

USDA T-STAR Invasive Species Project

Overall Assessment of Accomplishments & Shortcomings

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CFCS MEETING 2010

Discussion Points

1. Regional Characteristics – Vulnerability to IAS
2. Global Policies & Risks of AIS
3. CISWG – A Rational Response to a Region Wide Problem
4. What is the Appeal of the CISWG Model to SPS Risk Management?
5. Benefits of a THIRD Border Concept re: Management of AIS Risks
6. ACCOMPLISHMENT OF THE UF-T- STAR INITIATIVE
7. TOWARDS A COMPREHENSIVE SPS / AIS RISK PROTECTION PROGRAMME – The GAPS
8. Way Forward

Regional Characteristics – Vulnerability to IAS

1. High Degree of intra–regional movement of Goods and Persons in the Greater Caribbean Region – the Caribbean Sea Space, inclusive of the South East USA
 2. Particularly high Volumes of People and Goods Traffic between the USA and the rest of the Region
 3. The Porous nature of the borders of Caribbean States – significant Unofficial /Unregulated movement of goods and people Intra–regionally
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Regional Characteristics – Vulnerability to IAS

4. The Importance of Tourism to the Region – (via both Air & Ocean – Yachts & Cruise Ships) and related Pathways / Risk of AIS entry into the Region
5. The Weak SPS Regulatory Capacity in the Caribbean generally:
 - ✓ Fragmented Institutional Responsibilities eg Typically shared between the Ministries of Agriculture & Health
 - ✓ Involves Various Agencies
 - ✓ Outdated legislation and regulation
 - ✓ Little coordination
 - ✓ Agencies Underfunded and are often understaffed with respect to trained personnel and physical infrastructure, including labs

Regional Characteristics – Vulnerability to IAS

5. Tendency: Reluctance to Disclose Info on the Discovery of AIS:

- Evidence from Past Occurrence of AIS suggests that Public Officials chose NOT to admit the presence of AIS in their country for fear of loss of Market (the Hibiscus Mealy Bug)

6. Priority re SPS Policy Issues – Priority accorded SPS Issues tends not to be Consistent with the Potential for Social / Economic Loss

Global Policies & Risks of AIS

The Liberalization of Trade Under the WTO in 1995 >>> Greater Vulnerability for the Caribbean:

- Preference Erosion – loss of Market for Traditional Exports – impact on Incomes resulted in:
- Increasing Levels of Food Imports from Cheaper sources – principally the Far East
- Increase risk re the Introduction of AIS from the East
- The Policy decision to place greater emphasis on the Tourism & Other Service Sectors – increasing the risk associated with these pathways

CISWG – A Rational Response to a Region Wide Problem

1. Genesis of CISWG:

- Institutional Collaboration Between the University of Florida (FRED/IFAS) and University of the West Indies (DAEE/Faculty of Agriculture) since the mid 1980s:
 - ✓ Staff & Student Exchange
 - ✓ Later Joint Research Project
 - ✓ Collaboration in regional Meeting s/ Conferences
- In the early 1990s CARDI joined the Collaboration

CISWG – A Rational Response to a Caribbean Wide Problem

2. CISWG Formed at the Grenada 2003 CFCS Meeting in response to:

- ✓ Increase Incidence of AIS Globally
- ✓ Increasing Vulnerability of the Caribbean Region on account of the Global Trade Policy
- ✓ The recognition that the if the Caribbean States were Vulnerable then so too was the Greater Caribbean, including the French, Dutch and Spanish States, Central American Countries and the USA

3. The UF/UWI/CARDI collaboration provided a ready Platform for Wider Institutional Collaboration

What is the Appeal of the CISWG Model to SPS Risk Management?

