



**REGIONAL SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY REGULATORY  
REGIME: FRAMEWORK FOR MUTUAL RECOGNITION AND  
ELECTRONIC EXCHANGE OF SPS CERTIFICATES**

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TASHKENT**

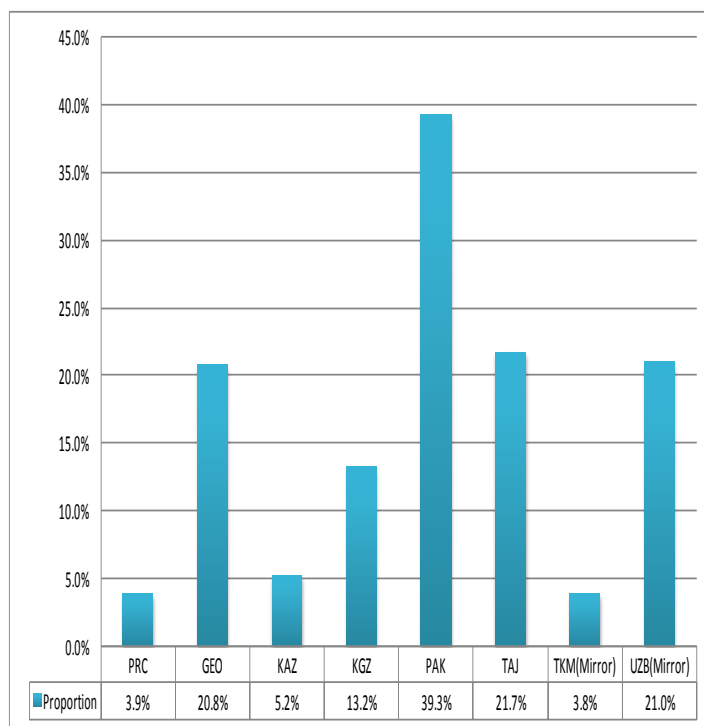


# SCHEME OF THE PRESENTATION

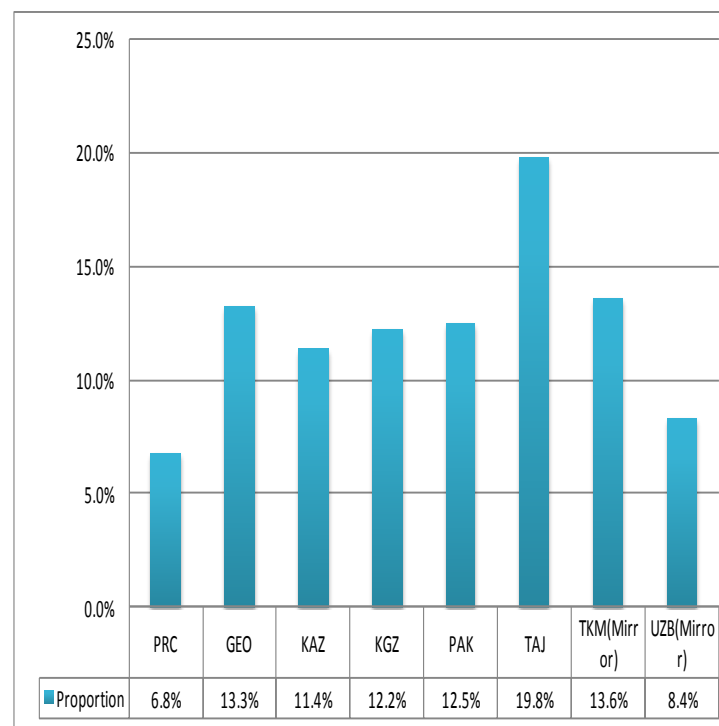
- **CONTEXT AND RATIONALE**
- **RESEARCH OBJECTIVES**
- **METHODOLOGY**
- **EXPECTED OUTPUT**

