

CITA Rolling Strategic Action Plan 2021-2023

Project/Activity	Description/Objectives	Type of Input	Participating Countries	Implementation Period	Status	CAREC Institution/s or Agencies	
Pillar 1: Trade Expansion from Increased Market Access							
1	Regional Improvement of Border Services (RIBS)	Upgrade of facilities at key BCPs, customs automation system or national single window, and strengthening customs and project management capacity	KGZ, TAJ, MON, PAK	KGZ-TAJ: 2013-2019 MON: 2016-2022 PAK: 2015-2022	Ongoing: potential additional financing for KGZ and TAJ; PAK launched its NSW; additional financing for MON planned in 2023.	CCC/TSCC	
		Develop a regional RIBS model study	Knowledge sharing products and services	REG	2020-2022	Completed: Knowledge-sharing modules on RIBS projects; Proposed: Physical or virtual workshop as part of blended learning	CCC/TSCC/CAREC Institute (CI)
2	Developing a new border crossing point (BCP) (AZE-GEO)	Scoping for border project with joint SPS border control component at the Abreshumis Gza BCP	AZE, GEO	2021-2022	Proposed: for country operations programming	CCC/TSCC	
3	Regional Upgrades of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures for Trade (RUST) Project	The project includes alignment of SPS measures with World Trade Organization (WTO) agreement and upgrade of inspection management system applying risk assessment	MON	2016-2021	Construction works to upgrade veterinary, phytosanitary and food safety laboratories, quarantine and inspection facilities underway.	Project Implementing Unit, Office of the Deputy Prime Minister	
		Needs assessment study to modernize the borders between AFG and PAK (Chaman and Torkham), including laboratory capacity and cold-chain facilities	Investment project (scoping)	AFG, PAK	2020-2022	Proposed; Draft preliminary scoping work prepared	AFG Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL); PAK FBR, Ministry of Commerce, and Ministry of National Food Security and Research
		Facilities for the Food and Drug Authority, slaughterhouses in other provinces, and laboratory accreditation for ISO9001 and ISO17025; quarantine treatment centers	Investment project (scoping)	AFG	2022-2023	Proposed	AFG MAIL
4	Common Agenda for Modernization of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures for Trade	Pilot of simplified modern risk-based food safety management and inspections system	Knowledge-sharing products and services	TKM	2019-2022	Ongoing: Trainers' training modules being developed. Completed: Workshop on risk-based food safety management and inspection (2019)	TKM SPS NWG
		Pilot food traceability system	Knowledge sharing products and services	AZE	2021	Ongoing	ADB (SDCC-DT) and AZE FSA
		Online modules on the pilot food safety management system	Knowledge sharing products and services	REG	2021-2022	Proposed; based on TKM pilot training	SPS RWG
		Strengthen international food safety standards in agricultural value chains	Knowledge-sharing products and services	REG	2016-2021	Ongoing: work for CAREC food safety network postponed	RTG; SPS RWG
		Training on maximum residue level and ISO 22000; training of trainers on standards, inspection and certification	Knowledge sharing products and services	AFG	2021-2023	Proposed	AFG SPS NWG, ADB; Codex Alimentarius Commission
		Technical support for mandatory food safety standards such as hazard analysis critical control points (HACCP), good manufacturing practice (GMP), and good agricultural practice (GAP)	Policy dialogue and cooperation; Knowledge-sharing products and services	AFG	2022	Proposed	AFG MAIL
		Technical assistance on establishment of pest free areas; development of pest listing policy and strategy	Policy dialogue and cooperation; Knowledge sharing products and services	AFG; AZE; interested countries	2022-2023	Proposed	Azerbaijan's Food Safety Agency; AFG MAIL; CAREC NPPOs
		Cooperation and information exchange on TADs including through OIE reference laboratories	Knowledge sharing products and services	Regional	2021-2022	Completed: International exchange and training on animal and plant quarantine organized by PRC Customs (2019); completed knowledge-sharing on foot and mouth disease-free status and training on laboratory techniques for equine diseases (2021)	PRC Customs; World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)
