

PADD INSIGHTS

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From the Editor's Desk



Welcome to the first issue of our newsletter

We are pleased to share the first issue of our quarterly newsletter, keeping you up to date with all the latest news from the Project Analysis and Documentation Division (PADD), Quality Council of India! Get an understanding about the division's activities, and discover aspects of PADD's incredible work areas you might not have been aware of, meet the people who are working hard at supporting its projects and schemes in close collaboration with stakeholders, and learn about the efforts which are valuable examples of good practices for agriculture, food, sustainability, healthcare, business, industry, impact areas and other such domains.

The overhaul of innovative projects has been in discussion for several years; however, now is the time we are seeing the impact of this area on governments, businesses and their subsidiaries. Our helpful summary will guide you through some of the significant schemes/projects handled by PADD. Another key area which has been in recent press is the issues around agriculture and our newsletter answers this concern by presenting you the exclusive interview of a person of excellence. The newsletter also includes a summary of our activities, our clientele, upcoming initiatives, recent workshops and seminars, media updates and experience of Young Professionals associated with PADD in the past.

From the beginning, PADD has been showcasing work done across several projects and schemes and we would like to extend our gratitude to the Chairman and the Secretary General, QCI for their constant stewardship and the perseverance of the entire PADD Family which has strived throughout these years to support creative solutions to better address the needs on the ground and to bring the best name to this organization.

We hope our newsletter will inform you about the efforts made by the Division in strengthening the quality ecosystem and will keep you updated about all the latest happenings at PADD, but of course should anything in this edition raise further queries, please speak with us. We would be happy to provide you any information as desired.

We wish you an enjoyable first reading!

Embrace the change and stay strong!

Aayushi Dhawan & Nishtha K̄hanna



Note from the Chairman, QCI

It is my great pleasure to extend warm greetings to the readers of the first issue of the newsletter of the PAD Division of QCI.

2019 was a significant year for the organization. PADD saw a range of new opportunities including new schemes and diverse projects. It gives me immense satisfaction to see how team members from diverse backgrounds are focusing on quality promotion and improvement. The division is also focussed on improving quality initiatives by coordinating with other government departments to internalise the activities on ground.

PADD has been robust in developing interventions in agri-food sector, health sector and other sectors that have a direct impact on beneficiaries. The VCSMPP scheme of PADD has reached 2000+ beneficiaries within one year of launch, including farmers and collectors, that have been trained for adopting Good Agriculture and Good Field Collection Practices. The wide acceptance of the AYUSH Mark scheme, with 4500+ products covered under the scheme since its inception, is a testimony to the trust it lends to global buyers in terms of quality of formulations coming from Indian manufacturers.

PADD strives to use instruments like Benchmarking to gain international equivalence with global standards bodies in order to grow in the coming years. The division also embarked on an ambitious growth programme, the latest development of which was the announcement of an MoU with APEDA to strengthen the INDGAP standard of India by benchmarking it with the GLOBAL G.A.P. and an MoU with DGCA.

The vision of the PAD division includes internalisation of schemes on ground so that real progress is made at the grass roots. I look forward to the division creating multi-fold impact in the coming three to five years.

With all my best wishes,

Adil Zainulbhai

Note from the Secretary-General, QCI



My heartiest congratulations to the PAD Division for publishing their first newsletter. After joining QCI as the Secretary-General, incorporation of the PAD Division was one of the first big decisions I had taken and I am glad to see their growth in terms of the substantial projects and schemes undertaken. It's a matter of great pride that the division is growing tremendously with numerous voluntary certification schemes and projects cutting across various sectors. The division has also been instrumental in gaining international recognition through its activities like benchmarking, sustainability standards and regional acceptability of such activities.

It is great to see young minds collaborating with experts in various fields and marking our presence on the globe. The division has some exquisite clientele ranging from government ministries/ departments/ organizations and industrial bodies to international donor agencies, developmental organizations, and inter-governmental bodies such as the FAO of the UN, UNFSS, UNCTAD, SAARC Agriculture Center, etc.

Best wishes for a bright and successful future of PADD!

Dr. Ravi P. Singh



From the Director's Desk

It is a matter of great satisfaction and pleasure that PADD, QCI has come up with the first issue of the Division's quarterly newsletter - PADD Insights. PADD delivered good performance during the year as we made steady progress in transforming the Division into a leaner and more revenue-focused entity. It was indeed an eventful year as we have clocked an incredible growth rate for the year.

We continue to focus on our project and process innovations to stay up to date in adopting the latest developments in the industry. Further, in order to cater to the ever-growing innovations, we continue to invest in our capabilities. We have taken up significant expansion programmes over the last two fiscals.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our organization and business associates for the faith that they have vested in us. I would also like to express my gratitude to my colleagues from other Boards and the management team. I would like to convey my appreciation for the staunch dedication of all team members of PADD. Last, but not the least, I would like to thank our stakeholders for their unwavering support.

We are constantly endeavouring towards delivering high-quality services with latest developments, ensuring innovation and achieving organic growth for a sustainable future. I trust you will find our newsletter useful and informative. Should you have any questions or need further information, please feel free to contact us.

