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The U.S. Government's Global Hunger & Food Security Initiative

Food Safety Network (FSN) August 26, 2020

Improving Regulatory Capacity From Afar

Lessons from USDA's experience with sanitary
and phytosanitary (SPS) distance learning
training modules in Pakistan and Cambodia



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OUR SPEAKERS



Lee Gross

International Program
Specialist- USDA FAS
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Dr. Molly Gonzales

Instructional Assistant
Professor for the Center of
Educational Technologies at
Texas A&M University

Deborah Hamilton

International Program
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Lourdes Martinez-Romero

Agricultural Economist,
Food Safety Division
Center for Nutrition,
USAID BRFS



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SPS = Safe & Nutritious Food

Measures that are taken to protect humans, animals, and plants from diseases, pests, or contaminants.

Sanitary → relating to human or animal life or health

Phytosanitary → relating to plant life or health

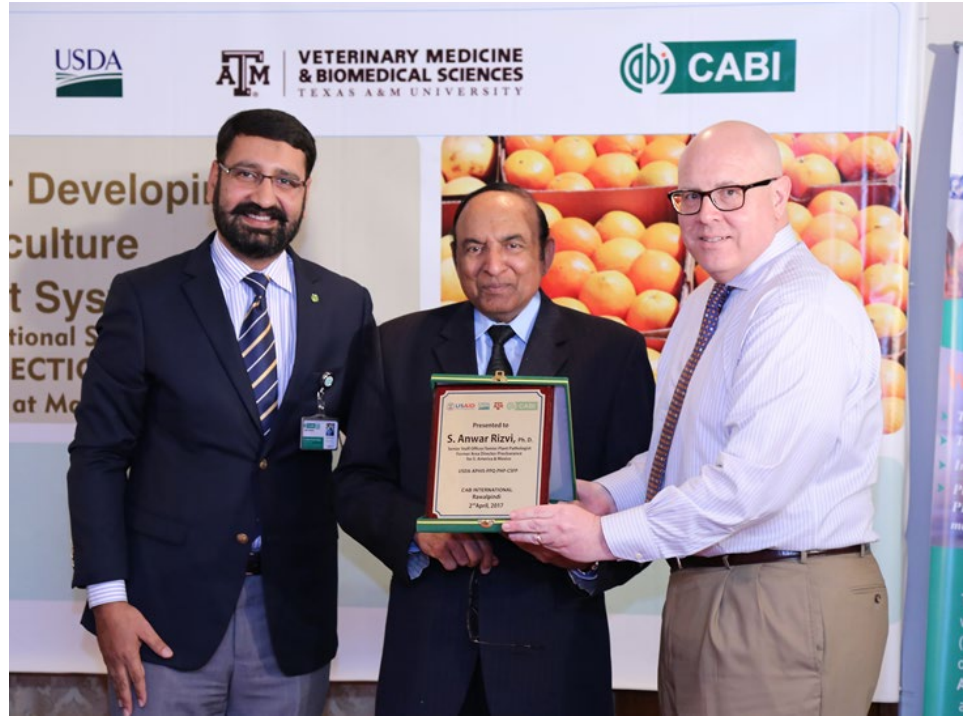
Improved Human Health





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Dr. Babar Bajwa, Regional Director, CABI and David Williams, Agricultural Counselor at the U.S. Embassy, Islamabad, USDA at the closing ceremony for the SPS Distance Learning Program



