



# PADD **INSIGHTS**

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER - DECEMBER 2020

## INSIDE THIS EDITION

- 2 From the Editor's Desk
- 3 From the Director's Desk
- 4 About Project Analysis and Documentation Division (PADD)
- 5 Team PADD
- 6 Exclusive Interview
- 11 Theme for the Edition - Sustainability
- 15 Experience of Young Professionals with PADD
- 16 Activities Spotlight

FROM THE

# EDITOR'S DESK



Dear readers,

**Welcome to the second edition of PADD Insights - a quarterly newsletter of the Project Analysis and Documentation Division (PADD), Quality Council of India.**

This edition aims to inform the readers about the developments in PADD and the milestones achieved. As we inch closer to the next year, we seek to capture the work undertaken by our team throughout the last two quarters including various new schemes and projects. PAD Division has carved itself a niche through its performance, thriving on the motto of enhancing quality in the current ecosystem.

Motivated by the valuable guidance of the Chairman and the Secretary General, PADD has ventured into new areas and embarked on our journey of transforming ideas into reality. We take this moment to extend our gratitude to the management and our team for their valuable guidance and support throughout this journey.

This edition highlights the wider domain of sustainability, the updates and brings to you the interview of a person of excellence. For those unaware, PADD's involvement in sustainability is deep rooted and this edition underpins how we embed sustainability into the division's culture, norms and practices.

It has been a privilege to serve as editors and working with the team has been a transformative experience. It remains critical that we venture into new domains which are relevant and provide a forum for exchange of ideas. In writing this note, we continue to turn towards a few themes and hope you will too.

Should you have any questions or need further information, please feel free to contact us. Thank you for engaging with us on this journey.

Happy reading!

**Aayushi Dhawan and  
Nishtha Khanna**

FROM THE

# DIRECTOR'S DESK



It is with immense joy and pride that I thank all the readers who received the first issue of the Division's newsletter - PADD Insights. I was elated to receive positive feedback for the newsletter. PADD has been working tirelessly since the lockdown to ensure the timely delivery of its services to its stakeholders. We have also made steady progress in developing new initiatives and innovations for the Indian as well as International Stakeholders in the past edition. Our efforts towards significantly expanding programmes continue even in the COVID era.

This edition of PADD Insights will apprise you with the updates on our on-going projects and schemes, the webinar series conducted by the PAD Division and our involvement in online events hosted by our stakeholders. I would like to express my gratitude towards Mr. Santiago Fernandez De Cordoba, Senior Economist, UNFSS Coordinator, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), for taking out his time and giving us an interview exclusively for this edition. I am grateful to Quality Council of India, our business associates and stakeholders for their continuous support in all our endeavours. I would also like to express my gratitude to my colleagues from other Boards and the management team. I express my appreciation for the staunch dedication of all team members of the division.

I trust this edition of the newsletter will be insightful and give us all a perspective about sustainability in various walks of life and how PAD Division incorporates the aspect of sustainability in their schemes and projects.

Looking forward to continued engagement with all our stakeholders.

Warm Regards,

**Dr. Manish Pande**

# ABOUT PROJECT ANALYSIS AND DOCUMENTATION DIVISION (PADD)

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The Project Analysis and Documentation (PAD) Division of the QCI handles projects which aim towards the design, development, and implementation of voluntary conformity assessment frameworks for governmental, inter-governmental, regional, and global organizations.

The Division prides itself in driving noble initiatives that have national, regional, and global relevance. QCI, through this Division, continues to offer solutions to various ministries/ departments/ organizations, industrial bodies, international donor agencies, developmental organizations, and inter-governmental bodies such as the FAO of the UN, UNFSS, UNCTAD, SAARC Agriculture Centre etc.

PAD Division currently handles numerous voluntary certification schemes cutting across various sectors, ranging from Agriculture [IndGAP, Voluntary Certification Scheme for

Medicinal Plant Produce (VCSMPP)], Food [Q Safe, IndiaGHP and IndiaHACCP], Healthcare [AYUSH Mark, Indian Certification of Medical Devices Scheme (ICMED)], Industry [STAR Scheme, RMCPCS], Regulators [VCS-Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems], and Personnel Competence [VCS-Traditional Community Healthcare Providers, Biomedical Skill Certification Scheme (BSCS)]. The Division strives to use instruments like Benchmarking to gain international equivalence with global standards bodies and strives to map it on the standards map of the ITC of the UN.

The Division also prides itself in initiating a project on Sustainable Development Goals Mapping and Analysis Program of schemes and programmes of government and private initiatives.

In addition, the Division assists other Government initiatives such as the National GLP Compliance Monitoring Authority, Government of India, by undertaking impact analysis and digitization for enhancing their quality and efficiency of workflow.