# PROPORTION OF AGRI-FOOD TO TOTAL TRADE WITHIN CAREC, 2018

## Proportion of Agri-Food Exports to Total Exports



## Proportion of Agri-Food Imports to Total Imports

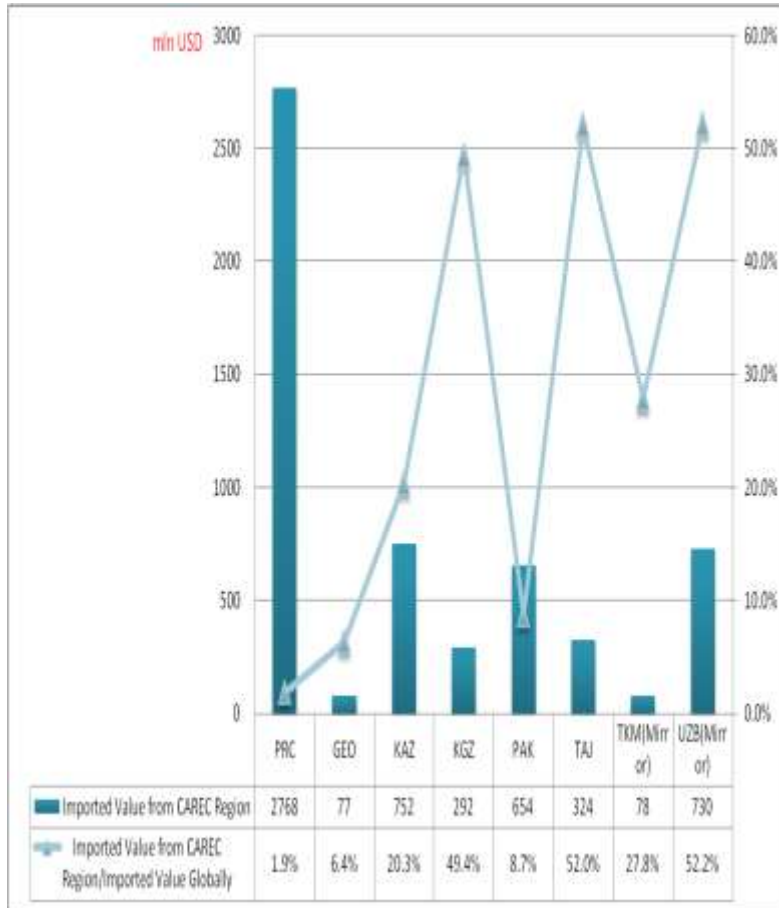


Note: Data at HS 2-digit level. AFG, AZE & MON data are not available.

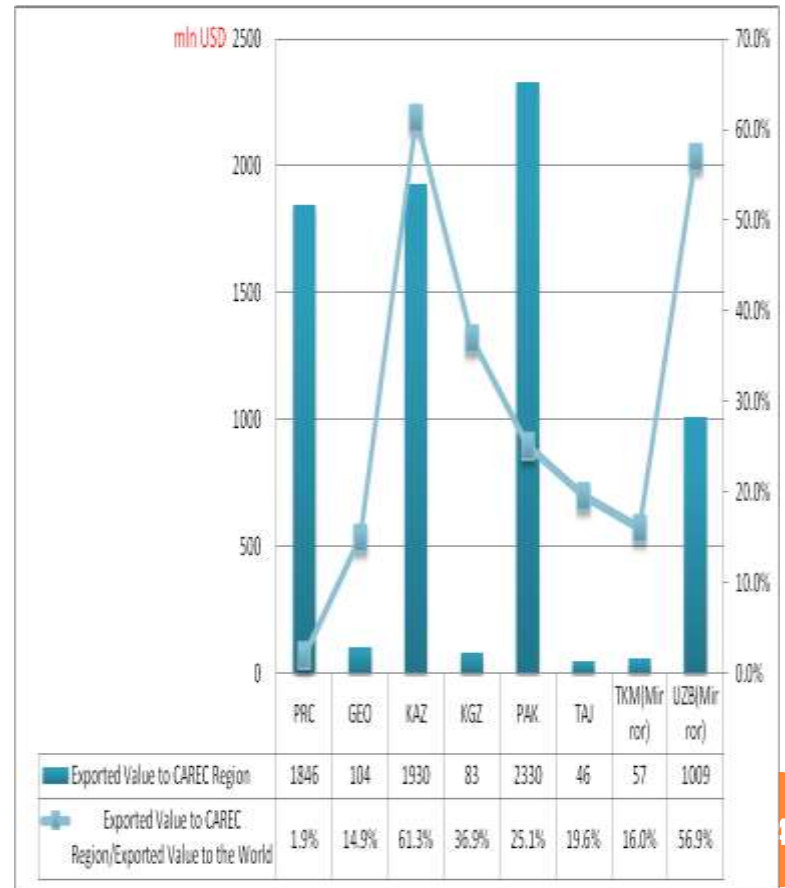
Source: TradeMap, [www.trademap.org](http://www.trademap.org)

