Country Specific Experience with Export Certificates

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Background

• **Geographic Location**: Southeast Asia

• **Area**: 198,115 sq mi
  51.31 million hectares
  (~1.2 x California)

• **Population**: 66.7 million

• **Currency**: Baht

• **Language**: Thai

• **Government**: Unitary Parliamentary Democracy Constitutional Monarchy

• **Agriculture**: 5.8 million farms
  ~23 million farmers

• **Agricultural Area**: 41%

  **GDP**: 11.58%
## Important Agricultural/Food Commodities (2008)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Commodities</th>
<th>Export (x1000 t)</th>
<th>Production (x1000 t)</th>
<th>% Export</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cassava</td>
<td>15660</td>
<td>25160</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rice</td>
<td>10216</td>
<td>21190</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sugar</td>
<td>5012</td>
<td>7820</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pineapple</td>
<td>721</td>
<td>1300</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chicken Meat</td>
<td>383</td>
<td>1200</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shrimp and products</td>
<td>358</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Longan</td>
<td>287</td>
<td>477</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Durian</td>
<td>219</td>
<td>638</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Value of Exporting Agricultural Products (2009)

• 1. Japan : 137,889 million Baht
• 2. U.S.A. : 125,192 million Baht
• 3. E.U. : 116,961 million Baht
• 4. China : 116,724 million Baht
• 5. Africa : 95,442 million Baht
Export Certification in Thailand

• Export Certification, especially Sanitary or Health Certification, has been issued for over 35 years with the aim to strengthening the capacity and reliability of food safety to meet the requirement from importing countries.

• The certification has been issued firstly for fish & fishery products which are perishable and easily contaminated by foodborne disease.
Export Certification in Thailand

• After a rapid growth in aquafarming, Thailand had expanded its capacity for aquacultural production, especially marine shrimp, and became a major exporter.

• Together with the expansion in exporting activities, certification has become necessitate.
Export Certification in Thailand

• Other agricultural food products, such as plants, fruits and vegetable, had the production capacity exceeding domestic demand. Therefore, they were also exported to the international markets.

• Due to the fact that the food safety control are different among countries, the importing countries that have sophisticated analytical instrument can detect very tiny quantity of contamination and metabolized residue. Cases were found that exporting food products did not comply to the requirement and had been rejected.
Export Certification in Thailand

- Mad Cow Disease outbreak and Dioxin contamination in Europe in early 2000 called attentions among consumers around the World to be aware of the safety in food production including those raw materials produced from farm level.
- In addition, a series of zoonotic diseases such as Avian Influenza and Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) outspread also increased protection level in agricultural import/export products.
- As a result, Export Certification became the solution to control product quality and food safety.
Export Certification in Thailand

• After facing exporting issues, the Cabinet announced Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives (MOAC) to be the CA agency that control all stages in the whole food chain to achieve a true from-farm-to-table control.

• Each of the government agencies has its own certification system.
Export Certification in Thailand

- Thailand became the multi-agencies Competent Authority that inspect/certify products:
  1. Fish/Fishery products: Dept. of Fisheries (DOF)
  2. Livestock/Animal products: Dept. of Livestock Development (DLD)
  3. Crop/Plant products: Dept. of Agriculture (DOA)
  4. Rice products: Rice Department (RD)
Export Certification in Thailand

• Previously, certificates were issued after inspections on every lot of the products for physical, microbiological, and chemical (residual and contamination) qualities. The inspection process took tremendous load of sampling and analysis.
Export Certification in Thailand

• Nowadays, MOAC took control of the entire system by certify each of the production levels.
  – Farm : GAP
  – Pre-Processor : GMP & HACCP
  – Processor : GMP & HACCP
Road Map of Food safety

**Food safety standards**

**I. Import RM+Input**
- Registration & Inspection of pesticide, fertilizer, vet drug, other chemicals
- Border control of RM, foods, feeds, animal

**II. Farm level**
- GAP Implementation & Certification

**III. Food Manufacturing level**
- GMP/HACCP Implementation & Certification

**IV. Produce/Product**
- Product Registration/Certification & Issue of ‘Q’ Mark
- Product Inspection before export
- Product monitoring

**V. Market (Domestic/Export)**
- Control hygiene of market/retailer
- Consumer Communication & Control Advertising
- Inspect & Certify product for export
- SPS/Trade negotiation

**From - Farm - to - Table**

**Traceability**
Export Certification in Thailand

• Together with the certification system, the surveillance programs are implemented. The programs include 1) system audit (once/twice per year) and 2) sampling plan (depends on manufacturer performance)

• Examples of sampling plan,
  – Fishery product: randomly selected according to performance level:
    • Grade 1 manufacturer: Once every 3 months
    • Grade 2 manufacturer: Once a month
    • Grade 3 manufacturer: Every lot
  – Livestock product:
    • Required veterinarian at every manufacturers.
Export Certification in Thailand

• Livestock products are controlled by veterinarian officials at farm, slaughterhouse, and processing house. Therefore, when paperwork was signed by the official veterinarians, certification can be issued by DLD with confidence.

• Plants, fruits and vegetable certification are different. Pest control document is required in addition to health certification. Each importing country has different pest control procedures. Some countries may require fumigation, heat treatment, or radiation.
Advantage of Certificate System

Advantage:

1. Government can use certificate as a tool to control and ensure high standard for food safety.

2. Producers (throughout the production chain) must cooperate and work together because the entire system is linked together in order to complete the traceability system. With traceability system, we can detect where the problems are in production chain and the producers of each step has to take full responsibility on their own parts.

