Scientific Capacity and Institutional Adjustments for Standard Development

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FTAA, the WTO, and New Farm Legislation: Responding to Opportunities and Challenges

May 2002
The WTO SPS Agreement -
Issues for Standard Development

- Transparency
  - Notification, Equivalence
  - Open Regulatory Process

- Scientific Basis
  - International Standards or Scientific Basis
  - Quality, Credibility
The WTO SPS Agreement - Issues for Standard Development

- **Procedural Disciplines**
  Least-Trade-Restrictive
  Consistency, Credibility

- **Internal and External Commitment**
  Economic Cost
  Political Cost
Mexico

Institutional Restructuring – rapid move towards transparency in the process

National scientific capacity building strongly supported by regional and international efforts

External commitment has also been important

NAFTA

Currency Crisis
Argentina

More gradual move towards an open rule-making process

Macroeconomic influences

Internal commitment

  Budget
Jamaica

Import-dependent but outward looking

Preferential Agreements

Scientific capacity building is crucial in domestic and international markets

Internal commitment

Regional efforts at institutional restructuring

External commitment

Assistance
United States

Minor adjustments in inputs to rule-making

Scientific capacity building to judge (trust) science of trading partners

Challenges to domestic scientific ability have been internal

Political commitment internally is critical
Conclusions

- The path to achieve negotiated commitments is not always easy and all countries will not take the same path.

- Recognition of the legitimacy of differences is important.

- Political will is crucial from any “starting point.”

- In addition to written guidelines for standard development, a primary purpose of negotiated agreement is to provide a political back-stop (encourage political will).