

Item 7. Quality infrastructure for trade: challenges to integration into value chains





Quality infrastructure assessment as part of the UNECE Studies on Regulatory and Procedural Barriers to Trade



COVID-19 RESPONSE

UNECE

The Impact of COVID-19 on trade and structural transformation in Armenia

Evidence from UNECE's survey of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises

UNITED NATIONS

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Regulatory and procedural barriers to trade in Kazakhstan

Needs Assessment

International Trade Centre

UNITED NATIONS

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Regulatory and Procedural Barriers to Trade in Kyrgyzstan

Needs Assessment

UNECE

Three Sections



Trade Profile

- Detailed trade profile for each product with an overview of global exports and imports as well as trends.



Business Process Analysis

- BPAs of the export steps, requirements and regulations in relation to selected products to identify the bottlenecks and time-consuming procedures.



Quality Infrastructure

- Assessment of compliance with international quality standards, which is among key obstacles to expanding exports. ECE studies assessed the QI as it relates to selected products in each country

QI Systems in Armenia, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan: common achievements and remaining challenges



Achievements

- Overall legislation on technical barriers to trade is aligned with WTO requirements
- Global and regional trade integration processes have helped aligning national standards with global benchmarks
- Acknowledgement of the important role of digitalization in further enhancing QI systems

Remaining Challenges

- Need to diversify away from natural resources and add value along value chains
- Need to increase mutual recognition agreements for conformity assessment
- Lack of awareness and knowledge among producers regarding quality requirements for marketing of products as they vary by destination



Quality Infrastructure (QI) in Armenia, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan: country specific findings



	Armenia	Kazakhstan	Kyrgyzstan
Key Achievements	<p>Restructuring of QI under the National Body for Standards and Metrology (ARMSTANDARD), the National Accreditation Body (ARMNAB) and the Food Safety Inspection Body.</p> <p>Updating of legal frameworks on standardization and conformity assessment and metrology to align with destination markets</p>	<p>QI well structured under the oversight of the State Committee for Technical Regulation and Metrology</p> <p>Digitized and enhanced conformity assessment procedures (e.g. e-KTRM system) helped streamline procedures by electronically generating conformity assessment documents. Plans to integrate technical documents with the Single Window of the Ministry of Finance</p>	<p>Abolishment of mandatory standards, established and restructuring of QI under Center for Standardization and Metrology (Kyrgyzst) and the Kyrgyz Center of Accreditation (KCA)</p> <p>Compliance of KCA with ISO/IEC17011 on general requirements for conformity assessment bodies (CABs) and membership of the multilateral agreement with the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation</p>



Quality Infrastructure (QI) in Armenia, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan: country specific findings



	Armenia	Kazakhstan	Kyrgyzstan
Remaining Challenges	<p>Limited international recognition of ARMNAB (i.e. not yet a member of the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC))</p> <p>Lack of sufficient laboratories and equipment, staff and skills in the field of fish quality control, especially as it pertains to the standards required by destination markets</p>	<p>Shortage and inadequacy of testing laboratories in critical industries (e.g., chemistry)</p> <p>Shortage of testing laboratories, logistical challenges, and lack of mutual recognition of conformity assessments with trading partners</p>	<p>Limited number of accredited laboratories, lack of holistic food safety system</p> <p>Lack of expertise and practical skills for attending to new accreditation areas (e.g. ISO 22003 for the audit and certification of food safety management systems)</p>