Looking forward to a continued engagement with all our stakeholders.

Warm Regards,

Dr. Manish Pande

Team PADD



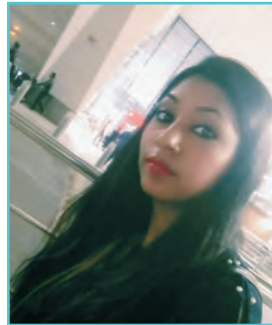
Dr. Manish Pande
Director & Head, PADD



CS Sharma
Deputy Director



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About Project Analysis and Documentation Division (PADD)

The Project Analysis and Documentation (PAD) Division of the QCI handles projects which aim towards the design, development, and implementation of voluntary conformity assessment frameworks for governmental, inter-governmental, regional, and global organizations.

The Division prides itself in driving noble initiatives that have national, regional, and global relevance. QCI, through this Division, continues to offer solutions to various ministries/ departments/ organizations, industrial bodies, international donor agencies, developmental organizations, and inter-governmental bodies such as the FAO of the UN, UNFSS, UNCTAD, SAARC Agriculture Center etc.

PAD Division currently handles numerous voluntary certification schemes cutting across various sectors, ranging from Agriculture [INDGAP, Voluntary Certification Scheme for Medicinal Plant Produce - (VCSMPP)], Food [Q Safe, IndiaGHP and IndiaHACCP], Healthcare [AYUSH Mark, Indian Certification of Medical Devices Scheme (ICMED)], Industry [STAR Scheme, RMCPSC], Regulators [VCS-Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems], and Personnel Competence [VCS-Traditional Community Healthcare Providers, Biomedical Skill Certification Scheme (BSCS)]. The Division strives to use instruments like Benchmarking to gain international equivalence with global standards bodies and strives to map it on the standards map of the ITC of the UN.

The Division also prides itself in initiating a project on Sustainable Development Goals Mapping and Analysis Program of schemes and programmes of government and private initiatives.

In addition, the Division assists other Government initiatives such as the National GLP Compliance Monitoring Authority, Gol by undertaking impact analyses and digitization for enhancing their quality and efficiency of workflow.

Further, the Division holds the Secretariat for the India National Platform on Private Sustainability Standards, which is a demand-driven platform, mandated by the UNFSS to tackle issues related to PSS in the country.

Schemes and Projects at a glance

VOLUNTARY SCHEMES: TOOLS FOR ENHANCING QUALITY

Schemes with Intergovernmental or Global bodies

a. **SAARC GAP Scheme:** The FAO of the UN identified QCI as their technical partner for developing a quality infrastructure on Good Agriculture Practices for all the SAARC member countries. The scheme designed and developed by QCI was accepted and implemented in some select SAARC countries with the assistance of FAO of the UN. The SAARC Agriculture Center (SAC) has taken forward this initiative for improving food hygiene and safety in the region. A regional training workshop was organized by SAC on SAARC GAP from August 27-30, 2019 for exploring the above with the member countries. Dr. S. K. Malhotra, Agriculture Commissioner, Gol was the Chief Guest of the event.

b. **Sustainable Development Goals Mapping and Analysis Program (SDG MAP)**

QCI has developed the concept of mapping of standards to SDGs. The Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH) had offered their VRIKSH standard to be mapped with the SDGs by studying the on-ground impact in the export of timber. The mapping exercise was completed this year. QCI has submitted the impact study of the VRIKSH standard, bringing forth areas of opportunity and improvement.

c. **Global Timber Forum - Association Survey for Knowledge**

A study was conducted for Global Timber Forum (GTF) in collaboration with Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and World Resources Institute (WRI) to understand the wood-based industry. In-depth interviews were conducted with 10 associations in the wood-based industry to understand the challenges and gaps in the industry in India. The detailed report was accepted by the GTF.

Schemes for Government Ministries

- a. INDGAP Certification Scheme:** QCI realizes that the best way to improve the prospects of agriculture in the country is to address food safety, workers' health and safety, environment management, and quality of produce. For this, QCI came up with INDGAP Scheme that not only assists the big farmers but also helps the smallholders to practice good agriculture practices in their farms.

QCI designed and developed a Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) Certification Scheme - INDGAP with two levels of certifications - INDGAP Basic and INDGAP Premium. A simpler version of GAP, INDGAP Basic, has been designed to address the basic requirements that a farm could fulfil as the first step to introduce quality. Ver.3.0 of INDGAP scheme was relaunched by Dr. Rajiv Kumar, Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog, at an event organized by the Indian Chamber of Food and Agriculture. For global acceptance, QCI has initiated benchmarking of INDGAP with GLOBALG.A.P. for which we have signed an MoU with APEDA to expedite the activity.

