



SPS Regime of Bangladesh

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SPS Measures

- “Sanitary measures” are measures for protecting life and health of humans or animals
- “Phyto-sanitary measures” are measures for protecting life and health of plants
- Objectives of the SPS measures are to control:
 - Risks arising from additives, contaminants, toxins or disease-causing organisms in food, feeds, etc
 - Plant- or animal-carried diseases
 - Pests, etc

SPS Agreement of the WTO

- Objective of the SPS Agreement is to establish a discipline in imposing SPS measures
- SPS measures:
 - Can not be applied discriminately
 - Can not be aimed at creating obstacles to trade
 - Can be only up to the extent necessary for protecting human, animal and plant health & life
- SPS measures must be:
 - Based on international standards, or
 - Justified by scientific principles & evidences
- Transparency needs to be maintained by publication and notification of SPS measures

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SPS Regime in Bangladesh

- Every country considers SPS measures from two points of view: (i) import point of view and (ii) export point of view
- Bangladesh has several laws relating to SPS measures :
 - The Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (Amendment) Act, 2003
 - The Pesticide Ordinance, 1971 (and Rules, Amnd in 2010)
 - Agricultural Pest Ordinance, 1962
 - The Destructive Insects and Pests Rules (Plant Quarantine), 1966 (Amended in 1989)
 - The Agriculture Produce Market Regulation Act, 1964

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SPS Regime in Bangladesh..

- Plant Quarantine Act, 2011
- The Conservation and Protection of Fish Act, 1950
- The Fish and Fish Product (Inspection and Quality Control) Ordinance, 1983
- The Animal Slaughter and Meat Standard (Control) Act, 2005
- The Animal Disease Act, 2005 (and Rules, 2008)
- The Animal and Animal Products Quarantine Act, 2005
- Bangladesh Accreditation Board Act, 2006
- Safe Food Act, 2013
- Import Policy Order (issued periodically)

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Organizations involved

- Public Sector Organizations
 - Ministry of Health and Family welfare and attached Departments
 - Ministry of Agriculture and attached Departments
 - Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock and attached Departments
 - Ministry of Environment and Forest
 - Ministry of Commerce and attached Departments
 - National Board of Revenue
 - Safe Food Authority
 - Bangladesh Accreditation Board
 - BSTI (Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institutions) under the Ministry of Industries
 - Different laboratories under different Ministries

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Private sector organization

- FBCCI (Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce & Industries) – Apex trade body
- Various Chambers of Commerce
- Specialized Associations, like
 - Bangladesh Frozen Food Exporters' Association
 - Bangladesh Agro-Processors' Association
 - Bangladesh Fruits, Vegetables & Allied Products Exporters' Association

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SPS measures on imports

- Bangladesh maintains some SPS measures on imported products
- Imported food items, animal feeds must be
 - Safe for consumption
 - Free from heavy metals, melamine, radiation, or any other harmful products
- Fish must be free from formalin
- Meat must be free from BSE, Avian Influenza, mad cow disease, etc
- In case plants, plant products and animals, quarantine procedures need to be followed
- Certificates are required from the competent authorities

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SPS measures on export products

- Bangladesh export products, like food products, fish, frozen foods and agro-products face SPS measures of the export destinations
- Export products need to be
 - Safe for consumption
 - Free from : Pathogenic bacteria, Prohibited antibiotics (nitro furans & chloromphenical) and other hazardous chemicals (like Pesticides, Hormones), intolerable level of residue, etc
 - Consignments must be accompanied by a phyto-sanitary (plant health) certificate in relevant cases

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Major Challenges

- Lack of awareness among stakeholders about:
 - Rules & regulations of modern production system
 - Bad impacts of insecticides and pesticides
 - SPS requirements of the importing countries
- Inadequate capability of complying with SPS requirements
- Inadequate infrastructure and lab facilities
- Weak coordination among various entities involved in production and export activities
- *However, overall situation is gradually improving*

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Conclusion

- Every country has rights to impose SPS measures
- However, SPS measures must be justified by scientific principles and evidences
- SPS measures can not be imposed with a view to creating unnecessary obstacles to trade
- Transparency needs to be maintained in imposing SPS measures
- Capacity building is the only option to deal with legitimate SPS measures

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Thank You

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