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Abstract

Changing Agro-food Export Composition and SPS Compliance: Lessons for Mauritius

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Historically, agro-food exports from developing countries have been dominated by a few traditional commodities such as coffee, tea, sugar and cotton. This picture has considerably evolved recently, with sustained growth in high value (HV) agro-food exports such as fishery and horticultural products. Such a situation has had implications for developing countries in terms of compliance with sanitary and phytosanitary measures present in developed countries. This article hinges on a thorough literature review and secondary data analysis. Its objectives are to analyse how Mauritian agro-food exports have evolved over the last decade and to propose strategies for Mauritius to successfully comply with sanitary and phytosanitary requirements prevailing in developed-country markets so as to maintain and expand its agro-food exports. The main finding is that Mauritius experienced a similar growth of HV agro-food exports, with the emergence of seafood exports. Compliance strategies to aid the export of high value agro-food products to the EU are finally proposed.

Keywords: agro-food exports, high value, SPS compliance