

# **Managing SPS issues for Agriculture Trade Promotion-Private Sector Perspectives**

Presentation by

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**In**

**First National Plant Protection Workshop**

Organised by

*Plant Protection Directorate /Department of Agriculture  
Ministry of Agricultural Development*

Dhulikhel, Nepal

July, 10-11, 2017

# WTO/SPS Agreement

Under the WTO Agreement, a separate agreement on food safety and animal and plant health standards (the **Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures Agreement** or **SPS**) sets out the basic rules for international trade of agricultural products against risks of hazards related to trans-border trade of agricultural and food products which avoiding unnecessary trade interruptions.

SPS measures needs to be based on scientific principles (including risk analysis) of international standards to achieve a reasonable and appropriate level of protection as not to restrict trade.

The SPS Agreement in Annex 8 defines the concept of on appropriate level of Sanitary or Phytosanitary Protection (ALOP) as the level of protection deemed appropriate by a WTO member establishing a Sanitary or Phytosanitary measures.

But, In setting its ALOP, a WTO Member should take into account the objectives of minimizing trade effects

Since 2005, Nepal has started complying with the rules set under the SPS Agreement, progressively.

# SPS Agreement and Nepal's General Obligations

## The SPS Agreement

1. Allows GoN to set its own standards. But the Agreement says that the regulations on phytosanitary measures
  - must be based on science and should be applied only to the extent necessary to protect plant health (while we relates to phytosanitary measures) and
  - should not arbitrarily or unjustifiably discriminate between countries where identical or similar conditions prevail.
2. Particularly in the case of the phytosanitary measures, GoN is encouraged to "harmonize" or base national measures on the international standards, guidelines and recommendations of IPPC where they exist so as to avoid legal challenges/dispute from other member
3. Allows GoN to use phytosanitary measures which result in higher standards if there is scientific justification and also to some extent apply temporary "precautionary" measures.
4. Allows GoN to use different standards , methods /procedures of inspecting products and other requirements.
5. GoN must provide advance notice of new or changed phytosanitary regulations, and establish a SP national enquiry point to provide information.
6. GoN maintain complementarity with TBT Agreement (now also require with recently ratified and Trade Facilitation (TF) Agreement ).

# SPS Issues at Global Level

SPS Measures, in particular, Phytosanitary measures include- end product criteria ( quarantine pests/diseases and risks); quarantine measures/procedures, certification, inspection, sampling, testing,

The most common issues /complaints on SPS Measures applied in international trade are that

- importing countries are not following the international standards.
- long delays in completing risk assessments or allowing imports.

Other issues are linked with transparency, regionalization, special and differential treatment

- Transparency: Many importing countries ( trading partners) are introducing new or changed import requirements without providing advance warnings, and/or without sharing sufficient information.
- Regionalisation : Seeking recognition that an exporting region within a country as a disease-free, pest-free, area of low pest prevalence.
- SD&T: special treatment or technical assistance: problems of getting more time to implement measures, treatments, and acceptance of equivalences of alternative methods of testing and alternative measures for providing a level of protection)

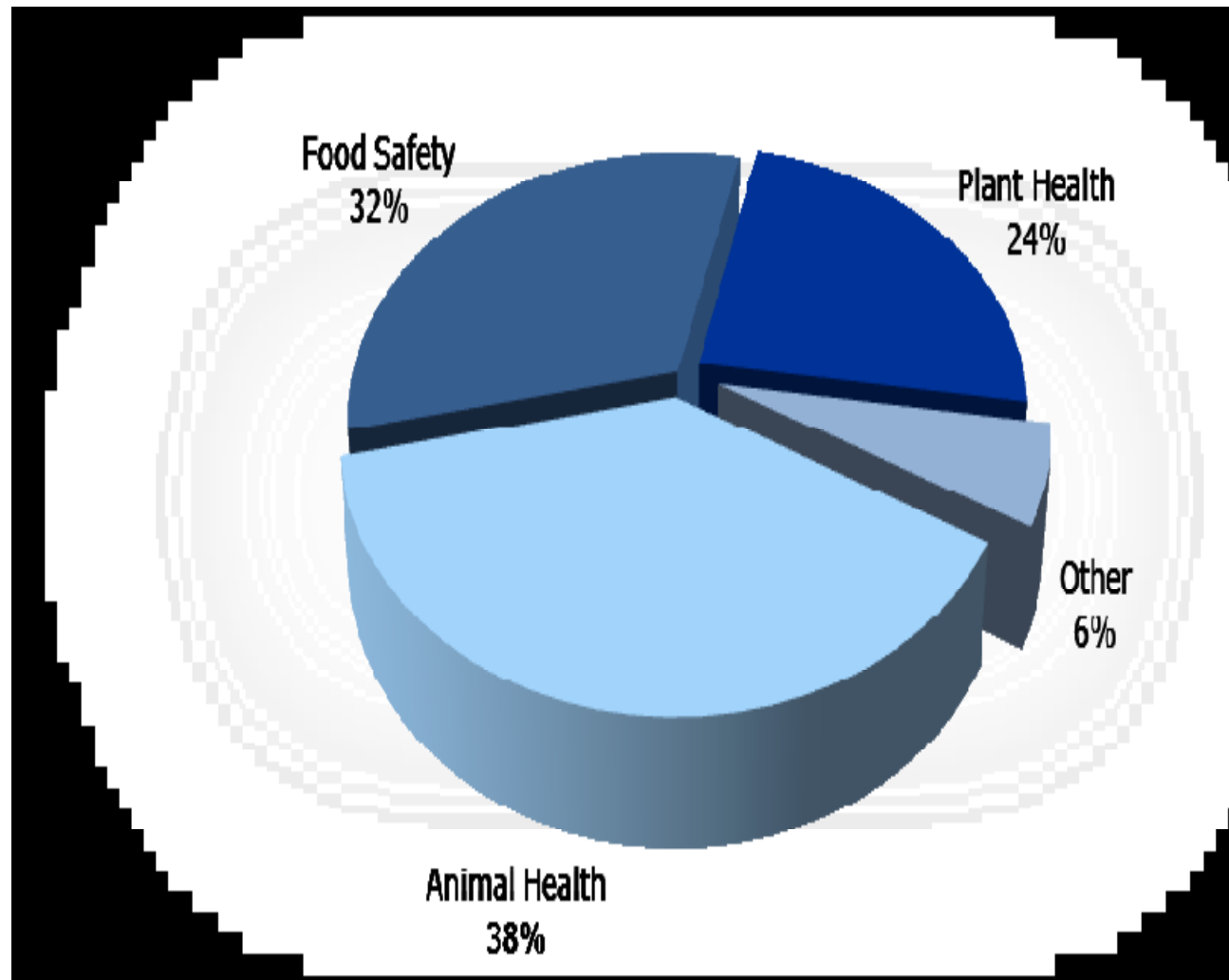
# Specific Trade concerns raised in WTO (between 1995 and 2016)

