

# The Agreement on Sanitary & Phytosanitary (SPS) Measures

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# WTO in one Equation

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$$P=C-DS-ES+IT$$

OR

$$P=C-DS$$

# **Objective of SPS Measures**

***Protection of Animal, Plant &  
Human health from risks  
arising from  
animal & plant carried diseases***

# Agreement on SPS Measures

- Requiring products to come from disease free areas
- Inspection of products mandatory
- Specific treatment or processing of products
- Setting of allowable maximum levels of pesticide residues

SPS measures by their very nature, involve restrictions on trade

# Scope of the Agreement on SPS Measures

- The agreement defines SPS measures as measures taken to protect human, animal or plant life or health -
  - From risks arising from the entry, establishment or spread of pests, diseases, disease carrying organisms or disease causing organisms
  - From risks arising from additives, contaminants, toxins or disease causing organisms in food, beverages and feedstuffs
  - From diseases carried by animals, plants or products thereof

# Current Trends in SPS Measures Worldwide

- Growing use of risk analysis in World trade
- Establishing public health as a primary goal of food safety regulation
- Emphasis on farm-to-fork approach in addressing food safety hazards
- Adopting the HACCP system as a basis for new regulation of microbial pathogen in foods
- Increasing stringency of standards for many food safety hazards
- Adding new and more extensive regulation to handle the new identified hazards
- Improving market performance in food through provision of information

# Implications of SPS Measures for International food Trade

- Potential for convergence around higher standards
- Appearance of new hazard could lead to food safety disputes in trade
- Voluntary information disclosure to facilitate trade when standards differ among countries
- Rising standards to create difficulties for developing countries
- Strong differences with respect to the role of non-science issues in regulatory decision making

# International Standards

- Codex ALIMENTARIUS Commission for food safety
  - Membership for over 160 countries
  - Developed the Codex Alimentarius (CA) a collection of international food standards for all principle food products
  - India has passively adopted CA and does not have any process for developing international standards although a National Codex Committee and a Central Committee for Food Standards exists

# International Standards

- There is an urgent need to arm Indian Committees with infrastructure for testing the international standards for their suitability to the Indian situation and developing standards, which would be in interest of Indian agriculture

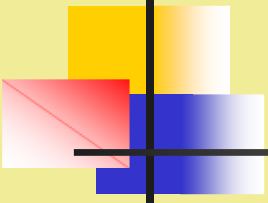
# Requirement of Documentation in Future for Export

- Organic Certification
- Eurepgap Certification
- HACCP Accreditation
- Pack House Accreditation
- Pesticide residue testing report
- Pest risk analysis report
- Source of Origin Report (IPR)
- ISO for Cold Storage
- AGMARK Certification

# Strategies / Action Plans for SPS Management

1. Participate in International standard-setting process
2. Develop appropriate legislation and standards
3. Conduct basic research, diagnosis and analysis
4. Develop / apply quarantine procedures, including those for emergency situations
5. Accredite food and pesticide residue testing laboratories
6. Develop / maintain pest or disease free areas
7. Notify WTO / trading partners on new SPS measures
8. Apply GAP, GMP, HACCP & QM at farm & enterprise level

# **Action Plan to Meet Quality Concerns to meet sanitary & phytosanitary measures / Codex alimentarius standards**



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- To present jointly state views on SPS meeting their concerns
- To fight for acceptable codex standards for the states.
- To work towards achieving present standards.
- To share experiences of states in residue testing - Maharashtra's experience of three years.
- To enforce SPS along with post quarantine inspections for imports for equity.
- To present acceptable and workable standards to WTO through GOI.

# Immediate Action Plan

## Initiating commodity wise studies under WTO

1. Identification of commodities with especial interest to each state.
2. To take up commodity specific study for SPS
3. Study of international market, its size, spread, number of players, their strengths and weaknesses.
4. Discovering respective domestic supports, exports subsidies, import tariffs imposed by respective players in international marketing.
5. Presenting a joint front before GoI on each commodity.
6. Commodity specific national level groups with MoA, MoC & MoF representatives to be insisted upon.

Thank you