



Progress of Modernization under the Customs and Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Measures Initiatives

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Interventions under the CAREC Common Agenda for Modernization of Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Measures for Trade

Advisory support

Capacity building

Pilot cooperation initiatives

Policy dialogues

Investment projects



Mongolia: Regional Upgrades of SPS Measures for Trade Project



Upgrading of labs and border inspection facilities



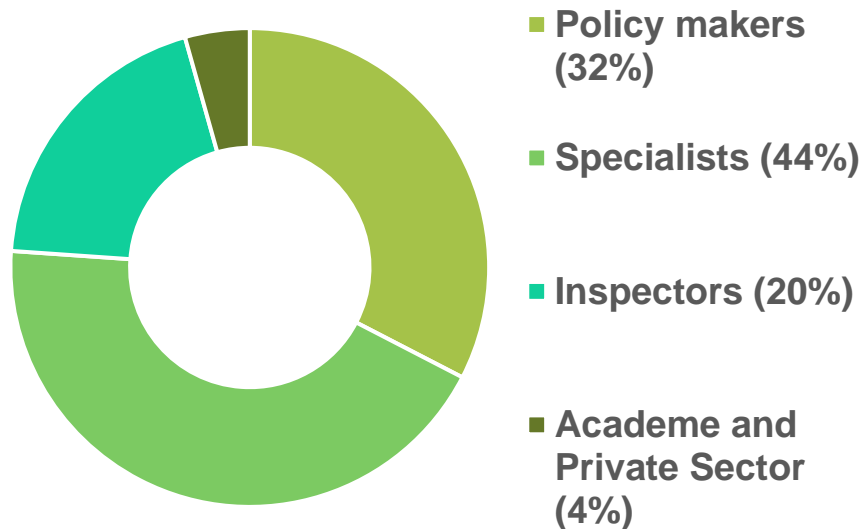
Aligning SPS with international standards



Adopting risk-based inspection

Key Performance Indicators

2,151 benefited from knowledge events (2018-2022)



Survey of beneficiaries (November 2022)

regional working group contributed to **stronger cooperation** and institutional coordination among stakeholders (88%)

activities **strengthened capacity** for legislation and implementation of SPS measures (79%)

activities **enhanced compliance** with international SPS requirements to expand market access (76%)

trainings contributed to **streamlining border inspection** and documentary requirements for goods subject to SPS inspection (58%)

Highlights of the 3rd CAREC SPS Regional Working Group (RWG) Meeting, January 2023



- Crucial role of SPS measures and institutions to ensure **safe trade** and increase **resilience** amid the challenges (pandemic, climate change, food safety and security issues)
- Demonstrated use of digital tools and **innovative solutions** (e-Phyto, NSW, animal ID and traceability— with potential to **replicate or upscale** at regional level)
- Effective **change management** is key to risk management, integrating SPS inspection and customs control at the borders



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3rd Meeting of the CAREC
Regional Working Group a...

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CAREC Regional Trade Group (RTG) – Customs Cooperation Committee (CCC) Joint Meeting
12 June 2023, Tbilisi, Georgia



Outcomes of the 3rd Meeting of the SPS RWG

- **Facilitate trade and continue modernizing SPS measures**
 - Implement reforms to align with WTO agreement, integrate global standards, and increase market access (e.g., pest free areas, hazard analysis critical control points, animal disease-free zones)
 - Upgrade laboratories and inspection facilities
 - Leverage digital solutions (e.g., ePhyto, animal identification and traceability, and food traceability)
 - Enhance risk management and coordination among SPS agencies and Customs
- **Adopt a holistic approach and strengthen cross-sectoral linkages to address emerging issues**
 - One-Health Strategy, Agriculture and Food Security Framework, Digital Strategy, Climate Change Vision

Highlights of the 22nd CAREC Customs Cooperation Committee Meeting 8-10 June 2023, Tbilisi, Georgia



Knowledge-Sharing Event: Single Window for Digital Customs Cooperation in CAREC, 8 June 2023

- Single Window (SW) needs to be seen as an **environment**. It can facilitate data exchange, and standardized information is crucial for **interoperability**.
- Countries at various stages of developing their SW. Many have advanced to include **integration into e-government**, providing basic service functions.
- Country experiences with SW have been highly positive.
- SW development is a **continuous process**. Political will, cooperation between trade and government, user-oriented service, use of international standards, are among the success factors.

Highlights of the 22nd CAREC Customs Cooperation Committee (CCC) Meeting 8-10 June 2023, Tbilisi, Georgia



22nd CAREC CCC Meeting, 9-10 June 2023



Site Visit to Tbilisi Clearance Zone, 10 June 2023

The CCC members agreed to:

- Endorse the **CCC 2023-2024 workplan**
- Adopt a **Joint Statement** promoting customs digitalization and green customs initiatives
- Push forward the pilot phase of the **CAREC Advanced Transit System (CATS)** and **Information Common Exchange (ICE)**
- Implement **Joint Action Plan 2024-2026** between ADB and Korea Customs Service
- Focus on priority areas of organizational development, use of technology, and providing efficient services

Planned CCC Interventions (2023-2024) under RSAP

Alignment with international standards

- Continued support to implement WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement and WCO Revised Kyoto Convention
- More countries to accede to *UN Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific*
- Compliance with WCO Data Model

Scoping Studies and knowledge products

- Subregional assessment study on cross-border transit trade facilitation ongoing (Q2 2023 – Q4 2023)
- Scoping studies and regional mapping on integrated border management, joint customs control, single window, innovative solutions for customs processes (Q4 2023 – Q2 2024)
- Case study on lessons learned and manual on best practices in RIBS (Q1 2024)

Planned CCC Interventions (2023-2024) under RSAP

Investment and pilot projects

- Border Efficiency for Sustainable Trade (BEST) investment project being processed for Mongolia
- Joint border crossing point for Azerbaijan- Georgia
- Launch of CATS/ICE prototype phase (Q4 2023)

Capacity building and advisory support

- Knowledge-sharing on Joint Customs Control experience of CAREC countries (Q4 2023/ Q1 2024)
- In-country and regional workshops on risk management focused on AEO program (Q1 2024)

Engagement with development partners

- Implementation of Joint Action Plan 2024-2026 with Korea Customs Service (KCS)
- Other joint activities with WCO, UNECE, ESCAP, USAID, etc.