



Brainstorming Meeting on Sanitary/Phytopsanitary Priorities and Challenges in SASEC

Member Countries, 24-25 November 2013, Bangkok, Thailand

Country Presentation Nepal

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Why SPS/TBT ?

- **One of the four major objectives for enhancing export competitiveness of Nepal (NTIS-2010)**
 - Strengthen Non-Tariff related domestic capacity (SPS, TF, TBT, IPRs, Domestic service regulations, etc.)

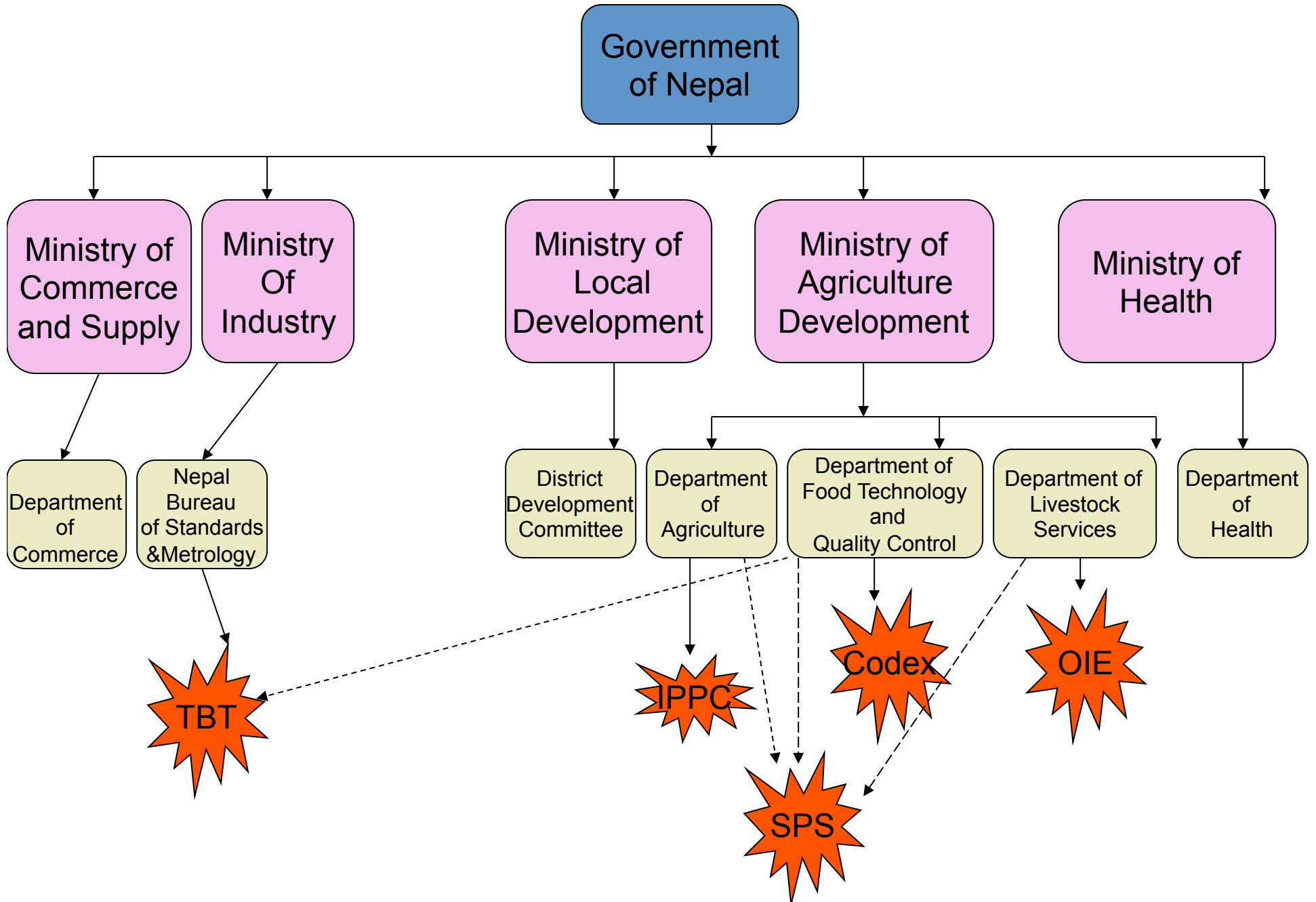
Legislative Framework for SPS/TBT

- **Food act 1966 and Food rules 1970**
- **Plant protection act 2007 and Plant protection rules 2010**
- **Animal health & livestock services act 1998 and Regulations 1999**
- **Pesticide Act 1991 and Regulations 1993**
- **Animal Slaughterhouse & Meat Inspection Act 1999 and Animal Slaughterhouse & Meat Inspection Regulation 2001**
- **Standards Weights and Measures Act 1969**
- **Nepal Standards Act is in the process of revision**
- **A new bill – Accreditation Act is also in the draft stage**
- **Nepal Standards (certification mark) Act 1980**

Institutions Involved

- **Department of Food Technology and Quality Control**
- **Department of Agriculture**
- **Department of Livestock Services**
- **Nepal Bureau of Standards and Metrology**

Institutional Framework



Issues & Challenges

- Inadequate Infrastructure, physical facilities and human resource
- Weak coordination and cooperation among different institutions
- Obsolete acts, regulations and standards
- Inadequate capacity in addressing issues such as pesticide residue/ veterinary drug residue/ mycotoxins/ additives/heavy metals/processing contaminants/ etc.
- Separate regulation at different stages of food chain
- Inadequate capacity of export/import certification system
- Lack of capacity in regulating emerging new categories of foods such as functional foods/nutraceuticals/GMOs
- Inadequate capacity of laboratory in terms of equipment, methods, accreditation etc
- Inadequate human resource capacity in terms of risk analysis, risk based inspection, HACCP based industry inspection, quick & screening test, spot test

Issues & Challenges (Contd.)

- Weak conformity assessment infrastructure
- Non recognition of certification & testing
- Inadequate testing and calibration facilities
