

SECRETARIA DE AGRICULTURA, GANADERIA,
DESARROLLO RURAL, PESCA Y ALIMENTACION

CASE STUDY: MEXICO

WORKSHOP ON AGRICULTURE NOTIFICATIONS



GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

22-24 SEPTEMBER 2009

INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

- ✓ MEXICAN EXPERIENCE: AOA NOTIFICATIONS INVOLVE PARTICIPATION FROM BOTH THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE
- ✓ MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE: EXPORT SUBSIDIES AND DOMESTIC SUPPORT
- ✓ WITHIN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, THE AREA THAT TAKES RESPONSIBILITY FOR NOTIFICATIONS IS THE UNIT OF STUDIES AND SUPPORT TO INTERNATIONAL NEGOTIATIONS
- ✓ SMALL UNIT: 15 PEOPLE WORKING IN A WIDE RANGE OF TOPICS AND DIFFERENT FUNCTIONS: FROM INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL MARKET ANALYSIS TO CONDUCTING INTERNATIONAL TRADE TALKS WITH MEXICO'S PARTNERS
- ✓ RIGHT NOW, WE HAVE ONLY 2 PEOPLE WORKING ON WTO NOTIFICATIONS, BUT WITH ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES
- ✓ UNDERSTAFFING IS A PROBLEM

NOTIFICATION PROCESS

- ✓ EXPORT SUBSIDIES NOTIFICATION: BEST VIEWED AS A PROCESS INVOLVING 5 CRITICAL STEPS:
 - CLASSIFICATION OF POLICIES ACCORDING TO WTO REQUIREMENTS
 - IDENTIFICATION OF DATA SOURCES AND COLLECTING OF INFORMATION
 - ELABORATING AND SENDING NOTIFICATIONS
 - ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF RELEVANT PATTERNS
 - FEEDBACK FROM INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL USERS, ANALYSTS, POLICY MAKERS

- ✓ EACH STEP HAS ITS OWN PARTICULAR PROBLEMS. HOWEVER, WE FEEL THAT RIGHT NOW THE SECOND STEP IS THE ONE THAT MOST CONTRIBUTES TO DELAY THE NOTIFICATION PROCESS

- ✓ 2007 PUBLIC ACCOUNT HAS BEEN PUBLISHED JUST RECENTLY

CRITICAL ASPECTS

- ✓ AGRICULTURAL POLICY IN MEXICO HAS ADVANCED TOWARDS A MORE ARTICULATE, TRANSPARENT, FOCUSED PROCESS. AS A CONSEQUENCE, WE ARE OVERCOMING PROBLEMS RELATED TO STEP 1.
- ✓ IN THE CASE OF **ES**: INSTEAD OF DIRECT PAYMENTS, SUPPORT TO HANDLING AND TRANSPORTATION OF SOME AGRICULTURAL GOODS
- ✓ INFORMATION FLOWS ARE STILL A PROBLEM.
 - UNIT OF STUDIES AND SUPPORT TO NEGOTIATIONS IS NOT IN CHARGE OF GENERATING OFFICIAL QUANTITATIVE INFORMATION
 - MINIMAL CONTROL OVER THE INFORMATION INPUT TO ELABORATE NOTIFICATIONS
 - LENGTHY PERIODS OF TIME TO GET DATA:
 - INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK
 - RELIANCE ON EXPERIENCE RATHER THAN IN ESTABLISHED PROCESSES
 - FISCAL YEAR VS. AGRICULTURAL YEAR
 - VERIFYING THAT GOODS ARE EFFECTIVELY EXPORTED

CRITICAL ASPECTS

- ✓ ONCE STEPS 1 AND 2 ARE DONE, ELABORATION IS NOT VIEWED AS A SERIOUS OBSTACLE.
 - SENDING: OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF MODERN COMMUNICATIONS TO MAKE IT EASIER AND FASTER.
 - MEXICO: EXPERIENCE FILLING IN TAX DECLARATIONS USING WEB PAGES
- ✓ STEP 4: WHAT ARE POLICY-MAKERS DOING TO INFO FROM THE NOTIFICATION PROCESS?
- ✓ FEEDBACK: THIS WORKSHOP IS VERY IMPORTANT FOR OUR UNIT, AS IT ALLOWS US TO KNOW MORE ABOUT BEST PRACTICES AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL
- ✓ WE HAVE THE CHALLENGE TO INVOLVE MORE PEOPLE IN THE PROCESS
- ✓ ESPECIALLY, THOSE INVOLVED IN STEP 2: TO GET BETTER INFORMATION AT PROPER TIMES

ACTIONS

- ✓ DEVELOPING APPROPRIATE HANDBOOKS AT THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE LEVEL
- ✓ CONTINUE WITH THE TECHNICAL FORMATION OF SPECIALISTS ON THIS ISSUE
- ✓ IMPROVING INFORMATION CHANNELS:
 - WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?
 - IS IT USEFUL FOR MY AREA?
 - TO MAKE IT RELEVANT FOR POLICY-MAKERS
 - OPTIMIZE TIME, HUMAN AND PHYSICAL RESOURCES
- ✓ EMPHASIS ON SYSTEMS
- ✓ IMPROVING (EVEN DESIGNING) THE FEEDBACK STEP

THE END

THANK YOU VERY MUCH