



COMPLIANCE WITH AGRICULTURAL IMPORT/EXPORT REGULATIONS IN BOTSWANA

The majority of farmers in Botswana are small-scale farmers who rely on government subsidies or assistance in capacity-building to improve their livelihoods. The performance of the agriculture sector has deteriorated and Botswana is a net importer of most agricultural products, while the main exported agricultural commodity is beef, which provides over 80 percent of the sector's contribution to gross domestic product. Over the years Botswana has accessed lucrative markets as a result of compliance with the sanitary and phytosanitary requirements of export markets. However, increased trans-border livestock and wildlife transmittable animal diseases have reduced livestock production and the introduction of pests has contributed to a decline in arable crop production. This has negatively impacted on the livelihood of the rural population. In recent years, information on agricultural import/export regulations has failed to reach many stakeholders; government agencies at the country's entry and exit points are also unfamiliar with these regulations. The aim of the project was to assist the country to develop a system that would enable the Ministry of Agricultural Development and Food Security to communicate matters of border control to all those involved in the import and export of agricultural products.



WHAT DID THE PROJECT DO?

The objective of the project was a clientele informed of, and compliant with, the country's import/export regulations on agricultural products. This was expected to reduce the risk of importing and exporting pests and diseases, and thus facilitate trade in and out of the country. In order to achieve this, the project improved the capacities of government institutions and stakeholders at local district and national levels by building capacity on agricultural import/export regulations through the conduct of workshops for traders, travellers, associations, the police force, immigration and ministry staff, clearing agencies and farmers, and by enhancing public awareness of the relevant regulations by means of banners, brochures and other awareness-raising material. Workshops were also organized for key stakeholders and a study tour to Brazil arranged for three participants. In addition, the project developed a border communication system and a Web site for border campaigns.

IMPACT

Following the project, there has been a marked reduction in noncompliance cases. Previously, most agricultural products were confiscated and destroyed by border law enforcement agents, and their owners charged. Many traders are now willing to declare voluntarily imported agricultural products at border inspection points, demand phytosanitary documents and act as pre-border inspectors when importing fruit and vegetables, while most travellers no longer show resistance when searched at the inspection points as a result of the information monitors and pamphlets. There has also been a reduction in the registration of cross-border complaints.

KEY FACTS

Contribution
USD 219 000

Duration
April 2015 – December 2017

Resource Partner
FAO

Partner
Ministry of Agricultural Development
and Food Security

Beneficiaries
End users of import/export
information regulations, primarily
traders, producers and the general
public who use exit and entry points
when trading in agricultural
products, as well as those enforcing
such regulations

ACTIVITIES

- Training of trainers course in border biosecurity held for three officers of the Plant Health Inspectorate Services.
- Border control agency staff trained in agricultural regulations through workshops.
- Internationally recognized curriculum for agricultural inspectorate course developed.
- 30 agricultural inspectorate staff members trained to enhance their ability to carry out border inspections.
- Standard operating system developed for use by inspectors at borders, inland inspections, quarantine camps, farms and agricultural markets.
- Seven print media items produced, 15 broadcasts made, 11 stakeholder workshops held, 50 posters distributed, 336 trader/producer workshops held, 42 000 copies of brochures and pamphlets disseminated and four digital signage monitors installed to broadcast messages on biosecurity regulations.
- Study tour to Brazil organized for three officers to build capacity in information communication systems.
- Workshops conducted for 109 law enforcement officers in agricultural regulations.
- Six digital signage monitors broadcasting messages of biosecurity regulations installed at borders.
- Web site developed for border campaigns.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Project Code
TCP/BOT/3503

Project Title
Improving Compliance with Agricultural Import/Export Regulations

Contacts
FAO Office in Botswana
FAO-BW@fao.org

Joyce Mulila-Mitti (Lead Technical Officer)
Joyce.MulilaMitti@fao.org



Resource Mobilization Division
Marketing, Outreach and Reporting Unit
Reporting@fao.org