

SRI LANKA ACCREDITATION BOARD E-MAGAZINE

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CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

As 09th June 2022 marks the 15th anniversary of World Accreditation Day, Sri Lanka Accreditation Board for Conformity Assessment (SLAB) delighted to join with IAF and ILAC, and all the partners, stakeholders and other organizations in the field of conformity assessment to mark the importance of accreditation as the National Accreditation Authority of Sri Lanka. The world accreditation theme in 2022 is Accreditation: Sustainability in Economic Growth and the Environment. Accreditation and standards facilitate regulators, organizations and consumers to be more sustainable, addressing the issues of ecosystems under increasing strain from climate change, habitat destruction, pollution, and viewing economic growth through the lens of sustainability.

In line with the world accreditation day, we issue this magazine to bring you the collaborative works with conformity assessment bodies, regulatory bodies and other quality infrastructure players of Sri Lanka. It has been a year of challenges and finding solutions for the betterment of the society through the accreditation with the support of all our partner organizations, assessors and the team SLAB. We remained focused on reaching our targets and serving the society even amidst this challenging time. As our newest initiations in relations to the safeguard of the environment, it is my pleasure to announce that SLAB is now ready to provide accreditation for validation and verification bodies in Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA) as well as SLAB has partnered with VERRA to provide accreditation for validation and verification Standard (VCS).

My heartfelt thank goes to all our partner organizations, assessors and the team SLAB. We could not have done it without you!



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DIRECTOR/CEO'S MESSAGE

It is with great pleasure that I send this message to the e-magazine published by the Sri Lanka Accreditation Board (SLAB) in honor of the World Accreditation Day 2022. Every year SLAB hosts the World accreditation day program to raise awareness and to promote the vital role played by Accreditation in the National Quality Infrastructure of Sri Lanka.

SLAB joins the global accreditation community in celebrating World Accreditation Day 2022 as a member of two global accreditation organizations, International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) and International Accreditation Forum (IAF), as well as a member of the regional accreditation organization, Asia Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (APAC). SLAB assists exporters in gaining easy market access for their products/services by implementing internationally recognized accreditation schemes for Testing and Calibration, Inspection bodies, Certification Bodies, and Validation and Verification bodies for various scopes. This also helps to ensure consumer safety and environmental sustainability. I take this opportunity to express my gratitude to all the organizations, professionals, and SLAB staff that contributed to make this e-magazine a reality.



Ms. Chandrika Thilakaratne Director/CEO

WORLD ACCREDITATION DAY 2022

Sri Lanka Accreditation Board (SLAB) celebrates World Accreditation Day 2022 on 09th June. The global theme is "Accreditation: Sustainability in Economic Growth and the Environment"



"Economic growth which comes at the expense of our planet is simply not sustainable. Our challenge is to meet the needs of all people within the means of our planet. Realizing this ambitious but critical vision calls on governments, business, civil society and people to reshape what we understand by progress and innovate to change people's choices, lifestyles and behaviors"

— Joyce Msuya, Acting Executive Director, United Nations Environment Programme

As Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) criteria has become an increasingly popular method for measuring organizational impact and basing sound investment decisions the accreditation community will continue to engage with a range of organizations, with different needs and priorities, to deliver the relevant accreditation and conformity assessment solutions.

The world economy heavily depends on natural resources which produce raw material for them. Natural ecosystems are facing enormous stress due to extraction of the resources at an alarming rate. The United Nations (UN) Environment's Global Resources Outlook 2019 found that resource extraction and processing was the cause of 90% of biodiversity loss and water stress and contributed to approximately 50% of total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. A considerable shift to more sustainable forms of production that are less resource-intensive and more focused on climate mitigation and carbon removal alongside biodiversity protection policies are essential for long-term economic growth.

Accreditation, alongside other quality including metrology, infrastructure tools standardization, conformity assessment and market surveillance, can support this shift. Thirdparty conformity assessment services (testing, inspection, certification, validation and verification) ensure compliance of products, services and systems with the requirements specified or claimed. Accreditation of a conformity assessment body (CAB) provides assurance that its results are trustworthy and reliable. By verifying compliance with standards, accreditation protects consumers and removes technical and economic barriers to trade, providing opportunities for products and services to go global.

Under the umbrella of the ILAC environmental protection by confirming that CO2 levels comply with specified limits; that emissions from industries are within an acceptable range; and that the traceability of organic food is clear. Accreditation is the independent evaluation of the Conformity assessment Bodies (CABs) such as laboratories, certification bodies, inspection bodies & validation/verification bodies etc. by an accreditation body to ensure their competency, impartiality, and integrity in delivering services to their clients

Signatories to the IAF Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MLA) and ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) recognize each other's accreditations as equivalent, with the ILAC environmental protection; that provide an essential contribution to the implementation of policies and actions aiming to protect the planet. ILAC MRA and IAF MLA, accreditation ad accredited conformity assessment services can support aim of;

Accredited once, accepted everywhere

A ROUTE TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT BY ENSURING COMPLIANCE WITH STANDARDS

Biodiversity loss is one of the major global concerns. Use of standards / technical regulations can help organizations to adopt more eco-friendly practices, with accredited conformity assessment providing assurance that organizations are meeting requirements and fulfilling claims.



SUPPORTING ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Sri Lanka is considered as a bio diversity hotspot along with the Western Ghats of India and rich with many natural resources which contributes to the natural production and economy



ACCREDITATION

CONTRIBUTING TO THE FIGHT AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE

Long-term economic prosperity requires climate change mitigation and adaptation, which depend on the transformation of economic activities to become "climate friendly", or "carbon neutral". Thus, promotion of low-carbon solutions and carbon emission reduction schemes like ICAO CORSIA (Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation).



SUPPORTING THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Biodiversity loss is one of the major global concerns. Use of standards / technical regulations can help organizations to adopt more eco-friendly practices, with accredited conformity assessment providing assurance that organizations are meeting requirements and fulfilling claims.



Sustainability in Economic Growth and The Environment in Sri Lanka

It was identified that the natural resources of Sri Lanka have been severely threatened by unplanned and unsustainable harvesting. **Sri Lanka Accreditation Board (SLAB)** supports to promote sustainable economic and environmental practices in Sri Lanka through implementing a wide array of accreditation schemes.



Whether through environmental protection performance, helping manage climate change, developing the circular economy or providing tools to measure performance, accreditation and conformity assessment are constantly reviewing and evolving to ensure that the right tools are available to support the SDGs both now and moving forward.

SLAB is National Accreditation Authority of Sri Lanka. Established by Sri Lanka Accreditation Board for Conformity Assessment Act. No. 32 of 2005. In addition to the accreditation activities mentioned above following schemes are functioning; Medical Laboratories (ISO 15189), Good Laboratory Practice (GLP-OECD Guidelines). According to the need of the country, environment and the economy there are more ongoing accreditation scheme expansions are in the SLAB. On top of that VERRA (Verra catalyzes tangible climate action and sustainable development outcomes), CORSIA (Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for Aviation)., International Ecolabelling, Biobanking, RMP (Reference Material Producers) and Educational Organizations Management can be highlighted.