Further, the Division holds the Secretariat for the India National Platform on Private Sustainability Standards, which is a demand-driven platform, mandated by the UNFSS to tackle issues related to PSS in the country.





**MR. ADIL ZAINULBHAI**  
Chairperson, QCI



**DR. RAVI P. SINGH**  
Secretary General, QCI

# TEAM PADD



**Dr. Manish Pande**  
Director & Head PADD



**Kamla Joshi**  
Administrative Officer



**Ajita Srivastava**  
Administrative Officer



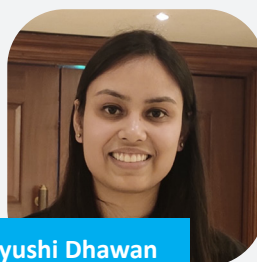
**Shivesh Sharma**  
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**Dr. Arul Jason**  
Project Associate



**CS Sharma**  
Joint Director



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Junior Associate



**Om Tripathi**  
Analyst



**Tishya Mahajan**  
Analyst



**Nishtha Khanna**  
Junior Analyst

## EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW



**Santiago Fernandez De Cordoba** (Senior Economist, UNFSS Coordinator, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)) in conversation with **Aayushi Dhawan**.

Mr. Santiago Fernandez de Cordoba is a Senior Economist at UNCTAD and Coordinator of the United Nations Forum on Sustainability Standards (UNFSS). He has been a trade policy expert for over 20 years, particularly on market access issues, standards and structural adjustment. He advises the government on economic development, trade negotiation and promotion.

He has participated as a speaker on economic

development and trade liberalization at over 200 conferences worldwide. He is a Visiting Professor in Universidad de Navarra Center for International Development and was a Visiting Scholar at Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service. He is the Editor of the 3rd UNFSS Flagship on "Voluntary Sustainability Standards, Trade and Development" and the 4th UNFSS Flagship on "Scaling up VSS through Sustainable Public Procurement and Trade Policy".

He has also served as expert and consultant for the World Bank, OECD and World Trade Organization. Prior to joining the United Nations, he worked in management consulting and investment banking. Mr. Santiago holds an MBA from the University LUISS Guido Carli and a degree in Economics from Universidad de Navarra.

### 1. How can voluntary sustainability standards be integrated into trade policies to increase its uptake?

With the rapid increase in global trade through global value chains, trade has become a key instrument for VSS uptake. Our **UNFSS 4th Flagship report** highlights four trade-related instruments for this to happen: i) free trade agreements (FTAs), ii) preferential trade agreements (PTAs or GSP schemes), iii) market access regulations, and iv) export promotion measures.

FTAs increasingly incorporate non-trade objectives such as sustainable development provisions. Today out of the 308 FTAs in force, 19 have references to the use and promotion of VSS. However, such provisions remain promotional rather than conditional.

Second trade instrument is the **Generalized System of Preferences (GSP)**. Currently there are 13 GSP schemes for middle-income countries and a specific scheme for LDCs. Both GSP and VSS, aim to foster sustainable development and good governance, in a similar manner.

Third trade measure is **market access regulation**. This includes the European Union Timber Regulation (2003), the Korean Act on the Sustainable Use of Timbers (amended in 2017), or the European Union's Renewable Energy Directive (RED) (2009), among others.

Fourth instrument is **export promotion measures**. VSS can contribute to increasing access to lucrative markets and, hence, promoting exports. Thus, Governments can look into VSS to increase exports through various policies and capacity building activities.

All these instruments should be looked in detail as there are pros and cons to consider when expanding VSS uptake.

## 2. What are the prospects of harmonisation and international collaboration across sustainable standards?

Over the past two decades, the number of VSS has surged from a handful to almost 500 standards today (Ecolabel Index database). However, the growth has stagnated since 2017. A reason for this recent stagnation in VSS numbers may lie in their consolidation through mergers and alliances (such as the UTZ and Rainforest Alliance merger in 2018).

It is clear that many VSS focus on similar sustainability issues (environment, social or economic issues) but sometimes to a certain extent there is a huge lack of interoperability among the schemes. This can represent a barrier or a cost for small producers and micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). Furthermore, multiplicity of VSS schemes has led to a situation in which each individual standard seeks to increase its own market share, creating competition among certification schemes and ultimately weakening their interoperability.

Presently, there is a lot of interest to increase harmonization, mutual recognition, and interoperability among VSS which will help stakeholders, producers and consumers navigate the landscape of standards and provide a greater understanding of which standards are legitimate. For this, in my opinion, international collaboration among

standards setters, schemes and agencies is fundamental. We, at UNFSS, evidence that more and more standard agencies from emerging economies, such as Brazil, China and of course India, increase collaboration to further harmonization, mutual recognition, and interoperability among VSS. This will ultimately benefit producers and consumers by allowing more transparent information and ultimately reducing cost for both important actors of economies and advancing the SDGs agenda.

