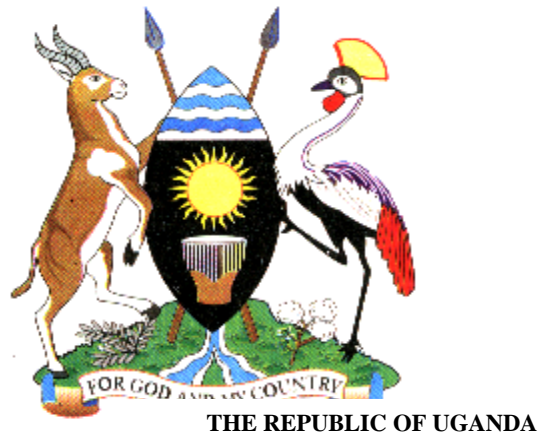


Draft National Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Policy



National Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Policy

Improved Competitiveness through Health and Safety

Ministry of Tourism, Trade and Industry

P.O. Box 7103 Kampala, Uganda

Website: www.mti.go.ug

Draft National Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Policy

FOREWORD

*Photo to be
inserted.*

The government of the Republic of Uganda has over the last 20 years, implemented policies and supported several initiatives aimed at poverty eradication. Poverty levels have reduced from 56.4% in the early 1990's to below 31% in 2008.

Increased foreign exchange earnings through export trade and improved agricultural production and value addition are some of the factors that have contributed to this change in the positive direction.

Current globalization and liberalization of world trade in food and feed has led to an increase in both the volume and dollar amount of food traded internationally. Although the contribution to world trade in food by African countries is still low, the opportunity exists to drastically increase this volume due to the opening up of the lucrative US markets to African products through the African Growth Opportunity Act (AGOA) where 35 countries including Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and Zambia are currently eligible. Japan government has put in place the General System of Preferences (GSP) while a similar initiative such as Everything But Arms (EBA) and the ongoing Economic Partnership Agreements (EPA) negotiations with the European Union (EU). This presents a great opportunity for poverty alleviation among participating African countries.

It should be noted that despite various trading opportunities, there are Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) which include strict market regulations in the EU and other markets. To access certain markets, it is requirement to addresses issues of traceability in the food value chain i.e. from farm to fork. Risk analysis is an international strategy for food safety and plays an important role in food trade. The Ugandan economy is largely agro based and most of our agricultural exports are consumed by the European Union (over 55%). With the onset of the commodity prices, Uganda's participation in international food trade, particularly within the CMESA region has been increasing steadily and continues to grow.

In view of the above, the need for an integrated national Sanitary and Phytosanitary control system is of national strategic interest, first for the protection of consumers at national and global levels and also to ensure that our foods and food products meet the required international standards for trade in foods and food products. The launching of the SPS Policy is therefore will not only promote fair trade in food and food products, but will also create an effective framework to facilitate trade and enhance Uganda's competitiveness in exporting food and food products.

The SPS Policy is aimed at creating the framework and guidelines for addressing SPS development aspects in a holistic manner; with a view to contributing to sustainable development, by providing opportunities for creating wealth through income generation and distribution, increased employment in order to enhance the competitiveness of Uganda's

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agri-business sector. The policy will direct efforts by stakeholders in strengthening the policy and legal framework, capacity development for implementing SPS standards as well as strengthening institutional framework and linkages, research and development and consumer awareness programmes.

Development of the National SPS Policy is very timely and a key milestone for the NRM Government. The Government of Uganda has therefore prioritized SPS measures and this policy is the first of its kind that presents a comprehensive approach of the entire food value chain. All efforts should therefore, be made to effectively implement the identified strategic actions in order to meeting our development goals and objectives, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and other related policy Initiatives. The NRM Government is fully committed to, the implementation of all recommendations made in this policy.