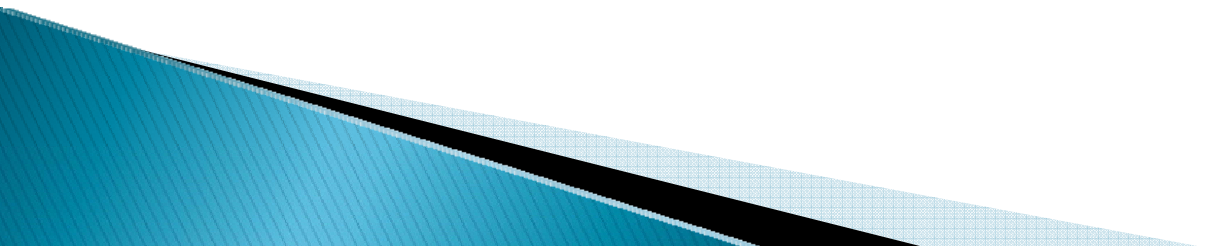
The CISWG Model for Managing AIS Risks:

Essentially Involves the Establishment of a 3rd SPATIAL Border around the Greater Caribbean Region to Minimize the Risk of IAS coming into the Region

This would be achieved through:

- ✓ Institutional Collaboration
 - ✓ Intelligence Sharing
 - ✓ Capacity Building (strengthening the links in the System)
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Benefits of a THIRD Border Concept re: Management of AIS Risks

- ✓ LOWER COST THAN GOING IT ALONE
 - ✓ ENHANCED EFFECTIVENESS & REDUCED RISK
 - ✓ OPPORTUNITIES TO STRENGTHEN THE SPS CAPACITY OF SMALL STATES WITH LIMITED ECONOMIC BASE
 - ✓ FACILITATES THE ADOPTION OF A MORE COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO AIS RISK MANAGEMENT
 - ✓ LIKELY TO BE MORE SUSTAINABLE
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ACCOMPLISHMENT OF THE UF-T STAR INITIATIVE

1. Created a Heightened Awareness of the Risk to the Region of AIS to the following Stakeholders:
 - ✓ Among scientists and Institutional Personnel via the Hosting the various Symposia at the CFCS Meetings
 - ✓ Among Institutional Personnel and Policy makers at a number of Working meetings
 - ✓ Among Policy Makers – through Communication of technical reports and policy advise to various Policy Making bodies including the CARICOM Secretariat and Relevant Ministers in member States

ACCOMPLISHMENT OF THE UF-T STAR INITIATIVE

2. Facilitated Collaboration Among Key Institutions in the Region including:
 - ✓ National Institutions
 - ✓ Regional Institutions, including Universities , IICA, PAHO
 - ✓ International Institutions eg FAO

3. Developed the Caribbean Regional Invasive Species Intervention Strategy (CRISIS) – a most appropriate Acronym coined by Gilly

ACCOMPLISHMENT OF THE UF-T STAR INITIATIVE

4. Assisted with the formulation of the Operational Plan for CRISIS – the Caribbean Invasive Species Surveillance & Information Programme (CISSIP)
 - ✓ The Caribbean Pest Diagnostic Network – UF has taken the lead on this with funds from USDA / T-STAR
5. UF-TSTAR initiative was instrumental in establishing the Caribbean Plant Health Directors Forum

ACCOMPLISHMENT OF THE UF-T STAR INITIATIVE

6. Through various efforts as outlined above the work of the T-STAR Project created the awareness and need for Policy action at the regional level:
 - ✓ **CARICOM launched the Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency (CAHFSA) in March 2010.**
 - ✓ The Mission of CAHFSA is similar to that outlined in the CISSIP document
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Figure 1: CAHFSA Model
for Regional SPS / FS

