



Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations

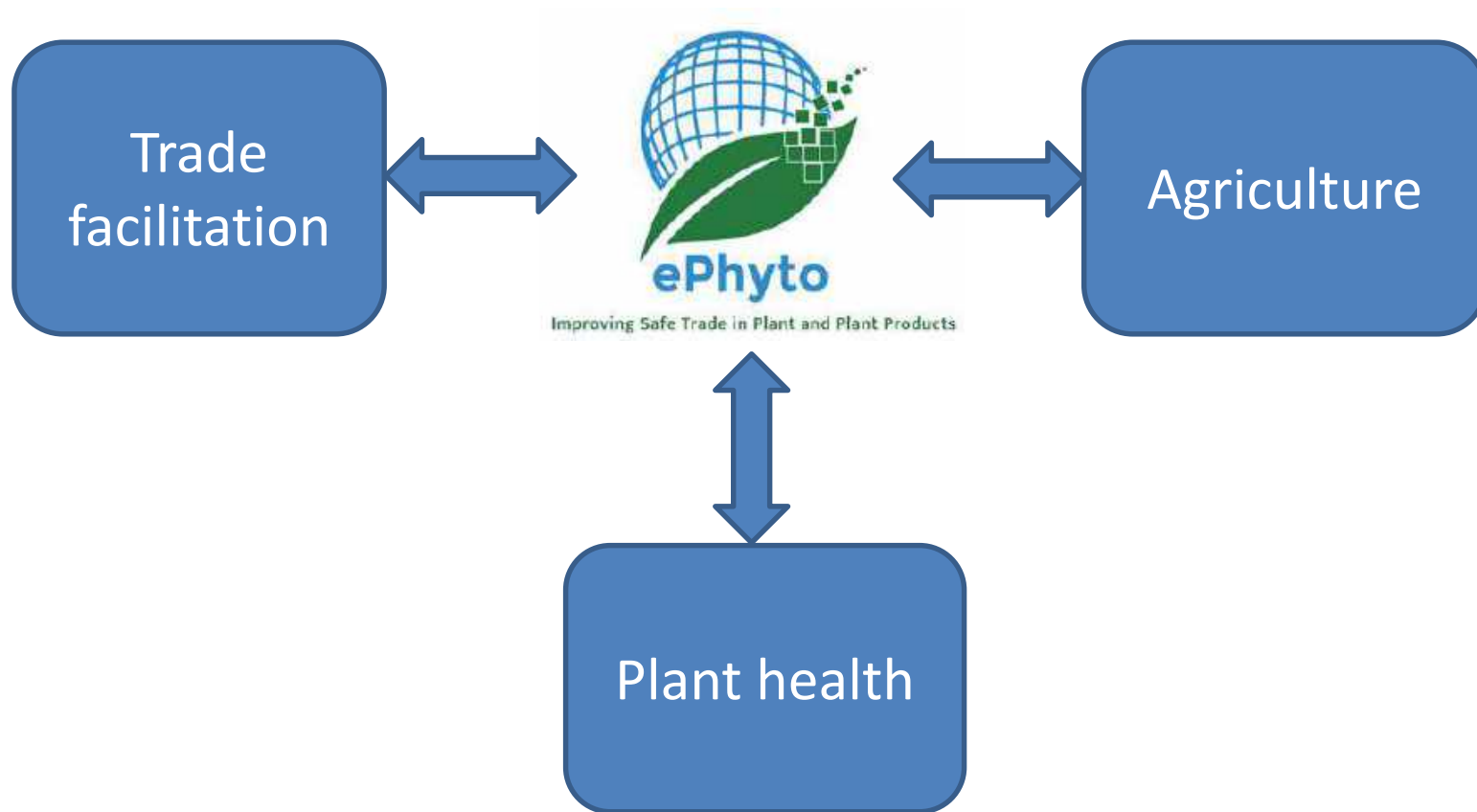
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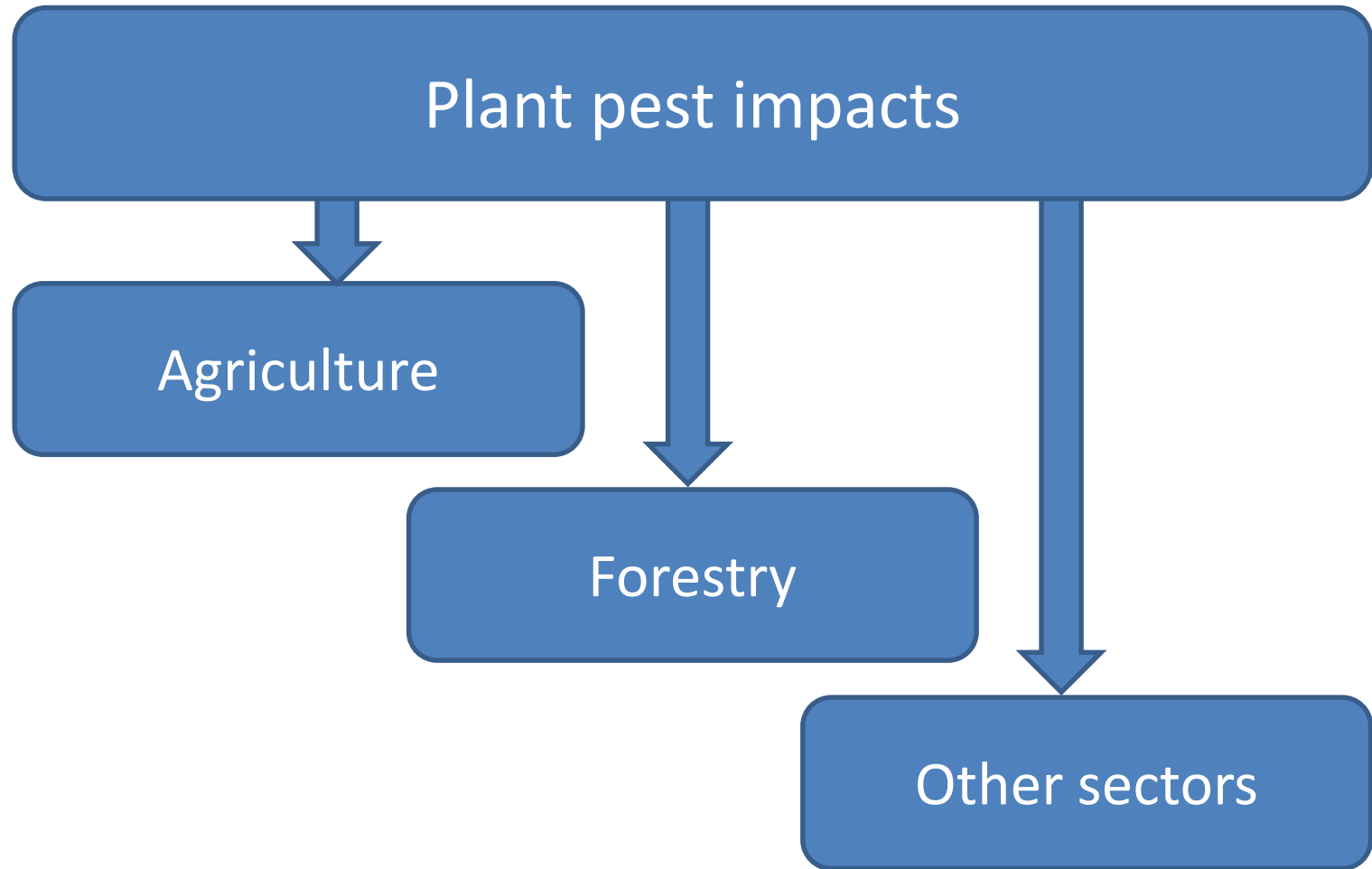
# Electronic phytosanitary certificates (ePhyto) – a new option in trade of plants and plant products

