



South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation
National Validation Meeting: SASEC National Sanitary-phytosanitary and
Technical Barriers to Trade Diagnostic Study for Bhutan

“Identification of Potential Exports Facing SPS and TBT Measures in the SASEC Subregion”

08 November, 2017: Hotel Taj Tashi, Thimphu, Bhutan

AGENDA

Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share findings of the South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) national sanitary-phytosanitary (SPS) and technical barriers to trade (TBT) diagnostic study for Bhutan • Present recommendations coming out of the study for consideration by the Government of Bhutan • Seek comments and feedback from public and private sectors for inclusion in the final diagnostic study report
Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SPS/TBT national core group and focal point • Participants from related Government Agencies • Participants from private sector • Asian Development Bank
Venue	Hotel Taj Tashi, Thimphu, Bhutan
08:30–09:00	Registration
09:00-09:30	Opening Session: Welcome and Opening
09:00-09:30	Opening Remarks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Director General, Bhutan Agriculture and Food Regulatory Authority (BAFRA)</i> • <i>Country Director for Bhutan, Asian Development Bank</i>
09:30–10:00	Session One: Introduction of SASEC and the National Diagnostic Studies
09:30–10:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>ADB will briefly discuss SPS-TBT in the context of the ongoing SASEC Trade Facilitation Strategic Framework 2014-2018, and introduce the SPS-TBT national diagnostic studies ongoing in six SASEC countries (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, and Sri Lanka).</i> <p>Chairperson: Director, Department of Trade</p> <p>Presenters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Rose McKenzie, ADB • Dr. Selim Raihan, ADB International Consultant for SPS-TBT

10:00–10:30	Session Two: Patterns of Bhutan’s Trade with SASEC Countries
10:00–10:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>ADB national consultant for SPS-TBT will discuss recent and current patterns of trade between Bhutan and five other SASEC countries (Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Nepal, and Sri Lanka), based on analysis of import and export data 2002–2015.</i> <p>Q&A</p> <p>Chairperson: Director, Department of Trade</p> <p>Presenter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Sonam Tobgay, ADB National Consultant on SPS-TBT
10:30–10:45	Tea/Coffee Break and Official Photograph
10:45–11:45	Session Three: Bhutan Products with Export Potential, Affected by Non-Tariff Barriers
10:45–11:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>ADB national consultant will present a list of products, which have the potential for export from Bhutan, yet are subject to SPS/TBT measures in other SASEC countries, and explain the methodology used to identify these products, and how the products are grouped.</i> <p>Q&A</p> <p>Chairperson: Director, Department of Trade</p> <p>Presenter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Sonam Tobgay, ADB
11:45–12:30	Session Four: Brief Overview of SPS and TBT Measures, Institutions, and Infrastructure in Bhutan
11:45–12:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Session Four provides an overview of current SPS and TBT measures in Bhutan, focusing on (i) legal structures, (ii) institutional frameworks, (iii) infrastructure facilities for both SPS and TBT. Existing gaps in these areas of SPS and TBT in comparison with international best practices will be highlighted.</i> <p>Q&A</p> <p>Chairperson: Director General, BAFRA</p> <p>Presenter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Sonam Tobgay, ADB
12:30–13:30	Lunch Break

13:30–14:45	Session Five: Identification of Standards, Regulations and Procedural Barriers Facing Bhutanese Exports
13:30–14:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Session Five identifies standards, regulations and procedural obstacles in both Bhutan and in other SASEC countries that impede trade of the identified potential export items from Bhutan. Reasons for these obstacles are presented and discussed, based on the findings of the national SPS-TBT diagnostic study.</i> <p>Q&A</p> <p>Chairperson: Director General, BAFRA</p> <p>Presenter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Sonam Tobgay, ADB
14:45–16:00	Session Six: Recommendations for Future Actions
14:45–16:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>ADB national consultant will present (i) possible measures to address SPS-TBT constraints in Bhutan within the overall framework of the World Trade Organization; (ii) proposed actions to address the issue relating to technical regulations and standards, as well as the staging of individual and related initiatives such as MRAs etc; (iii) proposals to address SPS and TBT infrastructure and human capacity constraints; and (iv) potential sources of technical assistance and expertise in SPS and TBT.</i> <p>Q&A</p> <p>Chairperson: Director General, BAFRA</p> <p>Presenters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member of Bhutan SPS-TBT Core Group • Mr. Sonam Tobgay, ADB
16:30–16:45	Tea/Coffee Break
16:45–17:15	Session Seven: Finalization of Summary of Proceedings
16:45–17:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>ADB will present a Summary of Proceedings capturing the issues raised in comments and feedback throughout Sessions 1-6, and confirm the necessary adjustments to be made to the final national SPS-TBT diagnostic study for Bhutan.</i> <p>Chairperson: Director General, BAFRA</p> <p>Presenters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Rose McKenzie, ADB • Dr. Selim Raihan, ADB • Mr. Sonam Tobgay, ADB
17:15–17:30	Closing Remarks by the Co-Chairs