

## CHAPTER – 3

### AGRICULTURAL AND PROCESSED FOOD PRODUCTS EXPORT DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) under Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Govt. of India, was established under the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority Act 1985 which came into force with effect from 13<sup>th</sup> February, 1986 by a notification issued to this effect (Gazette of India). The Authority replaced the hitherto Processed Food Export Promotion Council. It has its Head Office in New Delhi and five regional offices at Mumbai, Hyderabad, Bangaluru, Kolkata and Guwahati. The Authority also has fourteen virtual offices in different States of India.

#### **MANDATE OF THE ORGANISATION:**

As per the APEDA Act, the Authority is responsible for the development and promotion of the export of following 14 products mentioned in the first schedule to the APEDA Act.

#### ***The First Schedule***

- Meat and Meat Products
- Poultry and Poultry Products
- Dairy Products
- Fruits & Vegetables and their products
- Confectionery, Biscuits and Bakery Products
- Honey, Jaggery and Sugar Products
- Cocoa and its Products, chocolates of all kinds
- Alcoholic and Non-Alcoholic Beverages
- Cereal and Cereal Products
- Groundnuts, Peanuts and Walnuts
- Pickles, Papads and Chutneys
- Guar Gum
- Horticulture and Floricultural Products
- Herbal and Medicinal Plants

In addition, APEDA has been entrusted from time to time with the responsibility to monitor export of some non scheduled items such as wheat, coarse grains and import of sugar. The number of products looked after works out to approximately 546.

#### **FUNCTIONS :**

As per section 10 of APEDA Act, the following functions have been assigned to the Authority :

- i. Development of industries relating to the scheduled products for export by way of providing financial assistance or otherwise by undertaking surveys and feasibility studies, participation in the equity capital through joint ventures and other relief and subsidy schemes
- ii. Registration of persons as exporters of the scheduled products on payment of such fees as may be prescribed.

- iii. Fixing of standards and specifications for the scheduled products for the purposes of export;
- iv. Carrying out inspection of meat and meat products in slaughter houses, processing plant, storage premises, conveyances or other places where such products are kept or handled, for the purpose of ensuring the quality of such products. Format for meat inspection plant is given in Annexure-II
- v. Improvement of packaging for the scheduled products;
- vi. Improve marketing of the scheduled products outside India;
- vii. Promotion of export oriented production and development of the scheduled products;
- viii. Collection of statistics from the owners of factories or establishments engaged in product processing, packaging, marketing or export of the scheduled products or from such other persons as may be prescribed on any matter relating to the scheduled products and publication of the statistics so collected or of any portions thereof or extracts therefrom;
- ix. Training in various aspects of the industries connected with the scheduled products;

The Activities of APEDA range from development of data base of the mandated products, markets and services and dissemination of this information to the exporters. APEDA administers financial assistance schemes for strengthening of marketing intelligence and database, quality upgradation, research and development, development of infrastructure, development of market and transport assistance.

#### ***INITIATIVES FOR EXPORT OF RED MEAT:***

The demand for Indian buffalo meat is gradually growing in export markets due to its cost competitiveness, perceived organic nature and proportion of less fat. Indian exporters have been able to meet international demand by utilizing modern integrated abattoirs and meat processing facilities thereby working to improve the quality of Indian product. The major steps taken for quality control assurance are:

#### **LICENSING AND REGISTRATION OF MEAT PLANT/ABATTOIRS**

The Government of India has laid down standards for export of meat which include standards for abattoir, processing plants for various meat products. Registration of abattoirs and meat processing plants is done by the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India. Procedure for grant of registration certificate is given in Annexure-I.

Inspection of the meat processing plants is carried out by a Committee of experts as per the standards laid-down (Annexure -II). An inter ministerial committee have been constituted comprising of representatives from Department of Animal Husbandry, Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying of the State Government, Export Inspection Council, Secretary, Veterinary Council of India and reputed Veterinary Scientists. The registration of the plant is given after detailed inspection by the said committee. During inspection, focus is on hygiene and sanitary conditions maintained by the plant, ante-mortem and post-mortem inspections, infrastructure, staff hygiene, laboratory facilities, record maintenance, etc. The registration of the meat processing plant is renewed every year after a detailed plant inspection by the Committee.



Under the existing Foreign Trade Policy, the export of beef (meat of cow, oxen and calf) and bone- in meat of buffalo is prohibited and is not permitted to be exported. However, the export of sheep and goat meat and boneless buffalo meat is freely allowed subject to fulfillment of the conditions stipulated in the Policy. The Policy further states that the meat should be sourced from abattoirs and meat processing plants registered with APEDA

## **ANIMAL HEALTH CERTIFICATE**

According to the current Export and Import Policy of the Government of India, each export consignment is subject to compulsory microbiological and other tests and a comprehensive pre-shipment inspection certificate is issued by the Government laboratory. Each export consignment is accompanied by this health certificate. This certificate also states that meat has been prepared from healthy, disease-free livestock, which are free from contagious and infectious diseases, including foot-and-mouth disease and other diseases. The Health Certificate also confirms that the livestock have been subjected to ante-mortem inspection followed by post-mortem examination and that the meat is fit for human consumption. In fact the procurement of animals from registered markets to the final export of the meat consignment is under the constant monitoring and inspection of government agencies, besides having the services of highly qualified and experienced veterinarians, microbiologists etc.

The Govt. of India has nominated following agencies for issuance of health certificates :

- i) All State Directorates of Animal Husbandry
- ii) Export Inspection Agencies (EIAs)
- iii) Directorate of Marketing and Inspection (DMI)
- iv) Deonar abattoir, Mumbai (for chilled sheep and goat Meat only)

Meat consignments conforming to the notified standards and specifications are allowed for export. Each consignment is accompanied by a test certificate issued by any of the above agencies. The certificate is based on the micro-biological examination of the consignment.

Ante-mortem and post-mortem inspection of the animals is carried out by the qualified Govt. veterinarian to ensure that meat derived from only healthy animals is exported. Moreover, in processing inspection of meat is carried out by the Govt. as well as abattoir's veterinarians.

## **LIST OF APEDA APPROVED INTEGRATED PLANTS**

There are about 27 integrated meat processing plants which are approved for export of meat beside 67 processing plants. The list of integrated plants is given in Annexure-III