

# The International Trade Centre

And its technical assistance in the field of TBT  
and SPS



A presentation to: **UNDESA Workshop**  
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# International Trade Centre



- ❖ Joint technical cooperation agency of UN and WTO
- ❖ Established in 1964 from GATT
- ❖ 100% Aid for Trade
- ❖ Well centred around SME development



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# ITC studies on NTMs

Import  
measures

Technical  
measures

- A** Technical requirements
- B** Conformity assessment

Non-  
technical  
measures

- C** Pre-shipment inspection
- D** Charges, taxes & para-tariff measures
- E** Quantity control measures (Licenses, quotas, prohibitions)
- F** Finance measures
- G** Price-control measures
- H** Anti-competitive measures
- I** Trade-related investment measures
- J** Distribution restrictions
- K** Restrictions on post-sales services
- L** Subsidies (excluding export subsidies)
- M** Government procurement restrictions
- N** Intellectual property
- O** Rules of origin

- P** Export measures (including export subsidies)

# Types of Technical Measures

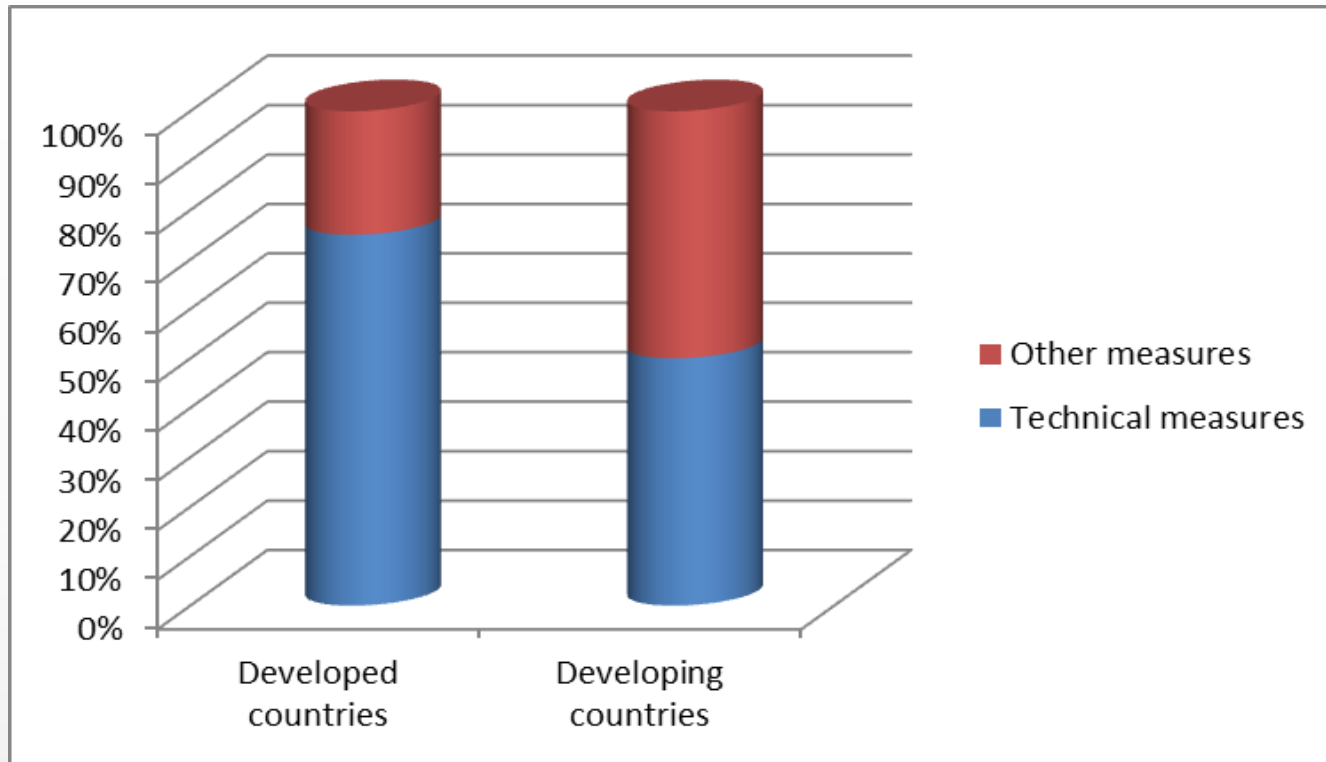
## Technical requirements

- Product identity
- Quality, performance
- Tolerance limits for residues and restricted substances
- Regulations related to GMO
- Hygienic requirements
- Plant/animal food processing
- labour standards
- Labelling, marking, packaging..

## Conformity Assessment

- Testing
- Product or system certification
- Inspection
- Traceability information
- Quarantine...

