

**CAREC REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON MODERNIZING SANITARY
AND PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES**
29-30 MAY 2018
BISHKEK, KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

Session 1

- *Highlights of the ADB Assessment of the SPS regulatory framework, laboratory capacity, and border services management*
- *Priority actions identified at the regional level*
- *Establishing the National and Regional SPS Working Groups and developing national work plans*

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Plan of Presentation

Assessment of SPS capacity at CAREC regional level

- I. Completed projects assessing SPS capacity in CAREC region and their findings
- II. Development of CAREC SPS Regional Agenda and priorities
- III. Priority actions identified at regional level

Challenges to implementing priority actions

- IV. Regional SPS working groups' deliberations
- V. Developing national work plans

I. Completed projects assessing SPS capacity in CAREC region

- RSC-C13610 (REG) *Development of an SPS Plan for CAREC Countries* *
<https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/publication/30251/modernizing-sps-measures-facilitate-trade.pdf>
- TA 8386 (REG) *Promoting Cooperation in Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures for Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation, 2014-2015 Report* → SPS Common Agenda and priority actions *

* Georgia not yet a member of CAREC during these studies

- Forthcoming publication: **Towards Modernization of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Capacity in CAREC: Assessment and the Way Forward**

(Extracts provided to workshop participants, including Executive Summary and detailed recommendations)

SPS capacity assessment modes

- Regulatory assessment
- Laboratory capacity assessment
- Border management assessment

- Each mode assessed according to:
 - *Plant health*
 - *Animal health*
 - *Food safety*

Most assessments made in 2015!

Regulatory assessment – key findings

The regulatory assessments concluded that:

- i. Most CAREC countries need to formulate comprehensive national strategies to adopt and/or implement SPS measures in accordance with international standards, especially measures to satisfy administrative and procedural requirements of the WTO SPS Agreement (Article 8/Annex C) and are scientifically justified and risk-based (Articles 2 and 5).
- ii. Plant Health: Lack of rules and regulations to implement the International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures with efforts to do so impaired by legislative and administrative split between plant quarantine and domestic plant protection and lack of expertise in pest risk analysis
- iii. Animal health: Legislative frameworks broadly compliant with general principles of OIE but lack of implementing rules for enforcement; poor animal health situation in region.
- iv. Food safety: Final product testing according to detailed prescriptive requirements is still widely applied in CAREC countries, making checks for import more challenging than necessary. Instead HACCP based on Codex should become mandatory.

Laboratory assessments – key findings

- i. Plant health: Perhaps with the exception of PRC, none of the CAREC countries have the minimum capacity to protect their respective countries from quarantine pests beyond relatively easy-to-identify insects and a few plant diseases by symptoms or by morphology of causal fungi.
- ii. Animal health: Except for a few relatively well-equipped and properly organized veterinary laboratories, the majority of veterinary laboratories are in poor condition and unable to implement routine surveillance, early detection of animal and zoonotic diseases and full surveillance, and testing for OIE-listed diseases, and lack international accreditation
- iii. Food safety: Laboratories generally do not have the recommended standard equipment or procedures necessary to analyze the entire series of chemical contaminants that present actual risks to consumers in accordance with international standards. In addition, chemical contaminant limits are not harmonized with international standards such as Codex and/or EU and outdated methods are applied in the analysis of pathogenic bacteria, taking three to four days to produce results.

SPS border services management assessment – key findings

In general focus has been on customs services with other services dealt with on an *ad hoc* manner. In particular:

- i. Plant origin products may, in general, be cleared inland. Advance notification of commercial quantities and a proper risk assessment system is necessary. Small quantities of plant origin goods for personal use and genuine cross-border trade should be subject to physical inspection.
- ii. Many CAREC countries lack the capacity to prevent introduction of animal diseases, including transboundary animal diseases, zoonotic diseases, and microbiologically or chemically contaminated products of animal origin. Veterinary control at the border in many countries is characterized by overlapping and/or excessive inspections, delays and/or inadequacy of general management. These gaps make cross-border trade in live animals and products of animal origin time-consuming, costly, and uncompetitive.
- iii. Numerous bilateral and multilateral agreements are in place, potentially providing a framework for cooperation on SPS issues, but many lack the mechanisms for implementation. A CAREC-wide harmonized approach to these agreements would be more effective.