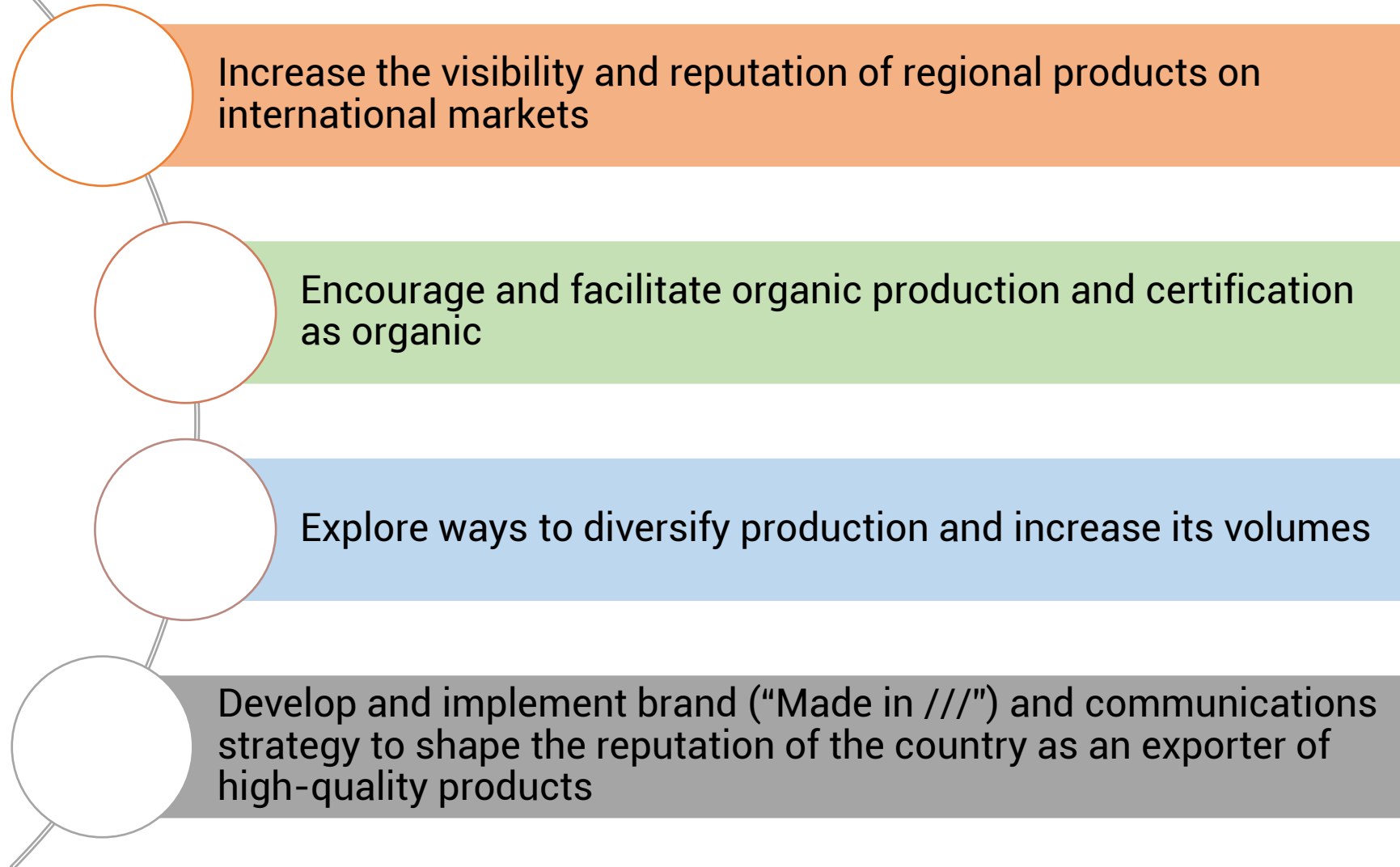


Recommendations for the way forward



Armenia	Kazakhstan	Kyrgyzstan
<p>Invest in modernizing residual substance planning in all areas of fish production and enhance the implementation capacities of relevant authorities and laboratories</p>	<p>Develop a plan for upgrading testing laboratories focusing on the acquisition of state-of-the-art equipment to meet international standards</p>	<p>Ensure international accreditation for laboratories through partnerships, including through PPPs</p>
<p>Enhance international cooperation in the field of conformity assessment and increase the number and skills of CABs</p>	<p>Streamline administrative processes to enable the issuance of certificates of conformity based on recognized test protocols from collaborating entities, reducing redundancy and expediting certification processes</p>	<p>Foster collaboration between relevant stakeholders such as agricultural associations and organic certification bodies to align laboratory testing protocols with industry needs and standards.</p>
<p>Provide a digital platform that facilitates the transparency and clarity of export procedures and standards required from Armenian exporters to different destination markets.</p>	<p>Implement training programs for laboratory professionals to upgrade skills and stay abreast of advancements in testing methodologies</p>	<p>Increase awareness and knowledge among farmers about export requirements in different destination markets.</p>

Recommendations for the way forward: beyond QI systems *per se*



Policy advice by UNECE to upgrade QI for trade



Standardisation and conformity assessment

- ECE Standard DDP-15 concerning the marketing and commercial quality control of dried apricots
- ECE Standard DDP-07 concerning the marketing and commercial quality control of prunes
- ECE Recommendation T. Standards and Regulations for Sustainable Development
- ECE Recommendation L. International Model for Technical Harmonization Based on Good Regulatory Practice for the Preparation, Adoption and Application of Technical Regulations via the Use of International Standards
- ECE Recommendation K. Metrological Assurance of Conformity Assessment and Testing
- ECE Recommendation I. Education on Standards-Related Issues

Risk management

- ECE Recommendation R. Managing Risk in Regulatory Frameworks

Market surveillance

- ECE Recommendations M. Use of Market Surveillance Infrastructure as a Complementary Means to Protect Consumers and Users against Counterfeit Goods
- ECE Recommendation N. Good Market Surveillance Policies and Practices