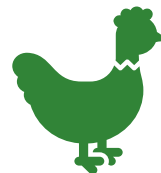


# WTO framework for safe international trade – **SPS Agreement** principles

Workshop to Strengthen Capacities of Veterinary Services to Facilitate Safer International Trade  
12 December 2023



Basic principles of the  
WTO SPS Agreement



Overview of notifications  
on animal health and  
diseases



What happens when  
things go wrong – how  
can the WTO help?



# Basic principles of the WTO SPS Agreement

Membership status :

WTO Member

Observer negotiating accession

WTO = **164** members  
covering **98%** of world trade

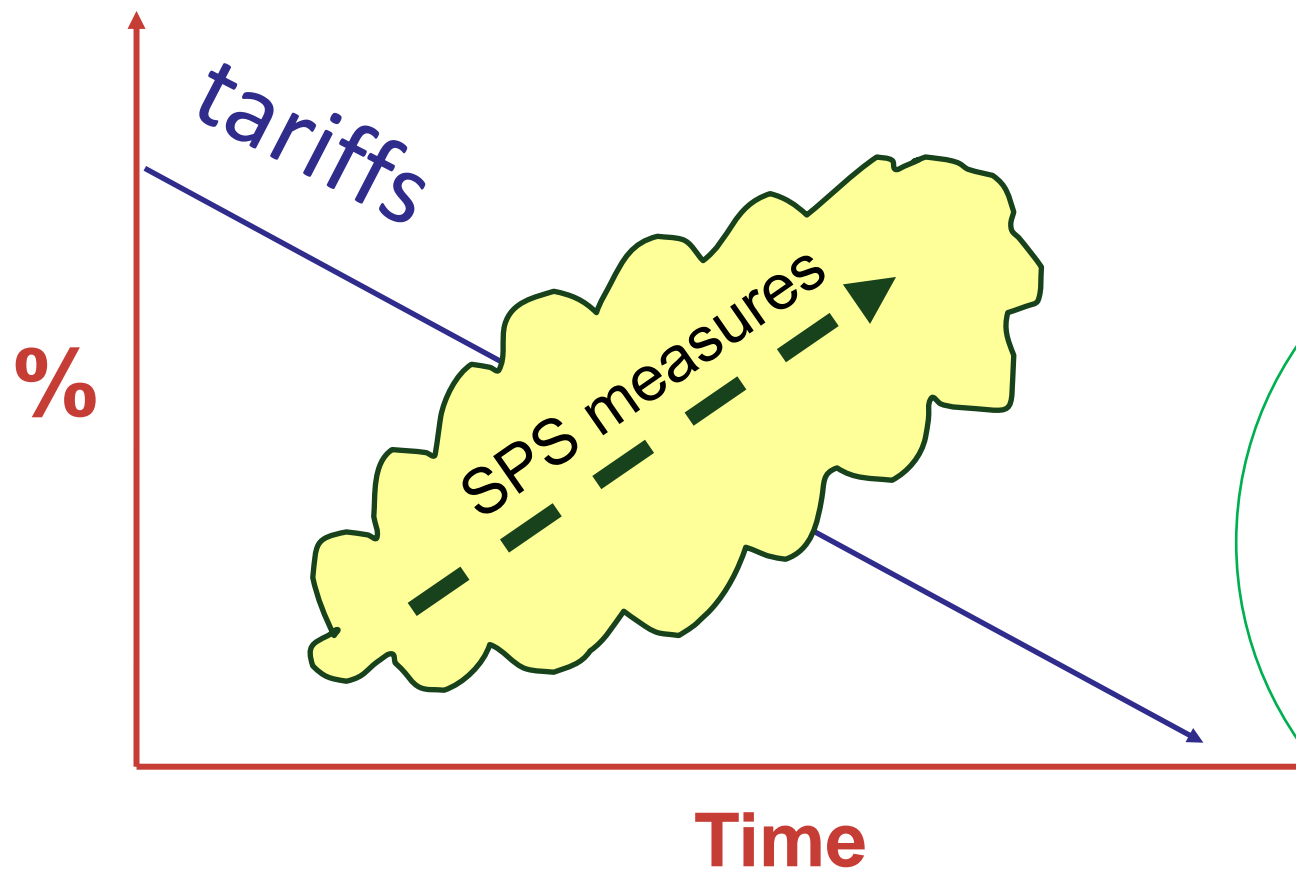
# What does the WTO do?

