SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY COMPLIANCE IN AFGHANISTAN

Locations Afghanistan

Dates 01/07/2020 - 30/06/2022

Summary Afghanistan, being the newest World Trade Organization member, needs to comply with sanitary and phytosanitary measures to meet the demands of international standards for exports. However, currently, no reliable sanitary and phytosanitary system (SPS) exists in Afghanistan. In this project, CABI is working with USDA to launch online learning courses to improve the understanding and capacity of the Government of Afghanistan (GoA) and regulatory agencies to comply with SPS international standards. It will enhance the use of science and risk-based methodology to support GoA’s phytosanitary decision-making.
The problem

Afghanistan is the 164th member of the World Trade Organization (WTO), an organization that is focused on dealing with trade rules between nations, ensuring trade flows smoothly between its member countries.

As a country, Afghanistan produces a variety of high-quality fresh fruits and dried tree nuts which have good potential for export to international markets. However, currently, there is no reliable sanitary and phytosanitary system (SPS) in place to meet the stringent SPS requirements for international trading. This can, therefore, cause barriers for exporters and producers in trade where shipments from Afghanistan get blocked, consumers’ trust in Afghan produce reduced, and ultimately affect Afghan’s agriculture production system and its economy.

To trade successfully at an international level, preventative approaches along the food value chain need to be adopted. These preventative approaches require a quarantine network and laboratories where the country’s agricultural produce can be inspected for pests and diseases based on SPS measures.

What we are doing

To avoid the risk of rejected shipments, the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL) in Afghanistan needs to establish a well-functioning SPS system. It is essential to increase the technical capacity of the Ministry’s Plant Protection and Quarantine Department (PPQD) and other stakeholders in the value chain which will consequently improve Afghanistan’s SPS system to facilitate trade.

CABI has partnered with the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Foreign Agricultural Service (USDA-FAS) which works to maintain a level playing field in the international marketplace. USDA provides developing-country partners support on complying with internationally recognized trade standards and work to resolve specific trade issues through technical assistance, training and exchanges.

This project intends to improve the understanding and capacity of the Government of Afghanistan (GoA) and regulatory agencies to comply with SPS international standards. It will enhance the use of science and risk-based methodology to support GoA’s phytosanitary decision making.

For CABI, the objective of this project is to enhance inter-ministerial and public collaboration and coordination on SPS measures with a particular focus on increasing adoption and implementation of SPS measures and systematic monitoring and management of SPS risks and improvements among agri-businesses.

CABI will act as the lead implementing partner of this project and will work with MAIL, PPQD and other related ministries and private sector stakeholders to obtain feedback and opportunities for expected scale-up of SPS measures.

The project work plan includes online training courses which will support the effort to integrate SPS good principles in trade along agricultural value chains in Afghanistan. CABI will help to deliver these courses and an initial baseline study will be carried out to determine which modules to include.
The project started in July 2020. The initial baseline study will soon be carried out and will encompass all potential aspects including: resources, talent, procedures, pedagogic, practice and constraints related to SPS measures.

Related project blogs:

- CABI supports Afghanistan government in compliance of SPS measures for safe exports
- Ceremony held to launch project to improve Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) capacity in Afghanistan
- CABI to liaise with MAIL and PPQD for improving Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) capacity in Afghanistan
- Improved Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) system for Afghanistan: Need of the hour

Donors
United States Agency for International Development (USAID), United States Department of Agriculture, Foreign Agricultural Service (USDA-FAS)

Partners
Plant Protection and Quarantine Department (PPQD), Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL), Texas A&M University

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