It can be observed that from the last year (2021) even at the post COVID-19 pandemic the concept of accreditation and the demand for accredited reports increased highly in various fields. Around 500, 000 accredited test reports are issued by testing laboratories while it is 15, 000 from laboratories. calibration Further, 600, 000 accredited inspection reports issued and 14 proficiency testing rounds are carried out by the PTPs.

To access the global market the one of the main requirements is accredited test reports and certificates, from foreign buyers in respect of goods exported. This leads the contribution to economy in Sri Lanka.

On the other hand, being with around 400 system certified clients, 35 product certified clients, around 100 number of certified persons and issuing 30 GHG V/VB statements greatly help maintaining the sustainability of the environment.

Moreover, contributing to issue nearly 1,000,000 accredited medical test reports assured the human wellbeing.



Accreditation provides a benchmark for maintaining competence and performance levels according to international standards.

Also contribute to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

It is clear that the variety of standards and schemes can help guide businesses, industry and regulators in implementing ecofriendly policies. It is imperative to responsibly manage activities that will preserve the environment, grow the economy and advance human wellbeing

Accreditation of third-party conformity assessment services can help ensure the compliance of products, services and systems

necessary to create a sustainable system that will provide for billions of people worldwide while supporting a sustainable, healthy environment.

Joint Statement



by Emanuele Riva, IAF Chair, and Etty Feller, ILAC Chair

World Accreditation Day 2022 Accreditation: Sustainability in Economic Growth and the Environment

The global accreditation organizations IAF and ILAC once again come together on 9 June to celebrate World Accreditation Day. The 2022 theme is Accreditation: Sustainability in Economic Growth and the Environment and aims to draw attention to how accreditation and conformity assessment provide global solutions for global issues.



The UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have provided clear objectives for the globe to focus on now and in the future.

Two of the core elements of the SDGs are simultaneous economic growth and environmental performance, linked by a common desire for sustainable delivery of both objectives.

The collaboration of IAF and ILAC illustrates that seemingly differing focuses can be brought together to achieve positive action.

Our two accreditation organizations have long worked to support business, government, consumers, and other groups in accessing accreditation as a means to deliver enhanced economic and environmental performance. There has always been a focus on achieving these two things sustainably, but with heightened awareness, not least through COP 26, the wide range of solutions that accreditation provides, helps all organisations deliver more.

Whether through environmental protection performance, helping manage climate change, developing the circular economy or providing tools to measure performance, accreditation and conformity assessment are constantly reviewing and evolving to ensure that the right tools are available to support the SDGs both now and moving forward.

From some of the earliest testing laboratory accreditation activities supporting environmental regulations, to the more recent accreditation of certification bodies for ISO 14001, a sector specific standard focused on environmental performance, and the introduction of standards for validation and verification, IAF and ILAC are seeking to help organisations measure, manage and/or report sustainable economic growth and environmental performance.

As Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) criteria has become an increasingly popular method for measuring organisational impact and basing sound investment decisions the accreditation community will continue to engage with a range of organisations, with different needs and priorities, to deliver the relevant accreditation and conformity assessment solutions.

The phrase, 'There is no Planet B' highlights the ever more pressing need for simultaneous sustainability in economic growth and the environment.

World Accreditation Day 2022 enables the International Accreditation Forum (www.iaf.nu), the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (www.ilac.org) and their members to highlight how accreditation is delivering sustainability in economic development and the environment. IAF and ILAC provide a range of information to explain accreditation's role in sustainability, economic growth and environment, including further illustrations of its use: Economic development – Public Sector Assurance and Environmental Protection – Public Sector Assurance



Accreditation: Ensuring Sustainability in Economic Growth and the Environment

2021

Accreditation is the independent, third-party evaluation of a conformity assessment body (such as certification body, inspection body or laboratory) against recognised standards, conveying formal demonstration of its impartiality and competence to carry out specific conformity assessment tasks. In collaboration with other quality infrastructure including institutions metrology, standardization, conformity assessment and market surveillance, it provides the technical foundations that are critical to the functioning of developed and developing societies. It is an enabler for industrial development, trade competitiveness in global markets, efficient use of natural and human resources, food safety, health and environmental protection. This year's theme, Accreditation: Sustainability in Economic Growth and the Environment, focuses on how accreditation supports the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The positive impact of accreditation is therefore clearly aligned with the pillars of People, and Planet, and provides Prosperity policymakers, businesses and other stakeholders with the solutions to implement, measure and monitor many of the objectives and targets contained in the SDGs, and the support to achieve them. It is a very useful tool which can be used to ensure the environmental conservation to ensure the goods and services of ecosystems are conserved on the face of economic development to support the present and future generations.

It is noteworthy that National Accreditation Day falls only 4 days behind the World Environmental Day which is on June 5th every year, an event celebrated world over by all including public, private and communities to pay homage to the eternal giver of life - the environment. There is no question that Earth has been a giving planet. Everything humans have needed to survive, and thrive, was provided by the natural world around us: food, water, medicine, materials for shelter, and even natural cycles such as climate and nutrients. Scientists have come to term such gifts 'ecosystem services', Most of what we use and consume on a daily basis remains the product of multitudes of interactions within nature. Globally 1/5th of population depend on nature for their livelihoods directly. Apart from the tangible benefits such as food, medicine, fibre, water, biodiversity, habitats, carbon absorption thus act as carbon sink etc. it also provides less tangible benefits which ensures life on earth including water regulation, enabling the nutrient cycle, disaster risk reduction, pollution control, maintain a healthy soil, aesthetic appreciation and spirituality. which are integral for survival of species on earth.

However, humans have disconnected themselves from the natural world and had overlooked the contribution of nature to their sustenance. However, nature remains as giving as ever, even as it vanishes bit-by-bit. The rise of technology and industry have distanced the humans from nature. Due to the advent of industrialization followed by technological revolution man had altered the earth.. More than a third of land and three-quarters of freshwater resources are devoted to crops or livestock. The destruction of biodiversity and ecosystem services has reached levels that threaten human well-being causing heavy environmental pollution which had exceeded earth's threshold capacity. Among the major environmental problems in the world as well as in Sri Lanka, air pollution and climate change, deforestation, biodiversity loss (extinction of species are now 100 times faster), over population and soil degradation can be mentioned. At the present rate of resource use human kind need 1.5 planets to live, but we cannot find any more habitable planets and therefore only way is to reduce resource consumption drastically (factor of 4-10).

Improvement of the standard of living and welfare of populations within the limits of the capacity of the natural resources is the answer and it lies with man as he is part of nature and therefore need to be a part of the solution.

In the quest to find solutions to this problem, the world leaders at the United Nations (UN) General Assembly on 25 September 2015 adopted an ambitious plan - The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with 17 Sustainable Development Goals

(SDGs) and 169 targets with the overarching objective of leaving no one behind. The SDGs aim to address social imbalances, develop sustainable economies and slow the rate of climate change.

Achieving these ambitious goals will require a effort collaborative from governments, industries, businesses and consumers alike. Accredited conformity assessment against internationally recognised standards is a useful tool that can help organisations better allocate their resources and improve their sustainability performance. It offers a wide range of solutions that can be utilized by government, industry and other stakeholders that enable them to implement, measure and monitor many of the objectives and targets contained in the UN's 17 SDGs.

