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## Executive Summary

In this two day seminar distinguished speakers in Food Quality & Safety Systems from across the World with national and international experts on Global Food Trade Facilitation gathered to present emerging International regulations and requirements for high quality and safe food and its impact on Asian suppliers with emphasis on HACCP compliance, food standards related to quality and safety to achieve harmonization and greater market access.

These issues have gained immense importance as a result of growing consumer demands world-wide for safe and quality food on account of emergence of food related diseases like mad cow, (BSE), foot and mouth, GMOs, insecticide and pesticide residuals in food items etc.

Distinguished speakers comprised of experts drawn from such prestigious organizations as the UN, WTO, USDA, EU Commission, OECD, EAN International and EUREPGAP. Speakers also represented the private sector both national and international to present on-going International projects in specific sectors like marine, dairy, meat and fresh produce and processed foods.

The importance of aligning Asian food supply chains through use of international Standards and following International best practices was recognized as the key enabler to achieve greater product acceptance and hence market access. In this context *harmonization* and *traceability* were highlighted as the two major elements in facilitating compliance with international requirements with food safety and quality and through on-going international projects it was demonstrated how efficient and cost effective implementation of these could be best achieved by adopting international Identification Standards like EAN.UCC with IT tools like bar coding, EDI etc.

The two-day event was well attended by over 150 delegates with wide participation from the food Industry, Govt., research institutions and food technologists.

## **Seminar Objectives**

The Seminar focussed on Global trade facilitation and market access by adoption of food safety initiatives and market requirements for ensuring consumer safety.

The importance of traceability , quality assurance, HACCP in the emerging and prevalent public and private standards nationally and globally was emphasized for the benefit of the food suppliers located in developing countries like India, since they have limited exposure to these traceability requirements and therefore their non-compliance resulting in negative impact of their acceptability. The Seminar objective was to provide an opportunity to disseminate information on the various aspects of food safety and quality to the food producers, trade associations and bodies, various government departments, etc. with a view to enabling them adopt and implement the same effectively thereby integrating the Indian food industry with prevalent/ emerging global best practices.

## **Seminar Recommendations and Conclusions**

A formal agreement between EAN International, UNECE and UNAPCTT (Annexure C enclosed) was drawn up to emphasize the importance of the agri-sector to this region and the added value which collaboration between these three organisations can bring to this sector through use of International standards on food quality and safety.

# Annexure A – Seminar Agenda

**DAY 1 - Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> April 2002 (0900 hrs - 1700hrs)**

**REGISTRATION - 0900 HRS - 0930 HRS**

**OPENING SESSION (0930 HRS - 1015 HRS)**

- Introduction (seminar objectives) – Mr. Ravi Mathur, CEO, EAN India
- Address – Dr. (Ms.) Carol Cosgrove Sacks, Director, UNECE
- Address – Mr. Brian Smith, CEO, EAN International
- Address – Mr. Dipak Chatterjee, Commerce Secretary, Govt. of India
- Vote of thanks - Dr. Amit Mitra, Secretary General, FICCI

*SESSION I TRADE WITHOUT BARRIERS: MARKET ACCESS FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS  
(1015 HRS - 1130 HRS)*

Chairperson – Mr. P. Murari, Advisor to President, FICCI

- Introduction and keynote address: Overview of current regulation and outlook – Mr. Michael Roberts, WTO
- Access to international supply chains in developed markets - Dr. (Ms.) Carol Cosgrove Sacks, Director, UNECE
- Market Access Issues in the United States and the European Union - Panel discussion with participants – Dr. Cosgrove-Sacks UNECE, Dr. Craig Morris, USDA, Mr. Fabien Santini, EU Commission and Mr. Michael Roberts, WTO.  
*Moderator - Mr. Miodrag Mitic, EAN International*
- Questions and discussions

**TEA/COFFEE BREAK - 1130HRS - 1145 HRS**

**SESSION II SAFETY FIRST! FOOD SAFETY STANDARDS AND REGULATIONS (1145 HRS -1330 HRS)**

Chairperson – Mr. D.P. Tripathi, Secretary, Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Govt. of India

- Issues in food safety - EU white paper on food safety - Mr. Salvatore Magazzu-EU Commission
- The WTO approach to food safety – Mr. Michael Roberts-WTO
- Solutions: Traceability - Ms. Therese Angue, CEO, GENCOD France
- Meeting global food safety requirements - Challenges for India: Ms. Shashi Sareen, Director-EIC
- Questions and discussion

