

## Introduction

In order to prepare for the forthcoming **Workshop on Electronic Exchange of SPS certificates for Better Trade Control and Facilitation** in Wuhan, China on 21-22 October, you are kindly requested to provide fill in this questionnaire and provide a short briefing to the workshop.

Please provide information as much as possible, and provide links to online sources whenever available. You may coordinate with other participants and consult your colleagues and relevant experts from your country to complete the questionnaire. Please note that the information provided by participants will be analysed in an aggregated manner and vigorous data validation measures will be taken, so the individual names of respondents will not be publicized.

Please send the filled-in questionnaire to Ms. Maame Agyeben, Associate Economic Affairs Officer, Trade Facilitation Unit, ESCAP ([agyeben@un.org](mailto:agyeben@un.org), cc. [aptff@un.org](mailto:aptff@un.org)) as soon as possible but no later than by **19 October 2015**.

## Section A

### Information on the respondent

Name : Mohammad  
Kamrul Islam  
Chowdhury

Job Title :  
Deputy  
Secretary,  
Ministry of  
Commerce

Organization :  
Deputy Secretary,  
Trade Organization-  
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Email :  
[kamrul\\_ic@yahoo.com](mailto:kamrul_ic@yahoo.com)

Country :  
Bangladesh

Telephone  
(optional): +88  
01711391418



## Section B

### SPS Institutional & Regulatory Framework

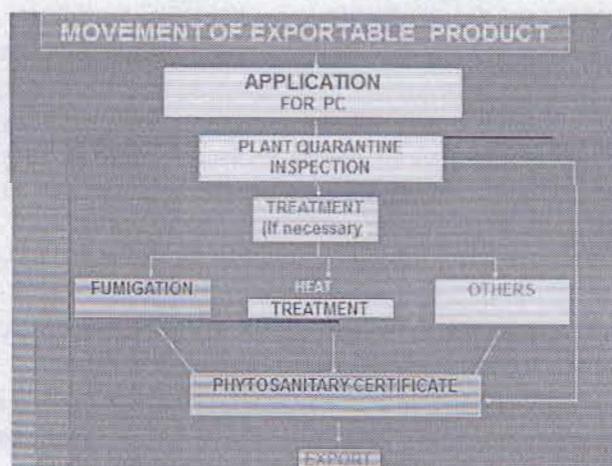
- Outline the key actors, agencies, departments and Ministries involved in the issuance of sanitary and/ or phytosanitary (SPS) certificates:

The agencies and departments are involved in the issuance of SPS certificates are:

- Plant Quarantine Wing, Department of Agricultural Extension under the Ministry of Agriculture
  - Department of Livestock under the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries
  - Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institute (BSTI) under the Ministry of Industries.
- What are the responsibilities of each of these departments? [Which organizations are responsible for food safety, animal health and plant health?]
    - The issuance of phytosanitary certificate (PC), issuance of import permit (IP)
    - The issuance health certificate
  - Please include an organigram, where possible.

Shown in Presentation

- Describe and outline the processes of application, issuance and exchange of sanitary and/or phytosanitary certificates (SPS) in your country. Please include an organigram and process chart/workflow, where possible.



- Are there other public or private certification agencies issuing Certificates for agri-food exports to comply with requirements of importing countries? Please specify and indicate the Certificates being issued.

- No



- Describe and outline the process of transmission of sanitary and/or phytosanitary certificates (SPS) to the importing country. Is this handled by the exporter (e.g., sent by courier to importer)?
  - Handle by exporter
- Describe and outline the process of submission of sanitary and/or phytosanitary certificates (SPS) to the quarantine office in your country. Are there means to verify the authenticity of the SPS certificate?
  - Sanitary or Phytosanitary Certificates are submitted to the Quarantine Office at the point of entry in our country. The means of verification of authenticity of certificates is electronic media.
- Does your country have specific legislation or regulations governing SPS activities? Kindly note the most relevant.
  - Yes we have specific legislation, viz;
    - Plant Quarantine Act, 2011
    - Animal Quarantine Act, 2005
    - Food Safety Act, 2013

## Section C

### SPS Capacity and Compliance

- Are your inspection and certification systems compliant with international standards and measures, particularly under the WTO SPS Agreement? Please specify: fully compliant, partially compliant or not yet compliant.
  - Codex Alimentarius (food safety/ sanitary) guidelines
    - Partially compliant
  - IPPC (plant health/ phytosanitary) Standards (e.g. ISPM 12, 11, 21, 23)
    - Compliant
  - OIE (animal health) Terrestrial Code for certification (eg. Section 5)
    - Partially compliant
- If partially compliant or not yet compliant, where are the major challenges and bottlenecks?
  - The activities of Codex Alimentarius Commission and OIE have started recently.
- What are the key challenges and issues faced by your country in SPS compliance? [Some examples might include: limited laboratory and diagnostic capacity; lack of access to information on importing country requirements; human resources; financial constraints, other].
  - Yes we have limited laboratory and diagnostic capacity; lack of access to information on importing country requirements; human resources; financial constraints etc.



- Does your country have a risk-based analysis and inspection of traded agri-food products? Kindly outline some features of your country's risk-based system.
  - We have started pest risk analysis of our imported agricultural commodities.
- Does your country currently have projects and initiatives in place to improve the SPS systems? Kindly outline the scope of the project, the funding sources and the partners involved.
  - A project for plant health titled "Strengthening Phytosanitary Capacity in Bangladesh" is being implementing for building capacity of phytosanitary related stakeholders and procuring of laboratory equipment. The project is funded by Government of Bangladesh.
- Are there projects or initiatives undertaken by the private sector to ensure compliance to SPS and other certification requirements of the importing countries?
  - Not applicable

#### Section D

#### Automation and Electronic SPS certificates

- Are any of the procedures and systems for the application and issuance of SPS certificates in your country automated?
  - Not yet but we are in the process of automation.

Does your country have any initiatives for electronic exchange of the SPS certificates? If so, in which sector and exchange with which countries?

- Not yet but in plant health sector we are preparing to establish electronic exchange
- Are the quarantine agencies at the border crossing points able to receive SPS certificates electronically?
  - Not yet

What are the benefits of receiving the SPS certificate electronically?

- Ensure authenticity and eliminate fraud
- Advanced verification on compliance to import requirements
- Enhance risk management
- Ensure animal/plant health and food safety
- Facilitate quarantine clearance
- Others : \_\_\_\_\_

- Not applicable