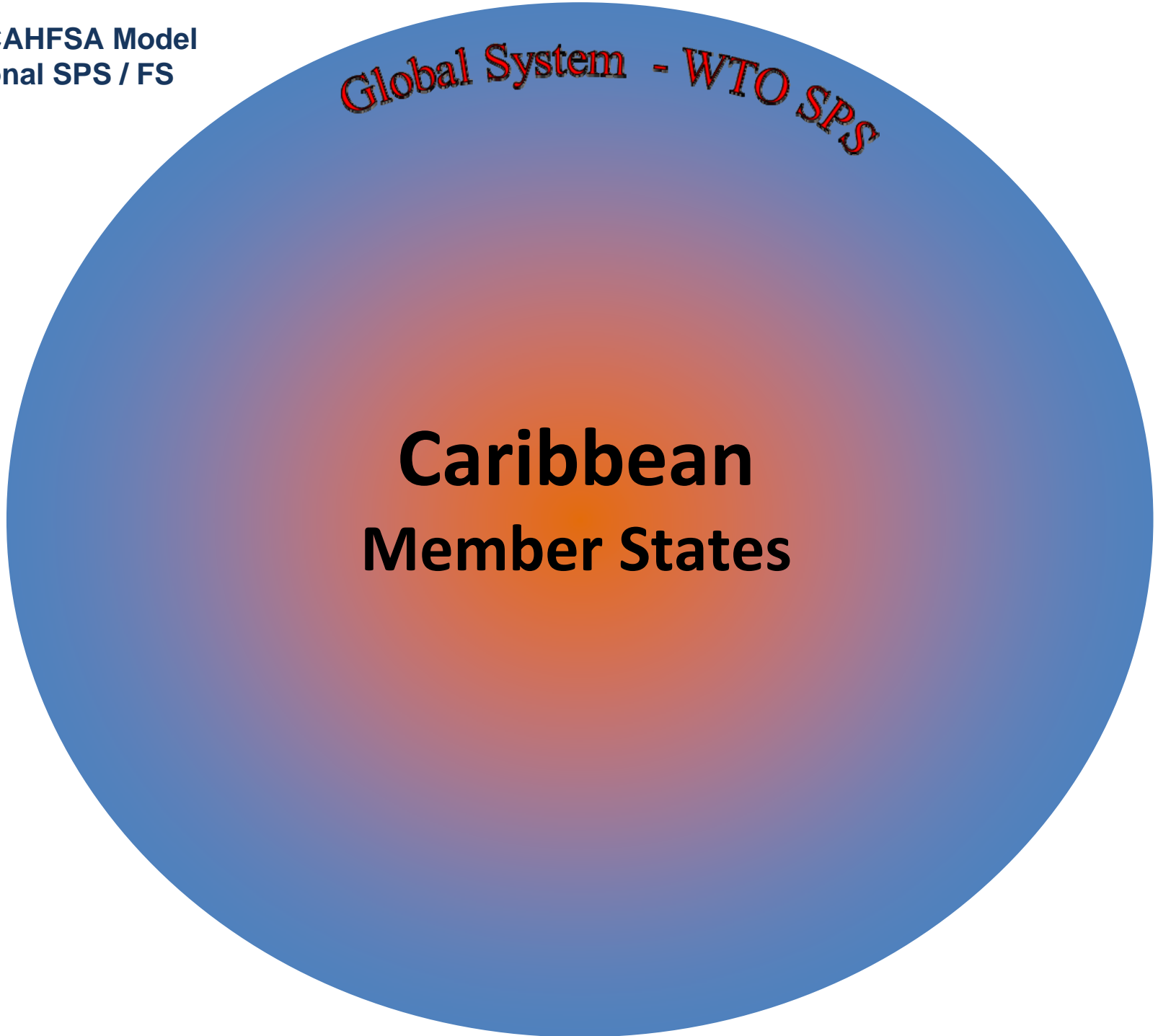


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