



UNITED NATIONS  
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION



# Quality Infrastructure for Trade Facilitation (QI4TF) Toolkit

A ROADMAP TO STRENGTHEN  
QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE FOR TRADE



## QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE FOR TRADE FACILITATION

The need to improve the movement of goods across national borders has become ever more important, as global trade is increasingly embedded and characterized by complex global value chains (GVCs). The requirements of the World Trade Organization's (WTO) Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA), which contains provisions for expediting the movement, release and clearance of goods, including goods in transit, represent a major challenge as well as a great opportunity for developing countries. An effective and efficient quality infrastructure system, and its associated

services of internationally recognized testing, inspection and certification, supports the implementation of the TFA, specifically demonstrating compliance with Articles 5.3, 7.9, 8 and 12.1, and the ability to meet the quality and standards requirements of export markets.

Trade facilitation relies on the proper operation of national quality infrastructure systems (NQIS), especially testing, inspection and certification bodies, to demonstrate a product's compliance with the requirements of international export markets.

Often, developing countries do not have a functional quality infrastructure in place. This results in:



## WHAT IS THE QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE FOR TRADE FACILITATION (QI4TF) TOOLKIT?

The Quality Infrastructure for Trade Facilitation (QI4TF) toolkit is being developed by UNIDO with the support of the Government of Germany to help countries, particularly developing countries, to systematically identify and address

technical gaps in NQIS that are required to facilitate trade. In addition, the toolkit helps governments and industries to identify their capabilities and weaknesses when it comes to exporting a specific product to international markets.



The most common technical gaps in any NQIS are those that hinder compliance with the requirements enshrined in the WTO's TBT Agreement and the SPS Agreement. Crucially, overcoming these non-compliance issues are key to the effective and sound implementation of the WTO's Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA), which contains provisions for expediting the movement, release and clearance of goods, including goods in transit.

An effective NQIS aims at defining quality requirements and providing acceptable evidence, recognized at the international level, that products, goods and services conform to quality requirements. Trade facilitation relies on the proper operation of NQIS' functions relating to standards, accreditation, metrology, conformity assessment procedures (namely testing, inspection and certification), and market surveillance.

## WHO IS THE TOOLKIT FOR?

The target audience for the QI4TF are the National Trade Facilitation Committees (NTFCs) or any authority with the responsibilities of trade facilitation to assess the national capacity to meet the high-value market import requirements according to the principles and using the mechanisms agreed

in the TFA, and in line with the SPS and TBT agreements. Any country that wants to improve their export of first-level agro-food processed products to the European Union (EU) can apply the toolkit as well.

## HOW DOES THE TOOLKIT WORK?

The toolkit is administered in the form of a questionnaire, through an electronic version of the toolkit (e-tool) hosted on an online platform. It measures the government capacity

(“QI4TF 1”) and industry capacity (“QI4TF 2”) to facilitate exports with respect to the QI system.

“QI4TF 1” assesses five capacities:

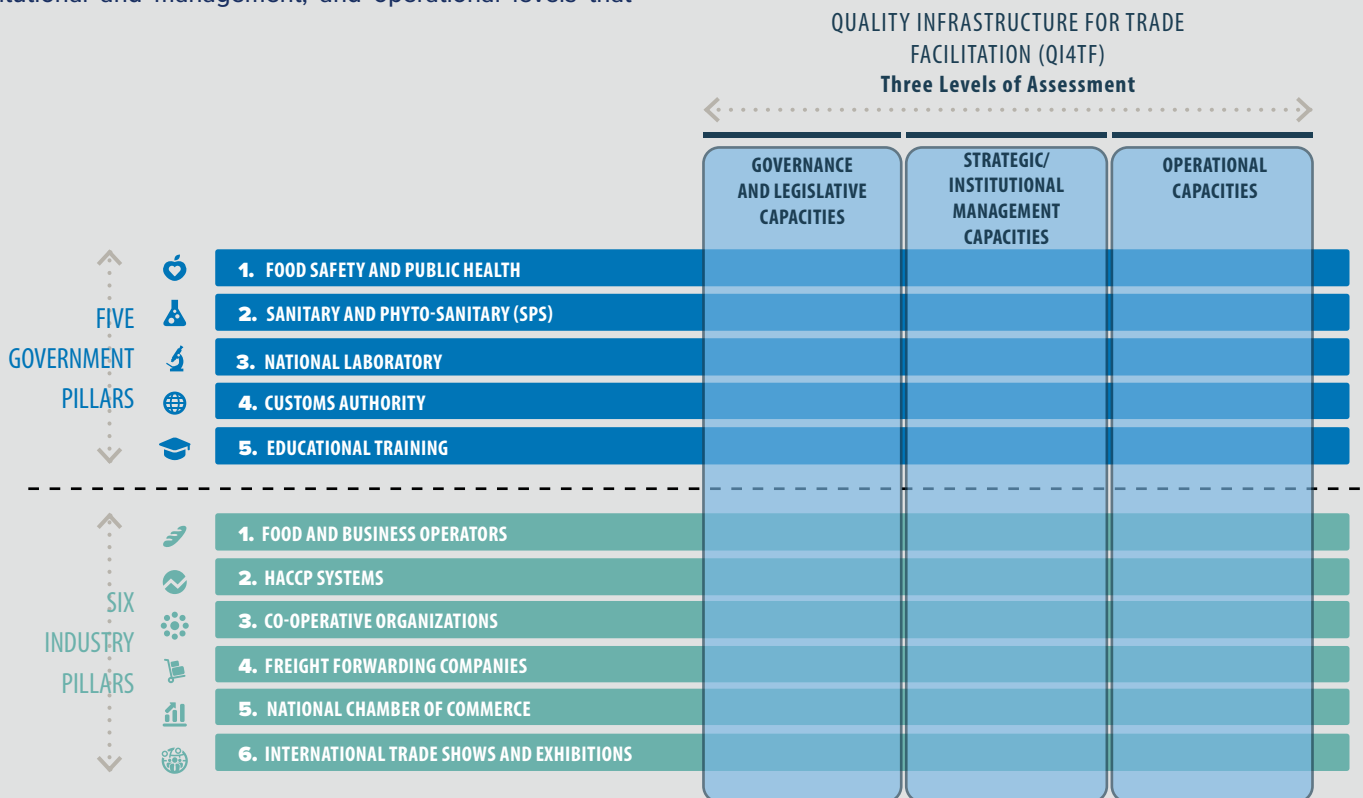
1. Food Safety and Public Health
2. Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary (SPS)
3. National Laboratory
4. Customs Authority
5. Educational Training

“QI4TF 2” assesses six capacities:

1. Food and Business Operators
2. HACCP systems
3. Co-Operative Organizations
4. Freight forwarding companies
5. National Chamber of Commerce
6. International trade shows and exhibitions

Together, these 11 capacities are assessed at three levels to identify the technical gaps at the governance and legislative, institutional and management, and operational levels that

government and industry need to address in order for SMEs to enter and compete in international markets.



These results will then be the basis for the development of a consensus-built roadmap for industry and government to action. In addition, through the application of the QI4TF tool,

corrective measures that are proposed, which NQI systems can then implement.

## APPLYING THE QI4TF TOOLKIT – A “STEP-BY-STEP” APPROACH

The application of the QI4TF toolkit involves three key stages:



### STAGE 1

Preparatory groundwork

A team of national experts is mobilized to prepare the application of the toolkit during the workshop. During this stage, it is important to obtain buy-in from the lead Ministry in charge of industry development and/or trade. It is also important to select the appropriate value chain, identify and convene the key stakeholders, and organize the workshop that occurs in the second stage. There needs to be strong involvement from NTFCs and national experts from the Ministry.



