



SASEC Trade Facilitation Workshop on SPS/TBT issues

**Presentation by
India**

1-Recommendations made in the brainstorming meeting in Nov. 2013

- India identified 10 products of export interest based on:
 - Supply capacity
 - Demand within the SAARC region
 - SPS/TBT constraints
- Out of these, two products feature in the harmonization of standards programme of SARSO [Refined sugar, Black tea]
- Rest of the products (8) may be taken up in the next phases.

1-Recommendations made in the brainstorming meeting in Nov. 2013

Building Capacity in the region:

- Broadly agree with the framework evolved in the meeting
- India has undertaken research and has developed expertise in several areas.
- India is ready to provide technical support for capacity building activities and to share best practices in the region.
- SASEC initiative - a very good platform for experience and knowledge sharing among member countries

2- Options to seek support within the mandate of SARSO – Exploring Complementarities

- Focus of SARSO on harmonization of standards
- SASEC SPS/TBT subgroup – May work on technical regulations, based on consensus
- Serve as an institutional mechanism to take forward cooperation on SPS/TBT issues in the region
- For effective functioning of the subgroup → time lines and monitoring framework may be devised
 - On voluntary basis; and
 - To be incorporated in the work program.

3-Efforts to address SPS/TBT issues

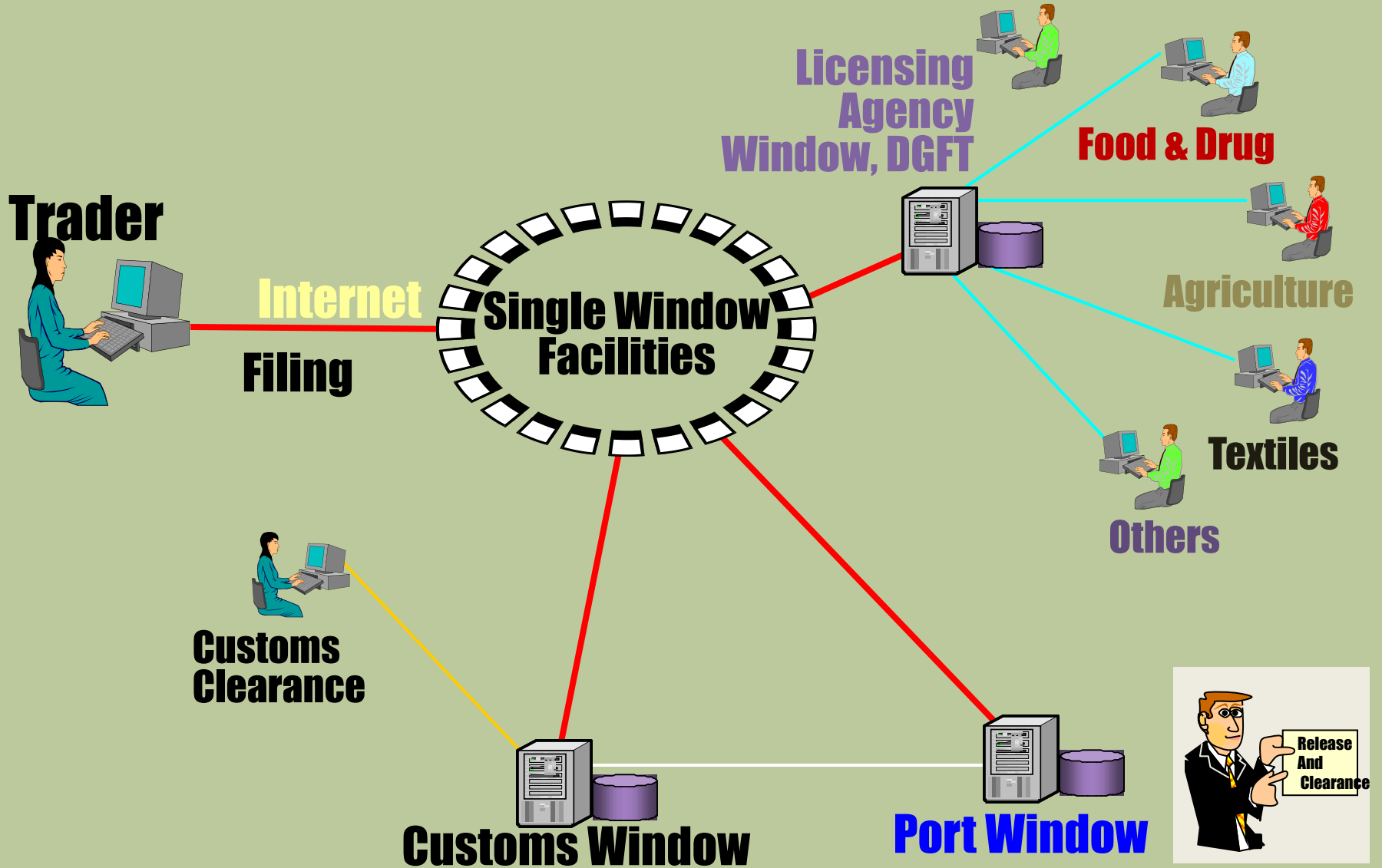
Food safety

- Process of harmonization of the vertical and horizontal standards for food products initiated.
- Transparency
- Upgradation of State/Public food testing laboratories to international standards
- Risk based approach to testing of food items.

3-Efforts to address SPS/TBT issues Contd/..

- BIS standards mostly harmonized with relevant guidelines laid down by ISO
- Over 350 new and revised standards being formulated each year by BIS
- Drug and Cosmetics Act and Food Safety Standards Act are being reviewed – to be notified shortly
- About US \$ 500 million is planned to be invested for setting up and upgradation of testing labs
- Establishment of new plant quarantine stations, modern equipment, enhancing staff strength

3- Electronic Single window



4-Views on TOR for national and regional diagnostic studies

- Product based approach may be followed
- At the regional level, products may be selected on the basis of consensus of member countries.
- Database of export refusals to be maintained
- Diagnostic studies may be the stepping stones for building robust database.



THANK YOU