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# **Emergence of Private Standards** **: Implications for the Developing World**

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# Emergence of Private Standards Implications for the Developing World

## A pile of PFSS affecting International Trade:

EU-based

-Global G.A.P., BRC (HACCP-QMS), IFS (BRC-alike), Dutch HACCP, Nature's Choice (GlobalG.A.P.-alike)

US-based

-SQF, ACC

Global-based (*Harmonized PFSS*)

-GFSI

# Emergence of Private Standards Implications for the Developing World

On going debate about role and implication of PS, in particular its “Legitimacy”

- extent to which Stds setting process is **transparent**
- influence of agri-food value chain stakeholders** on the Stds setting process
- extent to which **developing countries are taken into account** in the process
- speed of the Stds setting** process and responsive to the demand for new or revised Stds
- harmonization**
- scientific basis** for Stds

# Emergence of Private Standards Implications for the Developing World

## Cons on Private Standards:

- not always based on science
- deviate from international standards or from official governmental requirements (for example, for maximum residue limits)
- a large number of them, **not harmonized**
- **costly for suppliers** complying with them
- **set up without transparency**, consultation or systems for appealing;
- **prescribe how measures should be applied** rather than what the outcome should be
- **burdens on small- and medium-sized producers and exporters** in developing countries.

# Emergence of Private Standards Implications for the Developing World

## Pros on Private Standards:

- help suppliers comply with national and international standards
- promote best practices and improved productivity
- help suppliers have access to markets and credit
- address emerging risks in a rapid manner

# Emergence of Private Standards Implications for the Developing World

## Decision of the SPS Committee

At its meeting of 30-31 March 2011, the Committee adopted five actions put forward by the working group for endorsement namely:

**Action 1:** Definition of PFSS where it covers food safety, food quality, environment, social and labor issues

**Action 2:** Information exchange between Codex, OIE and IPPC and SPS Committee

**Action 3:** Other WTO Fora to be informed on its development: TBT, CTE

# Emergence of Private Standards Implications for the Developing World

**Action 4:** Entities involved on PFSS to be informed of SPS Committee Concerns:

- Harmonization
- Mutual recognition
- Cost reduction
- Transparency and Consultation mechanism

**Action 5:** Cooperation between SPS Committee and Codex, OIE and IPPC on Promotion of International Standards

# Emergence of Private Standards Implications for the Developing World

**The remainder that are still under discussion include:**

possible further work in the WTO such as developing guidelines and codes of conduct and clarifying governments' legal obligations under the SPS Agreement — members views still differ on these.



# **Emergence of Private Standards**

## **Implications for the Developing World**

### **Best Practices in Thailand pertaining to 'Standards in Agriculture and Food Safety'**

#### *Background*

- **Contracting Party to GATT, WTO/SPS-TBT Agreement**
- **Participating in ISSBs: Codex, OIE and IPPC**
- **Comprehensive Restructuring the Government Administration establishing 'The National Bureau of Agricultural Commodity and Food Standards (ACFS)' in 2002**

# **Emergence of Private Standards and Implications for the Developing World**

## **Government Action**

**Proclamation : Food Safety Year in 2004**

**Adopted: The National Strategic Plan on Food Safety  
prescribing the Road Map on Food Safety**

**Promulgated : The Agricultural Standards Act B.E.  
2551 (2008)**

# ROAD MAP OF FOOD SAFETY

## Import

**1. Inspect imported inputs**

**2. Inspect raw materials and Imported processed foods**

## Farm Level

**1. Register and certify the standardized farms**

**2. Inspect and follow up on the use of input in standardized farms**

## Facilities/Entrepreneur

**1. Inspect/certify the manufacturing facilities for processed foods for export**

**2. Inspect raw materials**

**3. Inspect/certify the facilities producing animal feed**

**4. Inspect/certify slaughter houses**

**5. Inspect port/fish landing facilities /peeling shed**

**6. Inspect/certify the processing facilities for domestic distribution**

**7. Advisor for food standards system**

**8. Entrepreneurs improve the quality of manufactory/port/fish landing facilities/peeling shed to join quality system.**

