



International
Trade
Centre



TRADE IMPACT
FOR GOOD

TRADE AND REGIONAL INTEGRATION IN THE ARAB STATES

HIGH-LEVEL REGIONAL WORKSHOP

Roundtable on
Quality requirements and management

Summary of discussion and the way forward



More active participation in international standardization work by Arab States

- AIDMO to establish list of priority areas/products/technical committees of interest for Arab States
- Coordinate with NSBs of the region to have common stand on the formulation of the relevant international standards
- Support is needed to facilitate participation of representatives of Arab States in technical committee work
- Enhance participation of private sector in standardization (Use ISO and ITC tools for sensitisation and training)

Harmonize labelling requirements

- Pursue adoption of CODEX standards for food labelling
 - UNIDO project on Food safety working AIDMO and Islamic Organisation for Agricultural Development
- Support AIDMO TC on developing Energy Efficiency labelling standards

Improve Access of SMEs to conformity assessment

- Need to develop financial schemes (either country or donor funded) to support SMEs to meet the high costs related to conformity assessment, which is considered a burden for them
- Mapping of competent conformity assessment bodies (ongoing project by UNIDO)
- Support of ITC to link the above CABs database to ITC Trade Intelligence tools
- Support to Accreditation Bodies in Arab States to become ARAC MLA signatory

Capacity building SMEs to comply with quality requirements

- There are a number of donor as well as government funded projects that are currently assisting SMEs
- Such technical assistance projects should continue, especially focusing on small and microenterprises

Promote Good Regulatory Practices

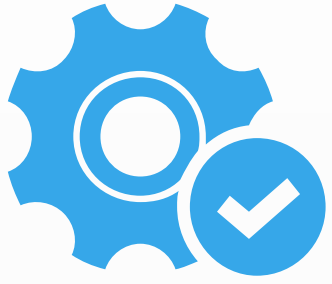
- Sensitize policy makers and regulatory bodies on good regulatory practices
- Train and coach regulatory bodies on implementation of good regulatory practices, including regulatory impact assessment
- Set up coordinating mechanism among regulatory bodies at national level to avoid unnecessary overlapping of control

Promote Best Practices of Market Surveillance

- Support of ITC to organize series of regional and national workshops related to development and implementation of risk based official control systems
- Promote experience exchange on good practices in the region : SABER system in Saudi Arabia with the support of SASO and AIDMO, Morocco market surveillance system

Set up regional coordination mechanism among TBT and SPS related regulatory bodies

- Share experience among regulatory bodies
- Harmonise conformity assessment procedures for products of export potential in the region
- Extend the GCC rapid alert system to all Arab States



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