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The Food Safety Network

Bringing the best of Food Safety Practices to the World

Online library of
best practices

Rapid needs
assessments for
USAID Missions

Coordinated U.S.
government
expertise

Links to animal
and plant health
and food safety

Online interactive
sanitary and
phytosanitary
training

Agrilinks.org/activities/food-safety-network



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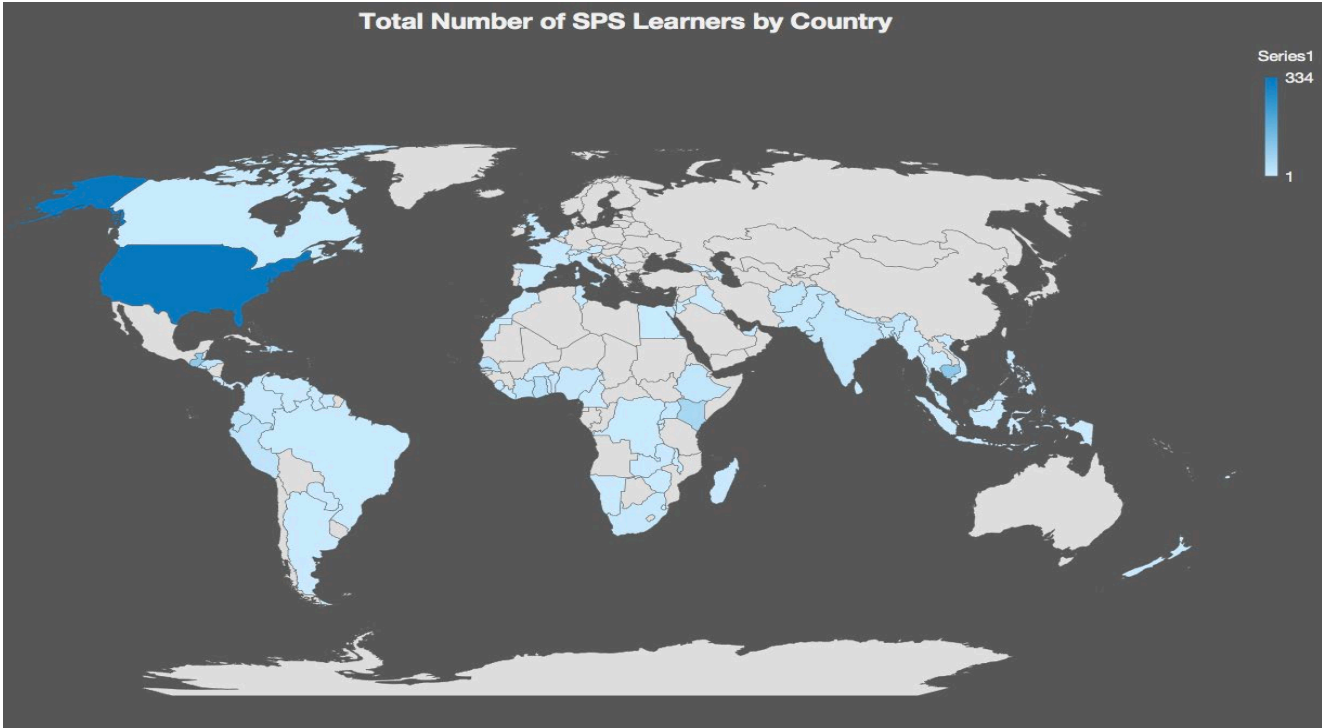
FDA



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SPS MODULES 2.0 – GLOBAL REACH



93
COUNTRIES HAVE
LEARNERS
REPRESENTED

SINCE ITS ORIGIN,

1,077

USERS HAVE
CREATED
ACCOUNTS



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“SPS Distance Learning is the most-cost effective way to build capacity of the officials to shape the enabling environment for agricultural product exports.”

Sam Oeurn Ke, USAID Mission in Cambodia

“As a director providing oversight to SPS related projects in the field I took it upon myself to go through all of the plant health modules. The courses brought me through the component parts in a methodical way and challenged my knowledge through pre and post testing. We are now exploring the application of these courses in the work we do with national authorities across East Africa.”

Samuel Karnis, Land O'Lakes Venture37, Trade in Agriculture Safely and Efficiently





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Dr. Molly Gonzales

Instructional Assistant Professor for the Center of Educational Technologies at Texas A&M University



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FEED THE FUTURE Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Online Training Courses

Home Events My Courses

Administration Dashboard

Restricted Not available unless: You are a(n) Manager (hidden otherwise)

English Español Français

Course > Course > Course >

All courses

<https://vimeo.com/451723305/4dd3dea0f4>



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- In 2017, Texas A&M, the USDA Food Safety Network and its interagency partners developed [SPSCourses.com](https://www.spscourses.com)
 - Data collected from the Pakistan pilot program informed updates and changes
 - Pre-Assessment Scores
 - Post-Assessment Scores
 - Participant Feedback
- Texas A&M rebuilt all the computer-based modules using the latest technology for use across the globe.
- All modules are available in three languages (English, Spanish, and French).



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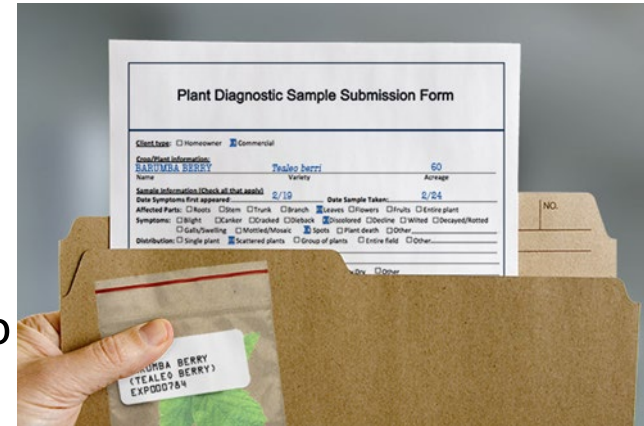


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Module content was authored and developed in partnership with APHIS.

