

## **STDF Seminar on electronic SPS certification 28 June 2016**

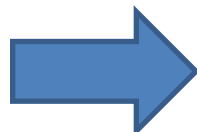
- Presentations and podcast accessible at :  
<http://www.standardsfacility.org/STDF-eCert-Seminar>
- Business dialogue organized by IPPC on “private sector’s involvement in the deployment of electronic SPS certification”.
- Below a summary of the presentations and discussions

**Electronic SPS Certification** is the authenticated, non-repudiative and secure electronic transmission of sanitary and phytosanitary certification data, including the certifying statement, from the competent authority of the exporting country to the competent authority of the importing country.

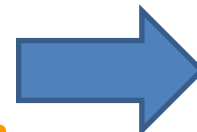
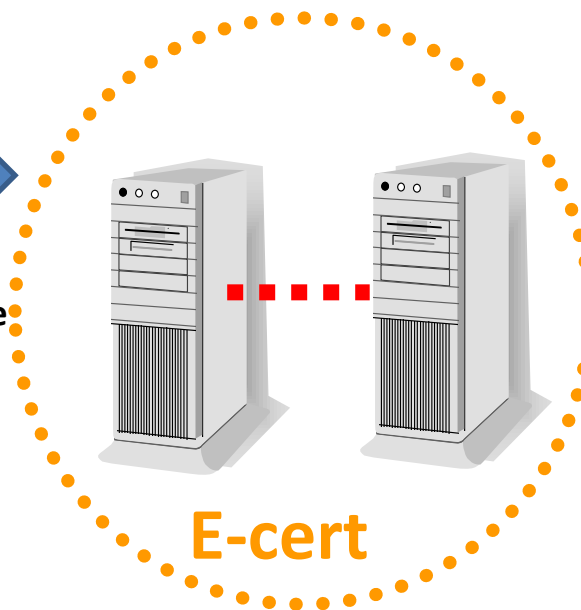
## EXPORTING COUNTRY COMPETENT AUTHORITY



Certification process  
Inspection procedure,  
testing,...



Sending  
certificate



Receiving  
certificate

## IMPORTING COUNTRY COMPETENT AUTHORITY



Import procedures  
Inspection,  
release,...

### Integrity

- Electronically secured certificates
- Cross-checking in real time
- Single national register of certificates

### Efficiency

- Online application and processing
- Faster processing through pre-validation
- Faster processing cuts clearance time

### Security & compliance

- Very difficult to forge
- Improved compliance with policies and procedures
- Online verification for third parties / importing nations

### Productivity

- Single view of all relevant information
- Searchable database with all certificates
- Simple maintenance of forms

## Challenges and pre-requisites for implementation of electronic SPS certification

- Unlike plant health, lack of standard certificate makes negotiation more complex for the other sectors
- Lack of standardized exchange protocols (Considerable investment required to deal with non-standard data requirements)
- Lack of political goodwill (sometimes buy-in at top level, **BUT** resistance of mid-level management);
- Adequate legislative framework
- High costs of establishing a system (possible solutions turnkey systems payment on usage e.g. Philippines, development assistance?)
- Weak SPS systems: Paper-based system needs streamlining to start with!
- Lack of collaboration framework between relevant national agencies (Inter-agency competition)
- Weak ICT infrastructure in agencies in charge of SPS matters;
- Challenges of the system's sustainability

- Electronic SPS certification can contribute significantly to facilitating safe trade => Momentum WTO's Trade Facilitation Agreement
- Electronic SPS certification => a driver for reform (streamlining import-export business process, promoting regulatory reform and inter-institutional collaboration)
- Start with Business Process Analysis (BPA), then cost-benefit analysis.
- Include a pilot phase, a transition phase and a fall-back plan
- Establish a sustainable cost recovery mechanism
- Stakeholder consultation (acceptance by smallholders, real gains vs. what may change)
- Guidance and support to developing countries (carry out BPA, map out business process reengineering needs, and undertake the necessary cost-benefit analysis to inform investment decision).

**“Tomorrow’s exports shall be transmitted and not transported”**

**Dubai International Airport**