Together, 416 Specific trade concerns (STCs) have been raised in the 22 years between 1995 and the end of 2016. On many occasions more than one Member has raised, supported or commented on an issue.

Five issues raised by least-developed country Members.

29% of concerns (121 of the total) are related or linked to plant health related phytosanitary measures including some aspects of certification requirements, control or inspection procedures.

Of the concerns on phytosanitary measures are the import restrictions/prohibitions of agricultural product from one or more countries.



# Structure of Specific Trade Concerns raised by WTO Members

Import restrictions/prohibition/ban of some fruits and vegetables, rice, potato, potted plants, wheat, sugarcane, cinnamons

Regulations/directives

Wood packaging materials and Deviation from Implementation of ISPM 15

Phytosanitary requirements of perishable fruits, orchids/ornamental plants, seed potatoes, garlic, onion etc.

PRA requirements

Fumigation standards

Radiation treatment requirement

Inspection and testing procedures/Import clearance practices

Tolerance level of soils on potato tuber

Lack of recognition of PFA

- Quarantine treatments of carrying vehicles, aircraft
- Testing Requirements
- Issuing of Phytosanitary certificate and Authentication
- EuroGAP requirements for Banana
- Varietal restrictions
- Lack of transparency and non-notifications of various SPS measures
- Fruit flies
- Plants in growing media
- Registration and supervision of foreign enterprises
- Entry permits
- High Cost of certification and user fee for quarantine and inspection services
- Delays in risk analysis
- Temporary suspension of import certificates

# Nepal's Fulfilment of Obligations of SPS Agreement

With the promulgation of Plant Protection Act 2007 and the cabinet approval of Plant Protection Regulation 2010, the Directorate of Plant Protection (PPD) under the DoA is designated by GoN as the official NPPO of Nepal and regulatory authority for Plant Protection and thus it is the focal Institutions for IPPC.

The National Plant Quarantine Program(NPQP) under PPD is entrusted with the implementation of the trade related phytosanitary measures to protect the plant diversity and health of plants and assisting producers, exporters and importers by providing entry permits or technically comprehensive and credible phytosanitary certification.

15 entry points (**RPQO, PQCP, PQSCP**) are implementing appropriate phytosanitary measures on imported/exportable consignments (clearance, rejection, re-export, destruction, treatment) at different land borders and Tribhuvan International Airport.

# Transparency Obligation fulfilled by Nepal

As of 15 September 2016, 122 WTO Members had submitted 13,786 regular notifications, 1,784 emergency notifications, and 4,919 addenda and corrigenda to regular and emergency notifications.

US, Brazil, China, Canada, Peru, Korea, EU, Japan, Chile, New Zealand are found to be among the top countries sending regular notifications.

Nearly 16% of each of the type of notified SPS measures (regular and emergency) are related to phytosanitary measures (plant health).

## **Status of Nepal:**

Total of 26 notifications issued (excluding addendums) between 2005 and 2017 May.