- Negotiates trade rules
- Discusses trade issues at a multilateral level
- Monitors national trade policies
- Provides technical assistance

**Stable, predictable, safer trade**



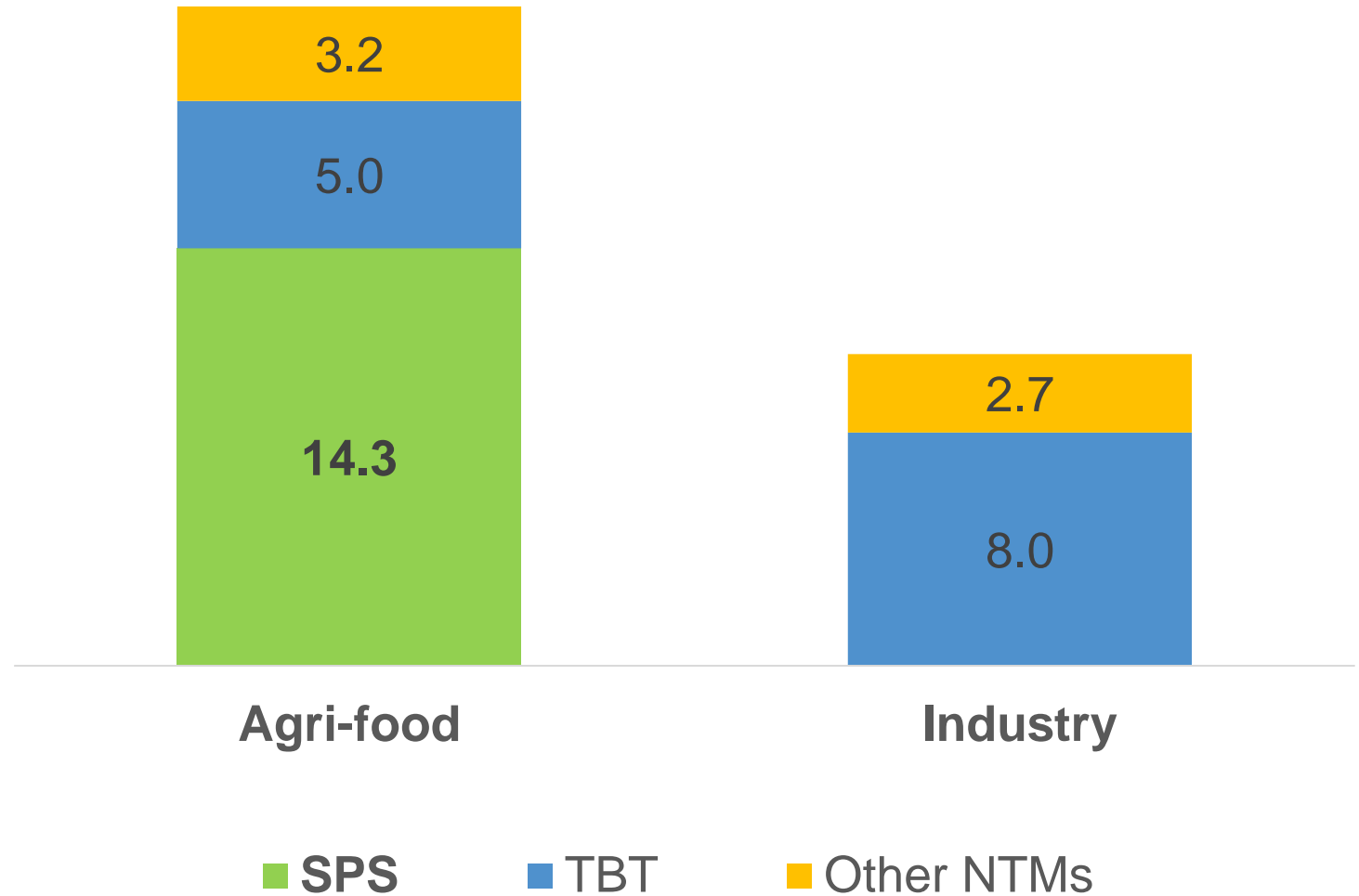
# SPS measures – upward trend?



90 % of animal products traded internationally are subject to SPS measures

# How much do SPS measures cost?

Price impact (in %)



# What is the WTO SPS Agreement about?



Members' **right** to restrict trade  
when necessary to protect human,  
animal, plant life or health



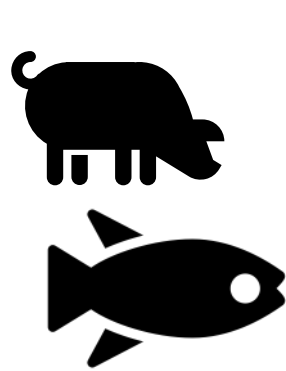
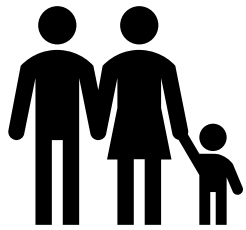
**Obligation** to avoid  
unnecessary barriers to  
trade

WOAH standards !



