



*Thematic session on Transparency*  
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# ***ECOWAS REGIONAL COORDINATION AND STATUS ON APPLICATION OF THE TRANSPARENCY PROVISION OF THE WTO SPS AGREEMENT***



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# REGULATORY FRAMEWORKS ON THE BASIS OF SPS PRIORITIES



- **ECOWAP**: Strategic policy for the **2016-2025** ECOWAS Agricultural Policy (**ECOWAP/CAADP**).
- Harmonized Regulation **C/REG.21/11/10** related to the structural and operational rules for plant health, animal health and food safety in the ECOWAS region.
- Harmonized Regulation **C/REG.3/05/2008** on the rules governing pesticides registration in ECOWAS region

# INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS (1)



## International level

- **ECOWAS** is **Observer Inter-governmental organization** of international standards setting bodies (**Codex, OIE, IPPC**) as well the implementation body (**WTO-SPS committee**)

## Regional level

- **WAPRC** = 2 Sub committees (CSP + Humid Zones)
- **ARAA** : Regional Agency for Agriculture and Food

# INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS (2)



Cooperation: technical and financial partners



# Article 7 - Transparency



Members shall notify changes in their sanitary or phytosanitary measures and shall provide information on their sanitary or phytosanitary measures in accordance with the provisions of Annex B. Key points below

Publication of regulations  
Notification procedures

Enquiry points  
General provisions

# Benefits and requirements of notification (1/2)



**Countries are encouraged to publish SPS regulations on the Internet where possible**

**Publication on the internet has a number of advantages and benefits to countries than more traditional methods**

- *allows for greater transparency;*
- *makes it easier for countries to obtain documents*
- *reduces the amount of work involved in processing and fulfilling document requests*
- *Build trust between the trading partners*

**Promotes transparency, predictability, and reliability with the trade, and opens up opportunities to share information, network, and collaborate with other countries and organizations on new developments on regulated pests of concern**

# Benefits and requirements of notification (2/2)



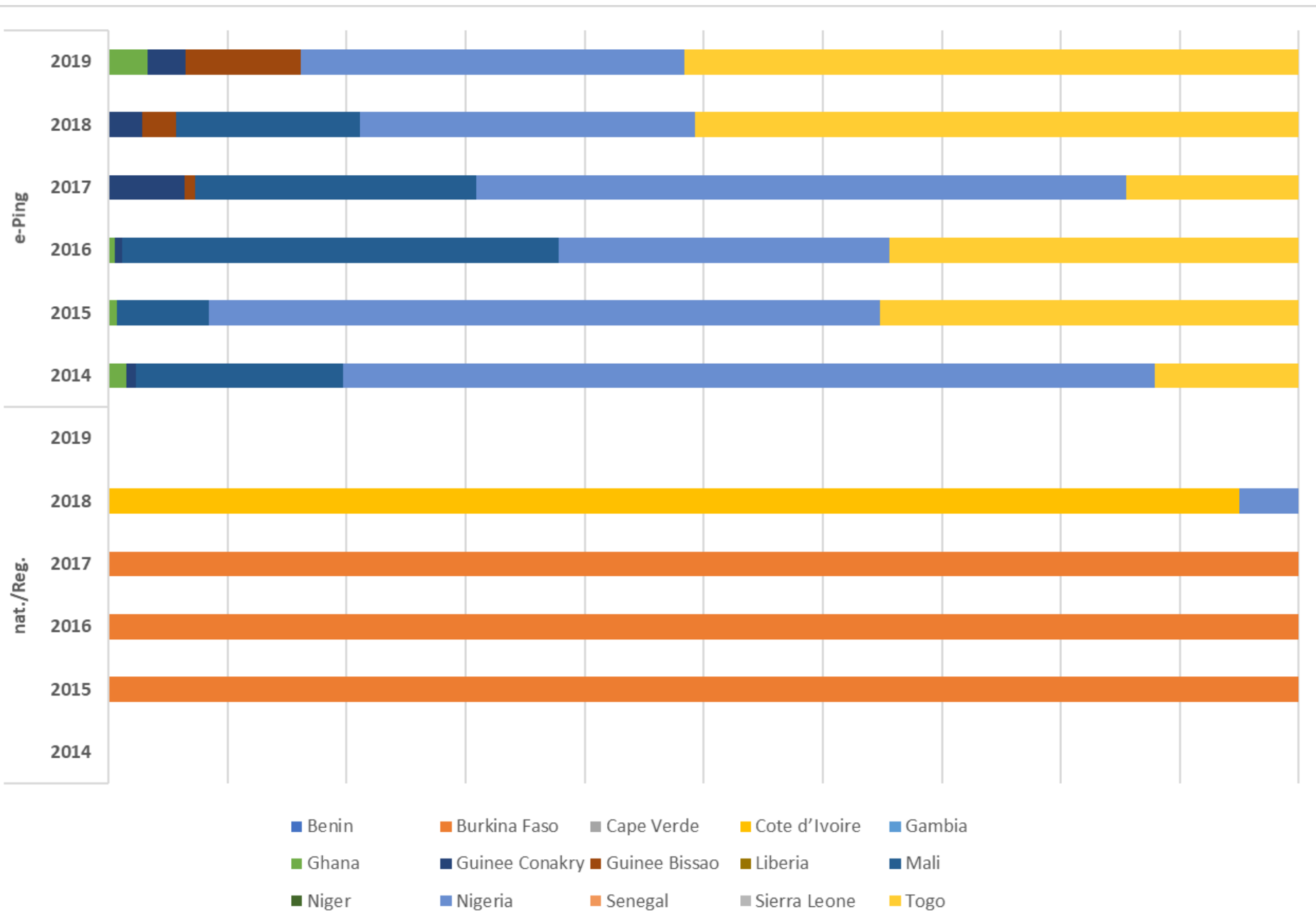
**Lack of established administrative procedures to interact with the range of interested individuals and groups in a fair, predictable and accountable way**