**Out of 26 notifications 8 are on phytosanitary measures** covering Acts, regulations, national standards on phytosanitary measures, quarantine pests declarations, regulated disease pests, operational manuals, national pest records, establishment of quarantine check posts, NPPO, compulsory provisions for phytosanitary certificates and

*Status of India: Total of 179 notifications issued between 1995 and May 2017 (42 were related to phytosanitary measures).*

*Surprisingly, Bangladesh has not notified any SPS Notification between 1995 and May 2017.*

**SPS Plus: Dynamic website created by NPQP and it has uploaded all regulatory information including notified and non-notified NSPMs, manuals, survey protocols, pest status (website: <http://www.npqpnepal.gov.np>)**



# Notified and non-notified Phytosanitary Measures

## . Notified:

Phytosanitary Operational manual for Export-Import Certification-Aug 2005

National Pest Status Record of Nepal 2005

Plant Protection Act 2007 and Plant Protection Rules 2010

Quarantine Disease and Pests list- Cut-flower ( gerbera, Carnation) cabbage, cauliflower, Hot Chilli, Large Cardamom, Tea, apple, potato, ginger, garlic, banana, coffee

Regulated disease pests list\_ pumpkin, cucumber, Bitter gourd, Radish

National Standards on Phytosanitary Measures(NSPMs) notified : 16

## , Non-Notified:

NSPMs - around 17;

# Other Achievements so far reported(1)

About 300 quarantine pests of 19 commodities are identified, and regulated

List of 268 regulated pests prepared for commodities like potato, lentil, ginger, apple and garlic

List of target pest species lists for citrus and tea prepared ??

National pest database of 35 important MAPs developed

Survey protocols of fruitflies, citrus canker, citrus greening, and 20 other pests are already prepared

Diagnostic protocols of the quarantine pests of Apple, Banana, Citrus, Coffee, Zinger, Tea, Large Cardamom, and Garlic prepared

Two manuals on laboratory handling techniques for quarantine pests and Identification of seedborne diseases prepared

Two Technical Protocols for Collection and Handling of Insect and disease Samples

# Other Achievements so far reported(2)

One technical guidelines for surveillance of plant pests in natural ecosystem and in agricultural ecosystem (NSPMs)

Directive on domestic quarantine prepared and approved.

Inspections and Surveillance for the interception of these pests are being carried out in all 16 customs points

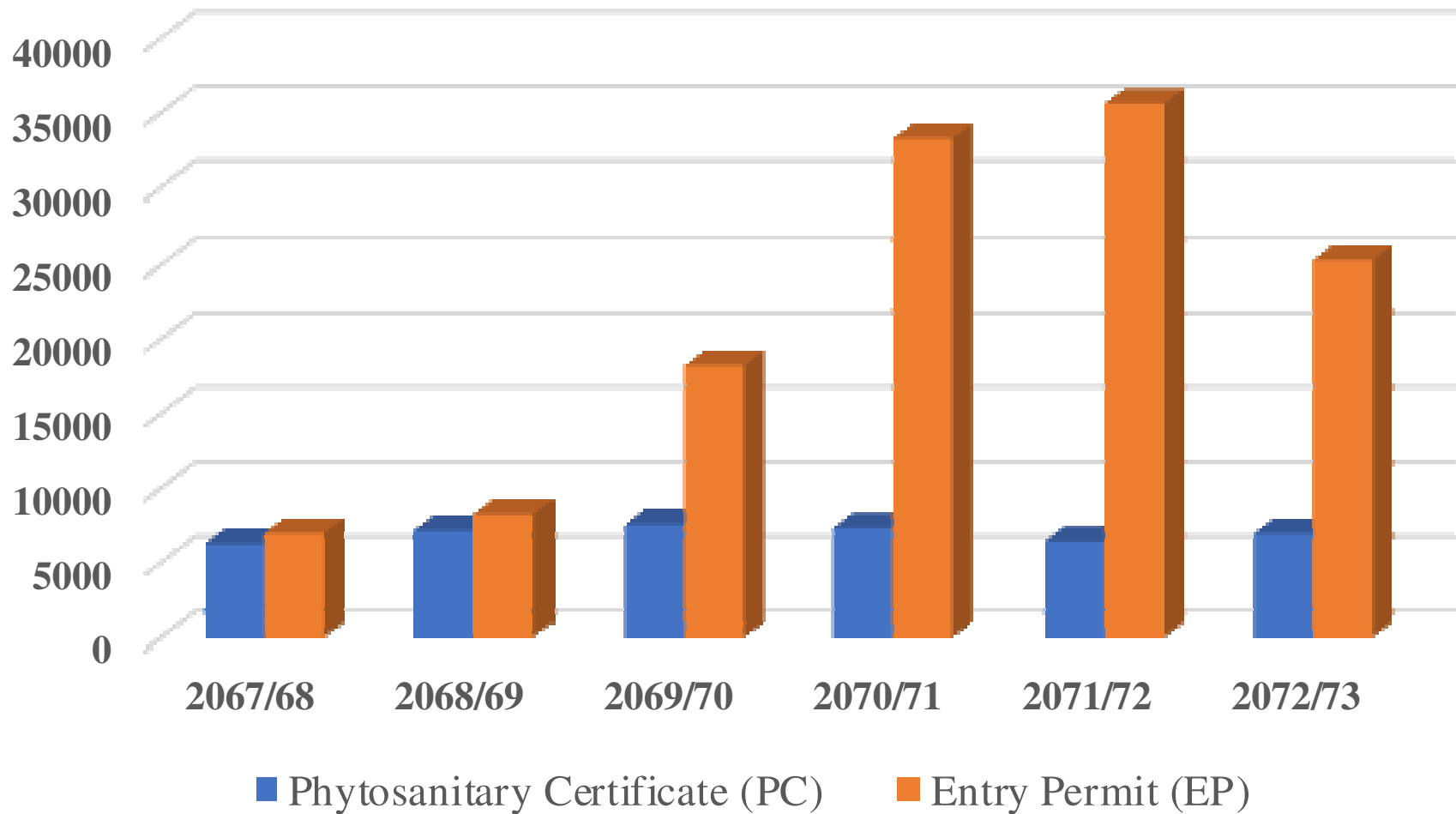
## **Revised Operations Manual for Import and Export Certification – draft readed by WB Consultant**