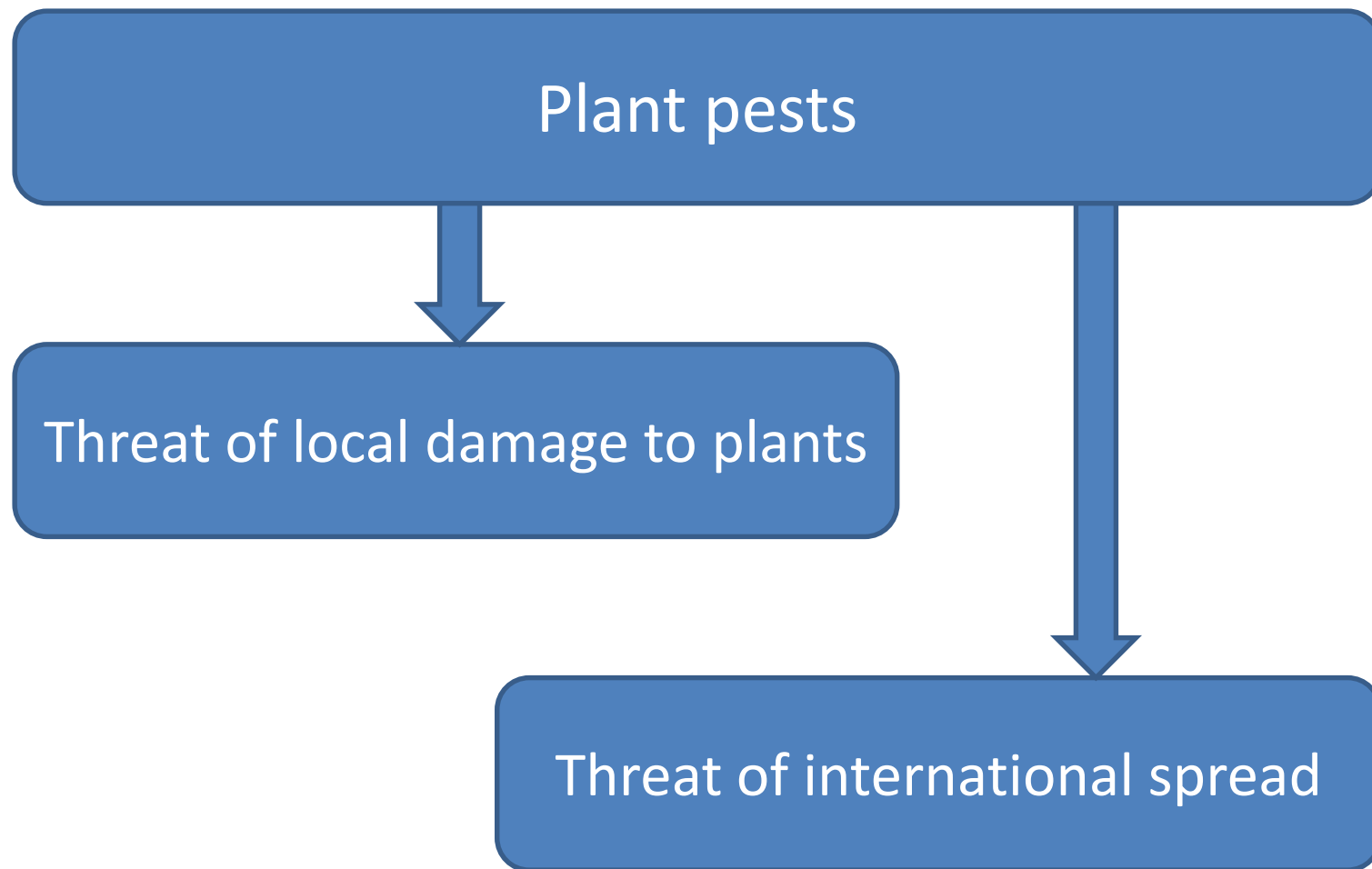
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Threat of international spread of pests

