



Enhancing coordination and dialogue

CAREC Regional Workshop on
Modernizing SPS Measures

Session 5

Bishkek, 29-30 May 2018

Melvin Spreij
STDF Secretariat



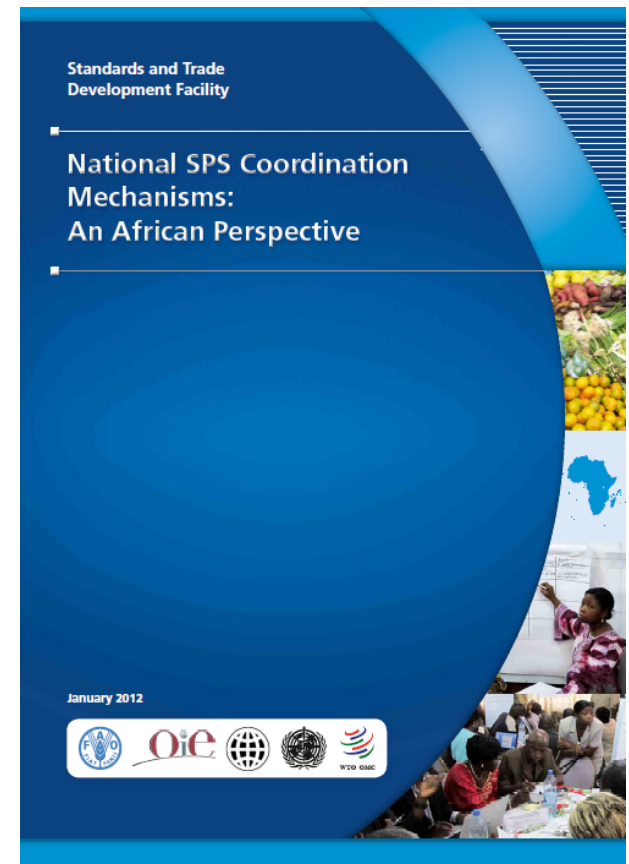
Why?

Make better use of resources, improve results, facilitate transparency, clarify roles/responsibilities, policy coherence

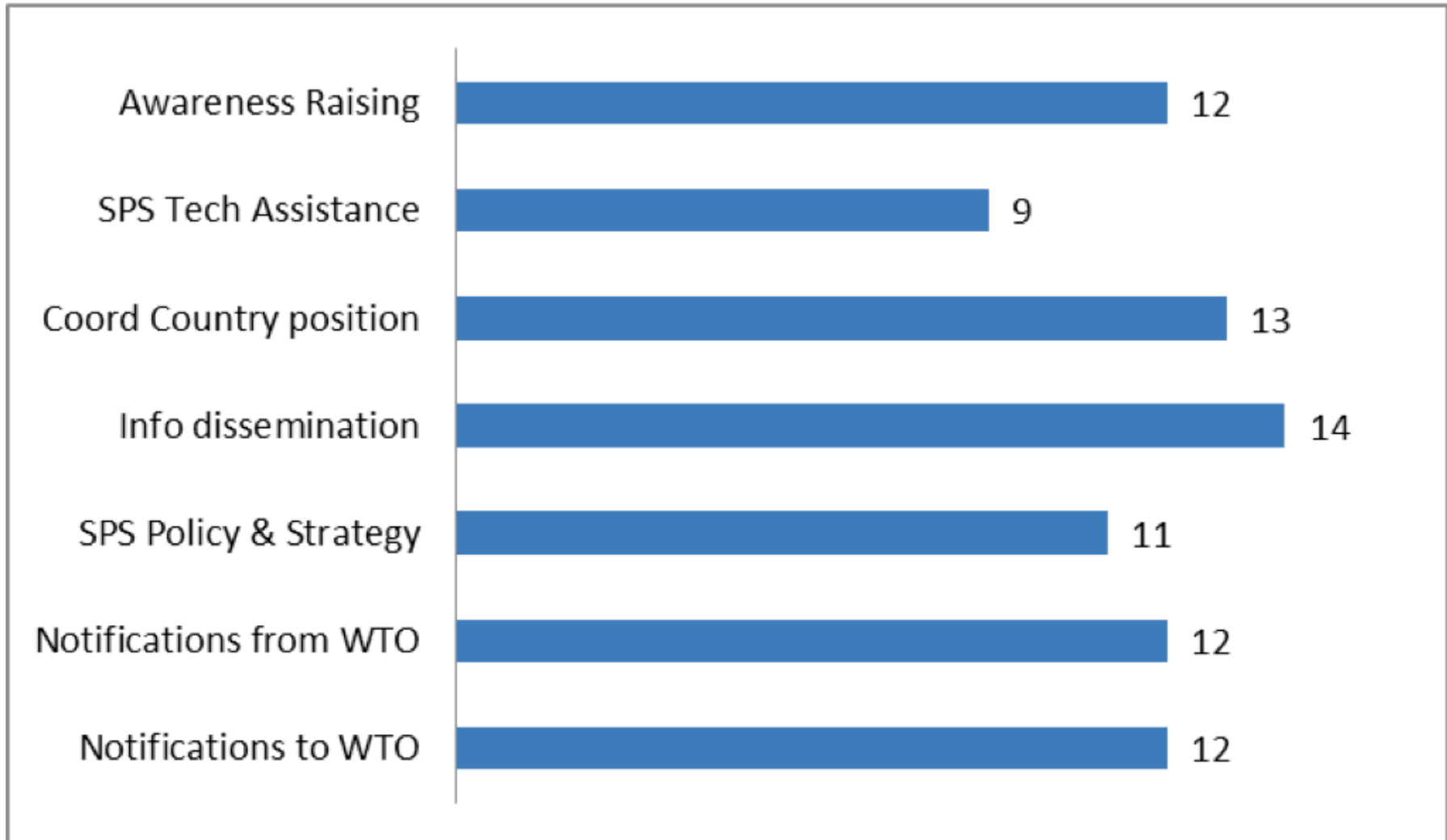
- within sectors (e.g. several agencies responsible for various aspects of food safety, importance of National Codex Committees..)
- between sectors (food safety, animal and plant health, trade, customs, fisheries, environment,...etc.)
- public-public (institutional), public-private (stakeholder involvement), private-private (within value chains, e.g. producers, processors, exporters..)