- Accredited Referral National Plant Pest Diagnostic Laboratory ( Mycology/ Bacteriology , Virology and Entomology, Nematology).
- PQ/SPS laboratories ( diagnostic laboratories)
- **co-located plant quarantine laboratory for and their physical and operational requirements for screening at Birgunj**

# Trend of Issuance of Entry Permits and Phytosanitary Certificates by NPQP ( 2013-2016)

Year	Import		Export	
	No. of Entry Permit issued	Major Commodities	No. of PSC issued	Major Commodities
2070/71 ( 2013-14)	33274	Rice. Potato,fresh Fruits, Maize, Paddy, Fresh Vegetables, Oilseeds, Beetlenuts, spices,	7347	Large Cardamom, le Oilcakes, Beetlenut Tea, Herbs/medicin plants , ginger, Broo sticks, cabbage
2071/72 ( 2014-15)	35624		6445	
2072/73 ( 2015-16)	25343		6950	
<b>Major Trading partners</b>				
		India, Japan, Thailand, Australia, Denmark, China, Korea, Taiwan, Indonesia, Netherlands		India, Bangladesh, Jap UK, Pakistan, US, Ko France, Netherlands, China

## Trend of Phytosanitary Certificate and Import Permit Issued ( No./Yr)



# Export Products of Nepal 2071/72

(as per NPQP Records, and attracting phytosanitary measures)

Products Category/group	Item Nos.
Grain	3
Pulses	1
Oilseeds	1
Fresh Vegetables and Potato	5
Fruits	10
Herbs	49
Spices	8
Seeds	3
Industrial crops	3
Timber products	5
Cutflowers	3
Processed products	6
Flower plants/bulbs	3
Fruit saplings	3
Vegetable nursely plants/saplings	3
Tissue culture plants	1
Others	6
<b>Total product items</b>	<b>113</b>

# Phyto-sanitary Related Trade Issues of Nepal ( Export Front)-1

- Stringent measures have been made effective by major importing countries; many items restricted and many require central permits with PRA, pest free area declarations; ( example of India and China);
- Lack /inadequate consolidated database on pests and trade , which are required to facilitate importing countries to undertake PRAs on commodities in question,
- High cost of compliance ; (high inspection fee and cumbersome formalities/treatments at the destined country and pre-shipment formalities ) applied ,
- Fumigation and heat treatment facilities and services are inadequate or non existing,
- Export certification process is yet to be improved to build more confidence /trust in the safety of the products from quarantine pests amongst trading partner countries; National Phytosanitary Database is managed only through hard copies .
- No sample processing /protective holding facilities existed at the border custom points /TI

# Phyto-sanitary Related Trade Issues of Nepal ( Export Front)-2

- Inadequate diagnostic ability within PC issuing authority (NPQP) and lack of diagnostic and counselling services available for the exporters to gain confidence in meeting regulatory the quarantine regulatory requirements of the importing countries .
- Improved coordination between NPQP/SQCC; NPQP/DPR are expected for smooth and hassle-free issuing of PCs
- There is no place to get the pre-information on the regulatory measures of the importing countries in terms of quarantine pests, additional declarations required and treatments required before exporting any product of trading interest .
- More proactive and facilitative roles of NPPO/NPQP in bilateral negotiations for MRAs, information sharing and quarantine related technical communications at bilateral level are demanded for the promotion and expansion of Nepal's agricultural product export.



# Plant Quarantine Fees/Charges levied by GoI ( as revised till 8 May 2017)

Sl. No	Particulars of Import	Numbers/Weight /Volume	Fee
<b>1</b>	i) Plants/ Planting materials including cuttings, saplings, bud wood, seed sprouts, bulbs, tubers, and corns, rhizomes etc. <b>requiring post entry quarantine</b>	Up to 100 numbers	Rs. 400/-
		Above 100 and up to 1,000 numbers	Rs. 400/- plus Rs. 120/- per hundred numbers or part thereof
		Above 1,000 numbers and up to 10,000 numbers	Rs. 1480/- plus Rs. 800/- per 1,000 numbers or part thereof.
		Above 10,000 numbers	Rs. 8680/- plus Rs. 4500/- per 10,000 numbers or part thereof.
<b>2</b>	Cormlets/ Bulblets of size up to 1 cm diameter <b>requiring post entry quarantine</b>	Up to 1 kg	Rs. 150/-
		1 and up to 10 kg	Rs. 150/- plus Rs. 15/- per kg or part thereof
		Above 10 kg	Rs. 285/- plus Rs. 50/- per 10 kg or part thereof
<b>5</b>	Plant material such as fruits/nuts, seeds/grains/timber etc., for consumption	(i) Up to 2 kg.	Rs. 80/-
		(ii) Above 2 kg up to 100 kg	. Rs. 80/- plus Rs. 8/- per additional kg or part thereof.
		(iii) Above 100 kg up to 1000 kg.	Rs. 860/- plus Rs. 300/- per additional 100 kg or part thereof.
		(iv) Above 1000 kg	Rs. 3500/- plus Rs.200/- per additional 1000 kg or part thereof; in case of pulses-Rs. 4000/- plus Rs.150/- per additional 1000 kg or part thereof.

