

# ***Roundtable on CAREC Partnership for Climate, Innovation and Trade***

## **Session 2: Digitalizing and Promoting Green Supply Chains**

**Asia-Pacific Sustainable Trade Forum  
21 May 2025, Bangkok, Thailand**

Simon Padilla  
STDF Secretariat

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# What is the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF)?

A Global partnership that helps developing countries improve their food safety, and animal and plant health capacity to meet **SPS requirements**, based on international standards, to gain or maintain market access.



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



WORLD BANK GROUP



World Health  
Organization



World Organisation  
for Animal Health  
Founded as OIE



WORLD TRADE  
ORGANIZATION

# What does the STDF do?

## Three Workstreams:

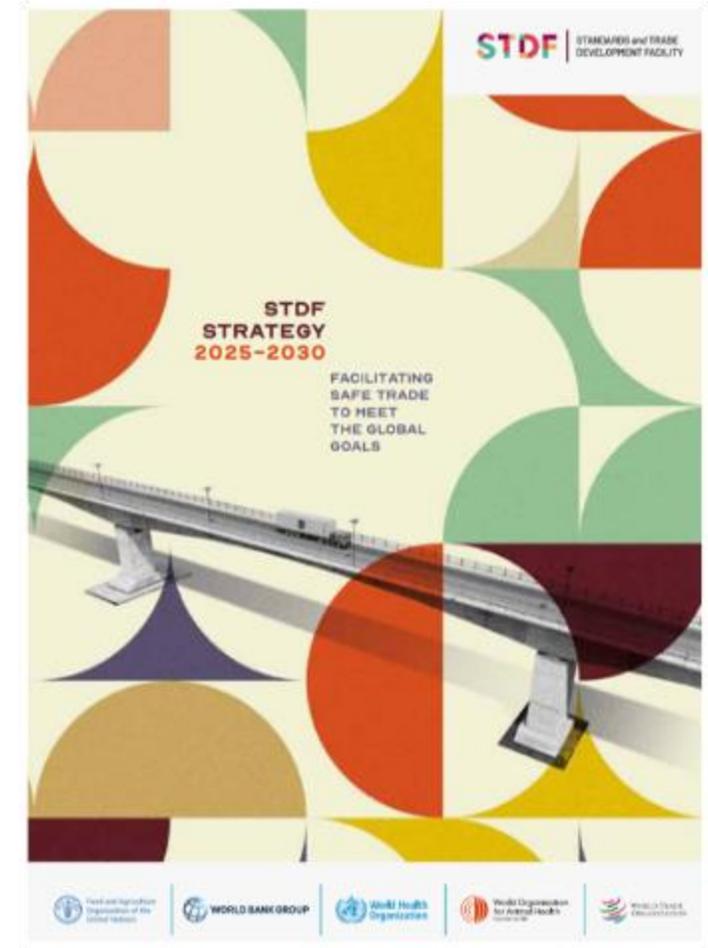
1. Global platform for coordination and dialogue

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2. Knowledge work to identify and disseminate good practices (incl. Digitalization and eCert)

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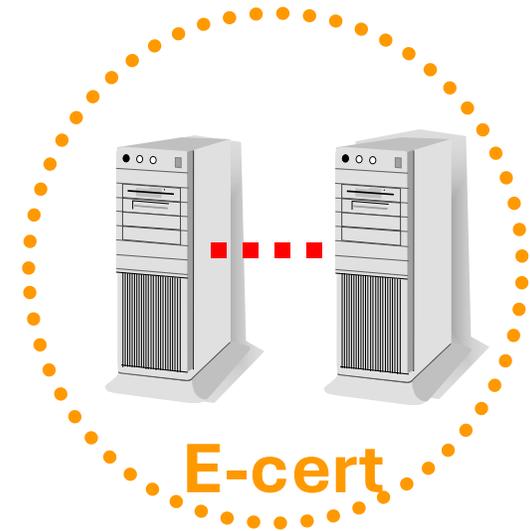
3. Funding mechanism to develop and implement innovative, collaborative projects based on international standards



