regulatory authorities with regards to private standards.*

**Activity 3.5:** *National and regional environmental monitoring programs established and operational – assessment of the status of fisheries quality along the fish value chain and development of a fisheries program for quality and safety assurance; review of existing environmental monitoring programs for fisheries and agriculture in the CARIFORM States; design of environmental monitoring programs for fisheries and agriculture for the CARIFORUM States; validation of the environmental monitoring program by the beneficiary countries; and finalization and implementation of national and regional environmental monitoring programs.*

**Activity 3.6:** *National (aquaculture) farm level residue monitoring programs established and operational – Review of existing residue monitoring programs for aquaculture in the CARIFORM States; design of model farm and national level residue monitoring programs; validation of the farm and national level residue monitoring programs; and finalization and implementation of national and farm level residue monitoring programs.*

### **3.3 Stakeholders – the main group of stakeholders includes:**

- The national agricultural health and food safety agencies or committees (NAHFSA/Cs) of 15 CARIFORUM States (including CNMSF, BAHA);
- The National Codex Committees and/or National SPS Committees, if separate from the NAHFSA;
- The existing regional coordination mechanisms (e.g. CAHFSA, CRFM)
- Primary producers, processors and exporters, as well as importers and consumers of agricultural and fisheries products in CARIFORUM States;
- Competent authorities, regulatory and inspection services, approved testing laboratories, technical and training institutions,

### **3.4 Assumptions and Risks**

The action defined for the Caribbean emphasizes strengthening of the enabling environment mainly in legislative reform and adjustment, enhancing coordination mechanisms regionally and nationally, and building capacity in SPS and institutional development in agriculture, including the fisheries sub-sector.

The emphasis on legislative reform carries with it certain inherent risks associated with the political situation in CARIFORUM States. As indicated in the background, the jurisdiction for management of SPS issues tends to be scattered among various ministries/agencies in CARIFORUM States. Coordination of the SPS functions of the various competent authorities at the national level carries the risk of resistance to the efforts at coordination and rationalization of functions as persons become fearful of loss of jobs, demotion or diminished authority.

#### *3.4.1. Assumptions:*

At least four important pre-conditions for regional actions center around strengthening the agricultural development process in CARIFORUM States in the implementation of SPS commitments undertaken under the EPA with the EU to enhance market access regionally and internationally:

- a). The Action is consistent with the cooperation provisions contained in the Economic Partnership Agreement and the Caribbean Forum of the ACP States' (CARIFORUM) Development Strategy as presented in the Caribbean Regional Economic Integration and Cooperation Roadmap. It reflects the priorities established by the CARIFORUM States, selected from actions specified in the Regional Economic Integration and Cooperation Roadmap.
- b). the competent authorities and industry personnel have an expressed interest in improving their situation and have expressed an interest to participate in the detailed planning of the interventions.

c). Large private sector entities have expressed interest in mobilizing resources to support efforts to access regional and international markets by meeting the required market standards established by both international agencies and private institutions.

d). The regional organizations and the implementing agencies are committed to strengthening their links at the regulatory level so as to ensure the appropriateness, effectiveness and sustainability of their interventions, and national and regional institutions and other bodies are willing to share data and information and to actively participate in the development of a regional information system for AHFS supporting and promoting SPS measures.

#### *3.4.2. Risks:*

Sustainability of the Action during and after the implementation phase will depend largely on the continued broad regional political consensus on improving the regional and national SPS systems. It will also require heightened sensitization and understanding among consumers, importers, exporters, food producers and processors of the advantages and benefits of strong and effective SPS systems that are in compliance with national, regional and international regulations, agreements and standards to protect animal, plant and human health and life and the environment to ensure safe production and trade of food for all stakeholders.

***Risk associated with Legislative Reform*** - A major risk is ensuring the completion of the SPS legislation in the Action within the time frame of the project. At the national level, key stakeholders e.g. Fisheries and Agricultural Associations along with regional agricultural networks will be kept informed on the progress of the project and will assist in exerting influence for the drafting and enactment into law of the SPS legislation. The Agriculture technical working group of Associated Institutions of CARICOM will also be utilized to emphasize the importance to the decision-makers, both regionally and nationally, of completion of the SPS legislation in the Action.

***Risks associated with Fiscal Challenges of the Member States*** - there are inadequate human and financial resources to sustain fully operational animal health, plant health and food safety control services particularly in very small CARIFORUM States as a result of fiscal pressures in the current economic climate. While the Action emphasizes activities aimed at strengthening national human and physical capacity for the legislative, technical and coordination processes, it does not extend to supporting the human resources complements of Ministries of Agriculture at the national level, hence the need for collaboration and strategic alliances. For example, the OECS Secretariat could work in collaboration with the CARICOM Secretariat to facilitate the implementation of SPS measures to the OECS and other very small countries like the Bahamas and Barbados to benefit effectively from the capacity enhancement interventions proposed in the Action with regard to compliance with international, regional and even national SPS requirements to achieve some measure of economies of scale.

***Risks associated with Limited Information and Communication*** - there are several factors underlying the weakness of many national SPS systems in the region. One of these factors is a generalized lack of awareness, especially among high-level officials, about the importance of sanitary and phytosanitary measures in a globalized world characterized by the very high mobility of goods, animal, plant material, and people. Many CARIFORUM States are net importers of agricultural products, often destined to supply their tourism sector, and thus consider SPS issues irrelevant. The impact of inadequate SPS measures for the protection of human health and life and the environment are not fully perceived in those countries, something that is reflected in inadequate budgetary allocations for animal health, plant health and food safety control services. This lack of awareness has already resulted in the introduction of serious plant pests (such as the red palm mite and the giant African snail) and a series of invasive plant and animal species (notably the lion fish) into the region. Eventually, such neglect could also have adverse effects on tourism if food borne illness outbreaks occur and are publicized or if the destruction of local flora and fauna affects the natural landscape.

***Risks associated with Capacity Enhancement*** - capacity building for regulatory personnel carries the risk of persons leaving the government service soon after the training is provided. Such actions would negatively impact the effectiveness of the SPS systems. A bond system will be established which will require that recipients of training, particularly persons receiving post graduate degree training, remain in the service for a specific period of time.

***Risks associated with the Global Economic Crisis*** - delayed recovery of the Caribbean States from the global economic crisis and reduced levels of direct foreign investments from traditional donor agencies have contributed to the below-average growth rates for the CARIFORUM States. Maximizing production at current levels of investment under an improved SPS regime will mitigate these risks and increase the potential for greater exports.

***Risks associated with Emerging Pests and Disease*** - outbreaks of serious plant and animal pests and diseases (such as Citrus Canker, the Mediterranean fruit fly, Foot and Mouth Disease or Avian Influenza) have the potential to wipe out entire agricultural sub-sectors, resulting in loss of millions of dollars to the industry and widespread loss of jobs. Effective and efficient SPS systems both at a national level and regional level, will contribute in the reduction of such risks and protect countries from these introductions or ensure that proper emergency response mechanisms are in place to minimize the effects of any such introductions.