Note: Fraction of Kg may be rounded off to the nearest unit.

# Fumigation /Disinfection/Disinfestation Charge applied by Govt. of India (as of May 2017)

S. No.	Particulars of Import	No./weight/Volume	Fee/ charge*
1	Plants / Planting materials/ Planting products/Dry fruits/Fresh fruits/ Vegetables/ Seeds/Soil/earth/clay [The importer shall arrange for fumigation, disinfestation of consignment at his cost, under the supervision of Plant Protection Adviser or an officer authorized by him in this behalf]	(A) On volume basis	
		(i) Up to 5 cu.m -	Rs. 500/
		(ii) Above 5 cu.m	Rs. 900/- plus Rs. 4 per additional 5 cu.m part thereof.
		(B) On container basis	
		(i) 20' container (33 cu.m)	Rs. 3600/-
		(ii) 40' Container (66 cu.m)	Rs. 6500/-
	SUPERVISION CHARGES		Rs. 750/- per day per consignment

\* increased in all cases by 50% compared to that of the rate set in 2007

# Products allowed in India with PSCs

## **Schedule VI :- ( with PSC and additional declarations and special conditions/treatments)**

Cereal grains: Rice, wheat, Maize, Barley, Finger millet, Buckwheat, Pearl millet,

Pulses: Lentil, pigeon peas, Brad beans, Beans

Oilseeds: Soyabean, sunflower, safflower, Castor

Vegetables : Onion, garlic, cabbage, cauliflower, brocauli , Raddish

Fruits: Mango, Stonefruits (peach, plum)

Others: Broom Grass, Vanilla, cotton, Flax, Green moss, Ginger

Seeds: Safflower, Job's tear, Finger millet, Raddish, maize, barley, Cucumber, tomato, beans/peas, Ginger rhizome, brassica, plants of chiraita , texas baccata, vanilla

Fruits:\_ apple cuttings/saplings,

Floriculture plants/seeds, bulbs and corms -some

MAPs plants- Texas baccata plants/samplings

Others: stones and Soil

## **Schedule VII: (IMPORTS ARE PERMISSIBLE along with PSC from Nepal )**

Large cardamom, dry Ginger , turmeric, cut-flowers (except rose and carnation), Tea, Roasted coffee beans, Timor, rice bran, dried apple , flax / jute fibres, and some 38 MAPs of Nepal.

# Some important items yet to be allowed from Nepal into India

Potato, Citrus, Apple, Banana, Pears, Lichi, Watermelon, Avocado, strawberries

Okra/Brinjal, Bittergourd, Lettuce, Cucumber, Squash, Tomato, carrot etc

Mushroom,

Many important MAPs of Nepal which are still left out enlisting in the Schedule VII like Padamchal, Amla, Chiraito, Satuwa, Jatamansi pomace, Guchi Chyau, Satabari, Lichen, lemon grass, Dhasingre, etc.

# Example: List of fresh fruits obtaining Inspection and Quarantine access to China (as of Oct, 2015)

<http://en.ciqcid.com/Commodity/plant/68646.htm>

Fruit Variety	Countries
Orange	Thailand, Pakistan, Taiwan, Argentina, Spain, Cyprus, South Africa, Australia/New Zealand, Uruguay, Peru, Morocco, Egypt, (US- new entry and Israel -allowed trial market)
Banana	Thailand, Vietnam, Philippines, Taiwan and Indonesia
Mango	India, Pakistan, Philippines, Burma, Thailand, Panama, Columbia, Costa Rica, Peru, Australia
Litchi	Thailand, Malaysia, Vietnam and Burma
Kiwifruit	Chile, France, Italy , Greece and New Zealand

# Phyto-sanitary Related Trade Issues/Constraints of Nepal (Import Front)-1

- Plant protection Act and Plant Protection regulation still needs to be harmonized and Import permit, Quarantine clearance formalities and SOPs are yet to be in compliances to related NSPMs or IPPC guidelines,
- Inadequate PQ facilities at entry points and post entry points ( inspection rooms, diagnostic labs, treatment facilities, holding yards, incinerators etc); no measures adopted for checking passengers baggage, as required under international practices,
- Nepal has not been able to bring out lists of product and country specific quarantine measures ( additional declaration, restricted or banned ) as done by other countries like India and China.
- Inadequate managerial and diagnostic skills in PQ staff leading , occasionally ,to delays/ confusions, inconsistency/negligence.
- Lack /inadequate consolidated database on pests and trade; and lack of surveillance information,

# Phyto-sanitary Related Trade Issues/Constraints of Nepal (Import Front)-2

- Inadequate quarantine treatment capabilities,
- Inadequate competency in undertaking PRA as prescribed by the ISPM/NSPMs,
- Lack of fully functional diagnostic laboratory designated /accredited for plant pest diagnostics services,
- Insufficient qualified PQ personnel to adequately address PQ Inspection and issues,
- Difficulties in getting round the clock inspection and clearance services,
- Non-existence of post quarantine services
- More facilitative roles of NPPO/NPQP in avoiding delays and speedy release of the imported products- more transparent procedures/ arrangements of availability of round the clock inspection and clearance services in the custom operation hours.

