

**Research Consultant  
Terms of Reference**

**Appendix 2**

Contract No.	
Requesting Unit/s	Human Resource and Finance Unit
Area of Expertise	Regional Sanitary and Phytosanitary Regulatory Regime: Developing a Framework for Mutual Recognition and Electronic Exchange of SPS Certificates in CAREC
Category	International Consultant

**A. Background:**

Sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures are measures applied on agriculture, fishery, food, or forestry products to protect humans, animals, and plants from pests, disease, or contaminants. These measures are implemented in three sectors – food safety, animal health and plant health – which are governed by international standard-setting bodies, namely, Codex Alimentarius Commission ('Codex'), World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), and the Secretariat of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC). SPS measures may be applied at international borders or inland freight terminals where goods entering a country are released. The World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement) provides the normative framework for such measures, emphasizing that these should not result in unnecessary barriers to trade.

It is in this context that the CAREC Ministers endorsed in 2015, the Common Agenda for the Modernization of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures for Trade (CAST). Since then, CAREC has implemented initiatives to modernize SPS to ensure protection while facilitating trade. This includes the need for a comprehensive approach based on effective information-sharing, streamlining of procedures, and genuine collaboration among all trade-related agencies including customs and SPS agencies at the borders. This remains relevant and consistent with the WTO's Trade Facilitation Agreement which provides for use of international standards, single window and uniform documentation requirements (Article 10 on formalities connected with importation, exportation and transit). A central feature of documentation for goods subjected to SPS measures is the certificate giving assurance that the goods comply with the appropriate SPS requirements.

Under the CAREC Integrated Trade Agenda (CITA) 2030, identified interventions include the study of a potential mutual recognition or accreditation of SPS certificates to facilitate trade, focusing on perishable goods. The aim is to tap the tremendous potential for increased agriculture trade and support CAREC countries in integrating further into the global economy.

At the inaugural meeting of the CAREC SPS Regional Working Group in Tashkent on 24-25 June 2019, participants under scored policy coordination and improved cooperation, especially in the area of interoperability with the national single window and risk profiling and management. The meeting also discussed the potential for digitalizing SPS certificates and mutually recognizing laboratory test results. Suggestions included the assessment of business process

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analysis and cost-benefit of these proposed initiatives, leveraging on existing global initiatives. For instance, Codex, OIE and IPPC each prescribe an international format for certificates of food safety, animal health, and plant health, respectively. In terms of digitalization, the e-Phyto project of the WTO Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) provides a simple generic system for the production, sending, and receipt of electronic phytosanitary certificates and a harmonized exchange tool to facilitate electronic exchange.

The proposed research will assess the potential for the paperless SPS certificates and analyze the underlying mechanisms for mutual recognition of laboratory results and resulting SPS certificates. CI will collaborate in the research with existing ADB-supported SPS projects for CAREC countries.

### **B. Objectives and Purpose of the Assignment:**

The Objective of the assignment is to provide a **Sixty (60) working-day** inputs of consulting service to implement the research project of Regional Sanitary and Phytosanitary Regulatory Regime: Developing a Framework for Mutual Recognition and Electronic Exchange of SPS Certificates in CAREC. **The objectives of this research were showed below:**

1. Prepare a business process mapping from document review, laboratory testing to system of issuance of SPS certificates for imports and exports in each CAREC member country;
2. Identify the actors particularly, the regulatory agencies involved in SPS certification, accreditation and laboratory testing, including any outsourcing to the private sector or industry associations, in each country;
3. Identify common procedures or systems adopted for issuance and use of certificates, including compliance or alignment with international standards or accreditation;
4. Take a stock take of existing and planned initiatives for mutual recognition, use of paperless certificates, and electronic exchange of SPS certificates among CAREC member countries at bilateral or sub-regional levels;
5. Assess the institutional capacity, including challenges and lessons learned, and identify the gaps and needs of these agencies in terms of testing, inspection, and other procedures for the issuance of certificates vis-a-vis international standards;
6. Prepare a case study on country experience (e.g., PRC) to demonstrate cost and benefits of these initiatives;
7. Assess the feasibility (using cost-benefit analysis) of adoption of e-certificates Phyto-system at national level on SPS at for national level select 1-3 CAREC countries, and their readiness for harmonization or potential mutual recognition or acceptance of these certificates at bilateral or regional level, and online sharing and exchange of SPS certificates at bilateral or (sub)regional level regional level. The study may look into cost-benefit analysis for CAREC in using e-Phyto for plant health for 1-3 CAREC members considering to adopt e-Phyto system;

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8. Prepare recommendations including policy suggestions, use of technology, and draft action plan including pilot countries for potential mutual recognition or electronic exchange.

### **C. Specific Role and Responsibilities**

The Consultant will work with Knowledge Generation Unit under Deputy Director 2 of CI. Following descriptions are the detailed tasks, duties and responsibilities for the Consultant:

1. Write the paper on “Regional Sanitary and Phytosanitary Regulatory Regime: Framework for Mutual Recognition and paperless certification exchange mechanism”;
2. Coordinate with ADB task manager and CI task manager;
3. Attend the inception video-con and the final conference organized by ADB and CI, and give presentations, if required, at each of these activities;
4. Contribute to the dissemination of the research findings;
5. Write a policy brief of 2000~3000 words;
6. Write a blog post of 600-1,000 words on CI’s website / Policy Perspective Blog.

### **D. Core Competencies:**

1. PHD degree majored in trade, Sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS), or Supply chain.
2. 5 years research experience related to trade facilitation and SPS measures.
3. More than 10 years working experience in the field of SPS related positions.
4. Qualified research papers related to SPS measures can be provided.
5. Working experience in international organizations such as OIE, FAO or IPPC will be a plus.
6. Working experience in country consultations regarding SPS measures will be a plus.

### **E. Deliverables**

1. An original publishable\* research paper covering (using Arial 11 point font, one and a half line spacing, in the range of 60-80 pages, A4) with the following timeline: final draft—NOV 30, 2019. The paper should include an abstract, keywords, and should be accompanied by excel files for any figures and non-editable tables.
2. A policy brief of 2000~3000 words.
3. Attendance in workshops and conferences organized by ADB-CI and other sponsors for this activity.
4. A blog post of 600-1,000 words on CI’s website / Policy Perspective Blog

<p>* PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that to be considered eligible for publication authors need to follow the ADB Style and Author Submission Guidelines, including country naming conventions; to cooperate with the</p>
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## F. Total Services in terms of Working Days

This assignment may require maximum of 60 working days of services inclusive of field (i.e., mission) and work from home.

- (i) Travel and Field Office Work including in CI Office in Urumqi, if required: 10 days maximum.
- (ii) Home Office Work : 50 days maximum.