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DR-CAFTA IMPLEMENTATION

WEEKLY REPORT May 24 to 28

A. Project Activities

- 1. OTCA/USAID/IICA Workshop: “International Trade of Agricultural Products’ Price Analysis”.** The Office of Agricultural Trade Agreements (OTCA), in conjunction with the Inter American Institute for Cooperation in Agriculture (IICA), sponsored a three day interactive workshop, May 25th through 27th, to discuss price analysis in the international trade of agricultural products. During the workshop, several agriculture experts initiated an active dialogue to improve technical capacity in this subject matter. This workshop helped increase the technical capacity of key Dominican public and private sector officials involved in the production and international trade of agricultural products; therefore, improving the overall competitiveness of the Dominican agricultural sector. The Project assisted OTCA through the participation of COP, Dr. Rubén Núñez, who provided workshop participants with a detailed presentation on the rules of international trade with an emphasis on DR-CAFTA. Furthermore, the Project sponsored the participation of Mr. Frank Lam and Dr. Joaquin Arias, agriculture trade experts from IICA, who provided specialized training and price analysis tools that encourage sound decision making processes.

A total of 31 people (14 or 45% women) attended the workshop from the following *public sector institutions*: Ministry of Agriculture (MDA), Ministry of Economics, Planning and Development, Ministry of Foreign Relations, Directorate of Foreign Trade and Trade Agreements Administration (DICOEX), Ministry of Industry and Commerce (MIC), Agricultural Bank of the Dominican Republic, Dominican Republic’s Center for Exports and Investments (CEI-RD), Regulatory Commission of Unfair Trade Practices, National Forestry and Farming Council (CONIAF), and the National Housing Bank (BNV). The private sector was represented by members from: Mango Clusters, National Confederation of Cacao Producers (CONACADO), the Pontificia University Mother and Teacher (PUCMM), UNICARIBE, UNAPEC and the Agricultural Front.

- 2. DGDF/SESPAS Strategic Communications Plan.** On May 26th, local consultant Augusto Ramirez presented the General Directorate of Drugs and Pharmacies of the Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance (SESPAS) with a strategic communications plan to assist the institution improve its interaction with other key Dominican public and private sector institutions and the general public. DGDF/SESPAS is the institution responsible for complying with IPR commitments in DR-CAFTA for the sanitary registration and data protection of pharmaceutical patents. Mr. Ramirez described the methodology used to arrive at DGDF/SESPAS communication strategy and detailed the action plan he prepared to achieve the institutions communications goals.

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3. USAID DR-CAFTA Implementation Project. Patricia Yanes, Chemonics International Project Manager, was at the Project office in Santo Domingo during this week. Ms. Yanes met with USAID officials to discuss the Project’s extension and to carry out other Project administrative tasks.

B. Upcoming Project Activities

Institution	Topic	Date	Place
DICOEX/DGCP	Government Procurement Training	TBD	TBD
DICOEX/ONAPI	Training on registering sounds and olfactory trademarks	TBD	TBD

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