# **SUMMARY OF FINDINGS NTM BUSINESS SURVEY conducted in Nepal by ITC, 2016**

## **(Burdensome NTM Cases)**

Overall, 66% of the burdensome NTM cases ( 744cases) experienced by Nepalese exporters are technical measures ( technical requirements and conformity assessments/certification).

Around 13% are technical requirements are:

- regulations on ‘tolerance limits for residues of or contamination by certain substances’ is the main concern (7%)
- ‘fumigation requirements’ (3%), and
- prohibition or restriction on SPS/TBT grounds (2%).

while 53% relate to conformity assessment.

- difficulties related to product certification (23%)
- testing requirements (23%) followed by
- quarantine requirements (4%).

Survey also suggested that Exporters face more problems proving their compliance to regulations than with the regulations itself.

Compared to the difficulties related to SPS/TBT technical requirements, other issues (Rules of Origin, pre-shipment inspections , border clearance etc) and difficulties are reported to be relatively minor.



# Principal categories of NTM-related trade obstacles for exporters

NTM Chapter	Measure Name and Code	Share
A - Technical requirements	AB3 - Tolerance limits for residues of or contamination by certain substances	7%
	AG3 - Fumigation	3%
	AJ9/1 - Prohibitions or restrictions of products or substances	2%
	A - Other (Labelling, characteristics)	1%
B - Conformity assessment	BA3 - Product certification	23%
	BA2 - Testing	23%
	BC0 - Quarantine	4%
	BA4 - Inspection requirement	2%
	B - Others	1%
C - Pre-shipment inspection and border clearance	C - Pre-shipment inspection and border clearance	3%
D - Trade remedies	D - Trade remedies	1%
E - Quantity control measures	E - Quantity control measures	2%
F - Charges, taxes and price control measures	F - Charges, taxes and price control measures	1%
H - Anti-competitive measures	H - Anti-competitive measures	0%
O - Rules/Certificate of origin	OA0 - Rules of origin and related certificate of origin	4%
P - Export related measures.	PA1 - Export inspection	9%
	PA2 - Certification required by the exporting country	3%
	P - Other	10%
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>100%</b>

# Gaps and constraints

- Gaps and Constraints in the implementation of Plant quarantine System in Nepal have been critically examined in three documents
  - i. Development of Long term action Plan of NPPO , published by PPD/Do
  - ii. Assessment of Existing Plant Quarantine Laboratories under the NPQP and Recommend upgradation requirements for efficient implementation NSPMs, 2016
  - iii. Technical report on Strengthening PPD and Implementation of SPS Laboratories in Kathmandu and Birgunj by SPS Specialist ,NIRTTP/ MoC,2017
- And also in an assessment report of Phyto-sanitary concerns in relation to MAPS export from Nepal prepared for NEHHPA in 2017
- First document has explicitly identified the overall thrust areas and priority actions to be initiated by NPPO and NPQP in short and longer terms and pointed out some weaknesses, constraints and issues , and amendments required in the plant Protection Act and Plant Protection Rules , coordination roles for NNPO. In addition, a few more critical gaps have been spelt out strongly in later three reports and some key recommendations have also been made..

# Gaps and weaknesses in Current Plant Quarantine System

Gists of some major capacity gaps and weaknesses in current Plant Quarantine System in Nepal in relation to WTO compliance, as sited in the World Bank report are:

The SPS system for plant export and import is neither well developed nor coordinated in terms of policies, capacities and operations.

Regulatory agencies and laboratories suffer from frequent rotation of staff.

Import inspection protocol is barely in place.

Lack of functional laboratories of plant quarantine and post- entry quarantine facilities.

Insufficient capacity in plant pest surveillance and diagnostics.

# Trade Facilitation Measures Advocated Globally

Trade facilitation is closely related with SPS measures, because many SPS measures are de facto facilitation measures

The TFA will cut compliance costs to implement the SPS measures.

- These costs include unnecessary measures, excessive documentary requirements, inefficient procedures, long inspection times and advance application periods; inadequate transparency, predictability and consistency in the implementation of SPS controls. These costs might be direct (e.g. preparation and submission of documents, charges and fees, inspection costs) or indirect (e.g. border delays, uncertainty about procedures and requirements, inadequate or contradictory documentation).

