Exporter may tap Market of Banana, Mango, Pomegranate, Custard apple and Okra

Dear Exporters,

The Plant Health and Bio-security Directorate, Canadian Food Inspection Agency, CANADA has informed that export of Banana, Mango, Pomegranate, Custard apple and Okra for entry into Canada has been approved subject to compliance of general conditions as under:

- General Phytosanitary import requirement applicable as per Automated Import Reference system (AIRS) (www.inspection.gc.ca/airs)
- Subject to Inspection by the CFIA
- The origin of the material must be clearly identified on shipping documents.
- If packed in cereal straw, the import requirement for straw must be met.
- Must be free from soil, pests, leaves and/or plant debris.

The interested exporters of above mentioned commodities are advised to contact the Canadian Importers to start export from India subject to compliance of above mentioned requirements. Further, it may also be noted that the all the exporters must ensure packaging, labelling and other requirements pertaining to the Canadian import requirements.

Place: New Delhi
Date: 08.08.2017

Dr. Sudhanshu
Dy. General Manager
Canada Agricultural Products Act
To view the Canada Agricultural Products Act, please refer to our website http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/reg/rege.shtml or contact the nearest Import Service Centre for further information.

Consumer Packaging and Labelling Act and Regulations
To view the Consumer Packaging and Labelling Act and Regulations, please refer to our website http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/reg/rege.shtml or contact the nearest Import Service Centre for further information.

D-95-08 The Plant Protection Import Requirements for Fresh Fruit
Please refer to our website http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/plaveg/protect/dir/directe.shtml to view the text.

Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Regulations
To view the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Regulations, please refer to our website http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/reg/rege.shtml or contact the nearest Service Centre for further information.

Licensing and Arbitration Regulations
To view the Licensing and Arbitration Regulations, please refer to our website http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/reg/rege.shtml or contact the nearest Import Service Centre for further information.

Plant Protection Act and Regulations
To view the Plant Protection Act and Regulations, please refer to our website http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/reg/rege.shtml or contact the nearest Import Service Centre for further information.

Prepackaged product
Prepackaged products are products that will be offered for sale to consumers without being repackaged.

The AIRS has been prepared for the convenience of reference only and has no official sanction. For all purposes of interpreting and applying the law, users should consult the Acts as passed by Parliament. If you require additional assistance interpreting this data or verifying its accuracy, please contact the National Import Service Centre.
INTRODUCTION

Mr. U.K. Singh opened the first meeting of the India-Canada Plant Health Technical Working Group (PHTWG) and welcomed the Canadian delegation. Mr. Singh extended his thanks to Mr. G. Wolff and his team for his cooperation in helping to establish the meeting. The Indian delegation introduced themselves.

Mr. Wolff thanked Mr. Singh for hosting the meeting. The members of the PHTWG noted that the Prime Ministers of India and Canada had recognized the PHTWG as an important opportunity to promote trade in plants and plant products through science-based discussions.

Mr. Wolff indicated that some of the issues raised by India at the 2014 forestry bilateral meeting had been resolved. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) had already confirmed that access to Canada for imports of Indian bananas, okra and walnuts was available and DAC has provided access for ash wood imports to India. The Canadian delegation introduced themselves.

The PHTWG members agreed to the agenda. A list of participants is annexed.

FINALIZATION OF THE TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR) FOR THE PHTWG

The Indian Department of Agriculture and Cooperation (DAC) and the CFIA agreed that the proposed Terms of Reference (annexed) exchanged by correspondence was acceptable to both as a component to the India-Canada Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Agriculture. The delegations agreed to continue bilateral cooperation and to meet again at a convenient time mutually agreed upon during 2016.

IPPC - INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF PLANT HEALTH 2020

The CFIA provided a general background on the Year of Plant Health noting that Finland would be leading this effort to raise the profile of the International Plant Protection Organization (IPPC) and the importance of plant health. CFIA indicated that India and Canada could work to support the work of the IPPC in further developing plans for the Year of Plant Health. DAC is very supportive of the work of the IPPC and agreed that working together on consensus is in both countries interest.

It was noted that ICAR is working very closely with Canadian scientists on a number of research initiatives and coordination on these issues would be very useful with proper convergence.

IPPC - INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON ISPM 15

CFIA informed the meeting that non-compliance, although low, continues to be an issue for many national plant protection organizations (NPPO). The Asia Pacific Plant Protection Commission (APPPC) - North American Plant Protection (NAPPO) workshop held in Beijing, China in 2014 was acknowledged as a success. As a result, Regional Plant Protection Organizations (RPPO) have proposed a follow-up international workshop to address non-compliances, administrative issues
and technical challenges associated with ISPM 15 in a positive way. Mr. Wolff noted that New Zealand is leading the development of a proposed agenda and India's views on the agenda would be very useful.