***Risks associated with Natural Events, such as hurricanes, droughts, earthquakes/tsunamis, volcanic eruptions*** - agriculture and fisheries production in the Caribbean are always at physical risk from hurricanes, flooding, droughts and other natural factors with consequent disruption of economic activities and a shift of focus from development to disaster relief and recovery. This trend is expected to continue, given the predictions of increased volatility and extremes in weather and other environmental situations. The improved network of Caribbean radar weather stations and an improved culture in monitoring weather and climate activity in the Caribbean facilitated by Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH) with enhanced capability after implementing the Caribbean Agro Meteorological Initiative (CAMI)

funded by the EU ACP Science and Technology Programme whereby improved applications of weather and climate information using an integrated and coordinated approach was promoted and will contribute significantly in reducing the financial losses of hurricanes by the development of comprehensive weather and climate related early warning systems for the agriculture sector including the fisheries subsector.

### **3.5 Crosscutting Issues**

*Environmental sustainability* is foreseen through beneficiary and stakeholder participation in environmental monitoring programs developed and implemented. *Good agricultural practices, GMPs, GFPs, and GARPs* are preconditions for all interventions through the strengthening of farmers/fisher folks and processor organizations and their role in project implementation. *Agricultural Information* to support improved planning, development initiatives and delivery of SPS measures at national and regional levels can be considered a major cross cutting output from all components.

## **4 IMPLEMENTATION**

### **4.1. Methodology**

The overall Action provides a general framework which seeks to integrate CARIFORUM countries into the global economy and facilitate their meaningful and beneficial participation in the EPA arrangements. The Action is a regional program aimed at providing critical inputs both at the regional and national levels. The nature of the Action is such that some key interventions will be pursued at the regional level to exploit synergies and achieve enhanced coordination and harmonization, while other interventions will target national systems and capacities thereby providing direct benefits at the national level.

The Action will therefore make a complete assessment of such past and on-going complementary efforts with a view to integrate and build on past SPS initiatives and strengthen relevant and on-going complementary SPS related processes to ensure that the resources allocated are put to their most effective use for institutionalizing critical components of the SPS, including fisheries aspects, of the Action.

In developing the detailed action plans, the technical lead agencies will employ Strategic Integrated Assessment and Planning Techniques to enhance Program design to minimize possibilities for conflicting objectives, unattainable goals and targets and strengthen integration among the various components related to fisheries and other SPS interventions as a basis for defining and developing comprehensive cross-cutting programs that enhance the achievement of the Specific Results and contribute to the achievement of the general objective.

## 4.2 Strategic Partnerships for Programme Implementation

A major premise underpinning the development and implementation of the Action is that no one institution can realize the specified objectives. Activities implemented through this Action are part of the mandate of the CARICOM Community Secretariat (CCS) and CRFM and it is for this reason, that core stakeholders from CCS and CRFM were involved from the inception stage in the design of the Action. IICA will therefore implement these activities in cooperation with CCS, CRFM and CNMSF in order to assure ownership and sustainability, avoiding institutional duplication, hence, CCS and CRFM will be the main actors responsible for technical guidance and implementation in collaboration with IICA. There are a number of other institutions and stakeholder associations and networks that will have to be consulted during the articulation of the program details. Among these are:

- CNMSF and other national SPS Coordinating Committees responsible for oversight of national SPS system;
- Ministries of Agriculture and Fisheries , as well as Ministries of Health and Trade and the Environment, whose roles could alternate between partner and beneficiary, depending on the nature of the intervention, and who have already requested assistance in building capacity in SPS and other SPS related areas;
- Other regulatory bodies (including the Committee of CVOs and CPHDs and their technical sub-committees, and the CaribVet Steering Committee,) involved in fisheries and other SPS areas including various Bureaus of standards, certification bodies and laboratories;
- Private sector agencies such as exporters and processing associations as well as farmer organizations such as the Caribbean Farmers Network (CaFAN) and the Caribbean Network of Fisher folk Organizations (CNFO), which will be principal partners for engagement, benefitting from institutional capacity building support;
- The Universities, Research and Teaching institutions will be considered for playing a key role in the delivery of training;
- Relevant international organizations;
- Independent consultants who have a track record in providing professional services to organizations in agriculture and fisheries, who will be employed on short-term, contractual basis to undertake specific preparatory baseline tasks that are essential to strengthening the platform full implementation;

Strategic partnerships will also be pursued with the relevant local authorities to support the overall logistical arrangements for implementation, monitoring and information dissemination of the proposed Action.

The need to involve a number of institutions and associations, each operating at different levels of scope, capacity and procedures will require the development and management of clear partnership criteria and mechanisms for institutional engagement at the regional level,

between the regional and national levels and between public sector and private entities. These criteria and cooperation mechanisms will seek to foster open communication, consensus building for decision making, effective partnerships for implementation and accountability in the process.

Empowering and facilitating the involvement of the primary beneficiaries (officials of CARIFORUM States, representatives of national and regional coordinating agencies, regulatory bodies and private sector firms and agricultural and fisheries producers) to provide inputs at all stages, particularly in the design of detailed action plans and in the implementation of activities will ensure the ownership of the Action and hence the active participation of the beneficiaries to facilitate the sustainability of the Action.

### **4.3 Core Requirements for Implementation**

The strength of the institutional collaboration approach which underpins the SPS component of the Action will ensure that the most effective use is made of the available resources and create synergies. In this regard, the core requirements that will have to be acquired for successful implementation of the SPS component of the Action relate to the following:

- Technical and legal expertise and logistical support associated with the development and approval of legislation
- Technical and financial assistance to facilitate strengthening of national and regional SPS coordinating systems
- Materials and technical expertise associated with capacity building programs for regulatory agencies and the private sector
- Technical assistance required to upgrade laboratory testing capability and other infrastructure associated with the export of fish and fisheries products to the EU market
- Technical and administrative personnel assigned to the SPS Component of the Action, to support implementation as well as acquisition of short term consultants.

### **4.4 Management**

IICA is the implementing agency for the Action, with overall responsibility for project management and reporting and technical and financial monitoring. The management of these tasks related to the implementation of the proposed Action is delegated to IICA by the EU based on the Four Pillar assessment which essentially determines the degree to which IICA fulfills the criteria established for the implementation of tasks in a joint management mode with the EU. Having achieved compliance under this assessment, IICA therefore guarantees standards equivalent to internationally accepted standards in the 4 areas of Accounting, Auditing, Internal Control, and Procurement.

The project will be managed and implemented by IICA through a Contribution Agreement (CA) of €11,700,000, which is to be signed between the European Union Delegation in Guyana and IICA, as the implementing agency.

While the Action has been designed to incorporate collaboration and cooperation, the interest and ownership of IICA as the implementing agency will be maintained by the main principles of implementation established by IICA, and guided by the Institute's internal administrative, technical and financial monitoring and reporting systems.

As part of the CA, IICA as implementing agency will have the responsibility to the EU for the overall implementation including coordination and management of the SPS component of the Action. The IICA office in Trinidad and Tobago will be the focal point for the coordination with the EU delegation in Trinidad and Tobago, while the IICA office in Barbados will have responsibility for the execution and administration of this project. The Action will be implemented in close collaboration with the CARICOM Secretariat and CRFM to provide technical guidance implementation.

IICA, as the implementing agency, will establish the necessary project management and coordination structures and systems to drive the effective implementation of the programme. IICA will establish, *inter alia*:

- I. Administrative, preparatory and ancillary tasks related to planning, monitoring, and reporting on project components, procurement, and financial management;
- II. An internal communication system that ensures that all partners and other affiliates are kept informed on project activities;
- III. Project public information services to ensure full communication and knowledge sharing on activities undertaken by the project as a means of accountability and engendering public support for the actions.