		Central Asia Animal Health Network	Policy dialogue and cooperation; Knowledge sharing products and services	KAZ, KGZ, TAJ, TKM, UZB; interested countries	2020-2022	Ongoing: KAZ, KGZ, TAJ, TKM, UZB	OIE, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), WTO
		OIE roadmaps to eradicate Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) and Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) through training, disease-free zones, control programs	Policy dialogue and cooperation; Knowledge sharing products and services	KAZ, KGZ, TAJ, TKM, UZB; interested countries	2019-2022	Ongoing: KAZ, KGZ, TAJ, TKM, UZB	OIE, FAO, WTO
5	Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) mapping	Improved surveillance of animal diseases; joint control and border coordination for traceability	Policy dialogue and cooperation; Knowledge sharing products and services	AFG; KGZ, MON and interested countries	2021-2023	Proposed	AFG MAIL; KGZ SPS NWG; MON General Authority of Veterinary Services; OIE, FAO, WTO
		Workshop or seminar to enhance transparency and data exchange of technical regulations and accreditation or conformity assessment, and organize working or expert group meetings	Knowledge-sharing products and services; Policy dialogue and cooperation	REG	2021-2022	Proposed: The mapping study is an inception phase for RTG consideration.	RTG
		Review of technical regulations and ROO	Knowledge sharing products and services	UZB	2021-2022	Ongoing (supported under TA 9005: Analytical Support on Uzbekistan's Foreign Economic Policy Issues)	
6	CAREC Advanced Transit System (CATS) Pilot Project	Support for organic certification	Knowledge sharing products and services	AZE	2022-2023	Proposed by Ministry of Agriculture	
		Pilot of a CAREC regional transit scheme based on comprehensive and risk-based guarantees, and a customs information common exchange.	Investment project (scoping)	AZE, GEO, KAZ	2017-2021	Ongoing: Agreement on CATS and arrangements on ICE to be finalized and signed by AZE and GEO, with accession open to other CAREC countries.	CCC
	Information Common Exchange (ICE)	Pilot customs data exchange among participating CAREC countries, which could be linked to CAREC Advanced Transit System	Investment project (scoping)	AZE, GEO, KAZ	2019-2021	Ongoing: Action plan and technical manuals for CATS prototype to be prepared after signing of agreement	CCC
7	Membership and implementation of transit schemes	Participation and effective implementation of regional transit schemes and arrangements such as Quadrilateral Traffic in Transit Agreement (QTTA) or accession to Convention on Common Transit Procedure and use of new computerized transit system (NCTS)	Policy dialogue and cooperation	REG	2019-2021	Ongoing: Informal consultations in Jun 2019 organized for PAK, PRC, KGZ and TAJ on improving QTTA implementation. Proposal: TA on paperless transit (MON); NCTS (AZE)	CCC/TSCC
8	Authorized economic operators (AEO)	Adoption of modern risk management systems and approaches, develop national AEO programs, and preliminary mutual recognition processes	Knowledge-sharing products and services/ Policy dialogue and cooperation	REG	2021-2022	Proposed: Regional workshop on risk management focused on AEO Program planned in Q1 2022, potentially in partnership with Korea Customs Service	CCC
9	Joint customs control pilot project	Document harmonization through the unified cargo manifest aimed at electronic exchange, mutual recognition of inspection results	Knowledge-sharing products and services	REG	2020-2022	Proposed: JCC's replication at other CAREC BCPs to be explored	CCC
10	Paperless trade or e-certification of trade documents	Promote best practices on paperless trade which is linked to NSW, with potential interoperability via regional single window	Policy dialogue and cooperation; Knowledge-sharing products and services	REG	2019-2021	Completed: CCC-RTG joint workshop on e-commerce and paperless trade organized in Q3 2020; CAREC Trade Week: Enhancing Cooperation in Digital Trade in Sep 2021	CCC/RTG
