



Better Training for Safer Food *Initiative*

International Standard-Setting Bodies - IPPC

WTO-SPS and Codex, OIE, IPPC
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BTSF

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Consumers, Health,
Agriculture and Food
Executive Agency

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World Trade Organisation

The WTO Agreements (WTO's trade rules):

- Cover **goods, services** and **intellectual property**
- Require countries' commitments to **lower customs tariffs** and other **trade barriers**, and to open services markets
- Set procedures for **settling disputes**
- Require governments to **notify** the WTO about **laws** in force and measures adopted
- Set the principles of **trade liberalization**, and **permitted exceptions**



WTO-SPS



WTO → Trade

Started by GATT (1947 - 1994, Geneva):

General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade

- Aimed at addressing protectionism, which raises prices

The WTO replaced GATT as an international organization

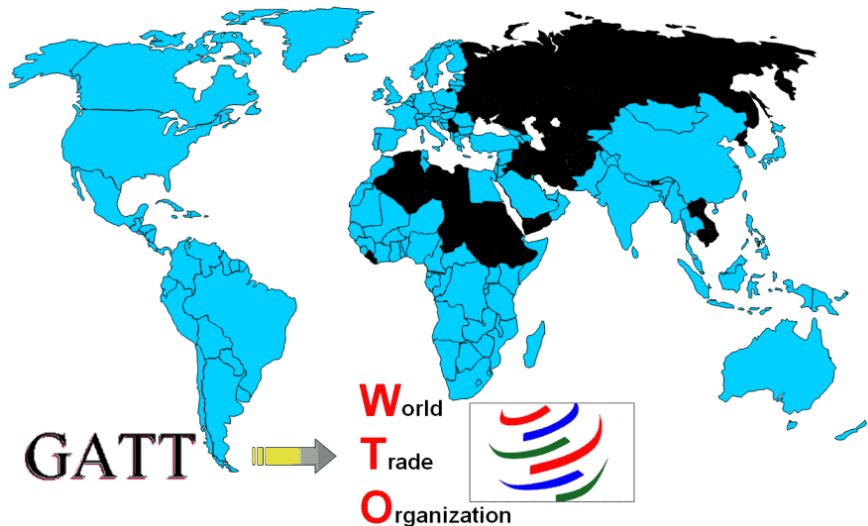
WTO - a system of trade rules aiming to ensure that trade flows as freely as possible

Main principles:

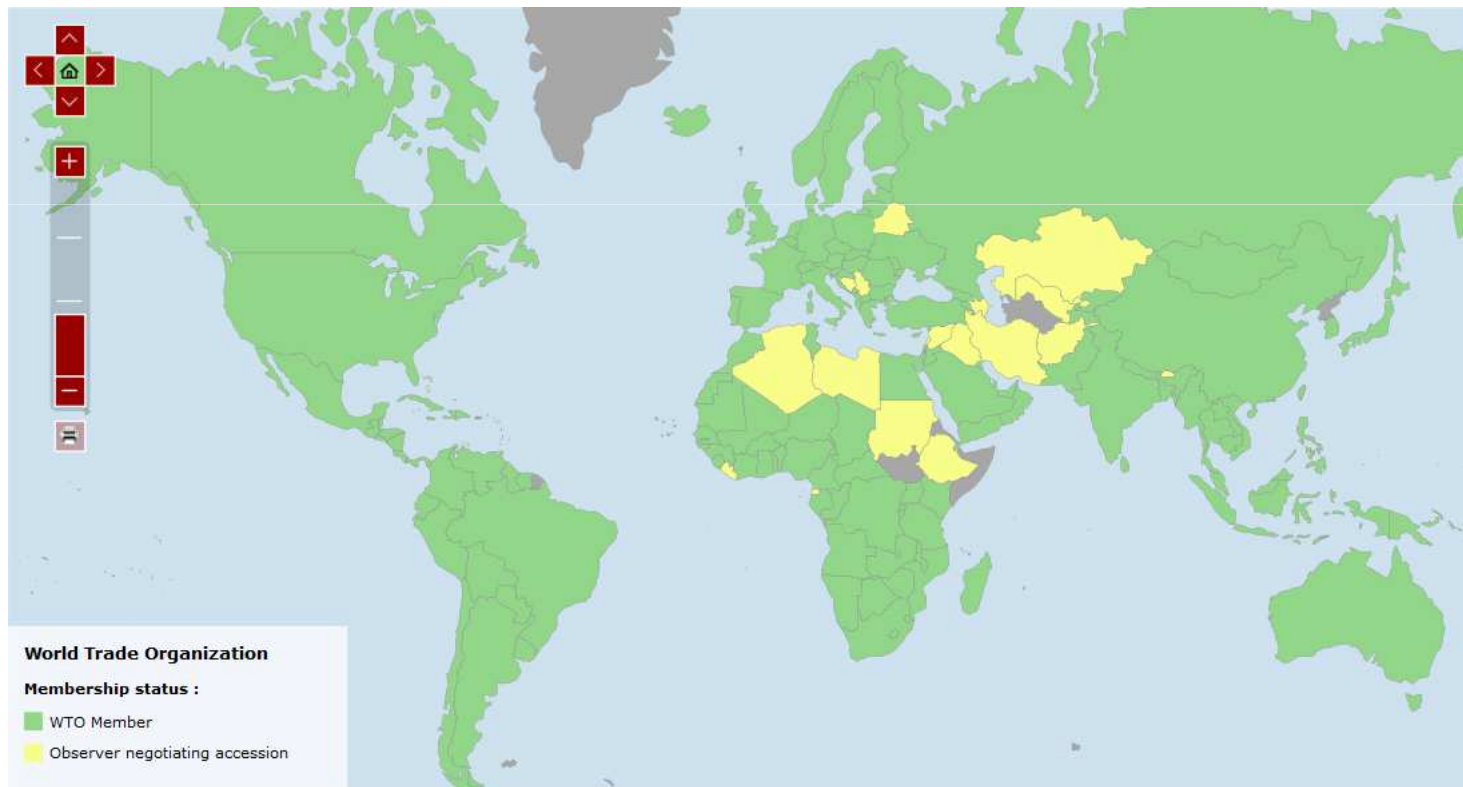
- Minimizing trade barriers

- Negotiations

- Non-discrimination



Members and observers of the WTO



WTO: 160 members since
26 June 2014

Members from the region:

Egypt 30 June 1995 (GATT: 1970)

Israel 21 April 1995 (GATT: 1962)

Jordan 11 April 2000

Morocco 1 January 1995 (GATT: 1987)

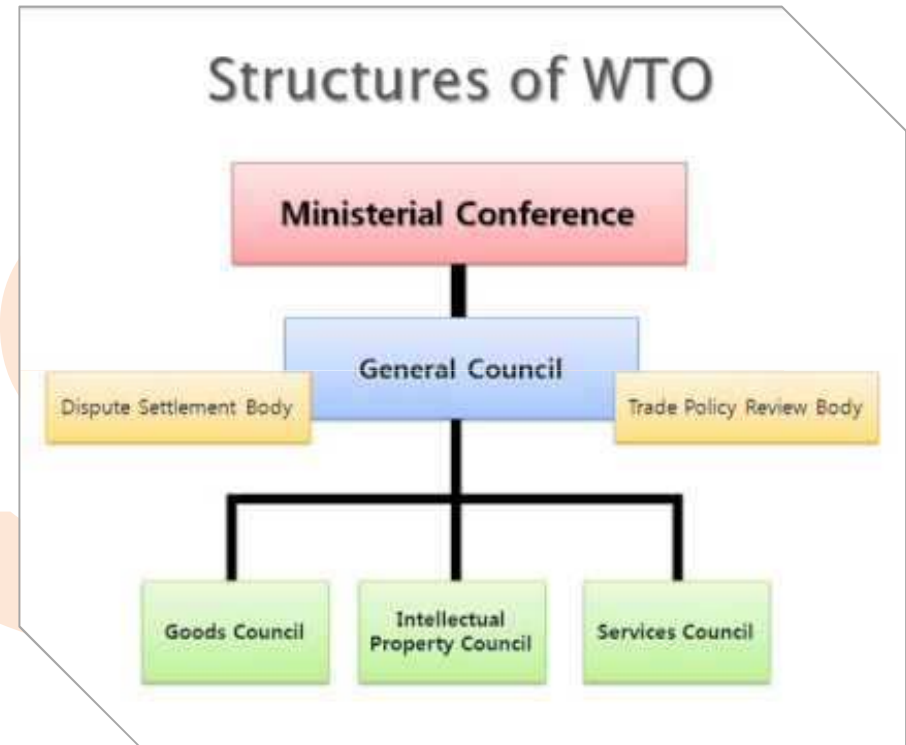
Tunisia 29 March 1995 (GATT: 1990)

Observers:

Algeria

Lebanese Republic

Republic of Libya



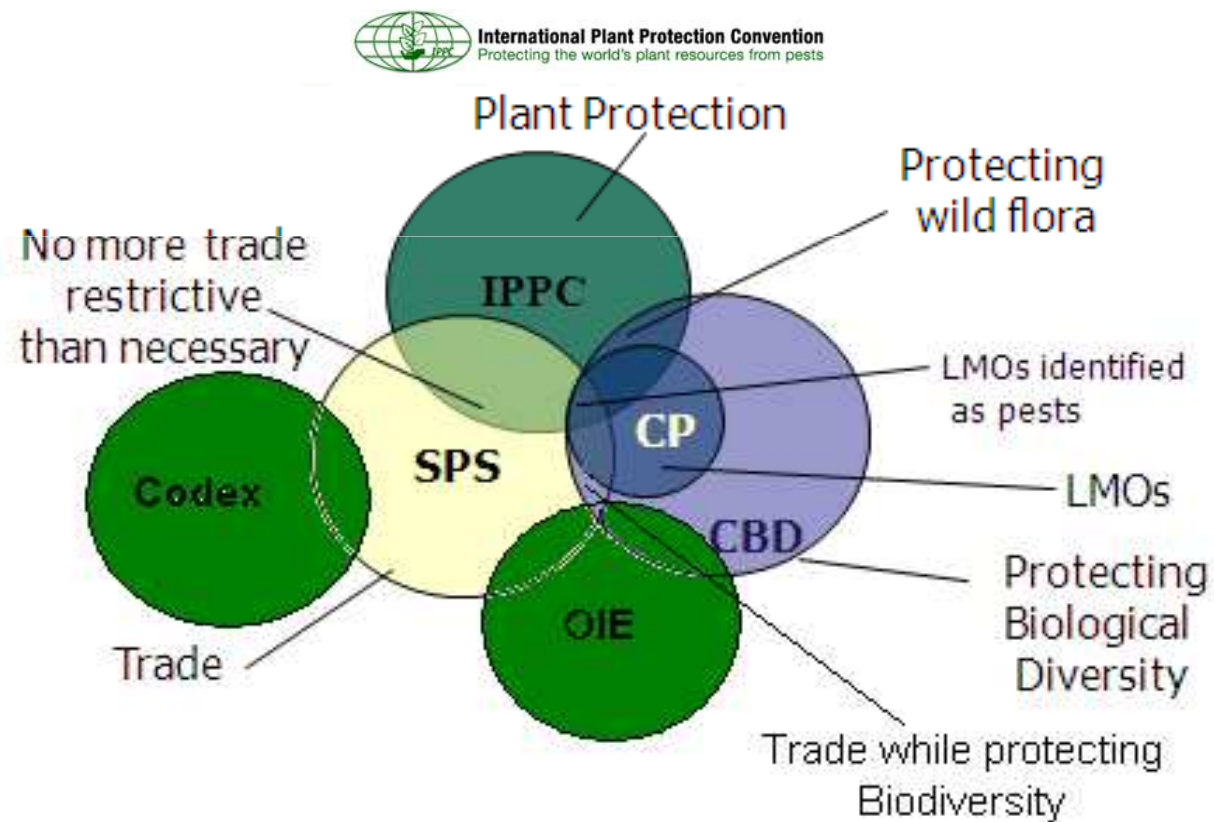
OIE, Codex, IPPC are International Standard Setting Bodies under the WTO - SPS Agreement

World Organisation for Animal Health (**OIE**) → ANIMALS, ANIMAL
PRODUCTS

Joint FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission (**Codex**) →
PESTICIDE RESIDUES, OTHER CONTAMINANTS

International Plant Protection Convention (**IPPC**) → PLANTS,
PLANT PRODUCTS

Sister organisations



SPS Agreement

The Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Entered into force with the establishment of the World Trade Organization on 1 January 1995.

It concerns the application of food safety and animal and plant health regulations. SPS measures should be applied only to the extent necessary to protect human, animal or plant life or health.

SPS measures should not arbitrarily or unjustifiably discriminate between countries where identical or similar conditions prevail.



Collaboration between **WTO** and **IPPC** concerns the use of **International Standards** for **Phytosanitary Measures** in the context of the **SPS** **Agreement.**

Member countries shall base their phytosanitary measures (legislation) on international standards (36 ISPMs), guidelines or recommendations.

WTO – SPS Agreement

Covers **sanitary and phytosanitary measures**, not to be considered as non-tariff barriers to international trade.

Encourages trade to take place unless there are valid health concerns to restrict or prevent trade.

Aims to protect health in all member countries and to prevent trade barriers.

SPS measures must be based on International standards or be **scientifically justified**.

Risk assessment to achieve **appropriate level of protection**, which is scientifically justified

Plant Health

Animal Health

Food Safety

SPS Measures

Measures apply to domestically produced food or local plant pests/diseases, as well as to products coming from other countries.

Countries maintain measures to ensure that **food is safe for consumers**, and to **prevent the spread of pests or diseases among plants** and require:

- products to come from a pest-free area,
 - inspection of products,
 - specific treatment or processing of products,
- setting of allowable maximum levels of pesticide residues or
- permitted use of only certain additives in food.



Link between WTO – SPS and IPPC

World Trade Organization's (WTO) **Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures** (the SPS Agreement) recognises the **IPPC as the only international standard setting body for plant health.**

Codex also develops standards with respect to **food quality**, nutrition and labelling.

These other standards are not directly relevant to the SPS Agreement, however they are relevant to the **Technical Barriers to Trade Agreement** and checks at import.

TBT Agreement took effect in 1980; in 1994 it was superseded by the WTO TBT Agreement



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