**Implement the traceability procedures**

# ROAD MAP OF FOOD SAFETY

## Outputs

1. Inspect /certify export commodities

2. Inspect commodities in domestic markets which are produced for export

3. Inspect/certify commodities for domestic markets

## Market

### Foreign Market

1. Negotiations on technical problem solving

### Domestic Market

1. Caution for fresh food/processed food/made to order food  
2. Sanitary caution at distributing points

## Outcomes

1. Maintain the level of agricultural commodities and food for export at 15,000 million USD/year

2. Reduce quarantine problem destroy agricultural commodities valued at 730 million USD/ year

3. Improve the quality of life for Thai people by decreasing the number of consumers falling ill from consuming contaminated food.

**Implement the traceability procedures**

# Agricultural Standards and Food Safety

## Farm



- Department of Agriculture
- Department of Fisheries
- Department of Livestock Development

**GAP**  
**Organic**  
**COC**

## Slaughterhouse



- Department of Livestock Development

**GMP**

## Packing House



- Department of Agriculture

**GMP**

## Processing



- Thai Food and Drug Administration
- Thai Industrial Standards Institute
- Department of Agriculture
- Department of Fisheries
- Department of Livestock Development

**GMP**  
**HACCP**

**Product**  
**Certification**

# Accreditation and Certification System in Thailand

Accreditation Body :  
AB  
ACFS

ISO 17011

Competency

Certification Body : CB /  
Conformity Assessment Body :  
CAB

ISO 17065 for GAP, Organic  
ISO 17021 for GMP/HACCP  
ISO 17020 for IB  
ISO 17025 for LAB  
ISO 19011

Conformity Assessment

Farms /  
Operators

Comply to  
Standards

Consumer  
Confident

# Thailand Quality Mark



## **Q - Mark**

A single, unique symbol

Q-Mark for Certification Agricultural Commodity and Food Standards

# Private Standards in Thailand

## THAIGAP

- Collective National Stds as pre-farm gate stds
- Initially setting by collaboration between Kasetsart University (KU) and Private sectors (producers and exporters)



# Private Standards in Thailand

Lately becoming the **Public-Private Partnership** Project under the Board of Trade of Thailand (BOT) and the Office of Small and Medium Enterprise Promotion (OSMEP)

- Aiming to **align/benchmarking with GLOBALGAP** which is Consumer Focus “4 in 1”:
  - Food safety/ HACCP based
  - Environmental Concerns
  - Social STDs/Worker Welfare
  - Animal Welfare

# Private Standards in Thailand

- Institutionalization:** ThaiGAP Institute established and hosted by the BOT

- The Changes:**

  - Farmer Group Certification**

  - Service Provider: Internal Control, IPM, Chemical Spray and Control, Nutrition Evaluation, Analysis and Advice, etc

# Private Standards in Thailand

## Sustainable Shrimp Program-SSP

- Initiated jointly by SuratThani Shrimp Farmer Club and Marine Shrimp Farmer Association of Thailand
  - Priorities on Quality Assurance and Sustainability
  - In line with National GAP on Marine Shrimp Farm
  - Consistent with **FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF)**
    - Based on Risk Assessment according to the Guidelines stipulated by the SSP Committee which must be conducted every year

# Private Standards in Thailand

## Distinction of SSP

- Anti-biotic and **any banned-substances free**
- the Standard **fits all other public and private standards both domestically and internationally**, with specific requirements for SSP
- commitment** to its utmost quality from farm to table
- rigorous control** for certification on both production process and product

# CONCLUSION

## Private Standards

- implementation can **improve the farm management practices of smallholders**, and
- **be a tool for smallholders** to **access the global market** and to be integrated into the global supply chain.
- However, **compliance to the standard remains a challenge to the smallholders with low level of literacy and financial means.**

*Thank you*