- Cost of conformity assessment- high

Future Needs

- Strengthening of infrastructure, physical facilities and human resource
- Upgrading, harmonization of acts, regulations and standards according to international guidelines
- Establishing National Accreditation Board and making it functional and well accredited worldwide
- Harmonization/integration of regulations related to different stages of food chain
- Formulating national standards for the NTIS merchandise items and other major exportable products of Nepal harmonizing with ISO/CODEX/IEC and also focusing on the test requirements of these products

Future Needs (contd.)

- Strengthening of capacity for inspection, testing, calibration and certification of pesticide residue/ veterinary drug residue/ mycotoxins/ additives/heavy metals/processing contaminants as well as functional foods/nutraceuticals/GMOs
- Launch internationally acceptable traceability systems based on GAP certification run through Third Party Certification (TPC). This should be run initially for major agricultural export products such as tea, lentils, large cardamom, ginger and MAPs.
- Support the acceleration of the accreditation process of laboratories with NARC, DFTQC, DoA and DPR that provide certification to export products.
- Strengthening the capacity for facilitation of export/import certification
- Strengthening the capacity of central as well as regional laboratories(equipment and training) and expansion of the scope of accreditation
- Training of human resource on risk analysis, risk based inspection, HACCP based industry inspection, quick & screening test, spot test, calibration

Conclusion

- Export of LDCs like Nepal has faced many problems in developed economy mainly due to the SPS and TBT measures
- Developed countries should consider lowering the TBT and SPS related measures for products originated in LDCs
- Harmonization of SPS and TBT related measures in regional level (SAARC) has been initiated. However, there is long way to go to apply in real practices
- International support to enhance SPS and TBT measures in LDCs is in highly desired
- As harmonization and accreditation is a long and continuous process, there should be negotiation for Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA)



THANK YOU !