- b. AYUSH Mark Scheme:** At the behest of the then Department of AYUSH, a voluntary product certification scheme for AYUSH products to enhance consumer confidence was designed by the Quality Council of India. Under the Scheme, any manufacturing unit can obtain a certification from a designated Certification Body (CB) and will be under regular surveillance of the certification body. The Scheme has two levels of certification: Standard and Premium. 4,584 products are covered under the AYUSH Mark (Standard - 1,370, Premium - 3,214). A total of 56 certifications have been granted, out of which 38 manufacturers have been granted premium mark and 19 have been granted standard mark. (One manufacturer has been certified for both the marks.)
- c. Voluntary Certification Scheme for Medicinal Plant Produce:** The QCI, at the behest of National Medicinal Plant Board (NMPB), GoI, has developed and designed a voluntary certification scheme for medicinal plant produce. The VCSMPPP has been designed to emulate international best

practices in the medicinal plants sector and introduce Good Agriculture Practices (GAP) and Good Field Collection Practices (GFPC) for medicinal plants to enhance confidence in the quality of India's medicinal plant produce among the buyers and consumers. The QCI has presented the scheme to the SAARC Agriculture Centre, Dhaka for considering it as a regional scheme.

d. Process Audits of Ordnance Factories

Ordnance Factories need to continually upgrade, adopt and benchmark their manufacturing and quality assurance processes against contemporary best practices. QCI has proposed quality/process adequacy audits of complete system to the Ordnance Factories for benchmarking, for undertaking a transformation, reduction of rejections or improving processes and for meeting customer requirements in terms of quality and delivery etc. The QCI has initiated the process audits in various Ordnance Factories under the overall supervision of the Ordnance Factory Board.

Schemes driven by Industry

a. Indian Certification of Medical Devices Scheme (ICMED):

The QCI and the Association of Indian Medical Device Industry (AIMED), an association of medical device industry in India, signed an MoU to develop and operate voluntary certification programme(s) for Medical Devices in order to enable the medical device industry to demonstrate adherence to the best international standards and enhance its credibility in the world market. A total of 6 Certification Bodies have been approved under the ICMED scheme. The scheme has been popular amongst the medical devices industry, as a result of which a total of 29 medical devices manufacturers have been certified till date.

- b. GLOBAL GAP:** GLOBALG.A.P. is an international global private standard which is a must for the producer of agriculture commodities for exporting to global retail chains. The QCI has an MoU with GLOBALG.A.P. under which it reviews the requirements and submits a national interpretation to support the Indian producers.

The national interpretation guidelines of India for version 5.2 of GLOBAL G.A.P has been accepted by the Technical Committee of GLOBALG.A.P., and is now mandated as the basis of certification for Indian projects. GRASP (Social Standard of GLOBALG.A.P.) national interpretation documentation has been discussed with stakeholders and submitted to GLOBALG.A.P.

- c. **Indian Biomedical Skill Consortium:** The QCI, AMTZ and AiMeD had formed 'Indian Bio-Medical Skill Consortium' to certify capacity of Indian biomedical engineers. The tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed by Mr. Rajiv Nath (Forum Coordinator, AIMED), Dr. Jitendar Sharma (MD & CEO, AMTZ) and Mr. Shyam Bang (Chairman, NABCB). A system for approval of Personnel Assessment Bodies with Examination Centers has been designed for Biomedical Skill Certification Scheme. This scheme is marketed with the stakeholders to organize certification of bio-medical personnel.
- d. **Ready Mix Concrete (RMC) Plant Certification Scheme:** The Ready-Mix Concrete manufacturing association and the QCI came together to develop RMC Scheme for assessment of RMC plants. The scheme has been appreciated by various government bodies and builder associations, some of whom have made this a prerequisite for procurement. Till date, 263 RMC plants have been certified under the scheme.
- e. **QCI-CAPSI Security sTar Agencies Rating (STAR) Scheme:** The QCI has designed the QCI-CAPSI Security sTar Agencies Rating (STAR) Scheme - a voluntary certification and quality rating programme for Private Security Agencies. Under the STAR scheme, Private Security Agencies will be star rated on the basis of their capability levels to provide security services that meet customer and applicable statutory and regulatory requirements. The STAR scheme certification is being considered by the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) portal (under Security and Manpower vertical), as one of the requirements for the procurement of private security agencies' services.
- f. **Voluntary Certification Scheme for Traditional Community Healthcare Providers (VCS-TCHP):**

The Scheme offers a uniform and standardized assessment framework for TCHPs that manage various streams of health services (jaundice, common ailments, poisonous bites, bone setting, arthritis, and traditional birth attendants) based on their traditional knowledge, experience, and expertise. Evaluator training programmes are being organized by various stakeholders in numerous states for popularizing the scheme amongst the TCHPs. Under this scheme, till date, 12 certification cycles have been conducted pan-India. Nearly 200+ TCHPs have been certified across different states i.e. Assam, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Nagaland, Punjab, Rajasthan, and Tripura.

TECHNICAL AND OPERATIONAL SUPPORT - GOVERNMENT PROGRAMMES

a. GLP Cell - National GLP Compliance and Monitoring Authority

The Impact Analysis of the National GLP Program, India has been carried out, and submitted to NGCMA. The analysis is in-principle accepted by NGCMA. The Digitization of the National GLP Program, India has been completed and the portal is ready to receive applications digitally. Regular Joint Coordination Committee meetings and Technical Committee meetings convened to address issues of all the stakeholders. A series of sensitization workshops amongst the test facilities, government research institutions, and academia are held periodically.

