**Short Programme - 2021 SPS In-depth Virtual Course (in English): 20 September to 8 October 2021**

The course will be held via virtual sessions with SPS experts, including dedicated time for Q&A. In addition, there will be participant-led sessions and discussions/presentations, as well as group work. Participants will be expected to undertake various preparatory activities throughout the 3 weeks of the course. The table below indicates the specific days where topic-specific sessions will be held via Zoom (highlighted in purple); the days with informal sessions/group work – requiring participants' attendance via Zoom (highlighted in orange); and the days where participants are expected to individually allot time for self-study (in white).

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|  | Week 1(20 - 24 September) | Week 2(27 September - 1 October) | Week 3(4 - 8 October) |
| **Monday** | **Zoom test session*** 12:30 to 14:00 Geneva time (Speakers)
* 14:00 to 15:00 Geneva time (Participants)

In this test session, participants will introduce themselves and briefly describe their main responsibilities and expectations from the course. In addition, participants will be introduced to the organizing team. | **Session 1:****SPS Agreement: Linkages with the TBT and Trade Facilitation Agreements** *Interview-style discussion with moderator; Q&A* | **Session 4:****Transparency and the SPS Agreement***Presentations; Interactive exercise; Q&A* |
|  . Preparatory work for participants* Receive pre-course questionnaire and submit by the deadline of 22 September.
* Reflect on questions to the DG (to be confirmed) and submit by the deadline of 22 September.
* Review reading materials identified in the pre-course questionnaire.
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| **Tuesday** | Preparatory work for participants* Work on pre-course questionnaire and submit by the deadline of 22 September.
* Reflect on questions to the DG (to be confirmed) and submit by the deadline of 22 September.
* Review reading materials identified in the pre-course questionnaire.
 | Preparatory work for participants* Watch SPS@25 video clips with former SPS Chairpersons in preparation for the next day's session on the SPS Committee, and answer the corresponding question.
* *Start reflecting on questions**(general and technical) for next week's session with the international standard-setting bodies (Codex, IPPC and OIE).*
 | Preparatory work for participants* *Participants to review videos from the 3 Sisters (*[*OIE international Standards: Protecting animals, preserving our future - YouTube*](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pqi9Y6LAOhA&list=PL7r8EY5C1PNZCPykz1S6ssh88RpGQRILY&index=2)*;* [*The International Plant Protection Convention - YouTube*](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oyTKLem3tZI)*;* [*Codex and the food we eat (50th anniversary video) - YouTube*](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NtNNx9O550E)), *and answer the corresponding question.*

Voluntary hands-on session for NNAs* *13:00-15:00: Voluntary hands-on session for NNAs on how to use the SPS Notification Submission System (NSS).*
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| **Wednesday** | Preparatory work for participants* Deadline: Submit the completed questionnaire.
* Deadline: Submit questions for the DG (TBC).
* Review reading materials identified in the pre-course questionnaire.
 | **Session 2:****SPS Committee: Function, role and current issues***Panel discussion; Interactive exercise; Q&A* | **Session 5:****The SPS Agreement and the ISSBs** **(Codex, OIE and IPPC)** *Interview-style discussion; Break-out group discussions; Q&A* |
| **Thursday** | Preparatory work for participants* Review reading materials and reflect on any questions you wish to raise in tomorrow's introductory session.
 | Informal follow-up session: SPS Committee* *13:00 – 15:00: Informal follow-up session on the SPS Committee*
 | Group work: Addressing SPS-related trade issues * 13:00 – 13:20: Explanation of exercise
* 13:20 – 15:00: Group work on an SPS-related trade issue - Participants work in assigned groups
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| Preparatory work for participants* Deadline: Submit questions (general and technical) for next week's session with the international standard-setting bodies (Codex, IPPC and OIE).
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| **Friday** | **Introductory and Recap Session**Official opening – DG (TBC)Overview of course **Recap of the SPS Agreement***Interactive exercise;* *Presentations;* *Group discussions; Q&A* | **Session 3: National SPS coordination mechanisms** *Presentations; Participant-led group discussions; Q&A*  | **Session 6: Addressing SPS-related trade issues***Participant-led presentations; Interactive exercise; Q&A***Evaluation and Closure** |