

Environmental requirements and Bangladesh horticulture sector

Status:

- 1. Products and production** - describe nature of Bangladesh horticulture sector: products, production (subsistence/organic/contract farming/SMEs) and transportation/storage methods and domestic/export markets
 - subsistence production, commercial production and seed production
 - seasonal crops to importing countries, production of vegetables is lower than domestic demand.
 - Two marketing channels for vegetables and fruits: producer-trade-retailer-consumer; and producer-trader-wholesaler/commercial agent-small-holder/retailer-consumer.
 - seasonal price fluctuation for vegetables and fruits.
 - no formal road transportation system, exporters have natural preferences to use national airlines. Use of other airlines could increase exports in the Middle East.
 - contract farming- Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC)
- 2. National (Bangladesh) requirements** - describe mandatory regulations and voluntary standards applied to the horticulture sector in Bangladesh.
 - phytosanitary certificates are issued by the Plant Protection Wing of the Department of Agricultural Extension under the Ministry of Agriculture for all horticultural crops going out of the country.
 - EUREP-GAP
 - certification requirements under the Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institute (BSTI).
 - other related environmental regulations in Bangladesh-(Plant Protection Act 1998-drafted, not in force)
 - Constitutional rights (right to life under the Constitution, The Supreme Court establishes right to a healthy environment in Bangladesh)
- 3. Export market requirements** - describe environmental requirements that the Bangladesh horticulture sector faces in export markets: what are the mandatory and voluntary requirements, at the national, regional and international level, including accompanying procedures to assess compliance.
 - main export markets: UK, Saudi Arabia, main ethnic markets
 - UK: Phytosanitary/plant health certificate –issued by Plant Health authority in the exporting country. Certificate of conformity: 42 produces from non-EU exporting countries.
 - Fresh produces from Bangladesh to UK are not legally mandated for conformity certificate yet.
 - Saudi Arabia-plant health certificate (mandatory requirement)-issued by government department of export agency.
 - UAE, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, Oman: similar to Saudi Arabia.

4. **Institutions and decision-making procedure** - describe national institutional structure and how export-related decisions are made in Bangladesh in the horticulture sector.

-National enquiry point: WTO Cell (advised by a National advisory committee and assisted by the WG on Agriculture, SPS and other related matters. WG on Trade and services; WG on TRIPs, TRIMs and TBT; WG on market access; WG on Customs, valuation and PSI and others.

-Department of Agricultural Extension

-Plant Protection Wing of DAE

-Export promotion Bureau

-Bangladesh Foreign Trade Institute

-Bangladesh Tariff Commission

5. **Stakeholders** - describe nature and level of support from Bangladesh government, private/business, academia and NGOs, including public interest sector.

-**Government:** Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Industries.

-**Private sector:** Chamber of Commerce and Industries, various product specific organisations, Agri-business Development Organisation of Bangladesh

-**Academia:** Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibar Rahman Agricultural University, Bangladesh Agriculture University.

-**Public interest organisations:** Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute, Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation, PROSHIKA, BRAC.

6. **Regional fora** - describe the regional fora that Bangladesh does or could participate in to assist the country in identifying export opportunities, technical support towards initiating and implementing regulations/standards and training of producers/suppliers.

-South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)

-Association for South-east Asian Nations (ASEAN)

-Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)

Challenges:

7. Describe challenges stemming from 1-6

a. Products and production

Testing (no testing lab in Bangladesh), certification, quality management, excess costs, small and medium sized enterprise (SMEs); lack of cost-benefit analysis (market analysis/research); lack of product diversity;

b. National (Bangladesh) requirements

Lack of equivalent regulations, standards and assessment procedures, health and safety related regulation.

c. **Export market requirements**

Traceability, Maximum residue level (MRL), food safety, food quality, hygiene, multiple standards, social issues such as child labour and labour rights.

d. **Institutions and decision-making procedure**

-Coordination in government bodies and in-between various institutions.
-Need to identify clear decision making process.

e. **Stakeholders**

-awareness, recognition; training; physical infrastructure; institutional capacity building.

f. **Regional fora**

-available funds in regional fora,

Action:

8. Describe action stemming from 7.

a. **Products and production**

b. **National (Bangladesh) requirements**

c. **Export market requirements**

d. **Institutions and decision-making procedure**

e. **Stakeholders**

f. **Regional fora**

-cooperation from other regional bodies.

Fora for action:

9. **International:** CTE Submission under either (a) paragraph 32(i) or (ii) paragraph 33; TBT and SPS; ISO; Codex

10. **Regional:** APEC; ASEAN, SAARC

11. **National:** develop adjustment policy

Comments from floor: lack of strategic direction in the paper; identify organisations in Bangladesh and examples of success (or not) stories (BADC, Sugar and food industries corporation); details of every elements on what action should be taken. Case study based study.

-what happens in a consignment based shipment-no contract required for such export?

-other export products (mushroom, broccoli, asparagus) and high end market.

-education and involvement of media.

-methodology-analysis of the questionnaire/responses