UNFSS - INPPSS

India National Platform on Private Sustainability Standards

QCI represented the Platform at the South African National Stakeholder Meeting in Pretoria. A proposal for creating a registry of VSS in India has been submitted and is under active consideration by the Department of Commerce, Gol.

OTHER PROJECT INITIATIVES

NTM Study: The Secretariat conducted the first NTM Study Report on Jordan for the Ministry of Commerce & Industry analyzing the impact of NTMs on trade between India and Jordan.

Activities Spotlight

Signing of MoU with APEDA

Webinar conducted in April 2020 on Design, Development and Implementation of conformity assessment schemes

Recent Workshops and Seminars

QCI participates in awareness programme on Incentivizing Quality in Healthcare Products

Visit to Pashmina weaving center in Ladakh



QCI presenting the STAR Scheme at the CAPSI Security Leadership Summit



QCI at SAARC Agriculture Centre, Dhaka to present VCSMPP



QCI presenting TCHP Scheme in event organized by Goa State Biodiversity Board



ISO/IEC 17065- 2012 training conducted on 3-4 March 2020



Field Visit at Vishakhapatnam for direct assessment of potential for a demo plot



GAP Workshop at Atmakur, Andhra Pradesh on March 4, 2020



GFCP Workshop at Chada, Madhya Pradesh



Sensitization Workshop at Sehore, Madhya Pradesh

Potential areas of development



Benchmarking

APEDA, Ministry of Agriculture



ICMED +

AIMED



Biomedical Skills Certification

Indian Biomedical Skills Consortium



RMPCS for Dry Mix

RMCMA



Security sTar Agencies Rating Scheme

Central Association of Private Security Industry



Lead Safe Paints

International Pops Elimination Network (IPEN)

Experience of Young Professionals with PADD



Milind Dougall

Currently a Chartered Engineer at True value Insurance Surveyors & Loss Assessors Private Limited

"Since it was my first job after the college, I was both enthralled and extremely nervous as it was my first-hand experience as an employee in an organization, but the day turned out to be very eventful as I was warmly welcomed by the extremely humble staff and my department head Dr. Manish Pande, taking away all my nervousness in an instant. The first week turned out to be very informative, I learned a lot of new things and caught up with every bit of it. In my short tenure, I learned real-life skills along with a lot of professional knowledge, thus providing me with an experience of a lifetime."



Aastha Ahuja

Currently working with the National Accreditation Board on Education and Training (NABET, QCI). In January 2020, she was involved in a project to evaluate ST&SC Residential Hostels in two districts of Odisha and then, in a pilot study on Government's Flagship Program i.e. Fit India.

"Before PADD, I was basically involved in operations (Swachh Bharat) for a span of one year. PADD was a completely different field and experience indeed. In fact, its domain, which is sustainability and environment, is something that I would like to pursue as my field in the future as well. Above all, it was great working with Dr. Pande and still is whenever I get that opportunity to do so. He was not a boss but a leader in a true sense, guiding all the way, anytime and always. Overall stakeholder management has been my forte which was only possible with Manish sir's undoubted trust on me."

Exclusive Interview



Mr. Sanjay Dave (former Advisor to Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, New Delhi) in conversation with **Aayushi Dhawan**

Sanjay Dave was the Chairperson of Codex Alimentarius Commission (a UN-FAO/WHO body) from July 2011 to July 2014. Currently, he is representing Asia as a SPS expert in the Standards and Trade Development Facility of the WTO. He has a professional experience of about 44 years, of which about 34 years is in international agri. trade and food safety. For three and a half years (Jan 1996 - June 1999), he looked after India's agri. trade interests in the European Union in the capacity of Adviser (Agriculture) in the Mission of India to the European Union at Brussels. He also served as the Director of APEDA for several years.

1. How has been your stint at the Mission of India to the European Union at Brussels?

It was a great experience and I am thankful to the Govt. of India for this opportunity. I got to know many new ideas about the food safety and agri. trade strategy of the European Union. I used these learnings to make all possible

recommendations to concerned ministries and organizations in my country so that required strategic decisions can be taken to promote exports. The primary objective was to gain market access for new products in the EU market and enhance export of existing products. I received encouragement from my superiors in the Mission. Thus, I thoroughly enjoyed my stay in Brussels. My stint provided a great international exposure to me and my family. It helped widen our horizon. We made a lot of friends too. This experience is helpful to us even today.

2. According to you, how can we initiate post-pandemic revival of the Indian economy by focusing on the agriculture sector?

Our Hon'ble Prime Minister recently had a meeting with our ministers and senior officials in the government and have come to the conclusion that we have to make our agriculture production marketable, there is a need to strengthen the sector with certain legal provisions and provide support to the sector through reduction in input costs and better productivity. His earnest desire and initiatives to enhance the farmers' earnings for better livelihood, the PM Fasal Bima Yojana and to make Indian farm products competitive in the international market are commendable.