		Enhancing e-customs systems to facilitate paperless trade; World Customs Organization framework of standards in cross-border e-commerce	Policy dialogue and cooperation; Knowledge-sharing products and services	REG	2020-2022	Completed study of Customs challenges with e-commerce consignments; CAREC Trade Week: Enhancing Cooperation in Digital Trade in Sep 2021	CCC/RTG

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	Accession to United Nations Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia-Pacific	Knowledge-sharing products and services	REG	2020-2021	Proposed: in discussion with ESCAP. PRC and AZE are members; CAREC Trade Week: Enhancing Cooperation in Digital Trade in Sep 2021	CCC	
	Adopting ePhyto solutions through business process analysis (feasibility study); technical support for migrating into e-SPS/ePhyto	Policy dialogue and cooperation; Knowledge sharing products and services	AZE, GEO, MON, PAK	2021-2022	Proposed	CAREC National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs), WTO, International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), ADB	
	Pilot or assessment for e-veterinary certification	Policy dialogue and cooperation; Knowledge sharing products and services	AZE, MON, PAK	2022-2023	Proposed	World Organisation for Animal Health, MON Ministry of Foreign Affairs, PAK MNFSR	
	E-learning modules on digital phytosanitary certification and policy brief on SPS digital certificate	Knowledge sharing products and services	REG	2021	Completed: Modules and Policy Brief circulated. CAREC countries encouraged to take the modules	ADB, CAREC Institute, WTO, CAREC NWGs	
	Scoping study for electronic single window	Knowledge-sharing products and services	AZE	2021-2022	Proposed by AZE	CCC	
	Simplified trade procedures and single format for electronic documents, particularly for transit	Knowledge-sharing products and services/ Policy dialogue and cooperation	REG	2022-2023	Proposed by UZB; e-invoice and e-CMR (AZE)	RTG, CCC, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)	
11	World Trade Organization (WTO) accession and post-accession commitments	Advisory support and capacity building for WTO accession	Knowledge-sharing products and services	AZE, TKM, UZB	2020-2022	Ongoing: Support for TKM on strategy/action plan; Support for AZE on impact assessment; Planned: subregional workshop on experience-sharing	RTG
12	Best practices on free trade agreements (FTAs)	Development of a Guideline on FTA design, negotiation and implementation for CAREC countries; regional training of trainers on how to design, negotiate, and implement FTAs; country specific action plans and national workshops; model-based study on the economic effects of a CAREC FTA; targeted capacity development activities on FTAs	Knowledge-sharing products and services	REG	2020-2022	Ongoing: Consultation workshops in May and Sep 2021. Discussions with CI and PRC-ADB's Regional Knowledge Sharing Initiative. Proposals: Share PRC's best practices in FTAs (MOFCOM); training on FTA negotiations, including experience sharing among CAREC countries (MON, UZB); assessment of efficiency, effectiveness, and possible impacts of FTAs, examining key sectors (UZB); protection of intellectual property rights (UZB)	RTG/CCC; CI; RKSI; MOFCOM
Pillar 2: Greater Diversification							
13	Free trade zone, special economic zones (SEZs), or cross-border economic zones	Feasibility study on free trade or special economic zones to strengthen competitiveness and promote economic diversification, including as part of economic corridor development	Investment project (scoping); knowledge-sharing products and services	REG	2020-2021	Ongoing: Technical support or study visits or workshops to promote the development of economic corridors and/or trade and economic cooperation centers; SEZ knowledge-sharing sessions conducted in MON in Apr/May 2021; MOFCOM's proposals: Share PRC's best practices, and facilitate collaboration between border provinces and towns	RTG
