



**South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation
Workshop on Sanitary-phytosanitary and Technical Barriers to Trade
National and Regional Diagnostic Studies 2018
11-13 April: New Delhi, India**

AGENDA

Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present the South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) national sanitary-phytosanitary (SPS) and technical barriers to trade (TBT) diagnostic studies for Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, and Sri Lanka • Share findings of the SASEC SPS-TBT regional diagnostic study and seek comments and feedback on the recommendations presented in the study; • Explore potential for investments and technical assistance under the SASEC Program and SASEC Operational Plan 2016-2025 • Share experience and knowledge in (i) strategic approaches, and (ii) practical implementation of initiatives to reduce SPS-TBT trade restrictive measures., in a half-day learning session.
Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SPS-TBT national core group members from the participating SASEC countries • Representatives of SPS-TBT-related international organizations • Asian Development Bank (ADB)
Venue	Nilgiri Hall, Oberoi Hotel, New Delhi, India

Wednesday 11 April 2018 – Day 1	
08:30–09:00	Registration
09:00-09:30	Opening Session: Welcome and Opening
09:00-09:30	<p>Opening Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Kenichi Yokoyama, Country Director for India Resident Mission, ADB <p>Inaugural Address</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Pawan Kumar Agarwal, Chief Executive Officer of the Food Safety and Security Authority of India
09:30–10:00	Coffee/Tea Break and Official Photograph
10:00-10:15	Session One: Introduction to the SASEC SPS-TBT National Diagnostic Studies
10:00-10:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>ADB will briefly introduce the national diagnostic study process, explaining the shared objective and common methodology applied to all studies.</i> <p>Chair: Dr. Rose McKenzie, Senior Regional Cooperation Specialist, ADB Presenter: Dr. Selim Raihan, ADB International Consultant on SPS and TBT</p>



10:15-13:15	Session Two: SASEC SPS-TBT National Diagnostic Studies for Bangladesh, Bhutan, and India
10:15-11:15 11:15-12:15 12:15-13:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>ADB National Consultants for SPS-TBT will present the national diagnostic studies for Bangladesh, Bhutan, and India, focusing on (i) products identified for potential increased trade within the SASEC region; (ii) SPS-TBT measures that restrict trade, and infrastructure and capacity constraints; and (iii) priority recommendations for how to reduce SPS-TBT-related trade barriers at the national level. Q&A sessions included.</i> <p>Bangladesh Chair: Dr. Rose McKenzie, ADB Presenter: Mr. Shaquib Quoreshi, ADB National Consultant on SPS and TBT</p> <p>Bhutan Chair: Dr. Rose McKenzie, ADB Presenter: Mr. Sonam Tobgay, ADB National Consultant on SPS and TBT</p> <p>India Chair: Dr. Rose McKenzie, ADB Presenter: Dr. Surendar Singh, ADB National Consultant on SPS and TBT</p>
13:15–14:30	Lunch Break
14:30-17:30	Session Three: SASEC SPS-TBT National Diagnostic Studies for Maldives, Nepal, and Sri Lanka
14:30-15:30 15:30-16:30 16:30-17:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>ADB National Consultants for SPS-TBT will present the national diagnostic studies for Maldives, Nepal, and Sri Lanka, focusing on (i) products identified for potential increased trade within the SASEC region; (ii) SPS-TBT measures that restrict trade, and infrastructure and capacity constraints; and (iii) priority recommendations for how to reduce SPS-TBT-related trade barriers at the national level. Q&A sessions included.</i> <p>Maldives Chair: Dr. Selim Raihan, ADB Presenter: Mr. Riyaz Mansoor, ADB National Consultant on SPS and TBT</p> <p>Nepal Chair: Dr. Selim Raihan, ADB Presenter: Dr. Posh Pandey, ADB National Consultant on SPS and TBT</p> <p>Sri Lanka Chair: Dr. Selim Raihan, ADB Presenter: Dr. Ravi Ratnayake, ADB National Consultant on SPS and TBT</p>
17:30-17:45	Session Four: Wrap-up for Day 1
17:30–17:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>ADB will sum up the six presentations of the national diagnostic studies, identifying the main common issues and challenges across the region, and some of the shared recommendations and actions proposed in the studies.</i> <p>Presenter: Dr. Rose McKenzie</p>