Standards and accreditation are key components of the quality infrastructure, along with conformity assessment, measurement, and market surveillance. Quality infrastructure enables economies to develop efficiently and sustainably, creating a reliable platform for trade, whilst simultaneously protecting safety, health and the environment. Standards provide people and organisations with a basis for mutual understanding and are used as tools to facilitate communication, measurement, commerce and manufacturing. They form the basis for introducing new technologies and driving innovation by ensuring that products, components and services supplied by different companies will be mutually compatible.

Whether it's through testing, calibration, certification, inspection or verification, third party Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs) provide an independent assurance of whether a product, service or process meets the requirements of a particular standard. In turn, the role of a national accreditation body is to determine independently whether a CAB is meeting a required level of performance by assessing its technical competence, the validity and suitability of methods, the appropriateness of facilities and equipment and/or the internal quality control procedures. One of the key strengths of accredited conformity assessment is that it can be applied to almost any industry sector and situation. This has enabled it to establish a strong track record of making a significant contribution towards reaching many of the 17 SDGs outlined in the UN agenda.

While governments both national and international quest to arrest the environmental destruction through its policies, programs and actions, man is they key to any success of these efforts. Of the 17 SDG goals the Goal 12 -**Responsible Production and Consumption holds** the key to all. By resorting to simple and eco friendly lifestyles the ecological footprint of ours can be reduced, thus put less pressure on the finite natural resources of our mother earth. If the humankind inculcate green mindset which is a set of attitudes or beliefs of becoming eco friendly, together with the existing policies, laws and other enabling instruments like the standards, certifications and accreditations, we can arrest the destruction and ensure a better future for us and for generations to come.



Sustainable Fisheries: Bringing Calm to Our Oceans

Relentless commercial *f* i shing activities have depleted our marine ecosystems, compromising the oceanic biodiversity. Despite posing a major threat to our *p* l anet, we continue to put these ecosystems through enormous s t ress and consume resources at an a l arming rate.



Thefishing industry poses a gravethreat tomarine life.The United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) estimates that 85% of marine fish stocks are either fully exploited or overfished. Seafood is the largest traded food commodityin the world, providing sustenance to more than 3 billion people worldwide, as a primary source of protein. Overexploitation of the oceans could cause a major disruption to the food chain.

Governments, organizations and environmentalists across the world are working to protect and restore the marine habitats by encouraging a shift to more sustainable forms of fishing that cause minimalenvironmental impact.

Certifications for seafood and aquaculture sector can help suppliers to meet essentialquality, safety and sustainability requirements. SGS offers numerousinternationally recognized schemeswhich include ASCand MSCChain of Custody (CoC), BAP Processing Farm, Hatcheries and Feed Mills, GLOBALG.A.P. Aquaculture, Feed Mills and Chain of Custody, Friend of the Sea (FOS)- Farm and Fisheries, IFFO RS Certified Fisheries, and Fishing VesselsSocial Audits that help suppliersto demonstrate their commitment and grow customer confidence.

SGS Lanka is registered withFriend of the Sea organisation (Italy) to provide third-party sustainable fisheries certification for sustainable fishingand fleets. It is the first and only ISO/IEC17065:2012 accredited Friend of the Sea certifierin Sri Lanka.

FRIEND OF THE SEA (FOS) CERTIFICATION

Friend of the Sea certification programme contributes to the health of the oceans by certifying and promoting sustainable fishing practices through thedevelopment and planningof a sustainable fisheries approach.

Considered as leadingcertification standard for products and services which respect and protect the marine environment, the FOS certification awards sustainable practices in Fisheries. Aquaculture, Fishmealand Omega 3 Fish Oil. It also promotes pilot projects related to restaurants, sustainable shipping, whale and dolphinwatching, aquaria, ornamental fish, UV creams and many others.

FOSCertification also covers fleet sustainability. It encouragesSustainable

greenfleets andensures that wild-caught sustainable seafood is sourcedfrom populations that are well managed, not overfished and have been captured using fishing gear that has minimal impact on the habitat and ecosystem as a whole.

Benefits of FOS Certification:

-Certification standardsare set as per ISEAL and FAO guidelines.

-Certification can be grantedonly by a third-party certification body which is accredited under ISO/IEC 17065:2012 by a national accreditation body.

-Allows to demonstrate a suppliers' sustainability commitment resulting in increased demand from clients especially from EU and Asian markets.



Mr. Kolitha Amarasinghe Business Manager - Natural Resources SGS Lanka (Pvt.) Limited

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Quality and Standards Ecosystem an Imperative to National Development Agenda



Sri Lanka is facing an unprecedented economic crisis, resulting in social unrest, political instability and systems breakdown in governance. To arrest and turn around this economic downfall, the Government will have to adopt a wide range of policy measures aimed at supporting accelerated development initiative and export oriented production strategies.

There are numerous challenges that we as a this national nation confront in development effort under such unfavorable conditions. In this situation, a key factor for success will be the improvement of the Quality of Products, Services, Processes and Systems in all sectors of the economy and thereby enhancing competitiveness of Sri Lankan products and services. In Balancing economic development, social development and environmental protection, We need a Good Governance system that supports socio-economic development that can be enjoyed by all citizens.

National Quality Infrastructure (NQI) Transferring policy into reality on the ground requires a robust Governance system. A "Quality and Standards Ecosystem" also referred to as National Quality Infrastructure (NQI) that functions efficiently, is an indispensable tool in achieving development objectives, effectively, within the framework of Good Governance. Thus, an effective NQI should be considered as a vital component of a good governance system and one that should be fostered and supported by the government.

The NQI consist of Standards, Technical Regulations, Measurement Systems, Conformity assessment and Accreditation. The functional and institutional framework of NQI is elaborated in the table below.

NQI- Functional and Institutional Framework

Functional	Institutional
Standardization – Standards for products, services, processes and Systems.	SLSI as the National Standards Body. Other Standards Development Agencies.
Technical Regulatory System - Technical Regulations, include all Regulations impacting on Health, Safety, Quality of Products and Services, Quality of Imports and Exports, Consumer Protection, and Protection of the Environment.	All Regulatory Bodies and Authorities.
Measurement system – Scientific metrology, Legal metrology, Industrial metrology,	MUSSD as the NMI and Calibration Laboratories.
Conformity assessment system – Testing, Inspection, Certification.	All CAB's: State and Private Sector-testing laboratories, inspection bodies certification bodies
Accreditation - Accreditation of Conformity Assessment Bodies. Measurement Laboratories	SLAB as the National Accreditation Authority

SLSI- Sri Lanka Standards Institution

MUSSD – Measurement Units Standards and Services Department

NMI – National Metrology Institute

CAB - Conformity Assessment Body

SLAB – Sri Lanka Accreditation Board for Conformity Assessment

Standards, Technical Regulations, and Conformity assessments, supported by a sound Accreditation system is the technical and operational foundation of a good governance system. It is necessary to ensure that the components of the NQI system works in harmony to derive full benefits to the society and economic progress.

Strengthening NQI

All components of the NQI system in Sri Lanka have been established and developed from time to time based on emerging needs. However, it has not been effective in meeting needs and expectations of stakeholders in many respects, and failed to deliver the expected quality related services due to lack of coordination. There are several instances of Conflicts of authority and Conflicts of interest among NQI organizations resulting in serious gaps and overlaps in the delivery of quality related services and consumer protection activities. The various elements of the NQI are interrelated, and coordination of their responsibilities and services is an important factor in delivering the services required by the Stakeholders and contributing to National Development.