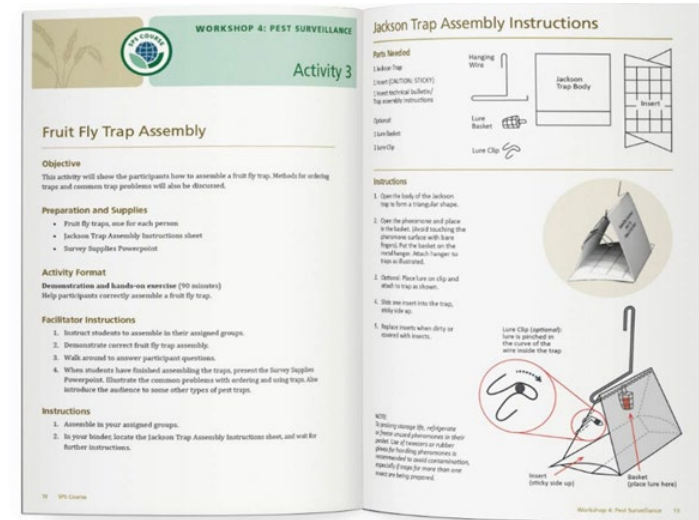
- These interactive modules incorporate the use of illustrations, videos, and case studies to engage learners.
 - Modules were built with consideration given to different learning style preferences and adult learning strategies.
- Access modules online or offline:
 - Online at: <https://spscourses.com>
 - Offline via Moodle App
- Access modules via:
 - Desktop/Laptop
 - Mobile Devices
 - Tablet
 - Smartphone



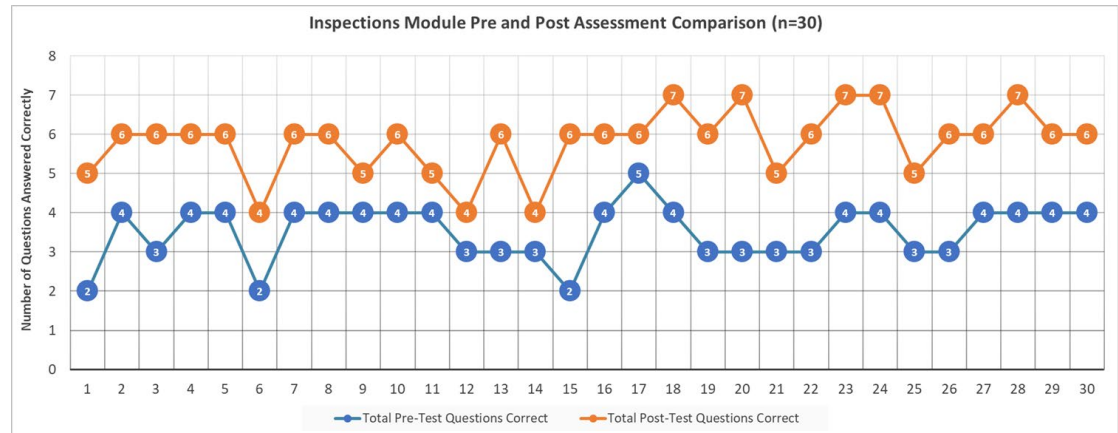
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- In addition to the self-paced online modules on SPSCourses.com, workshops were also developed:
 - Initially built for delivery in-person and in-country
 - In light of COVID-19 these workshops are being adapted for virtual delivery via webinar
 - Applied learning activities
 - Opportunity to learn with experts in the room/online via web cam
 - Certain translations available
- All online modules have a workshop with an activity that corresponds to its topic.
 - View SPS Courses One-Pager to see all the workshops currently available.



- The SPSCourses.com has a robust reporting feature that gives powerful insight into our learners and their activity within the platform:
 - Pre and Post Assessment Scores
 - User Information
 - Module Completion Status





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Deborah Hamilton
International Program Specialist
USDA FAS



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Changing the Dialogue: SPS Distance Learning Pakistan



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Pakistan's agricultural exports are increasing

- Agriculture is Pakistan's second-largest sector, accounting for over 21 percent of GDP.
- Largest employer: 46 percent of the labor force.
- Two-third's of the rural population.
- Exports are @\$600 million and growing.
- Rice, cotton, wheat, maize and sugarcane.