International Plant  
Protection Convention  
(IPPC)

The diagram consists of a blue rounded rectangular box at the top containing the text 'Threat of international spread of pests'. Two blue arrows point downwards from the bottom corners of this box to a blue oval shape below. The oval contains the text 'International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)'. This visualizes the causal link between the threat and the international convention.



## International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)

Art. V.1. Contracting parties make  
arrangements for **phytosanitary  
certification**

Art. V.2b. Phytosanitary certificates  
or their **electronic equivalents** shall  
be worded as in the Annex to the  
Convention, and issued taking into  
account international standards

## Phytosanitary Certificates (PCs)



REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA  
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE  
AGENCY FOR AGRICULTURAL QUARANTINE No. 351001

KT-80

FITOSANITARI CERTIFICATE

TO: PLANT PROTECTION DIRECTORATE

OF:

I. DESCRIPTION OF CONSIGNMENT

Name and address of consignor

Product name and address of consignee

Vertical and description of consignee

Originating state

Plant or fruit

Country of origin

Quantity of units

Harvest period and country of origin

Number of units

This is to certify that the plants or parts thereof and the products of the described consignment have been produced under suitable conditions and subjected to the appropriate procedures and are considered to be free from the quarantine pests listed in the phytosanitary certificate and to conform with the current phytosanitary requirements of the importing country, subject to any special requirements.

This PC is intended to be presented to the plant protection authorities of the importing country.

II. ADDITIONAL DECLARATION

III. TREATMENT AND INSPECTION TREATMENT

Treatment

Inspection

Inspection information

Plant of origin

Name of authorized officer

Date

Signature

All interested parties must request this certificate from their respective authorities. Some of the information is to be filled in by the authority or applicant.