	Developing economic cooperation zone	Investment project	MON-PRC (IMAR)	2020-2022	Ongoing: Mongolia project and counterpart PRC program approved in 2020	RTG	
14	Value-chain development	Support for horticulture value chain development and cross-border trade in the Fergana valley through implementation of international standards for phytosanitary measures	Policy dialogue and cooperation; Knowledge sharing products and services	KAZ, KGZ, TAJ, TKM, UZB	2019-2022	Ongoing: Pilot SPS work for Fergana countries jointly supported by ADB and USAID CTJ; follow-up training on pest free areas; Completed: trainings on PRA and pest surveillance (2019-2020); trainings on plant quarantine legislation, phytosanitary risk management and plant clinics for UZB (2021)	CAREC NPPOs, USAID Competitiveness Trade and Jobs activity in Central Asia (USAID-CTJ), European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (EPPO), IPPC, ADB
15	Logistics centers and/or facilities	Establish logistics centers, including analyzing the transport sector and linkages, and assess adequacy and institutional and regulatory issues on transport and storage services	Investment project (scoping); knowledge-sharing products and services	REG	2021-2022	Proposed: Recommendation of Advancing Diversification through the Development of the Services Sector study.	RTG, CCC, TSCC
16	Developing trade in services	Study to promote expansion and integration of trade in services in priority sectors (finance, health, pharmaceutical, education, transport, ICT and tourism)	Knowledge-sharing products and services	REG	2019-2022	Ongoing: Services study completed and presented at RTG meeting; follow-up work on proposed projects and actions; Proposals: TA project to analyze trade using transport of goods by train (PRC MOFCOM); developing transport, insurance, and banking (payments) services (PAK); collection of services statistics (MON)	RTG, TSCC
	Roadmap to development information services such as software development, data processing, and 'mining' for blockchain technology	Knowledge-sharing products and services	REG	2020-2023	Proposed; ADB calls for project proposals from CAREC on accelerating digital trade	RTG	
17	Awareness and access to trade finance, supply chain finance, and guarantees	Bridge financing gaps and improve access to trade finance and credit guarantees for small traders	Knowledge-sharing products and services	REG	2018-2021	Ongoing: coordination with ADB's Trade and Supply Chain Finance Program; Feasibility study to establish a trade and investment agency	RTG
18	Promotion of e-commerce and innovation	Mapping and analysis of regulatory framework for e-commerce development in CAREC, to identify legal and policy reforms including drafting and implementing action plans	Knowledge-sharing products and services	REG	2019-2023	Completed: Joint ADB and CAREC Institute research (Phase 1) published in Aug 2021; CAREC Trade Week: Enhancing Cooperation in Digital Trade in Sep 2021; Proposals: Share PRC's best practices and establish a cross-border e-commerce platform or Digital Trade platform, linking businesses and governments, and digital trade forum (PRC MOFCOM); support e-commerce regulations and well-established e-commerce statistics (KGZ, MON); Engagement with WTO on e-commerce agreement negotiations (MON)	RTG/CCC; ADB and development partners (CI, (United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL), WTO)
	Analysis of infrastructure for e-commerce development in CAREC to identify possible interventions	Knowledge-sharing products and services; Policy dialogue and cooperation	REG	2021-2023	Ongoing: Joint ADB and CAREC Institute research (Phase 2) completed; Publication forthcoming; CAREC Trade Week: Enhancing Cooperation in Digital Trade in Sep 2021	RTG/CCC; ADB and CI	
	Working group on transformation to digital economy in CAREC	Knowledge-sharing products and services; Policy dialogue and cooperation	REG	2022-2023	Proposed by PAK (to be coordinated with implementation of CAREC Digital Strategy 2030)	RTG, ADB (CWRC, SDCC-DT)	