# Pertinent results from ITC NTM Surveys



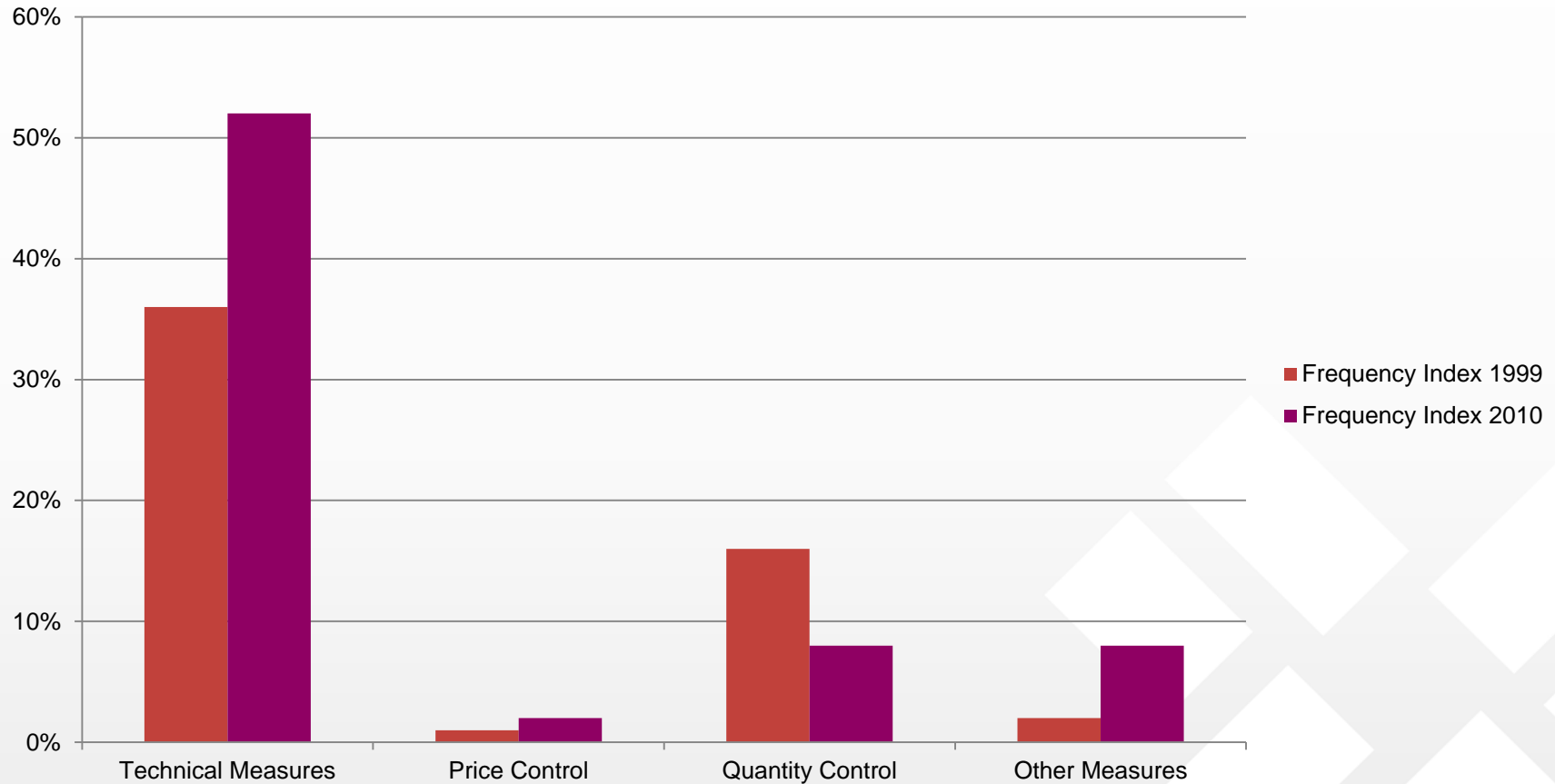
*Results based on ITC NTM surveys carried out in 11 countries: Burkina Faso, Egypt, Jamaica, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Morocco, Paraguay, Peru, Rwanda and Uruguay.*

# Common technical issues

- Lack of information on foreign market standards, TRs and CA procedures - Senegal, Côte d'Ivoire,
- High certification costs - Peru, Sri Lanka, Tunisia, Morocco
- Burdensome certification and inspection procedures resulting in delays and costs - Peru, Tunisia, Côte d'Ivoire, Malawi
- Lack of testing facilities - Peru, Sri Lanka, Côte d'Ivoire, Jamaica,
- Local CA Bodies not recognised in destination market - Peru, Côte d'Ivoire, Malawi, Morocco, Mauritius
- EU technical requirements too stringent - Peru, Sri Lanka, Morocco, Mauritius
- Lack of cooperation among institutions - Peru, Sri Lanka

