



Standards & Markets Preferences; Opportunities and Constraints in the context of “the COMESA Green Pass”

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- **Lead paper:** need to harmonise regional SPS requirements as part of wider and more complex inter-regional free trade initiatives (**expanded tripartite FTA**)
- **Kenya:** high cost of certification, lack of mutual recognition, high cost of compliance, stringent SPS requirements such as traceability, MRL'S, and quarantine pests, diseases
- **Madagascar:** a regional platform to engage in EPA negotiations



The COMESA “Green Pass”

- Certification scheme based on commodity compliance criteria (governance) issued by “the Green Pass National Authority”
- Regional accreditation body
- Certification by the “Green Pass National Authority” based on:
 - Compliant SPS policy/legal framework
 - Effective surveillance system
 - Effective traceability system
 - Effective emergency preparedness system



The COMESA “Green Pass” (cont’d)

- COMESA SPS Regulations/Protocol
- Capacity development
 - Strengthen national Legislation
 - Strengthen national SPS capacities
 - Regional reference/satellite laboratories
 - Harmonise SPS requirements for targeted commodities
- Strengthen credentials of the regional accreditation body



Conclusions

- SPS standards are both scientific and political
- COMESA supports countries to develop the
- SPS politics are addressed through the SPS committee and EPA negotiations (with the EU)
- **Implementation modalities for the COMESA Green Pass certification scheme are still under development**
- COMESA will work with Governments and the Private Sector to implement the “Green Pass” certification scheme