DAC indicated they had experienced similar challenges in implementing the standard but systems had been established to certify wood packaging. DAC agreed that the proposed international workshop on ISPM 15 is very important and that the Department will share with Canada its proposals for the workshop. DAC also indicated that the workshop would be critical to addressing a number of important issues to India such as finding appropriate responses to infestation of marked wood packaging. Canada agreed to share any information on the workshop and that the countries should collaborate on the research supporting the key phytosanitary issues arising from the workshop.

IPPC - DRAFT STANDARDS FOR DISCUSSION AT MAY 2015 STANDARDS COMMITTEE

CFIA indicated that it is very supportive of the standard on the international movement of wood handicrafts since these items present a significant risk to Canada. CFIA also noted that a number of other standards would also be reviewed by the Standards Committee. The SC would also review the reasons for formal objections presented at CPM-10 for two important standards that were to be presented for adoption. DAC also specified that there are several other draft standards coming forward to Standards Committee for review including an additional treatment for ISPM 15.

GRAPE AND OTHER HORTICULTURE PRODUCE TO CANADA

DAC informed that additional information on grapes has been provided to CFIA. The Indian industry is very keen to gain market access and the Indian Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) noted that grape production is very well monitored and that 70 000 tonnes of a total 100 000 tonnes of export volumes are shipped to the European Union. India has not received notices of non-compliance for any of these grape exports.

CFIA acknowledged that the Indian grape tracing system is highly regarded by some countries. The CFIA is very concerned about the potential risks of introducing pests to Canada's important grape industry. However, CFIA had completed an assessment of Indian grapes and, provided that India can meet specific phytosanitary import requirements, Canada agreed to grant market access for grapes on a trial basis. Provided pests were not found on these trial shipments, CFIA would grant normalized access as appropriate. The CFIA hand-delivered a letter describing the certification requirements. DAC reviewed and confirmed its agreement to implement certification based on the details delineated in the CFIA letter.

APEDA also requested information on tolerances for pesticide residues on grapes. CFIA provided links to Health Canada's web-site where this information can be accessed.

CHERRIES TO INDIA

CFIA noted that Canada does not use fumigation as an option to address pest risks associated with cherry exports to India. India also permits access on the basis of cold treatments. However, the need to apply pre-shipment cold treatments has reduced exports in 2013. CFIA is seeking alternative options that would facilitate cherry exports such as the application of a systems approach.
DAC noted that fruit flies associated with cherries are a significant concern but as an alternative to pre-shipment cold treatment India could accept the use of in-transit cold treatments. Furthermore DAC would consider any other alternative proposals that Canada would put forth including a systems approach.

CFIA agreed to consider both options and to provide follow-up through the High Commission of Canada. If Canada wishes to adopt in-transit cold treatment, details of the approach will be provided by CFIA to DAC prior to implementation.

CLARIFICATION OF INDIA'S IMPORT REQUIREMENTS FOR SEED AND TABLE POTATOES, GREENHOUSE TOMATOES AND GREENHOUSE PEPPERS

DAC indicated that seed potatoes are already approved for entry. The CFIA noted that the post entry quarantine requirements would preclude the growing of a commercial crop using Canadian seed potatoes. Table potatoes from some countries are permitted, but not from Canada. Capsicum and tomatoes for consumption are not permitted on the basis that pest risk assessments have not been requested. Canada may request a PRA to add access for any of these crops. DAC encouraged sending all the technical information with the request for a PRA as well as verification of relative priority of each commodity.

BANANA, OKRA AND WALNUT EXPORTS TO CANADA

CFIA confirmed that Indian bananas, okra and walnuts are approved to enter Canada. The CFIA provided DAC with copies of the import requirements for each as contained on the CFIA's Automated Import reference System (AIRS).

AUBERGINE EXPORTS TO CANADA

DAC informed CFIA that India is keen to gain access for aubergine for consumption. CFIA confirmed that Indian aubergine is approved to enter Canada based upon AIRS.

PULSES - FUMIGATION REQUIREMENT AND INDIA'S DEROGATION

DAC confirmed that India has extended the derogation for post-entry fumigation until September 2015 and that India is likely to continue with a policy to provide extensions to the derogation.

CANADA'S CERTIFICATION PROCEDURES FOR NEMATODES, INSECTS AND WEED SEEDS

CFIA indicated that both India and Canada are concerned with the environmental implications of continued use of methyl bromide. Furthermore grains are very difficult to fumigate in Canada given the unfavourable temperatures in Canada. The derogation is therefore very welcome.