**3. While sustainable brands tend to outperform, we have seen that some brands are nudging customers on sustainability issues. How should this be tackled on a country level?**

VSS is a way to credibly convey the information about sustainable products to consumers who care about how products are made. Recently, there has been a strong demand for products that are certified according to sustainability standards and is primarily driven by large retailers. One possible explanation of the growing demand for certified products is the increasing awareness of environmental protection and social issues. This demand for sustainable products is mainly driven by markets of high-income countries. With a rapid increase in demand in a few developing countries, consumers nowadays are more concerned with the sustainability of what they consume.

Thus, sustainable brands do have a competitive advantage and might tend to outperform.

Although the demand for complained products is concentrated in developed markets, and the fact that developing producers seek certification to facilitate their market access issues to developed markets, it is also essential to tackle this issue on a country level and work on creating a domestic market as well. This can be done through **knowledge sharing and increasing awareness of the need for sustainability**. Education, improving marketing strategies, and making complied products more affordable, are some strategies that might be of benefit in creating a domestic market for certified products within the country level.

**4. As Indian Government is focusing on SDGs, how can SDGs prove to be beneficial in the process of ensuring sustainability?**

The SDGs provide a universally agreed international development agenda. The goals set out an integrated policy framework encompassing a wide range of social, economic, and environmental objectives. The SDGs are relevant and applicable in all countries, developing and developed, without exceptions. According to each country's unique circumstances, capacity, and capability, governments are expected to translate them into national action plans and policies.



In this context, the Indian Government has played an important role in shaping the SDGs agenda by developing the country's national development agenda mirroring the internationally agreed SDGs. Furthermore, to fast-track this agenda, the Indian Government has put in place a Three-Year Action Agenda, and a 15-year vision document as implementation framework of SDGs strategy.

The SDGs represent a clear road map to ensure sustainability and hence benefit the whole society. **Implementation of the SDGs agenda is not only the responsibility of governments, but of the whole societies, including companies, civil society and we all in general.** Hence, by placing a strong emphasis on the contributions of business and civil society in the implementation of SDGs, public and private actors can work in tandem to deliver an ambitious development agenda. In this regard, VSS, along with standards such as those developed by QCI, may be expected to play an increasingly important role in complementing governmental engagement towards achieving SDGs.

**5. How do you envision the service of SDG mapping of voluntary sustainability standards by QCI in view of the existing ecosystem?**

There is a strong need for more information

and transparency on VSS schemes and how they are implemented both internationally and in countries like India. Hence, the role of QCI in better understanding VSS with regards to SDGs is fundamental. Given that QCI is the host of the Indian Private Sustainability Standards Platform (a national multi-stakeholder platform dedicated to study the sustainability standards ecosystem in India and tackle the challenges that arise out of them for the small producers of India), it is a standards agency very well placed to advance the knowledge and understanding of VSS and SDGs. **The multi-stakeholder dialogue that QCI leads in India on VSS can advance VSS as a market-based tool to achieve SDGs.** Both producers and consumers in India require a clear understanding of the sustainability claims of many voluntary sustainability standards systems and QCI's SDG mapping exercise can fill this information gap.

**6. How can we incorporate elements of sustainability in project management to build resilience in the post-COVID era?**

The United Nations have expressed concerns regarding the reversal tendency of COVID-19 on the decade-long progress in the fight against poverty. The UN Secretary-General mentioned that 'This is much more than a crisis. It is a humanitarian crisis. The pandemic is attacking societies at their core'. He also communicated that the pandemic has

negative impacts on almost all of the SDGs. Thus, we call for solidarity and widespread cooperation to build a more resilient approach in tackling such pandemics, climate change and other challenges. As we see today, the societal and economic disruption has already been exacerbated in many countries, and even more so in emerging and developing countries.

The current pandemic implies complications in terms of facing its impacts and addressing quick economic recovery without justifying the triple bottom line of sustainability. **Though it may prove challenging in the current juncture, front-loading feasible VSS-related capacity building activities can now lead us to be better positioned in tackling the sustainable development challenges in order to build resilience in the post-pandemic era.** This is also the time for standard projects to incorporate elements of sustainability highlighting the criticality of the lives and livelihoods of the vulnerable societies.

# THEME FOR THE EDITION - SUSTAINABILITY

Sustainability focuses on meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. The concept of sustainability is composed of three pillars: economic, environmental, and social—also known informally as profits, planet, and people.

While addressing the International Conference on Rule of Law for supporting 2030 Development Agenda, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi said, "We in India have always believed in sustainability. For us, the law of nature holds great value. If we all observe it, then many man-made laws will not be required. A path becomes sustainable, if all stakeholders are benefitted".

