WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

Trade Facilitation Agreement Facility

TFA FACILITY REPORT

TO THE WTO TRADE FACILITATION COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 12-13, 2019
WTO Participated as Resource Person in:

WCO TFA Working Group Meeting – October 22-23, 2018

ADB meeting – Bangkok – October 30-31, 2018- ADB Inter-Subregional WTO TFA Knowledge-sharing Forum
Regional workshop for English speaking Southern African countries.
85 participants from 13 countries, (6 LDCs).

Goal: improve border agency cooperation in implementing the TFA at the national and regional levels to facilitate safe trade. Attention was also given to issues in LLDCs and transit countries with a focus on the TFA and the Vienna Program of Action. And TFA notification requirements.

Organized & delivered by TFaf, STDF, WBG, WCO, IPPC, CODEX, OIE & UNHORLLS. It was funded by Facility, WBG, and the OIE.

Participant top take aways:

• NTFCs need to have a 'whole of government' approach
• Need to provide training on the TFA for traders so they can be fully involved
• Risk management coordination amongst agencies- and training on risk - are essential because of the different approaches, mandates and risks of the different agencies.
ADDIS ABABA
African Forum for National Trade Facilitation Committees

250 participants from 44 African countries
Organized and funded by TFAF, UNCTAD, WBG, WCO, ITC & the Global Alliance. Plus UNECA, UNECE and donor partners.

Goal: members of African NTFCs to share best practices/issues in the operation of their committees.

Participants: trade, customs, national donor coordinator, private sector – NTFC chair.

Participants reported top take aways as:
Some NTFCs lack of a legal basis and political backing — Many NTFCs lack of sustainable funding

Notes: private sector uniquely combines technical expertise and partnership in reform, role in monitoring implementation and are the end user/beneficiary of the TFA.

November 27-29, 2018
A 2 day national workshop was held in Saint Kitts and Nevis to help government officials and private sector better understand the TFA; in particular their category C provisions, with a focus on a better understanding of the TFA notifications – and when they are due. Presented by WTO, officials from the St Kitts and Nevis National Trade Facilitation Committee, the OECS Commission and GEA / CLADEC.
The WTO TFA: Supporting Strategic and Effective Implementation in CARICOM

Organized by CARICOM OECS TFAF
Funded by TFAF

28 January- 1st February 2019
St Lucia
A regional workshop for 14 CARICOM countries. Participants from customs, trade, agriculture, standards, private sector.

Focus: TFA notifications, the top category C provisions in the region, and border agency co-operation.

Inaugural meeting of a regional trade facilitation committee led by CARICOM and OECS.

Main event take aways reported by the participants:

• The urgency of the transparency and ABC-related notification deadlines
• The importance and value of full implementation of the TFA
• The ongoing need for systematic/formalized border agency co-operation
• The vital nature of NTFC roadmaps/action plans
• The relevance of the regional approach
• The pleasant surprise that transparency notifications are quite straightforward

CARICOM Regional

CAHFSA, GEA, CLADEC, IICA, ITC, OIE, UNCTAD, WBG, WCO, CROSQ
The TFAF’s primary function is helping developing and least developed country (LDC) Members to gain access to WTO Implementation assistance. It is Member’s ability to find the assistance it needs to implement and meet its obligations under the WTO and to implement the Agreement (TFA) is one of the key factors in its success. Members are encouraged to identify the needs of their country and work with the TFAF to develop a plan of action to achieve their goals. The TFAF has a number of programs that are designed to help Members meet their obligations under the Agreement. These programs include: the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) Grants Program, the TFAF Grant Program, and the TFAF Implementation Program. The TFAF also provides technical assistance to Members to help them implement the Agreement.

Here’s how TFAF Grants can help with implementation of the TFA:

- **TAF Grants** provide developing and least developed country (LDC) Members with the capacity to implement the Agreement. The purpose of these grants is to support Members in their efforts to implement the Agreement.

- **TFAF Implementation Program** provides technical assistance to Members to help them implement the Agreement. The purpose of this program is to support Members in their efforts to implement the Agreement.

Project Preparation Grants (PPGs) are available to eligible Members to help them prepare for implementation of the Agreement. PPGs can be used to support activities such as the development of national implementation strategies and the conduct of capacity building activities.

Project Implementation Grants (PIGs) are available to eligible Members to support the implementation of the Agreement. PIGs can be used to support activities such as the development of national implementation strategies and the conduct of capacity building activities.

Before applying for PPGs or PIGs, all applicants must demonstrate an understanding of the benefits of implementing the Agreement and the need for capacity building activities to support implementation. Applicants must also demonstrate that they have a clear plan of action for implementation.

The online TFAF Grant application process has been designed to be as clear and straightforward as possible. Applicants must complete a series of steps to apply for grants, including the development of a project proposal and the submission of supporting documentation. PPGs-funded projects can be used to support the implementation of the Agreement.
THANK YOU

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