

Sanitary and Phytosanitary Priorities and Challenges in Sri Lanka

Saman Kelegama

UNESCAP, 24-25 November 2013, Bangkok, Thailand

Outline

- Legal and Institutional Setup
- Available Infrastructure
- Lack of Capacity
- Future Needs



Prevailing Legal & Institutional Setup

The Ministry of Health (MoH) is Sri Lanka's national focal point on SPS policy related matters

Sri Lanka is a member of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), and a contracting party to the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)

Food imports are regulated by the Food Control Act No. 2 of 1950 and the Food Act No. 26 of 1980, and their amendments

The Food Control Administration Unit (MoH) is responsible for administering food and drug related SPS regulations in conjunction with the other relevant departments e.g. *Government Analyst Department, Sri Lanka Customs, Sri Lanka Standards Institute (SLSI) etc.*



Prevailing Legal & Institutional Setup

Other legislation covering SPS issues include Plant Protection Act No. 35 of 1999, and Animal Diseases Act No. 59 of 1992

The National Plant Quarantine Service in the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Animal Production and Health under the Ministry of Health in charge of plant health issues and live animals and related products respectively

The Sri Lanka Standards Institution (SLSI) is in charge of formulating national standards and providing services such as certifying products and systems, inspection of imports and exports, and providing laboratory services

In setting standards the SLSI takes into account the equivalent measures established by other countries and international bodies such as the ISO, the IEC and the Codex Alimentarius



Prevailing Legal & Institutional Setup

The Sri Lanka Accreditation Board for Conformity Assessment (SLAB) is the National Accreditation Authority. The body serves as the primary accreditation authority to both private and public sector laboratories which carry out conformity assessments for regulatory authorities

Sri Lanka operates a Special Import Licensing Scheme introduced on grounds of national security, health and environment, as well as "economic" reasons. It is administered by the Department of Imports and Export Control



Available Infrastructure

**Currently there are 20
laboratories and institutions
accredited**

10 for chemical testing

2

Mechanical testing
laboratories

6

Biological testing
laboratories

2

Calibration
laboratories



Available Infrastructure

International Agreements

Sri Lanka has not notified to the WTO on any MRAs with third party countries

However Sri Lanka is in the process of renewing an agreement with the Bureau of Indian Standards and are envisaging entering into new agreements.

Sri Lanka has not made any notifications to the WTO regarding the recognition of equivalence of other countries' SPS measures



Lack of Capacity & Future Needs

Short fall of
accredited
laboratories

- Production stages
- Conformity stage

Under
equipped
facilities

- Lacking advanced technology
- Lacking trained personnel

International
Agreements

- MRAs
- Equivalence Agreements



Thank You

