

# Country Report of the Phytosanitary Measures

## Nepal

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The country is landlocked between two most populous countries of the world, India in the East, South and West, and China in the North. Nepal is a home to natural beauty with traces of artifacts. Nepal is richly endowed with agro-biodiversity. Rice, maize, millet, wheat, barley and buckwheat are the major staple food crops. Similarly, oilseeds, potato, tobacco, sugarcane, jute and cotton are the important cash crops whereas lentil, gram, pigeon pea, blackgram, horsegram and soybean are the important pulse crops. Nepal is also famous for orthodox tea, large cardamom, turmeric and zinger too. Most Nepalese farmers grow diversified crops in order to hedge against erratic and uncertain weather and other unfavourable agronomic conditions.

In addition, Nepal grows a number of fruit and vegetable crops. Some important ones are Apple, peach, pear, plum, walnut, orange, lime, lemon, mango, lichi, banana, pineapple, papaya, cucumber, lady's finger, brinjal, pumpkin and several leafy vegetables. Fresh water fish culture is another emerging enterprise in Terai whereas rainbow trout in the hills and in the lower mountains.

Agriculture is the mainstay of Nepalese economy that contributes about one-third of gross domestic product (GDP) and about two-third of total employment in the country (Economic Survey, 2015-16). Moreover, agriculture is the main source of food supply for domestic consumption in Nepal. Also, it is the second biggest export sector next to industry in the country (TEPC, 2015). Thus, progress and stagnation of agriculture growth play a major role in Nepal's overall economic growth. The Government of Nepal (GoN) has been given high priority in the majority of its development plans (NPC, 2013).

Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development bears overall responsibility for the agricultural growth and development of agriculture sector. Agriculture sector still has got prime role to play in Nepalese economy. This sector plays prime role in the economic development of Nepal. About 65.5% of the population in the country is engaged in the Agriculture.

Plant Quarantine and Pesticide Management Centre(PQPMC) is NPPO of the country and it implement the Plant Protection act and rules. Plant Protection Act 1972 (Revised 2007) and Rules 1974 (Revised 2010) have been regulated since 1972 and 1974, respectively to comply with the principles of harmonization and equivalence. PQPMC has established 14 plant quarantine check post across the both China and India border of the country. Out of 14 check post 11 are situated on the India border and 3 are on the China border. One Plant Quarantine check post is situated in International airport at Kathmandu. Plant protection and quarantine laboratories are being equipped to meet the standards set by IPPPC and process of accreditation. To comply with WTO requirements, actions are progressing in delineating endangered area, area of low pest prevalence and pest-free area. Quarantine pests are being identified. To establish scientific basis of these zoning activities, pest surveillance and monitoring are being strengthened.

Now NPPO Nepal has officially declared total of 500 Pests of 19 commodities as QPs and endorsed 33 different NSPMs and directive on domestic quarantine. Out of 33 NSPMs, Nepal has prepared 31 national standards since last few years. Web based pest information management software has been prepared and manpower from whole country are trained to handle in one phase.

It is highly imperative to develop the plant protection and quarantine facilities of the country in line with WTO-SPS Agreement and the International Plant Protection Convention (revised text of 1997) established by the FAO with a view to protecting national agro-ecosystem and to facilitate agricultural trades. Different programmes and projects have contributed to the present status of national phytosanitary system in Nepal. Further improvements for effective implementation of sanitary and phytosanitary measures to protect the agriculture and boost trade in agriculture commodities are urgently needed. The involvements of bilateral and multilateral donor agencies including World Bank in uplifting the phytosanitary system in Nepal are well appreciated. However, there is a crucial need for assessment and priority setting as per the international and regional standards in the SPS sector and that is lacking so far. Inadequacy in institutional and operational capacities is major drawback in utilizing available opportunities in national phytosanitary system development in Nepal.

Surveillance is one of key activities of plant quarantine. For the purpose of surveillance, following activities have been done.

- Nepal has developed National Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (NSPM ) uses it to identify the regulated pests;
- 500 pests of 19 commodities are declared as QPs, and regulated with pursuant to Plant Protection Act of Nepal;
- PRA for other commodities are going on.
- Pest Identification Manuals of the quarantine pests of Apple, Banana, Citrus, Coffee, Zinger, Tea, Large Cardamom, and Garlic prepared and published.

Phytosanitary certification to ensure the product safety is highly regarded in international trade of plant and plant products. Nepal is member of WTO and IPPC. Plant Quarantine and Pesticide Management Centre is national focal point for IPPC. Hence the role of plant protection in managing plant health at national and global level is very much challenging.

To implement the SPS measures we have noted some challenges and trying to minimize those challenges. Some challenges of SPPS measures are as follow:

1. Country find difficulties to export their products mainly because of the higher standard of the developed countries.
2. No accreditation of the SPS reference laboratories.
3. Very few trained manpower is available on the area of SPS.
4. No any research activities in SPS areas.
5. Recognition of certification.
6. Lack of well trained human resource in laboratory procedures, pest risk analysis, appropriate fumigation
7. Limited market access for some of exportable commodities.
8. Inadequate capacity to comply with stringent measures in risk assessment.
9. Small farm sizes and enterprises make difficulties in meeting the SPS requirements.
10. Inadequate existing facilities for quality testing, certification, and accreditation.
11. High input cost for food production

The role of plant protection in transboundry spread of pest is very important. Phytosanitary certification to ensure the product safety is highly regarded in international trade of plant and plant products. Nepal is member of WTO and IPPC. Plant Quarantine and Pesticide Management Centre is national focal point for IPPC. Hence the role of plant protection in managing plant health at

national and global level is very much challenging. In this context, since last two years Nepal has initiated the following functions on the area of plant protection:

- Construction of the fumigation chamber and post quarantine facilities at Kathmandu and to be completed (2017-18), under the WB project.
- Construction of a new equipped Joint Regional Plant Protection Laboratory and SPS Laboratory within the premise of PQPMC, (2016-2019).
- Establishment of co-located labs at different Regional Plant Quarantine Check Post : A building has been built for the new co-located lab at Integrated Check Post (ICP), and commissioning of the new facility is expected to take place by 2018.
- A study was conducted for 2017 on traditional trans-border trades in the context of SPS issues and provided practical recommendations for policies, strategies and plan of actions in the Nepalese context to address the SPS issues.
- Initiation of a 3 Years project (2016-2019) on Pest Surveillance in six major agricultural crops and three major medicinal and aromatic plants of Nepal with support of WB

Implementation of One Belt, One Road will greatly contribute to reduce the time and cost of Nepal's international trade. As a landlocked country with poor infrastructure, Nepal's cost of trade is higher compared to other countries. If the infrastructure is built under One Belt, One Road, it will open up more economic opportunities for Nepal. If the connectivity is maintained with Asia and Europe as per the vision of this new Silk Road, it will open up more doors for business, tourism and cultural exchanges.

China and India are emerging as the largest economies. As a country that lies between the two countries, Nepal should take benefit from both. Connectivity is important for this. This is what China's One Belt, One Road vision actually stands for. Development of infrastructure in Nepal under the One Belt, One Road could help to Nepali for expand its connectivity, which will ultimately benefit Nepal's economy.