The activities of the Action will be implemented by a Project Management Unit (PMU) under the direct management and supervision of the IICA representative located in the IICA office in Barbados, with technical oversight provided by the Directorate of Agriculture Health and Food Safety at IICA HQ, through the AHFS Hemispheric Specialist, based in IICA Barbados. The PMU will comprise three members – Project Manager (PM), Financial/Administrative Officer (FO) and a secretary. The Project Manager will function as the team leader and facilitate technical and administrative coordination amongst all stakeholders. The PMU established by IICA is responsible for the day-to-day implementation of the project, while IICA is responsible for overall implementation.

#### **4.5 Budget**

The total cost of the Programme is estimated at €11,700,000 for implementation over a period of forty-two (42) months. The maximum EU contribution is €11,700,000 in total, which constitutes the Contribution Agreement.

	EU CONTRIBUTION		EURO €
	Activities within contribution agreement with IICA	R1	<i>Legislation, protocols, standards, measures and guidelines in the area of AHFS and fisheries for national and regional SPS regimes</i>
R2		<i>National and regional coordination mechanisms in the support of the SPS regime</i>	4,381,971
R3		<i>National and regional regulatory and industry capacity to meet the SPS requirements of international trade</i>	5,261,779
R4		<i>Project Management – Coordination including visibility</i>	1,004,730
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>11,700,000</b>

## 4.6 Reporting

### 4.6.1 Narrative and Financial Reporting

Narrative and financial reporting are due according to the obligations set forth in the General Conditions of the EU/IICA Contribution Agreement. In principle, these reports will be made available on an annual basis, covering the calendar year, and will be made available, at the latest, by the end of March of the following year. Depending on the start and end date of the annual plan, the first and last narrative report will not cover a twelve month period, but the number of months from the start date to the end of the calendar year. The narrative reports shall highlight achievements, possible impediments encountered and corrective actions required.

### 4.6.2 Performance Monitoring

In addition to the narrative and financial reporting obligations foreseen in the General Conditions of the EU/IICA Contribution Agreement, both parties agree that the SPS Program of the 10<sup>th</sup> EDF EPA Programme will be subject to an annual performance report which will be used to determine the level of pre-financing for the next year. This report, to be provided by IICA, will highlight the achievements and possible exceptional impediments encountered during the implementation period and will be made available at the latest, by the end of March of the following year.

## 4.7 Evaluation and Audit

### 4.7.1 Evaluation

An EU-contracted mid-term evaluation shall be conducted at mid-point of the project. Specific dates will be agreed upon with EU and IICA. The main focus of this evaluation will be to assess progress in implementation and the likely impact of the Action, as well as the potential need for

adjustment and fine-tuning. An external final evaluation will be also be conducted by the EU at the end of Programme and will include a complete assessment of the entire project. It will be also used to derive lessons learnt and recommend future orientations.

#### *4.7.2 Audits*

Financial transactions and financial statements related to the EU project shall be subject to the internal and external auditing procedures laid down in the financial regulations, rules and directives of IICA during its customary annual audit. A copy of the audited financial statements shall be submitted to the EU by IICA.

In conformity with its financial regulations, the EC may undertake checks related to activities financed within this Action, as mentioned in the General Conditions and the Annex relating to the Verification Clause in the CA between IICA and the EC.

#### 4.8. Indicative Implementation Schedule

Activities	Year 1				Year 2				Year 3				Year 4				Implementing Body
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
<b>Programme Administration</b>																	
Preparation and Recruitment of PMU Staff	X	X	X														IICA/CCS/ CRFM
Preparation and Launching of Programme		X	X	X													SPSTOC/IICA
Execute Project Activities		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			PMU
Prepare Annual Narrative and Financial Reports					X				X				X			X	PMU
<b>A1.0 Develop model legislation, protocols, standards, measures and guidelines in the area of AHFS including fisheries</b>																	
1.1 Finalization of Plant protection and animal health model legislation		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X					CCS/IICA
1.2 Development of Model Food Safety legislation		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			CCS/IICA
1.3 Development of Model Fish health and fisheries products and related legislation		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			CCS/CRFM/IICA
1.4 Development of Relevant protocols/standards/guidelines/and accompanying model regulations			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			CCS/CRFM/IICA
<b>A2.0 Develop effective national and regional coordination mechanisms in the support of the SPS regime</b>																	
2.1 Strengthening or establishment of National coordination and implementing mechanisms	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			CCS/CNMSF/IICA
2.2 Operationalizing Regional coordination and implementing mechanisms		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			CCS/CNMSF/IICA
2.3 Data collection, management, monitoring and evaluation and reporting systems established for national regulatory agencies		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X					CCS/IICA
2.4 Establishing communication, information and management technology systems and platform for the regional agencies					X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X					CCS/IICA
<b>A3.0 Develop/strengthen the national and/or regional</b>																	

Activities	Year 1				Year 2				Year 3				Year 4				Implementing Body
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
<b>regulatory and industry capacity to meet the SPS requirements of international trade (in areas such as inspection, import/export certification, diagnostics, risk assessment, surveillance, reporting in the areas of plant, animal and food safety/quality for both agriculture and fisheries, HACCP, GAP, GMP)</b>																	
3.1 Training and Education programs for competent authorities and regulatory agencies developed in animal health, plant health and food safety measures		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			IICA
3.2 Training programs developed and delivered across the value chain for industry stakeholders in international SPS requirements, GAPs, GMPs, HACCP, GFP and GARP		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			IICA
3.3 Laboratory systems and networks enhanced and strengthened in CARIFORUM		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			IICA
3.4 Private Industry standards impacting key export areas are identified and analyzed with a view to capacity building		X	X	X													IICA
3.5 National and regional environmental monitoring programs established and operational		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X					CRFM/IICA
3.6 National (aquaculture) farm level residue monitoring programs established and operational		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				CRFM/IICA
<b>A4.0 Action Management</b>																	
4.1.1. Establishment of project management structure and responsibilities for the management and coordination of program (SPSTOC)	X	X															IICA/CCS/CRFM
4.1.2. SPSTOC(9)- Execution of various planning and management meetings - twice annually	X	X		X		V		X		V		X		X			SPSTOC
4.2. Technical Advisory Committee (TAC - 5) - Execution of various management meetings- one face to face and three virtual	X	V	V	V	X	V	V	V	X	V	V	V	X	V			TAIC
4.3. Project Management Unit (PMU) – PM, FO and Sec	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			SPSTOC/TAIC/PMU
4.4. EU Evaluation (Mid Term and Final)									X						X		IICA/EU
4.5. IICA Audits				X				X				X			X		IICA