It is necessary to Establish an effective coordination mechanism among NQI institutions, Regulatory authorities, other public sector institutions and the private sector, with the objective of enhancing effectiveness of NQI services in meeting needs and demands of all stakeholders in the delivery of quality related services. It is necessary to regulatory make provisions to enable authorities and public sector institutions to use third party conformity assessment services; enhance public - private partnership in delivering quality related services; and promote private sector investment in conformity assessment services.

National Quality Council (NQC)

To guide and facilitate the strengthening and upgrading of NQI, it is considered necessary to provide for the establishment of a governance structure with a National Quality Council (NQC) as the apex body in the NQI framework. The NQC as the apex advisory body on quality related matters, should constitute of high caliber membership and shall have the mandate to provide advice and guidance to the Government of Sri Lanka, Ministries, Departments, State Institutions, NOI organizations and other players in the NQI framework. The NQC shall be capable of undertaking general planning and providing policy direction and guidance to the GoSL on National Quality Initiatives.

Vision - NQI

It is upto the policymakers and NQI stakeholders to plan how Accreditation and Quality Infrastructure Services could be applied to meet National Objectives such as facilitating trade, addressing health, safety concerns, environmental protection and improving general, overall quality of output in our economy.

Our Vision for the NQI is:

"A National Quality Infrastructure (NQI) operating at the highest level of inter-agency coordination, led by the National Quality Council (NQC), and providing NQI Services with International recognition and accessible to all sectors of the economy."





Mr. Sanath P Mendis Snr. Quality Policy Expert, UNIDO / Consultant Quality Infrastructure Development, Food Safety/ Former Director General, SLSI, Director/CEO SLAB

Sri Lanka Good Agricultural Practices (SL-GAP) for Sustainable Agriculture

Agriculture is the essential engine to jumpstart the process of economic development with structural transformation. For human existence, a continuous supply of food and other resources to a growing world is of crucial importance through agriculture. However, there are a great number of problems that threaten agriculture to fulfill human needs now and in the future. Especially the malpractices in agriculture production have caused desperately for both human health and the environment. In order to address these problems, the primary step to be taken at the farm level is the Good Agricultural Practices. It can further explain the Good Agricultural Practices followed in sustainable agricultural development. It focuses on different curative and preventive measures, which are required for maintaining the agroecology and environment for quality food and nutrition.

The increasing trend of non-communicable diseases in Sri Lanka, prompts people to be more health-conscious in terms of the food they consume. This is true for both processed or packed food as well as fresh produce. Though some safety standards and traceability systems are available for processed food, food safety certification for fresh agricultural produces is still a new concept to Sri Lankan consumers. SL-GAP certification program was The introduced by the Department of Agriculture under the Ministry of Agriculture to address those issues and enhance the availability of safe and quality agricultural produces for local consumers as well as for the export market.

Most of the small-scale and traditional farming communities that are more prone to use malpractices in farming could be engaged in this SL-GAP program since this program is conducted as a free service. With the SL-GAP certification, farmers are benefited in many ways including, less cost of production with reduction of agriculture inputs, high quality, and safe crop production, higher market opportunities for local and export markets with fewer rejections, a comfortable working environment with caring worker's health. Therefore, most farmers (large, medium, and small scale) are willing to engage in the SL-GAP certification program and up to now, 1500 fruits and vegetable farms and 200 numbers of paddy farms were certified under the SL-GAP certification.

One of the central goals of every developing country is to reach high-income status. Agriculture plays a critical role in transforming economies to reach the goal, along with achieving other essential development goals like ensuring food security and improving nutrition. Therefore, in order to end hunger and undernutrition while accelerating economic growth, agricultural transformation must become a reality.



Ms. H R U T Erabadupitiya Assistant Director Head, SL-GAP Certification Division Seed Certification Service Department of Agriculture.

Role of Accreditation in Safeguarding the Environment



Humans are not living alone on this planet. There is a huge biological **ecosystem** that exists and humans survive because of that. An ecosystem is a community of living organisms in conjunction with the nonliving components of their environment, interacting as a system. In other words, an ecosystem is a chain of interaction between organisms and their environment. The term "Ecosystem" was first coined by A.G.Tansley,

For instance, tropical forests are **type of ecosystems** made up of living beings such as trees, plants, animals, insects and microorganisms that are in constant interaction between themselves and that are affected by other physical (sun, temperature) or chemical (oxygen or nutrients) components.

an English botanist, in 1935.

The **structure of an ecosystem** is characterized by the organization of both biotic (Producers, Consumers; herbivores, carnivores, omnivores and Decomposers) and abiotic (Air, Soil, Sunlight and water) components. This includes the distribution of energy in our environment. It also includes the climatic conditions prevailing in that particular environment. The biotic and abiotic components are interrelated in an ecosystem. It is an open system where the energy and components can flow throughout the boundaries. Main Functions of ecosystem includes;

- Regulates the essential **ecological processes**, supports life systems and renders stability.
- Responsible for the cycling of nutrients between biotic and abiotic components.
- Maintains a balance among the various trophic levels in the ecosystem.
- Cycles the minerals through the biosphere



Ecological Processes

People and the planet are only as healthy as the ecosystems we all depend on. Bringing degraded ecosystems back to life – for example by planting trees, cleaning up riverbanks, or simply giving nature space to recover – increases their benefits to society and biodiversity. Without reviving ecosystems, we cannot achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and Paris Agreement on Climate Change. But ecosystems are also complex and highly varied, and their restoration careful needs planning and patient implementation. The impact of human activity on the planet has reached dangerous levels, threatening the sustainability and management of natural resources and the protection of the biosphere.



In September 2015, the 2030 agenda Sustainable Development, for adopted by all United Nations 193 Member States. The aim is for integrated approach to economic development, in which environmental sustainability is a key priority. There are the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and SDGs 3, 6, 9, 12, 13, 14 and 15 are directly relating to sustainability of environment. All developed and developing countries should take actions - in a global partnership.

Sri Lanka Accreditation Board (SLAB) support regulators to implement technical regulations and enforcement of local approval procedures. In turn contribute to achieve Sustainable Development Goals by implementing translated global goals in to standards. Under IAF and ILAC, accreditation and accredited conformity assessment activities support sustainable management by contributing to implementation of policies and leading to promote health and safety of people, environmental protection and circular economy.



Ms. Tharangi Mudalige Assistant Director (Accreditation) Sri Lanka Accreditation Board

CLs Responsibility and Contribution Towards the Sustainability in Economic Growth and the Environment



Censura Laboratory Services is located within an industrial export zone, where we are responsible for water and wastewater sampling and analysis while ensuring the confidentiality and impartiality as a responsible accredited laboratory. When considering sustainability by both economic and environmental perspectives, today sustainable products play a vital role in the market than traditional consumer products. Buyers who are willing to pay a premium for the manufacturer's contribution to environmental sustainability throughout the product's entire life cycle. Globally recognized certifications are used to assess value, which is then followed by audit programs. This is where an accreditation laboratory come to the picture by providing precise and accurate test results while maintain the ISO 17025 Standard. This accuracy will allow manufacturers to measure themselves independently against the standards, identify loop false, errors, and missing points in their system, and rectify to retain the quality of the product / output. On the other hand, identifying compliance using test reports from accredited laboratories will lead to success in audits and certifications will ensure the buyers' expectations are met.



