

March 27 Break Out Session: Ranking the Major Sources of Non-Tariff Barriers, Obstacles and Institutional, Capacity and Infrastructure Gaps

Group Discussion: In terms of institutional arrangements and activities, what do you think are the institutional capacity, and infrastructure gaps/shortfalls?

Instructions

- a. Discuss among the group what you think are the capacity gaps in each category provided in the matrix.
- b. List down the capacity short-falls and obstacles in column b.
- c. Please rank order of relevance (*0=not relevant; 1= somewhat important; 2= very important*) in column c.
- d. Give your reasons for the ranking in column d.

a. Category	b. What are the shortfalls and obstacles?	c. Ranking of importance*	d. Reasons for ranking
Dissemination of information on regulatory procedures, documentary requirements and other official information	Not clear, complicated, lack of updated information in English, unstable regulation and none informing, lack of direct and a delay communication to exporting country	2	Without these, can not export
Cooperation between government entities: effectiveness and efficiency	Lack of contact point, not updated information on contact point, can not immediately contact, complicated procedures in China to inform exporting countries.	2	Loss of time/business
Cooperation with regional and international authorities and entities: effectiveness and efficiency	WTO notification on SPS/trade facilitation	0	WTO members are required to notify WTO/SPS agreement in a limited set.
Human resources: knowledge and experience of core staff in relevant state agencies	Lack of staff, - number of staff is limited especially at the border gate	2	Human resource is the key
Operating budgets: in relation to what specifically?	Budget for improving standard,	2	Budget is the key
Facilities: what are the gaps, and what investments in physical infrastructure are needed to fill these gaps?	Laboratory, quarantine facilities, cold storage, transportation with preservation facilities. Border facilities, eg. Entry/exit gates not enough, need priority for perishable products	2	Good/reliable facilities will guarantee food safety and quality standard
Sanitary and phytosanitary: in terms of technical expertise, communication, policies, institutions and facilities	Lack of SPS technical skills of staff,	1	Staff are key
Technical barriers to trade: in terms of technical expertise, communication, policies, institutions and facilities	Lack of staff,	1	Staff are key
Transit time and automated systems (or lack thereof)	Slowness of IT system (VN), integration of information system across involved stakeholders/agencies	1	Only technical issue, may be solved. Availability would improve clearance speed
Public-private sector consultation mechanisms: effectiveness and efficiency	Updated policy and regulation not immediately available to private sector, lack of transparency	2	Loss of business, potential for food lost, quality and reputation lost
Others			

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* Rankings: 0=not relevant; 1= somewhat important; 2= very important