Yoweri Kaguta Museveni

PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

..... 2011

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

AU	African Union
BMU	Beach Management Units
CAC	Codex Alimentarius Commission
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and South Africa
DTIS	Diagnostic Trade Integration Study
EAC	East Africa Community
ESA	Education Standards Agency
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
GAL	Government Analytical Laboratory
GAP	Good Agricultural Practices
GHP	Good Hygienic Practice
GMP	Good Manufacturing Practice
MAAIF	Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries
MAPS	Marketing and Agro- Processing Strategy
MFEPD	Ministry of Finance Economic Planning and Development
MLG	Ministry of Local Government
MTTI	Ministry of Tourism, Trade and Industry
MoH	Ministry of Health
MTCS	Medium Term Competitive Strategy
MAK	Makerere University

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NAADS	National Agricultural Advisory Services
NARS	National Agricultural Research Systems
NDP	National Development Plan
NRM	National Resistance Movement
PMA	Plan for Modernization of Agriculture
PMDT	Production, Marketing, Distribution and Transportation
PSFU	Private Sector Foundation Uganda
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
IEC	Information, Education Commission- Channels
IPPC	International Plant Protection Convention
OIE	International Office of Epizootics (Animal Health Organization)
SPS	Sanitary and Phytosanitary
SOPs	Standard Operating Procedures
SADC	Southern African Development Community
TBT	Technical Barriers to Trade
TR	Technical Regulations
UNBS	Uganda National Bureau of Standards
WTO	World Trade Organization
FDI	Foreign Direct Investments

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CHAPTER ONE

1.0 Introduction

1. Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures are actions taken to protect human health through the protection and enhancement of health and safety of plants and animals. Sanitary or Phytosanitary measures include all relevant laws, decrees, regulations, requirements and procedures including, *inter alia*, end product criteria; processes and production methods; testing, inspection, certification and approval procedures; quarantine treatments including relevant requirements associated with the transport of animals or plants, or with the materials necessary for their survival during transport; provisions on relevant statistical methods, sampling procedures and methods of risk assessment; and packaging and labeling requirements directly related to food safety.
2. Government has over the past years formulated policies aimed at protecting the lives and health of humans, animals and plants; and improving the competitiveness of Uganda's products. Such policies include the Food and Nutrition Policy, National (2003) Animal Feeds Policy (2005) National Meat Policy 2003 National Trade Policy(2008), National Industrial Policy(February 2008), National Health Policy, (2009) National Drug Policy and Act (1993), and the National Agricultural Research System (NARS) among others. The National Development Plan 2010/11 – 2014/15 and The Agriculture sector Development and investment Plan (DSIP) also bring out the fact that compliance with such measures as being key for competitiveness as well as boosting the health of the population.
3. In addition to the National Policies related to SPS, Uganda is a member of a number of international organizations such as the World Trade Organization (WTO), International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), and the World Animal Health Organization (OIE), FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission for Food Safety; whose activities relate to SPS. Under these Organizations, Uganda is obliged to comply with certain minimum SPS requirements, especially while engaging in international trade
4. Sanitary and Phytosanitary measures refer to any measure applied:
 - i. To protect animal or plant life or health from risks arising from the entry, establishment or spread of pests, diseases, disease-carrying organisms or disease-causing organisms
 - ii. To protect human or animal life or health from risks arising from additives, contaminants, toxins or disease-causing organisms in foods, beverages or feedstuffs

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- iii. To protect human life or health from risks arising from diseases carried by animals, plants or products thereof, or from the entry, establishment or spread of pests
- iv. To prevent or limit other damage from the entry, establishment or spread of pests.

5. Uganda is mainly engaged in trade of agricultural products, which are directly affected by SPS requirements. These requirements mainly affect the non-traditional exports (such as fish and fish products, horticultural products, flowers, cereals, fruits, *et cetera*), which have been growing rapidly over the last ten years as a result of Government's policy of export diversification. The policy interventions have seen the contribution of non-traditional exports to total exports increase from 28.7% in 1999 to 73.2% in 2009. However, this growth is potentially threatened unless SPS issues are urgently addressed.

6. In regard to the above, Government has developed this policy to provide a national framework for guarding against the potential threats. While developing the policy, a number of aspects have been taken into account. These include national policies and the National Development Plans, regional commitments, especially under the African Union, the East African Community (EAC) and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and international commitments.

