



# ADB's Work in CAREC on Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Measures and Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT)

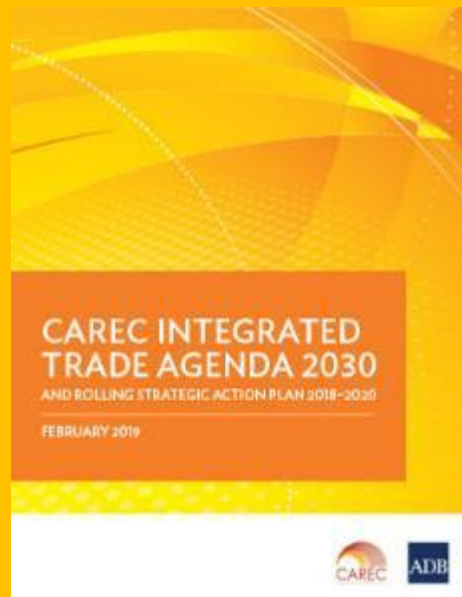
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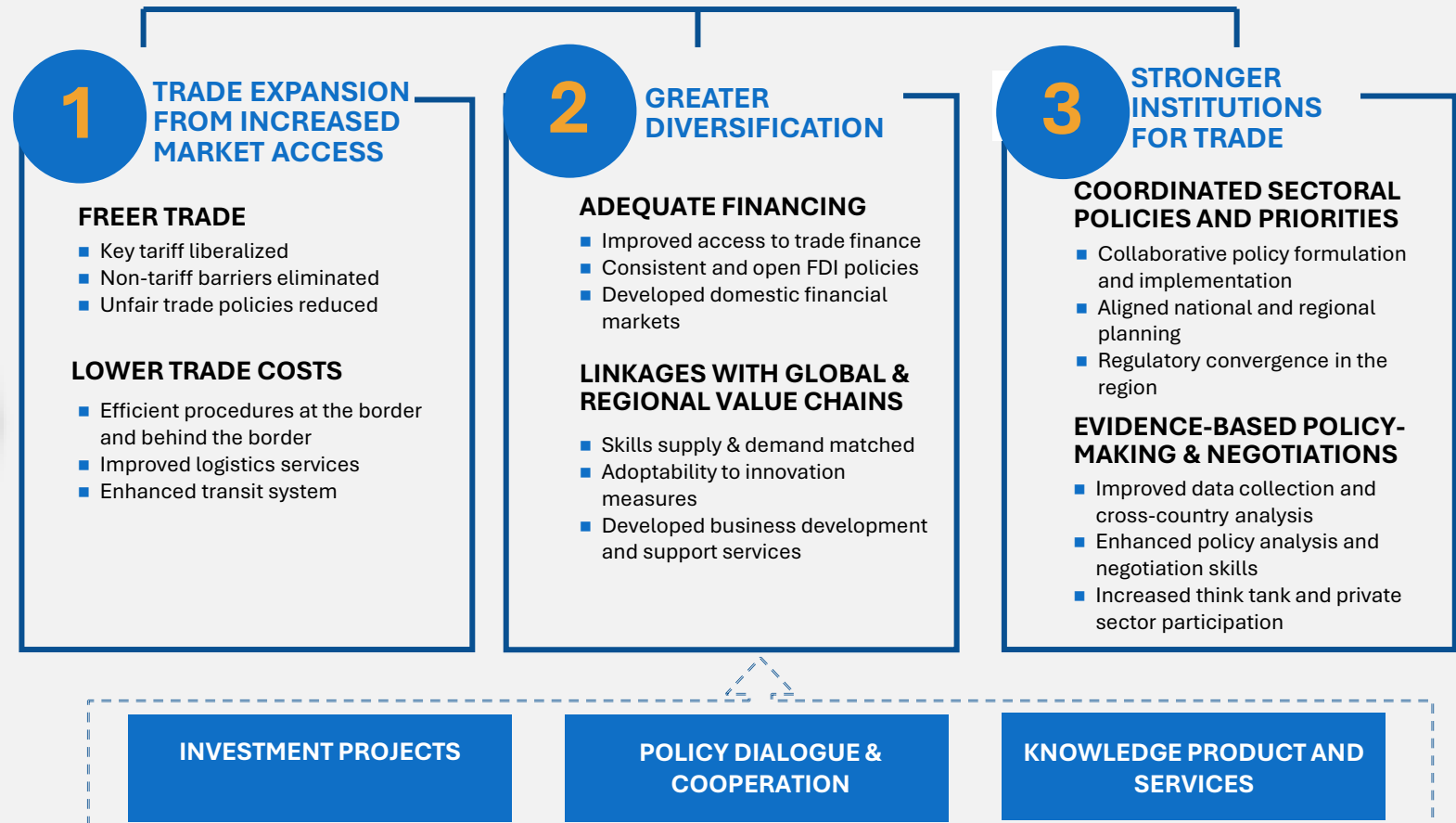
**Workshop on Navigating Trade Issues and Complying with  
WTO Transparency Mechanisms**

8-10 April 2026, Astana, Kazakhstan

# CAREC Integrated Trade Agenda (CITA) 2030



## CAREC COUNTRIES ARE MORE INTEGRATED INTO THE GLOBAL ECONOMY



# SPS and TBT Priorities under CITA

Pillar 1: Trade expansion from increased market access	
Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement the <i>Common Agenda for the Modernization of SPS Measures for Trade</i></li> <li>• Implement the <i>WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Measures</i></li> <li>• Align national SPS systems with international standards and conventions</li> <li>• Mutual recognition or acceptance of laboratory results or SPS certification</li> </ul>
Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mapping and reduction of non-tariff barriers</li> <li>• Implement the <i>WTO Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT)</i></li> <li>• Align national quality infrastructure with international standards and conventions</li> <li>• Mutual recognition or acceptance of laboratory results or TBT certification</li> </ul>
Pillar 3: Stronger institutions for trade	
SPS and TBT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop national strategies and road maps</li> <li>• Establish interagency and intergovernment mechanisms, expert groups</li> <li>• High-level policy dialogue, sharing of good practices to promote regulatory convergence</li> </ul>

