

South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation Program

“Identification of Potential Export Items Facing  
SPS and TBT Measures in the SASEC Subregion”

Session 1: Background to the  
National Diagnostic Studies

SASEC Subregional Workshop on  
Sanitary-phytosanitary and Technical  
Barriers to Trade Diagnostic Studies

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## Background

- Reduction in tariffs has led to the rise of non-tariff measures (NTMs).
- NTMs include standards and technical regulations, **especially Sanitary/Phytopsanitary and Technical Barriers to Trade (SPS/TBT)**.
- Establishment of WTO has led to greater reliance on using SPS/TBT and other NTMs: SASEC member countries are not an exception.
- To promote subregional integration among SASEC countries by removing all remaining barriers, a need has been identified to develop mutual cooperation processes in SPS/TBT-related issues.

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## Objectives of the Diagnostic Study

- **National diagnostic studies:** to understand specific needs of SASEC countries.
- **Regional diagnostic study:** to identify common issues and challenges to facilitate coordinated regional responses.
- Identify specific items with potential for exports from the SASEC country but subject to SPS/TBT measures of importing countries.
- Identify current infrastructure capacity/ constraints, and present prioritized recommendations for necessary future investments.
- Identify priority national and regional capacity-building activities in the area of standards and regulations.

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## Detailed Tasks Carried Out

- List of products (at 6-digit HS level) that have potential to be exported but are either not being traded or traded negligibly within SASEC countries.
- Detailed gap analysis, identifying areas of non-alignment or conflict between national legislation, local practices, and international best practice.
- Identify SPS/TBT measures that exist in the exporting and importing countries and the gaps in standards through a survey of exporters.
- Recommend possible measures to address SPS/TBT constraints within the overall framework of the WTO and regional integration.

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## Detailed Tasks Carried Out (2)

- Propose actions through initiatives such as MRAs, harmonization of standards and procedures and regionalization.
- Identify SPS and TBT infrastructure constraints at the national level.
- Collate broad-based national inventory of all bilateral, multilateral, and development partners' initiatives in SPS/TBT.
- Identify human capacity constraints.
- Determine need for a national database of SPS/TBT standards, legislation, and procedures.

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## Detailed Methodology for NDS

Identification of potential export items that could not be exported due to SPS/TBT measures:

Using the latest five years trade data, identify top 100 items at 6 digit HS level:

- Which are being exported to world markets where the import share the individual SASEC members are less than or equal to 20%;
- Where the exporting country unit value of exports is lesser than the importer country's unit value of imports.

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## Detailed Methodology for NDS (2)

The summary table should provide the following:

S. No	HS Code	Description	Export value of X to M	Global export value of X	UV exports of X	Global import value of M	UV imports of M	X Share of exports in M (in %) [(4)/(7)]
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)

$X$  = country of exports,  $M$  = importing country.

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## Detailed Methodology for NDS (3)

To understand existing gaps in standards/ regulations, identify the SPS/TBT measures of exporting and importing country on the identified items:

S. No	HS Code	Description	SPS/TBT measures of X	Details of SPS/TBT agency of X	SPS/TBT measures of M	Is SPS/TBT of M based on international standard?	Details of SPS/TBT agency of M	Details of procedural obstacles in X	Details of procedural obstacles in M
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)

$X$  = country of exports,  $M$  = importing country.

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**Thank you!**

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