We have to remember that India is an international market with a huge population and we import lot of food products as well. We are living in the WTO era and, therefore, the only way to succeed is to make ourselves strong. Thus, we need to be highly strategic for long-term gains. Surely, our aim has to be to enhance farmers' earnings, increase food processing for optimum capacity utilization and develop employment opportunities while ensuring food safety. Food safety begets food security. The following strategic decisions may be considered:

- a) Modulate import duty structure in such a manner that we apply zero or minimal duty on

raw material and increase it in direct proportion to value addition (certain exceptions can be made for BIMSTEC countries). **Let us take the example of mangoes, which are produced in India in large quantity. For mangoes to be imported, the import duty can be structured in a manner that we reduce import duty for processing varieties, and also for the table varieties that do not conflict with the Indian season.** This period has to be defined for levying import duties. Import duty can also be structured based on the international price of such varieties to ensure that raw material is made available to our food processing industry at competitive prices. This will enable processing facilities to operate round the year and also provide value addition. This is how several countries have industrialized themselves. While allowing imports, we should not compromise on the plant protection and quarantine requirements, even for the processing varieties of agricultural produce.

- b) Currently, planting material is allowed to be imported by ICAR institutions. We should allow approved Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) to import new planting material. Criteria, including for backward and processing linkages, for selection of FPOs should be extremely strict with penal provisions for violation of the terms of approval, plant protection norms and Intellectual Property Rights of the plant breeders. The aim of variety selection should be to ensure enhancement of the production season of the agri./horticulture produce so that the Indian farmers can produce it round-the-year and improve their livelihood, and the consumers can get produce of different varieties round-the-year, thereby ensuring a favourable trade balance.
- c) As a long-term measure, Govt. should support private sector investment in research for creation of new varieties, which can be marketed in India and abroad. Plant breeders in developed countries keep bringing out new varieties of fruits and vegetables and drive a change in consumer preferences to remain in

business. This will give a boost to our Make-in-India programme.

- d) APEDA has assisted development of many infrastructure facilities in India that has helped increase exports. The scheme also provides for missing gaps in the processing facilities. However, the schemes of APEDA and Dept. of Agriculture for Infrastructure Development need to be upgraded. Support for up-gradation of the facilities is required. **Let us take the example of Table Grapes. This fruit is produced for six months. Thereafter, the facilities remain idle. If such facilities can be supported for up-gradation for catering to other horticulture produce, and for value-addition (food processing), these can be used round-the-year. This will enhance productivity and provide regular employment opportunities;**
- e) Enhance support to neighbouring countries for capacity building to support regional trade for ensuring that sub-standard food does not enter India from various sources. Regional co-operation will be the key to regional growth. If our neighbour is happy, we will also be happy;
- f) Encourage presence at all international fora (enhance visibility - FAO, WHO, IPPC, OIE, Codex, WTO, STDF, etc.);

3. What interventions would you suggest to boost quality of our agri. produce in a sustainable manner?

Here again, we have to take a strategic approach. Following points should be considered for quality of farming and marketing of farm produce for the benefit of farmers and industry:

- a) Due to rapid urbanization, revenue from agriculture will come only from value addition and branding. This value addition will come not just from food processing, but also from creating a brand image for Indian food products. **Global agri. trade is shifting rapidly from product certification to process (practices) certification.** Hence, third-party certification should be supported, promoted and marketed domestically and globally

through bench-marking and branding. The Quality Council of India (QCI) has developed schemes like IND-GAP, IND-GHP, IND-HACCP and they are working on development of other such schemes. These schemes should be supported by the Govt. for implementation in the domestic market. We need to encourage implementation (and related infrastructure development) of practices like Good Agriculture Practices (GAP), Good Hygienic Practices (GHP), Good Veterinary Practices and other best practices along the value chain, and adopting a cluster-based approach coupled with traceability. This will rationalize farmer and processor expenses and enhance food security through food safety. It will also build India's image as a safe food products destination.

- b) The GAP certification scheme of Dept. of Agriculture (DAC) needs to allow support for 'implementation' followed by certification for ensuring food safety. Such third-party certification should be acceptable to the regulatory bodies in India for domestic production and also for imported food products. Organizations like Mother Dairy and IFFCO-Kisan can be supported for implementing GAP and GHP to set a model for others to follow. This will ensure availability of safe food in the country and ensure that substandard food is not imported. This will also help build a culture for quality and safety and enhance competitiveness in the domestic market and for exports. We should remember that competing countries are implementing such practices and the importing countries are preferring to source food products from countries that have institutionalized implementation of these practices, and our market share is getting eroded. **We should not forget that if a market is lost, it will be extremely difficult to bring it back. Imagine the cost of non-compliance!!**

4. What is the concept of bench-marking for the domestic and export market and what synergy do you see with FSSAI and our Export Promotion bodies?

Benchmarking is a process that provides evidence of equivalence with another

recognized scheme with the objective of obviating duplication and complexity of certification. It helps reduce administrative time, effort and costs for producers, suppliers, and retailers for making the produce competitive.

GLOBALG.A.P. is a globally recognized scheme for good agricultural practices. The standards ensure greater efficiency in production, improve business performance, and provide benefits the farmers, retailers, and consumers. **The QCI has adopted the new INDGAP (India Good Agriculture Practices) standards in Nov. 2019. INDGAP addresses 9 out of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations and also covers spices which are not addressed by GLOBAL G.A.P.** In order to achieve international acceptance and reduction in the transaction cost for exports, the QCI has initiated the process of bench-marking INDGAP with GLOBALG.A.P. After bench-marking, INDGAP will enjoy international recognition, a big advantage in the highly competitive global market.