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Get the Right Partners

- USAID
- USDA APHIS – technical experts
- TAMU – module development, technology
- CAB International (CABI) formerly the Commonwealth Agricultural Bureaux – training center, liaison with government





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Language Matters

- Started with English modules
- Translated to Urdu = increased understanding.
- www.spstraining.pk holds the Urdu versions

لیزا کیف (Lisa Keefe)، ایم ایس، پی ایچ ڈی۔
مادیوں ۱۲: ایس بی ایس کورس کا جازرہ

لیزا کیف (Lisa Keefe)، ٹیکساس اے اینڈ ایم میں واقع کالج آف ویٹینری میڈیسنز کے سینئر فار ایجوکیشنل ٹیکنالوجی، نیباتاتی حفظان صحت کے بین الاقوامی معیارانہ راہنمائی سائنس کے بہت سے شعبہ جات میں ۲۔ پیسٹ رسک انالیسٹس دستاویزات کے موضوع کے ماہرین کے ساتھ ۳۔ نیباتاتی حفظان صحت کے نظام تشریح کرنے میں۔ اس ایس پی (Entomology) ۴۔ مادیوں کا اختتام اور پانچ ورکشاپس تھیں جن میں معاونت کی۔

لوٹی ایرکسن (Lottie Erickson)

لوٹی ایرکسن، ریاستہائے متحدہ امریکہ کے ادارہ برائے زراعت (USDA) کے لئے ایک ایکسپورٹ کوارڈی نیٹر ہے۔ اس سے پہلے، اس نے نیباتاتی حفظان صحت کے بین الاقوامی معیارات تشکیل دینے والے، انٹرنیشنل پلانٹ پروٹیکشن کنونینشن میں کام کیا، اور وہ بطور ٹریڈ ڈائریکٹر، تجارتی شراکت داروں کے ساتھ نیباتاتی حفظان صحت کے معیارات پر گفت و شنید کرنے کی ذمہ دار تھی۔ ایکسپورٹ کوارڈی نیٹر کے طور پر اپنے کام میں، نیباتاتی حفظان صحت کے ریگولیٹری فیصلوں کی سفارش کے لئے راہنمائی فراہم کرنے کی خاطر، وہ آئی پی سی (IPPC Standards) اور تشریحات پر انحصار کرتی ہیں۔



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Technology Can't Replace the Personal Touch

- Began with online training.
- Added in person, hands on APHIS-led workshops.
- 12 over six years for 30 Pakistani government officials.
- SPS Advisor in Pakistan as coach.



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Leverage

- Supplemental USDA Cochran Scientific Fellowships.
- New Dept. of Plant Protection staff required to take the online trainings.
- The University of Faisalabad has adopted the SPS modules for its curricula.
- USAID's initial investment of \$6 million had led to a worldwide program.





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Build a Team



- Government officials trained together for more than six years.
- Today they are in **leadership positions** in the **Ministry of Food Security and Research**, the **Pakistan Agricultural Research Council**, the **Department of Plant Protection**, and international organizations.
- The Dept. of Plant Protection is working with USDA to **modernize the biopesticide regulatory system**.



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Lasting Changes

- Restructuring of Pakistan's Department of Plant Protection to provide a center for pest-risk analysis and other SPS-related topics.
- Aligning of trade policies with science-based principles of other WTO member countries; e.g. improved two-way trade with the US.
- In 2012, Pakistan's horticultural exports were \$350 million; in 2019 they were above \$600 million.
- Pakistan is reaching new markets such as Indonesia for citrus and other nearby international markets for fruits and nuts.





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Yanet Rodriguez
International Program
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- 2017-USAID Cambodia contracted the Food Safety Network to conduct an SPS Assessment of the Horticultural Value Chain
- 2018 USAID request for technical assistance to Cambodian Plant Protection SPS Division
 - **Program activities help reach GFSS objective 1-IR2: Inclusive and sustainable agriculture-led economic growth.**
 - The program provides technical assistance and training to help Cambodia meet Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) standards and build a strong SPS system that will benefit mango and cashew exports, among other commodities.



SPS risks can undermine production and trade – e.g. pest and disease outbreaks, or rejection from other markets

Program Activities

- Provide capacity building in SPS plant health issues
 - Pest and diseases surveillance and diagnostic
 - Phytosanitary treatments
 - Market Access
 - Pest Identification
 - Pest Risk Analysis
- Road Map
 - Developing commodity specific intervention roadmaps to address SPS issues
- Technical consultations



Results:

- Strengthen communication between Cambodia Mission and Ministry of Agriculture on SPS issues
- Strengthening Cambodia's plant health expertise, across all sectors (government, academia, and private sector)
- Increases USG policy coordination
 - Interaction with USAID and USDA (APHIS and FAS)





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Thank You!

Visit

www.SPSCourses.com

Contact the Food Safety Network team at

foodsafetynetwork@usda.gov



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