



**SASEC TRADE FACILITATION WORKSHOP:
SPS/TBT**

1-3 DECEMBER 2014

BANGKOK, THAILAND

MALDIVES

MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
MINISTRY OF FISHERIES AND AGRICULTURE
MALDIVES FOOD AND DRUG AUTHORITY, MOH
HEALTH PROTECTION AGENCY, MOH

ISSUES HIGHLIGHTED IN 2013

- Lack of proper legal framework
- Inadequate human resources
- Financial constraints
- Lack of disease diagnostic capacity
- Lack of awareness on quarantine procedures
- Weak institutional development and infrastructure
- Difficulty in accessing to markets
- Difficulty in identifying competent authorities
- Financial constraints
- Reliance on single group of products for export.
- Weak coordination among stakeholders
- Poor management and weak use of statistics



BEST OPTIONS WITHIN MANDATE OF SARSO

- Need proper and effective coordination between the SASEC Sub-group and SARSO activities/mandates, to avoid duplication
- Supports the formation of the SASEC sub-group on standards and regulations
- The objectives of the subgroup to be clearly defined and work of the sub-group should be practically applicable in the SAARC context
- Sub-group to concentrate specifically on
 - First: Capacity building and legislation/regulation development
 - Second: Information sharing and harmonization of standards
 - Third: Evidence based policy development, based on research



HOW TO CARRY FORWARD THE RECOMMENDATIONS MADE IN THE BRAINSTORM MEETING 2013

- Developing SPS/TBT relevant legislations, regulations and standards
- Human resource development
- Improved capacity for evidence informed policy development
- Strengthening institutional capacity, eg: Testing laboratories and Standards and Metrology Unit MED
- Public private partnerships in testing and standards development.
- Conduct awareness of SPS/TBT standards to stakeholders




WHAT EFFORTS IS GOVT. MAKING TO ADDRESS THESE ISSUES 1

- Food Safety Bill has been drafted and is sent to the Attorney General's office for review
- National Food Safety Policy has been drafted
- Adopting regulations related to food safety and quality based on CODEX standards
- Enhancing the food testing capability of National Health Laboratory of MFDA through procurement of equipments/ providing training



WHAT EFFORTS IS GOVT. MAKING TO ADDRESS THESE ISSUES 2

- Formulation of a National Microbiological Criteria initiated
 - Formulation of a National Food Supplement Standard initiated
 - Drafted regulation on dried/salted fish standard
 - Regulations under Public Health Act 7/2012 : Scope of existing Port Health Regulation which covers only high risk products (meat, fish products) extended to include milk, eggs, raw fruits vegetables to be implemented in 2015.
 - Phytosanitary certificate from competent authority for raw fruits and vegetables
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WHAT EFFORTS IS GOVT. MAKING TO ADDRESS THESE ISSUES 3

- National Standards for labeling prepackaged food published in gazette Aug/2014.
- National standard for analysis and sampling endorsed by MOH
- National Plant Protection Organization Established under Plant Protection Act of Maldives
- Draft Animal Health Bill at Parliament
- Draft Pesticides Bill at Parliament
- FAO Good Agricultural Practice (GAP) scheme for fruits and vegetables initiated



COMMENTS ON DRAFT NDS AND RDS TOR

- Suggest an international consultant to work with the local consultant to do the national diagnostic study – in the case of Maldives
- As Maldives rely on fish, and fish products for export there is a need to diversify our export base since we need diversification to carry out meaningful trade within the region we need to reflect this issue in the TOR.
- No additional comments on the scope and methodology of the TOR



AREAS FOR EXTERNAL SUPPORT

- Legal expertise
 - To frame new legal draft Bills
 - Develop existing legal instruments to form regulations e.g. Public Health Act to address port health regulations
 - Support to develop regulations once Food Act is passed.
- Support to develop human resources in laboratories, quarantine, certification, inspection, standards development
- Modernization of equipment in laboratories
- Support to extend accreditation scope of National Health Laboratory.
- Support development databases which includes electronic health certifications, catch certifications etc
- Support formation of accreditation body
- Support market study to diversify fisheries exports to SAARC region



Thank You