# What are SPS measures?

Any measure applied to protect the life and health of



... against certain SPS risks



Mycotoxins in feedstuff

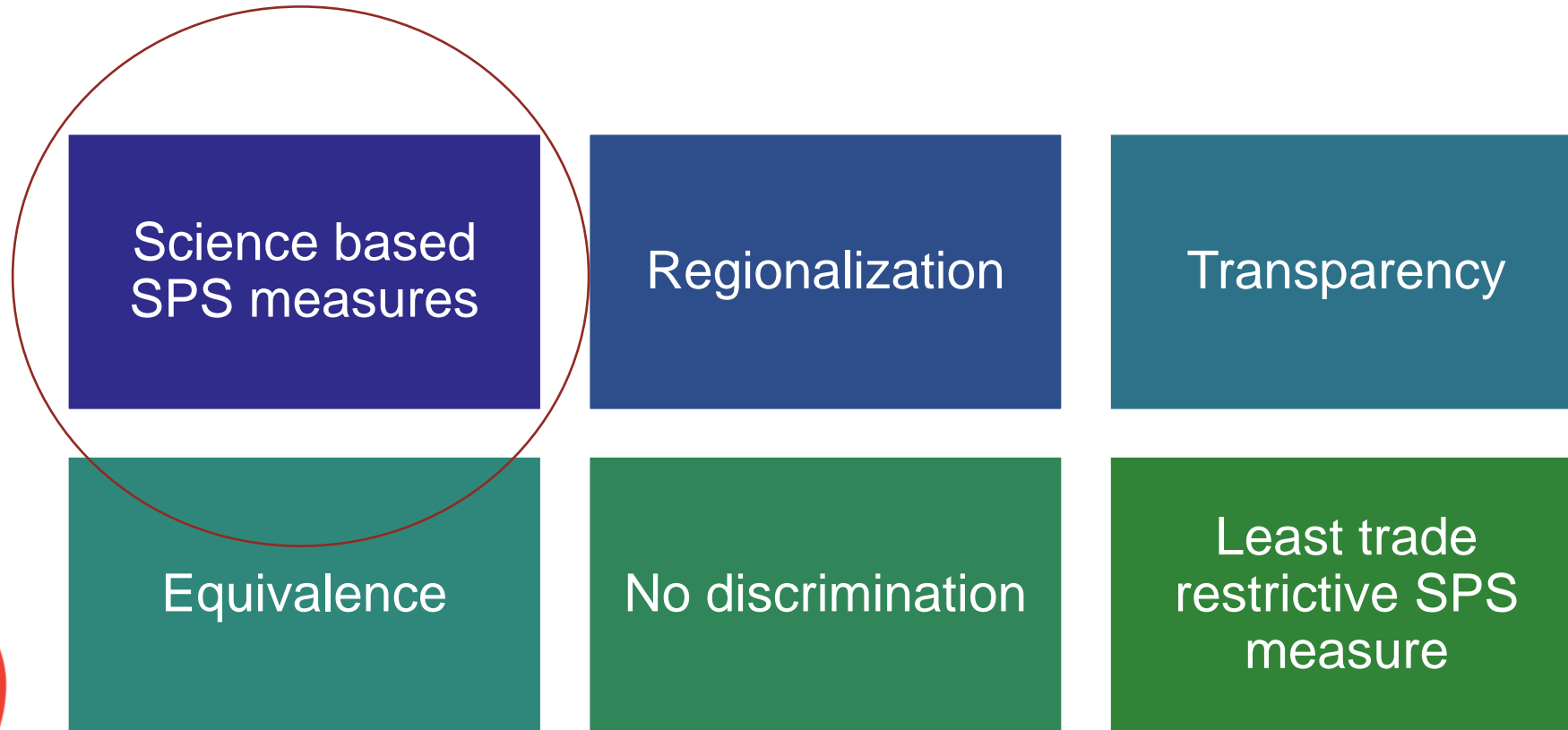


BSE-related restrictions



African swine fever related restrictions

# Basic principles of the SPS Agreement



[Videos on key principles](#)

# Scientific Justification



**International standards**  
(Article 3.1)



Basis for SPS measures  
Presumption of consistency

**OR**

**Risk Assessment**  
(Article 5)



Appropriate to the circumstances  
Take into account risk assessment techniques  
developed by relevant international organizations

# WOAH in the SPS Agreement

**Harmonization is a key objective of the SPS Agreement**

**What is harmonization?**

SPS measures based on relevant international standards

**Why does it matter?**

Less regulatory divergence; predictability and facilitated trade; clarity for exporters

**What about WOAH standards?**

WOAH is expressly recognized in the WTO SPS Agreement as a standard-setting body for animal health – WTO Members should use them!

# Risk Analysis in the WTO SPS Agreement



# Basic principles of the SPS Agreement

Science based  
SPS measures

Regionalization

Transparency

Equivalence

No discrimination

Least trade  
restrictive SPS  
measure

[Videos on key principles](#)

# Transparency

Draft regulation  
+  
Significant impact on trade  
(restricting or facilitating)



Notify



# Transparency



Regular  
notifications

When modifications are still  
possible (draft text)