## 5. LOGICAL FRAMEWORK

INTERVENTION LOGIC		OVI	SOURCE OF VERIFICATION	RISK & ASSUMPTION
<b>OVERALL OBJECTIVE</b>	To support the beneficial integration of the CARIFORUM States into the world economy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CARIFORUM States have SPS systems that respond to international requirements and fulfill the needs of regional and international trade in agri-foods and fishery products</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National Ministries of agriculture, health, foreign affairs, trade and commerce</li> <li>WTO SPS notifications</li> </ul>	
<b>SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE</b>	To increase production and trade in agriculture and fisheries which meet international standards while protecting plant, animal and human health and life and the environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase in proportion of local agricultural production sold on domestic, regional and international markets</li> <li>CARIFORUM States have regional harmonized SPS legislation and Modern national agricultural health and food safety legislation and regulations.</li> <li>Regional SPS body (CAHFSA) operational and all CARIFORUM States are Members of CAHFSA</li> <li>NAHFSAs or equivalent national SPS bodies operational</li> <li>Number of CARIFORUM States able to comply with international SPS requirements (certified for export)</li> <li>Increase in the number of producers and processors of agricultural foods and fisheries products in CARIFORUM States complying with national, regional and international SPS practices.</li> <li>Increased participation and effective advocacy of national and regional interest in international fora.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Report of Heads of Governments Meeting</li> <li>Official Report of CNMSF in the DR</li> <li>Regional and national trade statistics and reports</li> <li>National records of enacted legislation</li> <li>Registers of National Competent Authorities and Inspection reports</li> <li>Registers of Regional Competent Authorities and Inspection reports</li> <li>Reports of CODEX, IPPC, OIE and SPS committee meetings</li> </ul>	<p>Governments committed to enact AHFS legislation</p> <p>An effectively functioning regional coordination AHFS mechanism.</p> <p>National regulatory entities willing and committed to participate.</p> <p>CAFAN and CFNO committed to participate.</p> <p>Hurricanes, storms, flash flooding and climate related</p>
<b>EXPECTED RESULTS</b>				
<b>ER. 1</b>	<b>Strengthened legislation, protocols, standards, measures and guidelines in the area of agricultural health and food safety (AHFS) and fisheries.</b>			

INTERVENTION LOGIC		OVI	SOURCE OF VERIFICATION	RISK & ASSUMPTION
<b>A1.1</b>	Finalization of Plant protection and animal health model legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plant protection and animal health draft model legislation finalized and available to all CARIFORUM States for incorporation into national legislation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>COTED and CNMSF Reports</li> <li>National plant protection legislation and animal health legislation</li> </ul>	Countries have the capacity to readily incorporate regional legislation into national law.
<b>A1.2</b>	Development of Model food safety legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Model legislation for food safety developed and reviewed by CARIFORUM States.</li> <li>Legislation accepted by all Member States and enacted.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>COTED and CNMSF Reports</li> <li>National food safety legislation.</li> </ul>	Countries have the capacity to readily incorporate regional legislation into national law.
<b>A1.3</b>	Development of Model Fish Health and fisheries products and related legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Existing fisheries SPS legislation reviewed and model fisheries legislation drafted.</li> <li>Legislation accepted by all Member States and enacted</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>COTED, CNMSF, CRFM Reports</li> <li>National fisheries legislation</li> </ul>	Countries have the capacity to readily incorporate fisheries SPS legislation into law.
<b>A 1.4</b>	Development of Relevant protocols/standards/guidelines and accompanying regulations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At least two Regional protocols / standards / guidelines in each of the areas of plant health, animal health, food safety and fisheries developed and available for adoption by CARIFORUM Member States</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>IICA Reports</li> <li>Ministry reports</li> <li>COTED</li> <li>CNMSF reports</li> </ul>	Private sector has the ability to implement protocols, standards and guidelines. National system exists in each CARIFORUM State to monitor the implementation and compliance with the protocols, standards and guidelines by the private sector.
<b>ER.2</b>	<b>Enhanced national and regional coordination mechanisms in the support of the SPS regime developed and established in the CARIFORUM States</b>			
<b>A2.1</b>	Strengthening or establishment of national coordination and implementing mechanisms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Several models for national coordinating agencies/committees compiled and distributed to and considered by Member States.</li> <li>Application of the Performance, Vision, Strategy tools in animal health, plant health and food safety in Member States.</li> <li>National coordination mechanisms established or strengthened in</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>IICA reports</li> <li>Records/reports of Member States</li> <li>PVS reports</li> <li>CNMSF reports</li> <li>Reports of meeting of the International Standard Setting Bodies</li> </ul>	There is willingness among decision makers and policy makers to establish national coordination mechanisms. Availability of existing models worldwide that are applicable to the needs of the member states Member States are able to adopt or adapt the models.

INTERVENTION LOGIC		OVI	SOURCE OF VERIFICATION	RISK & ASSUMPTION
		CARIFORUM States <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased participation of CARIFORUM States in the international standard setting process</li> </ul>		
<b>A2.2</b>	Operationalizing regional coordination and implementing mechanisms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CAHFSA fully operational</li> <li>Increased two way communication and collaboration among the beneficiary countries.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reports CAHFSA</li> <li>IICA Reports</li> <li>CNMSF reports</li> <li>Records/reports of Member States</li> <li>Signed MOU</li> <li>Information platform</li> </ul>	Financial support is in place for the full operationalization of CAHFSA. The relationship of the Dominican Republic with other regional organizations (e.g. OIRSA)
<b>A2.3</b>	Data collection, management, monitoring and evaluation and reporting systems established for national regulatory agencies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Database established for the management, monitoring and evaluation, and reporting needs of competent authorities.</li> <li>Increased access to accurate data</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Database</li> <li>Handbooks and manuals</li> <li>CRFM reports</li> <li>Country reports</li> <li>CNMSF reports</li> </ul>	Sustainability of the data collection system Adequately trained person to maintain the system Availability of hardware and software in all Member States.
<b>A2.4</b>	Establishing communication, information sharing and management technology systems and platform for the regional agencies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consultation held among the relevant regional agencies and organizations</li> <li>Communication and information sharing system established and implemented.</li> <li>Improved coordination and collaboration among regional organizations.</li> <li>Improvement in the delivery of technical assistance and support to the Member States.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>IICA reports</li> <li>CARICOM reports</li> <li>CRFM reports</li> <li>CNMSF reports</li> </ul>	Willingness among the various regional organizations and agencies to establish a formal communication and information sharing mechanism. Differences in institutional norms and culture (how things are done).
<b>ER.3</b>	<b>Strengthened national and regional regulatory and industry capacity to meet the SPS requirements of international trade</b> (in areas such as inspection, import/export certification, diagnostics, risk assessment, surveillance, reporting in the areas of plant, animal and food safety/quality for both agriculture and fisheries, HACCP, GAP, GMP)			