### Phytosanitary Certificates:

*Official documents which attest that the certified consignments meet relevant phytosanitary import requirements of the country of import/transit (e.g. freedom from quarantine pests)*

# PCs in paper form



- Disadvantages of paper PCs:**
- should physically accompany the consignment in the point of entry
  - get easily damaged, destroyed or lost
  - are prone to fraud - costly prevention
  - problematic alignment with the Customs' electronic systems
- Some countries decided to develop their national systems for the issuance of electronic PCs



## Electronic PCs – national systems



REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA  
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE  
AGENCY FOR AGRICULTURAL QUARANTINE No. 351001

KT-80

FITOSANITARIEREGISTRASI

TO: PLANT PROTECTION QUARANTINE ORGANIZATION

OF:

I. DESCRIPTION OF COMMODITY

Name and address of exporter

Product name and address of origin

Harvest and description of commodity

Originating state

Plant origin

Harvest date of commodity

Harvest period and country of origin

Harvest date of origin

This is to certify that the plants or parts thereof and the products of the described commodity have been produced under suitable conditions and subjected to official inspection and are considered to be free from the organisms mentioned for the benefit of the importing party and to conform with the current phytosanitary requirements of the importing country, subject to special requirements.

This fitosanitarieregistrasi is valid for 30 days.

II. ADDITIONAL DECLARATION

III. OBSERVATION AND INSPECTION TREATMENT

Date: Treatment

Classification: Duration and conditions

Commodity: Additional information

Harvest date/period: Point of origin

Harvest date/period: Name of authorized officer

Signature: Date

All phytosanitary certificates must comply with the provisions of the International Convention for the Control of Pests and Diseases of Plants and Animals.

### Disadvantages of the national systems:

- Limited use (bilateral)
- Lack of harmonization:
  - limited recognition
  - no perspectives to expand
  - difficult to handle (a separate system in each importing country)

## Electronic PCs – the way forward

- In 2008 Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM-3) agreed to develop a global ePhyto system for the issuance and exchange of electronic PCs
- Since 2009 five global workshops and conferences were held to agree on the principles and the workplan for the development of ePhyto



## Electronic PCs – the way forward

- CPM-9 (2014) adopted Appendix 1 to ISPM 12 (*Phytosanitary certificates*): *Electronic phytosanitary certificates, information on standard XML schemes and exchange mechanisms*
- The appendix provides for the global harmonization of electronic PCs



## Electronic PCs – the ePhyto solution

The ePhyto solution contains:

- **ePhyto HUB** – a module for the exchange of certificates between countries
- **Generic ePhyto National System** – a module that allows countries to produce, send and receive certificates



## Electronic PCs – the ePhyto solution

### The ePhyto system:

- was developed as an IPPC project by the United Nations International Computing Centre, using STDF funding
- was tested with a number of countries across the world
- on 14 June 2018 the IPPC Secretariat announced that the ePhyto HUB is open for countries to use



## ePhyto – the HUB

### The ePhyto HUB:

- for countries having national systems
- facilitates the exchange of certificates between NPPOs
- does not interfere with or “read” the certificates - they are encrypted
- is in English, and will be in other languages
- test version is available



## ePhyto - GeNS

### The **Generic ePhyto National System (GeNS)**:

- allows countries to produce, send and receive electronic PCs without a national system
- uses standardized format, structure, language, and standardized codes where available
- will be completed at the end of 2018



## ePhyto - GeNS

### GeNS – the next steps:

- a pilot programme will be conducted in Nov/Dec 2018 with Samoa, Ghana and Sri Lanka
- comments and improvements
- conclusion and evaluation - early 2019
- open for countries in 2nd/3rd quarter of 2019





## ePhyto – how to join

- Joining the ePhyto system is **not obligatory** for countries
- Countries may decide to join and declare that they are ready to **accept** electronic PCs
- **Issuance** of electronic PCs requires using a national system or the GeNS



## ePhyto – why join?

The ePhyto system is seen as a tool to:

- facilitate trade
- reduce costs (paper forms, labour)
- increase transparency and efficiency
- counteract frauds
- integrate with the Customs' systems

There was strong interest of countries in the ePhyto pilot programmes



## ePhyto – why join?

There may be requests to countries/  
NPPOs to join the **ePhyto** from:

- exporters
- customs
- political authorities
- exporting countries



## ePhyto – challenges

Challenges that may be associated with joining the **ePhyto** may include:

- adjustments of legal provisions
- internet connections - availability
- computer equipment for NPPOs
- development of internal procedures
- organization and coordination
- training of NPPO staff
- awareness of exporters



## ePhyto – preparation



Countries wishing to participate in capacity development projects relating to joining the **ePhyto** may send their proposals and requests to:

FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia ([FAO-RO-Europe@fao.org](mailto:FAO-RO-Europe@fao.org))

## ePhyto – more information

For more information on **ePhyto**, please visit:

<https://www.ippc.int/en/ephyto/>

or contact:

Mr Shane Sela (Shane.Sela@fao.org)





# ePhyto

Thank you for your attention



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