**LUNCH - 1330 HRS - 1500 HRS**

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*SESSION III QUALITY: THE KEY TO INTERNATIONAL FOOD MARKETS (1500HRS - 1700 HRS)*

Chairperson – Mr. Anil Swarup, Chairman, APEDA

- Introduction: Overview of Quality Standards for agricultural produce - Mr. Tom Heilandt, (UNECE)
- Harmonized application of international standards - Ms. Sylvie Poret, OECD
- Marketing standards and quality control - Mr. Fabien Santini, EU Commission
- AMS Marketing orders/agreements - Dr. Craig Morris, USDA
- Questions, discussion

**DAY 2 - Friday, 5<sup>th</sup> April 2002 (0900 HRS - 1500 HRS)**

**SESSION I ASSISTANCE TO TRADE: EXAMPLES FROM GLOBAL TRADE FACILITATION (0900HRS - 1015 HRS)**

Chairperson – Dr. Jurgen Bischoff, Director, United Nations Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (UN/APCTT)

- Standards and Global Trade Facilitation - Mr. Brian Smith, CEO, EAN International.
- WTO work on Trade Facilitation - Mr. Michael Roberts-WTO
- The Retailers` approach to food safety - Dr. Kristian Moller, Secretary EUREPGAP and Managing Director-FoodPLUS GmbH
- Examples of trade facilitation in European region - Mr. Joe Cunnane-EU Commission
- Impediments & Opportunities - Indian Perspective - Mr. Manab Majumdar-FICCI
- Questions and discussions

**TEA/COFFEE BREAK - 1015 HRS - 1045 HRS**

**SESSION II WORKSHOPS ACCORDING TO PRODUCT GROUP (1045 HRS - 1245 HRS)**

| <b>TRACK I (1045 HRS - 1245 HRS )</b>  | <b>TRACK II (1045 HRS - 1245 HRS )</b>   |
|--|--|
| <b>Workshop 1: Fresh produce and processed foods</b>                                   | <b>Workshop 2: Marine products</b>   |
| Chairperson – Mr. Kristian Moeller, EUREPGAP   | Chairperson – Mr. K. Jose Cyriac,<br>Chairman-MPEDA  |
| Standards for fresh fruit/vegetables & dry/dried fruit -<br>Mr. Tom Heilandt, UNECE    | Tracefish project - Mr.Miodrag Mitic -<br>EAN International  |
| EC Quality Standards and quality control<br>- Mr. Fabien Santini, EU Commission        | No traceability, no exports - Petter Olsen,<br>Norwegian Institute of Fisheries and<br>Aquaculture Ltd.      |
| Harmonization of international standards & quality<br>control - Ms. Sylvie Poret, OECD | Meeting Int'l stds-challenges before<br>developing economies - Mr. Prince Xavier<br>Kuriakose, Elque and Co. |
|  | Food quality requirements for Japanese<br>markets and HACCP compliance -                                     |

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| <p>Questions and discussion<br/>(<i>Rapporteur - Mr. Tom Heilandt,</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>TRACK III (1045 HRS - 1245 HRS )</b></p> <p><b>Workshop 3: Meat</b></p> <p>Chairperson – Ms. Neerja Rajkumar, Joint Secretary-<br/>Deptt. of Animal Husbandry, Ministry of Agriculture,<br/>Govt. of India</p> <p>Meat traceability - Mr. Des Bowler, Managing<br/>Director, Management for Technology, Australia</p> <p>UNECE standards for meat - Dr. Craig Morris (USDA)</p> <p>Phyto-sanitary standards compliance- Dr. Joginder S.<br/>Berwal, GM-Tech., Allana Sons</p> <p>Global meat identification and traceability standard<br/>- Miodrag Mitic, EAN International</p> <p>Questions and discussion<br/>(<i>Rapporteur: Mr. Des Bowler</i>)</p> | <p>Mr.Taka o Sasaki, ACON Ltd, Japan<br/>Questions and discussion<br/>(<i>Rapporteur - Mr. Petter Olsen</i>)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>TRACK IV (1045 HRS - 1245 HRS)</b></p> <p><b>Workshop 4: Dairy products</b></p> <p>Chairperson – Mr. D.S. Negi, Joint Secretary-<br/>Dairy Dev., Ministry of Agriculture, Govt. of<br/>India</p> <p>HACCP compliance using International<br/>standards - Mr. Martyn Vernon, Consultant-<br/>Ryder Strategies, UK</p> <p>Food safety and need for Govt. legislation on<br/>tracking &amp; tracing - Dr. S.K. Bhalla, GM-QA,<br/>Gujarat Cooperative Milk Mktg.Federation</p> <p>Food safety in chilled distribution<br/>- Mr. Casella, QA Manager, Nestle</p> <p>Packaging for food safety and quality<br/>- Mr. Stefan A. Johansson, Vice President-<br/>Tetra Pak</p> <p>Questions and discussion<br/>(<i>Rapporteur: Mr. Martyn Vernon</i>)</p> |
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**CLOSING SESSION (1300 HRS - 1400HRS)**

Chairperson – Mr. Brian Smith, CEO, EAN Int'l.