OECD, 2013 study estimated these costs from import and export-related procedures and documents are estimated to vary from 1-15 per cent of a product's cost, depending on the nature of the product. These costs are quite high for agricultural products and food, which constitute most exports of countries like Nepal and it is even higher for perishable foods, such as fresh seafood, meat, vegetables, and fruits). for low and lower middle-income countries:

- harmonising and simplifying documents would reduce trade costs by 2.7 -3 percent
- streamlining procedures would bring further trade cost reductions of around 2.3 percent
- ensuring the availability of trade-related information, such as SPS standards, for example, would generate cost savings of between 1.4-1.6 percent .

# Trade Facilitation Agreement and SPS Measures

Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) was adopted in Dec 2013 , Nepal also ratified it in early 2017 it has come into force .

Trade facilitation, in relation to phytosanitary purposes, could be described as simplification or elimination of certifications/ approval procedures or lifting of restrictions/ban of import etc., in order to move goods in cross-border trade more efficiently

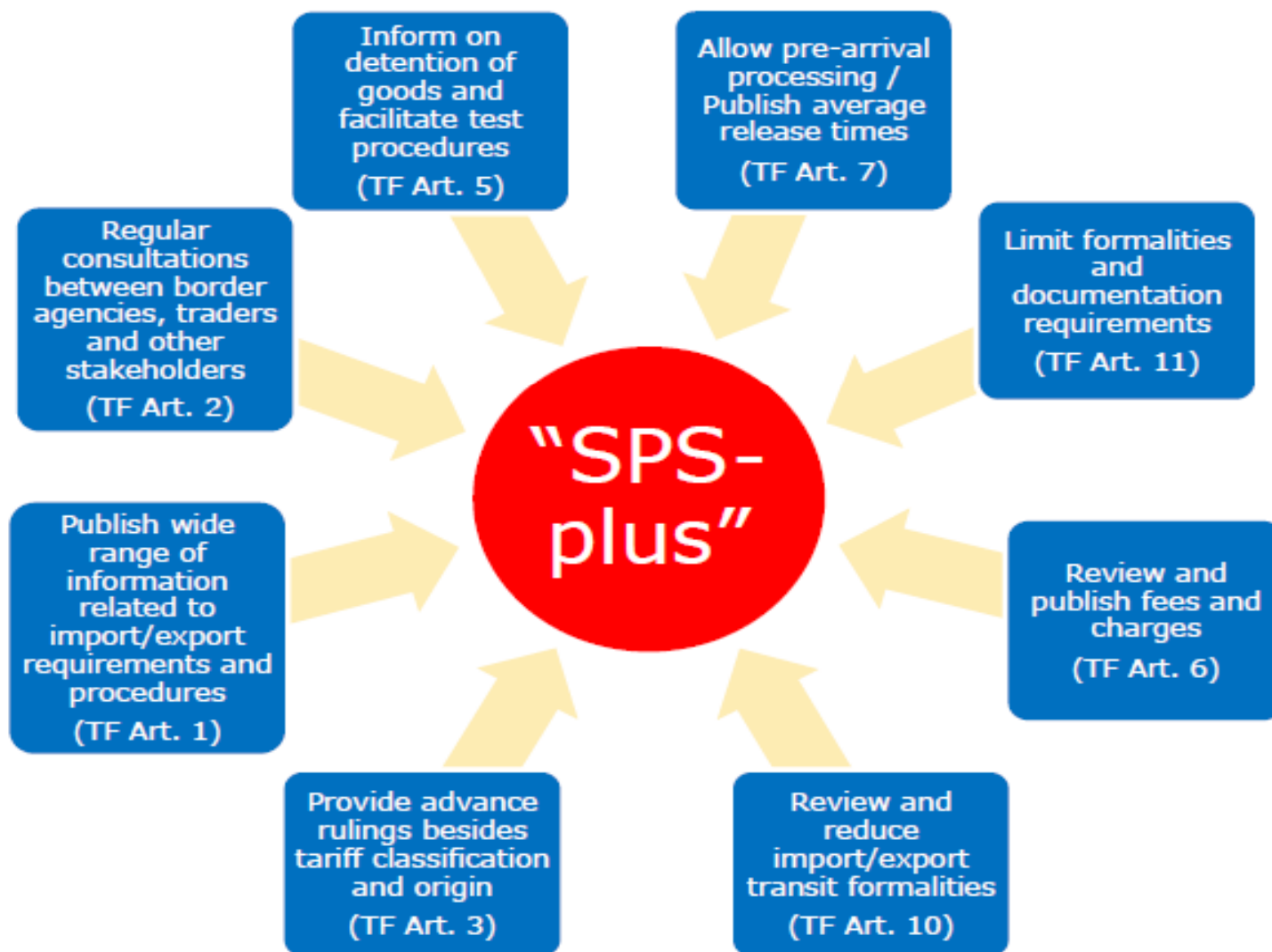
The TF Agreement concerns all border agencies – not just customs authorities.

Some provisions are conflicting with SPS Agreement, but the Agreement did include language to - *Nothing in this TF Agreement shall be construed as diminishing the rights and obligations of Members under the Agreements of SPS and TBT.*, to address the conflicts .