As a water and wastewater testing laboratory, we contribute to water safety and pollution prevention by providing customers with a clear picture of the quality of their input water for both drinking and manufacturing processes. This high-quality reading will assist in sustaining economic growth by allowing for the prevention of unexpected labor health issues and manufacturing defects. The wastewater quality analysis readings, on the other hand, will help to identify issues or monitor their treatment quality, which is indirectly linked to economic sustainability because it helps to prepare for international audits by rectifying certification any malfunction / issue in their own system. This will open our eyes to the importance and responsibility of accurate and precise sampling and test results as an accredited laboratory, as well as how our contribution will affect longterm economic growth and environmental sustainability.



Ms. Amali Indika Hettige Quality Manager Censura Laboratory Service

A collaborative approach to bridge technical and quality gaps empowering Sri Lankan exporters to reach and conquer global markets



mv privilege to present It's timelv requirements on a day on which a very special global initiative was established by the Accreditation International Laboratory Cooperation (ILAC) and International Accreditation Forum (IAF) as apex bodies of the accreditation. The theme of World 2022 Accreditation Day emphasizes sustainability in Economic Growth and the Environment focusing on how accreditation supports the UN Sustainable Goals (SDGs); Goal 06- Clean Water & Sanitation, Goal 07-Affordable & Clean Energy, Goal 08- Decent Work & Economic Growth, Goal 09 -Industry Innovation & Infrastructure, Goal 11-Sustainable Cities and Communities, Goal 12-Responsible Consumption and Production, Goal 13-Climate Action, Goal 14- Life Below Water and Goal 15 -Life on Land.

All countries under UN are now working collectively to achieve the set targets by 2030 while creating tremendous public awareness to convince the people who are active in consumer groups with multiple interests and expectations. As Sri Lankan, we also passing an extremely difficult period that requires boosting in the export sector to earn more and exchange. more foreign Therefore, sustainability of Sri Lankan exports in the global competitive market and exploring new markets, improving the quality of Sri Lankan products and services to compete with substantial products and service flooring at low cost from other countries shall be included as vital elements of government and private sector institutions in Sri Lanka. It shall not be an approach where individuals work on their own targets.

A collaborative approach with the participation of National Institutions with a direct and indirect relationship with exports namely the Export Development Board (EDB), Department of Commerce (DOC), Sri Lanka Accreditation Board (SLAB) and Sri Lanka Standards Institution (SLSI), national and regional chambers represent local manufactures and exporters and other facilitation institutions such as Sri Lanka Standards Institution and Sri Lanka Accreditation Board shall be built as an immediate action to overcome technical and quality barriers in relation to exports from Sri Lanka.

In this mechanism, the identification of new markets with their quality requirements, identification changes of to existing requirements derived due to action plans of **SDGs** importing countries and in communication to local manufacturers and exporters, conformity assessment bodies efficiently and working with chambers, CABs, SLSI, SLAB is expected from the EDB and DoC. Simultaneously, exporters /industries are also required to identify changes in the dynamic global markets, needed improvements to

existing manufacturing processes, communicate with CABs, regulators, and and facilitating institutions. Conformity Assessment bodies are also required to forecast expected changes, obtained from exported and manufacturers and EDB/DoC through continuous communication with them and introduce needed transitions, new conformity assessment schemes, new facilities, and meet international accreditation requirements in association with the SLAB.

There are major gaps to be bridged when developing industries to reach global market requirements and CABs to meet international accreditation requirements. The coordination of these activities is to be done by an expert group representing all stakeholders and the progress of activities could be reported to the member institutions as well as National Advisory Committee on Quality Infrastructure functioned under the EDB. This expert committee should liaise with all members and also relevant regulators, and funding agencies for facilitation, with the activities related to the selection and monitoring of experts who consult the industries and CABs.

Type of Gaps	Main issues for Indutries/ Exporters	Conformity assessment bodies	Possible Actions through the collaboration
Informati	• Lack of	• Lack of awareness	Regular meetings/communication
on Gap	awareness of	on conformity	between EDB/DoC and Industries
	potential	assessment (CA)	/Chambers
	markets/requi	requirements of	 Develop a mechanism for access to
	rements	industries/exporter	relevant standards/specifications free of
	• Limited	S	charge with the support of funding
	access to	• Lack of information	agencies
	standards	on required	 Conduct a market survey and collect
	• Pathways to	/available CA	information
	meet the	schemes	Conduct knowledge dissemination
	requirements	• Limited access to	sessions on accreditation,
		standards/specifica	manufacturing, standards, new
		tions	conformity assessment schemes
1. Strate	L. Antonio Maria	and states weeks	Conduct analysis of foreign markets
			through commerce officers of DoC and
			communicate with Chambers

Resource s Gap	 Lack of expertise to conduct technical gap assessment of processes /quality systems and identify needed improvement s 	 Lack of Equipment/facilitie s/Trained staff/ILC& PT/CRM/Reagents /Auditors 	 Form an expert pool with the support of funding agencies Identify technical resources required for the industries and CABs for their improvements Conduct gap assessments and identify improvement opportunities Facilitate purchasing /importing of equipment/reagents/CRM Develop ILC/Proficiency Testing Schemes locally and facilitate the participation in international proficiency testing programmes Conduct specific technical training programmes for staff development
Knowled ge /Compet ency Gap	• Lack of technical know-how to improve the processes/inn ovations	 Lack of knowledge on technical operations/ mentors/evaluators /Supervisors/Trainers 	 Identify competence/knowledge gap in the industries and CABs. Identify technical experts to fill the identified technical gaps Conduct training/mentoring /supervising programmes Conduct competency evaluation of existing staff
System Gap	 Lack of quality systems/SOPs /Technical Procedures Documentatio n of QMS 	 Lack of quality systems as per new standards Documentation of QMS 	 Identify needs for quality system developments in industries and CABs Conduct training programmes on Quality system development Mentor staff to develop and document quality systems Conduct internal audits Introduce new conformity assessment and accreditation schemes such as personnel certification schemes for recognizing candidates of vocational training programmes







The operational structure proposed for this model of technical assistance programme should be supported with continuous financial assistance to manage the cost of resources and logistics. Implementation of policies and procedures for preventing a potential conflict of interests and review of threats to impartiality on an ongoing basis and actions to mitigate detected threats to impartiality are also to be considered in the implementation phase of this collaborative approach.

Effective implementation of the proposed approach would assist Sri Lankan exporters to reach global markets by removing non-tariff barriers and generating the foreign exchange to reduce trade deficit.

An idea to contribute national economic growth and sustainability by Mr. L H D Bandusoma, Deputy Director (Accreditaion), Sri Lanka Accreditation Board.



