



Regional Training on Establishing Pest Free Area

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MARKET ACCESS AND PHYTOSANITARY CERTIFICATION

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Market access considerations

- Market access for commodities originating from PFAs can be a complex process
- Dependent on phytosanitary risk as determined by the importing country and their established appropriate level of protection.
- The process may be initiated by an exporting country requesting access for host commodities.
- Importer interest may also initiate the process.

General information requirements for the initial steps

- Proposed commodity or plant material
- Production area (areas in the country or specific areas from where exports will originate)
- Production volume of the commodity
- Production and cultivation practices
- Pest management strategies
- Pests associated with the commodity
- Post harvest management
- Current markets for the commodity
- Export protocols associated to the commodity
- PRA reports that may be available from other importing countries.

Critical steps in the process

- Normal market access requests can be a very complex process.
- Market access of commodities originating from a pest free area/production site/area of production bring an added complexity.
- It can entail a potentially drawn out process of requests, negotiations, verifications, assessments and recognition, before trade can happen

Major steps

- NPPO and government of the exporting country prioritizes a commodity for export.
- Development of a market access dossier which may include specific information and requirements from the importing country.
- Preparation and market submission by the proposing country to formalize the request.

- Initiation of a consultation process between NPPOs, and other relevant agencies such as Departments of trade and even foreign affairs of both interested parties.
- The NPPO of the importing country conducts evaluations of the proposal and submissions by the exporting party.
- Initiation of risk analysis and other assessments and evaluation of results.

- The exporting country evaluates scientific, technical and economic issues emanating from feedback from the importing country.
- Bilateral negotiations between the parties to communicate findings and concerns, inclusive of potential technical assistance.
- Visits of experts from the importing country to corroborate the findings and processes.
- Finalization of the terms and conditions of trade
- Commencement of trade

The use of systems approach in PFPP, PFPS and ALPP

- the systems approach is a pest risk management option that integrates different phytosanitary measures to meet phytosanitary import requirements.
- In general, a systems approach implies using at least two independent phytosanitary measures that have a cumulative effect, and may include any number of measures that are dependent on each other, of which ALPPs can be one of them.

- An advantage of the systems approach is that it addresses variability and uncertainty by modifying the number and strength of measures to meet phytosanitary import requirements.
- If not properly evaluated, the number of measures applied may become prohibitive and sometimes not all are necessary to provide for the appropriate level of protection.
- Normally, systems approaches are not required for PFAs. However, due to the nature of PFPP and PFPS, an importing NPPO may require the application of systems approach to these scenarios.

Certification of commodities from PFAs

- Certification of commodities originating from PFAs will entail the same processes as other commodities not formally managed by the process.
- There may be other specific considerations such as greater involvement and oversight by the importing country inclusive of pre-inspection arrangements.
- Guidance on the provisions of phytosanitary certification are provided by the IPPC and its relevant standards.

- ISPM 7 (Phytosanitary certification system): This standard contains requirements and describes components of a phytosanitary certification system to be established by national plant protection organizations
- ISPM 12 (Phytosanitary certificates): This standard provides the requirements and guidelines for the preparation and issuance of phytosanitary certificates (phytosanitary certificates for export and phytosanitary certificates for re-export)

Key considerations

- The NPPO of the exporting country has the sole authority and responsibility for phytosanitary certification.
- The NPPO has the responsibility to establish and maintain a certification system inclusive of legislative, administrative and operational components.

Operational components

- Sampling and inspection of plants plant products and other regulated articles
- Detection and identification of pests
- Surveillance of crops and production areas
- Application of treatments to commodities and conveyances
- Inspection of packing facilities

- Issuance of phytosanitary certificates
- Maintaining the integrity of consignments after certification
- Establishment and maintenance of record keeping
- Monitoring and evaluation of the system
- Development of guides and standard operating procedures
- Training of staff

Pre-inspection programmes associated to PFA and ALPP with systems approach

- Some importing NPPOs impose a level of oversight of the certification process for certain commodities originating from PFAs
- This may entail sending their officials to the point of origin to inspect commodities before export and even permanently stationing personnel in the country of origin, always at the expense of the exporting country
- There are elements of certification besides pre-inspection since these officers may inspect production areas as well as packing facilities

Pre-inspection regimes:

- The risk level merits enhanced scrutiny at origin (field and packing facilities)
- Facilitates and fast-tracks the inspections at the points of entry of the importing country.
- Can pose significant additional costs to producers and exporters.

Records and data management

- This aspect is very critical when exporting from Pest free areas.
- The importing country may request these in cases of non-compliance or as a requirement for periodic audits of the process.
- The certification process is very linked to the operational systems that maintain the PFA so generating and maintaining records for these aspects are very important

Record requirements- fixed elements

- Data regarding the establishment and maintenance of the PFA, PPPS, PFPS
- Regulations
- Operational plans, inclusive of surveillance, contingency and corrective action plans
- Procedures for withdrawal and reinstatement of pest status
- Agreements with collaborators inclusive of laboratories.
- Third party service providers

Record requirements- continuously generated data components

- Surveillance data
- Trapping routes, schedules etc.
- Samples and specimen collection data
- Diagnostic reports
- Farm/screenhouse/greenhouse inspection records
- Packhouse records
- Information on eradication processes.
- Pest management information
- Control measures and corrective action reports.
- Quality control reports and audit reports

Thank you