

# Scientific Capacity and Institutional Adjustments for Standard Development



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

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# The WTO SPS Agreement - Issues for Standard Development

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- **Transparency**

  - Notification, Equivalence

  - Open Regulatory Process

- **Scientific Basis**

  - International Standards or Scientific Basis

  - Quality, Credibility



# The WTO SPS Agreement - Issues for Standard Development

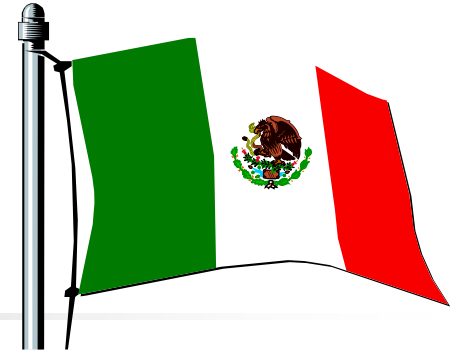
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- **Procedural Disciplines**
  - Least-Trade-Restrictive
  - Consistency, Credibility
- **Internal and External Commitment**
  - Economic Cost
  - Political Cost



# Mexico

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**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

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**More gradual move towards an open rule-making process**

**Macroeconomic influences**

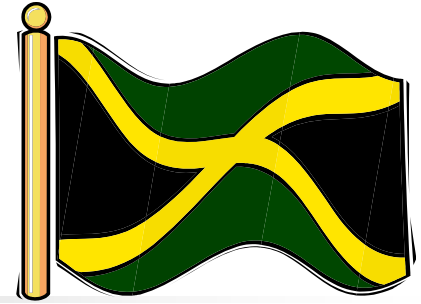
**Internal commitment**

Budget



# Jamaica

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**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

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**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

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- **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)**