



Specialized Course on SPS

What?

The Agriculture and Commodities Division is organizing a **three-week Specialized Course on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS)**.

This **participatory** Course will focus on **implementation and market access challenges** faced in the SPS area. The knowledge and skills acquired during the Course are expected to assist participants in **identifying problems** related to the effective implementation of the SPS Agreement and in **exercising leadership** to tackle these challenges.

Participants will be asked to develop and present **action plans** to address some of these challenges. The Course will be complemented by **follow-up** activities to take place in 2009.

How?

An **invitation** will be sent at the beginning of **May 2008** to the Missions to the WTO of eligible Members and Observers.

Only applications submitted through the WTO contact point will be considered. The deadline for submission of nominations to the WTO is **6 June 2008**.

Where and when?

In Geneva, at the WTO Headquarters from **29 September to 17 October 2008** (during the second week participants will attend the SPS Committee meetings).

What language?

The Course will be held in **English**. All-round proficiency in English is an essential prerequisite for participation.

Who may participate?

Officials from developing countries and economies in transition, which are Members or Observers of the WTO, as well as all LDCs, nominated by their governments.

The Course is designed for 25 participants. Only one participant per Member or Observer may be selected.

Candidates should be familiar with the SPS Agreement and knowledgeable of national issues relating to its implementation. They should be currently working in their national administration and have **leadership responsibilities in the SPS area**.

What about funding?

Participants will be offered a fellowship, covering a round-trip air ticket (excursion fare), medical insurance, accommodation, and a daily subsistence allowance for the duration of the course.