Mr. L H D Bandusoma Deputy Director (Accreditation) Sri Lanka Accreditation Board

Resilience and sustainable food safety system certifications

As the world's population continues to grow, the quality and sustainability of our food supply must be maintained. The world needs food that is environmentally sustainable and ethically responsible. Food producers, manufacturers, retailers, and ingredient suppliers have a duty to make sure their products are safe and of the highest quality. In this era of rapid globalization, changing consumer demands, and issues around sustainability, food fraud, regulations, and global supply chains, complex problems trying to fulfill this responsibility and enforce guidelines and regulations.

Adopting a sustainable and resilient food system will be vital to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. Certification systems could be sustainable when businesses are sustainable, create an effective food safety capacity building, integrate food safety into the wider context of regulatory frameworks, and foster food safety advocacy and partnerships. It led to enhancing local food safety competencies along the value chains.

The following system certification could be implemented to achieve resilience food safety system certification and sustainability such as below:

1.AN HACCP certification- A comprehensive food safety control system that includes biological, chemical, and physical hazards and good manufacturing practices.

2.FSSC 22000 certification- The internationally recognized food safety scheme was developed to certify the food safety systems of organizations in the food chain and food packaging material manufacturing industries.

3.BRC certification - These standards ensure the standardization of quality, safety, and operational criteria, ensure that manufacturers fulfill their legal obligations, and provide protection for the end consumer.



Operational resilience of food industries could be achieved through the above certifications. It increases the credibility of organizations. Global assistance schemes could be utilized by small and medium food businesses to comply with the certifications relevant to their market needs. Food loss and waste, a major global issue that is enshrined in SDG 12 could be reduced through sustainable certifications along with specific targets related to its reduction.

Not only the food system certification, but the environmental and social accountability certification in food industries also make avenues in the line of sustainability. Environmental management system certifications, Carbon footprint certifications, and social accountability certifications are the prominent demanded certifications by the developed countries.

Adopting the systems certifications and paving the pathway to global sustainability will lead to economic growth nationally and internationally.



Building the Pathway Towards "Eco Label" Certification in Sri Lanka

"Only when the last tree has died and the last river has been poisoned and the last fish has been caught will we realize that we cannot eat money? Those are the words of the great chief Seattle. We live in a world with ever increasing needs with limited resources to fulfill those needs. In fulfilling our needs, we are increasingly using up more and more natural resources, destroying natural habitats, halting biodiversity and polluting the air we breathe and the water we drink. The words by the great chief Seattle has never been more important than it is today.

Day by day we are moving on a journey where the destination is scarcity of raw materials and natural resources. We can clearly see where we are heading. Why are we still sitting back without acting? Everyday consumer products contribute greatly to the environmental pressures and can affect our health in many ways. Already resource efficiency and circular economy concepts and practical knowledge is available and the only thing that you and I have to do is to accelerate the actions towards a Cleaner, Greener and Better Era.

Ecolabelling found its origins in the growing global concern for environmental protection by government, business and the general public. As companies have come to recognize that environmental concerns may be translated into a market advantage for certain products and services, various environmental declarations, claims and labels have emerged, such as natural, recyclable, eco-friendly, low-energy, recycled content, and so forth. These have exerted a powerful attraction on consumers looking for ways to reduce environmental impacts through their purchasing choices, but they have also led to some confusion and skepticism.

Therefore, it is a timely important requirement to promote products that are truly ecologically sound and also to set up a system of accreditation that discerning consumers across the country could trust. Ecolabelling is a voluntary method of environmental performance certification and labelling that is practiced around the world under International Standards on ISO 14024:2018 Environmental labels and declarations – Type I environmental labelling – Principles and procedures.



Did you know that "ECO LABEL-SRI LANKA" is run by National Cleaner Production Centre (NCPC), Sri Lanka as the only Sri Lankan member of Global Eco Labelling Network (GEN)?

NCPC, Sri Lanka is a not-for-profit foremost sustainability solution provider in the country. Over the past two decades, not only has it achieved its vision but has also become a leading shareholder in achieving sustainable development goals of Sri Lanka.

NCPC, Sri Lanka Eco Labelling Programme is the first national green product certification scheme and the most successful and influential Type-I ecolabelling program in Sri Lanka. With the support provided by the UN Environment Consumer Information Programme and the technical inputs from Eco Mark, Japan, this program has been initiated. Following ISO 14024 principles for global best practices in lifecycle ecolabelling, and the technical support from matured International Eco Labelling programmes through GEN membership, we have developed rigorous voluntary standards with sector experts, which are then independently and critically reviewed and approved by the Governing Council which is represented by high-level officials from the government, industry, academia and other sectors.



Eco-Label Certification for Ceylon Tea Products of Horana Plantation PLC

We are currently certifying three product categories based on standards developed with lifecycle thinking ranging from Agri-food Sector (Dairy, Tea) to construction chemicals and products of paint, steel, cement, and much more. All NCPC, Sri Lanka Eco Label standards include comprehensive sustainability criteria related to the environment, human health, social issues, and fitness for purpose.

NCPC, Sri Lanka Eco-Label is widely respected and recognized locally and internationally as NCPC, Sri Lanka is a member of RECP Net and is founded by UNIDO and UNEP. Our ecolabel gives consumers, including suppliers and procurement teams, confidence that the products and services have been through an independent third-party assessment. Our team is highly skilled and uses a holistic approach to address sustainability issues and their foremost expertise on Resource efficiency & Cleaner Production, adding advantages to our clients to improve their benefits to businesses by cost savings through less waste.



Ms. Upendra Arjeewani Weerathunga Senior RECP Expert National Cleaner Production Centre

Good Laboratory Practice (GLP)

Good laboratory practice is an FDA regulation. Good laboratory practice constitutes of a set of principles that provides a framework within which laboratory studies are planned performed, monitored, reported and archived. It also makes sure that data is traceable and promotes international acceptance of tests.

Good Laboratory Practice in the Academic and Pharmaceutical Settings

SLAB has involved in several GLP activities in academic settings and pharmaceutical manufacturing facilities and also planning to conduct programs in this year. SLAB is collaborating in these kinds of programs with concern to develop and assure the reliability of the data submitted are a true reflection of the results that are obtained during the study as well as in pharmaceutical aspects.

GLP activities conducted by SLAB

- Institute: University of Sri Jayawardhanapura
- Resource Persons: Mr. Bandusoma(Deputy Director) and Ms Hiruni (Assistant Director)

Details: On 6th of April SLAB has conducted a one day GLP program to all the non-academic staff who are working within university laboratories in order to enhance the quality of their role and reliability of all the laboratory related work and results. With the involvement of experts in SLAB a comprehensive seminar and in class exercises were performed to bring out the best results from this program.

- Institute: Astron LTD
- Resource Persons: Mr. Bandusoma and Ms Hiruni
- On 7th of April SLAB has conducted a oneday online GLP program to all the laboratory related staff in the Astron LTD to give an awareness on importance of accreditation and how GLP will affect the reliability of the laboratory work involved in pharmaceutical product manufacturing process. SLAB has immensely provided support to the institutes that are interested in obtaining awareness in GLP and accreditation.









Ms. Ruhany S. Azeez, R.A.Y.S.P. Ranawaka Development Officers (Accreditation) Sri Lanka Accreditation Board

SLAB Join Hands with FAO in Developing Accredited Genetically Modified Organism Testing Laboratories In Sri Lanka





Genetically modified organisms (GMOs) are living organisms whose genetic material has been artificially manipulated in a laboratory through genetic engineering. This creates combinations of plant, animal, bacteria, and virus genes that do not occur in nature or through traditional crossbreeding methods.