See more: [STDF\\_strategy\\_2025-2030\\_Eng.pdf](#)

# Digitalization and eCert

- How electronic SPS certification can contribute significantly to facilitating **safe trade**
- STDF work:
  - Participation/organization of meetings and **knowledge products** (awareness raising)
  - **ePhyto**: Enhancing safe trade in plants and plant products (Dec-16 to Apr-20), evaluated May-23
  - eCert Advisory Committee (**ECAC**)
  - Enhancing multilateral **eVet** certification in Latin America and the Caribbean (started in 2024)

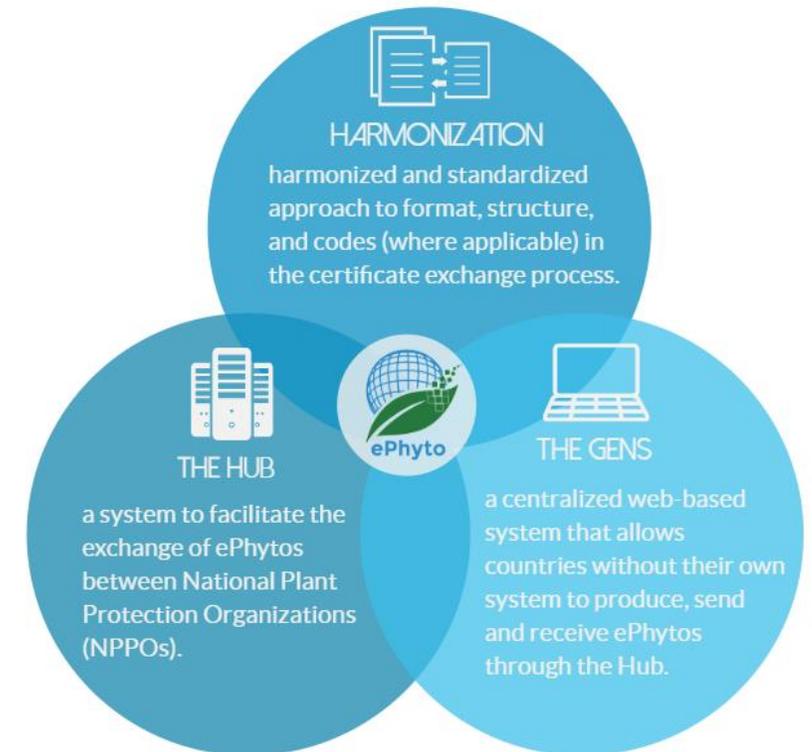


For more information: <https://www.standardsfacility.org/SPS-eCert>

# The ePhyto Solution (STDF/PG/504)

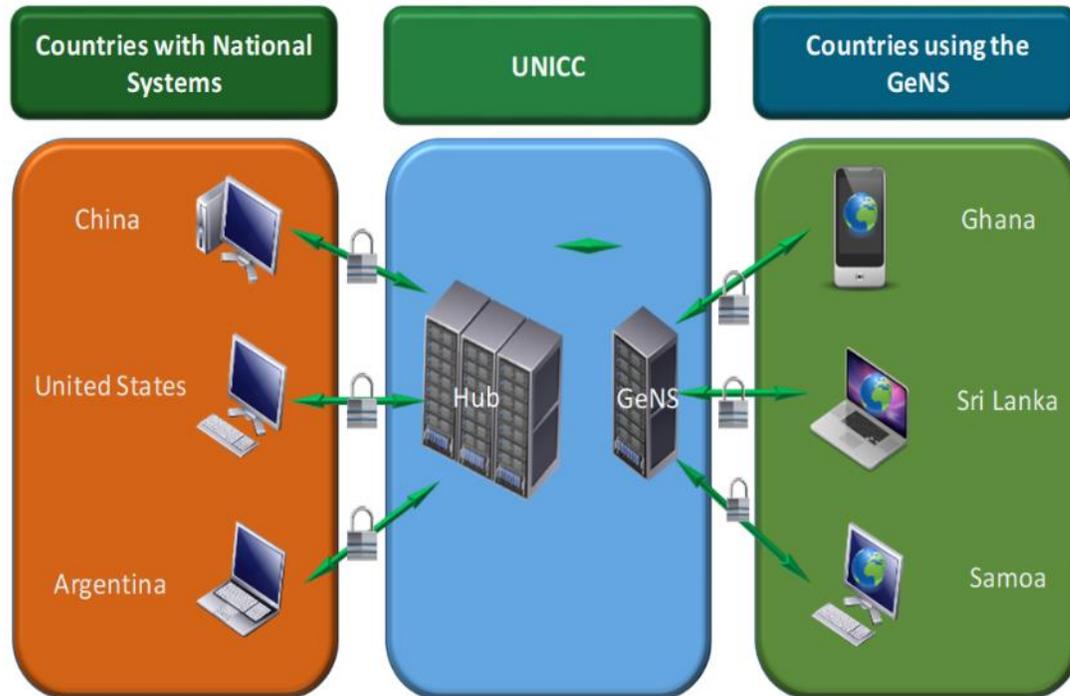
## Why the ePhyto Solution is relevant to the STDF?

