Brief description of SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC)

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SAARC Agriculture Centre

An Overview
Evolution of SAC

- Considering that the agriculture as the priority sector that engaged majority of population and supported their livelihood, SAARC decided to open the first regional centre to support agriculture development
- 1988- SAARC Agriculture Information Centre (SAIC)- Information exchange on Agriculture
- Agricultural research and development, policy planning, and knowledge management, 2007- SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC)

**GOAL**

Promotion of agricultural Research and Development (R&D) as well as technology dissemination initiatives for sustainable agricultural development and poverty alleviation in the region
SIX OBJECTIVES

**Objective 1** - To strengthen agriculture research and technology transfer through establishment of regional networks

**Objective 2** - To provide inputs for developing regional policies, strategies, and projects

**Objective 3** - To promote innovative techniques and systems in agriculture production, post-harvest and processing

**Objective 4** - To facilitate collaborative studies on agriculture marketing, distribution system, standards, food security, risk and disaster management in agriculture

**Objective 5** - To facilitate and undertake collaborative capacity building

**Objective 6** - To collate and disseminate information for agriculture advancement
Major field of activities

Agriculture

Livestock

Fisheries

Natural Resources Management
Current collaborations

- SAARC-Australia Project
- SAC-International Rice Research Institute - Stress tolerant rice for poor farmers in Africa and South Asia (STRASAS)
- SAC-University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka - SAARC Pesticide Information Network
- SAC-APAARI/GFAR/FAO - ICT
- SAC-AVRDC
- SAC-ICIMOD
- SAC-CIRDAP
Emerging Issues

• Safety standards – food, machine, chemicals, etc
• Climate change
• Value chain
• Public-private partnership in agriculture R&D
• Organic agriculture
• Trans-boundary diseases
• Marian fisheries
• Sustainable development
• Natural resource degradation
Value chain analysis of fruits in SAARC Region: Issues and Recommendations
Outline of presentation

1. Introduction
2. Issues
3. Recommendations
Introduction

1. South Asian region grows a large variety of indigenous and exotic fruits
2. Fruits play an important role - vitamins, minerals, dietary fibre
3. Enhancing farmer incomes, alleviating poverty and improving dietary nutrition
## Distribution of fruit production Area in Asia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total ‘000 ha</th>
<th>Total ‘000 tonnes</th>
<th>% of world ha</th>
<th>% of world tonnes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>World</strong></td>
<td>55,856</td>
<td>608,926</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Asia</strong></td>
<td>28,168</td>
<td>310,267</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>India</strong></td>
<td>6,403</td>
<td>75,121</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pakistan</strong></td>
<td>781</td>
<td>6,370</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bangladesh</strong></td>
<td>455</td>
<td>4,004</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: FAO, 2013
**Fruit milage**

**Source:** Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, GoI
Value chain of fruits in SAARC Countries

**Socio-economic**

**VALUE CHAIN**

**Input Supplier**
- Input Supply

**Farm Production**
- Farmer/Grower

**Commission agents/Wholesaler/Cooperatives/**

**Assembly**

**Processing**
- Processor

**Finished Products**
- Retailer/Cooperative/Exporter

**Consumer**
- (Domestic and International markets)

**SPECIAL CHAIN**

Policy, Regulatory, Promoters, Financial, Physical, Environmental

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**SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC)**
### Stakeholders engaged in value chain of fruits in SAARC countries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Input Supply</th>
<th>Farm Production</th>
<th>Assembly</th>
<th>Processing</th>
<th>Finished Products</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sri Lanka</td>
<td>Local dealers</td>
<td>Farmers</td>
<td>Commission agent at the Dambulla Dedicated Economic Centre (DDEC)</td>
<td>Processors</td>
<td>Wholesaler, retailers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pakistan</td>
<td>Retailers</td>
<td>Farmers</td>
<td>Commission agents, retailers, wholesalers</td>
<td>Processors</td>
<td>Wholesalers, Exporters, retailers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nepal</td>
<td>Cooperatives, Agro-Vets, Gos, NGOs</td>
<td>Farmers</td>
<td>Road head traders, collection centres</td>
<td>Processors</td>
<td>Wholesaler, Commission agents, retailers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>Input suppliers</td>
<td>Farmers</td>
<td>Consolidators</td>
<td>Processors</td>
<td>Exporters, retailers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bhutan</td>
<td>Commission agents, nursery operators, National seed centre</td>
<td>Farmers</td>
<td>Local vendors, farmer groups, wholesalers</td>
<td>Bhutan Agro Industries Limited, Village processing units, Regional fruit processing units</td>
<td>Exporters, retailers, cooperatives and groups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bangladesh</td>
<td>BADC, retailers</td>
<td>Farmers</td>
<td>Bepari, rural assembly market, Faria, rural retailers</td>
<td>Processors</td>
<td>Rural wholesaler, urban wholesaler, super stores, urban retailer</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Issue of value chain of fruits in South Asia

1. Input supply
2. Market
3. Awareness and capabilities
1. Input Supply

a) poor quality and adulterated inputs (seeds, fertilizers and pesticides) by the input supplier
b) lack of organic fertilizer and pesticides
c) inadequate knowledge and skills in adhering to the use of recommended pesticides and ignorance of environmental concerns as demanded by importing countries
d) lack of awareness on the quality and environmental issues
e) lack of sufficient air cargo space and unexplored sea vessel exports
f) high royalty, handling charge, cost of aviation and fuel etc.,
g) poor packaging of perishables and
h) finally the absence of functional SME’s associations
2. Market issue

a) inadequate market information
b) lack of poor marketing initiative and market linkages
3. General awareness

a) lack of improved production technique of fruits
b) inadequate knowledge and skills on soil, fertilizer, seeds and pest management
c) lack of knowledge of seed production, collection and preservation
d) inadequate knowledge on harvesting, post-harvest handling, storage and transportation
e) limited research and poor dissemination of research findings, and
f) insufficient extension services and poor delivery system.
Recommendations

a) Supply of Good quality seed and fertilizer from input supplier
b) Subsidy for production of fruits and vegetables
c) Market access and price system
d) Marketing information
e) Promotion of Advanced Tools for Harvesting
f) Post Harvest Technology
g) Efficient, equitable and viable fruits and vegetables regional and global value chains
h) Creating Awareness on quality, safety and nutritional security aspects
Fruits program initiated during last three years in SAC

1. Value chain analysis and market studies of fruits and vegetables in SAARC member countries-completed

2. Regional consultation workshop on mite management of coconut in SAARC Countries-completed
Future program regarding Fruits in SAC

1. Status on varietal improvement propagation technique, cultural management of fruits in South Asia-Strategy for future research
2. Innovative technologies of post harvest management of horticultural crops in SAARC Countries
Acknowledgement

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