**India has been at the forefront of supporting sustainable practices which are in line with its international commitments.** As a progressive economy, India intends to work on the sustainability aspect by aligning with the Sustainable Development Goals. Building awareness and understanding of sustainability is vital to promote priority setting in policy making, as well as to help enable sustainable development and growth. It is essential that all actors in the economy, including governments, intergovernmental bodies, business, civil society

and consumers, see sustainable development and growth as a shared responsibility and that they all take action as appropriate for the challenges and benefits associated therewith to be met and fully harnessed.

## Role of PADD in sustainability initiatives

PADD is devoted to excellence in all spheres of work. With our primary goal to address the global challenge of sustainability, we are focused on transforming research into action. Our division engages with sustainable development in all relevant forms and meets its obligations as per various international conventions. We catalyze change at the grassroots through initiatives of national, regional, and global relevance, and aim to facilitate last-mile access to high-quality products and services.

It is the unrelenting quest of QCI to preserve the traditional ecological, environmental and healthcare knowledge by creating third party assessment frameworks that are assessed by peer review systems. PADD has used its schemes and projects for piloting and implementing solutions that create a sustainable and resilient community, focused on health and well-being.

## Here is how we are directly contributing to sustainability:

- **SDG Mapping and Impact Study:** Sustainable Development Goals Mapping, Analysis and Impact Study Programme impartially analyzes

a standard's parameters and maps the standard with the relevant SDGs, their targets and indicators. The SDG Mapping not only gives the organisations, especially the standard developing bodies, a clear picture of their contribution to the Global Goals but also helps in increasing trust among the consumers internationally.

By aligning themselves and their strategy with the SDGs, organisations are able to use the SDGs as a framework to steer, communicate and report their vision, strategy, goals and activities and as a result yield the benefit of a range of advantages.

- **IndGAP:** The scheme assists the big farmers and smallholders to practice good agricultural practices in their farm as the first step to introduce quality, with two levels of certifications – BasicGAP and IndGAP. The narrative of sustainable development today is linked to questions of development with social and economic sustainability. IndGAP not only focuses on the quality and quantity of the produce obtained from a unit area but also focuses on various aspects of food safety, pre-and-post-harvest practices including worker's health and safety as well as safe and sustained supply of produce of the desired quantity. The IndGAP scheme is comprehensively mapped against relevant SDGs and Targets and Agenda 2030 to enable identifying and measuring action in the achievement of the SDGs at a later stage.
- **Voluntary Certification Scheme for Medicinal Plant Produce (VCS-MPP):** This Scheme was formulated by QCI at the behest of NMPB, M/o AYUSH for introducing quality and traceability in the medicinal plants trade. Medicinal plants, being the raw material for AYUSH medicines, account for around 90% of AYUSH formulations which practically implies that the sustainability of the AYUSH traditional medicinal system is based on the degree of care with which medicinal plants are handled. It is designed to introduce Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and Good Field Collection Practices (GFPC) in India's medicinal plants sector and enhance confidence in produce quality among the buyers and consumers.
- **Voluntary Certification Scheme for Traditional Community Healthcare Providers (VCS-TCHP):** It provides a uniform and standardized assessment framework for TCHPs who manage various streams of health services (jaundice, common ailments, poisonous bites, bone setting, arthritis, and traditional birth attendants) based on their traditional knowledge, experience, and expertise. TCHPs are an integral part of our rich traditional and cultural heritage. Their healthcare practices are environment friendly and have been validated over generations by communities. One runs the risk of eroding traditional knowledge systems if due credence is not extended to such sustainable practices in our rural communities.



# FEATURE OF THE QUARTER



## About the author:

Benz Thomas is the Regional Head – South Asia Pacific, BRCGS. BRCGS is a leading brand and consumer protection organization. He is responsible for the company's operations in the South Asia and Australia-NZ regions.

## Become an Eco-sensible jet setter at work

Companies for sure are thinking green when it comes to their campuses and buildings, but can they empower their jet-setting employees to be mindful of the environment? Is it realistically possible for the business traveller to reduce carbon footprint, improve sustainability and conserve resources? Here are some measurable and actionable pointers that everyone can take when they travel on the company's tab.

- Share the ride: Invite your colleague(s) to join you on the ride to and from the hotel to work, or if you are headed in the same direction for meetings, sightseeing etc. Not only do you save your company some serious bucks, cab-sharing goes a long way in keeping the air clean!
- Take a little less from the buffet: Since most hotels include buffet breakfasts in the room tariff, people tend to pile their plates with food and then waste it. A bit of consciousness and reusing the same plates for the next helping goes a long way.
- Carry your toiletries: Once you vacate the room, half used items are thrown away. Besides preventing any reactions/allergies,

getting your own toiletries cuts wastage. Alternately, carry the half-used ones from the hotel for later use.