- Rapporteur's summaries
- Seminar recommendations and proposal for future program - Dr. Carol Sacks
- Role of EAN India - Mr. Ravi Mathur, CEO- EAN India
- Vote of thanks - Mr. P.S. Mukherjee, Vice President-CIFTI

**LUNCH - 1400 HRS - 1500 HRS**

## Annexure B - Session Summaries

Based on presentations and the deliberations during the seminar, the summary of each sessions is reproduced below:

### Day One: 4 April 2002

#### **Opening Session:**

Mr. Ravi Mathur, CEO, EAN India (under Ministry of Commerce) in his opening speech welcomed the honourable chief guest, Mr. Dipak Chatterjee, Commerce Secretary, Govt. of India, Dr. (Mrs.) Carol Cosgrove Sacks, Director, UNECE, Mr. Brian Smith, CEO, EAN International, Dr. Amit Mitra, Secretary General, FICCI, distinguished speakers from India and across the world and participants and announced the seminar objectives.

Thereafter, Dr. Sacks outlined the role of UNECE, UNESCAP and of the trade facilitation and e-commerce/ trade standards developed for the food and other sectors. She informed the participants of the *existing and future standards used for electronic communications and trade facilitation* and the role of the EAN standards in the UNEDIFACT electronic business messaging standards.

Mr. Brian Smith appreciated the support of the Indian government in co-organizing the Seminar and facilitating the Indian food sector integrate with international supply chain management practices. He outlined the role of EAN International and standards used for global trade facilitation through barcodes, Electronic Data Interchange etc. used in almost all sectors for increasing efficiency and reducing supply chain management costs. He highlighted the importance of food traceability at the global and national standards on the importance of Safe and High Quality Food for International Trade and the importance of this Asian Seminar.

In his Inaugural Address, the Commerce Secretary stressed on the changes taking place in food habits, demand supply patterns and large increases in food trade across national boundaries. He highlighted the importance of food safety, quality, standards and their implications for ensuring consumer safety as the prime responsibility of the food supplier companies. *The role of modern packaging technologies and IT tools like barcoding, EDI etc.* for food and other supply chains was also highlighted by the Commerce Secretary.

In the Vote of Thanks by Dr. Amit Mitra the interlinking and thereby importance of Stds. for food safety and quality, the IT revolution, reduction of transaction costs to business to challenge non tariff barriers for international trade was highlighted. He thanked the Commerce Secretary for his time, the speakers and delegates for the seminar and the co-organizers and co-sponsors of the Seminar and wished the seminar success.

#### **Session I – Trade without Barriers: Market Access for Agricultural Products**

The session was chaired by Mr. P. Murari, Adviser, FICCI.

In his opening address and keynote address, Mr. Michael Roberts, Economic Affairs Officer, Agriculture & Commodities Division, WTO gave an overview of current regulations and the WTO outlook.

Dr. Carol Sacks made a presentation on Access to international supply chains in developed markets. She dealt with the emergence of international food supply chains and its driving factors, such as the development of networked communication systems and e-commerce software, the establishment of major trading blocks, the emergence of the science of supply chain management and the expansion of mass retailers. She explained how these networks operate in the global trading environment and what the resulting benefits are for both customers and companies. She said that growth of organized retail and supermarket chains with international players coming into the market will be one medium for promoting usage of safe and high quality food in India. *The Indian government should not only participate in international trade facilitation fora*, but also create awareness on the subject within the country, reduce bureaucratic delays, encourage *use of IT in food supply chains and assist the Indian farmers, SMEs and food processing sector to facilitate international trade and ensure safe and high quality food to end consumers worldwide*, she added. Indian businesses were asked to integrate with international supply chains, create an open information exchange mechanism with buyers/ suppliers and become proactive to ensure consumer satisfaction.