INTERVENTION LOGIC		OVI	SOURCE OF VERIFICATION	RISK & ASSUMPTION
<b>A3.1</b>	Training programs for animal health, plant health and food safety developed and delivered for competent authorities and regulatory agencies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased number of regulatory professionals and technicians trained in the areas such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ HACCP audit and certification</li> <li>○ Risk assessment of animal diseases, plant pests, and food contaminants</li> <li>○ Inspection and certification</li> <li>○ Diagnostics</li> <li>○ Survey and surveillance</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Increase in the number of trained personnel available to offer service to stakeholders.</li> <li>• Manuals, handbooks and other relevant material developed and available for continuous on-the-job training</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IICA reports</li> <li>• Ministry reports</li> <li>• CRFM reports</li> <li>• CNMSF reports</li> <li>• Certificates, diplomas, degrees awarded</li> <li>• Manuals, handbooks and other training materials</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sufficient technical personnel available for training</li> <li>• Availability of the right partners to facilitate attachments/internships</li> <li>• Trained persons do not remain in the sector after receiving training</li> <li>• Adequate equipment and support facilities such as inspections tools , equipment and supplies, laboratories</li> <li>• Willingness of farmers/producers to implement GAP and GMP</li> <li>• Mechanisms for monitoring and follow-up</li> </ul>
<b>A3.2</b>	Training programs developed and delivered across the value chain for industry stakeholders.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased number of industry professionals and technicians trained In areas such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ International SPS requirements</li> <li>○ GAPs, HACCP, GMPs</li> <li>○ Good fisheries practices and animal rearing practices.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Increased number of firms/operations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IICA reports</li> <li>• Ministry reports</li> <li>• CRFM reports</li> <li>• CNMSF reports</li> </ul>	<p>Sufficient technical persons available for training</p> <p>A private sector that is interested and understands the need and importance of training.</p> <p>Trained persons do not remain in the sector after receiving training</p> <p>Willingness of farmers/producers to implement GAP and GMP</p> <p>Mechanisms for monitoring and</p>

INTERVENTION LOGIC		OVI	SOURCE OF VERIFICATION	RISK & ASSUMPTION
		<p>implementing good practices (GAP, GMP, and HACCP).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manuals, handbooks, posters and leaflets available for continuous on-the-job training and awareness.</li> <li>• Increased access to export market</li> <li>• Increase in the production of safe, high quality food for national consumption</li> </ul>		follow-up
<b>A3.3</b>	Strengthening and enhancing laboratory systems and networks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A mechanism exists to network laboratories within the Region offering services to the AHFS and fisheries sectors.</li> <li>• Increase in the number of accredited laboratories</li> <li>• Increase in the number of selected laboratories conducting tests and increase in the number of tests related to agricultural and fisheries exports.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional network of laboratories</li> <li>• Manuals and handbooks</li> <li>• Laboratory equipment procured</li> <li>• IICA reports</li> <li>• Ministry reports</li> <li>• CNMSF reports</li> </ul>	Sufficiently trained personnel Member States agree to increase capacity and capability of national laboratories for providing services to other Member States.
<b>A3.4</b>	Identifying private industry standards impacting key export areas and analyzing them with a view to capacity building.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report of study to determine external constraints including Private standards applicability to key export areas available to all Member States.</li> <li>• There is increased understanding by Member States of the requirements and implications of private industry</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IICA report</li> <li>• Ministry report</li> <li>• CNMSF reports</li> </ul>	Willingness of private sector to participate in the study Availability of relevant data Capacity of producers and exporters, especially small and medium sized enterprises, to comply with the requirements of private industry standards.

INTERVENTION LOGIC		OVI	SOURCE OF VERIFICATION	RISK & ASSUMPTION
		<p>standards such as Global GAP leading to necessary adjustments to enhance market access.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Programme for capacity building in relation to private standards developed.</li> </ul>		
<b>A3.5</b>	Establishing national and regional environmental monitoring programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental monitoring programs for fisheries and agriculture are designed and implemented.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CRFM reports</li> <li>• CNMSF reports</li> <li>• Country report</li> </ul>	<p>Adequate qualified and trained personnel in each Member State Adequate laboratory and other support systems and services.</p>
<b>A3.6</b>	Establishing national (aquaculture) farm level residue monitoring programs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National and regional residue monitoring programs developed and implemented for aquaculture farms.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CRFM reports</li> <li>• Country reports</li> <li>• CNMSF reports</li> </ul>	<p>Willingness of private sector entities to implement the requirements of the monitoring Programme.</p> <p>Availability of laboratory support in the CARIFORUM States or in the Region.</p>

## **6. PROPOSED PROJECT MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EC-IICA CONTRIBUTION AGREEMENT FOR THE SPS Programme UNDER THE 10<sup>TH</sup> EDF EPA Programme.**

### **6.1. General description**

IICA is the designated implementing agency for this project and as such, is fully accountable to the EU for the outcomes of the project, as specified in the signed Contribution Agreement. To this end, IICA will make the most effective use of its existing management structure and resources, in order to avoid duplication of efforts and ensure full alignment of project activities with the broader IICA support and management. IICA's electronic financial management system (System Application and Products) SAP, will be used as a tool for project management together with IICA's reporting system. Necessary formatting and adaptation will be made to comply with EC reporting and financial requirements as specified in the Contribution Agreement.

IICA Headquarters (HQ) administrative and technical entities will establish the necessary guidelines to facilitate the introduction of internationally recognised project management and coordination structures and systems to drive the effective implementation of the programme. IICA's project management and coordination systems will facilitate advocacy and policy dialogue with CARIFORUM agriculture stakeholders and decision-makers, as well as provide technical guidance to the Regional Agriculture Institutions. IICA HQ will also support the IICA Caribbean Offices including the IICA office in Barbados in facilitating specific technical support from IICA HQ administrative units (including accounting, internal control and auditing procedures, procurement, legal, human talent), and IICA Technical Directorates, primarily Agricultural Health and Food Safety will provide on-going support to the implementation of the Action.

### **6.2. Governance and the Management of the Action:**

The management structure for the Action comprises the following Committees:

- Programme Steering Committee (PSC)
- SPS Technical Oversight Committee (SPSTOC)
- Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)
- Project Management Unit (PMU)
- Technical National and Regional Implementation Network Teams (TNRINT)

In accordance with the Technical and Administrative Provisions (TAPS) of the Financing Agreement for the 10<sup>th</sup> EDF EPA Programme, a Programme Steering Committee (PSC) will be established comprising of the Secretary General of CARIFORUM, representatives of CARIFORUM States and the EU delegation from Guyana as an observer. The Programme Steering Committee

(PSC) shall oversee and validate the overall direction and policy of the overall EPA Programme which includes the SPS component.

The support to the review and monitoring of the project will include an assessment of what has been accomplished and the evaluation of the future plans for the development of the project objectives/activities and budgetary projections. Additional funding opportunities for CARIFORUM States may be reviewed and explored. The voting members of the Steering Committee will be entitled to one vote when propositions are presented for decision making.

Biannual meetings will be scheduled and organized to facilitate PSC functions. Rotation of locations for these meetings will afford each CARIFORUM State the opportunity to host the meeting. The coordination and linkage of these meetings with other regional agriculture related meetings will be preferred.

In order to incorporate and enhance the regional and technical perspective of CARIFORUM States, and to ensure effective and efficient monitoring and evaluating of action targets and indicators, a SPS Technical Oversight Committee (SPSTOC) shall be set up to oversee and validate the overall direction of the SPS component and to keep track of the implementation and monitoring of project activities. The SPSTOC shall review the annual Programme of activities and the results achieved. In addition, the SPSTOC will advocate and provide political support for the necessary national efforts for effective implementation of the project

The SPSTOC shall meet at least every six months virtually and once a year face-to-face meetings and shall review implementation progress of relevant components of the SPS program detailed in the Action. The decisions of the review meetings will be reflected in any modifications of the subsequent year's activities. The SPSTOC shall consist of:

- i. A representative of IICA, the implementing agency, two representatives of participating states: -the CNMSF and one CARICOM country, who will provide technical and logistical input on behalf of all participating countries, including issues related to arrangements for implementation at the national level and horizontal cooperation;
- ii. One representative from CARICOM Community Secretariat.
- iii. One representative from the CRFM
- iv. two private sector representatives:- CFNO and CAFAN will be charged with the responsibility for facilitating and coordinating the inputs from their membership;
- v. a representative of the EU Delegation with observer status;
- vi. An observer from the PSC of the 10<sup>th</sup> EDF EPA.