Allow for 60-day comment  
period



Emergency  
measures



**IMMEDIATELY!**





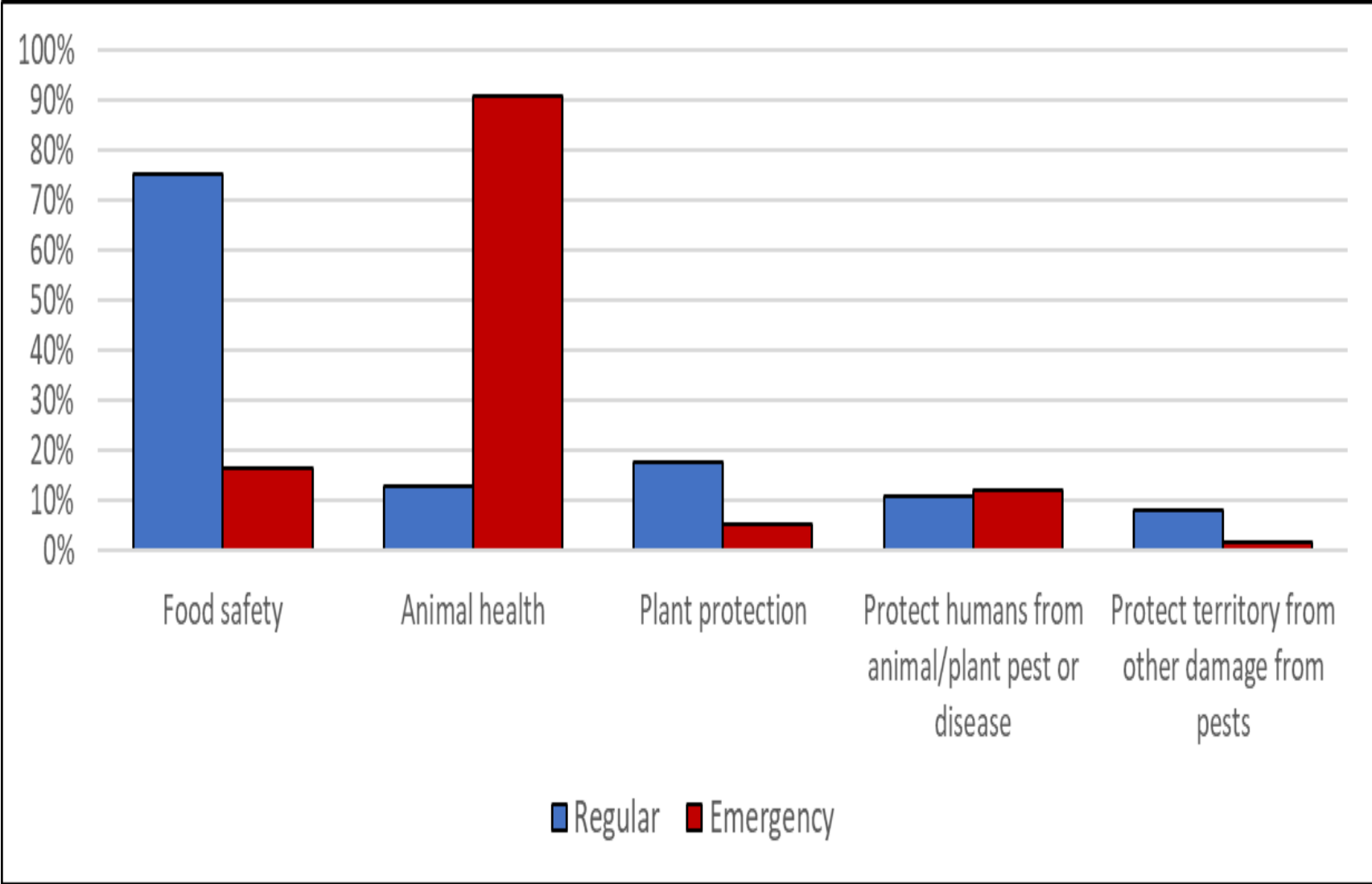
# Overview of notifications on animal health and diseases