- Reuse the towels: Consider reusing towels and extra time, say for the evening and morning shower, before sending them off to be laundered, to avoid water going down the drain, literally!
- Use the linen a few days more: Most hotels tend to change the bedsheets, pillowcases etc. daily or on alternate days. Consider leaving a note for the housekeeper to not change it for a few days more.
- Time your shower: Water consumption can be kept in check by optimising the amount of time spent in the shower. Three minutes is plenty!
- Switch off: Most hotel rooms have too many lights that spring into action the moment you insert the key in/swipe your card. Turning off unnecessary ones can reduce electricity consumption of the room.
- Use the stairs: Often, it is just one person riding the elevator. Taking the stairs while

descending - it is a great way to get exercise and contribute to sustainability!

- Spend time in the public areas: Go to the restaurant instead of ordering in your room. Not only do you cut down on electricity and air conditioning, as a bonus you stand a chance of meeting a new person and/or networking.
- Do not leave your laptops plugged into the socket: Universally we know that unplugging the laptop and other gadgets when not in use helps reduce wasteful consumption of electricity.

# EXPERIENCE OF YOUNG PROFESSIONALS WITH PADD



## RUPAL VERMA

**Currently pursuing the Erasmus Mundus Masters in Environmental Science, Policy and Management.**

“I joined PADD Division when they were about to organize the first International Convention on Sustainable Trade and Standards (ICSTS), jointly with the UNFSS. Coming from an entirely different background, the guidance of seniors made things really smooth and easy for me. I could count on my superiors for any help and there was space for mistakes, which helped me learn and grow. I could also work on individual

projects and an innovative idea was also always highly appreciated and discussed fully. It was great working with the PADD team and I surely made bonds for a lifetime and was blessed with people whom I could always look up to for any guidance or help in life.”



## TANNYA GARG

**Currently engaged with PPID, QCI**

“Working with PADD was my first professional experience and I believe I got very lucky. I worked on multiple projects in various sectors like labour, responsible business, Panchayati raj, agriculture, voluntary standards, and child labour. The dynamic and crucial nature of the work here pushed me into new and challenging situations every day that tested my capabilities to the limit. I am thankful that my seniors showed trust in me and gave me ample responsibility that helped me grow as an individual. Most of all, I got to work with the most supportive and cooperative team, who continue to be my lifelong friends.”

# ACTIVITIES SPOTLIGHT

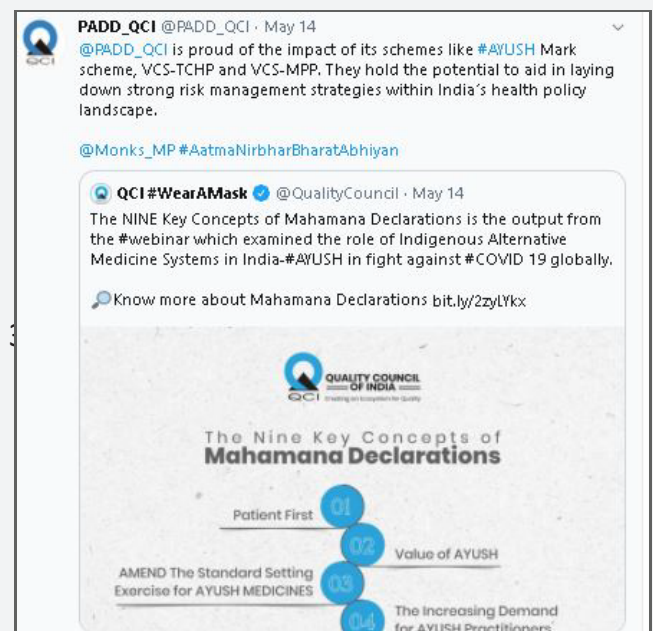
1. QCI holds the secretariat for National Technical Working Group (NTWG) of GLOBALG.A.P. and works on the National Interpretation Guidelines (NIG). With our continuous efforts as the NTWG secretariat, GLOBALG.A.P. approved the National Interpretation Guidelines (NIG) of India for v5.2. GLOBALG.A.P. extended the validity of v5.2 IFA NIG for v5.3-GFS.

PADD also successfully completed the National Interpretation Guidelines (NIG) India for GRASP of GLOBALG.A.P. It was meant to open opportunities for around 11,000 farmers to validate their compliance to social practices thereby positioning strongly to access export markets.