7. The SPS Policy development has followed a consultative and collaborative process. A team of senior Government officials from the Ministries of Tourism, Trade and Industry; Health, Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries plus representatives of the Private Sector were constituted to form the SPS Policy Taskforce. The taskforce was chaired by MTTI, which also provided the Secretariat for the SPS Policy formulation process. The team has conducted various consultations with the relevant stakeholders in the public and private sectors, the academia, civil society organisations as well as the development partners. The consultative process also involved members of Parliament and culminated into the national consultative workshop, during which the draft policy was validated at the national level.

CHAPTER TWO

2.0 THE SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

This chapter reviews the SPS regime that is currently operational in Uganda. It gives an overview of the strengths, opportunities, challenges and threats that affect the SPS regime, as detailed below;

2.1 Strengths

The development of the SPS Policy is based on a number of factors that exist in Uganda, which are vital for setting the foundation for implementation of the Policy. The following are considered as the Strengths for effective implementation the SPS Policy in the country;

2.1.1 Existence of various policies, laws and regulatory framework

In Uganda, there exist a number of basic policies, laws and regulations that address specific issues under the broad area of Sanitary and Phytosanitary. These policies, laws and regulations are specific to human or public health, animal health and welfare, fisheries and plant protection. In addition, there are sector specific laws and regulations that cover some components of the food value chain, such as animal slaughter laws.

2.1.2 Existence of basic standards

Uganda has developed a number of standards which Government may apply when issuing SPS regulations. Various products produced in Uganda are subjected to local standards. The Uganda National Bureau of Standards is mandated to issue such products with approval certificates.

2.1.3 Existence of various institutions for management of SPS issues

Under the current SPS control management system, several institutions exist to provide the starting point in the management of SPS Issues. The key institutions responsible for implementation of SPS measures include the Ministries of Health; Tourism, Trade and Industry; Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries; Local Governments plus semi-autonomous Agencies such as the Uganda National Bureau of Standards, National Drug Authority, Dairy Development Authority.

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2.1.4 Availability of some trained human resources in SPS control management

A number of training institutions in Uganda offer training in SPS management and enforcement skills. The availability of skilled personnel in SPS management provides strength for policy implementation.

2.1.5 Availability of some Laboratories and Scientific Support Infrastructures

There are some laboratories in both Public and Private Sectors that focus on specific SPS issues, some of which are accredited. In addition various academic and research institutions own research laboratories that can be used to undertake activities that support SPS regimes.

2.1.6 Existence of some Information, Education and Communication (IEC) channels

Government has put in place an enabling environment that allows extended media coverage and freedom of speech. The existence of many public and private Electronic and Print media, and improved telecommunication services provide an excellent avenues for communication, education and sharing of information on SPS issues. In addition, various educational government programmes such as UPE, USE, functional adult literacy, support absorption of SPS information.

2.1.7 Government Commitment to Public Private Partnerships (PPP)

It is Government policy to promote Public Private Partnership approach that can be used to enhance effective management and compliance to SPS requirements. Currently the Ware House Receipt System under the Uganda Commodity Exchange is a key example of the PPP initiative that is being used to address some of the SPS related issues at the farmers' level. Other initiatives include inter alia; the Beach Management Units (BMUs) for fisheries sub-sector, the Rural Information System under the Cooperative Development.

2.2 Weaknesses

There are a number of challenges that are likely to hinder the effective implementation of the SPS Policy. Some of these aspects are within the limits of Government control and hence can be mitigated by undertaking appropriate policy actions, while others are within the realms of the Private sector. These may include, inter alia, the following;

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2.2.1 Lack of SPS Institutional Coordination Mechanisms

SPS issues cut across all the production sectors, with much focus on the agricultural sector especially at the production, processing, packaging, and transportation and storage levels. The absence of a formal and legally backed multi-sectoral coordination mechanism among the SPS authorities and or agencies creates a fertile ground for overlaps and duplication of efforts. A number of Government institutions are currently operating with overlapping mandates and in some cases, certain institutions have conflicting mandates. This further leads to duplication of services, uncoordinated inspection teams and systems. Certain institutions observe different working hours, especially those operating at border points.