This was followed by a panel discussion in which the role of changes in the international trading requirements along with the emerging food safety regulations being developed in the public and private domains and their impact on the food industry. It was clarified that though there are different standards at present, almost all of them follow the general UNECE guidelines and Codex guidelines. International supply chains catering to specific markets assist the food industry in implementing and following these guidelines as per the market requirements.

## **Session II – Safety first! Food Safety Standards and Regulations**

The Chairperson, Mr. D P Tripathi, Secretary, MFPI, GoI in his opening address stated that while quality may vary from market to market as per a lot of other factors, food safety is one aspect which is absolute. A system that ensures traceability which directly impacts food safety will be important.

Speaking on “Issues in Food Safety”, Mr. Salvatore Magazzu of the EU Commission, presented the importance of achievement and maintenance of food safety standards, which transcend national borders, especially in view of food crises in the recent past. He stated that legislation based on scientific advice and control systems in place is required to guarantee a high level of human health and consumer protection. He said that a European Food Safety Authority is being formed to ensure an integrated food supply chain approach from farm to table, which will be responsible for legislation and implementation of having food safety mechanisms in place. This should have a proper *traceability system* in place to respond effectively to food safety crises.

Mr. Michael Roberts of the WTO presented the “WTO Approach to Food Safety”. Speaking on the harmonization of various food safety standards, he stated that *Codex, OIE*



*(International Office of Animal Health), International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)* are taken as the reference and recognized as such by WTO that compliance to these guidelines assumes compliance of WTO requirements. Since these standards are based on scientific principles for risk assessment etc., these can be used by the food industry for meeting the SPS agreements under the WTO.

He also pointed out that the industry should work with the national government of the exporting country to know more of specific requirements of different importing countries' regulations.

Therese Angue from GENCOD France shared the concept of Traceability, a solution to food safety. She explained that Traceability is the ability to retrace the history, use or location of an entity by means of recorded information. For a product, it refers to the origin of the ingredients, the history of process applied, the distribution and location of the product after delivery. She explained how *Traceability plays an important role in consumer safety, in allowing speedy and targeted recalls* and withdrawal and answers the requirements of regulations.

The four main factors to allow traceability is identification of what has to be traced, the recording of the data related, the links between all data recorded, and the communication of data.

She emphasized that interdependency of all partners is involved to ensure traceability and consumer safety, for which standards like the EAN.UCC play a very important role.

*The EAN·UCC standards ensure the continuity of the traceability system between the various supply chain partners, on an international level.* They strengthen the reliability of the system. They provide standard identification for trade items, serial identification of logistic unit, identification of batches, identification of companies, physical places and functional entities. They are implemented through the EAN•UCC logistic label where data is barcoded, through standard Eancom messages for Electronic Data Interchange – EDI – and can be implemented whatever the information system chosen.

She concluded by stating that Traceability is the sign of maturity and sense of responsibility of organisations and individuals in the society.

Ms. Shashi Sareen from the Export Inspection Council spoke on “Meeting Global Food Safety requirements – challenges for India”. She stated that to ensure that standards and regulations do not create unnecessary barriers to trade, certain rules and disciplines are required to be maintained, which are being taken care of through the non-tariff agreements, especially the SPS Agreement. The SPS Agreement stresses on the health and safety aspects and permits member countries to impose measures to protect the health and safety of their population within certain rules. It also refers to use of Codex standards by member countries as baseline documents.

She further added that *HACCP, a food safety assurance and management system, has been recognized by the Codex Alimentarius Commission as a tool to assess hazard and establish control systems* with focus on preventive measures instead of relying on primarily on end product testing for health and safety aspects. Guidelines for the

application of HACCP systems in small or less developed businesses are also being developed by Codex. The Codex HACCP & Food Hygiene standards have been adopted by Bureau of Indian Standards as national standards. In export certification, the focus now is on food safety management systems approach based on implementation of HACCP/GMP/GHP at all stages of the food chain and their capability to meet end product requirements with periodic surveillance to ensure that systems and products requirements are implemented on a continued basis.

Ms. Sareen also deliberated on Increased Participation in International Standards Formulation, Risk-based Approach, Sound Regulatory Framework Based on International Principles & Guidelines, Food Safety, Equivalence and Capacity Building issues.

Mr. D P Tripathi concluded the session by informing the participants that a *Group of Ministers* has been created recently for harmonizing the various food laws in the country. He stated that the Indian government is responsive to the needs of this sector since more than 70% of the Indian population is dependend on this sector, goods transport has been made easier as part of facilitating measures for the Indian food sector. He also *asked the Indian industry to take advantage of the MFPI's financial assistance* through outright grants for HACCP, SPS measures, technology upgradations, etc.

