



How Institutional Governance, the design of Laws, Standards and Control Systems Affect Trade in Developing Countries?

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Abstract:

In MENA Food Security/Safety & Market Access has been hindered by different impediments, including Weak Standardization testing and Inspection, Inadequate Legal Framework and Lack of enforcement of regulations. In many developing countries one major problem is the multiple food safety involved parties. In the case of Lebanon, six Ministries are directly involved in implementing food safety measures with sometimes overlapped duties. Moreover, the food law was issued but without implementation decrees, which lead to poor law enforcement. Similar situation happens with the Food Safety Lebanese Commission which has an appointed president but no chair members have been chosen yet.

Many developing countries are still far beyond implementing new generation of food laws, as issued in developed nations, which are risk-based, with preventive measures, and value chain controls. This new requirement affects negatively trade relations with developing countries because of non-compliance of food exports. Tahini is an example of non-conformity in Lebanese exports, as different incidents resulted in Lebanese Tahini recalls and detentions as more than 10 Lebanese tahini large factories are on US-FDA Detention without Physical Examination list.

Thus, there is a need to use of high tech. laboratory equipment for better detection of contaminants and to understand possible sources of contamination at the grass root level and better address adherence & compliance, and Institutionalizing governance against corruption, incompetence and limited capabilities of governing bodies in developing countries.

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