# SPS notifications

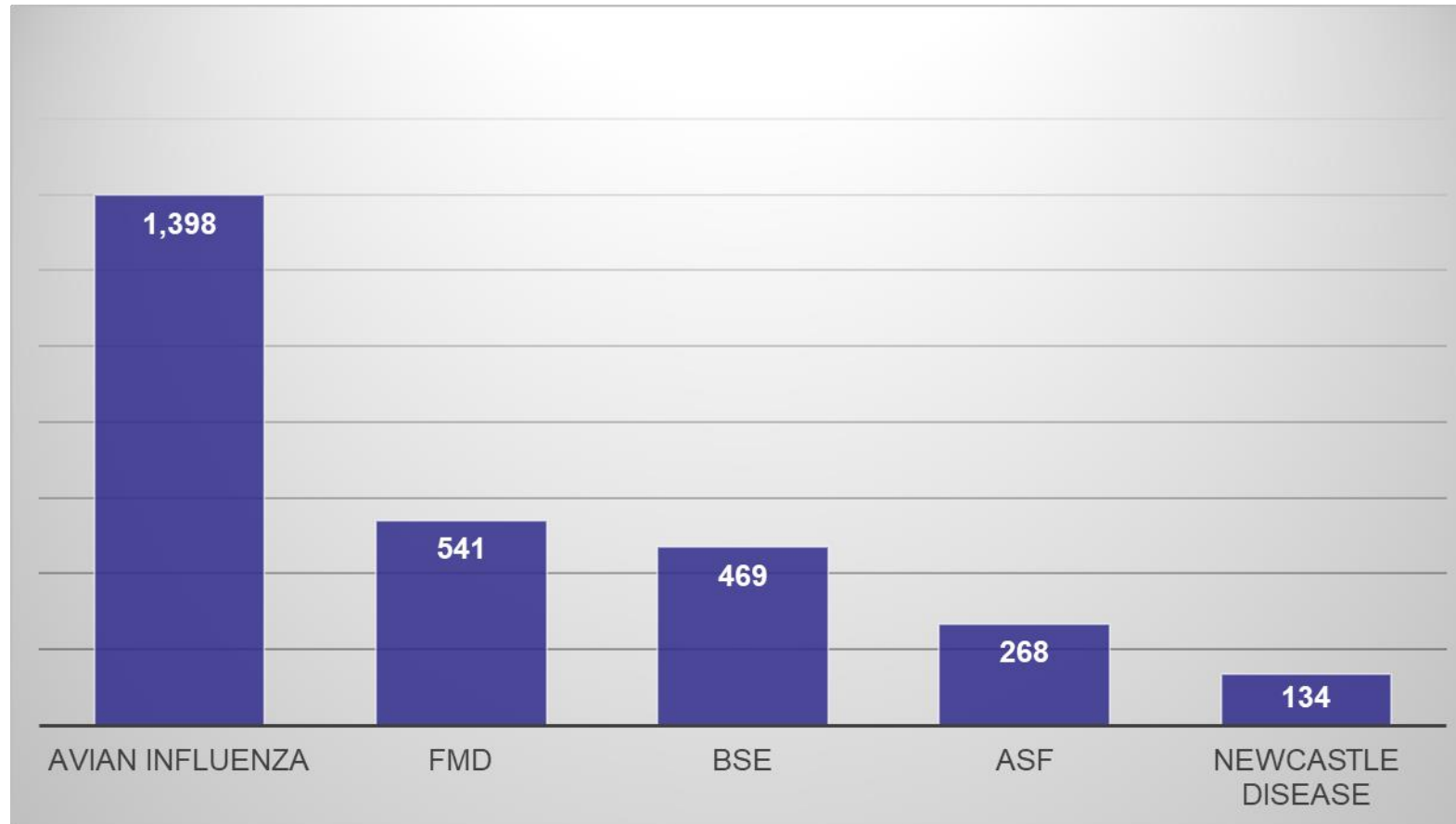
**5600+ animal-health related notifications  
since 1995!**



