

TA 9274: Strengthening International Food Safety  
Standards in Agricultural Value Chains in the CAREC  
Member Countries (CMCs)

**Samjhana Shrestha**

Senior Economist

Asian Development Bank



# Agenda for the Sanitary and Phytosanitary Reforms

- Common Agenda for Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Reforms and Modernization endorsed at the CAREC Ministerial Conference in 2015
- Regional food safety initiative was launched at the CAREC senior official meeting
- Progress to be reported at the CAREC's senior official and ministerial meetings
- Support CMCs' implementation of food safety to international standards



# Food Safety Concerns

- WHO estimates that 600 million—almost 1 in 10 people in the world—fall ill after eating contaminated food and 420,000 die every year;
- Food safety problems cost is estimated at \$55 billion in US alone;
- Reputational risks for countries and companies; and
- Food safety scares on international trade can be devastating.



# Background

- Technical Assistance 20517: 2017- 2019
- International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)
- CAREC Food Safety Network Office in Almaty, Kazakhstan
- 11 CAREC Member Countries (CMCs)

<b>Group I</b>	<b>Group II</b>
<b>Afghanistan</b>	<b>Georgia</b>
<b>Azerbaijan</b>	<b>Kazakhstan</b>
<b>Pakistan</b>	<b>Mongolia</b>
<b>Kyrgyzstan</b>	<b>People Republic of China</b>
<b>Tajikistan</b>	<b>Turkmenistan</b>
-	<b>Uzbekistan</b>



## Expected Impact

- Improved public health and facilitation of trade in agro-food products in CMCs

## Expected Outcome

- Stronger institutional systems for the operationalization of international food safety standards



# Four Outputs

1. Regulations for meeting international food safety standards
2. Laboratory rationalization and infrastructure requirements for applying international food safety standards
3. Capacity of value chain actors to implement food safety to international standards
4. CAREC Food Safety Network



# Output 1: Regulations

- Recommend a national food safety unit consisting of government and private sector representatives,
- Designate an agency to set food safety standards, and
- Designate a separate, certificate-issuing agency with a mandate to verify compliance.



## Output 2: Laboratory rationalization

- Identifying a central laboratory that can be upgraded to a referral laboratory with international accreditation; and
- Financing plan and cost estimate for the implementation of infrastructure, laboratories, and inspection services





# Output 3: Capacity of Value Chain Actors

- Strengthening the Inspectional System for Public Sector Value Chain Actors
  - Domestic, Imported (for border Point) and exportable foods
  - Inspections, Certifications and Audits
  - Risk Analysis and Risk Based Inspections
- Training of Trainers for technicians and officials at regional level trainings;
- Networking opportunities for inter-CMCs cooperation i.e., South-south cooperation; and



# Output 4: CAREC Food Safety Network

- Economy of scale and similarity in agro-climate and ecosystems reinforce the importance of regional harmonization.
- Instrumental in regional cooperation to harmonize standards and regulations governing agro-food trade; expedite border-crossing procedures; and manage transboundary contaminations, diseases, and pests.
- Harmonization of standards, technical regulations, conformity assessment regimes, and sharing of information to build capacity in food inspection and certification.



# Thank you



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