The MFPI is also setting up Food Research & Analysis Centres (FRAC) in different parts of the country for ensuring food safety/ quality through these labs. He also asked the Indian industry to proactively *participate in Codex meetings* and develop such labs, for which the government could also assist, the industry financially. He stated that the government has also conceptualized the formation of Agriclincs.

### **Session III – Quality: The Key to International Food Markets**

The Chairperson, Mr. Anil Swarup, Chairman, APEDA welcomed the speakers and delegates and provided a brief introduction on the session.

Mr. Tom Heilandt, Agricultural Standards Unit, UNECE Trade Division gave an Overview of quality standards for agricultural produce. He provided a brief history of commercial quality standards which have been developed first within countries to regulate their national trade and then with the growth of international trade, the need for international standards emerged.

He elaborated the Goals of the international standardization work, which are to facilitate fair international trade and prevent technical barriers to trade, improve producers' profitability and encourage production of high quality produce and to protect consumers' interest.

He then gave an overview of UNECE Standards on Perishable Produce and Quality Development. He informed that within Europe a number of countries committed themselves to integrate the UNECE Standards into their national legislation (Geneva Protocol). Today *UNECE Standards are taken into account when developing the marketing standards of the European Community and for imports from third countries.*

He added that the OECD Scheme for the Application of International Standards for Fruit and Vegetables develops interpretative brochures on the basis of UNECE Standards and the Codex Committee for Fresh Fruit and Vegetables uses UNECE Standards as a starting point.

The UNECE standards and their standard layout are used widely in international trade within and beyond the UNECE region (ca. 65% of world trade). Further application is promoted through cooperation with other regional commissions.

The harmonization of standards has contributed to the growth of international trade, which has resulted in new developments, which now in turn are changing standardization. The change from a producers' to a consumers' market and the change of consumers' perception of quality affected the way standards are done, e.g. more stress on internal quality. The emergence of big international retailers, electronic commerce and further globalisation of the food supply chains will also affect standardization e.g. harmonization of coding as a new task.

The next speaker, Ms. Sylvie Poret, OECD shared her views on "Harmonized application of international standards". After a brief presentation of the Agricultural Standardisation and Certification Codes and Schemes of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), she presented the key developments in quality standardisation and inspection that has existed at the OECD since 1948 until present, taking example of the Scheme for the Application of International Standards for Fruit and Vegetables.

She talked about quality standardisation and its application as well as of quality inspection. She then showed a good application of standardisation, thanks to popularisation of standards and quality inspection, is crucial to assure quality is preserved and forwarded onto the final consumer. *International co-operation on quality standardisation and quality inspection is also imperative to facilitate trade between importing and exporting countries*, she added. Ms. Poret explained that International Organisations offer tools to implement this co-operation. These tools are the International Standardisation Schemes that constitute a net between the public services in charge of quality standardisation and inspection in the various countries participating in these Schemes and that contribute to a feeling of trust among trade operators.

Mr. Fabien Santini from the EU Commission presented his views on "Marketing Standards and Quality Control" *The European Community adopted in the past technical standards for food products for several reasons, among them the necessity to allow free circulation between the various EC Member States, as well as concerns regarding transparency and loyalty of commercial practices and consumer protection.*

In absence of any EC harmonised rules, Member States shall ensure that technical standards they would apply on their national territory do not constitute an arbitrary discrimination or a disguised restriction on trade. The European law includes provisions with regards to notification of national technical standards and to mutual recognition principles, but the most secure way to ensure the highest level of free circulation of goods

has often been considered to be an EC wide harmonisation of technical minimum requirements for food products. In some cases, this harmonisation is of Council competence, such as for the so-called 'vertical' directives dealing with different kinds of processed food products (fruit juices for example); in other cases, allowing a faster decision making process, Council has entrusted the Commission with the role of adopting standards for food products: wine, fresh and processed fruit and vegetables, olive oil, eggs, etc.

The European Community also designed optional quality labels in order to recognise that some products also have an added value because they are produced in a particular region or by a traditional method (PGI, PDO, STG) or because their production methods pay special attention to the environment and animal welfare (e.g. organic farming).

Checks on conformity with the respective compulsory and optional quality requirements are conducted by the Member States, generally speaking in the framework of a global EC framework for foodstuff inspection. However, some specific quality requirements are subject to specific inspection systems and rules, EC wide harmonised. This is in particular the case for wine, fresh fruit and vegetables and organic produce, for which there are agreements or recognition systems for third countries export stage inspection systems.