- Efficiency
- Effectiveness
- the quality of SPS measures

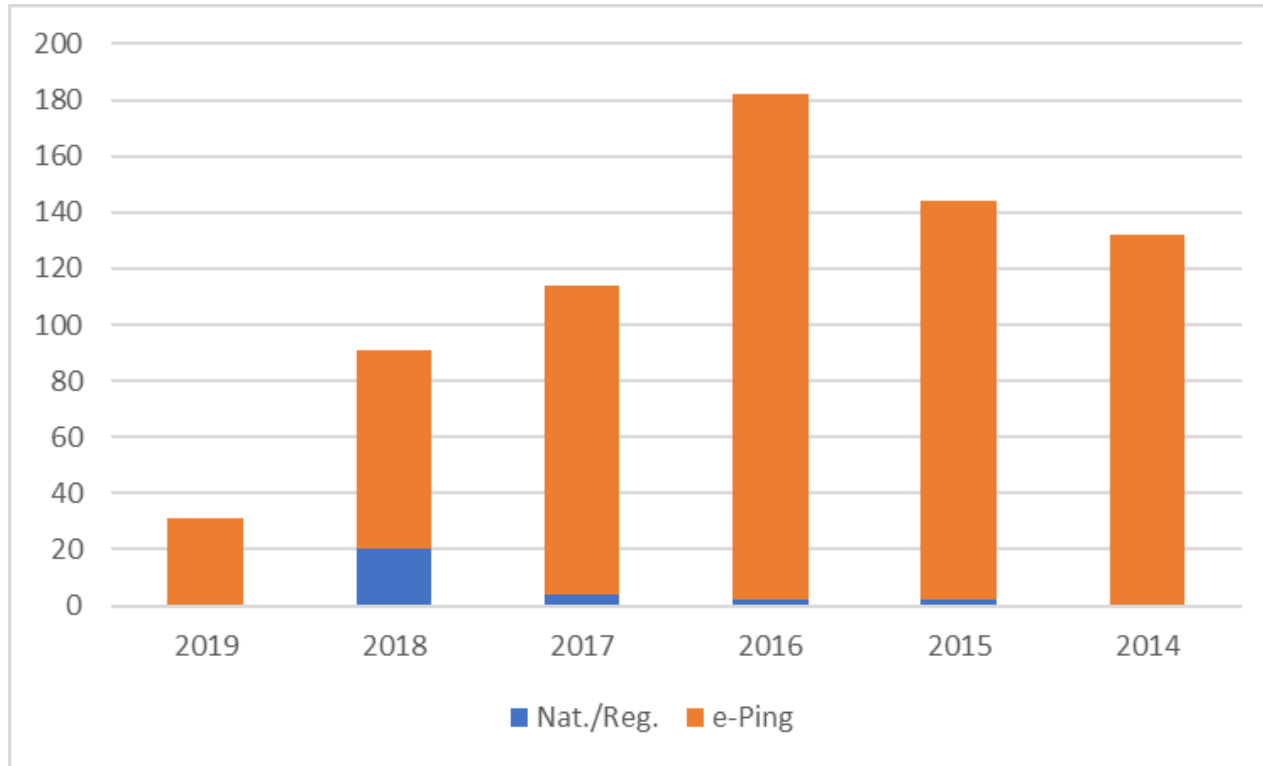
**E.g. IPPC: Information of regulated pests shared among parties involve help to**

- ✓ Build confidence
- ✓ Trust
- ✓ Accountability
- ✓ Avoid unnecessary cost

# ECOWAS-Regional Notification 2014-2019



# ECOWAS-Regional Notification 2014-2019



|           | 2019 | 2018 | 2017 | 2016 | 2015 | 2014 |
|-----------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Nat./Reg. | 0    | 20   | 4    | 2    | 2    | 0    |
| e-Ping    | 31   | 71   | 110  | 180  | 142  | 132  |

# Key challenges

- Lack of knowledge and awareness about SPS issues
  - Lack of ownership of SPS measures.
  - Reluctance of some institutions due to the obsolescence of texts
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- Very little exchange between institutions and partners and Retention of information
  - Lack of cooperation between the notification authority and other competent authorities
  - Lack of legislation

# Key messages and way forward

- 1. Very few countries are using the ePing platform to receive notification alerts**
- 2. Low number of notifications submitted**
3. Provide training on SPS issues and transparency, "notifications"
4. Revitalize and functioning of national SPS committees
5. Establish monitoring and management systems within the notification authority/entity
6. Advocate and sensitization of high-level authorities or decision makers on the importance of notifications and SPS
7. Upgrade of laboratory infrastructures and inspection tools

**Thank You for your attention**

