Trade Facilitation Workshop on Sanitary/Phytosanitary and Technical Barriers to Trade

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Participants from Nepal
NEPAL...
Status on SPS TBT
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
- 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, DFTQC
- Department of Agriculture
- Department of Livestock Services
- Nepal Bureau of Standards and Metrology, NBSM
How does the country wish to carry forward the recommendations made in the brainstorming meeting in November 2013?

- SPS/TBT Subgroup formation,
- Conducting National Studies on SPS/TBT.
- Taking SPS/TBT agenda in the National Trade and Transport Facilitation Committee
- Inclusion of existing Focal points of SPS and TBT along with relevant stakeholders in SASEC SPS/TBT subgroup.
- Improving coordination and collaboration among development partners.
- Submit report of the Nepal’s delegation with recommendation to the concerned Ministries/Agencies for implementation.
What are the best options to seek support within the mandate of SARSO to address these issues, without causing duplication of effort, including possible formation of a SASEC Subgroup on Standards and Regulations and taking into account the past work done on these areas/issues?

- 5 technical committees of SARSO on food, Chemicals, Textile, Construction materials and Electrical, electronics in developing regional standards
- Progress in bit slow
- Need to speed up Standards development (SARSO)
- Need to include identified product in SARSO
- Need to have a system for recognition of conformity assessment results in the region (identified product)
- Need to facilitate capacity building on standardization and conformity assessment among member states
Issues & Challenges

- Weak conformity assessment infrastructure.
- Non recognition of certification & testing.
- Inadequate testing and calibration facilities.
- High cost and lengthy process of conformity assessment for exporters.
- Insufficient mechanism for the protection of public health and safety (both legislative and institutional).
- Weak coordination and cooperation among institutions.
- Lack of system for risk analysis, risk based inspection etc..
- Inadequate technical Infrastructure, physical facilities and human resource.
What efforts the government is taking to address these issues?

- Product and system certification of NBSM – accredited by NABCB, India
- Central food lab of DFTQC (27 parameters), Chemical and food labs of NBSM (28 parameters), one private lab are accredited by NABL, India
- Mass lab (calibration) – accredited by NABL, India
- Central food lab and NBSM labs are in the process of extending the scope of accreditation
- Few government and private labs are in the process of accreditation
- There is no accreditation body at national level
- Accreditation bill is drafted and in the process of approval
- In the process of MoU with NABL and NABCB to create National Accreditation Focal Point
What efforts is the government taking to address these issues?... Continued.

- Pest risk analysis on major 20 crops
- Post entry quarantine testing facility and fumigation chamber are under construction
- Quarantine treatments MB, HT (collaboration with private sector)
- Adoption and harmonization as of ISPMs as NSPMs
- Preparation of national standards on phytosanitary measures (NSPM): 16 approved 18 drafted,
- Good agriculture practices (GAP) Standards and IPM product Standards are developed
- Internal quarantine guideline (IQ) on major traded crops are developed
- Enhancing SPS capacity of ginger exports through PPPP
Future Needs

- Strengthening of infrastructure, physical facilities and human resource
- Upgrading, harmonization of acts, regulations and standards according to international Standards and guidelines
- Participating in Regional and International standards setting in the areas of national interest
- System for recognition of conformity assessment results at SAARC level
- Have a accreditation system in the country
- Formulating national standards for the major exportable products of Nepal harmonized with ISO/CODEX/OIE/
Future Needs (contd.)

- Strengthening conformity assessment capacity (certification, inspection, testing) in focused area
- Launch GAP certification, Organic certification, Food Safety Certification for export products such as tea, lentils, large cardamom, ginger and MAPs.
- Training of human resource on risk analysis, risk based inspection, food safety, quick & screening test, spot test
Comments on the TOR for national and regional diagnostics studies.

• The TOR for National and regional diagnostic Studies has extensive coverage. Some of the thoughts are;
  – TOR has to reflect the role of National Trade and Transport Facilitation Committee, a prime agency to steer TF at national level.
  – Action to be translated into Implementation Plan for Software and Hardware.
  – Study to reflect the ways and measures to better facilitate the participation of SMES and socially marginalized section of the society in export through out the supply chain.
  – Need to align proposed SASEC Study plan in line with perspective plans and action plans of relevant agencies in SPS/TBT.
  – Assess the adequacy and appropriateness of institutional mechanism and suggest best practices that can be adopted in national context in SPS/TBT.
Conclusion

• National and Subregional Studies has to be conducted as per the revised TOR.
• Draw comprehensive action plan for SPS/TBT.
• Investment in SPS/TBT (Hardware and software) in a coordinated fashion.
• Constituting the SPS TBT subgroup and linkages to National TF Committee and other subgroups and SPS/TBT forum.
THANK YOU!