IICA will act as the secretariat of the SPSTOC through the PMU and therefore will be responsible for organization of SPSTOC meetings, documentation and communication on project implementation.

Representatives drawn from the CARICOM Secretariat, CRFM and IICA AHFS will be called upon to participate in meetings of the SPSTOC and will constitute the Technical Advisory Committee

which will serve as a Sub-Committee of the SPSTOC and shall meet at least every three months virtually with once per year face to face meeting. Such technical advice may be, where required, augmented through the contracting as necessary, of independent experts and practitioners in areas such as plant health, animal health, food safety, SPS including fisheries SPS, legislation, HACCP, GAPs, and any other area required for the successful implementation of the Action. Other interested development partners may attend as observers.

This Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) with technical expertise from IICA, CRFM, and CARICOM Secretariat and CARIFORUM States will be established to support programme implementation and shall provide *inter alia*:

- i. Technical advice based on strategic analysis of the situation related to the proposed actions and context in participating member states that could enhance or constrain implementation;
- ii. Technical oversight of progress with the implementation of activities;
- iii. Technical guidance and recommendations to address technical difficulties encountered in implementation;
- iv. Support for coordination of technical activities;
- v. Technical considerations which would support reporting to the PSC.

The TAC will meet at least every three months virtually and at least once a year in person to support project implementation through monitoring and assessment of the impacts of the proposed interventions.

The IICA Trinidad & Tobago Office has direct responsibility for coordination and monitoring with the EC delegation in Trinidad and Tobago. The Action includes a specific allocation of funds to establish a Project Management Unit (PMU) to provide full time support for implementation. This PMU will be established in the IICA Barbados Office which will have primary direct responsibility for project management and coordination, technical oversight of project implementation, monitoring, evaluation and reporting. CRFM and the Caricom Secretariat (CS) will be contributing to project implementation under the technical and strategic leadership of IICA.

The IICA office based in Barbados will be responsible for administration, management and direct supervision of the PMU; technical support and oversight in specific areas in AHFS. The Barbados office will also be responsible for Interface with agriculture policy institutions (including UWI, CARIRI, FAO, CCCCC, CDB.); and the CRFM Secretariat, headquartered in Belize, to provide support on discrete aspects of the project. The SPSTOC will provide guidance to the IICA Barbados Office PMU through:

- Review annual progress reports and provide recommendations for improvement as required.

- Review proposed changes in programming and budgeting that can or may impact the outcome of the project as agreed upon in the logical framework matrix (goal and purpose level).
- Review end of project evaluation and provide guidance for the implementation of the recommendations.

Office of the CARICOM Community Secretariat (CCS) based in Guyana will provide linkage to CAHFSA, and will also support the IICA Barbados Office in promoting and fostering the linkage with the Dominican Republic.

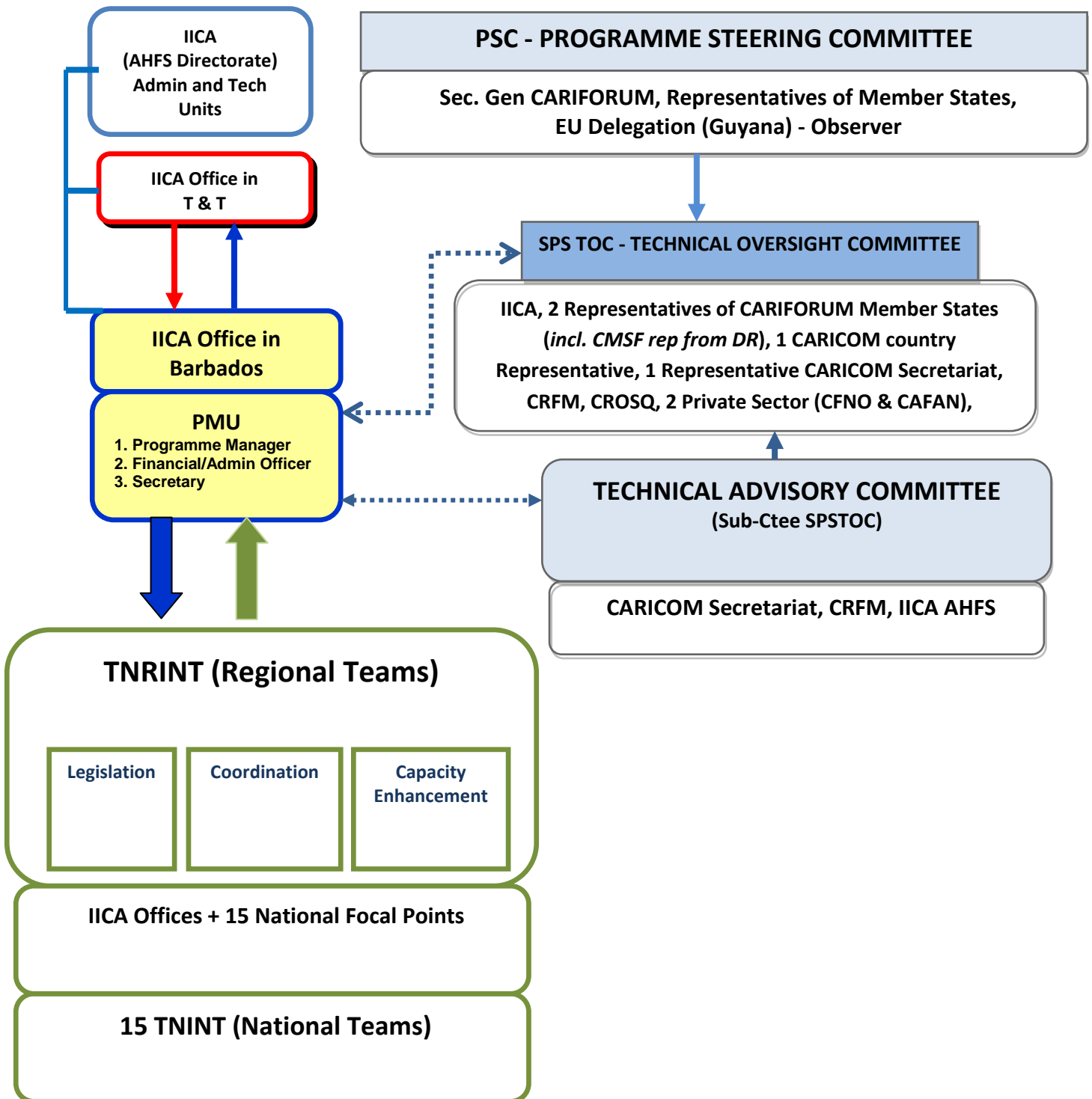
The Project Management Unit (PMU) will develop the overall annual Operational Plan, coordinate and monitor the implementation, develop, update and oversee the results-based (impact) monitoring, and organise the logistics and organisational support for the implementation of the Action activities. It will report to the SPSTOC. The Project Manager will function as the team leader and facilitate technical oversight and overall coordination with all stakeholders.

