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**Description of the Regulatory Services Department (RSD) of the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA as the National Plant Protection Organization of Eritrea (NPPO)**

The Regulatory Services Department (RSD) of the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), as the National Plant Protection Organization of Eritrea (NPPO) and established in 2003, aspires to provide effective inspection and regulatory services for ensuring animal and plant health, safety and quality of agricultural products, inputs and sustainable use of natural resources.

The main functions of RSD can briefly be summarized as follows:

1. **Plant Resources Regulatory Services**:

* Through the use of appropriate phytosanitary measures undertake import inspection and export certification process for ensuring the health of plants and plant products;
* Provide the necessary inspection and regulatory services to ensure the safety of fresh food plants (fresh fruits and vegetables) and also the safety and quality of plant products in processing plants
* Provide the necessary inspection and regulatory services to ensure the production of quality seeds and subsequently issue seed certification for quality seeds.
* Provide the necessary inspection and regulatory services for ensuring the safety and quality of agro-chemicals and finally, in collaboration with concerned environmental institutions, make sure the safe disposal of unwanted agro-chemicals.

1. **Animal Resources Regulatory Services** :

* Through the use of appropriate sanitary measures undertakes import inspection and export certification process for ensuring the health of animal and animal products;
* Provide the necessary inspection and regulatory services to ensure the health of animals in slaughter houses and also ensure the safety and quality of animal products in processing plants;
* Provide proper inspection and regulatory services to ensure that all imported or locally processed animals feed have the desired safety and quality standards;
* Provide the necessary inspection and regulatory services to ensure the safety and quality of veterinary drugs and biologics and finally, in collaboration with concerned environmental institutions, make sure the safe disposal of unwanted drugs and biologics.

**3. Natural Resources Regulatory Services**

* Provide the necessary inspection and regulatory services to ensure the proper conservation and utilization of forest and wildlife resources;
* Provide the necessary inspection and regulatory services in commercial agricultural farms to ensure the efficient use of agricultural lands and irrigation water.