



Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Conference on Electronic Phytosanitary Certificates

11-13 September 2023, Tashkent

Objectives:

At the [3rd Meeting of the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation \(CAREC\) Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures \(SPS\) Regional Working Group](#) in January 2023, the Agency for Plant Protection and Quarantine (APPQ) of the Republic of Uzbekistan proposed to organize a conference on digital phytosanitary certification.

As part of the trade digitalization initiative under the CAREC Integrated Trade Agenda (CITA) 2030, the conference will discuss digitalization of phytosanitary certification to facilitate safe trade of plants and plant products. Specifically, the conference will (i) discuss the role of the National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs) and implementation of key International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs) in ensuring safe and efficient trade; (ii) facilitate dialogue among CAREC NPPOs on digitalizing phytosanitary certification, including through the International Plant Protection Convention's (IPPC's) ePhyto solution; and (iii) deliberate on capacity building, partnership, pilot activities and potential investment projects to address the remaining barriers to seamless phytosanitary certification.

Participants:

CAREC countries' NPPOs, agriculture, customs, and other trade-related agencies, development partners, and private sector representatives.

AGENDA

Day 1, 11 September 2023 (Ballroom 2, Intercontinental Tashkent)

09:30 – 10:00 (Tashkent time)	Registration and coffee
10:00 – 10:30	<p>Opening Session</p> <p>Ibrokhim Ergashev, Director General, Agency of Plant Protection and Quarantine (APPQ), Uzbekistan</p> <p>Avaz Makhmudov, Deputy Head, Department on Customs-Tariff Regulation of Foreign Trade, Ministry of Investment and Foreign Trade, Uzbekistan</p> <p>Osama El-Lissy, Secretary, International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) (<i>virtual</i>)</p>

	<p>Kanokpan Lao-Araya, Country Director, Uzbekistan Resident Mission, Central and West Asia Department (CWRD), Asian Development Bank (ADB)</p> <p>Joachim Fritz, Country Director, German Development Cooperation in Uzbekistan, GIZ Country Office</p> <p>Alfiya Musina, Uzbekistan Country Director and Gender Lead, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Trade Central Asia activity (TCA)</p> <p>Group photo</p>
10:30 – 11:15	<p>Session 1: The Roles of the National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs) and Implementation of Key International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs)</p> <p><i>The session will focus on the roles of the NPPOs in implementing key ISPMs and coordinating with trade-related agencies and Customs to ensure safe and efficient trade. The session will underscore digital certification, interagency coordination, as well as adequate inspection and risk mitigating measures as essential aspects of issuance of phytosanitary certificates or ePhyto.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Simon Padilla, Economic Affairs Officer, Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF), World Trade Organization (WTO)</p> <p>Presenter: Craig Fedchock, former ePhyto Program Director, IPPC (key ISPMs, particularly on the issuance of phytosanitary certificates)</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <p>Safarali Nasirov, Head of Plant Health Regulation Division, Plant Health Department, Food Safety Agency, Azerbaijan</p> <p>Nikoloz Meskhi, Head of Plant Protection Department, National Food Agency, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Georgia</p> <p>Ibrohim Shokosimov, Head of Information Technology Department, APPQ, Uzbekistan</p>
11:15 – 12:15	<p>Session 2: Digitalization of Phytosanitary Certification</p> <p><i>The session will discuss the benefits of digital phytosanitary certification and introduce IPPC's ePhyto solution, highlighting the (i) process of connecting the digital national phytosanitary certification system to the HUB or using the web-based solution called GeNS; (ii) resource requirements and change in business process; and (iii) experience of countries who have successfully adopted ePhyto.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Francis Lopez, President and CEO of InterCommerce Network Services, Inc. and Chair of Pan-Asian E-Commerce Alliance</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <p>Dominique Menon, ePhyto Program Director, IPPC</p> <p>Gianluca Nuzzo, Solutions Delivery Manager, Application Delivery Unit, United Nations International Computing Centre (UNICC) (<i>virtual</i>)</p>