There have been some cases where Government has issued multiple directives and or guidelines on similar aspects of SPS regimes because of fragmentation of SPS institutions and or authorities. In certain cases, there are uncoordinated and conflicting government interventions, which are often misinterpreted as political interference. In other cases, the institutions which are expected to enforce certain SPS measures seem not be interested in enforcing their functions and responsibilities while in others their emphasis is on monetary gains (revenue collection) as opposed to enforcement of regulations especially at local government levels. This has resulted into loss of public confidence and appreciation of the need to enforce SPS measures such as banning of selling meat in open places, vending foods on streets among others by certain institutions.

2.2.2 Weak Enforcement Mechanisms

In some cases, there exist specific policies, laws and regulations for enforcing SPS measures. However, their enforcement is often weak. In some cases, lack of awareness and appreciation of the rationale for such policies, laws and regulations among the stakeholders makes it difficult for the enforcement agencies/regulators to effectively enforce.

2.2.3 Inadequate Production, Processing and Marketing Infrastructure

SPS issues cut across the entire value chains for plant and animal products. There is therefore the need for suitable infrastructure at all levels i.e. at the farm/firm levels, processing and packaging, transporting, production, storage, marketing. Unfortunately much of the agricultural production is in the rural areas where there are inadequate storage and other required facilities to meet the SPS measures. Although significant improvement has been registered in some sectors, transport facilities are still poor; making it difficult for all those in the SPS management system to meet the recommended best practices.

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2.2.4 Low Capacity of the SPS Laboratories

The existing laboratories have limited capacities to handle all the SPS tests and analyses. In addition, all the major laboratories are based in Kampala, with no comprehensive laboratories outreach branches to handle SPS issues in the rural areas. Furthermore; most of the existing laboratories' activities are not functionally coordinated. Some of the equipments used in laboratories are old while the new ones lack reagents and other consumables. Most of the current laboratories are not accredited. There is no proper record keeping or regular profiling or directory of the existing laboratories in Uganda.

2.2.5 Limited skilled personnel manpower

SPS issues are complex and difficult to understand. There is general lack of sufficient skilled human resources that can be recruited and deployed to effectively manage SPS policies, laws and regulations. In most of the existing SPS institutions, there are limited opportunities for further training of the personnel. In addition, there is no harmonized and or appropriate training curricular for SPS related skills among the academic institutions. Furthermore, the current training and educational programmes largely focus on high levels of learning, without specific focus to secondary and primary levels.

2.2.6 Inadequate and inappropriate allocation of financial resources

There are limited funds allocated to undertake activities and programmes that will ensure compliance to SPS requirements. To further complicate the situation, where limited funds have been provided, they are not well targeted to the critical areas that would derive maximum benefits in ensuring efficient and effective use of resources to meet the SPS requirements.

Consequently, some of the Government institutions lack resources to recruit the required personnel to carry out inspections, monitoring and surveillance activities.

2.2.7 Weak SPS Extension Services (Coverage & Outreach)

The National Agricultural Advisory Services (NAADS) Programmes and the Marketing and Agro-Processing Strategy (MAPS) are some of the key Government efforts aimed at ensuring that agricultural products are processed based on internationally accepted standards in order to meet the SPS requirements. However, these efforts are not evenly distributed to cover most of rural areas, where much of the agricultural outputs are produced. Government has made efforts to restructure the NAADS programme but this has not achieved much, as most of the traditional

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extension services are not readily available to the rural poor farmers. In addition, the well designed MAPS have largely remained on paper, with limited resources allocated for its implementation.

2.2.8 Limited Science Based Approaches

The current SPS institutions/agencies have limited capacity to undertake science based risk assessment. There are weak traceability systems in most of the SPS areas, except in fish, honey and flower products. Lack of an established incident management system and recall procedures also makes enforcement of SPS requirements very difficult. In addition, there are weak monitoring and surveillance systems for animal health, crop and food safety.

2.2.9 Lack of Effective Information Sharing and Analysis Systems

Uganda has a weak referral system characterized by poor information sharing and analysis. There is limited management and sharing of data and the analysis of outcomes among and between laboratories after conducting their SPS related tests and research. The existing laboratory systems do not adequately contribute to risk assessment components, traceability and enforcement systems.

