

INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE CAREC REGIONAL TRADE GROUP
25-26 June
Bangkok, Thailand

Progress on CAREC Common Agenda for Modernization of Sanitary and
Phytosanitary Measures for Trade (CAST)

Robert Black, MA LL.M, PhD, FHEA
ADB Consultant
Trade Facilitation and SPS Lead
KSTA 9500
rob@ocimum-biosecurity.eu



Introduction and Plan of Presentation

1. CAREC Common Agenda Modernizing Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures for Trade (CAST)
2. KSTA 9500^a
3. Principal challenges in modernizing SPS measures for trade facilitation
4. Priorities in CAREC countries to address challenges posed in CAST
5. Facilitating safe trade
6. National and regional SPS working groups (WGs)
7. Conclusions

^a KSTA 9500 is co-funded by the Regional Cooperation and Integration Fund and the People's Republic of China Poverty Reduction and Regional Cooperation Fund

From Assessment to Implementation

CAREC SPS Assessments (2012-2016)



CAST

Agreed at the Senior Officials Meeting, June 2015
and Endorsed at the 14th Ministerial Conference, Sep 2015



Priority recommendations



Priority Action Plan



KSTA 9500



At Bishkek Workshop:

Regional SPS WGs
(Sub-group of Regional Trade Group)?

National WGs

KSTA 9500

Modernizing Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures to Facilitate Trade

- To address CAST and priority actions
 - a. *Establish national and regional WGs to lead the SPS modernization process. National SPS WGs will develop and oversee implementation of national strategies to modernize SPS measures. Representatives from these WGs to constitute the Regional SPS WG.*
 - b. *Align national regulations, procedures, and requirements with the principles of the SPS Agreement and international standards under the OIE, IPPC, and Codex Alimentarius Commission.*
 - c. *Improve capability to implement these measures at selected common borders with National WGs developing and implementing a border management strategy*
- Under the supervision of EAPF, a team of four international specialists and national consultants to provide guidance and technical assistance to the WGs

Principal challenges in modernizing SPS for trade facilitation

General

- Poorly developed human capacity
- Laws and regulations adapted to international norms and standards
- How to implement trade based on risk-based measures
- Laboratory capacity for risk-based testing accredited to ISO 17025
- Incorporating SPS into e-certification, single window initiatives
- Alert system for hazards and intelligence on interceptions and rejections
- Lack of investment for improving infrastructure at border crossing points
- Involving private sector

Principal challenges in modernizing SPS for trade facilitation

Plant health

- Poor understanding of both importing country phytosanitary requirements and pest risks on import goods
- Lack of accurate pest distribution data as basis for regulated pest lists
- Border crossing points too remote from central laboratories for timely and secure sampling
- Electronic phytosanitary certification to be incorporated into single window, etc.

Animal health

- Lack of animal identification without which zoning of transboundary animal diseases (TADs) cannot be achieved
- Division of responsibilities among different agencies
- Inadequate secondary legislation

Food Safety

- Legislative base inadequate to make HACCP compulsory
- Moving from GOST/SanPin to risk-based indicators of food safety and correspondence
- Achieving balance between food control and trade facilitation

Priorities of CAREC countries for CAST

Items in red indicate investment needs; otherwise technical assistance is likely

	SPS Primary Law	Plant Health (PH)	Animal Health (AH)	Food Safety (FS)	Border Services Management	e-Systems
AFG	Reforming plant health law	Aligning PH regulations and SOPs with SPS Agreement		Food safety lab upgrading and international accreditation		
AZE			Alignment with OIE standards	Full alignment of standards FS with Codex	Coordination of SPS services	
GEO		Capacity for risk analysis Risk analysis Inventory of diagnostic capacity to ensure SOPs meet international standards			Border inspection and sampling facilities	e-Certification with CAREC Rapid alerts
KAZ	HACCP in food law	Risk-based measures	PVS List of animal diseases	Full alignment of standards FS with Codex International lab accreditation	Adequate staffing Sampling stations	Integrated data management system CAREC-wide system
KGZ		Pest risk analysis Risk-based inspection system Complete harmonisation with Codex, OIE			Risk-based inspections (TA border control)	

Priorities of CAREC countries for CAST

Items in red indicate investment needs; otherwise technical assistance is likely

	SPS Primary Law	Plant Health (PH)	Animal Health (AH)	Food Safety (FS)	Border Services Management	e-Systems
MON	PH Law	Risk-based pest lists Specialized taxonomists Traceability/plant passports	Competent staff TA, training and study tours		Training PH Inspectors High-low risk database	
PAK	Primary laws for PH, AH, FS	Capacity building			Equipment in remote areas BCP infrastructure	
TAJ	Implementation of ISPMs 11, 15 and 27	Laboratory staff training		Laboratory staff training		
TKM	HACCP			Laboratory upgrading Staff training Alignment of standards with Codex		
UZB	PQ Laws	Pest risk analysis Laboratory upgrading Staff training	Risk analysis	Risk analysis	Fumigation	e-Certification

Facilitating safe trade

- Integrating inspection services while maintaining science-based policy
- E-Certification, etc.
- Collaboration with WTO-oriented development partners
- Pest-free areas (PH) and animal disease zoning
- Improved border services management
 - *Identify and designate border-crossing points and facilities for live animals and categories of goods subject to SPS measures.*
 - *For each country, develop and implement a border-crossing point investment program*
 - *Ensure adequate staffing with suitable training to implement SPS import and export measures at a national level*
 - *The regional WG or sub-WG to discuss development of border-crossing points and bilateral and multilateral SPS agreements →*

Addressing challenges at regional level– Regional SPS WG

- Regional SPS WG
 - *Incorporate plant health, animal health and food safety*
 - *Consider as a sub-group or expert group under the RTG*
- Training activities in risk assessment, regulations, laboratory techniques, etc. could be per sector as appropriate
- Some immediate possibilities:
 - *Plant health workshop(s) on pest risk analysis and skills development*
 - *Animal health workshop(s) on risk assessment*
 - *Food safety workshop on risk-based indicators for safe food (CAREC Food Safety Network)*

National SPS WGs

- NWGs to formulate plans for accomplishing the outputs of KSTA 9500 at national level, facilitating inter-agency collaboration on SPS
- Formulating requests for technical assistance and investment in first instance
- Suggested composition of National SPS WGs at Bishkek Workshop
- To be formalised and given official status/backing by respective governments
- May be subsumed into existing groups or committees , e.g. National Trade Facilitation Committee
- Advice and technical assistance available from the project's experts

Conclusions – Moving forward with SPS in Regional Trade Group

- Moving into implementation phase in accordance with CAST
- Necessary actions identified at regional and national levels across all three SPS sectors
- Supporting Regional and National WGs realise the objectives
- We hope this presentation has provided better understanding and appreciation of SPS issues underlying trade facilitation
- We welcome initiatives from the Regional Trade Group to support CAREC SPS Agenda
 - *Better coordination with SPS agencies*
 - *Allocation of resources for SPS activities*
 - *Timing and venues for SPS WG meetings and reporting to the RTG*

Any questions?

Thanks for your attention!