

Comments of India on Draft EU-FVO Audit Report

Para 5.1.5 Laboratories and technical support:

With reference to the observation of the FVO-EU team the following is clarified:

1. The lab facility at NPQS, New Delhi is not a national referral lab, as mentioned.
2. The statement that samples processed at NPQS lab “are almost entirely import related” is not correct. Export samples are also analysed at the lab and record of this is maintained. A total of 5997 numbers of export samples of various commodities have been analysed during 1st January to 30th April, 2013 in the NPQS lab. Out of this, 607 were destined to EU countries. The lab records show that two samples of basmati rice, one being exported to France and the other to UK, were found infested with storage pests and the consignments were subjected to fumigation/ treatment and re-examined to ensure pest freedom.

Para 5.1.6

Training is provided to inspectors and other officials, both at NIPHM, Hyderabad and at the work place, to enhance theoretical and practical knowledge on work related to inspections of export consignments bound for all destinations, including EU.

Para 5.6.2 EU Notifications of interception

1. As regards the observations under above para, it is informed that the interceptions received from EU have been further taken up with the concerned exporters, PQ stations, treatment providers etc. The exporters have been advised to ensure that export consignments are free from pests etc. and have been subjected to the treatment, wherever required. The treatment providers have been warned not to repeat such slip-ups in the future and persistent defaulters have had their treatment licenses suspended.