

South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation
National Validation Meeting: SASEC National Sanitary-phytosanitary and
Technical Barriers to Trade Diagnostic Study for Maldives
 07 December 2017: Male, Maldives

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 Maldives • Present recommendations coming out of the study for consideration by the Government of Maldives • 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 • Participants from related Government Agencies • Participants from private sector • Asian Development Bank
Venue	Hotel Jen, Male, Maldives
09:00–09:30	Registration
09:30-10:00	Opening Session: Welcome and Opening
09:30-10:00	Opening Remarks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Dr. Rose McKenzie, Senior Regional Cooperation Specialist, Asian Development Bank (ADB)</i> • <i>Ms. Khadeeja Husain, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Economic Development (MED), Government of Maldives</i>
10:00–10:15	Tea/Coffee Break and Official Photograph
10:15–10:45	Session One: Introduction of SASEC and the National Diagnostic Studies
10:15–10:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>ADB will discuss SPSTBT 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> Chair: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Ahmed Migdhad, Director, MED, Focal Point Maldives SPS-TBT Core Group Presenters: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Rose McKenzie, ADB • Dr. Selim Raihan, ADB International Consultant for SPS-TBT

10:45–11:45	Session Two: Patterns of Maldives Trade with SASEC Countries, and Maldives Products with Export Potential, Affected by Non-Tariff Barriers
10:45–11:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>ADB national consultant for SPS-TBT will discuss recent and current patterns of trade between Maldives and five other SASEC countries (Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, and Sri Lanka), based on analysis of import and export data 2006–2016. Consideration will be given to whether export products are subject to SPS-TBT measures in other SASEC countries. The methodology used to identify these products will be explained.</i> <p>Q&A</p> <p>Chair:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Ahmed Migdhad, Director, MED <p>Presenter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Riyaz Mansoor, ADB National Consultant on SPS-TBT
11:45–12:30	Session Three: Brief Overview of SPS and TBT Measures, Institutions, and Infrastructure in Maldives
11:45–12:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Session Three provides an overview of current SPS and TBT measures in Maldives, 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>Chair:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Ahmed Migdhad, Director, MED <p>Presenter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Riyaz Mansoor, ADB
12:30–13:30	Lunch Break
13:30–14:45	Session Four: Identification of Standards, Regulations, and Procedural Barriers Facing Maldives Exports and Imports into Maldives
13:30–14:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Session Four identifies standards, regulations and procedural obstacles in both Maldives and in other SASEC countries that may impede trade of the identified potential export items from Maldives. The consultant will also discuss specific products either imported or with potential to be imported from the SASEC sub-region into Maldives, but for which Maldives lacks SPS-TBT regulations and associated measures, thereby risking the possibility of import of sub-standard products.</i> <p>Q&A</p> <p>Chair:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maldives SPS-TBT Core Group <p>Presenter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Riyaz Mansoor, ADB

14:45–15:45	Session Five: Recommendations for Future Actions
14:45–15:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>ADB national consultant will present (i) possible measures to address SPS-TBT constraints in Maldives 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>Chair:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Ahmed Migdhad, Director, MED <p>Presenter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Riyaz Mansoor, ADB
15:45–16:15	Tea/Coffee Break
16:15–16:45	Session Six: Finalization of Summary of Proceedings
16:15–16:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>ADB will present a Summary of Proceedings capturing the issues raised in comments and feedback throughout Sessions 1-5, and confirm the necessary adjustments to be made to the final national SPS-TBT diagnostic study for Maldives.</i> <p>Chair:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Ahmed Ifthikhar, Director, MED <p>Presenters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Rose McKenzie, ADB • Dr. Selim Raihan, ADB • Mr. Riyaz Mansoor, ADB
16:45–17:00	Closing Remarks by the Co-Chairs