The National Accreditation Board for Certification Bodies (NABCB), an independent accreditation body under the overall umbrella of the QCI, is a member of the International Accreditation Forum and has signed the Multi-Lateral Agreement after assessment of its accreditation procedures. Once INDGAP gets bench-marked, it is expected to reduce the cost of compliance and enhance competitiveness in the international market. Increase in the number of accredited Certification Bodies will also help improve the delivery of services. Once a farm is certified, the INDGAP logo should be used on the retail packages to give branding to Indian produce in the international market and also enhance consumer acceptance in the domestic market. The QCI has requested Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) and the Spices Board of India to provide financial support for bench-marking by using horticulture clusters identified under India's Agri. Export Policy.

Implementation of GHP and HACCP is a

requirement under the FSSAI licensing regulations. Several training programmes have been conducted by training partners of FSSAI for implementation. It would lend credibility to these food products if implementation of these standards passes the test of a third-party certification by accredited Certification Bodies. On one hand, the QCI has adopted IND-GHP and IND-HACCP and, on the other, NABCB enjoys international recognition. The certifications should also be acceptable to FSSAI for ensuring safety of food products produced domestically or imported. This synergy of the need and delivery should be explored. The QCI should also introduce other schemes for Good Veterinary Practices, Good Aquaculture Practices, Good Animal Feeding Practices etc., and all such schemes would provide synergy to the regulatory provisions of FSSAI.

5. You are the first Indian to be Chairperson of Codex Alimentarius Commission. How has Codex benefited India and what is its importance to the developing countries?

Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) sets standards for food products as well as for various horizontal issues like residues of pesticides, veterinary drugs and other contaminants, food additives, hygiene, labeling, etc. Codex standards are adopted after scientific risk assessment is done by independent FAO/WHO expert committees.

On the home front, the FSSAI Act also requires setting of standards based on science while taking international standards into consideration. In 2012, FSSAI took steps for harmonization of India's standards with the Codex. Currently, FSSAI does not have infrastructure for carrying out the required level of scientific risk assessment, generation of data in respect of various contaminants. It is, therefore, appropriate that rather than reinventing the wheel, FSSAI should utilize the infrastructure and expertise available with the FAO/WHO expert groups and request the relevant subject matter Codex Committees to develop standards where we have an interest.

FSSAI has made several requests to Codex for

setting standards, e.g., MLs for food contaminants like mycotoxins in spices, aflatoxins in ready-to-eat peanuts; MRLs for certain pesticides; guidance document on labeling of non-retail containers of food products, etc. If FSSAI were to set the standards on its own, it would require infrastructure, expertise, huge funds and time. Hence, utilising the Codex process is the best option. Therefore, an active participation in Codex is called for with all ears and eyes open. It is necessary to guard against any adverse trade implications.

Another major benefit of participation in Codex discussions is that India, in collaboration with other developing countries, can defend standards and practices that are technically and economically feasible and, in the process, look after its trade interests. The Indian industry through trade bodies contributes effectively for ensuring India's interests in the setting of international standards. We should not forget that Codex standards are the only reference standards in any WTO dispute settlement, and eventually India would intend to utilise these standards for its own National standards-setting process. Even if India does not participate in a Codex Committee, it still remains a party to the decisions and such standards are applicable to India too. India is a member of Codex since 1964. Most developing countries have suffered because they have not participated in Codex, whatever the reason may be.

A third big advantage of participation in Codex is that it helps build capacity for setting standards. During the past few years, India has made several proposals in respect of products and guidelines. Conventionally, when a country makes such proposals, the same country leads the Working Groups. It gives an opportunity to work with several developed and developing countries on developing the document. In the process, officials from India who lead the work get to learn many new things that need to be taken into consideration. This experience also helps in making useful contribution to Codex work led by other countries.

In 2012, India made a proposal for a new Codex Committee for spices. **In 2013, the Codex Alimentarius Commission approved India's proposal and India became the proud host of Codex Committee for Spices and Culinary Herbs. Had India not been active in Codex, this may not have happened. India's active role in Codex has led to image building of India and FSSAI.**

6. You are currently representing Asia as a SPS expert in STDF. What is the role of STDF and how India can benefit from it?

The Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) is an off-shoot of the 2001 Doha Ministerial Conference when five founding organizations, namely, FAO, WHO, WTO, OIE (World Organization for Animal Health) and the World Bank agreed to set up this institution as a global coordination and knowledge platform with the objective of building capacity in SPS areas for safe food and minimizing trade transaction costs. Later, IPPC (International Plant Protection Convention) and Codex Alimentarius were also included as STDF partners due to their relevance to the objectives. The STDF Secretariat is in the WTO Building in Geneva.