Dr. Craig Morris from the USDA discussed on “AMS Marketing orders/ agreements”. He explained that Marketing orders and marketing agreements are designed to help stabilize market conditions for agricultural products. The programs assist farmers in allowing them to collectively work to solve marketing problems. Industries voluntarily enter into these programs and choose to have Federal oversight of certain aspects of their operations. The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) oversees the programs to make sure the orders and agreements operate in the public interest and within legal bounds. Presently, there are more than 30 active marketing agreement and order programs

Marketing orders and agreements may (1) maintain the high quality of agricultural product that is on the market; (2) standardize packages and containers; (3) regulate the flow of product to market; (4) establish reserve pools for storable commodities; and (5) authorize production research, marketing research and development, and advertising.

By contrast, research and promotion programs help to expand, maintain, and develop markets for individual agricultural commodities in the United States and abroad. AMS oversees these industry self-help programs, which are requested and funded by the industry groups that they serve. The Secretary of Agriculture appoints national boards to carry out these programs. The boards may be composed of producers, handlers, importers, and processors (depending on which industry members pay assessments to fund the programs) as well as public members. The boards conduct promotion, market research, production research, and new product development under the supervision of the Agency. The programs are funded by assessments collected by the board and, for import assessments, by the U.S. Customs Service.

Day Two: 5 April 5 2002

### **Session I: Assistance to Trade: Examples from Global Trade Facilitation**

The Session Chairperson, Dr. Jurgen Bischoff, Director, United Nations Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (UN/APCTT), in his introductory remarks stated that under the SPS agreements, *both developing and developed countries have opportunities to increase their share in global trade.*

The first speaker of this session, Mr. Brian Smith, CEO, EAN International, stressed on the importance of Open Standards for Global Trade Facilitation. He elaborated on the *role and usage of EAN.UCC standards in the food sector and the work being done by EAN with various governmental, pan-governmental and private food standards regulatory bodies worldwide, like UNECE, EU, CIES, UNESCAP* etc. He explained that adoption of the open EAN.UCC global supply chain standards in the food industry will lead to: the right products arriving in the right place at the right time, Traceability in the food supply chain, costs reducing through error free transit, fresher, therefore safer products which will make them quicker to market alongwith providing the freedom to trade in open markets.

Mr. Michael Roberts from the WTO explained how Trade Facilitation is carried out by WTO. He explained that WTO approach is based on the GATT articles for minimising trade and tariff barriers to global trade. He explained that *information sharing & transparency between governments and industry and governments is key to enabling trade facilitation.* The role of customs, border transfer issues, banking and developmental issues towards trade facilitation through UN initiatives was introduced. He informed that technical assistance to developing countries and other issues will be discussed in Ministerial conference next year and recommendations will be finalised so that by 2005 all mechanisms for trade facilitation through WTO would be in place.

Dr. Kristian Moller, Secretary EUREPGAP, presented the “Retailers Approach to Food Safety”. He explained that the *big international retailers which total nearly \$2800 billion turnover combined, are driving global initiatives on Food Safety for consumer safety.* He stated that different food standards follow an underlying common requirement to ensure safe food for consumer safety. He stated that trade facilitation would happen through compliance and certifications for these standards. *HACCP and Codex requirements would play a key role in trade facilitation through standardisation.*

Mr. Joe Cunnane from the EU Commission stated that negotiations on trade facilitation could lead to a win-win situation for all governments, food producers, buyers and all other stake holders. He emphasized *the need for simplifying and harmonising customs procedures and WTO/EU initiatives on trade facilitation.* He stated the importance of reducing paperwork and customs need to move to Electronic Data Interchange. He opined that all future customs efforts should be directed towards trade facilitation,

capacity building and resource additions. He requested the Indian government to participate constructively in these deliberations at the WTO meetings.

The next speaker, Mr. Manab Majumdar, FICCI, spoke on “Impediments & Opportunities – Indian Perspective”. He stated that *standards should not be used by some countries for building trade barriers, rather should focus on ensuring consumer safety*. Therefore, there is a need for harmonisation of standards to ensure global trade facilitation. Enforcement and facilitation are two main objectives of Customs, and The Customs should work towards their twin objectives of enforcement and trade facilitation. He provided examples of such work being done in Philippines and other developing countries by customs organisations through different types of channels being created for better trade facilitation. Accelerating transparency and customs modernisation through government leadership is the need of the day to facilitate global trade. He referred to a UNCEFACT document on trade facilitation as a good source of information on trade facilitation and customs role (articles 10, 8, 5 of GATT 1994).