# VALUE OF AGRI-FOOD TRADE WITHIN CAREC, 2018

## Value of Agri-Food Imports from CAREC



## Value of Agri-Food Exports to CAREC



Note; Data at HS 2-digit level. AFG, AZE & MON data not available.

Source: Trade Map. [www.trademap.org](http://www.trademap.org)

# RATIONALE

- Trade in agriculture, fishery, food, or even forestry products is subjected to SPS measures - to protect humans, animals, and plants from pest, disease, or contaminants
- ADB assessment on border SPS management in CAREC:
  - Cumbersome procedures and the lack of facilities for quarantine and laboratories at the borders → led to delays and excessive inspection yet inadequate control over the introduction of disease or contaminated products
  - A lack of coordinated and strategic approach has resulted in under-resourced and ineffective SPS services → Poor animal and plant health has limited the growth of the agri-food sector

# RATIONALE

- **CITA 2030** seeks to expand trade through enhanced market access (Pillar 1) through liberalization and lowering of costs – specifically by implementing the Common Agenda for Modernization of SPS Measures for Trade (CAST), the WTO SPS Agreement and Trade Facilitation Agreement, and mutual recognition of laboratory results and SPS certificates:
  - WTO SPS Agreement emphasizes that measures should not result in unnecessary barriers to trade. Article 8 and Annex C (Control, Inspection, and Approval Procedures)
  - WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) Article 10 stipulates the adoption of formalities that enable rapid release of goods, particularly perishables. This includes acceptance of e-documents, use of international standards.

# RATIONALE

- An SPS certificate of compliance with the appropriate SPS measure (such as laboratory test) is a central documentary requirement for goods that are subject to such measures.
  - Codex, OIE, and IPPC prescribe an international format for certificates, which is essential for trade facilitation
  - Uniform certification is enhanced by the use of IT and electronic exchange
- Mutual recognition allows parties in different jurisdictions to exchange and recognize the legal validity of electronic documents
  - Provides a smooth, transparent, and reliable means for documents to be exchanged
  - Affords countries that differ in technologies the opportunity to exchange documents
  - Facilitates interaction and trust between parties
  - Fosters regulatory compliance by aiding risk assessment and preserving the integrity of documents

# RESEARCH OBJECTIVE

**OBJECTIVE: Assess the feasibility of mutual recognition of laboratory results and an electronic exchange of SPS certificates**

- Identify the **agencies involved in SPS certification and laboratory testing** including any outsourcing to the private sector.
- Study **SPS laboratory testing and certification systems in CAREC countries**, including to identify common procedures, or use of international certifications and accreditation (e.g., ISO 17025).
- Take a stock-take of existing or planned initiatives for (i) **paperless certification for SPS systems and** (ii) for mutual recognition of certificates, at bilateral or subregional level



# METHODOLOGY

- Undertake desk research
- Develop and administer survey questionnaire on the readiness for mutual recognition of laboratory results and electronic exchange of certificates
- Conduct field visits to certification agencies and laboratories
- Consult stakeholders
- Analyze and write report

## EXPECTED OUTPUT

- Mapping of SPS certification systems within CAREC (paper-based and/or electronic)
  - Common elements in terms of procedures, data requirements and certification
  - Potential issues (legal, administrative) and constraints (resources, capacity) to support mutual recognition
- Potential for exchange and recognition of SPS certificates
  - Identify pilot countries for select products
  - Identify investment requirements (ICT enhancement etc)

# TIMELINE OF DELIVERABLES

Timeline	Activities
July 2019	Select consultant and organize inception video-con by CI
September 2019	Submit Inception Report, with review of relevant literature, draft questionnaire, workplan
November 2019	Submit draft Final Report
December 2019	Submit Final report incorporating the comments from the peer reviewer, ADB and CI.
Quarter 1 2020	Present the final report during the research Conference

THANKS

AND

Q & A