National SPS coordination

- STDF survey on existence and functioning of national SPS committees (2012) – **no obligation in SPS Agreement**
- Only one country (out of 17) satisfied with performance of its committee
- Various constraints (e.g. out-dated legislation, unclear mandates, limited SPS awareness, inadequate resources)
- Examples and practical recommendations to enhance in-country SPS coordination



Functions of SPS coordination mechanisms



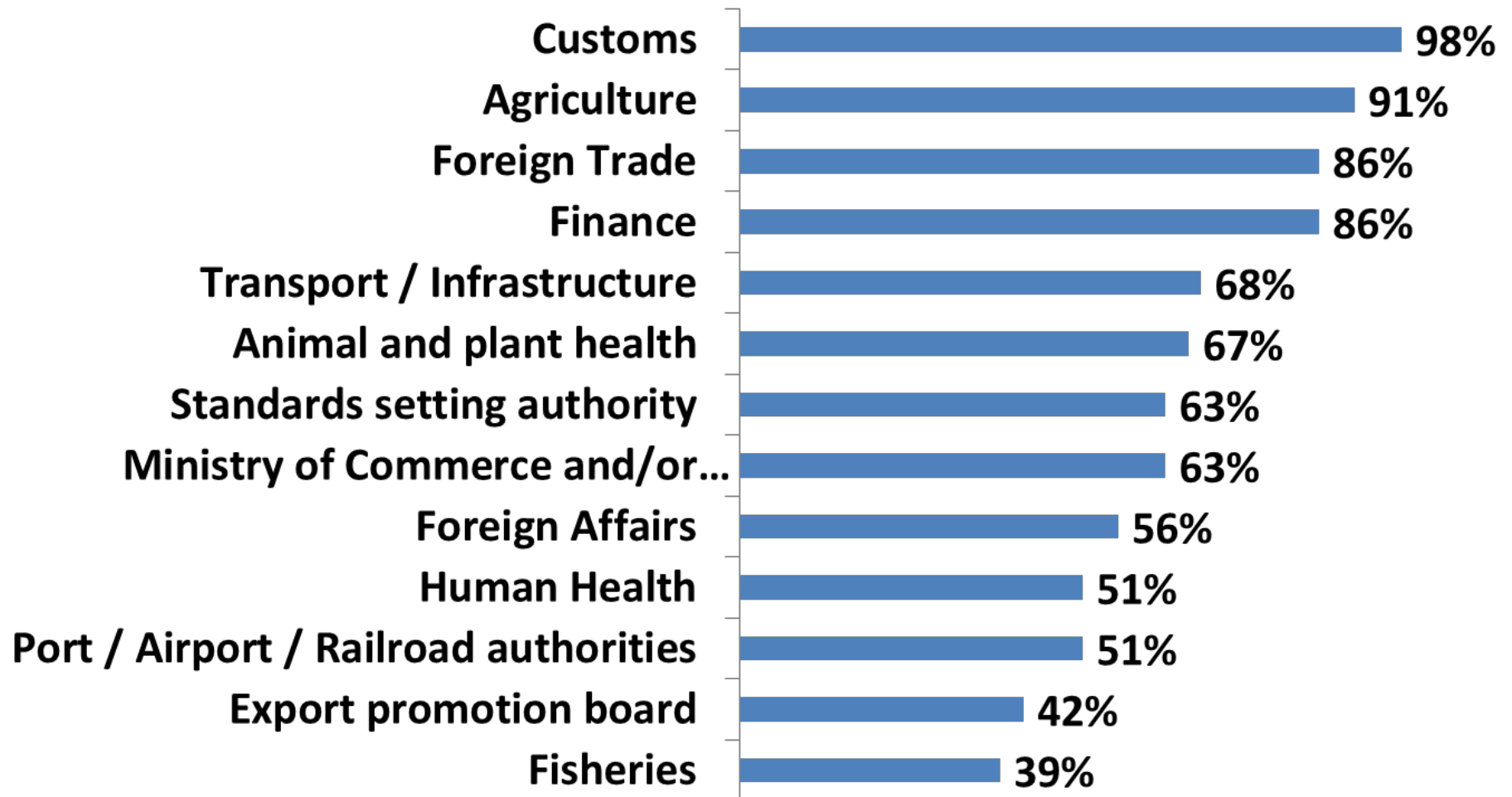
WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA)

WTO Members shall establish a **National Trade Facilitation Committee (NTFC)** to facilitate domestic coordination and implementation of the provisions of the TFA

Need to engage SPS agencies in NTFC and TFA implementation to protect public, animal/plant health and facilitate trade/reduce trade cost (**it's not only about customs..**)



Agencies most frequently included in the NCTFs



Azerbaijan: Strengthening phytosanitary border controls

Expected results:

- Strengthened pest diagnostics services (strategic plan)
- Improved management of the import regulatory system; strengthen collaboration between the Phytosanitary Control Service and Customs
- Improved pre-border inspection and export certification system (i.e. standardized approach to pest surveillance)



Public Private Partnerships (PPPs)

- SPS management capacity and compliance depend on coordinated action by wide range of public and private stakeholders
- **STDF publication (2012)**: examples and advice on how to encourage, implement and sustain PPPs to improve SPS capacity and performance