2. The Quality Council of India has been at the forefront in the finalization of the Mahamana Declaration and Action Plan on the role of AYUSH and Covid-19 Pandemic 2020, with Dr. Ravi P Singh, the Secretary General – QCI, being one of the key persons for the same. The Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, formed a nine-member working group to oversee the implementation of the nine-point ‘Mahamana Declarations’ by examining the role of indigenous alternative

medicine systems in India in combating COVID-19.

PADD participated in the Mahamana Declaration. The Mahamana Declarations triggered an action plan for promotion of the AYUSH systems globally to be implemented in next 12 months.

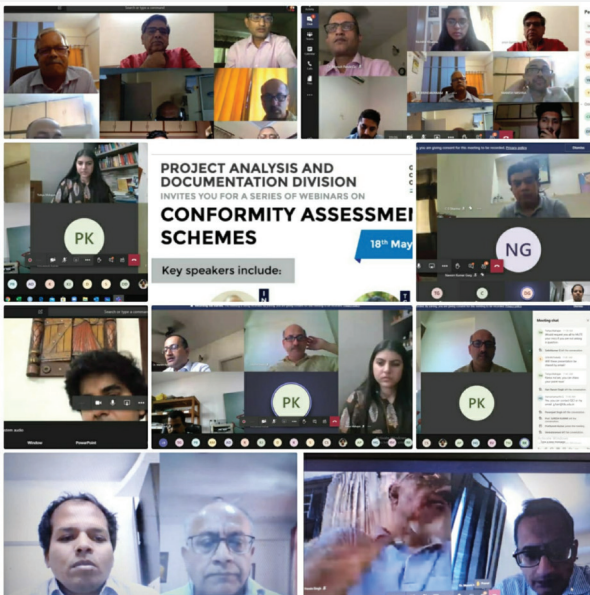


3. India Good Agricultural Practices (IndGAP) scheme assists the big farmers and smallholders to practice good agricultural practices in their farm as the first step to introduce quality, with two levels of certifications – BasicGAP and IndGAP. Ensuring quality services are extended with safe measures by using remote applications, PADD organised its first-ever remote assessment, for approving Bangalore-based Aditi Organic Certifications Pvt. Ltd., for the IndGAP scheme.





4. Webinar was organised by PADD which had a range of schemes, a stellar line-up of speakers and power-packed topics. In response to our honorable PM's clarion call to go vocal for local, PADD raised awareness about its schemes which focus on the domestic market and saw a footfall of 350+ participants across the 7 webinars.



5. Dr. Manish Pande, Director & Head of PADD, delivered a technical session on 'QCI Certification Schemes: Food Sector' in a webinar celebrating World Accreditation Day 2020. The webinar was focused on food safety and saw participation from eminent experts in the field.



6. Hon'ble Minister Piyush Goyal held a review meeting with officials of QCI and discussed QCI's role in providing accreditation to different sectors including labour & MSMEs. Dr. Manish Pande also participated in the same.



7. Voluntary Certification Scheme for Medicinal Plant Produce (VCS-MPP) is designed to introduce Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and Good Field Collection Practices (GFCP) in India's medicinal plants sector and enhance confidence in produce quality among the buyers and consumers.

CEO, National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB) held a review meeting with PADD officials to discuss marketing and promotion of voluntary certification of Medicinal Plants. He laid emphasis on simple but effective communication tools to promote quality in medicinal plant value chains.



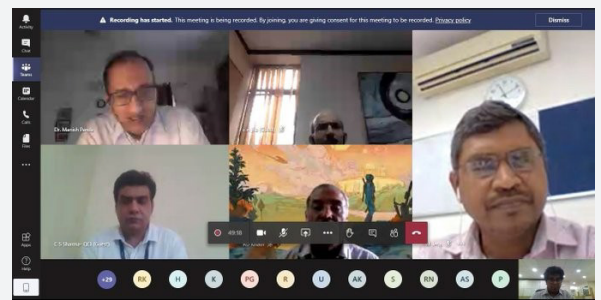
8. Indian Certification of Medical Devices Scheme (ICMED) is a voluntary quality certification scheme for medical devices to enable the medical device industry to demonstrate adherence to the best international standards and enhance its credibility in the world market.

PADD hosted a Stakeholders' Consultation Meeting and received rich insights on the ICMED 13485 Plus initiative. The collective consensus was towards building capacities and streamlining processes to give impetus to quality for strengthening the sector.



9. Ready Mix Concrete Plant Certification Scheme (RMCPSC) is an initiative to assure quality in operations and processes of RMC Plants by benchmarking RMC manufacturing industry with two options of quality certifications - 'RMC Capability Certification' and 'RMC 9000+ Capability Certification'.

PADD organised a consultative meeting for RMCPSC with participation from 50+ stakeholders in the construction & infrastructure sector. The meeting fostered current market and industrial trends vis-à-vis the implementation of the scheme and new technological interventions.



