





**WTO/IDB-INTAL WORKSHOP**  
**WTO AGREEMENT ON SPS MEASURES FOR**  
**CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES**  
**BARBADOS 26-29 JULY 2011**

**THE CARIBBEAN AGRICULTURAL**  
**HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY AGENCY**  
**(CAHFSA)**

Margaret Kalloo  
DPM Agricultural Development  
CARICOM Secretariat  
[mkalloo@caricom.org](mailto:mkalloo@caricom.org)



# **GOAL OF CAHFSA**

**To facilitate increased safe production, consumption and trade in plants, animals and their products and by-products re SPS measures.**



# Primary Objectives

- Establish an effective regime of SPS measures – Article 57 1 (k) RTC
  
- Provide regional and national support to the Community in the establishment, mgt, and operations of their national AHFS system – re SPS agreement
  
- Execute on behalf of Members such action and activities that can be more effectively and efficiently executed through a regional mechanism
  - **conduct its affairs in partnership with existing regional and international organizations in matters of agricultural health and food safety;**
  - **Complementing and building upon existing programmes**
  - **Promote the use of international and regional stds, guidelines – obligations of Agreement on SPS**



# Article III CAHFSA- (10) Objectives

CAHFSA shall inter alia –

- provide a mechanism for the coordination and integration of technical support to stakeholders by relevant regional and international organizations;
- provide an effective mechanism for partnership in the efficient use of scarce human and financial resources and infrastructure in protecting human, plant and animal health;
- provide a framework – continuous monitoring and evaluation of national and regional AHFS programmes -the provision of technical support to strengthening the respective programmes;-  
Conduct of tests
- strengthen the policy and legal framework for sanitary and phytosanitary issues.



# Objectives of CAHFSA

- provide a framework for communicating changes in sps measures – for transparency and compliance
- facilitate the development and use of regional, and international standards, measures and guidelines;
- facilitate the harmonisation of technical procedures in relation to matters such as (GAP's, GMP's, (HACCP), quarantine systems and surveillance and GLP and services.



# Objectives of CAHFSA

- provide an effective mechanism to respond rapidly to emergencies and emerging issues;
- provide a framework - identification and definition of the human and financial resource requirements of NAHFS systems, and the determination and execution of strategies to address deficiencies, including the training of personnel and the mobilization of funds;
- provide a mechanism for achieving regional consensus on SPS issues that can be represented in international fora;



# Some key areas

- **Legislation**
- **Harmonisation -**
- **Clearing house**
- **Partnerships**
- **Support to labs**
- **Capacity of the nahfs system**
- **Coordinate and conduct – regional risk assessments**
- **Mechanisms for transparency**
- **Databases**
- **Emerging and emergencies**
- **Positions, participation**



# Article VIII

- Transparency obligations as per RTOC and A on SPS Measures
  - Publication
  - Time interval between publication and entry into force



# CAHFSA composition

- Board;
- Secretariat; and
- Technical Advisory Committees as required.

The **Board** shall:

- consist of one rep from each MS representing the specialized areas of focus - in ph, ah, fs
- collaborate with established bodies as - the CPHDs, Committee of CVOs, CRFM, CROSQ, CEHI, ....