2.2.10 Unregulated movements of agricultural produce

With the increase in unregulated movements of agricultural produce, there is an increased risk of undetected introduction of alien agricultural pests and diseases. To make matters worse, there are insufficient personnel and inspection infrastructure to manage all check points.

2.2.11 Poor Utilization of the Information, Education and Communication (IEC) Infrastructure

Most of the SPS information is insufficient and poorly packaged i.e. it is not simplified for consumers. There are also low levels of education to many consumers on issues of SPS (functional literacy). Currently there is limited information sharing between various authorities and enforcement agencies.

2.2.12 Low Public Awareness

There is low public awareness of SPS issues and this aggravates the problem of low appreciation of the need to meet the required SPS measures. In some cases, SPS issues are not appropriately conveyed by relevant authorities, agencies and

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stakeholders. No specific media practitioners or media agencies that specifically focus on SPS issues. In addition the costs of undertaking IEC and public awareness campaigns on SPS issues are very high. Consequently, consumer's choice is compromised due to low information/awareness and appreciation of the SPS issues.

2.2.13 Inadequate Involvement of the Private Sector in SPS issues (PPP)

Most of the agricultural production is carried out by private players in the rural areas, largely on subsistence basis. Consequently most of the rural stakeholders along the value chain are uncoordinated and poorly organized and use rudimentary production systems, thereby producing inadequate quality and quantity of the agricultural produce. To these stakeholders, efforts to meet the SPS requirements are very costly and therefore do not undertake measures to meet them. Government support is therefore very critical for ensuring that rural and small scale farmers do meet SPS requirement.

Limited accessibility and high cost of financing constrains the rural famers' efforts to acquire the necessary capital to invest in the required SPS infrastructure at the farm level.

2.2.14 Low implementation of best agricultural best practices

There are also problems of inadequate knowledge and use of best agricultural practices. There are cases of unrestricted movement of animals and plants and also lack of appreciation for agricultural zoning and compartmentalization. There is limited commitment from the private sector to enforce SPS requirements and this has led to low investment in the SPS related infrastructure along the food value chain.

2.3 Opportunities

2.3.1 Existence of the ongoing Regional Integrations and Harmonization of SPS Measures

Uganda is a member of various regional organizations such as the AU, IGAD, EAC, COMESA, SADC, inter alia. These provide avenues for Uganda to influence the decisions on SPS issues so as to ensure that any SPS measures adopted at the regional level does not contract Uganda's Policies

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2.3.2 Availability of International Best Practices that can be tapped

Uganda is one of the highest recipients of foreign direct investments (FDI) brought by multinationals in the sub-Saharan Africa. These bring with them a number of experiences and capital that can be invested in SPS Infrastructure so as to meet market requirements.

2.3.3 Technical Cooperation and Membership to International Bodies

Uganda is a member of the international bodies such as CODEX, IPPC, OIE, FAO, WHO and WTO. Some of these bodies are willing to provide technical and financial support on SPS related programmes. Government will take advantage of existing bilateral and multilateral technical cooperation that will include technology transfer and skills development in the areas of SPS. Participation in the three Inter-Governmental Organizations (OIE, IPPC and Codex Alimentarius) will be prioritized so as to cater for Uganda's full participation in decision making in view of the objectives of this policy.

2.3.4 Low Levels of Chemical Contaminants in Agricultural Products

There exist very low levels of chemical contaminants (largely organic production methods), only 5% of agriculture use agricultural chemical and largely in plantation crops and floriculture. Uganda's products if hygienically processed and so branded are organic and could fetch premium prices on the international market.

2.3.5 Goodwill from Development Partners

There is goodwill from development partners to provide both financial and technical support.

2.3.6 Availability of Markets

Uganda is currently looked at as the food basket for the Great Lakes Region and hence there is ready market at the national, regional and international levels. The existence of the current market provides an incentive for the private sector to invest in SPS infrastructure so as ensure that they meet the market requirements or risk losing their competitiveness.