### STAGE 2

Application of the electronic version of the tool in a two-day workshop

This is a controlled process and needs to be established to guide the participants through each step of the workshop to ensure the quality of results. The experts will need to understand the critical points within the process, and how to facilitate the discussions to ensure that the results are well documented in the report.

During the two-day workshops, the following steps need to be carried out in order to arrive at the consensus-building process to develop a roadmap for industry and government to facilitate trade.

**STEP 1:** Identification of gaps

**STEP 2:** Prioritization of actions to address the gaps

**STEP 3:** Presentation of a consensus-built roadmap for action



### STAGE 3

Preparation of a roadmap report for government and industry to action

A report on the results of the application of the e-tool for government and industry is prepared, which will guide them on further action to take. The results can be fed into national development plans or strategies, such as the National Trade Facilitation Action Plan, National Development Plans, or Sectorial Development Plans.

### Identification of gaps

1

Government Capacity: QI4TF 1		% FILL	SCORE
1. NATIONAL EDUCATION CAPACITIES		100.0%	51.7%
2. FOOD SAFETY AND PUBLIC HEALTH CAPACITIES		100.0%	79.2%
3. SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY CAPACITIES		100.0%	30.0%
4. NATIONAL LABORATORY CAPACITIES		100.0%	55.7%
5. CUSTOMS AUTHORITY CAPACITIES		100.0%	68.8%
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>61.3%</b>
Industry Capacity: QI4TF 2		% FILL	SCORE
1. FOOD BUSINESS OPERATOR AND RELATED TRADE CAPACITIES		100.0%	61.5%
2. HACCP SYSTEMS (Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points)		100.0%	31.0%
3. CO-OPS		100.0%	80.0%
4. FREIGHT FORWARDING COMPANIES		0.0%	0.0%
5. NATIONAL TRADE BODIES AND CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE		0.0%	0.0%
6. CAPACITY TO TAKE PART IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE SHOWS AND EXHIBITIONS		0.0%	0.0%
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>55.7%</b>

### Prioritization of actions to address the gaps

2

My Results / ranking		AVERAGE
Num.		
1.	Ensure that food safety inspectors are adequately qualified and trained to be able to inspect according to the requirements of target high value markets	5.0
2.	Build knowledge base of industry on the requirements of legislation through education, training and awareness raising	5.0
3.	Lead (appropriate sectorial bodies) the organization of vocational education and training to facilitate efficient production to meet the accepted requirements of the EU and other potential markets	4.0
4.	Ensure sufficient education in the awareness and the importance of food hygiene available to the sector	4.0
5.	Ensure that the legislation prescribes the qualifications required for specific operational functions of government	3.0
6.	Ensure that the legislation allows for the recognition and certification of private training companies	3.0
7.	Raise awareness to industry that the acceptable Minimum Level of Residue (MRL) of agricultural and cleaning chemicals are based on binding international agreements and EU requirements	3.0
8.	Make available a base of suitably qualified trainers in all production sectors	3.0
9.	Accessible training and guidance at farm level on best practice for the safe use of pesticides and their modes of application	2.0
10.	Ensure that at farm level, education is available in the principles of GAP	2.0
11.	Adapt the training and education curricula to reflect the agri-food safety requirements	1.0
12.	Provide guidance and education for food business operators in the principles of processes of HACCP	1.0
13.	Provide education on Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) to the food industry	1.0
14.	Ensure that there is legislation in place requiring food safety education to be monitored and checked by qualified personnel	0.0
15.	Establish a system of audit and verification to ensure the highest quality of education and training is provided	0.0
Group results for capacity		
NATIONAL EDUCATION CAPACITIES		
Num.		AVERAGE
1.	Accessible training and guidance at farm level on best practice for the safe use of pesticides and their modes of application	3.6
2.	Lead (appropriate sectorial bodies) the organization of vocational education and training to facilitate efficient production to meet the accepted requirements of the EU and other potential markets	3.6
3.	Make available a base of suitably qualified trainers in all production sectors	3.5
4.	Provide education on Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) to the food industry	3.5
5.	Ensure sufficient education in the awareness and the importance of food hygiene available to the sector	3.5
6.	Ensure that food safety inspectors are adequately qualified and trained to be able to inspect according to the requirements of target high value markets	3.4
7.	Ensure that at farm level, education is available in the principles of GAP	3.4
8.	Adapt the training and education curricula to reflect the agri-food safety requirements	3.3
9.	Provide guidance and education for food business operators in the principles of processes of HACCP	3.3
10.	Ensure that there is legislation in place requiring food safety education to be monitored and checked by qualified personnel	3.2
11.	Build knowledge base of industry on the requirements of legislation through education, training and awareness raising	3.2
12.	Ensure that the legislation allows for the recognition and certification of private training companies	3.1
13.	Raise awareness to industry that the acceptable Minimum Level of Residue (MRL) of agricultural and cleaning chemicals are based on binding international agreements and EU requirements	3.1
14.	Establish a system of audit and verification to ensure the highest quality of education and training is provided	2.9
15.	Ensure that the legislation prescribes the qualifications required for specific operational functions of government	2.7