# CAHFSA SECRETARIAT

CEO

RESOURCE  
MOBILISATION

PLANT  
HEALTH

ANIMAL  
HEALTH

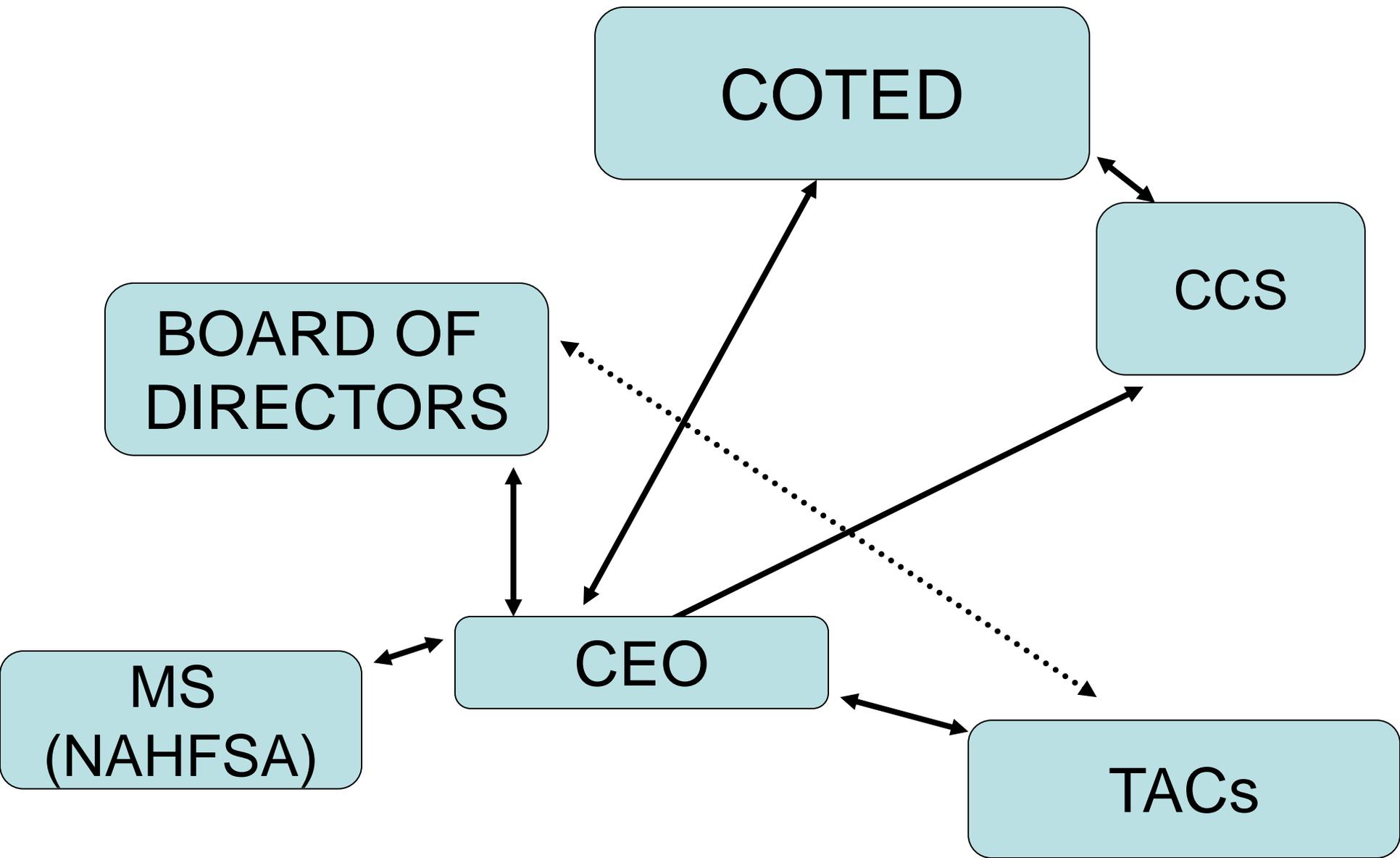
FOOD  
SAFETY

ACCOUNTS

OTHER  
SUPPORT  
STAFF

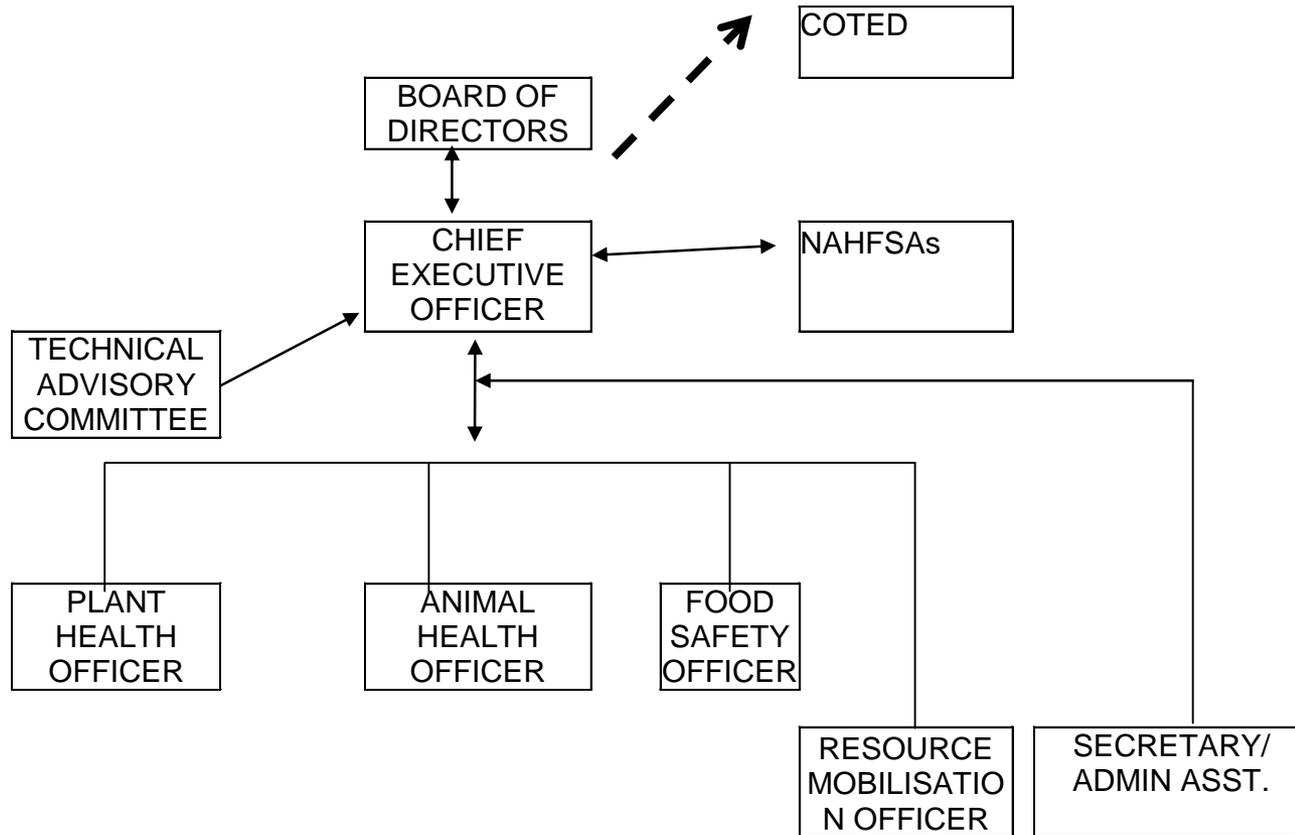


# CAHFSA - RELATIONSHIPS





# The CAHFSA





# Composition of TAC

- Members shall be selected from the nominees of the MS, persons drawn from public and private sectors, national/ reg/int organizations, Community Inst. and Associate Institutions –
- this can be altered from time to time by the Board



# TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEES

**DRAWN FROM *inter alia*:**

CHAIRPERSON OF  
OFFICIALS FORA  
CVO  
CPHD  
[FOOD SAFETY]  
[PESTICIDES]

REPRESENTATIVES  
FROM  
ACROSS THE VALUE CHAIN:  
Producers, exporters,  
importers, manufacturers..

**Regional  
Institutions**

**REGIONAL  
ASSOCIATIONS**

**UNIVERSITIES**

**OTHERS –  
International  
including Networks**



# Functions of the TACs

**Inter alia –**

- **The development, adoption, adaptation or harmonisation of sps measures and regional guidelines, measures, positions and standards...**
- **Regional training programmes – capacity**
- **Any other function as determined – BOD and CEO**
- **Meet as often as necessary**
- **Decisions by simple majority – recommendations to the Board via the CEO**



# Legal and Admin Arrangements

## Article XVI

- When the Board endorses a recommendation made in relation to protocols, guidelines, measures, standards or regulations and commends it to COTED for approval -