STDF focuses primarily on five thematic topics, namely, Public-Private Partnership, Good Regulatory Practices, facilitate safe trade (transparency, streamline documentation, implement risk-based approaches and single-window SPS controls), e-certification and helping countries prioritize their investments for market access. It takes into account cross-cutting issues like gender equality, environment, poverty alleviation, food security, etc. **STDF provides funding support (up to USD 1 million) to developing countries for implementing programmes to improve their SPS requirements for greater market access.**

The intent is to ensure a high impact of the projects supported by STDF; these are replicable and sustainable, there is ownership at the national level. The resources come from 12 countries that donate funds to the STDF pool of funds. Some examples of projects approved by STDF are (a) Safe honey production and traceability in Guatemala; (b) Onion

cooperative training for GAP in Vietnam; (c) Good Aquaculture Practices and traceability in 1000+ shrimp farms in Bangladesh (women were main beneficiaries); (d) Partnerships for ginger exports through GAP implementation. Benefits for setting up 8000 washing facilities for house-holds; (e) A training facility for Cinnamon for peeling and processing and also for GI for Ceylon Cinnamon; (f) Training for GAP and GHP for four spices (black pepper, coriander, cumin and fennel) in four states of India (Rajasthan, Gujarat, MP and AP). The project is being implemented by Spices Board of India and the MoU with FAO was signed in October 2019.

Looking at the examples, APEDA, MPEDA, FSSAI, a State Govt. organization, or a trade body can take advantage of support from STDF.

7. In the next 5-10 years, where do you see the agriculture sector?

Our Prime Minister's vision is to make India a 5 trillion-dollar economy by 2024, double agri. exports and double farmers' income by 2022. Surely, a good target, but with everyone's contribution, it can be achieved. Ministry of Agriculture is doing everything to make it happen and several schemes have been introduced. Hence, India's agriculture sector is bound to grow. Increasing awareness about best practices and safety will be an added support. Value-addition through food processing will make it greatly sustainable. **In terms of exports, India should aim at exporting value-added food products. Introduction of new products in the international market and bringing nutrition products within the reach of poorer consumers in India and other countries, in particular, within the BIMSTEC, and several least developed countries.**

It is difficult to put a figure, but with the initiatives being taken, India is destined to be a major producer of food for the domestic market and for exports. Certain key steps as proposed above should be also considered to realize the vision.



SG, QCI addressing at the UNFSS
 Launch - India Case Study during a visit to Geneva



SG, QCI interacting at the Trade for Sustainable
 Development (T4SD) in Geneva



SG, QCI addressing the first Yoga Steering Committee meeting



QCI promoting Yoga Scheme
 at the European Parliament.



QCI presenting Yoga Scheme to
 Indian Embassy in Brussels

International Presence



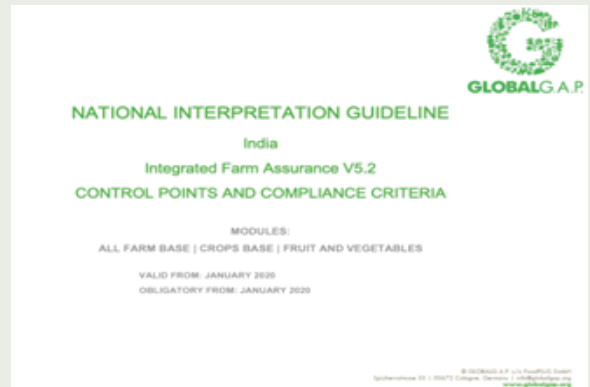
QCI presenting India PSS Platform at the South Africa VSS Meeting



QCI presenting India PSS Platform activities during 2nd ICSTS VSS Meeting



MaldivesGAP - Adaptation to SAARCGAP



National Interpretation GLOBALG.A.P.



Co-operation Declaration with Developing Countries under the aegis of UNFSS

Our activities in the newsprint

Sensitisation workshop held at SFRI

During the workshop, scientists, regional centre officials and progressive farmers were visited the medical plantation nursery and detailed about Voluntary Certification Scheme for Medicinal Plant Produce (VCSMPP)



Staff Reporter

DAY-LONG sensitisation workshop on 'Voluntary Certification for Medicinal Plant Produce' was organised at State Forest Research Institute (SFRI) on Monday.

Chief guest on the occasion was Dr Om Tripathi, Quality Council of India (QCI), New Delhi, while senior officers of Tropical Forest Research Institute (TFRI), Jawaharlal Nehru Krishi Vishwavidyalaya, Forest Department, JTC Bhadrachalam, progressive farmers of medical plantation from Muligai village, scientists and officers of State Forest Research Institute (SFRI) were present.

The workshop was inaugurated at the hands of eminent guests. SFRI Director welcomed the guests, scientists, officials and progressive farmers and informed about the significance

Senior officials attending the sensitisation workshop on VCSMPP at SFRI. (Pic by Anil Twar)

of the workshop.

QCI representatives detailed about the objectives of the workshop and informed about its benefits to the farmers and other stake holders.

During the workshop, scientists, regional centre officials and progressive farmers were visited the medical plantation nursery and detailed about Voluntary Certification Scheme for Medicinal Plant Produce (VCSMPP). Subject experts provided training of Good Agriculture Practices and Good and Field Collection Practices of medicinal plants, primary processing, cost setting and marketing.