10. The National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB), under the aegis of Department of Fisheries (DoF), has engaged the expertise of PAD Division of QCI to formulate guidelines in order to boost elements of accreditation, certification and traceability in the Fisheries sector.

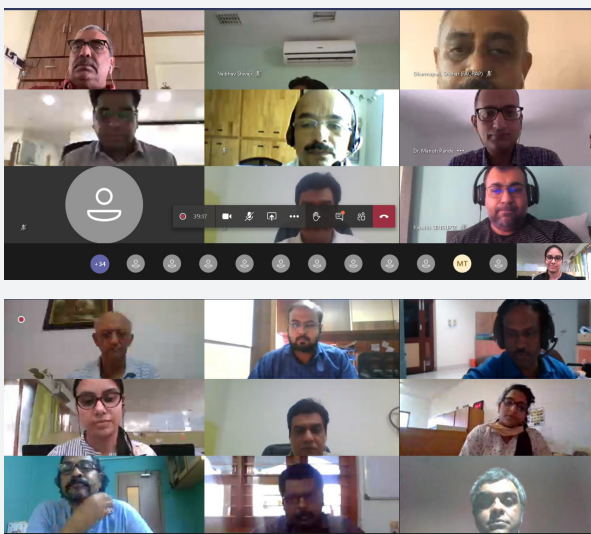
The meeting was chaired by Shri J Balaji, Joint Secretary, Department of Fisheries and Dr. Suvarna Chandrappagari, Chief Executive, NFDB (National Fisheries Development Board).





11. To take India one step closer to building skills relevant for a 'Farm in India' economy and in sync with the vision of raising awareness about the IndGAP Scheme, a two-day online training program was conducted by PADD. It saw participation from 50+ participants ranging from university professors, certification bodies, agripreneurs to FPOs, research institutions and export promotion organisations.

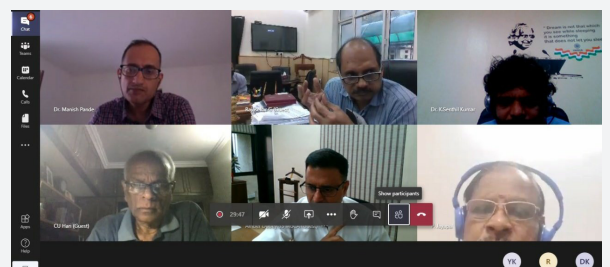
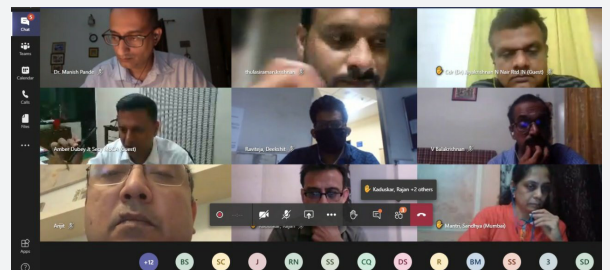
The program was inaugurated by Dr. Sridhar Dharmapuri, Senior Food Safety and Nutrition Officer, FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok. Keynote address was delivered by Sh. Sanjay Dave, Former Adviser in FSSAI, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India and former Chairperson of Codex Alimentarius Commission.



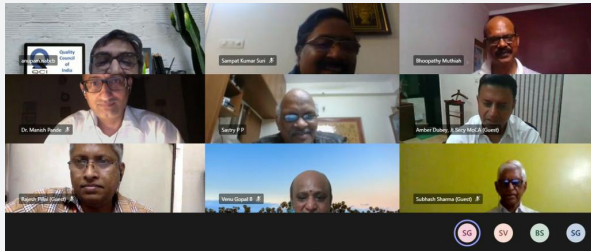
12. RPAS (Remotely Piloted Aircraft System) Scheme is a certification scheme for

Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems for Digital Sky based on the application of the conformity assessment systems including testing and certification. RPAS (Drones) scheme stands approved by DG, Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) India post approval from Chair Steering Committee, Technical Committee and Certification Committee of the Scheme.

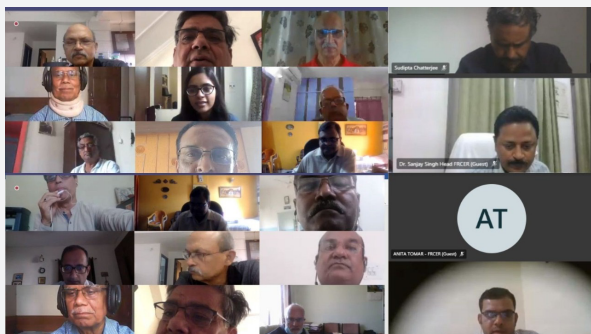
A sensitisation webinar was also conducted to onboard CBs under the RPAS Certification Scheme. The webinar focused on requirements for CBs and the certification process for certifying drones.