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2.4 Threats

2.4.1 Changing Consumer Tastes and Preferences

With the current trend in global trade, consumer tastes and preferences are always changing and these calls for continuous reforms and changes in national systems to cope with the changing circumstances. Rapid changing international and global SPS reforms in the global environment pose constant challenges to policy development

2.4.2 Proliferation of Private Standards

These are usually set by private bodies and are very difficult to predict and hence threatening the competitiveness of Uganda's products.

2.4.3 Harmonization of SPS issues

There is a mismatch of regional and international harmonization of SPS issues and yet it is mandatory to have some levels of equivalence if not similarity.

2.4.4 Bioterrorism

There is a risk of encouraging bioterrorism, particularly in the sourcing of reagents or sending samples abroad for further testing and analysis.

CHAPTER THREE

3.0. Policy Vision, Mission and Objectives

3.1 Policy Vision

The vision of this policy is **“to transform Uganda into one of the world’s leading producer, consumer and trader of safe and quality animal and crop products on a sustainable basis”**.

3.2 Policy Mission

The mission of this policy is **“to enhance Uganda’s competitiveness in the domestic and international markets by enabling production and consumption of safe and quality animal and plant products, therefore reducing food related diseases in human, animal and plant populations”**.

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3.3 Policy Objective

3.3.1 Overall objective:

The overall policy objective is “**to create a conducive environment for the production, trading and consumption of safe and quality animal and plant products in Uganda**”.

3.3.2 Specific Policy objectives

The Specific Policy objectives are to

- i. Strengthen the legal and regulatory framework for SPS measures
- ii. Support the Private Sector to meet the SPS requirements
- iii. Harmonize National SPS measures to regional and international requirements.
- iv. Promote awareness on SPS measures.
- v. Develop and or Improve SPS Management Mechanisms along the value chain.
- vi. Foster coordination and collaboration between and among SPS related institutions
- vii. Strengthen the skills and technical capacity of those handling SPS issues

CHAPTER FOUR

4.0 Policy Guiding Principles

This policy has been developed following international best practices and wide stakeholder consultations. Its implementation will therefore be guided by the following principles.

4.1 Value Chain Approach

Good Agricultural, Hygiene/Handling and Manufacturing Practices (GAP, GHP and GMP) shall be undertaken throughout the entire value chain (production, storage, marketing, distribution and transportation) to minimize the risk of contamination and ensure safe and quality food products.

4.2 Transparency

Government shall ensure that all SPS measures are implemented in a transparent, non-discriminatory manner and avoid unnecessary interruptions to trade and industrial development.

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4.3 Science Based Risk Analysis (Risk Assessment, Management and Communication)

Government shall ensure that all decisions on the implementation of SPS policy or taking any measures related to SPS will be based on clear scientific evidence and does not constitute a disguised restriction to trade.

4.4 Precautionary Principle

Decisions on SPS measures will be taken based on caution, having regard for the best scientific knowledge or data available and shall also undertake preventative or anticipatory actions in the absence of complete proof of the threat or in case of emergencies.

4.5 Public Private Partnerships

Government shall encourage active private sector participation in development and application of SPS measures. The private sector shall be further encouraged to invest in the national SPS infrastructure to ensure adequate provision of conformity assessment services.

4.6 Equivalence and Mutual recognition

Government shall adopt the principle of Equivalence and Mutual recognition in implementation of SPS measures. In so doing, Government shall accept the Sanitary or Phytosanitary measures of other countries as equivalent, provided the exporting country objectively demonstrates to Uganda that such measures achieve the same appropriate level of sanitary or Phytosanitary protection.

4.7 Regional and International Harmonization of SPS measures

Government of Uganda shall promote harmonization of national SPS measures to regional and international standards, regulations, guidelines, protocols and the implementation of the relevant conformity assessment schemes as well as their adoption and use in technical regulations.