# Objectives of SPS notifications in 2022



# Main animal diseases in WTO SPS notifications (since 1995)



# WTO SPS notifications and new HPAI outbreaks notified to WOAH\*

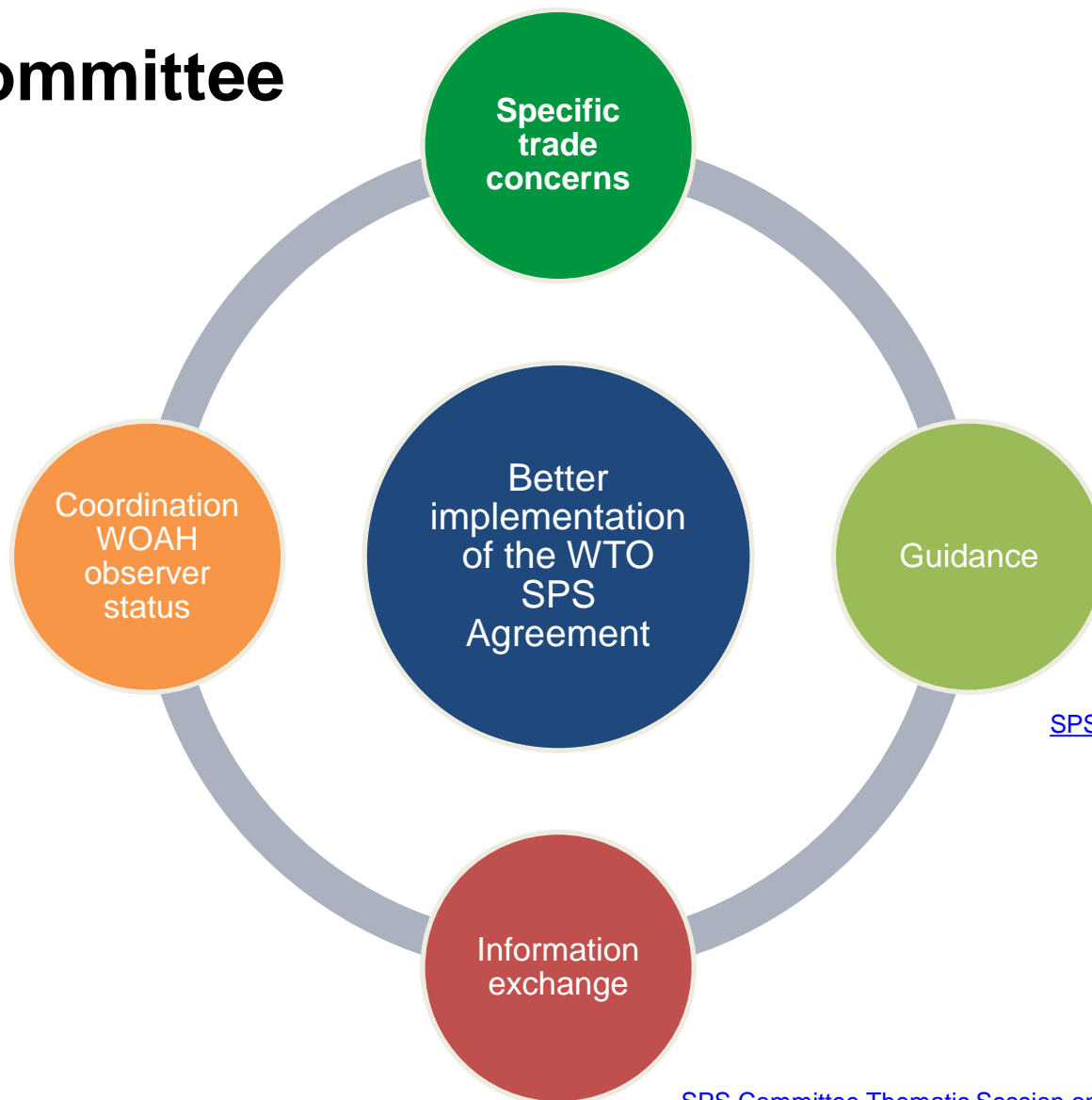


\*Data in the WAHIS refer to HPAI while the keyword avian influenza assigned to WTO SPS notifications refers to both HPAI and low pathogenic avian influenza (LPAI). See [G/SPS/GEN/204/Rev.23](#); [G/SPS/GEN/804/Rev.15](#)



What happens when things go wrong –  
how can the WTO help?