	Adoption of UNCITRAL Model Law on Electronic Transferable Records (MLETR)	Knowledge-sharing products and services; Policy dialogue and cooperation	REG	2021-2023	Completed: Webinar on "Digitalizing Trade in Asia Needs Legislative Reform" in October 2021; ICC report on Model Law on Electronic Transferable Records includes CAREC (potential pilot for GEO, PRC)	ADB RCI-TG/PSOD and ICC under Digital Standards Initiative	

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	Facilitate cross-border e-commerce including harmonization of de minimis thresholds	Knowledge-sharing products and services; Policy dialogue and cooperation	REG	2022-2023	Proposed by AZE	RTG, CCC
19	Promotion of tourism trade Data analysis on potential for tourism and provision of information for tourists within CAREC; development and marketing of regional tourism products; facilitated visa arrangements	Knowledge-sharing products and services	REG	2021-2022	Proposed: Potentially linked with CAREC tourism TA; Recommendation of Advancing Diversification through the Development of the Services Sector study.	RTG, CCC, TSSC
Pillar 3: Stronger Institutions for Trade						
20	Online trade portal Develop one-stop shop repository for trade policies and/or regulations, best practices and data of CAREC countries (subsite in CAREC website), which could be linked with existing business-to-business platforms or mechanisms	Knowledge-sharing products and services	REG	2019-2021	Ongoing: Trade Information Portal statistics updated using latest available data	RTG
21	CAREC Corridors Performance Measurement and Monitoring (CPMM) Continue to measure the competitiveness of CAREC corridors to enhance performance and address the bottlenecks at key BCPs, with additional data features	Knowledge-sharing products and services	REG	2019-2023	Ongoing: Annual reports on CPMM produced - including country-level information and 10-year stocktake of CPMM planned in 2021	CCC/CFCA/TSSC
	ADB-CI partnership to elevate the CPMM annual report and its dissemination.	Knowledge-sharing product and services	REG	2020-2024	Ongoing: ADB and CI entered into joint CPMM partnership roadmap through 2024. In 2020, the CAREC Institute has started disseminating country-specific policy briefs to relevant government entities. MOFCOM's proposal: Economic Corridor's Forum to promote economic cooperation and trade flow across corridors	ADB/CI
	Develop an online portal to facilitate wider awareness and use of CPMM data, reports and activities.	Knowledge-sharing products and services	REG	2021-2023	Ongoing: CPMM web portal developed and accessible to CAREC in Q4 2021	ADB/CI
22	Tailor-fit training on emerging trade issues Capacity building to improve capacity of trade-related agencies and officials	Knowledge-sharing products and services	REG, AFG	2021-2022	Proposed: discussions with countries and other development partners	RTG
23	Experience-sharing of WTO members Dialogue on benefits from accession, lessons from accession processes, and implementation	Policy dialogue and cooperation	AFG, AZE, KAZ, KGZ, TAJ, TKM, UZB	2021-2022	Proposed: discussions with countries and other development partners	RTG
24	WTO TFA enhanced implementation among CAREC members Seminars and inter-subregional forum on WTO TFA especially mandatory provisions and of high significance to CAREC	Policy dialogue and cooperation	REG	2018-2022	Completed: CAREC-SASEC inter-subregional knowledge-sharing forum held in Oct 2019; follow-up activity to be organized with WTO and WCO	RTG, CCC
	Establish and/or strengthen other intergovernmental and cross-sectoral mechanisms on trade, e.g., national committee on trade facilitation (NCTF)	Knowledge-sharing products and services	REG	2018-2022	Ongoing: discussions with countries and other development partners	RTG/CCC/SPS NWG
25	CAREC Common Agenda for Modernization of SPS Measures for Trade (institutional) Reactivation of SPS National Working Groups (NWGs)	Policy dialogue and cooperation	All countries	2021-2022	Proposed	CAREC National Focal Points, SPS agencies
	Continuing support for SPS NWG in the implementation of their respective national SPS priorities and action plan	Knowledge-sharing products and services; Policy dialogue and cooperation	KGZ, MON, PAK, TKM, UZB	2019-2021	various initiatives at country level	relevant SPS NWGs
