



UNITED NATIONS
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

“QI4TF provides a platform for the private and public sector to converse on the gaps identified by the tool, take ownership, prioritize and jointly agree to address them to facilitate market access of their priority sectors.”

Bernardo Calzadilla-Sarmiento, Director of the Department of Trade, Innovation and Investment, UNIDO

Quality Infrastructure for Trade Facilitation Toolkit (QI4TF)

In the effort to support the implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) in member countries, UNIDO, with the funding from Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany, has developed a toolkit which aims to identify the technical gaps in the provision of national quality infrastructure systems, specifically testing and inspection, that hinder the effective implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) and proposes an action plan for implementation. The toolkit identifies gaps that government and industry should address and in particular to comply with articles 4, 5, 8 and 10.3 of the TFA.

UNIDO'S APPROACH

The Quality Infrastructure for Trade Facilitation Toolkit (QI4TF) will enable a National Trade Facilitation Committee (NTFC) or any other authority with the responsibilities of trade facilitation to assess their 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. The tool is intended to be applied to any first level processed agro-food product passing from Country A to Country B (EU).

The QI4TF is split in two parts aimed at measuring 1) government and 2) industry capacity to facilitate exports.

QI4TF 1 assesses food safety and public health, SPS, national laboratories, customs and national educational capacities.

QI4TF 2 assesses for a selected value chain the producer and related trade capacities, cooperative organisations, freight forwarding companies, national chamber of commerce, international trade shows and exhibitions capacities.

Each questionnaire in QI4TF 1 and QI4TF 2 aims to identify by sector and hierarchy the technical gaps in the NQIS that government and industry have to address in order for the industry to enter and compete in the

international arena, by complying with the TBT and SPS Agreements.

The results of the toolkit provide the NTFC and relevant stakeholders a clear roadmap of actions to address and direction to investigate further for each chapter of the tool. The toolkit was successfully piloted in Malawi and South Africa for the agro-processing and essential oils sectors.

IMPACT

The value added of applying this toolkit to facilitate trade is that it:

1. Assesses the quality infrastructure from both the public and private sector perspectives
2. Invites relevant stakeholders from a selected value chain to provide inputs to identify gaps
3. Facilitates public-private dialogue to prioritize the actions to address the gaps identified by the whole group, ensuring ownership

4. Generates a roadmap for policymakers and QI practitioners to action taking into account all inputs of key stakeholders
5. The results can feed into National Trade Facilitation Action plans, Sectorial and National Development plans.

WAY FORWARD

UNIDO's Quality Infrastructure for Trade Facilitation Toolkit will be disseminated globally through an electronic tool.

It will serve as a useful toolkit for the NTFCs to identify gaps, build consensus among stakeholders and prepare roadmaps for action. The results can feed into the National Trade Facilitation Action plans.

The results will help to design and develop targeted interventions so as to facilitate the access of priority value chains to the EU market.

AT A GLANCE

Project title	Testing and inspection assessment tool for effective trade facilitation
Thematic area	Advancing Economic Competitiveness
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