- ePhyto is the electronic equivalent of a paper phytosanitary certificate (**ISPM 12**).
- Objective: Reduce the need for bilateral agreements between NPPOs to transfer electronic certificates.
- Benefit all **developing countries**.



See more: [www.standardsfacility.org/PG-504](http://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-504)

# The IPPC ePhyto Solution



## Recent highlights

### ePhyto numbers:

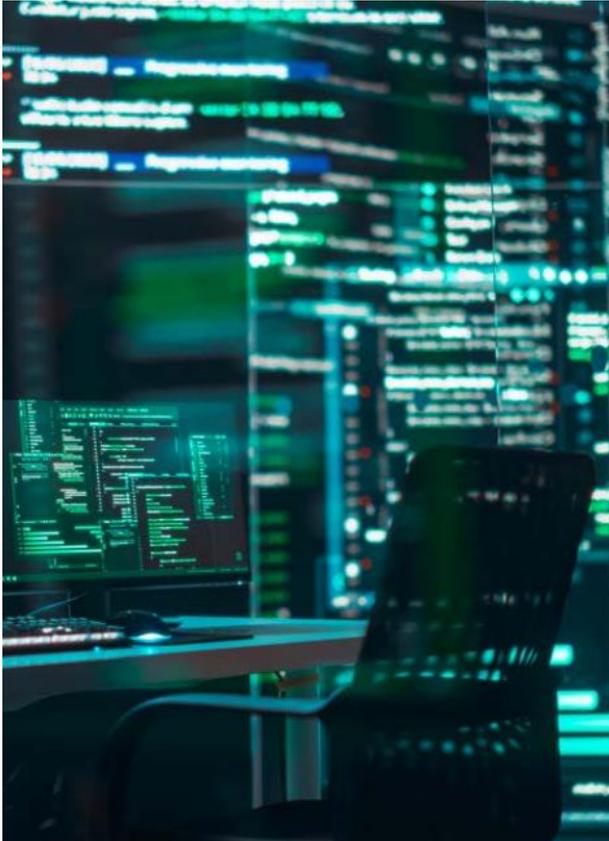
- 140 countries **connected** to the ePhyto Hub
- 96 countries **exchanging** ePhytos
- 200,000+ ePhytos exchanged **per month**
- 2.5 million ePhytos exchanged **in 2024**

### In the CAREC region:

- **Exchanging:** Azerbaijan, Pakistan, Uzbekistan
- **Testing:** China, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic
- **Not registered:** Mongolia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan

The IPPC ePhyto Solution platform: <https://www.ephytoexchange.org>

# Ex-post evaluation of the ePhyto Solution



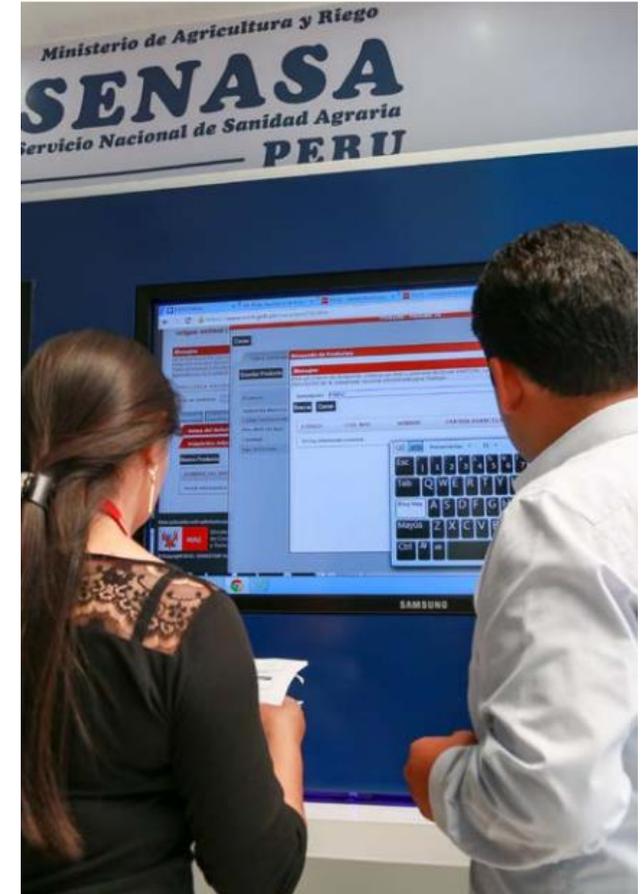
## Key Lessons

- **Harmonization** of certificates is crucial to implementing eCert.
- Minor **investments** in digitization have catalyzing effects in trade facilitation.
- **Private sector** is interested, engaged, and willing to contribute to trade facilitation.
- eCert: a **rolling implementation** is both possible and effective.

# Ex-post evaluation of the ePhyto Solution

## Key Recommendations

- **Governments:** Invest more in the technical infrastructure and capacity building to support SPS eCert.
- **Private Sector, Industry Associations and Traders:** Engage with SPS eCert systems to leverage their benefits fully.
- **International Donors:** Provide technical and financial assistance to developing countries to scale up the benefits of SPS eCert.

