USDA-funded Bangladesh Trade Facilitation Project (BTF)

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Relevant TFA ‘Category C’ measures
• Article 1.3 Enquiry Points
• Article 1.4(c) Notification
• 5.3: Test Procedures
• Article 7.1 Pre-arrival Processing
• 7.4: Risk Management
• Article 7.5 Post-clearance Audit
• Article 8: Border Agency Cooperation
• 7.9: Perishable Goods
• 10.1.1(a) Formalities and Documentation Requirements
• Article 10.4 Single Window

Counterpart Government Agencies
• Ministry of Commerce
• National Board of Revenue
• Department of Agricultural Extension
• Department of Livestock Services
• Department of Fisheries
• Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution
• Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission
• Bangladesh Food Safety Authority
• Department of Agricultural Marketing

Milestones
• Major reform in Import Policy Order for expediting testing procedure
• Institutional framework for Risk Management established in 3 major agro-agencies
• Coordination mechanism established through Agro-Trade Working Group under NTFC
• Supported advancement of 5 TFA ‘Category C’ definitive date
• Tariff rationalization on cold storage equipment
Lessons learnt

- Project design aligning with the Government priorities and visions to expedite implementation [Export Diversification, Digital Bangladesh]
- Engagement of all agro-trade OGAs highlighting their roles and priorities in TFA implementation
- Changing the overarching legislative tools first to incorporate legal measures required for TFA implementation rather than agency-specific legislations for faster implementation [Import Policy Order]
- Establishment of formal engagement with the Government and private sector agencies to ensure implementation [MoUs]
- Prioritizing needs of the agencies within the scope of the project
- Giving ownership of each activities to the agencies and playing the supporting role
- Establishment of regular coordination mechanism with the counterpart agencies to ensure their involvement at all stages [BTF Project Engagement Committees within agencies]
Opportunities

- Time and cost efficiency through a comprehensive risk-based clearance process
- Automated and streamlined export and import processes and connectivity with Customs
- Expansion and improvement of cold chain infrastructure with public and private investment for ensuring quality of perishable goods
- Meeting compliance requirements of importing countries leading to reduction of the rejection rate and increase in export value
- Promoting transparency by ensuring the availability and accessibility of the required information
Challenges

- Bringing all agencies on-board at the same level
- Procedural delays in implementation process
- Limited knowledge among agencies on TF measures
Thank you