## **Session II: 4 Parallel workshops on Fresh Produce and Processed Food, Marine Products, Meat Products and Dairy Products.**

The Rapporteur Summaries of these 4 tracks are presented below.

### **Rapporteur Summaries**

#### **Track on Fresh Produce and Processed Food**

*Rapporteur - Mr. Tom Heilandt*

Mr. Tom Heilandt introduced the UNECE standards for fresh fruits vegetables and dry fruits – with details on mangoes and cashew kernels standards and asked countries to participate in meetings for providing their inputs.

Mr. Fabien Santini introduced the EU marketing standards and quality inspection processes within EU. He informed that these stds. are completely harmonized with UNECE, OECD and Codex and are seen as minimum legal requirement. The EU inspection methods have also been harmonized with international systems. He informed the delegates that EU is working on recommendations for 3<sup>rd</sup> country export certification for which India has also applied for so that the EU may recognize these certificates submitted by the exporters directly.

Ms. Sylvie Poret presented the application guidelines for OECD stds for fruit and vegetables and the schemes developed to facilitate trade and harmonization of stds., including the tools used – like explanatory brochures (based on UNECE), discussion based process of interpretation of legal texts etc. for easy applications in different countries. She also explained that OECD has developed forms for explaining reasons for rejection to enable the supplier improve on specific rejection criteria in future consignments.

The session ad-chairperson, Mr. Kristian Moeller summarised that *all these standards are very transparent, though complicated initially and that all information regarding these standards is available on websites of these organisations*. He also thanked the participants for their encouraging response and discussions during the session.

#### Track on Marine Products

*Rapporteur - Mr. Petter Olsen*

Mr. Cyriac Jose, Chairperson, introduced the Indian Marine Export market scenario. He said that India is the 2<sup>d</sup> largest producer of fish and explained Indian export market for marine products and shrimps is quite big, majority of which is through aquaculture and has registered impressive growth in the last two years

Mr. Miodrag Mitic introduced the role of EAN in agro food sector and in general and gave examples of fish harvest from Norway and the *importance of traceability*.

Mr. Petter Olsen speaking on “*No traceability, no exports*” provided the definitions of traceability, how the EU consumers and retailers specify need for traceability, how legislation works etc. He explained that traceability is not an investment for cost only but provides more market opportunities also. He stressed on the work being done under the Trace Fish Project which is deliberating on standards for the fish exporters and importers. He acknowledged that the developing countries face comparatively more challenges than other developed nations, for which the governments can therefore consider providing assistance to the industry due to the importance of traceability for all stakeholders in the fish supply chain.

Mr. Takao Sasaki highlighted that fish products export from India to Japan is very attractive due to the comparative less transport and processing costs involved. He stated that though HACCP is not a formal requirement of the Japanese governments yet, *in practice most of the buyers require HACCP compliance*.

#### Track on Meat Products

*Rapporteur: Mr. Des Bowler*

Ms. Neerja Rajkumar, Chairperson initially placed the Indian meat industry in perspective for the benefit of the foreign speakers. She highlighted that India has state of the art modern abattoirs, which have by and large got HACCP procedures in place. She stated that the Indian government provides assistance to abattoirs, which look after the export need of country. She further added that out of entire exports from India, buffalo meat export has tremendous potential.

Mr. Des Bowler presented the *use of EAN.UCC standards in meat traceability through case studies and stressed on the importance of modern technologies like barcoding and EDI for building traceability* and more value in the meat supply chains, based on his experience and implementations.

Dr Joginder Berwal explained how the Phyto sanitary standards can be used and applied in the meat supply chains.

Dr Craig Morris described the UNECE standards in meat and associated guidelines which are not for benchmarking only, but for the purpose of identification primarily

Mr. Miodrag Mitic detailed how the *EAN.UCC Beef Traceability guidelines fulfil EU regulatory requirements and that the UN Bovine standards also recognize the EAN.UC barcoding standards for the purpose of identification and traceability* that can be built in the supply chains using these systems.

The panel acknowledged the useful points raised by the audience on the relationships between the standards and that governing bodies of these standards need to follow an integrated approach.