CHAPTER FIVE

5.0 POLICY INTERVENTIONS

This section outlines a number of interventions that will be undertaken during the policy implementation phase, as detailed below;

5.1 Strengthen the legal and regulatory framework for SPS measures

Government has identified the need to address SPS issues as one of the priority programmes aimed at protecting the lives and health of humans, animals and plants; and improving the competitiveness of Uganda's products. In order to address the bottlenecks posed by SPS matters, the following policy interventions will be undertaken;

- a) Review and amend/update the existing SPS laws and regulations with appropriate measures to make them relevant to the times,
- b) developing new laws and regulations where appropriate

- c) Develop appropriate laws and regulations to implement and or enforce SPS measures in these. Priority areas;
 - i. Import regulations to protect human, animal and plants health against SPS related hazards, pests and diseases
 - ii. Regulations to monitor and enforce professionalism in the importation, production, sale, and use of agro-chemicals (including veterinary drugs); plant and animal feeds
 - iii. Legal framework for the application of SPS related emergency measures
 - iv. Legal requirements for product traceability mechanisms

- c) Develop, publish and implement necessary Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), Guidelines and Codes of Good of Practice in all the productive sectors in line with international standards

5.2 Support the Private Sector to meet SPS requirements

There is a growing number of stakeholders engaged in production, storage, distribution and marketing of food, feeds and other agricultural products. In order to promote their competitiveness, Government shall among others;

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- i. Institutionalize Public-Private Partnership (PPP) in the design and implementation of SPS measures.
- ii. Enhance the capacity of the private sector to comply, monitor and put in place self compliance mechanisms.
- iii. Establish financing mechanisms to assist private sector establish the necessary SPS infrastructure and comply with SPS measures
- iv. Develop special assistance scheme for MSMEs to enhance their capacity to meet SPS requirements
- v. Provide incentives for the private sector investment in SPS infrastructure including joint venture, build operate & transfer among others

5.3 Harmonize National SPS measures to regional and international requirements

To ensure coherence and consistence with regional and international commitments, Government shall;

- i. Effectively prepare for and participate in regional and international fora
- ii. Promote national SPS positions in regional and international fora where SPS issues are discussed and or decisions are taken
- iii. Harmonize national SPS measures with regional and international SPS measures
- iv. Work with regional partners to establish a mechanism for periodic consultations on SPS measures

5.4 Promote awareness on SPS Measures

Increased SPS knowledge and implementation provides greater consumer confidence, quality assurance, market monitoring and productivity in response to domestic and international consumer/market requirements and hence enhancing Uganda's competitive advantage in the global market opportunities for trade in foods and feeds products. In order to achieve this, Government will undertake the following policy measures;

- i. Develop and implement a comprehensive SPS public awareness and communications strategy
- ii. Mainstream SPS measures into the relevant education and training curricula.

5.5 Develop and Improve SPS Management Mechanisms along the value chain

To ensure that SPS control mechanisms put in place are effectively enforced, Government shall undertake the following;

Institutional Capacity Building

- i. Build and maintain adequate Human resources for SPS management
- ii. Provide and improve accessibility to the requisite SPS infrastructure including laboratories and production, marketing, distribution and transportation (PMDT)
- iii. Strengthen application of SPS measures in the national extension services

Laboratories and Scientific Support

- i. Establish and Equip SPS laboratories
- ii. Develop a scientific data management system that should be shared and made available for SPS management and risk assessment
- iii. Establish a national accreditation system
- iv. Establish a national referral system

c) Validation, Monitoring and Evaluation

Inspection and Surveillance Procedures

- i. Review and rationalize all inspections functions
- ii. Improve the Governance of the inspection and certification process
- iii. Assess and improve programs for human, animal and plant life and health monitoring

Surveillance

- i. Establish and implement fulltime surveillance, monitoring and enforcement systems along the entire value chain
- ii. Develop and maintain an up to date SPS database (*information management system*)

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- iii. Institute joint surveillance, monitoring, inspections operations /programmes by all government regulatory agencies

Emergency Response

Establish management systems to adequately respond to SPS related emergencies and incidences.

Risk Analysis

Strengthen science based risk analysis system(s) at all levels along the value chain

d) Identification and Traceability

- (i) Establish a systems that will facilitate and assure product identification and traceability
- (ii) Build the capacity of the Private Sector to understand and conform to the traceability requirements.

