

Issue and Approaches in developing SASEC SPS and Standards Agenda

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Key Issues:2013

- Identified Products: Processed Foods, Spices, Fisheries, Coconuts, Tea
- High cost of compliance: lab testing product and process input changes, etc
- Lack of awareness on SPS/TBT for some exports.
- Lack of trained personal & technical expertise.
- No single window; lack of coordination among institutions and government agencies.

Key Recommendation from 2013

- Regulations governing SPS issues need to be carefully researched and streamlined.
- Examine private sector labs relevant to SPS and accreditation procedures.
- Skill up grading of official involved in SPS related issues.
- Technology upgrading and modernizing equipment in labs.
- Enhanced credibility of certification process and ensuring transparent.

Regulations & Capacity

Building

- Need to undertake a detailed national diagnostics study to identify SPS/TBT sensitive products
- Current SPS/TBT acts/regulations are outdated. Need to update
- Need to enhance enforcement of SPS/TBT measures on domestic producers/suppliers
- Need to improve pesticide residual analysis system and quarantine and plant protection services
- Need to establish a food safety authority
- Need to establish new and improve existing laboratory infrastructure to obtain international recognition through accreditation
- Need to establish testing infrastructure in producer areas

Awareness & Training

- Need to engage in producer level awareness creation on importance of SPS/TBT compliance
- Provide SPS/TBT related advise/technical assistance and guidance to producers via extension service providers and initiatives such as the WTO STDF
- Dissemination of trading partner SPS/TBT Regulations to the producer level
- Provide training opportunities for SPS/TBT implementing agencies

Support from SARSO and SASEC

- Establishment of a regional SPS/TBT database and monitoring and reporting framework
- Knowledge sharing on regional best practices
- Encourage the uptake of regional standards for more number of products
- Ensure SPS/TBT Policy Consistency

Efforts by GoSL

- After taking into account issue/gaps arising from the national diagnostic study.
- The GoSL together with relevant stakeholders aims to develop a national action plan to address identified priority areas of intervention
- Negotiating MRA and Equivalence Agreements
- Promotion of good agriculture practices and Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS)
- Promotion of organic products for niche markets



Thank You