 - stimulate innovation, leverage knowledge and resources, address infrastructure deficits, develop value chains
 - improve SPS outcomes/coordination, enhance market access, raise competitiveness, improve service delivery, co-regulation
- **Challenges**: new way of working, requires change in mind-set, inadequate trust and transparency, different expectations, needs a common goal, staff turn-over, etc.

Experiences and lessons

- What works well in one country may not work well in others
 - > Challenges are common, but solutions may differ across countries
- Competing priorities and rivalries can make coordination difficult
 - > “mentality” must change in order to succeed
- Make more and better use of existing mechanisms and tools; do not overcomplicate design
- Governments have responsibility to consult and engage the private sector; need for more commitment and initiative
 - shift from “business as usual”
 - recognition of role of private sector and value of collaboration
- Industry associations can play a valuable role
- Much more could be done, even with limited resources

STDF work on Good Regulatory Practice (GRP)

Use of GRPs used to make sure that SPS measures are "fit for purpose" and that they deliver the intended outcomes

STDF survey of SPS, Codex, IPPC and OIE Contact Points (Sep. 2017):

- use of international standards
- consultations with relevant parts of government, private sector and other stakeholders
- assessment of the health impacts of SPS measures
- assessment of the expected impacts on trade
- review / evaluation of SPS measures (after they enter into force)