

CONTRIBUTION OF SRI LANKA STANDARDS INSTITUTION (SLSI) TO SAFER AQUACULTURE AND FISHERIES PRODUCTS DEVELOPMENT OF SRI LANKA

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The Sri Lanka Standards Institution (SLSI) is the National Standards Body of Sri Lanka which functions under the Ministry of Technology and Research. It is a member of the International Organisation for Standardization (ISO). The present study was conducted mainly to understand the major activities of SLSI in various aspects of standardization, measurement and quality assurance that are important to the development of the aquaculture and fisheries sector of Sri Lanka. The information collected through the interviews with responsible personnel of different divisions of SLSI and review of literature available in the library of SLSI, within three months period of time, was used for this article. According to the information gathered, SLSI has formulated several codes of practices and specifications to standardize the practices carried out in producing different aquaculture and fisheries products. These standards help to control the hazards associated with all stages of the aquaculture and fisheries production from primary level to packing while improving the utilization of natural resources, workers health and working condition as well as capturing new local and export market opportunities by modifying supply chain. It gives third party assurance to products (SLS mark), for which is mandatory for canned fish, to assure customer safety. Aquaculture product processing plants can certify their systems according to Management Schemes such as ISO 9001, ISO 14001, ISO 22000, etc. to enhance customer confidence on their companies. Inspection of imports and quality assurance of exports are other important services of SLSI that help in the trading of quality aquaculture products between Sri Lanka and other countries. Products are tested for a range of sensory, chemical and microbiological parameters at specific laboratories by highly competent staff with the use of modern testing facilities. Also SLSI provides training programs to industrial personnel of all grades which will result in continuous production of good quality aquaculture products. In conclusion, SLSI plays a significant role in standardizing the aquaculture and fisheries sector of Sri Lanka.

Keywords: Aquaculture and fisheries, Quality assurance, Sri Lanka, Sri Lanka Standards Institution (SLSI), Standardization