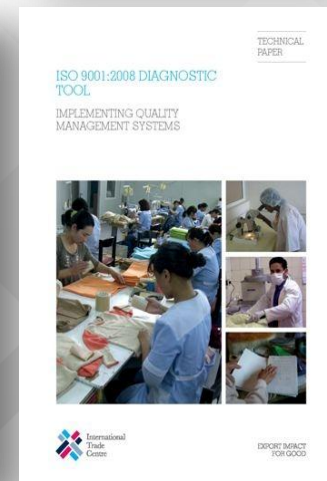


# Percentage of products covered by NTMs (2000 and 2010)



# Goal of Export Quality Management (EQM) Programme

“Improve competitiveness of enterprises in developing countries/economies in transition by enhancing their capacity to **meet technical requirements** in export markets and to **overcome technical barriers to trade**”



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# Challenges faced by enterprises



## Challenge 1

- Technical requirements in importing countries difficult to obtain and not well understood



## Challenge 2

- Enterprises not able to meet standards, technical regulations and SPS measures



## Challenge 3

- Exporters unable to demonstrate compliance with requirements in importing countries at reasonable cost



## Challenge 4

- Inadequate technical environment and Infrastructure

# Assistance to enterprises

## Information



- Traceability in food and agricultural products
- Overview of Conformity Assessment in International Trade
- Information Retrieval on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS)
- Directory of Marks and Labels Related to Food Safety, Environmental Integrity and Social Equity
- Exporting Seafood to EU
- ITC Standards Map
- EQM guide



## Self-assessment



## Implementation



- **ISO 9001: Quality Management Systems**
- **ISO 14001 Environmental Management Systems.**
- **Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP)**
- **ISO 22000 Food safety management systems. Checklist for SMEs.**
- **ISO 50001: Energy Management Systems**
- **ISO 31000 : Risk Management**
- **Quality and Productivity Improvement programme (5S, Lean management...)**

## Certification



# Assistance to quality-related trade support institutions

14

## Equipment upgrade



## Skills & know-how upgrade



- Review TBT/SPS related technical infrastructure and prepare road map for improvement
- Capacity building of certification bodies, laboratories, inspection agencies
- Accreditation and International recognition of Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs)
- Support National Standard Bodies to develop standards

# Assistance to policy makers and regulators

## Agreement on TBT



Training and advice on the WTO Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade

## Agreement on SPS



Training and advice on the WTO Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

## National Enquiry Points



Set up, operationalize, and improve the functioning of NNAs/NEPs. Collaboration between the private and public sectors

## Good regulatory practices



Preparation of technical regulations based on Good Regulatory Practices

# Assistance to NEP /NNA

- Improve understanding of WTO Agreements on TBT/SPS
- Understand related obligations, specifically Transparency provisions
- Role of NEP and NNA, importance and relevance to the business sector



# Assistance to NEP

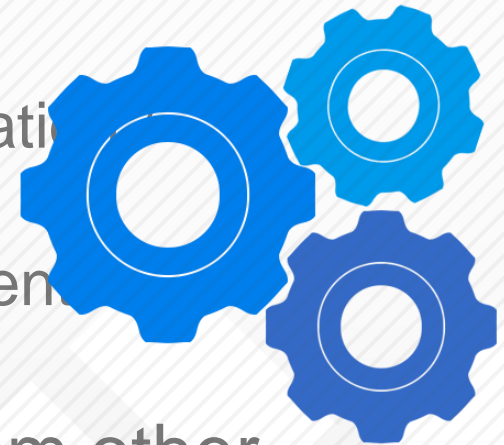
- Setting up and operationalizing NEP
  - Terms of Reference
  - Standard Operating Procedures and workflows
  - Keeping track of notifications from other Members
  - Record keeping and documentation



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# Assistance to NNA

- Setting up and operationalizing NNA
  - Notify measures
    - What to notify : TR/CAP
    - When to notify: Routine notifications  
Emergency notifications
    - How to notify: Format and content
    - Who to notify: WTO
  - Responding to submissions from other Members
  - Consultation with business sector



## Examples



**Bangladesh**

**Donor: EU**

*“It is only after the intervention of the BQSP project, that the SPS National Enquiry Point at the WTO Cell of the Ministry of Commerce became operational. The Action Plan developed under the BQSP project was instrumental in gaining momentum for the development of our NEP.”*

- Mr. N. Ahmed, Deputy Director, WTO Cell,  
Ministry of Commerce, Government of  
Bangladesh.



**Kyrgyzstan**

**Donor: SECO**

Helping the governments in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan to establish and make operational SPS and TBT National Enquiry Points and National Notification Authorities.




**Tajikistan**

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Projects and impact stories

Projects and impact stories

Projects

Some examples of present and recent projects through which ITC is providing technical assistance in the area of standards and quality management, are as follows:

- Myanmar: Improving Food Safety and Compliance with SPS measures to increase Export Revenues in the Oilseeds Value Chain (MYA/98/05A)
- Supporting Indian trade and investment for Africa (INT/71/21A)
- Fiji: Key services to develop livestock and animal food (FIJ/75/34A)
- Fiji: Improvement of key services to agriculture (FIJ/75/30A)

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Thank you!

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