



Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Measures: Possible Next Steps to Facilitate Trade through Regional Cooperation

Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Program
Workshop on SPS Measures
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I. **Modernize implementation of SPS measures**

- ❑ Recognize WTO SPS Agreement independent of WTO accession status
- ❑ Develop strong policy base and legal/regulatory infrastructure for risk-based controls able to complete the transition from former Soviet system
- ❑ Eliminate unnecessary inspections and reduce inspection- and testing-related delays by adopting international food standards (Codex) to replace complex, outdated GOST and SanPin requirements
- ❑ Where standards are inappropriate or inapplicable to achieve desired level of protection, use risk analysis in a formally constituted system to justify national standards
 - Codex standards mostly applicable for food safety
 - Base animal and plant health imports on OIE listed diseases and on recognized quarantine pests in the first instance
 - Base controls for non-OIE listed animals diseases (emerging diseases) on risk analysis according to OIE protocols
 - Designate quarantine pests and phytosanitary import requirements using pest risk analysis (PRA) according to standards under the IPPC
- ❑ Introduce Joint Customs Control based on SPS-based flags at BCPs
- ❑ Mainstream SPS concerns in the agenda of CAREC national transport and trade facilitation bodies

II. Identify Investments in SPS to Facilitate Trade

- ❑ Coordinate/Integrate risk-based controls (import requirements, etc.) with Customs risk management systems:
 - Develop and Introduce Single Window Facility (an automated information system accessible to relevant agencies regulating trade) for import and export

- ❑ Rationalize/Modernize Laboratory Infrastructure:
 - Conduct inventory of laboratory assets in the region;
 - Determine need for such facilities on a regional basis;
 - Upgrade/Modernize designated facilities to serve regional demand along key CAREC corridors

- ❑ Designate and renovate specialized border crossing points for priority handling of perishables and facilitate accreditation to ISO 17025

- ❑ Capacity building through training and stakeholder engagement to maximize the benefits of investment