Current advancements of biotechnology in agriculture and healthcare have resulted in modification of genetic material in living organisms, commonly known as genetically modified organisms (GMOs) aiming diverse purposes. Benefits from GMOs varies from human insulin to drought-resistant plants, modern biotechnology has contributed towards the betterment of humankind and improved the quality of life. However, it was questioned about the safety of the GMOs and the risks associated which are yet unknown.

Cartegena protocol on Biosafety enforced globally addressing these issues. Sri Lanka signed the Cartagena Protocol on 24 May 2000 and ratified on 28 April 2004. The objective of this protocol is to ensure an adequate level of protection in handling, use and transfer of GMOs. Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment (MoMDE) formulated the National Biosafety Framework and the National Policy on Biosafety, which was approved by the Cabinet of Ministers in 2005." Biosafety Act was drafted in 2014 and it is currently pending enactment.

National Biosafety The Project "Implementation of the National Biosafety in accordance with Framework the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety" is initiated with funding from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and technical support from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and one of the objectives of the project is establishment of accredited GMO testing laboratories in Sri Lanka.



SLAB join hands with the project from the beginning in providing technical assistance on obtaining accreditation for the selected GMO testing laboratories. SLAB contributed to the island wide survey on biosafety at the initial stage which continued with several meetings and awareness sessions for the selected laboratories. SLAB has joined the technical training by Export Inspection Agency – Kochi, India on the molecular testing for GMOs and has conducted a training on development of LQMS and conducting internal audit as per ISO/IEC 17025:2017 standard for the selected laboratories. SLAB awaits applications from the selected laboratories in the project.



Role of Accreditation in Green Economy

The world's economy is primarily service driven and approximately 80% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) comes from the service sectors. Agriculture, mining, and tourism are the primary export sectors, all of which rely heavily on natural resources. Environmental protection itself contributes to the economic growth of any country. Economic development must be achieved in an environmentally sustainable manner and countries must find a durable equilibrium between their economy and their environment.

The green economy is a part of the vision of the 2030 plan of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). It is based on water management, sustainable land use, climate smart agriculture, sustainable tourism, and renewable energy and energy use chosen by the people. The environmental impact of economic growth includes the increased consumption of non-renewable resources, higher levels of pollution, global warming, and the potential loss of environmental habitats. This contributed to 50% of the world's Greenhous Gas (GHG) emissions. A sustainable environment for communities in the future needs cleaner energy, reduced pollution, and more effective chemical and waste management solutions to benefit from increased industrialization while safeguarding people and the environment. Greening the economy means shifting the focus towards sustainable economic practices through the use of enhancing natural resources and productivity through a highly trained workforce, driving small-scale and mediumsized enterprises' activities effectively and mapping the country's approach towards the greening process of selected scopes. For longterm economic growth, each sector should prioritize carbon mitigation and removal as one of their options. Policies, accreditation, and other quality infrastructure tools are helping strengthen this system. The third party, Validation and verification as conformity assessment are understood to be confirmation of the reliability of information



declared in claims. Other terms in use for the object of assessment by validation and verification are "statement," "declaration," "assertion," "prediction," or "report."

In the earliest stages testing laboratory accreditation activities supporting environmental standards and regulations, to the accreditation of certification bodies for ISO 14001.A sector specific standard focused on environmental performance, and the introduction of standards for validation and verification.

The methods used by a company will determine whether the data is worth the time and effort spent collecting and tracking it. In order to show that the methods chosen are appropriate, they need to be validated. Validation is a new concept when it comes to environmental monitoring. Environmental monitoring programs are set up to monitor the effectiveness of cleaning and sanitation efforts and to verify that classified environments are operating in a state of control. Climate change mitigation and adaptation depend on the transformation of economic activities to become environmentally friendly and or carbon neutral.

Sri Lanka Accreditation Board for Conformity Assessment (SLAB) is the National Accreditation Authority of Sri Lanka and a member of two global accreditation bodies; The International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and the Asia Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (APAC), and has granted internationally recognized accreditation to validation and verification bodies since 2016 as the South Asian region's first accreditation body to achieve Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MLA) status. Multi-Lateral Recognition where signatories recognize each other's recognition as equivalent. Currently, SLAB provides accreditation for the Validation Verification schemes mentioned above for national and international Validation and Verification Bodies(V/VBs).



IAF-MLA and Mutual Recognition Arrangement of International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC-MRA) are seeking to help organizations measure, manage, and/or report sustainable economic growth and environmental performance. Voluntary national and international standards support the achievement of the 2030 sustainable goals. enhancing the use of voluntary standards—including but not limited to voluntary sustainability standards -in support of sustainable development. It is loosely based on the background work, proceedings and outcomes of the international conference on 'Standards for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)'. Standards support all three dimensions of sustainability. Standards support companies and communities in conceiving and bringing to the market cleaner and more energyefficient products, helping protect and conserve environmental resources.

Validation is applied to claims regarding an intended future use or projected outcome (confirmation of plausibility), while verification is applied to claims regarding events that have already occurred or results alreadv been that have obtained (confirmation of truthfulness). Verification, Validation, and Accreditation (VV & A) are three interrelated but distinct processes that gather and evaluate evidence to determine whether a model or simulation should be used in a given situation and establish its credibility. Accreditation can provide assurance that V/VB is objective, technically competent, and in accordance with relevant international and national standards such as;

ISO/IEC 17029:2019– General Principals and requirements for validation and verification bodies.

ISO 14065:2013/2020-General principles and requirements for bodies validating and verifying environmental information.

Also, there are three main sub-standards under the Validation verification schemes (SLAB follows in line with the accreditation process).

ISO 14065-1:2018-Specification with guidance at the organization level for quantification and reporting of greenhouse gas emissions and removals

ISO 14065-2:2019-Specification with guidance at the project level for quantification, monitoring, and reporting of greenhouse gas emission reductions or removal enhancements

ISO14065-3:2019-Specification with guidance for the Verification and Validation of greenhouse

With the current demand, SLAB has expanded its scheme requirements to cover emerging validation and verification schemes such as verification of the Carbon Footprint of Products, CORSIA and VERRA VCS under the organization/project level of greenhouse gas emissions and removals.

- The ISO 14067 :2018 scheme specifies principles, requirements, and guidelines for the quantification and communication of the carbon footprint of products (CFPS), including goods and services, covering GHG emissions and removals over the life cycle of a product. This is the international standard that bases the footprint calculation on the life cycle analysis. That helps to discern which stage is responsible for most of the emissions, provides valuable information on how to correctly identify the opportunities for improvement, and allows for the achievement of maximum efficiency. The standard provides a step-by-step guide and a standardized template for communicating the results of the CFPs. That can be made in the form of a CFP external communication report, CFP performance tracking report, CFP declaration, or CFP label.
- The "Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation" (CORSIA), initiated by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), is a voluntary market-based scheme to address annual increases in total CO2 emissions from the international civil aviation sector. SLAB is currently working with ICAO (International Civil Aviation Authority) to promote the CORSIA Accreditation scheme in Sri Lanka.
- VERRA -Verified Carbone standards (VCS) scheme - The VCS Program is the world's most widely used voluntary GHG program.The work of the VCS Program is to ensure the credibility of emission reduction projects.

