

**Competent Authority response to the report recommendations, received 11/2/2014**

**ANNEX**

Ref. Ares(2013)3543866 - 22/11/2013

Response of the Competent Authorities of India to the recommendations of Report ref. DG(SANCO)/2013-6683 -MR of a/an audit carried out from 21 October 2013 to 01 November 2013 in order to assess the controls of aflatoxin contamination in peanuts intended for export into the European Union and follow up mission DG(SANCO)/2009-8148.

<b>N°</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Action Proposed by the Competent Authority</b>	<b>Time frame</b>
1	Ensure that all peanut farmers are made aware of the recommended practices based on GAP as described in the Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of Aflatoxin Contamination in Peanuts C AC/RCP 55-2004.	<p>India has over three million peanut farmers with small holdings spread across vast tracts of several states. Ensuring hundred percent awareness to ALL FARMERS about CAC/RCP 55-2004 will be a gigantic task. However, Directorate of Groundnut Research (DGR) an institute under Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) organizes awareness programs on Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) for farmers to grow aflatoxin free groundnuts in main groundnut producing area. More than 20 peanut research stations under ICAR/DGR will be requested to be also involved in this activity. In addition, the IOPEPC, with support of APEDA, from time to time organizes GAP awareness programs for peanut farmers in major production clusters on recommended GAP practices.</p> <p>Further, EU Capacity Building Initiative for Trade Development in India (CITD) is commencing from 2014, a component on application of GAP guides under lot 1, food safety and SPS, technical regulations and standardization, training of trainers and peanut farmers has been prioritized to begin with. It is expected that by end of CITD project in fourth year, potential peanut farmers would be appropriately made aware about GAP and Code of Practice for prevention and reduction of aflatoxin contamination in peanuts.</p>	Ongoing activity. Potential peanut farmers would be covered by 2018
2	Ensure that official controls at peanut processors include assessment of factors which influence mould growth and aflatoxin production in peanuts and peanut products as described in the Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of Aflatoxin Contamination in Peanuts CAC/RCP 55-2004.	<p>The current mandatory procedures for recognition of peanuts and peanut products processing units, integrated peanut processing units, peanut shelling units, peanut grading units, peanut shelling-cum-grading units and peanuts godowns/storage are based on food safety management systems/Code of Practices for prevention and reduction of aflatoxin contamination in peanuts. These procedures are implemented by IOPEPC and the plant recognition committee consists of APEDA official for the purposes of recognition inspection. It has been envisaged that the committee ensures official controls</p>	On going activity. Units approved for EU would be covered by 2015

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		during recognition assessment, factors which influence mould growth and aflatoxin production in peanuts and peanut products meant for exports to EU.	
3	Ensure that adequate sampling equipment is available to those with the responsibility for sampling so as to be in line with Commission Regulation (EC) No 401/2006 for sampling of groundnuts for aflatoxin analysis.	The private laboratory-1, visited by EU-FVO Mission has already procured adequate sampling equipment with a specific reference to sampling spear which is essential for taking representative samples from consignments of peanuts. The sampling spears have since been made available to the sampling personnel of the laboratory in order to comply with the requirements of Commission Regulation (EC) No 401/2006 for sampling of groundnuts for aflatoxin analysis. The laboratory has been advised to purchase more spears and scoops and place them in each unit where sampling is carried out. Further all the authorities have purchase more spears & scoops are made available to the sampling personnel Photograph of the sampling tool is enclosed	Completed.
4	Continue with the validation of the test method for aflatoxin in peanuts at the EIA Mumbai, Pilot Test House to ensure its preparedness for undertaking official controls for peanuts and peanut products for export to the EU.	EIA Mumbai, Pilot Test House is in the process of getting equipped with suitable homogenisation equipment to enable validation as per EU requirement. The laboratory will be ready for testing for official controls of peanuts for export to the EU within 90 days. However, the laboratory is already equipped to carry out official control of peanut products.	90 days
5	Continue with the preparatory work to ensure that the NRL in Pune can undertake all the necessary duties of an NRL.	The responsibilities and powers of NRL are defined in para 6 and para 7 respectively of the Regulation of export of Peanuts and Peanut Products through control of Aflatoxins, dated 09.01.2013 (Amendment-III). The NRL shall continue with the preparatory work to undertake all necessary duties of NRL as laid down by APEDA.	On going activity