In addition to the Programme Steering Committee (PSC), SPSTOC, and the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), a Technical National and Regional Implementation Network Team (TNRINT) will be established and managed by IICA mainly through virtual means of web/network. The TNRINT will facilitate the development and implementation of Annual Operational Plans, monitor their implementation and facilitate reporting to the PMU.

Three Technical Regional Implementation Network Teams will be established to implement the three components in the Action, namely Legislation, Coordination and Capacity Enhancement. At the national level in each of the 15 CARIFORUM States, Technical National Implementation Network Teams (TNINT) will be established, managed by National Focal Points. These Coordinators will be selected from within the Ministries of Agriculture (including the Fisheries subsector), private sector agencies or relevant national institutions.

IICA Country Offices (COs) in close collaboration with the designated National Focal Points of the CARIFORUM States will be responsible for the direct support to countries for the development and implementation of specific work-plans. The exact nature and scope of the technical support will be defined jointly with National Authorities based on the Contribution Agreement. The Technical national and regional implementation network teams managed by the focal points and supported by the IICA offices are the major conduit for data, information, and requests between countries and IICA, and between CRFM and CARICOM Secretariat as pertains to this project.

### 6.3. Organizational Chart for IICA EC SPS Programme of the 10<sup>th</sup> EDF EPA Programme



## 6.4 Human Resources Issues

### 6.4.1 Recruitment process

Full time PMU staff for project implementation will be recruited and managed by IICA following standard procedures established within IICA. In order to provide familiarity and minimize language and cultural barriers in the recruitment process, consideration will be given to CARIFORUM nationals and/or residents for all positions. Being a CARIFORUM State national or resident will be considered an asset in the selection process, and as such under equal conditions in relation to the established requirements, a CARIFORUM national or resident will be given preference. Participation of CARIFORUM representatives in the hiring process will be facilitated by IICA.

The following steps will be followed for the recruitment process:

- IICA will conduct a final review of post descriptions for the PMU.
- The IICA Division of Management of Human Talent (DMHT), in close collaboration with IICA Barbados will facilitate the classification of posts and establishment of posts as soon as the funds are allotted.
- The IICA Division of Management of Human Talent (DMHT) in close collaboration with IICA Barbados will facilitate the issuing of vacancy notices. IICA Barbados will organize and conduct the dissemination of vacancy notices across all CARIFORUM countries.
- For the International Professional Position:
  - The DMHT in collaboration with IICA Barbados will organize a Selection Committee comprising the Representative of the Barbados IICA Office, the IICA AHFS Directorate, the IICA Coordinator of Regional Integration for the Caribbean, the CRFM and the Agriculture Programme leader of CARICOM as well as the Agricultural Health and Food Safety Specialist in the Barbados Office.
  - All applications will be received by the Division of Management and Human Talent (DMHT). The DMHT will act as Secretariat for the Selection Committee and will conduct a preliminary analysis of the applications.
  - The Selection Committee will:
    - Establish a short list of candidates for interviews
    - Conduct interviews of selected candidates via video conference
    - Provide recommendations for the suitable candidates for the Director General of IICA in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of the Institute.

- The Selection of the Financial/Administrative Officer as well as the Secretary will be conducted according to the Rules and Regulations of the Institute by the PMU, the IICA Office in Barbados with assistance of the DMHT.

## **6.5 Terms of Reference Project Management Unit Staff**

### *6.5.1 Project Manager*

The Project Manager will be responsible for the day to day management and monitoring of the SPS EPA 10<sup>th</sup> EDF project and will be required to:

- Manage and supervise the Financial/Administrative Officer and coordinate the daily operations of the project.
- Schedule project management meetings quarterly or as necessary.
- Liaise with the IICA Barbados office, the SPSTOC, IICA Country Offices and Focal points and the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) on all matters pertaining to the project.
- Draft and implement the necessary procedures and controls to ensure full compliance with the funding agreement.
- Approve, monitor and evaluate work plans and budgets, and employ good financial management practices to ensure proper use of grant funds to achieve results agreed upon as per defined indicators.
- Facilitate technical analysis of progress, identify obstacles and propose changes in the interventions, if required, to meet agreed upon results.
- Convene meetings of the Project Steering Committee (biannual and as necessary), and ensure appropriate secretarial services for the Committee.
- Participate as a non-voting member of the Project Steering Committee.
- Prepare all reports, both financial and technical, for the Action.
- Coordinate mobilization of resources and advocacy for the CARIFORUM countries.
- Coordinate with relevant IICA units and facilitate harmonization.

### **Requirements**

- 15 – 20 years of relevant experience, including experience in addressing programmatic issues related to agriculture and monitoring and evaluation.
- Advanced university qualification in Food Safety and or Animal Health discipline. Masters in Project Management and Project Administration.
- Working knowledge of Spanish

### 6.5.2 Financial/Administrative Officer

There will be one (1) Financial/Administrative Officer who will be the focal point for the Action with regard to financial issues and will be under the direct supervision of the PM. The Financial/Administrative Officer will be required to: -

- Undertake the administrative and financial management processes, thus enabling and allowing the technical cooperation activities of the SPS EPA 10<sup>th</sup> EDF project to be effectively implemented according to the policies, standards and procedures of IICA and the EC.
- Support the Project Manager by providing financial data to support the development, approval and acceptance of the implementation strategy, program budget and annual action plan developed by the PMU.
- Ensure that all financial information is accurate, adequate and appropriate to enhance the proper functioning of the evaluation, monitoring and auditing systems.

#### Specific responsibilities and tasks:

- Provide administrative support to the PMU staff.
- Provide support to the PMU monitoring and evaluation in data collection and management, and data entry.
- Provide support in data entry for financial reports
- Interact as required with the focal points
- Provide support for the administrative actions required for effective implementation of the project such as procurement, hiring of short term consultants and contractual service agreements.

#### Requirements:

At least six years of relevant experience or specialized training in Accounting, or the combination of six years of the two. Training and experience with the use of the SAP system would be considered an asset.

### 6.5.3. Secretary

The Secretary will provide administrative support to ensure successful implementation of the PMU's work plans and related activities. This includes managing correspondence, performing research and data entry, assisting with logistical arrangements and liaising with stakeholders in support of the functions of the PMU staff.

Recruitment and selection of the Secretary will be available to residents and nationals within the local area of the office of the PMU.

Specific responsibilities and tasks:

- Provide administrative support to the PMU staff.
- Provide support to the PMU monitoring and evaluation in data collection and management, and data entry.
- Provide support in data entry for financial reports
- Interact as required with the focal points
- Provide support for the administrative actions required for effective implementation of the project such as procurement, hiring of short term consultants and contractual services agreements.

Requirements:

- 3-5 years of relevant experience
- Undergraduate degree level training or equivalent professional qualification in administration management and basic Accounting.

## **7.0. Sustainability of the Proposed Action**

Among the risks envisioned, the CARICOM Secretariat and IICA have identified that national policy makers need to be effectively engaged in the development and execution of legislation, protocols and standards in the area of AHFS and fisheries. All stakeholders would need to commit and participate actively in activities of the Action; core requirements for implementation (viz. all technical, legal and administrative expertise and equipment and materials required for Action activities) need to be procured and delivered in a timely manner; and regional and national SPS related institutions would need to have the commitment and capacity to ensure financial sustainability of the proposed Action.