#### Track on Dairy Products

*Rapporteur: Mr. Martyn Vernon*

Dr. S K Bhalla emphasized the *need for legislation for tracking and tracing in building a level playing field*. He stated that it is the responsibility of food suppliers to ensure consumer safety. He added that the national governments should create legislation for traceability and HACCP compliance by the food suppliers like the regulations being formed currently in some countries due to the manifold increase in size and complexity of the global food supply chains.

He concluded by stating that each and every consumer has right to consume a food product that is SAFE. To provide the safe product with a reasonable shelf life under specified distribution and storage network manufacturer has to create required facilities all along the line. There is a need to properly label the food with identification mark to ensure handling of any mishaps whatsoever. In our country we have legislation to guide the manufacturer for having proper composition of foods etc., however, there is a need to create a mandate regarding tracing and tracking of packaged food till its consumption

Mr. Massimo Casella stated that *food safety is the prime responsibility of food manufacturers and can be the source of competitive advantage* for them.

Mr. Stefan Johansson presented the importance of packaging in food safety. He opined that infrastructure for supply chains, cold chains and packaging is constrained by taxation structures in developing countries, which the national governments should address.

Mr. Martyn Vernon explained how the *EAN.UCC standards could be utilized for ensuring compliance with some of the HACCP requirements*. He highlighted that for ensuring food safety, tracking & tracing form an essential component for the supply chain to follow. He stated that EAN barcoding can be used for ensuring HACCP compliance specially in facilitating accurate product recalls.



## **Closing Session**

The Rapporteur Summaries of the four parallel tracks were presented by the respective session's rapporteur as mentioned above.

Dr. Carol Sacks, UNECE, presented the Seminar Recommendations, which are reproduced in Annexure C.

Mr. Ravi Mathur, CEO, EAN India described the role of EAN India especially in the food sector. EAN India, a non-profit society promoted by the Ministry of Commerce and co-managed by Apex organisations like CII, FIEO, FICCI, APEDA, MPEDA, Spices Board, BIS, etc. encourages the Indian industry adopt this international best practice for efficient supply chain management which has in-built capability to meet food product traceability requirements. Various government departments like Ministry of Small Scale Industries, Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Ministry of Commerce, APEDA, MPEDA, Spices Board etc. are also encouraging the Indian industry in general, and food industry in particular, to adopt the EAN.UCC system through financial assistance etc. The EAN standards have been declared the national standards for barcoding and Electronic Data Interchange by the Electronic Commerce/EDI Council of India, under Ministry of Commerce thereby facilitating the National IT Task Force Recommendation of barcoding of products by the year 2003. He also mentioned the work being done in many other industry sectors like defence, excise, etc. in conjunction with various govt. departments.

Mr. Mathur stated that EAN India would be happy to share the EAN.UCC experience to assist the Indian government and food industry deploy suitable traceability system to protect consumer health and in food safety incidents to enable fast & accurate product recalls.

He concluded by thanking the distinguished speakers, chairpersons, co-organisers and delegates for their support in making the Asian Seminar a success.

In the Vote of Thanks, Mrs. Parna Dasgupta, Secretary, CIFTI, thanked the speakers, session chairpersons, delegates and co-organisers of the Seminar and hoped that the government and industry would work together to fulfil the seminar recommendations to ensure safe and high quality food for international trade.

## Annexure C



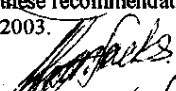
### RECOMMENDATIONS

#### Asian Seminar on Safe and High Quality Food for International

Trade held on 4-5 April 2002 in New Delhi, India

The organisers and participants of the Seminar recognise the contribution of the:

1. Agricultural sector and trade in fresh and processed agricultural and food products to promoting food security and poverty alleviation through enhanced economic development, which is also consistent with the United Nations Millennium Declaration.
2. Trade in agricultural commodities and food products to facilitating the participation of Asian countries in the international economy, increasing their share of international markets and enabling all countries to benefit from the fruits of globalisation.
3. International standards for food quality and safety to global trade and the need for their dissemination and implementation in the region as a means to add value to agricultural and food products with its contingent benefits of increased employment and income.
4. Alignment of international agriculture and food supply chains for implementing productivity enhancing technologies and standards in partnership with government, the business community and standards organisations.
5. Collaboration between UNECE, UNESCAP and EAN International in the region, who will jointly prepare the programme for follow-up activities to implement these recommendations, and which include a Conference in Bangkok in May 2003.

  
Dr. Carol Cosgrove-Sacks,  
UNECE

  
Mr. Brian Smith,  
EAN International

  
Dr. Jurgen Bischoff,  
UNESCAP/UNAPCTT