3. Able to separate food producers who produce high quality/safety products from producers who are not.
Advantage of Certificate System

• Advantage:

4. Know what skills and knowledge the farmers need in order to provide those necessity knowledge.
5. Know what/where problems are in order to correct and place measures to prevent them from recurring.
6. Reduce importing control.
7. Consumers are protected for food safety.
Disadvantage of Certificate System

• **Disadvantage:**

1. Require tremendous resources (labor and budget) to control the entire food chain.

2. Require tremendous documentation system and storage to ensure traceability.

3. Require certified laboratory (ISO 17025) for the international acceptance. Although private lab results are acceptable, but MOAC takes samples for analysis to ensure accurate certification.
Disadvantage of Certificate System

• Disadvantage:
  4. Importing countries often change the required information on certificates. Difficult to manage computerized certification system.
  5. Fraudulent certificate problem in some countries cause extra document checking process. Governments need to search for solution, e.g. using special paper or Hologram.
Disadvantage of Certificate System

• Disadvantage:
  6. Several countries require large amount of data to be displayed on A4 certificate.
  7. Sometimes, many products are shipped in one consignment making it difficult to include every piece of product details. If the details are not included, it is risk for being rejected at the custom.
**Examples of Certificates**

### I. Identification

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cultured prawns</td>
<td>Wild prawns</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. **Species name**
   - Scientific: ........................................
   - Common: ........................................
2. **Quantity**
   - Total weight: ..................................
   - Number of units: ..............................

### II. Origin

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1) Country (and Zone, if applicable):</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2) Aquaculture establishment/s</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
   - 2.1 Name: ........................................
   - Address: ........................................
   - 2.2 Name: ........................................
   - Address: ........................................
   - 2.3 Name: ........................................
   - Address: ........................................
   - 2.4 Name: ........................................
   - Address: ........................................

### III. Destination

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1) Australian importer (consignee) of product</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
   - Name: ........................................
   - Address: ........................................
2) Port of import: ................................ |

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*(Shell-viable prawn-based food products include: dried prawns, canned prawns or prawn-based products containing prawns as an ingredient (e.g., prawn baladiyeh).*
Examples of Certificates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country of Origin</th>
<th>Competent authority: DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>THAILAND</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Competent Service:** FISH INSPECTION AND QUALITY CONTROL DIVISION

**I.** Products identifying / Details identifying the fishery products:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Commodity Name</th>
<th>Species (scientific name)</th>
<th>Processing Method</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**II.** Products / Origins of the fishery products:

**III.** Products / Destination of the fishery products:

**IV.** Health attestation

Official inspector hereby certifies that the fishery products specified above:

1. The products are produced under sanitary and food safety regulations and hygiene conditions and are fit for human consumption.

Signed:

[Signature]

[Seal]

[Date]

[Place]
Examples of Certificates

COUNTRY: THAILAND

Part I: Declaration

[Table with columns for country, origin code, destination code, place of origin, port of departure, means of transport, commodity code, quantity, type of packaging, number of packages, and identification of the commodities.

Part II: Certificate

[Table with columns for date, health declaration, fishery products, and signature.

Part III: Certification

[Table with columns for date, certification number, and signature.

Notes:

- The health certificate is issued by the competent authority of the country of origin.
- The fishery products listed must be declared.
- The certificate must be signed by the official inspector.
Examples of Certificates

Health certificate for fish and seafood (fishery products) and products of their processing intended for human consumption, exported from Thailand into the Russian Federation

In accordance with the provisions of the Law of the Russian Federation "On food safety", the products of the wholesale and retail trade, including fishery products, shall be certified by the competent authorities of the countries of origin,加工, транспортировки, реализации.

4. Certificate on suitability of products for food / Свидетельство о пригодности продукции для пищевого использования

4.1. Certificates and other documents, which confirm the suitability of products for food, shall be issued by the competent authorities of the country of origin, in accordance with the international standards and norms, and may be presented in electronic form.

4.2. The certificate must contain the following information:

- Expiry date
- Product description
- Quality and safety parameters
- Issuing authority

4.3. The certificate must specify the name of the exporter, importer, consignee, and consignor, as well as the name and address of the responsible person.

5. Identification of products / Идентификация продукции

5.1. Name and address of the consignor / Название и адрес отправителя

5.2. Certificate / Сертификат

5.3. Name and address of the consignee / Название и адрес получателя

5.4. Country of origin / Страна происхождения

5.5. Official stamp / Официальный штамп

5.6. Date of issue / Дата выдачи

5.7. Signature of Competent services / Подпись компетентного органа

5.8. Name and position in capital letters / Имя и должность в больших буквах

5.9. DG приложение "Одобрено"
Recommendation

1. **EXPORT CERTIFICATE** is a good method to ensure food safety and reduce redundant sampling analysis by importing country.

2. **REGULATION NUMBER** instead of detail of the regulation. But certification should include manufacturer address, lot number, manufacturing date, shipment date, and seal number for traceability purpose.

3. **ELECTRONIC CERTIFICATION** (with superior firewall control) should be applied to eliminate fraudulent certificates and reduce paper use.
4. **SYSTEM CONTROL APPROACH** instead of certification.

- Remote control procedure of importing countries that use **Inspection** system may not be as effective as **Certification** system that control safety at every level (farm-to-table).

- Remote control procedure that are too strict, e.g., require both **Approved list** & **Certificate** is time consuming and require a lot of budget and human resources.

- **System Control** is a better approach. When the control of every single steps of the entire food chain is completed, then only **Approved list** is needed to ensure safety.
Thank you for your attention