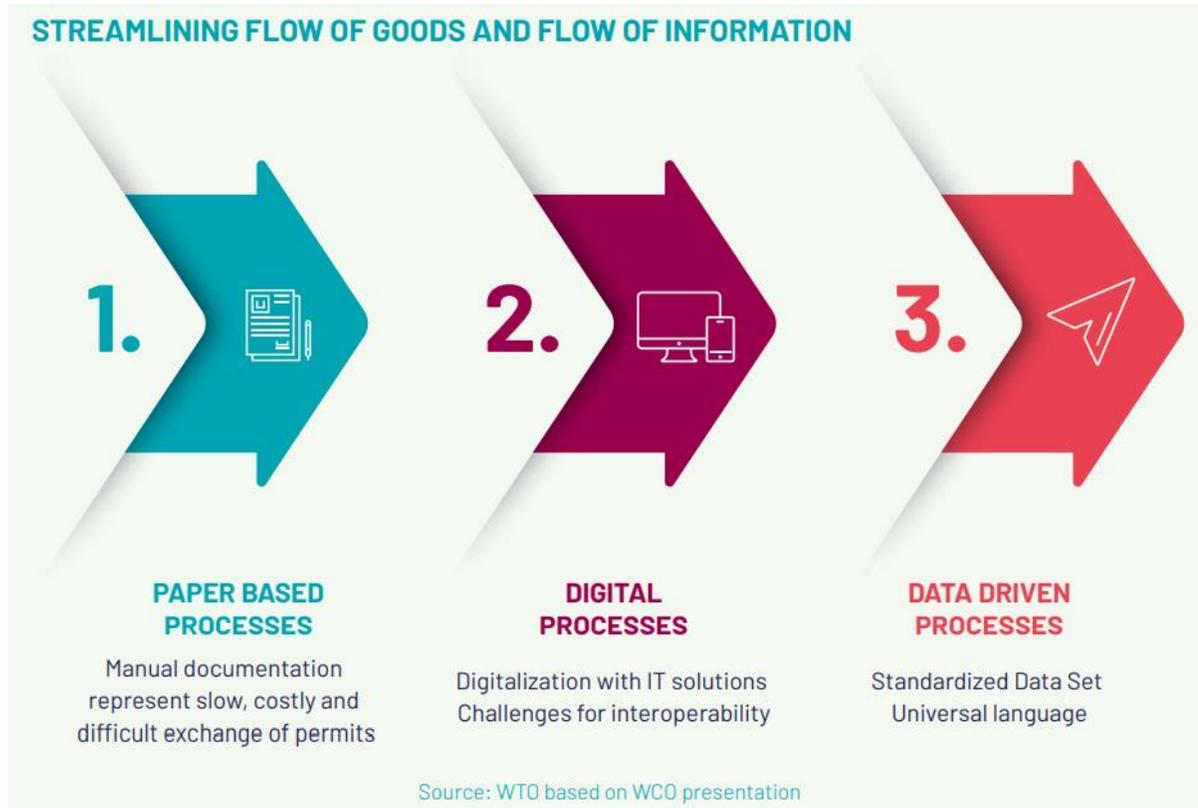


# Digitalization challenges

- **Spaghetti bowl** of platforms and systems.
- Lack of **resources/capacity** (human resources and infrastructure).
- Limited **coordination** (agency-specific) and limited efforts.
- Lack of international **standards**.
- Progress is **too slow** for cross-border exchanges.
- **Data** protection and confidentiality.



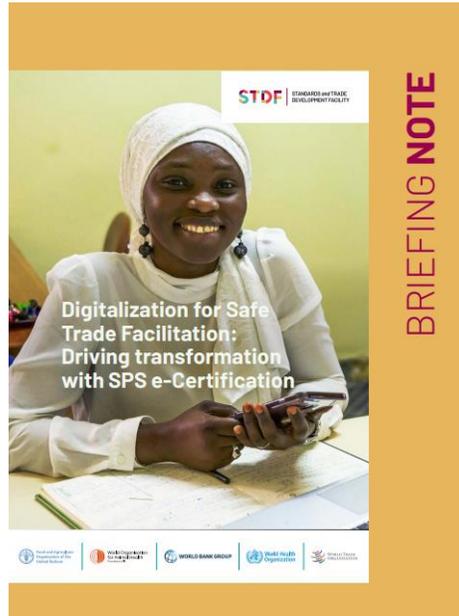
# Looking ahead: recommendations for achieving interoperability



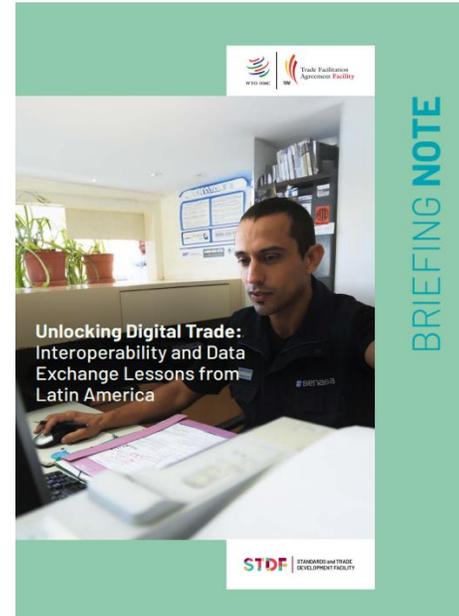
- **Cross-government collaboration:** Use of national coordination platforms.
- **Use of existing infrastructure:** Integration into national/regional Single Windows
- **Leverage existing standards** for data exchange.
- **Re-think business processes** for greater efficiency and effectiveness.
- **Put interoperability first** into the development of domestic or cross-border digital services

# Find out more

## Two new STDF briefing notes:



Digitalization for Safe Trade Facilitation:  
Driving transformation with SPS e-  
Certification (December 2024)



Unlocking Digital Trade: Interoperability  
and Data Exchange Lessons from Latin  
America (April 2025)

Available at: <https://www.standardsfacility.org/briefings>

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