



Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations

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# ePhyto-related activities of FAO REU in Europe and Central Asia

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## Background

- The IPPC Secretariat developed the **ePhyto HUB** in **2018**
- and the Generic ePhyto National System (**GeNS**) in **2019**
- Nearly **100 countries** joined by **2020**



## Early implementation in Europe and Central Asia

- Pioneers: Member States of the **European Union**
- Other countries: **Norway** (registered), **Switzerland, the United Kingdom** (testing)
- FAO programme countries: **Uzbekistan**
- Interest from **Georgia and Ukraine**



## FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia (REU)

- **FAO's mandate** covers technical **support for** the development of agriculture-related **food sectors**
- One of REU's main directions (Regional Initiative 2) covers **facilitating of market access**, which includes implementation of international standards and support for trade
- REU's **information** on the state of play in the region **was insufficient**, as well as information in the countries about ePhyto



## REU's activities in 2021

- **ePhyto questionnaire** was developed and sent to all FAO programme countries to collect information on phytosanitary certification
- **A regional webinar** was organized in cooperation with the IPPC Secretariat, International Seed Federation, Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation
- **An ePhyto factsheet** was drafted in cooperation with the IPPC Secretariat (<https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cc2956en>, published in 2022)



## REU's activities in 2022

- **FAO-funded project for Ukraine** developed to support the implementation of ePhyto and Pest Free Areas; implementation could not start because of the war
- **EBRD-FAO project** began to assess costs and benefits of ePhyto; focus countries: **Georgia, Ukraine, Uzbekistan and CEFTA**
- EBRD-FAO project: **Georgia decided to use GeNS** for their ePhyto operations; **Ukraine** will use their **national system**
- FAO revised an application to **Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF)** for **funding** to enhance the phytosanitary system in **Tajikistan**, with an ePhyto component



## REU's activities in 2023

- **Tajikistan** ready to submit the application to STDF for funding for a phytosanitary project
- The **FAO-funded project for Ukraine** has been revived and is supporting ePhyto in the country
- **FAO-EBRD ePhyto project** continues, following the progress in **Uzbekistan**, and working with **CEFTA** countries to support their efforts to join



## The future

- Current developments in the world suggest that **ePhyto is becoming a global standard** in phytosanitary certification
- When Ukraine, Georgia and CEFTA countries join ePhyto, only a **few countries in Europe and Central Asia will remain** that have not joined
- **Paper certificates** may put national exporters in **less advantageous** position
- **Conferences** such as this one **may trigger a further move** towards ePhyto implementation in Central Asia





## Challenges

- Everything starts from **political decisions**
- **Political decisions respond** to voices from the **NPPOs** or/and the **exporters**, triggered by updated information
- **NPPOs get more information** on new developments from **active participation** in regional/global cooperation under the IPPC
- **Exporters** are aware if they have **good contacts with their NPPO** and with **various export markets**



## Challenges

- Once a political decision is taken, **implementation can be supported technically and financially** from different sources
- **FAO**, together with other international organizations, stands **ready to support countries** in joining ePhyto



**Thank you for your attention**