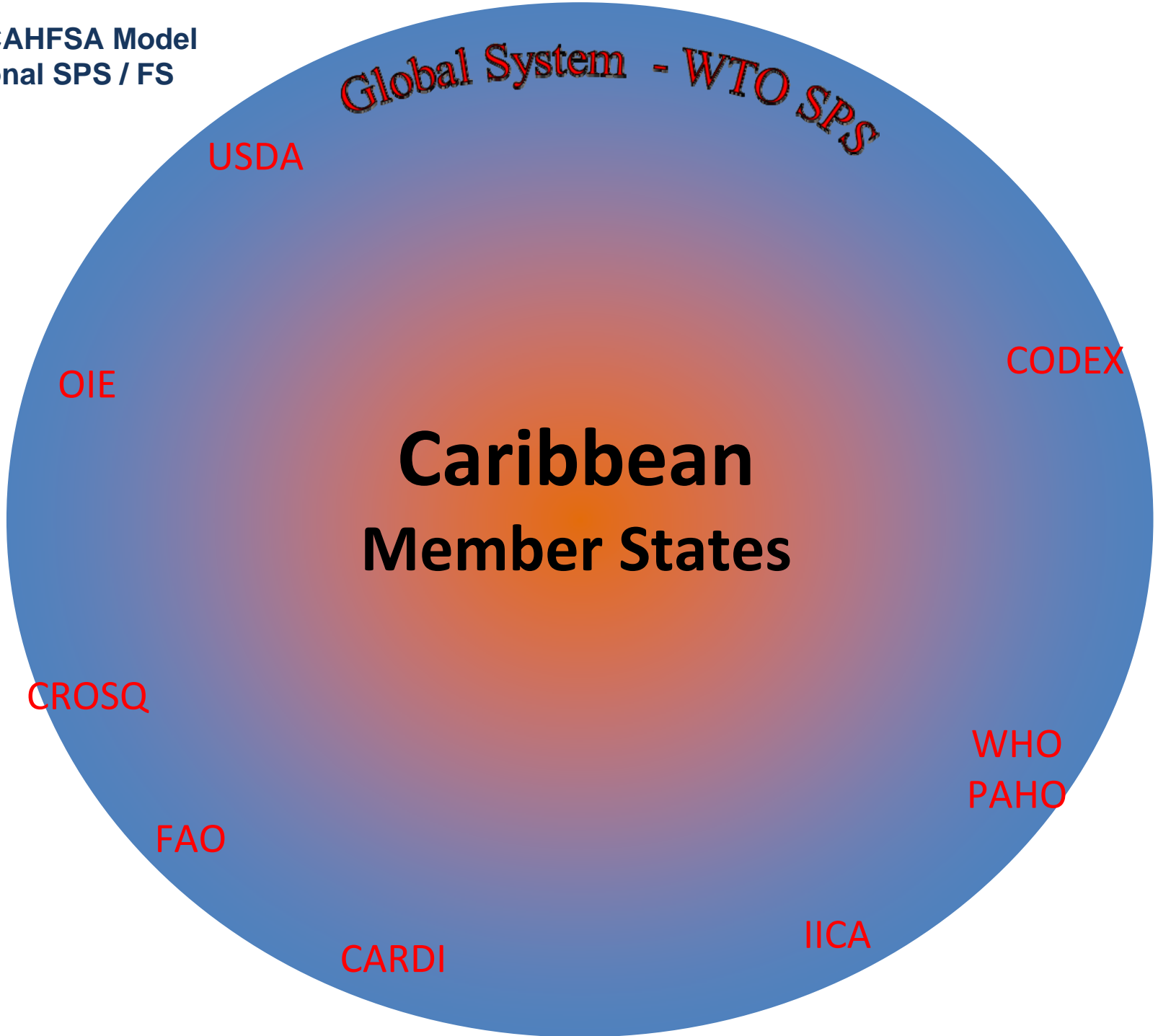