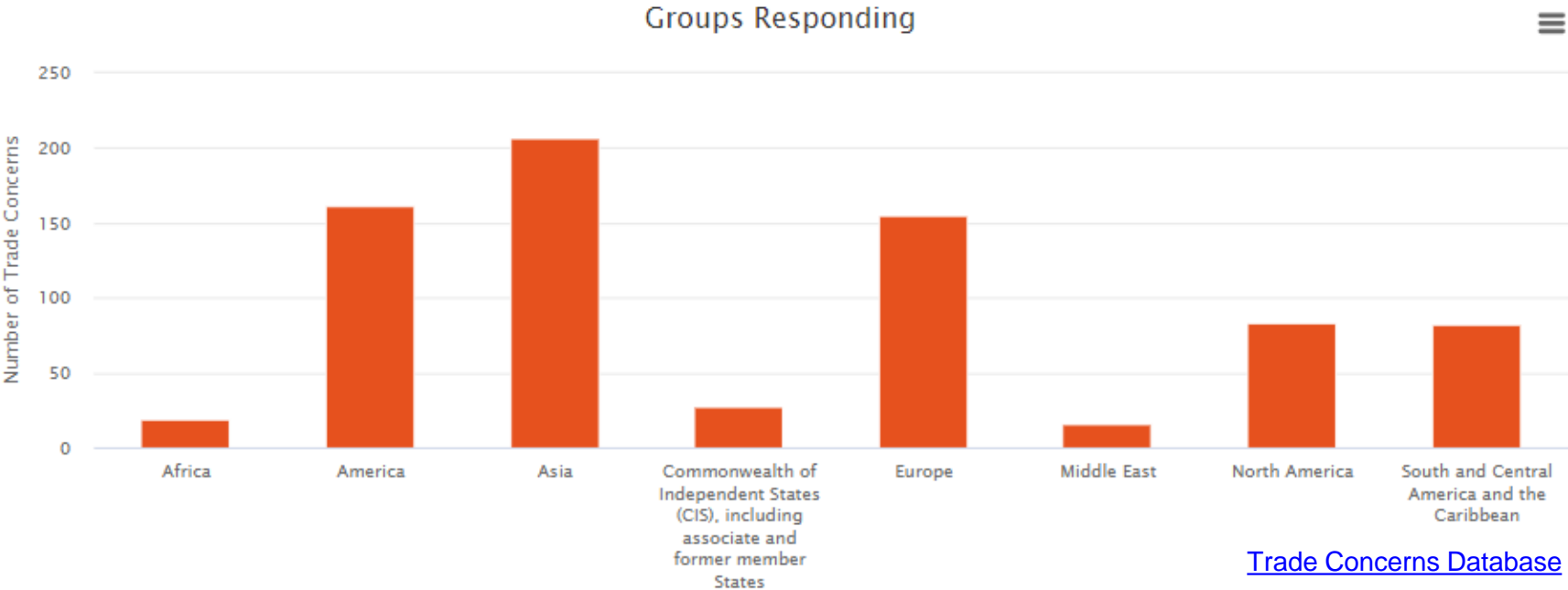
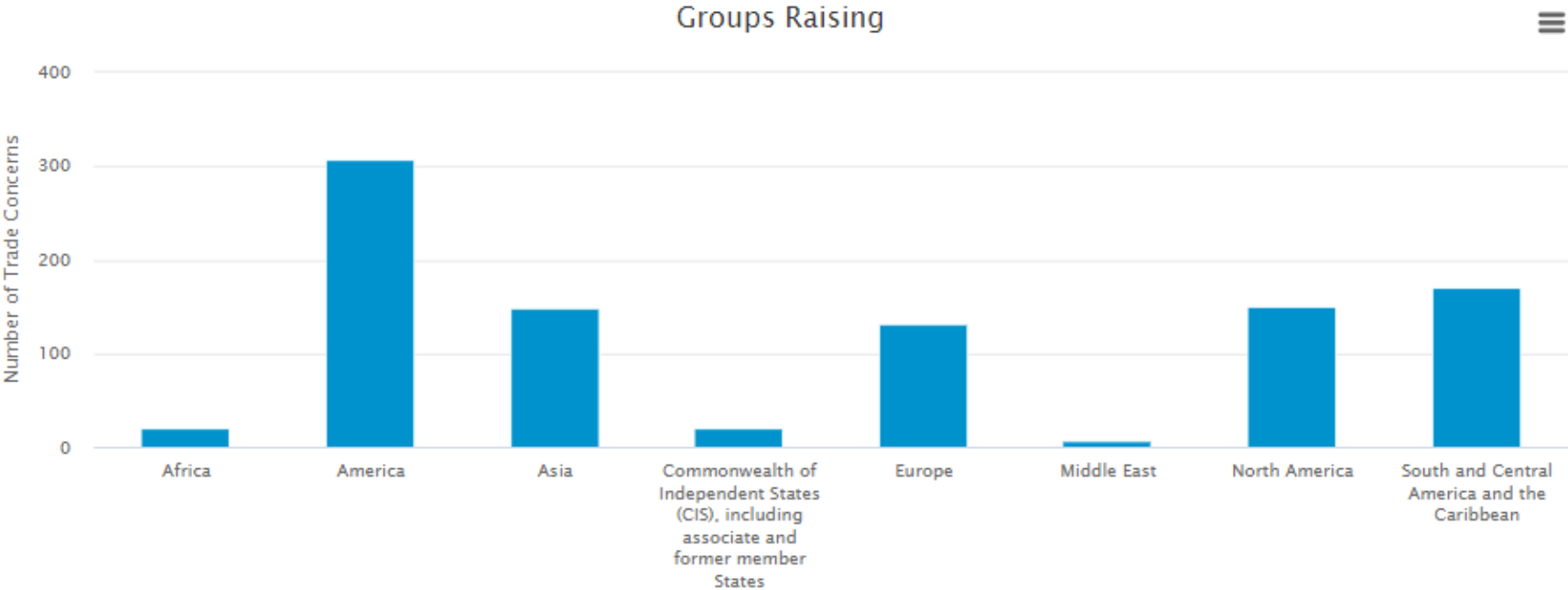
# The WTO SPS Committee



[SPS Committee Guidelines on Regionalization](#)

[SPS Committee Thematic Session on ASF](#)  
[Thematic Session on the Procedure to Monitor the Process of International Harmonization](#)