SLAB Assessments to above mentioned standards are conducted by a trained pool of assessors selected from the industry and Professional Bodies. Use accredited validation and verification services will be strengthen the global response to climate change, most importantly, accreditation provides a validation and verification body (V/VB) with a trust mark and confidence to offer its services nationally and globally.



Ms Mithila Gunasekara Assistant Director (Accreditation) Sri Lanka Accreditation Board

Addressing Climate Change: Independent Assurance of Environmental Information

Climate Change is a pressing issue affecting our planet today that needs to be addressed immediately. As an accredited Conformity Assessment Body (CAB), The Sustainable Future Group (SFG) is mandated to provide independent assurance services to meet the obligations of the business community towards tackling this concern, which also provides transparency for consumers to make environmentally sound decisions with their investments. Aligned with the global initiative for achieving a low carbon circular economy and net-zero status, SFG will also incorporate services related to the Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA), implemented by the International Civil Aviation (ICAO) into its portfolio.

Adaptation and mitigation of climate change impact is no longer an option, but a necessity. With the highest global average surface temperature recorded in 2020, climate change has resulted in natural disasters causing significant social and economic devastation across the globe. In 2021, Hurricane Ida devastated Lousiana, USA resulting in up to \$65 billion in damages – the fifth costliest weather disaster in history. Sri Lanka is ranked 30th in the Global Climate Risk Index 2021 by Germanwatch e.V., indicating high risk as an island nation. The inconsistent weather patterns that disrupt local agricultural practices in the country can be attributed to climate change.

Therefore, it is important that CABs provide assurance on claims made by corporates regarding their operations and products related to sustainability, such as reusability, recyclability, and life cycle environmental impact for consumers and stakeholders to make informed decisions about who they work with and what they use. SFG, an ISO 14065 accredited CAB through the Sri Lanka Accreditation Board (SLAB), continues to provide verification and certification services to address these requirements by ensuring that the implementation of sustainability-related initiatives are aligned with internationally recognised standards.

Having product carbon footprints verified in accordance with ISO 14067 and environmental claims verified against ISO 14065 by an accredited CAB such as SFG paves the way for a competitive and transparent marketplace. SFG issues Organisational-level ISO 14064-1 Verification Statements for companies that measure and report on their Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions and align their systems in accordance with the same. In addition, businesses have had their renewable energy and forestry projects verified in accordance with the ISO 14064-2 Standard to meet internal carbon mitigation requirements. SFG is also eligible to conduct verification for Carbon Credit Projects under the Verified Carbon Standard of VERRA and the Plan Vivo Standard.

SFG will, in the coming months, become accredited to conduct verification under the scheme for airline CORSIA operators worldwide. Global Aviation accounts for 1.9% of all GHG emissions and 2.5% of all carbon dioxide emissions. The CORSIA scheme is a market-based mechanism revolving around sustainable fuel and carbon credits that integrate governments, industry, and international organisations with the aim of reducing emissions from international aviation. SFG will work with airline operators to provide independent assurance for emissions/offsetting reporting requirements in conformance with this scheme. It will be a significant milestone for a Sri Lankan CAB to be involved in the journey to net-zero carbon emissions by 2050 for the global aviation sector.



Mr. Sajeewa Ranasingne Manager – Sustainability Assurance and Advisory Services The sustainable Future Group



Highlights 2021



The latest inclusion in the SLAB's scope on accreditation of GHG validation and verification is the "Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA)", initiated by the International Civil Aviation" Organization (ICAO), which is a voluntary market-based scheme to address annual increases in total CO2 emissions from the international civil aviation sector. This is a common misunderstanding.

SLAB is currently working with ICAO (International Civil Aviation Authority) to promote the CORSIA Accreditation scheme in Sri Lanka in order to assist CORSIA implementation in Sri Lanka as well as in other countries in South Asia. As part of this program, in collaboration with the Sri Lanka Accreditation Board, the European Union Aviation Safety Agency has successfully completed a CORSIA refresher training activity for SLAB assessors, experts, and potential verification bodies under the EU-South Asia Aviation Partnership Project II.

Successfully completed the Assessor Training program for the ISO/IEC 17043:2010 standard which was the first ever assessor training for PT scheme for SLAB, for which 19 participants from different fields participated. We are grateful for the resource persons from NABL for giving us with high quality training experiences. Special thanks also goes to UNIDO, for their continued support in sponsoring such trainings for the ultimate improvement of quality in Sri Lanka.





Online Training on "How to develop a product certification scheme in compliance with ISO/IEC 17065:2012 and ISO/IEC 17067:2013" was successfully conducted on 24th February with the participation of over 30 participants from public and private sector certification & regulatory bodies.

The programme covered,

- Accreditation Process, Guidelines to get accreditation

- Detail interpretation on requirements of ISO/IEC 17065:2012 and ISO/IEC 17067:2013

- Key points to be considered, when developing a new product certification scheme for certification & regulatory bodies.



Online Training on Free Webinar On "How to Verify Authenticity of Certificates" was successfully conducted on 18th March with the participation of over 45 participants from public and private sector certification bodies, Professional Bodies & regulatory bodies. The programme covered,

- How to identify the authenticity of a certificate

- Introduce guideline document developed by SLAB "How to check the authenticity of a certificate"

- Why we should be vigilant on authenticity/non-authenticity of certificates available around us for certification Bodies, Professional Bodies & regulatory bodies.



VERRA-Verified Carbone standards (VCS) scheme- The VCS Program is the world's most widely used voluntary GHG program. The work of the VCS Program is to ensure the credibility of emission reduction projects.

As the National Accreditation Authority of Sri Lanka, we would like to promote accreditation schemes relevant to environmental sustainability.By signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with VERRA in September 2021, the Sri Lanka Accreditation Board (SLAB) has taken steps toward capacity development and the establishment of the VERRA scheme. SLAB successfully completed the first training program conducted for SLAB staff and pool of assessors on 2022-05-24 & 25.

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Digital Transformation of Accreditation Bodies in Asia Pacific Region

PTB had a pre appraisal interview today with SLAB in order to collect information on challenges and potential of SLAB to initiate digital transformation approach. This discussion continued on identifying the benefits from adopting digital approach, the current challenges faced the potential of increasingly using digital technologies and possible intervention areas and activities of the project. PTB plans to conduct in-depth appraisal mission in few months' time. The start of the new project is foreseen for March 2022.

Organic Agriculture; Farm production and processing

SLAB has initiated discussion with GIZ in promoting the accreditation services on Organic Agriculture; Farm production and processing. Under this program SLAB will be working with Certification bodies, EDB (National Organic Control Unit), Department of Agriculture, Department of Export Agriculture in further expanding the accreditation services on Organic Agriculture. SLAB appreciates the involvement of GIZ to address this national need.





Sri Lanka Accreditation Board for Conformity Assessment

No. 104A, Kithulwatte Road, Borella, Sri Lanka Telephone: (+94)11 2689157, (+94)11 2689158 Fax: : (+94)11 2689161 e-mail: slabmail@slab.lk Website: www.slab.lk