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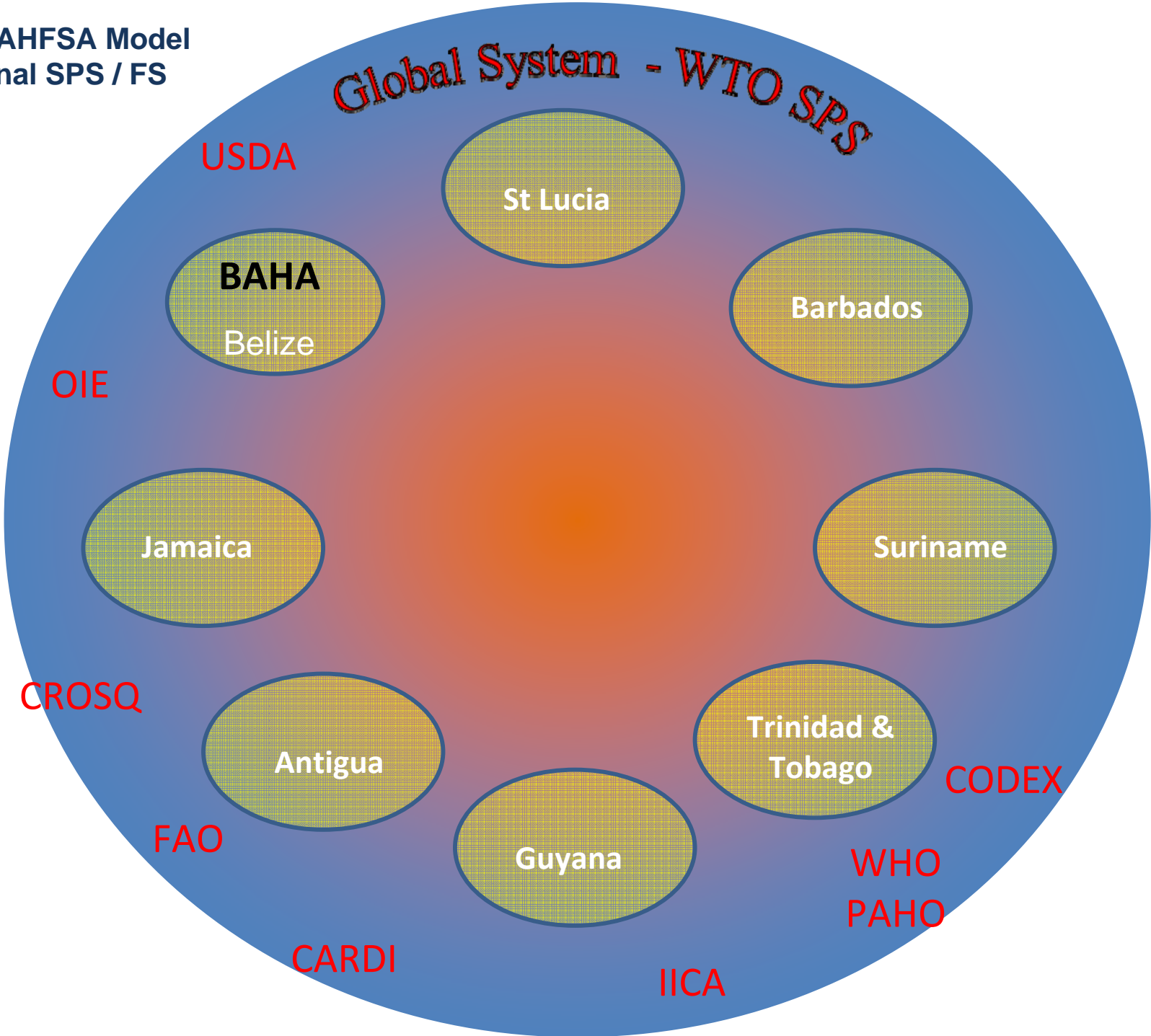