### Presentation of a consensus-built roadmap for action

3

NATIONAL EDUCATION CAPACITIES		N/A = Not applicable 1 = Not urgent 5 = Most Urgent
<b>Key Capacity 1: Central Government Legislative Controls</b>		
▶ Ensure that there is legislation in place requiring food safety education to be monitored and checked by qualified personnel	👤👤👤	URGENCY
▶ Adapt the training and education curricula to reflect the agri-food safety requirements	👤👤👤	URGENCY
▶ Ensure that the legislation prescribes the qualifications required for specific operational functions of government	👤👤👤	N/A
▶ Ensure that the legislation allows for the recognition and certification of private training companies	👤👤👤	1
<b>Key Capacity 2: Strategic Educational Management obligations and objectives</b>		
▶ Lead (appropriate sectorial bodies) the organization of vocational education and training to facilitate efficient production to meet the accepted requirements of the EU and other potential markets	👤👤👤	2
▶ Ensure that food safety inspectors are adequately qualified and trained to be able to inspect according to the requirements of target high value markets	👤👤👤	3
▶ Establish a system of audit and verification to ensure the highest quality of education and training is provided	👤👤👤	4
▶ Provide guidance and education for food business operators in the principles of processes of HACCP	👤👤👤	5
▶ Accessible training and guidance at farm level on best practice for the safe use of pesticides and their modes of application	👤👤👤	URGENCY
▶ Raise awareness to industry that the acceptable Minimum Level of Residue(MRL) of agricultural and cleaning chemicals are based on binding international agreements and EU requirements	👤👤👤	URGENCY
<b>Key Capacity 3: Delivery objectives for industry by sector</b>		
▶ Ensure sufficient education in the awareness and the importance of food hygiene available to the Sector	👤👤👤	URGENCY
▶ Build knowledge base of industry on the requirements of legislation through education, training and awareness raising	👤👤👤	URGENCY
▶ Provide education on Good Manufacturing Practices(GMP) to the food industry	👤👤👤	URGENCY
▶ Ensure that at farm level, education is available in the principles of GAP	👤👤👤	URGENCY
▶ Make available a base of suitably qualified trainers in all production sectors	👤👤👤	URGENCY

Save & continue

## THE QI4TF TOOLKIT IN SUPPORT OF TRADE CAPACITY BUILDING

The tool and its results will serve as inputs to support national capacity building and technical cooperation projects aimed at facilitating trade. The results will ensure that efforts are navigated and focused on addressing key needs/gaps in a more effective and efficient manner. It is expected to contribute to the

prioritization of interventions and serve as inputs for NTFC roadmaps. The benefits in implementing the QI4TF tool include the smooth flow of goods between borders, thereby facilitating trade, and supporting countries in the implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement.

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