



INDIA

Sharing best practice and building capacity to grow trade between the world's second most-populous nation and the EU

India's exports are estimated to have totaled US\$287.6bn (£200bn) in 2015, making it the world's 17th largest exporter. The value of trade between the EU and India grew from €28.6bn in 2003 to €72.5bn in 2014.

Nevertheless, India has ambitions to take its exports to new heights and an important project involving BSI could make a dramatic difference, by bringing India's quality infrastructure and customs procedures into line with international standards and requirements.



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Charles Davies
BSI Principal Consultant

Leading the way

“We’re leading a consortium of six partners and we’re responsible for the biggest of five Lots. Our work concerns: SPS [sanitary and phytosanitary measures] and food safety; technical regulations and standardization; and PCA [post clearance audit] in customs,” explains BSI Principal Consultant, Charles Davies. Basically, a PCA enables customs organizations to assess the accuracy and authenticity of declarations.

Drawn from our international network of consultants, we have more than 85 experts working on this major EU-funded project – the second largest in our portfolio. The main beneficiaries include Indian government ministries for commerce and industry, finance, agriculture, food processing industries, health and consumer affairs.

Other beneficiaries include India’s Export Inspection Council, the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority, Food Safety & Standards Authority for India, The Bureau of Indian Standards and Quality Council of India (including the NABCB and NABL accreditation bodies).

Export boost

To boost India’s crop exports, crucially, capacity must be built at the Indian Food Safety & Standards Authority so it and other partner agencies can take responsibility for export certification, testing, accreditation, conformity assessment, risk management and safety/quality standards compliance throughout India’s food export value chain.

Under the Quality Council of India, various accreditation bodies deal with different product areas. To ensure consistency, we’re helping with reference material use, so that laboratories throughout India are testing to the same standards.

We’re also working to enhance the knowledge and capacity of customs regulatory and training institutions, so that processes are less likely to hinder international trade. This requires alignment with international best practices, setting up an onsite PCA function and strengthening capacity to implement it.

In addition, a new goods and services tax is also being introduced in India in 2017, so we’re training India’s customs staff to ensure smooth introduction so that international trade does not suffer.

Trusted partner

The project has involved working with a wide range of stakeholders and government agencies, initially to carry out gap analyses to then identify where and how capacity should be built. Some 3,000 government staff were meant to be trained come the end of the project, yet a figure of 2,600 was reached with 18 months left to run, such has been the success of training delivered.

This key project will help to modernize India’s quality infrastructure and customs processes, while enhancing sustainable trade growth and employment opportunities in India. Consumers in India and the EU will also benefit from improved product safety and quality.

“We’re seen as a trusted partner in India, with a well-known, reliable brand,” Charles Davies adds. “With permanent offices throughout India, BSI has the resources, knowledge and experience to deliver a project on this scale. And our focus is always on project sustainability, so the value we provide lives on long after the project has ended. That’s key.”

Did you know?

With its population of more than 1.29bn, India is the world’s second most-populous nation. About half of India’s 500m-strong workforce is employed in the agriculture sector. One third works in services and a fifth in manufacturing.

Did you know?

The services sector contributes more than half of India’s GDP, manufacturing about a quarter and agriculture about 17.5 per cent.

Did you know?

India’s key export commodities include petroleum products, precious stones, vehicles, machinery, iron, steel, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, cereals and clothing.

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