

Compliance and Comparative Study of Spice Export System in Sri Lanka

J.K.N Piyumika¹, B.E.P Mendis^{1*}, D.Gunasekara²

¹Department Food Science and Technology, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya, Peradeniya 20400, Sri Lanka

²Tropical Foods Pvt Ltd, Nugegoda

**ereshamendis@yahoo.com*

Sri Lanka, “the Spice Island”, has a renowned history of unique aromatic spices. Major spices of Sri Lanka are cinnamon, pepper, clove, cardamom, nutmeg and mace. A compliance study was conducted for the spice export control system of Sri Lanka giving emphasis to existing standards and regulations and is compared with the requirements of major exporting regions. Both qualitative and quantitative approaches were adopted in identifying the major spices produced, major exporting regions, value chains and key stakeholders in the spice export control system. Primary information was collected through interviews and focus group discussions with stakeholder groups and secondary data was obtained for statistics information, standards, and reports on spices. Major exporting regions were identified as India, European Union, United States, Middle Eastern Countries, Mexico and Japan. It was identified that majority of spice export rejections are resulting from safety issues such as not adhering to limits specified for microbial contaminations, heavy metals residues, toxins and additives. And major lapses in the initial stages of value chains were identified as lack of knowledge among farmers on quality aspects, lack of value addition and inferior quality, unnecessary intermediaries in value chains and absence of a decentralized management system. Not adopting standard certifications such as Good Agricultural Practices, Good Manufacturing practices and HACCP approach is a major lapse in production and manufacturing sectors of Sri Lankan spices. The study proposes the authorities to give major emphasis to improve specifications mainly maximum residue levels for pesticide, microbial contaminants and toxins in national standards and promoting adoption of quality and safety management systems. In addition, establishment of a decentralized system to regulate the spice exports of the country by streamlining the value chains and addressing the needs of farmers is proposed.

Key words: Compliance, Spices, Export Control System, Stakeholders