19:00-21:00	Dinner at the Mountbatten Suite, hosted by ADB
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Thursday 12 April 2018 – Day 2	
09:00-10:00	Session One: SASEC SPS-TBT Regional Diagnostic Study –Export Products with Potential to Increase Intraregional Trade
09:00-10:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Session One will present the rationale for a SASEC regional diagnostic study on SPS-TBT measures, and explain how the findings coming out of the national diagnostic studies have been used in the regional study. Products with export potential that are common to more than one SASEC country will be identified, examined against the SAFTA sensitive list, and assessed for benefit that may accrue if standards for these products were harmonized at the regional level. Potential benefits of mutual recognition arrangements will also be discussed. <p>Chair: Dr. Rose McKenzie, ADB Presenter: Dr. Selim Raihan, ADB</p>
10:00-11:00	Session Two: SPS-TBT-related Regional Institutional Landscape
10:00-11:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Session Two will present SPS-TBT measures/barriers common to the SASEC countries in the areas of (i) legislative and regulatory structures, (ii) institutional frameworks; and (iii) SPS-TBT related infrastructure. Country specific examples will be referenced, and the opportunity costs discussed of taking no action to address trade-restrictive SPS-TBT measures. <p>Chair: Dr. Rose McKenzie, ADB Presenter: Dr. Selim Raihan, ADB</p>
11:00–11:15	Coffee/Tea Break
11:15-12:15	Session Three: Recommendations for Future Actions at the Regional Level to Address SPS-TBT Measures in South Asia
11:15-12:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Session Three will present prioritized recommendations for how the SASEC countries can move forward the SPS-TBT agenda, and effectively address issues and challenges through a coordinated regional response. Recommendations will focus on addressing legal, institutional, and infrastructure constraints, in a time-phased approach. <p>Chair: Dr. Rose McKenzie, ADB Presenter: Dr. Selim Raihan, ADB</p>
12:15–13:30	Lunch Break
13:30-15:00	Session Four: Open Discussion on the Regional Diagnostic Study
13:30-15:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Session Four will seek comments, questions, and feedback from the Workshop participants on the regional diagnostic study recommendations presented in Sessions One-Three. Moderated discussions will focus on how to develop and maintain sustainable mechanisms to enable SASEC countries to leverage regional advantage and strengths in addressing SPS-TBT measures/barriers. <p>Moderators: ADB</p>
15:00–15:30	Coffee/Tea Break

15:30-17:00	Session Five: Proposed Projects for Inclusion in the SASEC Operational Plan
15:30-17:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>ADB will (i) lead discussion on the potential for SPS-TBT related infrastructure investments to be included in the SASEC Operational Plan, and (ii) present details of proposed regional technical assistance for the SASEC SPS-TBT agenda.</i> <p>Chair: Dr. Rose McKenzie, ADB Presenter: Mr. Satish Reddy, ADB National Consultant on Trade Facilitation</p>
17:00-17:15	Session Six: Wrap-up of Working Sessions
17:00-17:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>ADB will sum up (i) the comments and feedback received during open discussion on the regional diagnostic study, and (ii) decisions reached on the proposed ADB regional technical assistance.</i> <p>Presenter: Dr. Rose McKenzie, ADB</p>

Friday 13 April 2018 – Day 3	
09:00-10:30	Session One: Successful Implementation Approaches to SPS-TBT Challenges
09:00-10:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Panel One will share updates and experience on successful implementation approaches to SPS-TBT challenges.</i> <p>Moderator: ADB Presenters: Mr. Sajal Mathur, Counsellor, WTO Trade and Environment Division Mr. Melvin Spreij, Head, WTO Standards and Trade Development Facility Mr. Rajesh Aggarwal, Chief, International Trade Center</p>
10:30–11:00	Coffee/Tea Break
11:00-12:30	Session Two: Successful Implementation Approaches to SPS-TBT Challenges
11:00-12:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Panel Two will share updates and experience on successful implementation approaches to SPS-TBT challenges.</i> <p>Moderator: ADB Presenters: Mr. Indu Bikram Joshi, Director, South Asia Regional Standards Organization Ms. Madhavi Das, Joint Secretary Chief Management Service Officer, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India Mr. Chandranath Som, Deputy Director General, Federation of Indian Export Organisations</p>
12:30-12:45	Session Three: Wrap-up of Knowledge-sharing Panels
12:30-12:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>ADB will sum up the main points shared during the knowledge-sharing panels; and wrap up the event.</i>
12:45–14:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lunch hosted by ADB