# Who raises specific trade concerns?

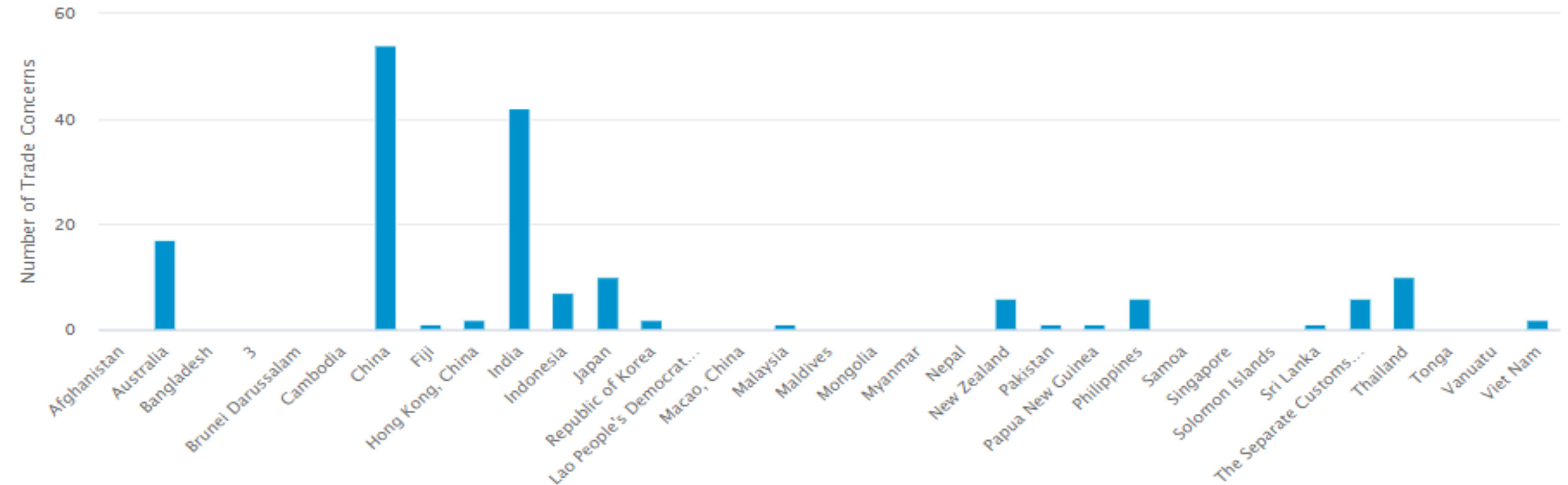




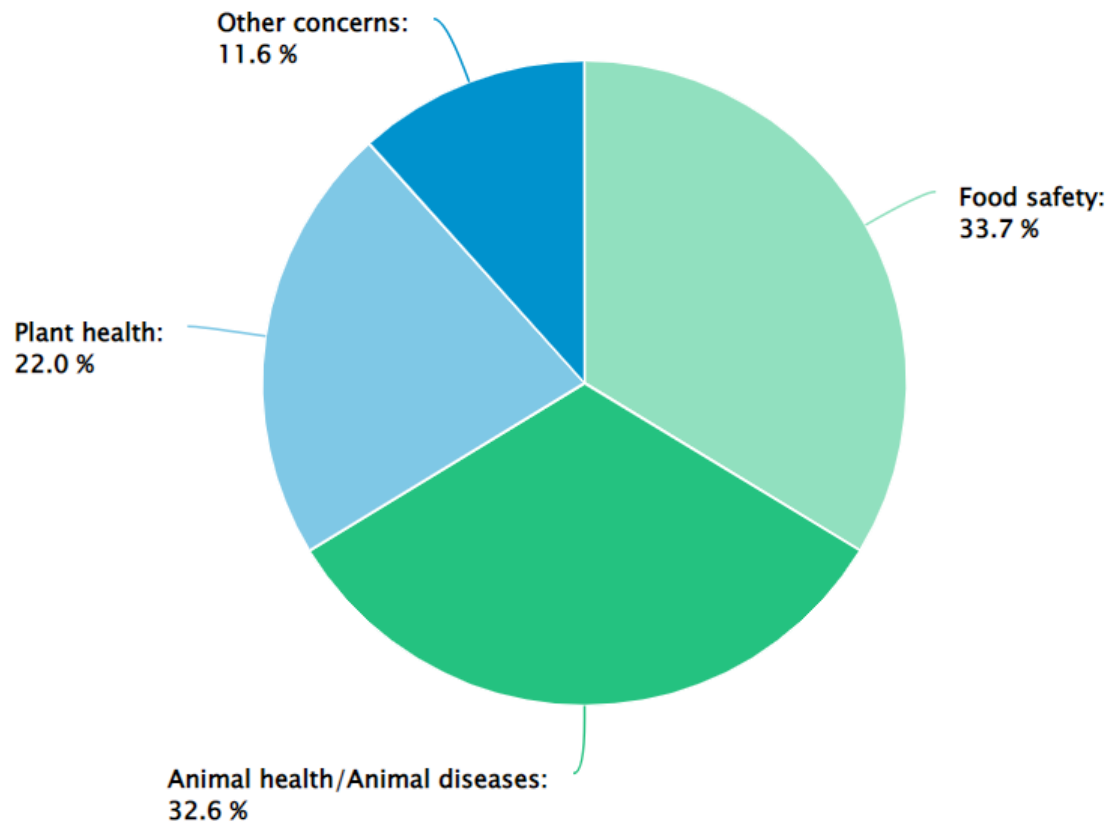
# Specific Trade Concerns – Asia (since 1995)

Asia as Members Raising

[Back to Main Chart](#) 



## Specific Trade Concerns by topic (since 1995)



[Trade Concerns Database](#)

### Major diseases of concern in recent STCs

- Avian influenza
- BSE
- ASF
- Classical swine fever
- FMD

## Key take aways

SPS measures need to be **transparent** (ensuring trust in SPS systems!) and **based on science**

**WOAH standards** is a benchmark for domestic measures

**Participation in the WTO SPS Committee** is crucial for safer trade, settle trade issues, address new challenges

**Private sector** has a key role to play!

# Where to find information on product requirements and SPS measures?

## ePing !

<https://eping.wto.org>



# Thank you

[spscommittee@wto.org](mailto:spscommittee@wto.org)

[www.wto.org/sps](http://www.wto.org/sps)

Twitter:  
[#WTOsps](https://twitter.com/WTOsps)