



TOGETHER
for a sustainable future

OCCASION

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Maldives Food & Drugs Authority (MFDA)

MFDA - has the responsibility for the safety of foods and has its National Health Laboratory (NHL), accredited to ISO/IEC 17025 for basic food safety parameters. UNIDO project is assisting MFDA for achieving following results:

- Food Safety Law is finalized and published.
- Accreditation of NHL is extended for additional aspects of food safety such as residues, additives, pesticides, contaminants etc.



Nepal Bureau of Standards & Metrology (NBSM), Nepal

NBSM – in addition to developing and publishing Nepalese standards, it also provides services for metrology, inspection, testing, product certification, Management System certification, WTO–TBT Enquiry Point etc. UNIDO project is assisting NBSM for achieving following results:

- Accreditation of food product testing and textile testing laboratories to ISO/IEC 17025.
- The accreditation of the Product Certification scheme to ISO/IEC 17065.
- Providing accredited management system certification service for ISO 22000 - food safety and ISO 14000 - environmental in addition to ISO 9000 - quality.



Department of Food Technology & Quality Control (DFTQC), Nepal

DFTQC - has the responsibility for food safety and also advises on food nutrition, food processing and post harvest techniques. The Central Food Laboratory (CFL) of DFTQC is accredited to ISO/IEC 17025 for basic food safety parameters. UNIDO project is assisting DFTQC for achieving following results:

- Technical regulations on food products to be in place and electronically accessible.
- Accreditation of CFL is extended for additional aspects of food safety such as residues, additives, pesticides, contaminants etc.

NORAD in brief

The Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad) is a directorate under the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. NORAD inter alia helps to empower recipient countries to achieve their own development goals.

UNIDO in brief

UNIDO is the specialized agency of the United Nations that promotes industrial development for poverty reduction, inclusive globalization and environmental sustainability.

The mandate of UNIDO is to promote and accelerate Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development (ISID) in developing countries and economies in transition.

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Technical Assistance Project

Market access and Trade Facilitation Support for South Asian LDCs, through Strengthening Institutional and National Capacities Related to Standards, Metrology, Testing and Quality – Phase III

Project Period: July 2013 to June 2016

Funded by



The Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation

Beneficiary Countries



Bhutan



Maldives



Nepal



Project Implementation Agency



United Nations Industrial Development Organization

UNIDO Vision: 'A world where economic development is sustainable and economic progress is equitable'

Importance of Standards, Metrology, Testing and Quality (SMTQ) in trade

For successfully competing in the export market it is necessary to create confidence among the buyers that products they buy would meet the agreed specifications. Both foreign and domestic customers also want that the products are safe and would not cause injury or ill health. The exporter through various means can provide this assurance to the customers, for example:

- By furnishing a valid test report of an independent and reliable laboratory.
- Through product certification mark.
- Demonstration of implementation of management systems like ISO 9000, ISO 14000, ISO 22000 / HACCP (Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point) Food Safety Systems etc.

Inability of exporting countries to demonstrate compliance to standards due to absence of accredited conformity assessment institutions such as test laboratories, product and systems certification bodies are becoming technical barrier to trade.

Strengthening Institutional and National Capacities Related to SMTQ

UNIDO SMTQ projects funded by NORAD are assisting Least Developed Countries (LDCs) of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC); Bhutan, Maldives and Nepal in strengthening standards, testing and metrology infrastructure and building credible conformity assessment systems for products and management systems. At the end of the current phase of the project, it is expected that:

- SMTQ related technical regulations will be in place and electronically accessible.
- The food safety system in each country will be comparable to others in the region and target markets will readily accept food products.
- Mutual acceptance of product certifications for facilitating cross border trade.
- Organizations voluntarily implementing Management System Standards.
- Commercial and industrial measuring instruments will be verified accurate, with their accuracy traceable to international primary standards.



Beneficiary Institutions

The project is assisting following institutions to provide effective SMTQ services to the trade and industry in the respective countries.



Bhutan Agriculture and Food Regulatory Authority (BAFRA), Bhutan

BAFRA - oversees the various aspects of Food Safety and carries out inspection and certification of plant/plant products, animal/animal products and other food commodities. It acts as Bhutan's WTO – SPS (Sanitary and Phytosanitary) Enquiry Point. The National Food Testing Laboratory (NFTL) of BAFRA is accredited to ISO/IEC 17025 for basic food safety parameters. UNIDO project is assisting BAFRA for achieving following results:

- Technical regulations on food products to be in place and electronically accessible.
- Accreditation of NFTL is extended for additional aspects of food safety such as residues, additives, pesticides, contaminants etc.



Bhutan Standards Bureau (BSB), Bhutan

BSB - established through UNIDO assistance, has established a WTO - TBT (Technical Barriers to Trade) Enquiry Point. The metrology service of BSB is accredited to ISO/IEC 17025 for mass and length. UNIDO project is assisting BSB for achieving following results:

- Provision of Product Certification services, accredited to ISO/IEC 17065.
- Provision of Management Systems Certification services (ISO 9001 - Quality; ISO 14001 - Environmental; HACCP etc) accredited to ISO/IEC 17021.
- Extending metrology services for volume, temperature and pressure.



Maldives Standards and Metrology Unit (MSMU)- Ministry of Economic Affairs & National Metrology Laboratory, Maldives Polytechnic

MSMU – will become Maldives Bureau of Standards after passage of Standards Act. It has established a WTO - TBT Enquiry Point. UNIDO project is assisting MSMU for achieving following results:

- Metrology laboratory accredited to ISO/IEC 17025.
- Training program for metrology inspectors from the Atolls.
- Facilitating Management Systems certification at an affordable cost.

