

Food Safety Standards and Regulations in Malaysia: Implications for the ASEAN Integrated Region

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- Objective: To make recommendation on harmonisation of food safety regulations and standard in ASEAN based on Malaysian scenario
- The food sector was selected due to complexity of regulations and variations/frequency of non-tariff measures (NTMs)
- Key findings:
 - i. Labelling requirement appears to be the most common NTMs
 - ii. Relatively high number of NTMs on food products imported from ASEAN
- Recommendations:

Harmonisation of regulations within ASEAN should be:

 - i. prioritised on labelling for SPS and TBT
 - ii. sector specific in highly tradable food items

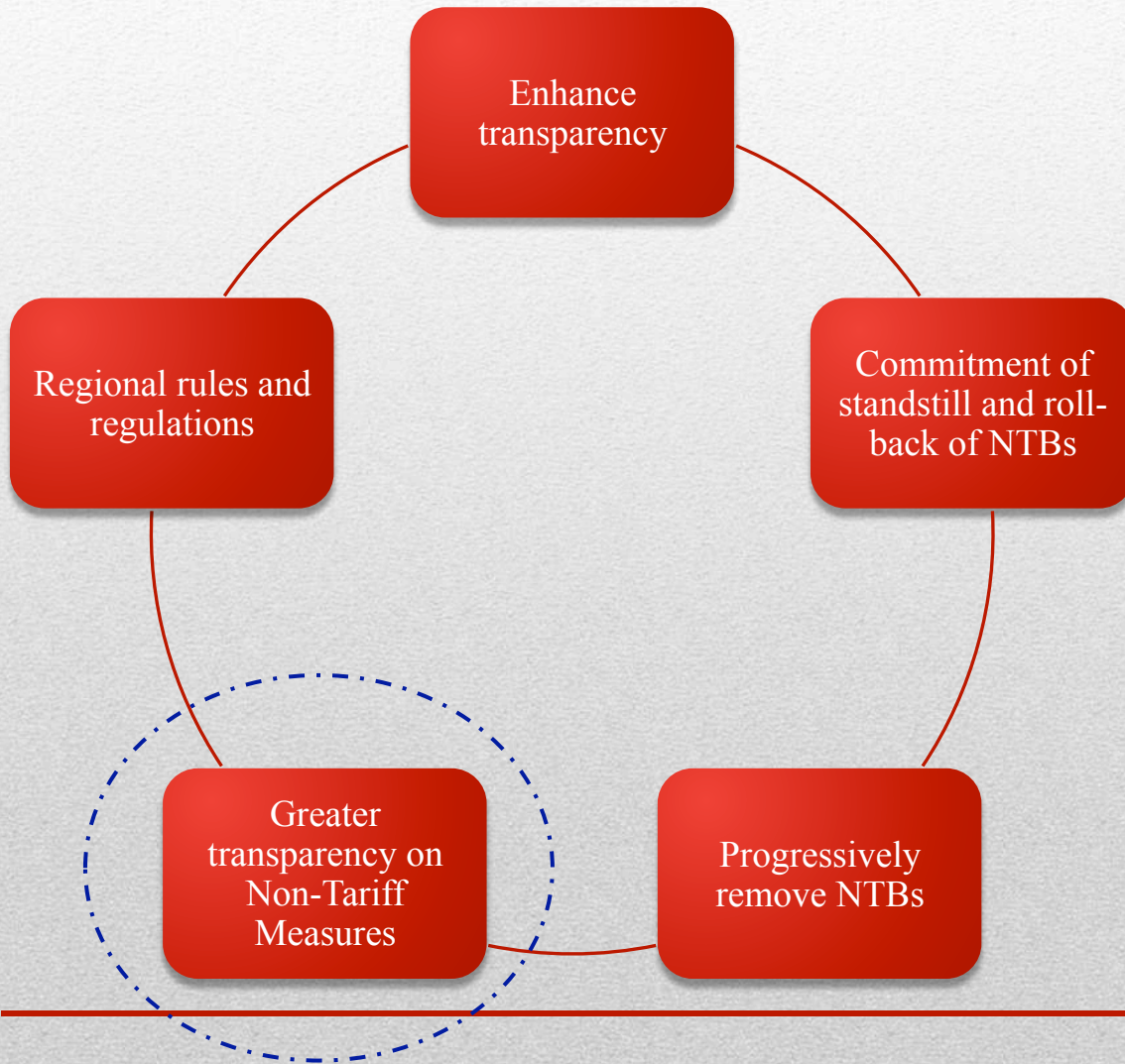
- The non-tariff measures (NTMs) in the Malaysia food sector is diversified and wide-ranging
- Similar complexities may be experienced by other ASEAN member country adopting codex guidelines, creating challenges for harmonisation of regulation
- Progress in regulatory convergence in ASEAN can be achieved through targeted approach

- Bring to light an important component of the ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint
- Analysis on the diversity of food safety regulations in ASEAN and the development of Malaysia's food safety standards are important to provide context
 - Progress of harmonisation within ASEAN
 - Frequency of change in regulations and standard
 - Adherence to international standard
 - NTMs incidence/complaints
- Lack of empirical analysis may weaken arguments
 - Most burdensome vs most common NTMs → which to prioritise?
 - Certain NTMs have welfare-enhancing benefits → demand from public for higher standards
 - Would harmonisation have price-raising effect? → may not result in increase of trade

- It would be interesting to see comparative analysis on effectiveness of harmonisation effort in other region → has it improve trade?
 - COMESA created NTB monitoring mechanism
 - Repository of issues flagged by private sector

Thank You

Elimination of Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs) is one of the actions envisaged in achieving the ASEAN Economic Community aspiration in 2015



A more efficient system will reduce cost of doing business and unlock opportunity to relocate investment into research for innovation in food technology

ASEAN's progress on the harmonisation of food control and safety requirements and principle

1. ASEAN Common Food Control Requirements (ACFCRs)
2. ASEAN Principles for Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification (CAC/GL 20 MOD)
3. ASEAN Guidelines for the Design, Operation, Assessment and Accreditation of Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (CAC/GL 26 MOD)
4. ASEAN Guidelines for Food Import Control Systems (CAC/GL 47 MOD)
5. Guideline on Inspection and Certification of Food Hygiene