13. TQ Cert Services Pvt. Limited, Hyderabad, became the first Quality Council of India approved Certification Body for certifying RPAS (Drones) - a Scheme under the aegis of DGCA, India. This takes India one step closer to becoming the Drone Hub of the world.

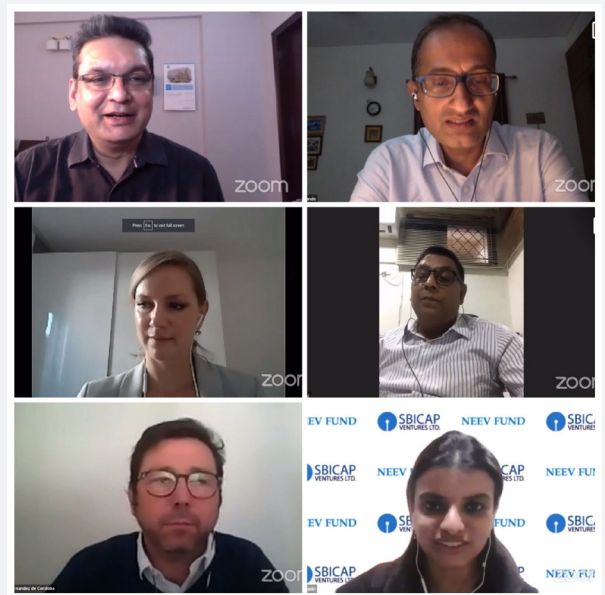


14. PADD concluded a Capacity Building webinar on ISO 17065 documentation requirements w.r.t. VCSMPP for academicians, medicinal plant experts and quality managers of conglomerates to encourage them to assist small & medium FPOs in upgrading their systems for certification.

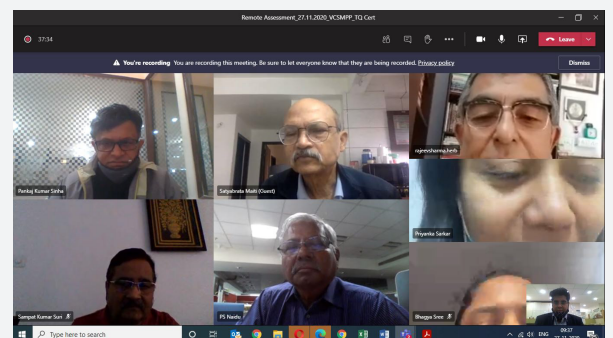


15. Centre for Responsible Business and PAD Division, QCI conducted a session on 'Post-COVID Sustainability Roadmap for SMEs' which focused on how pandemic has impacted sustainability dialogue in the SME sector. Mr. Anil Bhardwaj (Secretary General, FISME), Mr. Santiago Fernandez De Cordoba (Senior Economist, UNFSS Coordinator, UNCTAD), Ms. Petra Walterova (Programme

Officer, Trade for Sustainable Development) and Ms. Anjana Seshadri (ESG Officer, NEEV Fund), Dr. Aishvarya Raj (Senior Director & Head, ZED Division, QCI) and Dr. Manish Pande (Director & Head, PAD Division, QCI) were the panellists and shared their views on the topic.



16. A Remote Assessment was conducted for granting the extension of scope for provisional approval under VCSMPP to TQ Cert Services Private Limited.





# THANK YOU

## When the going gets tough, the tough get going!

The COVID-19 pandemic might have disrupted our normal lives but we need to ensure that our future is secure and there's no lockdown on our hope for the future. These times are testing and it is imperative to contain the virus as the nation begins to ease the restrictions.

The pandemic has come as a shocker to the businesses around the globe. It has the potential to decimate the consumer demand unless necessary measures are taken and a roadmap is charted to mitigate its impact. However, the increasing digitization across businesses has also given a ray of hope that more opportunities can be tapped and innovation can lead the change. Therefore, it is essential to direct your energy on high leverage tasks by redirecting your thinking. 2020 is the year of hard lessons but it is also the year of learning.

Let's overcome this situation together by taking good care of ourselves, of our families and of people around us.

We salute all the Corona Warriors for their resilience.

Stay safe!

## Here's your chance to feature in our newsletter!

We, at PADD, have shown our steadfast commitment to Healthcare Initiatives.

Our next edition of PADD-Insights will focus on the broad-ranging theme of 'Healthcare'. Do you have an idea, a hot-take, or a story on the said theme which deserves to be featured?

Send in your entries to [aayushi.dhawan@qcin.org](mailto:aayushi.dhawan@qcin.org) by 10th Feb 2021.

We are excited to hear from you!



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