Implementation of the TF Agreement can contribute to facilitating trade in goods and consider that there is often room for streamlining SPS measures and their application), for example,

- by making import requirements more accessible through IT uses and internet publication,
- by reviewing and reducing formalities,
- by allowing advance filing of import documents so that processing can begin before the goods arrive.
- by providing more fairness in border procedures, for example
  - i. by requiring authorities to inform the importer when goods are detained, allowing the possibility of a second test, and*
  - ii. protecting importers interests in the application of an import alert system.*

# Examples of SPS Plus Provisions contained in the Trade Facilitation Agreement



# National Capacity Building Efforts for Compliance of Phytosanitary Measures and Trade Facilitation

Construction of the fumigation chamber and post quarantine facilities at Kirtipur to be completed ( 2017-18), under the PACT Project of MOAD/WB.

Construction of a new Joint Regional Plant Protection Laboratory and SPS Laboratory within the premise of DoA, expected to start this year and completed within mid 2019.

Establishment of co-located labs at Bhairahawa : A building has been built by the GoI for the new co-located lab at Birgunj Integrated Check Post (ICP), and commissioning of the new facility is expected to take place by within 2017

A study is planned for 2017 on traditional trans-border trades in the context of SPS issues and provide practical recommendations for policies, strategies and plan of actions in the Nepalese context to address the SPS issues. (NIRTTP/PCO/PPD/S/IND-43 )

Initiation of a 3 Years project ( 2017-2019) on Pest Surveillance in six major agricultural crops and three major medicinal and aromatic plants of Nepal ( NIRTTP/PCO/PPD/S/CQS-45 ):

- Agricultural Crops : Large cardamom, ginger, tea, coffee, tomato, apple.
- NTFPs : Cinnamon/Tejpat, Wild asparagus and Chiraito



## **Suggestive Future Thrust Areas (1)**

Role clarity or redefining of roles of NPPO, PPD and NPQP in the changed context of Federal governance structure and development of SPS plus measures under the WTO/Trade Facilitation Agreement ; proposes to review and amend the Plant Protection Act and Plant Protection Regulation.

Effort to provide sufficient posts and placement of qualified personnel for surveillance, diagnosis of pests and diseases ;and quarantine inspection and certifications and implement the already approved Action Plan.

Full implementation of adopted NSPMs by NPPO/PPD and NPQP

Awareness and sensitization to be conducted for all players involved in agricultural/forest based value chain at all levels starting at national level with Parliamentarians, government officials, local bodies , Private /cooperative sector, farmers and concerned stakeholders .

Updating of National Pest Database and establishing National pest repository/library, with specimens , for quick referrals.

As apart of trade facilitation, introduce E-phyto certification system

Address informal trade concerns: raise awareness; give assistance to comply with applicable measures and regulations;



## Suggestive Future Thrust Areas ( 2)

Encourage private sector/research institutions for establishing diagnostic services quarantine treatment facilities , and facilitate accreditation of laboratories

Increase representation in international /regional meetings /fora to appraise Nepal's updated status in phytosanitary measures and standard formulation exercises .

Prepare and participate in bilateral negotiations with existing and potential trading partners for trade facilitation and for resolving issues related to phyto-sanitary measures

Capacity Building in terms of infrastructures:

- Improvement of existing diagnostic laboratories like RPPL and RPQOS and establishment of a . Modernized central reference laboratory and accreditation of those laboratories ,

Capacity building of the staff (through training and exposures)

- Quarantine inspection/certifications, diagnostic works
- Survey and surveillances required for declaring Pest Free Area and Area of Low Pest and Disease Prevalence; PRA and E-certification and online services

Operationalize the plant quarantine measures in complementarity with the measures to be taken under the TFA.

# Quick Implementation of NSPMs Required

## NPPO/NPQP staff

NSPM 32: Categorisation of Commodities according to their pest risks, 2013

NSPM 11: PRA for quarantine pests 2013

NSPM 14: The use of integrated measures in a system approach for pest risk management 2013

NSPM 17: Pest reporting 2013

NSPM 21: PRA for regulated non-quarantine pests 2013

NSPM 29: [Recognition of pest free areas and areas of low pest prevalence](#) (approved),

NSPM 34: Design and Operation of Post-entry Quarantine Stations for Plants, 2013

NSPM 35: System Approach for Pest Risk Management for fruit flies, 2013

NSPM 36: Integrated measures for plants for planting

- **Plant Quarantine Inspection and PQ labs**
- NSPM 23: Guidelines for Inspection
- NSPM 31 : Methodologies for sampling of consignments (approved),
- NSPM : Technical guidelines for sampling in consignment including NTFPs
- NSPM : Standard technical protocol for collection and handling of disease samples (in the process of approval),
- NSPM : Standard technical protocol for collection and handling of insect samples (in the process of approval),

# Some Important ISPMs and RSPMs –adoption requirements

## ISPMs

ISPM 13: Guidelines for the notification of non-compliance and emergency actions

ISPM 25: Consignment in Transit

Drafting of new NSPMs for phytosanitary audit; authentication of pest surveillance reports required.

## RSPMs

RSPM 1: Guidelines for the development of heat treatments of fruit fly host commodities

RSPM 2: Training requirement for plant quarantine inspectors

RSPM 5: Guidelines for the establishment and application of emergency action and emergency measures

RSPM 8: Guidelines on the operation of land border entry point for local trade

RSPM 10: Approval of fumigation facilities

Thank You