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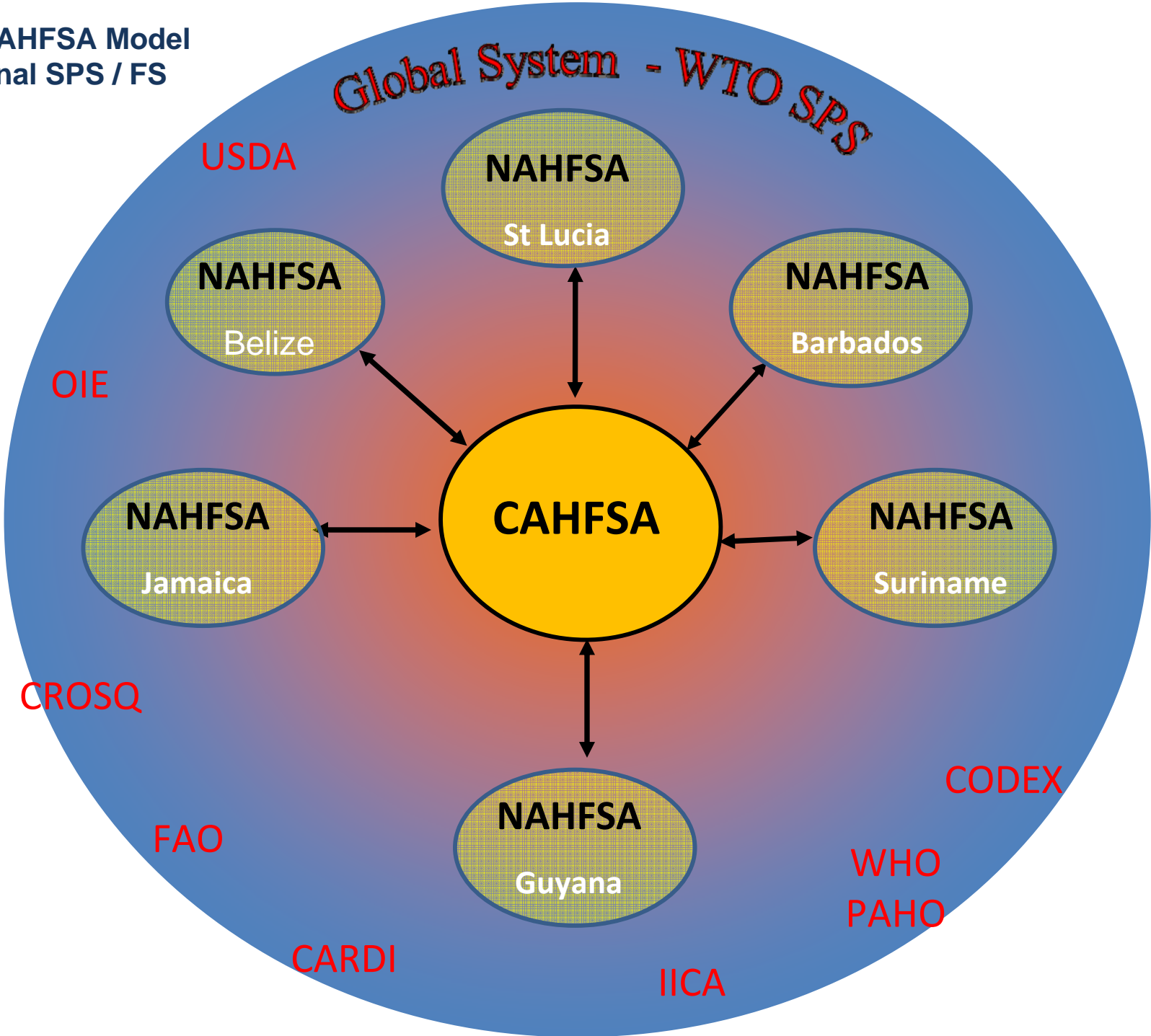
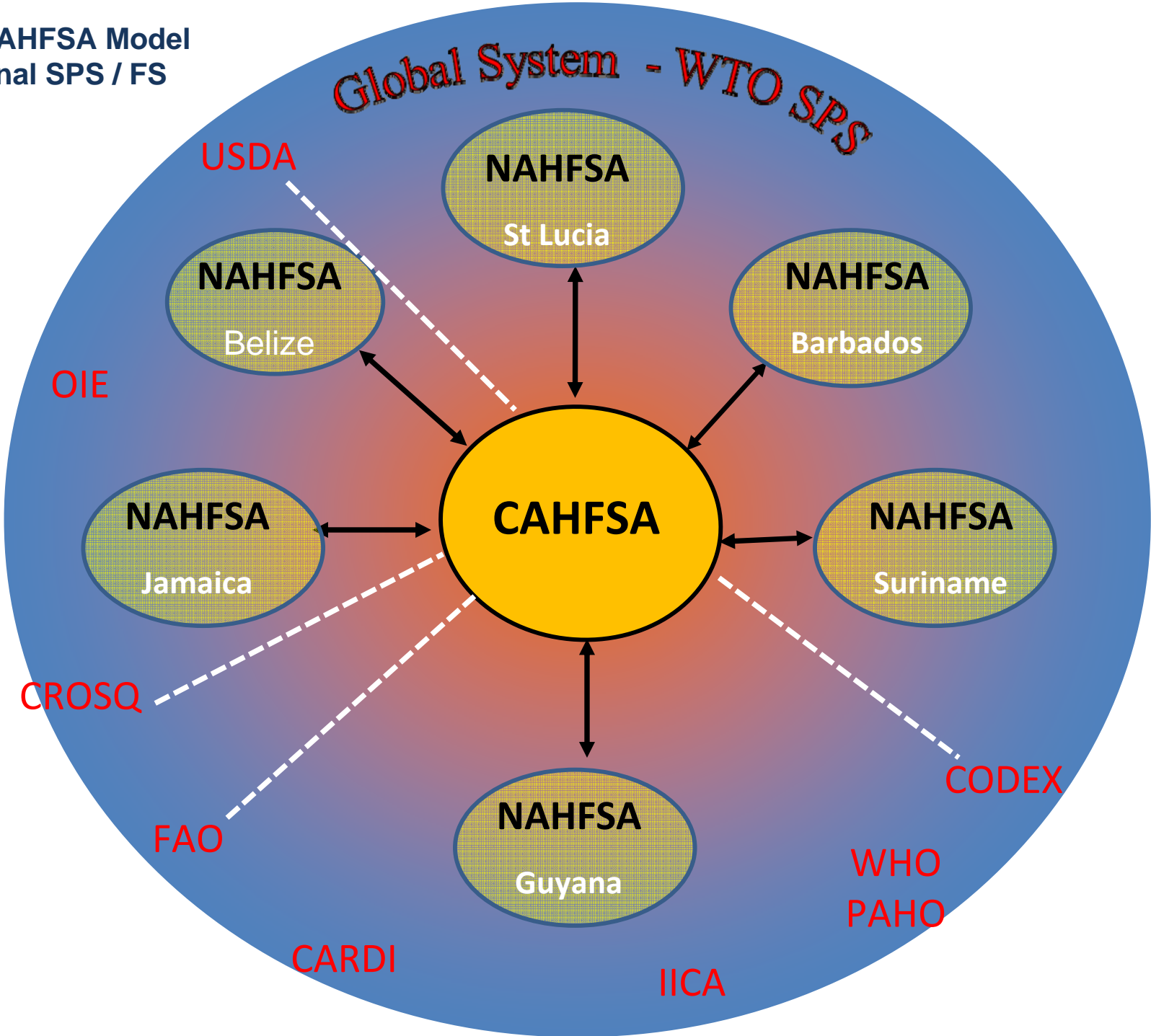