II. CAREC Common SPS Agenda developed from the assessments Where are we going now?

CAREC SPS Assessments



CAREC Common Agenda for Modernization of SPS Measures for Trade Facilitation
Agreed at Senior Officials Meeting, June 2015

<https://www.carecprogram.org/uploads/2015-SOM-Jun-02s-CAREC-SPS-Common-Agenda.pdf>



Priority recommendations

Priority Action Plan



Regional working groups

National Working Groups

Focus of priority recommendations: plant health

- Unification of plant quarantine and plant protection laws and reform of responsible institutions
- Regionally based adoption of International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs) and training on pest risk analysis (PRA)
- National regulated pest lists (quarantine pests and regulated non-quarantine pests)
- Appropriate plant quarantine facilities at border crossing points (BCPs)
- Regional surveillance programme

Focus of priority recommendations: animal health

- Primary legislation consistent with OIE codes
- Upgrading laboratory diagnostic capacity where necessary
- Improve handling of animals and products of animal origins at borders
- Risk-based categories of animal diseases important to trade and notifiable diseases
- Risk-based assessments for goods subject to veterinary controls

Focus of priority recommendations: food safety

- Risk-based assessments and inspections to replace conformity assurance of end-product descriptive criteria
- Aligning food import controls including sampling procedures with Codex standards
- Food safety parameters (SOPs) developed to prepare for international laboratory accreditation (ISO 17025)
- HACCP made compulsory in food safety laws
- Associated training of food safety inspectors
- Regional working group for food safety

Focus of key recommendations: border management

- Integration of SPS measures fully integrated into border management operations through data sharing, single window and other **trade facilitation initiatives**
- Inter-service cooperation for border management with strategic approach to investment in infrastructure
- Forums for regionally relevant border management issues
- Key BCPs identified for possible ADB investment in upgrading with **joint border management** – emphasis on perishable goods

III. Priority action plan for CAREC SPS modernization



IV. Challenges to implementing priority actions

Regional SPS Working Groups in break-out discussions

■ Session 3

- Identifying challenges to implementing key actions at regional level
- Gap analysis for the region
- Sub-regional patterns, divergence and progress
- Priorities in resolving these challenges and issues
 - *three break-out groups (plant health, animal health, food safety) will deliberate on these issues based on guide questions set by group facilitators*

■ Sessions 4

- *Each group to make 10 minute presentation on the outcomes of their discussions*
- *Perspectives from group facilitators*
- *Summary of issues and agreements (if any) from session moderator*

V. Challenges to implementing priority actions

Country work plans

■ Session 6 – drafting country work plans

Establishment of National SPS WGs

- *Delegates from each country to outline the procedure, composition and possible lead for their respective **National SPS WGs** and **how to obtain its government endorsement**.*
- *Representatives from National SPS working groups to anticipate participation in the regional SPS working group(s) with consideration given to coordination with neighboring countries or sub-regional trade partners.*

Aligning laws and regulations with international standards

- *Participants to focus on existing laws and regulations with a timeframe to aligning them, where necessary, with international standards.*

V. Challenges to implementing priority actions

Country work plans (continued)

- Session 7 – presentation of country work plans

Establishment of National SPS WGs

- *Each country will present maximum three (3) slides listing the composition of the WG (agencies and lead agency) and describing the process and endorsement requirements for its establishment*

Aligning laws and regulations with international standards

- *Each country to develop and present a maximum of three slides detailing the priority laws/regulations for aligning plant health, animal health, and food safety laws and regulations with international standards and identify existing or needed support, if any, from development partners*

Regional WGs and National WGs after the Workshop

- The work of the Regional and national WGs will continue during the life of TA REG 9500
- *Inter alia*, the duties of the Trade Facilitation and Lead SPS expert will be to
 - *coordinate with appropriate national executive agencies to ensure WGs have appropriate status and can functioning smoothly*
 - *plan and coordinate WG meetings and deliberations/reports*
 - *provide technical assistance to WGs where necessary and where required*

Any questions?

- Thanks for your attention!

- Thanks to the Manila-based CAREC SPS team for their advice and suggestions