	<p>Hélène Klein, Head of Sector, TRACES-Information Management System for Official Controls, European Commission (European Representative of the IPPC ePhyto Steering Group)</p> <p>Christian Dellis, Member, ePhyto Steering Group and Deputy Director, Phytosanitary Issues Management – Export Services, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services, U.S. Department of Agriculture, United States of America (<i>virtual</i>)</p> <p>Joan-May Tolentino, Supervising Agriculturist, National Plant Quarantine Services Division, Bureau of Plant Industry, Department of Agriculture, Philippines</p>
12:15 – 14:00	Lunch
14:00 – 15:15	<p>Session 3: Dialogue on Digital Phytosanitary Certification</p> <p><i>The first part of the session will share experience among CAREC members who have tested or exchange ePhytos by linking with the IPPC's Hub, integrating ePhyto into the National Single Window, or connecting to Generic ePhyto National System (GeNS).</i></p> <p>Moderator: Craig Fedchock, former ePhyto Program Director, IPPC</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <p>Binyuan Ren, Deputy Director of Plant Protection and Quarantine Division, Department of Plantation Management, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, People's Republic of China (PRC)</p> <p>Nikoloz Meskhi, Head of Plant Protection Department, National Food Agency, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Georgia</p> <p>Yawar Nawaz, Domain Officer, Pakistan Single Window, Pakistan</p> <p>Ibrohim Shokosimov, Head of Information Technology Department, APPQ, Uzbekistan</p>
15:30 – 15:45	Coffee Break
15:45 – 16:50	<p>Session 3 (Continuation)</p> <p><i>The second part of the session will facilitate a dialogue among CAREC NPPOs and customs agencies, discuss related interventions or initiatives by CAREC members related to digital phytosanitary certification, and identify capacity-building and investment needs and areas of cooperation to accelerate digital certification.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Dorothea Lazaro, Regional Cooperation Specialist, Regional Cooperation Unit, Central and West Asia Department (CWRD), ADB</p> <p>Speakers:</p>

	<p>Ali Aliyev, Head of Project Management Division, Digital Customs Administration Department, Technological Innovations and Statistics Head Department, State Customs Committee, Azerbaijan</p> <p>Askar Sarsenbin, Acting Head of the External Control and Supervision of the State Inspection Committee in the Agro-industrial Complex of the Ministry of Agriculture, Kazakhstan</p> <p>Kanybek Khudaiberdiev, Deputy Director of the Single Window Center, Ministry of Economy and Commerce, Kyrgyz Republic</p> <p>N.Oyunsuvd, Head of the Department of Soil and Plant Protection and Seed Varieties, Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Light Industry, Mongolia</p> <p>Mahmudi Shirinzhonzoda, First Deputy Head, Food Safety Committee under the Government of Tajikistan</p> <p>Toyly Kakajanov, Head of External Quarantine Division, State Plant Quarantine Service, Ministry of Agriculture, Turkmenistan</p>
16:50 – 17:00	<p>Highlights of Day 1</p> <p>Craig Fedchock, former ePhyto Program Director, IPPC</p>
<p>Day 2, 12 September (Ballroom 2, Intercontinental Tashkent)</p>	
09:30 – 10:30	<p>Session 4: Private Sectors’ Insights and Industry Perspectives</p> <p><i>The session will deliberate on addressing the remaining barriers to seamless phytosanitary certification, challenges faced by exporters and importers and some perspectives from industry or service providers.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Asel Uzagalieva, Deputy Project Manager, German Development Cooperation (GIZ) project on “Trade Facilitation in Central Asia” (TFCA)</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <p>Rose Souza Richards, Seed Health Manager, International Seed Federation and Co-Chair, ePhyto Industry Advisory Group (<i>virtual</i>)</p> <p>Francis Lopez, President and CEO of InterCommerce Network Services, Inc. and Chair, Pan-Asian E-Commerce Alliance</p> <p>Philippe Isler, Executive Director, Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation, World Economic Forum (<i>virtual</i>)</p> <p>Discussion</p>
10:30 – 11:00	<p>Coffee break</p>
11:00 – 12:00	<p>Session 5: Development Partners Perspectives</p>

	<p><i>In this session, the development partners will provide insights on issues and challenges in phytosanitary certification discussed from both government and private sector's perspectives and discuss related initiatives and proposals.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Dorothea Lazaro, Regional Cooperation Specialist, Regional Cooperation and Integration Unit, Central and West Asia Department (CWRD), ADB</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <p>Simon Padilla, Economic Affairs Officer, STDF, WTO</p> <p>Shane Sela, Senior Trade Facilitation Specialist, World Bank</p> <p>Piotr Włodarczyk, Agriculture Officer, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia</p> <p>Nico Horn, Director General, European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (EPPO) (<i>virtual</i>)</p> <p>Asel Uzagalieva, Deputy Project Manager, German Development Cooperation (GIZ) project on “Trade Facilitation in Central Asia” (TFCA)</p> <p>Ceren Erdogan, Deputy Director, Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation and Component Manager, GIZ Germany (<i>virtual</i>)</p> <p>Sabit Narbayev, Regional Trade Development Lead, USAID Trade Central Asia activity (TCA)</p>
12:00 – 12:15	<p>Next Steps and Closing Session</p> <p>Sultan-Mahmud Sultanov, Advisor, Agency of Plant Protection and Quarantine and Vice President, European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization</p> <p>Dorothea Lazaro, Regional Cooperation Specialist, Regional Cooperation and Integration Unit, CWRD, ADB</p>
12:15 – 14:00	<p>Lunch</p>
<p>Day 3, 13 September: Field visit to Uzbekistan APPQ and Central Laboratory 9:30 – 14:00</p>	