Given the level of investment in agricultural development through this Action, the issue of sustainability cannot be over-emphasized. This will be assured through:

- The implementation of early activities in the Action that are geared towards the finalization and adoption of the regional plant and animal health Bills, the preparation and initial discussion of the food safety and fisheries bills, and the development of ancillary protocols and regulations. Adoption of these Bills by CARIFORUM States would constitute the foundation for regional SPS regulatory harmonization and greatly facilitate regional trade in agricultural and fisheries products.

- The use of well-defined processes for stakeholder engagement and for developing actions that emerge through consultations, that could enhance the involvement of all stakeholders, both public and private sector stakeholders, in the discussions and decisions thus ensuring ownership in and an appreciation of the benefits of legislative reform, coordination, and capacity enhancement.
- The Action will also emphasize the creation or enhancement of awareness among high-level government officials (four tiers – Ministers, Permanent Secretaries, Chief Agricultural Officers, and Heads of Services) and key private sector leaders, about the importance of SPS issues and the corresponding national services by the development of public Promotion and Awareness information packages to enhance the awareness among all stakeholders. In addition, an effort will be made to structure National SPS Committees and National Codex Committees in ways that incorporate high-level government officials. A similar effort will be made to incorporate private sector leaders into these committees. Increased awareness about SPS issues will be expected to result in greater official and private support for the national and regional SPS services, and thus, improving the financial allocation from the national budget.
- On-going support will be provided by IICA for national committees such as SPS Committees, Codex Committees, farmer and fisher folk groups and commodity associations formed or supported under the Action. In addition, training and education programs by IICA in selected areas will continue after the completion of the Action.

The establishment of national and regional coordination mechanisms (NAHFSA and CAHFSA) will provide improved agricultural health and food safety services to stakeholders. Services such as quarantine treatments, laboratory diagnostic services, soil analysis, import and export inspection and certification, pesticide residue monitoring and testing will be provided. Cost recovery systems developed and tested for these services will play an important role in sustainability. Funds from national budgets for national SPS systems and quota payments from Member States for the operation of CAHFSA will provide additional financial support for these entities.

- Ownership of the modernization of SPS systems, national and regional, is essential to achieve sustainability. The Action will structure programs to create or strengthen SPS systems and services in close collaboration with the stakeholders, public and private, so that such modernization activities fully involve local authorities and personnel, in the planning stages as well as during delivery and implementation. The establishment of effective coordination mechanisms at both the national level and the regional level will provide efficient services and support to the private sector stakeholders (farmers, fisher folk, exporters, importers, processors) resulting in increased confidence in the system.
- Environmental sustainability is of great importance to CARIFORUM countries given the fragility of land and marine ecosystems in the Region and vulnerability to natural disasters and climate change. The islands comprise a high proportion of marine and

coastal areas and a generally rich biodiversity which are important sources of income. The implementation of proper monitoring systems for pesticide and other chemical residues in the fisheries sub-sector in the Action will contribute significantly to reduction of negative impacts on the natural environment. The implementation of good agricultural, fisheries and related manufacturing practices will promote principles and practices that are environmentally friendly and safe. Farmer training will focus on the minimal use of chemicals, using a more integrated pest management approach. Fisher folk will be trained in harvesting and handling techniques that will contribute to maintenance of fish stocks and to the reduction of negative impacts on the marine environment. The proposed legislation, in addition to providing measures for the protection of plants, animals and human life, will also include provisions for proper waste disposal and pesticide usage;

- The incorporation of existing regional networks of farmers, fisher folk, exporters, importers, regulators and small producers, including women and youth into the development and implementation of the actions will ensure ownership, continuity and sustainability of the proposed intervention to implement SPS measures to facilitate the EPA with the EU. The CRFM in particular will be an important pivot around which training and incentives are developed to build capacity in key target groups;
- The development of a strong platform that fosters SPS dialogue, sharing of experiences and stakeholder consensus will also be an important factor contributing to sustainability of the Action. The development of appropriate technologies for the competent authorities and private sector to minimize operational costs and to facilitate cost recoveries under the Action, will contribute to financial sustainability;
- The development of appropriate cost recovery financial schemes to ensure optimum participation by producers, processors, marketing institutions (exporters and importers) and private sector in the SPS measures and activities, will also contribute positively to financial sustainability.

## **8.0. Monitoring and Evaluation**

IICA has recently undergone a positive and successful institutional assessment by the EU. This Assessment establishes IICA with a good comparative advantage over other agencies, and through effective collaboration, IICA is best placed to bring value to EC objectives

The Mid-Term Review of the AAACP identified that delays in the implementation of project outputs were the result of the Implementing Organizations' lack of regional presence and visibility. The collaboration with CARICOM and the CRFM to facilitate greater involvement and participation in the implementation of Action outputs by national and regional stakeholders provides a strategic framework for the delivery of outputs under this Action.

IICA, CARICOM and CRFM have all managed a wide range of agriculture related projects for many donors over the last 20 years and have an outstanding record in project management. CARIFORUM has successfully implemented projects funded under the EDF 7, 8 and 9, with all projects meeting objectives and audited according to EC requirements.

The Action activities will be well integrated into and supported by the overall technical cooperation strategy for the Caribbean region of IICA. The regional harmonization of SPS measures, particularly through the work of CAHFSA will be promoted and supported by the overall work program of the CARICOM Secretariat within the Agriculture program. CRFM has successfully secured financial assistance from a range of donors in support of the development and establishment of fisheries practices in compliance with national and regional SPS regimes developed under the Action.

External monitoring, through the ROM System, shall be undertaken by independent consultants recruited directly by the Commission on specifically established terms of reference. Such evaluation will, in principle commence from the sixth month of project activities and will be finalized at the latest, 6 months before the end of the operational implementation phase. Independent consultants recruited directly by the Commission under specifically established terms of reference will carry out a mid-term evaluation mission and final evaluation, at the beginning of the closing phase.

The Beneficiary and the Commission will analyze the conclusions and recommendations of the mid-term evaluation and jointly decide on the follow-up action to be taken and any necessary adjustments, including, if indicated, the reorientation of the project. The reports of the other evaluation and monitoring missions will be given to the Beneficiary, in order to take into account any recommendations that may result from such missions. The Commission will inform the Beneficiary at least 14 days in advance of the dates foreseen for the external missions. The Beneficiary will collaborate efficiently and effectively with the monitoring and/or evaluation experts, and *inter alia* provide them with all necessary information and documentation, as well as access to the project premises and activities.

## **9.0. Visibility**

Almost 1% of the total Action costs of approximately €100,000 are allocated for actions which promote EU action visibility. In addition to technical reports and annual reports, the project outputs will be communicated directly to stakeholders and decision makers at regional meetings and during country visits. In addition to technical reports, regional policy frameworks and technical databases developed over the life of the project, the project outputs will be communicated directly to decision makers at regional meetings, technical workshops and during country visits.

Since one of the key areas is the facilitation of investment, emphasis will also be placed on producing short, non-technical papers and media articles on key issues to inform policy makers

and public opinion as part of an approach to facilitate investment within the agriculture sector in the region. EU financial support will be highlighted in all activities, reports and media releases. EU promotional material will also be produced and distributed during the Action, utilizing resources that have been reserved in the PMU and in the components in the budget for visibility.