5.6 Foster coordination and collaboration between and among SPS related institutions

In order to foster efficiency and maximize synergies among the SPS related institutions, Government shall;

- i. Redefine/Delineate and streamline the functions and responsibilities related to SPS among the various Ministries
- ii. Designate a Competent Authority to coordinate and oversee the management and implementation of the SPS measures in the country,
- iii. Mainstream and strengthen the notification and inquiry points to become more efficient and effective in alerting the relevant stakeholders of the new information, obligations and opportunities to international markets

CHAPTER SIX

6.0 PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS AND PRIVATE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

6.1 Public Private Partnerships

Government shall promote a public-private partnership approach in formulation and implementation of SPS measures. Government will ensure that a mechanism is put in place for smooth coordination and collaboration with the private sector, including consumer associations. Government shall undertake measures to;

- i. Enhance consultative mechanisms on establishment and application of SPS measures
- ii. Enhance the capacity of the private sector to, comply, monitor and put in place self compliance mechanisms.
- iii. Institutionalize SPS assessment and self regulatory mechanisms within the private sector
- iv. Ensure sharing of information on emerging SPS issues
- v. Jointly develop regulatory measures

6.2 Private Sector Development

This policy recognizes that there are a few formal companies that have emerged as exporters of food, feeds and other agricultural products in various international markets. Where possible, the respective private sector stakeholders should play a leading role in the management of SPS issues in order to meet SPS requirements. Increasing SPS capacity may require shared funding and shared responsibilities and implementation between public and private sector. In some cases, implementation of the SPS requirements and the associated cost can be left to the private sector while Government can concentrate on core public and oversight roles in order to facilitate the private sector to meet and or undertake the required SPS measures. Government shall;

- i. Provide incentives for the private sector investment in SPS infrastructure including joint venture, build operate & transfer
- ii. Strengthen farmers and producers groups on SPS issues [manufacturers, transporters, input suppliers] SPS value chain stakeholders
- iii. Establish loan guarantee schemes to assist private sector establish the necessary SPS infrastructure and comply with SPS measures

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- iv. Train SPS stakeholders in good agricultural, industrial and production practices

CHAPTER SEVEN

7.0 IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

Government will formulate a participatory implementation strategy/plan for this policy, with detailed budget implications and the resources required to ensure its successful implementation. Developing this strategy/plan will provide an important step towards ensuring that the all actions and or interventions outlined in the policy are addressed systematically and effectively by all stakeholders.

The implementation plan will also embrace performance measures and measurable indicators for evaluating the achievement of the policy objectives, which then can be used to gauge the overall progress towards effective and efficient management of the SPS issues in Uganda.

Existing and additional efforts for SPS control should be prioritized by all stakeholders on the basis of qualitative and quantitative assessments of costs, risks, benefits and opportunities. Analytical studies on pests or diseases harboring the greatest risk or prompting the biggest losses in terms of crop damages, loss of employment and those that would deter potential export earnings among others, justify the required investments in SPS infrastructure. The crucial question is whether to identify and consequently, address the right bottlenecks for the improvement of public health, agricultural health, and competitiveness inline with the agreed policy interventions as identified in this policy.

CHAPTER EIGHT

8.0 CONCLUSION

The SPS Policy will allow fair trade both in the domestic and international markets for agricultural, veterinary and fisheries products. It defines strategic actions through which the Government intends to exercise authority over the private sector in the SPS area. This will include a number of actions such as developing and

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implementing regulations and enforcement measures, educating and sensitizing all stakeholders, including; regulatory bodies, private sector and consumers.

Effective implementation of this Policy will enhance domestic and international trade and contribute to Food security in general including reduction in crop and livestock losses, public health, economic growth, better governance and promotion of other businesses such as tourism. The policy actions will be carried out in view of requirements by the regional and international organizations, requiring reference to up to date recommendations by the international community so as to promote fair trade.

Government is therefore, committed to ensuring the attainment of the policy objectives therein using the PPP approach, including the development partners. In doing so, the necessary support, institutional and legal frameworks shall be put in place.