- ‘ MS shall adopt appropriate legal and administrative arrangements to give effect to the decisions within their resp. jurisdictions’



# Risk Assessments Article XVII

## ■ Risk assessments

- Protocols for risk assessments to COTED

- How

- Obligations –reports, information requests, access to info, guidelines, measures, standards or regulations and commends it to COTED for approval - MS shall adopt appropriate legal and administrative arrangements to give effect to the decisions within their resp. jurisdictions



# SIGNATURES to the Agreement

## Signatories:

- AB, Gren, Guy, SKN, Bah, BB, Bel, Dom, Sur, TT
- Revised signed by
- AB, Gren, Guy, SKN, Haiti, SLU, SVG,
- Therefore – Bah, BB, Bel, Dom, Jam, Mont, TT, Sur TO SIGN revised



# CAHFSA Strategic Plan

- Consultancy to develop – UWI Consulting Inc. – Funded by EDF resources
- Draft Report was circulated to MS and invited to comment and attend Regional Stakeholders Meeting in July 2011



# Obj of Regional Meeting

- Validate Report- Strat Plan, Work plan, Protocols
- Appropriateness, relevance, adequacy and completeness of the Strategic Objectives in meeting the needs of AHFS at Regional and National systems;
- Appropriateness of the Work Plan in achieving the objectives and the needs of CAHFSA and Member States; and
- Rank order of the Strategic Objectives in terms of urgency and importance.