The workshop was organised to sensitize the farmers and other

stake holders about the elements of Voluntary Certification Scheme for Medicinal Plant Produce (VCSMPP) to build the capacity of the officers and technical staff of the institute. QCI will assist in the documentation of demo plots of the species selected and ensure up keep of the demonstration validity of the certificate.

The memorandum of understanding (MoU) between QCI and National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB) for the VCSMPP implementation provides for conducting workshops, development of packages of practices, establishment of demonstration area and provision of certification of medicinal plants.

औषधीय पौधों का उत्पादन करने वाले कृषकों को मिलेगा लाभ



जबलपुर। राज्य वन अनुसंधान संस्थान में औषधीय पदप उत्पाद के लिए स्वैच्छिक प्रमाणन योजना के विषय पर एक दिवसीय संवेदीकरण कार्यशाला का आयोजन हुआ। कार्यशाला डॉ. ओम त्रिपाठी भारतीय गुणवत्ता परिषद, नई दिल्ली के मुख्य में आतिथ्य में हुई। कार्यशाला में राज्य वन अनुसंधान संस्थान के वैज्ञानिकों, क्षेत्रीय-सह-सुविधा केन्द्र के सदस्यों तथा प्रगतिशील कृषकों को औषधीय पदप उत्पाद के लिए स्वैच्छिक प्रमाणन योजना से संबंधित जानकारी प्रदान की गई एवं औषधीय नसरी का भ्रमण भी कराया गया। विषय-विरोधों द्वारा औषधीय पौधों की उच्च कृषि प्रथा एवं उच्च क्षेत्र संग्रहण प्रथा, प्राथमिक प्रसंस्करण आदि के बारे में परिचित किया गया। कार्यशाला से औषधीय पौधों का उत्पादन करने वाले कृषकों एवं वन क्षेत्र के औषधीय पौध के संग्रहकों को औषधीय उत्पाद बाजार में उनके द्वारा उत्पादन अथवा संग्रहण किये गए औषधीय पौध उत्पाद की गुणवत्ता की जानकारी हो सकेगी। कार्यक्रम में वन विभाग के वरिष्ठ अधिकारी, उष्ण कटिबंधीय वन अनुसंधान संस्थान के वैज्ञानिक, जनेकृषि जबलपुर के वैज्ञानिक, आईटीमी भद्राचलम के प्रतिनिधि, औषधीय पदप के प्रगतिशील कृषक, राम मुनिगई संस्था के प्रबंधक, राज्य वन अनुसंधान संस्थान के वैज्ञानिक एवं वरिष्ठ अनुसंधान अधिकारी, क्षेत्रीय-सह-सुविधा केन्द्र के सदस्य एवं सीसीडी नर्थ के प्रतिनिधि उपस्थित रहे। अंत में संचालक राज्य वन अनुसंधान संस्थान द्वारा प्रतिभागियों को प्रमाण पत्र वितरित किए गए पी-3

Media Highlights



SAARC GAP member countries during the regional workshop conducted by QCI for SAC



Agriculture Commissioner, Gol inaugurating the SGAP event by lighting the Lamp



QCI at the launch of Version 3 of INDGAP document, November 2019



Sensitization Workshop on VCSMPP on Independent TV

6th National Standards Conclave



"The 6th National Standards Conclave was aimed at providing perspectives on what can be done to increase India's international trade profile by using standards harmonization as a tool for trade facilitation and a greater value chain integration. The Conclave was inaugurated by Hon'ble Minister of Commerce & Industry and Railways, Government of India - Sh. Piyush Goyal. Dr. R P Singh, Secretary General, QCI, delivered the welcome remarks in the Special Session. Dr. Manish Pande, Director and Head, PADD participated in a panel discussion on 'Voluntary Standards & Global Accountability Mechanisms'."

THANK YOU

When the going gets tough, the tough get going!

The human race has never witnessed such a united effort against a challenge as unprecedented as the Covid-19 pandemic. While this crisis may have disrupted the global economy, businesses and supply chains everywhere and forced nations across the world to maintain a physical lockdown, it is in our hands to ensure that there's no lockdown on our hope for the future.

These extraordinary times are testing how human activities have shaped the world over centuries. All of us today are balancing the need to resume crucial activities, with the imperative to also contain the virus and the resolve to be compliant to the lockdown requirements. We are also ensuring that there are long-term solutions to how we combat this challenge.

We, at PADD, have resolved to abide by the nationwide lockdown and even as the nation begins to ease some of these restrictions, it is vital that we continue to observe critical social-distancing practices to contain the spread of the Coronavirus.

Let's overcome this situation together by taking good care of ourselves, of our families and of people around us.

We salute all the Corona Warriors for their resilience.

Stay safe!

PADD Team, QCI

Here's your chance to feature in our newsletter!

We, at PADD, have shown our steadfast commitment to SUSTAINABILITY, right from initiatives like SDG mapping to sustainability standards.

Our next edition of PADD-Insights will focus on the broad-ranging theme of 'Sustainability'. Do you have an idea, a hot-take, or a story on the said theme which deserves to be featured? Send in your entries to aayushi.dhawan@qcin.org by 20th June 2020.

We are excited to hear from you!



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