	One Health Approach between CAREC SPS working group and CAREC health sector group	Policy dialogue and cooperation	REG	2022	Proposed	ADB, OIE, WTO
	WTO's Good Regulatory Practice for SPS regulators	Policy dialogue and cooperation; Knowledge-sharing products and services	REG	2022-2023	Proposed: GEO and PAK participating in review of guide; workshop to be organized for CAREC	SPS RWG; ADB and WTO
	Capacity building for risk assessment	Policy dialogue and cooperation; Knowledge-sharing products and services	GEO, MON, UZB	2021-2023	GEO: completed training for animal by-products in Sep 2021. MON: Completed review of legislation and policy advice on risk assessment and categorization (2019). UZB: proposed	GEO's Revenue Service. MON's General Agency for Specialized Inspection (GASI). UZB's Ministry of Investment and Foreign Trade (MIFT)
	Training in using Prioritizing SPS Investments for Market Access (P-IMA) as a tool	Policy dialogue and cooperation; Knowledge-sharing products and services	REG	2021-2022	Proposed. Ongoing: TAJ	WTO, ADB, CAREC Institute
	Mutual recognition of equivalence of the application of SPS measures; conformity assessment and uniform laboratory research methods	Policy dialogue and cooperation	KGZ, interested countries	2022	Proposed	KGZ Ministry of Economy, SPS NWG
26	Enhanced interagency (SPS-customs-trade) cooperation Capacity-building and fora to support policy coordination	Policy dialogue and cooperation	REG	2021-2022	Joint CCC-SPS RWG Meeting discussed risk management and digitalization in Apr 2021; Proposed: Joint activities planned in 2021/2022	RTG/CCC/SPS RWG
27	Improved research capacity and coordination among CAREC countries Strengthen the role of CAREC Institute and linkages with national research institutes to provide opportunities for cross-learning	Knowledge-sharing products and services	REG	2019-2022	Ongoing: continuing participation at annual think tank forum	RTG
	Strengthen trade in services statistics through cooperation	Policy dialogue and cooperation	REG	2021-2022	Proposed (GEO, MON)	RTG
28	Virtual consultation mechanism Virtual consultation meetings to discuss trade measures introduced by members	Policy dialogue and cooperation	REG	2021-2022	Ongoing: webinars and virtual workshops; Proposed (UZB and KGZ); PRC MOFCOM proposal: CAREC governors or mayors forum for regular exchanges.	RTG
	Information sharing on cross-border passengers identified as confirmed cases, suspected cases or close contacts of COVID-19 and best practices and handling similar pandemic	Knowledge-sharing products and services	REG	2020-2021	Ongoing: creation of a CAREC compendium of trade measures and procedures during a pandemic or similar situations	RTG, CCC

Countries/members: AZE = Azerbaijan; AFG = Afghanistan, PRC = People's Republic of China; IMAR = Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, XUAR = Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, GEO = Georgia, KAZ = Kazakhstan, KGZ = Kyrgyz Republic, MON = Mongolia, PAK = Pakistan, TAJ = Tajikistan, TKM = Turkmenistan, UZB = Uzbekistan, REG = regional.
CAREC institutions: CCC = Customs Cooperation Committee, CFCA = CAREC Federation of Carrier and Forwarder Associations, NWG = national working group, RTG = Regional Trade Group, RWG = regional working group, SPS = Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, TSSC = Transport Sector Coordinating Committee.

Notes: Implementation period is indicative. Following the government change in Afghanistan in mid-August 2021, the Asian Development Bank placed on hold its assistance in Afghanistan effective 15 August 2021. Implementation of activities in and for Afghanistan is indefinitely postponed until further advised.

Source: Asian Development Bank staff.

Status: Ongoing = projects have been approved and/or under implementation, including those that may require additional financing; Proposed = as requested by countries in concept development stage and/or funding options to be identified.