# ADB Support

TA/Loan	Title	Amount	Implementation Period
TA 9712	<i>Implementing the Integrated Trade Agenda in CAREC</i>	\$2.4M	2019 – 2024
TA 9500	<i>Modernizing SPS Measures to Facilitate Trade</i>	\$1.95M	2018 – 2023
TA 9274	<i>Strengthening International Food Safety Standards in Agricultural Value Chains in CAREC Countries</i>	\$2.0M	2016 – 2021
Loan 3313 – MON	<i>Regional Upgrade of SPS Measures for Trade project</i>	\$15M	2015 - present

# CAREC SPS Work

## Legislative review

- Animal health legislation (2 countries) to align with WOH
- Plant health legislation (4 countries) to align with IPPC
- Food safety legislation (1 country) to align with Codex HACCP principles

## Policy dialogue

- Animal identification and traceability systems for surveillance, disease control
- Digitalization of certificates
- Official recognition for FMD-free areas

## Digitalization

- ePhyto adoption (3 countries)
- ePhyto testing (4 countries)

## Pilot initiatives

- Risk-based food safety management (1 country)
- Pest diagnostic and surveillance in Fergana Valley

## Border management capacity

- Risk-based inspection (1 country)
- Integration of SPS inspection with customs functions (1 country)
- Model for risk categorization of imports (3 countries)
- Manual for food importation (1 country)

## Institutional Coordination

- SPS National Working Groups
- SPS Regional Working group
- National SPS strategies and action plans (4 countries)

## Training and technical advice

- Risk assessment and categorization for animals and products (2 countries)
- Pest risk analysis, surveillance and pest-free areas (6 countries)
- Lab techniques including harmonization (2 countries)
- Phytosanitary capacity evaluation (1 country)
- Concept note on prevention and control of transboundary animal disease
- Concept note on regional pest surveillance as foundation for pest listing
- Guidelines for safe food processing based on Codex
- 21 HACCP modules for meat industry
- Scoping for SPS infrastructure and inspection and cold-chain facilities (2 BCPs)

# CAREC SPS Work

SPS measures and institutions play a crucial role in ensuring **safe trade** and **resilience** amid significant global challenges. CAREC countries remain committed to **modernizing SPS systems**.

Numerous initiatives contributed to building **capacity** and implementing **reforms** to align with international standards. Demonstrated use of digital tools and **innovative solutions** (e-Phyto, NSW, animal ID and traceability) have potential to be **replicated** at regional level

A plethora of good practice, guides, tools, mechanisms, and technical support is available to help countries adopt international standards, comply with commitments (WTO TFA and SPS agreement), and **harmonize** measures

Strong **strategic linkages** with other CAREC sectors (Health Strategy, Agriculture and Food Security Framework, Digital Strategy, Climate Change Vision) present the opportunity for scale economies and synergy.

Continued **cooperation**, constant **evaluation**, open **communication** esp. with traders and economic operators will sustain good outcomes.

# Food Safety

## Regulations for meeting international food safety standards developed

- Identified priority regulations, policies, or codes of practice
- Rationalized institutional setups for risk analysis, standard setting, inspection, verification of compliance of products
- Technical inputs into food safety strategies (3 countries), food laws (2 countries), key sanitary regulations (2 countries), food labeling regulations (1 country)

## Capacity for implementing measures to achieve international food safety standards strengthened

- Conducted training of trainers on GHP, HACCP, traceability, border inspection (7 countries)
- Technical advice on harmonization of food safety standards

## Laboratory and infrastructure requirements rationalized and identified

- Reviewed existing infrastructure for inspection and verification of compliance with international standards
- Drafted plan for laboratory upgrades
- Developed financing plan for compliance with international standards
- Technical advice on laboratory operations and accreditation; detailed analyses of issues related to lab accreditation and financial implications (6 countries)
- Training on food safety test methodologies (5 countries)
- 2 food safety labs obtained ISO17025 accreditation

# Technical Barriers to Trade

- Mapping of technical regulations, standards, and conformity assessment requirements in CAREC countries
- Pilot project on mutual recognition and electronic certification on conformity certificates

## Findings

- **Standards harmonization helps streamline trade logistics**
- **Problem of ‘noodle bowl’ of standards and conformity procedures**
- **Compliance with technical regulations (mandatory standards) can be costly**

## MOU on pilot project on e-exchange and mutual recognition of conformity certificates

signed by Azerbaijan, Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan, Uzbekistan, ADB and KTNET (Bishkek, November 2025); interest from Tajikistan and Kazakhstan in 2026



# The Pilot Project

- **Objective:** To accelerate the adoption of **digital and paperless trade** through piloting a model for mutual recognition and electronic exchange of conformity certificates among the Participating Countries.
- **Outcomes**
  1. Reduced processing time, **enhanced mutual trust**, and deepened cooperation in the use of digital trade solutions, thereby promoting trade and enhancing CAREC businesses and traders' participation in the global economy.
  2. Strengthened **institutional capacities** and cooperation among standard-setting bodies and other relevant agencies in CAREC countries while laying the foundation for potential electronic exchange of other key trade documents in the future.
- **Phased Approach:** (i) Develop and test a model for electronic exchange of conformity certificates, and (ii) Design and test mutual recognition arrangement to achieve the full efficiency potential of digitalized conformity certificate

