Dear All,

Please refer to today's meeting of the Ambassador with the Deputy Minister / DG International Affairs, Ministry of Health, Iran. The objective of the visit was to facilitate the Pakistani Rice Exporters in getting GMP Certification for exporting Rice to Iran.

The timings of the meeting was important as from today, the Iranian Government has lifted the ban on import of Rice for three months. However to import Rice to Iran, the GMP Certification is a mandatory requirement.

The outcome of the meeting is as under:

1) 22 Pakistani Companies / manufacturing units have been registered by the Health Ministry of Iran. The list is attached for information. However Hashmi Rice Mills would be re inspected for confirmation of their registration.

2) 368 Pakistani brands have been registered which pertains to the aforesaid 22 manufacturing units.

3) The information regarding GMP Guidelines, Registered Companies / Brands and the authorized food certification companies can be obtained from the Iran Ministry of Health website www.fda.gov.ir However presently this website is under up gradation process. Therefore the information regarding registered companies is attached for information.

4) The site inspection can be conducted either by the Health Ministry of Iran OR the designated bodies (SGS, Tuv Nord and Moodys International) for issuance of GMP Certification.

5) If the Rice Companies have international food certification e.g. ISO 22000 - 2005, HACCP, IFS etc. they can apply for Registration with the Iranian Health Ministry through their local agent in Iran.

6) The Registration / GMP Certification will remain applicable till any complaint regarding deficiency in health standards (arsenic etc) is reported. In such a case, the registration will be cancelled which will not be restored.

7) The Rice Consignments must have the "**Health Certificate**" from Pakistan's Ministry of Security and Research which should clearly spell out that the **Consignment is fit for human consumption**. If the certificate is missing, the consignment may not be allowed to enter Iran and it may ben noted that this is not the Phyto Certificate.

8) The delegation from the Health Ministry of Iran intends to visit Pakistan in a months time, however the timelines have not been finalized as yet.

9) The delegation from REAP may visit Iran as per their convenience, may be in early December. However their visit timings may not overlap with the visit of the Iranian Health Ministry to Pakistan. The Iranian Health Ministry visit dates will be intimated as soon as it is finalized and shared with the Mission.

10) The Rice Exporters of Sind Province, may also apply for the GMP Certification through their local agent in Iran. The procedure will be the same.

11) In case of any further information on the subject. The Iranian Ministry of Health may be contacted through their focal person Ms. Hajian Expert (Monitoring & Evaluation) Food & Beverage Department, Ministry of Health Iran : 009821-61927512.

Good luck and best wishes to our Rice Exporters

Regards
Sheryar Taj
Commercial Counsellor
Embassy of Pakistan
Tehran