Figure 1: CAHFSA Model for Regional SPS / FS



The CAHFSA Model for SPS

The CAHFSA Model:

- ✓ represents the outcome of a search for a more cost effective Model –a lean budget
 - ✓ Implied in its design structure is the linkage with resident capacities with various agencies / institutions that could provide technical service support
 - ✓ Is intended to modernize the Current SPS Capacity in the region to meet today's challenges
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TOWARDS A COMPREHENSIVE SPS / AIS RISK PROTECTION PROGRAMME



The gaps

Focus of the Work to Date

- ❑ Focus to date has been **Regulatory & Sensitization**:
 - ✓ This was so given the Urgency to address the regulatory weaknesses in the SPS System given the increasing levels of RISKS of IAS
- ❑ However, more effective and cost efficient RISK protection calls for more than REGULATION – a **COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH** including **NON-Regulatory measures**

The Comprehensive Approach

Sources of Potential Impact of AIS

Recognition that the **IMPACT** of AIS Pest & Pathogens could be **Widespread** across Sectors

PLANT & ANIMAL RISKS

1. Agriculture:

- Food security
- Income / exports
- Livelihoods

2. Environment:

- Aesthetics
- Soil degradation
- Adverse Consequences for Water Conservation
- Biodiversity

Potential Impact of AIS

3. Tourism:


- Resources quality – environmental aesthetics (eg Destruction to Coconut Groves)

4. Benefits of plant & Animal Health Protection:

Case Study of the Hibiscus Mealy Bug in
Trinidad & Tobago:

$$B/C = 80 : 1$$

Elements of a Comprehensive Approach to AIS Risk Management


1. Scope / Complexity of the Problem – many Pathways involving many sectors and entities (travellers, traders/importers, agencies etc)
 - Need to analyze and conduct a risk assessment of alternative pathways with a view to identifying Strategies that are relatively easy to comply with and with the likelihood of sustainability
 2. Create Awareness of the above risk assessment and risks with key entities including:
 - Sector stakeholders (including private firms, customers, agencies)
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Elements of a Comprehensive Approach to AIS Risk Management

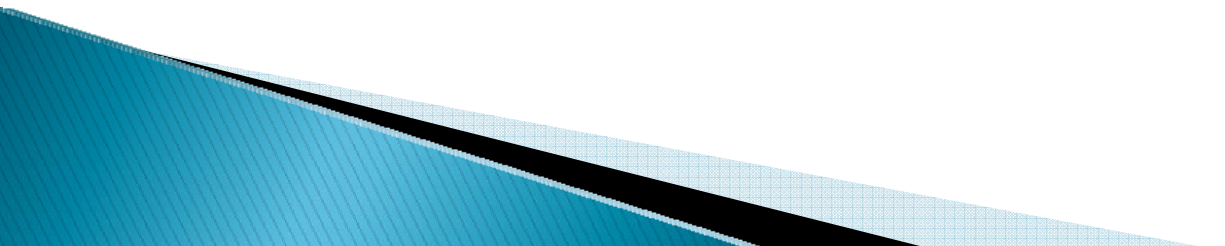
3. Create an ongoing dialogue with the National Community regarding:

- ✓ Potential Impact of AIS
- ✓ Information on Emerging AIS including Identification

The Way Forward

- ✓ The CISWG and its Collaborative Efforts have created the awareness among Institutions and Policy Makers such that they have been responded in a timely manner in establishing the Regional SPS body (CAHFSA).
 - ✓ However, to achieve RISK protection that is Comprehensive, Sustainable and least cost further work is required to get Stakeholders involved as Meaningful participants in adopting Risk protection Strategies
 - ✓ The Work of CISWG and its collaborating Institutions are important to encourage Action by the Policy makers in the region – in absence progress is likely to be protracted.
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CISWG ROLE

- ▶ Developing Strategies to Promote a More Comprehensive Approach to AIS RISKS including:
 - ▶ Conceptualizing
 - ▶ Demonstrating the Benefits of a More Comprehensive Approach
 - ▶ Liaising with Policy Making Entities to Market the Concept
 - ▶ Providing Technical Support for the Integration of AIS in the Development Process
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Thank You