# Synthesis of Expectations of MS

- Reduction of Binding Constraints as listed in 'The Jagdeo Initiative' especially as they relate to SPS, Food Safety and Trade
- Harmonization and adoption of modern policies and legislation as it relates to AHFS safety and to facilitate and maximize trade outputs
- Capacity building within the Community: Training of personnel (The Community needs more specialists in the field of ahfs) /more regional training/make this a work in progress, for workshops/ seminars made available to all MS
- Accreditation of AHFS Laboratories should be a priority
- Development and establishment of trade protocols for CARICOM States



# Synthesis of Expectations/Concerns

- Strengthening of the implementation of the SPS Agreement among Member States
- A regional emergency response to pests
- Regional PRAs
- All CARICOM States to the Single Market and Economy
- Identification of centers of excellence for Laboratory analysis in the Region
- Preservation and integration of credible and recognized regional institutions into CAHFSA such as CAREC
- Sustained fiscal interventions that would ensure the sustainability of CAHFSA.
  - the contingency fund could be incorporated under strategic objective 8. CAHFSA would help in the formation of NAHFSA's.
  - sustained public education and advocacy programme are critical to the success of CAHFSA.



# Expectations of MS - **Medium Term Work Plan**

- Assistance to MS with updating and implementing relevant legislation
- Establishment of NAHFSA and strengthening the Capacity of NAHFSA
- Establishment of an information and communication system for the Community (to include databases of pest list, PRA, Sanitary requirements of member states, etc)
- Development of a training plan for personnel involved in Agricultural health and food safety systems (plant quarantine, plant and animal health officials and environmental health officers).
- Development of trade protocols, which will allow free and easy trade among members.
- Establishment of accreditation for laboratories (for pests and disease diagnostics, chemical analysis, pesticide residual, animal and animal products).
- Development, harmonization and adoption of modern agricultural health and food safety policies
- Establishment of Regional positions for presentation in international meetings
- Improved Port Health Facilities
- Retention of the existing human resource capital that already exist.
- Marketing of CAHFSA by Governments
- A generic plan for MS or a road map that countries can adopt.



# Current Position

- Comments from the Meeting will be incorporated in the Revised Report of the Consultants
- Awaiting the Final Report
- COTED for review/recommendations and acceptance by the Community
- For use by CAHFSA when it becomes functional



# CURRENT POSITION

With resources from EDF

- Purchased all the materials and supplies for the office in Suriname
- Draft Strategic Plan and Programme of Work

Yet to be done – staffing

Development partners interested in supporting technical programmes



# Going forward

- The Secretariat proposes to host a donor conference - collaborate with IICA to operationalise CAHFSA.
- An action fiche for the 10th EDF was prepared. A budget of 10 million Euros was set aside to deal with SPS in the Region.
  - Legislative review;
  - Establishment of NAHFSA; and
  - Capacity-building. Also targeted is Fisheries SPS
- Most international donors agreed that a strategy should be in place and want to render technical assistance to the programmes.
- Member States - fund the operationalisation of CAHFSA. In the inter-governmental agreement, there is a contribution schedule for CAHFSA.



# CAHFSA regional and national priorities – only an opinion

- Legislation –
  - NAHFSA establishment
  - Establish a Food Safety Forum
  
- Laboratory Recommendations – Implementation of the Recommendations of the Lab report – and the initiate the discussions on Rationalization and Accreditation and what type of Labs are required ....
  
- Develop trade protocols – inspections, administration, labs... which will allow free and easy trade among members. With a view to harmonisation across CC MS
  
- Establishment of an information and communication system for the Community (to include databases of pest list, PRA, Sanitary requirements of member states, etc)
  
- Coordination of Regional positions for presentation in international meetings
  
- National Level – Recommendations implementation from the various tools used in assessments and to conduct for those who have not been assessed.
  - Establish Priority pest list (Ah and Ph) – and surveillance mechanisms – alerts and emergency preparedness



# Thank you

