Enhancing Institutional Environment Through Participatory Approach

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 Outline

• Turkey as an Agricultural Exporter
• Strengths and Challenges in Export
• Enhancing the Institutional Environment
• Future Steps
Turkey as an Agricultural Exporter

- The world’s 7th and Europe’s 1st largest agricultural producer,
- Exports more than 190 countries,
- Top producer of hazelnuts, figs, cherries, quince and apricots,
- A leading producer of diverse agricultural products, *(honey, flour, milk and dairy products, cereal crops, vegetables, fruits and poultry...)*

### Targets set for the sector by 2023:
- To be among the top five overall producers globally.
- USD 150 billion gross agricultural domestic product
- USD 40 billion agricultural exports
- 8.5 million hectare irrigable area (from 5.4 million)
Turkey as an Agricultural Exporter

• Turkey is a part of the Customs Union with EU and has FTAs with 25 countries.

• Ensures food safety and protects public health, in collaboration with international standard setting bodies, authorities and relevant organizations.

• Turkish exporters apply internationally recognized quality and food safety systems

• Official control laboratories are working in line with ISO 17025
## Strengths and Challenges in Export

**😊 Strengths:**
- One national competent authority (MoAF)
- 81 Provincial and 913 District Directorates, specialized laboratories
- Continuous inspection and control
- Strong national legislation
- Broad experience in trade
- Integrated management systems

**😢 Challenges:**
- Long bureaucratic periods (before/after starting export),
- Short transition periods,
- Lack of transparency/information sources/notifications of the importer countries,
- Different requests for similar products,
- Long inspection procedures for approval,
- Language barrier,
- Discriminatory fees, sample selection and testing procedures
- Losses of quality and quantity caused by undue delays

= Effected producers and exporters
Strengths and Challenges in Export

Working on the Solutions

- International / Multilateral Platforms
- Regional Solutions
- National Solutions

Institutional Capacity Development
Why participatory approach?

- Trade facilitation,
- Better understanding of SPS procedures among related authorities as well as the producers and exporters,
- Ensuring cooperation and coordination between the authorities, exporters, producers, importers
- Ensuring better and faster response to the notifications
Exporters and their contribution

- Sectoral representatives support the efforts of MoAF through technical meetings and workshops,
- Taken into consideration during the legislative preparation process,
- Specialized expertise in the field,
Enhancing the Institutional Environment

Recent Developments

Institutional Development
- «Agricultural Diplomacy» project started in 2019
- Additional personnel allocated and trained for the SPS team of DGEUFR
- Demand-driven programme

Trainings
- e-Ping training is conducted by the SPS Secretariat in May 2019,
- Trained personnel adapted the modules for national use,
- A pilot training is conducted for the Aegean Exporters Union and relevant personnel in the region

Ensured Collaboration
- Representatives from the top exporters’ organisations are invited for the preparatory meetings
- Important benefits for the SPS related efforts
- Coordination increased between relevant authorities
Future Steps

• Tailor-made trainings for different regions and product groups
• Continuous support for flow of information from exporter unions
• Design of a website dedicated to information on SPS
• Translation and distribution of SPS information sources
• Continuous refresher trainings for the personnel working on SPS related issues
• Identification of good practices to operate better
For better approval mechanisms:
✓ Authorities’ coordination and cooperation
✓ Exporters’ participation
✓ Good institutional practices
THANK YOU

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