



Roundtable Discussion Concerning the Review Process

Brazil's Experience

Geneva, September 2009

Luiz Carmona

Advisor for Multilateral Matters



Current situation of Brazil's agriculture notifications

- Last notification
MA:2, ES:1, ES:2 and ES:3 – 2007
DS:1 – 2003/2004
- Internal revision/approval step
DS:1 – 2004/2005 and 2005/2006
- Preparation (final stage) step
MA:2, ES:1, ES:2 and ES:3 – 2008
DS:1 – 2006/2007 and 2007/2008



Faced problems

General

- AoA is very complicated agreement (and, of course, the analysis of its notifications)
- Most people are skeptical about WTO role and effectiveness
- Portuguese is a Non WTO language



Faced problems

When analyzing notifications of other members

- Time consuming process
- Non-WTO unit staff:
 - Usually not familiar with AoA and WTO obligations assumed by members
 - Lack of skills required to understand, assess and identify issues of interest



Faced problems

When preparing notifications

- Problems only on domestic support issues
- Time consuming process
- It is not a priority when under DDA negotiation pressure
- Variety of sources involved



Faced problems

When preparing notifications

- Non-WTO unit staff:
 - Usually not familiar with AoA and WTO obligations assumed by Brazil
 - WTO unit is usually seen as the “bad guys”
- WTO unit staff:
 - Expertise is on AoA and other WTO rules, but usually not familiar with Brazilian agricultural policies



Domestic institutional framework to address the problems

When analyzing notifications of other members

- Focus on specific products/members (few products of interest for concerning players)
- Elaboration of consolidated data series



Domestic institutional framework to address the problems

When preparing notifications

- Elaboration of consolidated data series
- Informal collaborative network
- Full access into budget system
- Part of information necessary to prepare notifications is now public and available on line



Institutional capacity building

- Internal guidelines on procedures to fill in required tables
- Improving knowledge of existing WTO tools
- Improving knowledge of domestic policies
- On-the-job training



Suggestions

- On line courses (ITTTC)
- Improving Notification Handbook and other tools
 - More detailed explanation
 - Practical examples