CFIA pointed out that very specific testing undertaken by Canada has shown that *Ditylenchus dipsaci* does not occur in the pulses crop. Canada can now certify freedom from the pest. DAC indicated that such certification would be acceptable. DAC will also consider the information provided by Canada on the differences in the pest species.

CFIA provided Canada's procedures used in testing for *D. dipsaci*. 
GRAIN EXPORTS TO CANADA - INDIA'S CERTIFICATION PROCEDURES FOR KHAPRA BEETLE AND WEED SEEDS

CFIA highlighted recent rejections at Canada-U.S border due to detection of pests. Recently, two consignments were rejected by the U.S. due to detection of itchgrass which is prohibited noxious weed. Re-exports of Indian origin grain (e.g. Corn, soybean) from Canada to the U.S. complicates the certification requirements. CFIA is then required to take follow up actions. CFIA and DAC agreed to work together in communicating with the trading community and DAC agreed to establish requirements based upon information supplied by Canada on the pests of concern affecting the trade.

DATING OF PHYTOSANITARY CERTIFICATES

CFIA informed DAC that sometimes consignments from Canada are delayed entry to India when the date of the phytosanitary certificate is later than the date of the bill of lading. The CFIA noted that in Canada the date of inspection/testing differs from the date of issuance of the phytosanitary certificate due to the need for completion of testing of samples drawn at the time of loading. DAC commented that they are occasionally presented with phytosanitary certificates that are subsequently determined to be fraudulent. This is often discovered based on discrepancies in dates on the certificates. The CFIA will send to DAC information on the CFIA's system for phytosanitary certification, focusing in particular on such dating aspects.

FORESTRY - REQUIREMENTS FOR BARK-FREEDOM ON TREATED FOREST PRODUCTS; PERMIT REQUIREMENTS FOR INDIVIDUAL FOREST PRODUCT SPECIES AND MIXED GENERA SHIPMENTS AND TREATMENT REQUIREMENTS FOR HARDWOOD FOREST PRODUCTS

CFIA highlighted requests made during the 2013 bilateral meeting which included:

- Combining 5 entries for Picea under one entry in the Plant Quarantine Order (PQO)
- Moving Abies from Schedule VI to Schedule VII;
- Permitting treated wood to enter India without complete bark removal;
- Permitting Quercus, Prunus, Juglans and Betula to enter India if heat treated

DAC informed that it has commenced a review of the PQ Order including wood in order to address such issues. Although DAC cannot anticipate the outcome of the review, it was noted that the goal of the review is to simplify requirements and Canada's requests would be included in the review process. DAC noted that the review may be completed within a few months or at least by the next meeting. A team of scientists has been assembled and is starting the review. If any further information is required, DAC agreed to consult with CFIA.

LARCH EXPORT TO INDIA

CFIA noted that there is interest in exporting larch to India. CFIA agreed to submit a PRA request along with supporting information by early summer.
USE OF SYSTEMS APPROACHES TO PREVENT PEST MOVEMENT OF FOREST PRODUCTS AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO TREATMENTS.

A short presentation was provided by Natural Resources Canada on the use of systems approaches in forestry. It was noted that multi-step processing could be very effective in addressing pest risks associated with wood moving in trade. DAC noted that systems approaches are important tools and is very interested in learning about NAPPO’s work in developing a standard on systems approaches for forest products. Canada agreed to provide information as it is developed.

INTEGRATED AGENCY INSPECTION MODEL

CFIA provided an overview of the Integrated Agency Inspection Model which will improve uniformity of inspection and recognizes the important role of industry in meeting requirements. Under the model, systems approaches for example, could be used as a basis for industry meeting requirements with CFIA oversight to determine compliance. The model stresses the industry’s responsibilities for meeting requirements and CFIA’s role in monitoring performance to assess compliance. Licensing of importers and a requirement for importers to develop pest control plans was also highlighted.

ELECTRONIC CERTIFICATION

The CFIA noted that electronic certification is a significant component of the modernization effort. DAC too is further developing its electronic certification (E-cert) system. CFIA and DAC agreed to consider potential future collaboration on a trial basis as both countries’ systems near implementation and to ensure consistency with IPPC E-phytosanitary certification.

ORGANICS EXPORT TO CANADA

DAC informed CFIA that equivalence of organic standards with Canada has been pending approval. Formal request will be made to the appropriate Department at CFIA shortly by DAC in the matter.

read to on: Tuesday, 28 April 2015

J.K. Singh
Secretary (Plant Protection)
Department of Agriculture and Cooperation

Mr. Gregory Wolff
Chief Plant Health Officer
Canadian Food Inspection Agency