



**Protocol of Phytosanitary Requirements for Exports of Saffron
Stigma from Afghanistan to China between the Ministry of
Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock of the Islamic Republic of
Afghanistan and the General Administration of Quality Supervision,
Inspection and Quarantine of the People's Republic of China
(AQSIQ)**

In order to safely export saffron from Afghanistan to China and prevent the introduction of pests, in accordance with the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (the WTO/SPS Agreement) and the results of risk analysis, the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine of the People's Republic of China (hereinafter referred to as "AQSIQ") and the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (hereinafter referred to as "MAIL") have agreed as follows through amicable negotiations:

In this Protocol, the Afghan National Plant Protection and Quarantine Department (hereinafter referred to as "PPQD") is the concrete implementation body of Afghanistan.

Article 1

The saffron (*Crocus sativus*) exported by Afghanistan to China must meet the related plant quarantine laws and regulations in Afghanistan, also comply with Chinese related plant quarantine laws and regulations, safety and sanitation standards, meet the phytosanitary requirements of this Protocol.

Article 2

According to the results of pest risk analysis, there are currently mainly two pests involved during the growing period of saffron in Afghanistan: *Myzus persicae* and *Lepidium draba*. Once PPQD finds that Afghan saffron crocus has been infected by any other pest, it shall notify AQSIQ immediately and take effective measures for prevention and control.

Article 3

The planning, processing, packing, storage and shipping of Afghan saffron shall be carried out under the supervision of PPQD official or its authorized personnel, and be recorded. Upon request by AQSIQ, PPQD will provide AQSIQ with the information. The saffron exported by Afghanistan to China shall be free of soil, weed seeds or other animal and plant residues, free from pathogens (including bacteria, viruses, etc), pests and other harmful organisms. Each packing box shall be marked with "输往中华人民共和国" in Chinese and indicate planting base, processing enterprise, exporter and other information in English (including address).

Article 4

PPPD shall, in accordance with the requirements of this Protocol, carry out quarantine of Afghan saffron exported to China. For each batch of saffron that has passed the quarantine inspection, PPPD shall issue the Phytosanitary Certificate certified that they meet Chinese phytosanitary requirements, bearing planting base, processing enterprise, exporter and other information in English. PPQD shall, prior to trade, provide a sample of the Phytosanitary Certificate to AQSIQ for port verification of saffron exported to China. The format of the Phytosanitary Certificate shall comply with the ISPM 12 standard, each certificate shall contain the following additional statement: "This consignment of saffron meet the requirements of the Protocol of Phytosanitary Requirements for Export of Saffron stigma from Afghanistan to China".

Article 5

The Entry-Exit Inspection and Quarantine Bureau (CIQ) under AQSIQ shall carry out quarantine of Afghan saffron exported to China at the port of entry.

When saffron consignment arrives at the port of entry in China, an application shall be submitted for inspection to CIQ inspection. CIQ's personnel shall check the Phytosanitary Certificate, related documents and marks, carry out inspection and quarantine.

If any living pest or any pest that is not notified by Afghanistan to China is detected, the consignment shall be returned or subjected to quarantine treatment. Meanwhile, AQSIQ will immediately notify PPQD, according to the relevant requirements and suspend the export of saffron. After receiving the notification from China, PPQD shall carry out investigations to identify the cause and take the corrective action. According to the results of assessment of the corrective action, AQSIQ will make a decision whether to cancel the suspending measure or not.

Article 6

Prior to the trade, PPQD shall provide AQSIQ with the registration number, name, address and other information of planting base and processing enterprise. Exporters should be filed in the "Registration system for importers and exporters of imported food" of China.

Article 7

Both sides will promote and strengthen bilateral cooperation between the plant quarantine experts of two countries and exchange the technical information in the field of saffron quarantine.

Article 8

Based on the disease information and outbreak of Afghan saffron provided by PPQD and CIQ's interceptions, AQSIQ will decide whether to go to Afghanistan to carry out retrospective inspection, outbreak investigation or pre-inspection prior to export, and if necessary, China can restart risk analysis and carry out on-site investigation based on the actual circumstances. Afghanistan will cooperate with China for conducting any retrospective inspection, outbreak investigation, pre-inspection prior

to export and on-site investigation, and MAIL shall be responsible for issuing the invitation and assisting with security and logistical arrangements.

According to the relevant inspection, by mutual agreement, both sides will adjust related phytosanitary measures and pests as mentioned in Article 2 and amend this Protocol through consultations.

Article 9


Both sides agree that this Protocol does not preclude or affect AQSIQ and MAIL's implementation of their respective laws and regulations.

Article 10

This Protocol will come into effect from the date when it is signed and shall be valid for 3 years. If both sides do not propose the amendment or termination requirement 2 months before the expiry date, the validity will be automatically postponed for one year.

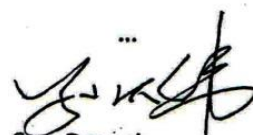
This Protocol is signed on 16 May 2016 in Beijing in triplicate in Dari, Chinese and English languages, all three texts being equally authentic. In case of discrepancy, the English version will prevail.

Representative of
the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan



Asadullah Zamir
the Ministry of Agriculture,
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Representative of
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Sun Dawei
Vice Minister of
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Quality Supervision,
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