



Improving Safe Trade in Plants and Plant Products

*Importance and benefits of digitalization and of the IPPC
ePhyto Solution*

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ePhyto Industry Advisory group (IAG)

Established to provide practical guidance and advice to the IPPC Secretariat on the design, development and deployment of ePhyto Solution.

- advises the IPPC Secretariat on the feasibility of the project and its ability to facilitate efficient and effective trade flows.

The IAG membership includes representatives of:

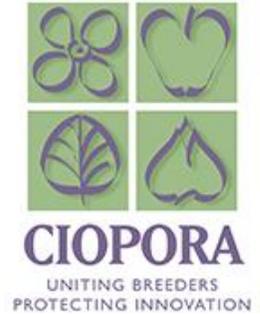
- International Seed Federation (ISF);
- International Grain Trade Coalition (IGTC);
- Freshfel Europe – European fresh fruit and vegetables chain;
- Federation of Cocoa Commerce Limited;
- International Community of Breeders of Asexually Reproduced Ornamental and Fruit Varieties (CIOPORA);
- International Wood Products Association (IWPA);
- Union Fleurs (International Flower Trade Association);
- Europatat – European potato trade association;
- National Alfalfa and Forage Association (NAFA)
- The Global Express Association
- International Cotton Advisory Committee

IAG are working to provide expertise regarding the commercial implications of the ePhyto Solution.

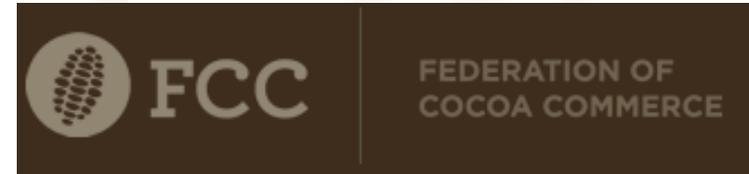
Industry Advisory Group (IAG)



**INTERNATIONAL
COTTON
ADVISORY
COMMITTEE**



IGTC
International Grain Trade Coalition



e-Phyto – Industry Advisory Group – Workshops – Focus Group

Trade associations and industry play an important role in helping to identify issues and challenges within the ephyto interoperability

The IAG is hosting several workshops between NPPOs and industry groups throughout 2021.

Objectives:

1. to help facilitate conversations between importers, exporters, trade associations and NPPO's on the benefits of adopting the IPPC ePhyto Solution and eventual use of the Hub or GeNS.

2. to understand current status of the ePhyto implementation in each country, help foster relationship between local industry and NPPO's, and initiate discussions on how the systems works.

Digitalization in plant products supply chain

Lessons from the pandemic

- The COVID-19 pandemic accelerated digitalisation in many areas
- In countries where the plant products production and certification processes were supported by digital tools the impact of disruptions to staffing and travel were less severe

The way forward

- Governments should support the digitalisation of the international plant products supply chain and should also aim to reduce the digital divide between and within the countries
- Inter-governmental digitalisation initiatives may reduce these digitalisation inequalities by providing a wide range of users with access to digital platforms
- Increasing the digitalisation of certain procedures in the plant products supply chain, and creating more open data policies would be a proactive step forward for policymakers to support more resilient systems

Optimizing seed import and export



Digital readiness in the supply chain has been revealed by the current pandemic as an urgent and critical need. Traditional links of the chain have been weakened or disrupted, and so various sectors like banking, retail and health services have taken a massive shift to electronic means of doing business.



Consumers, employees and leaders are embracing an array of digital technologies in a more accelerated pace than ever before, out of necessity and need for efficiency..



For plant products like seed and grains, global trading operations rely on steady communication and transparency in phytosanitary requirements to protect plant health and ensure international unrestricted and safe trade of goods.

Users issues with paper PCs

Different and sometimes lengthy procedures/country

Certificates get lost

Certificates have errors

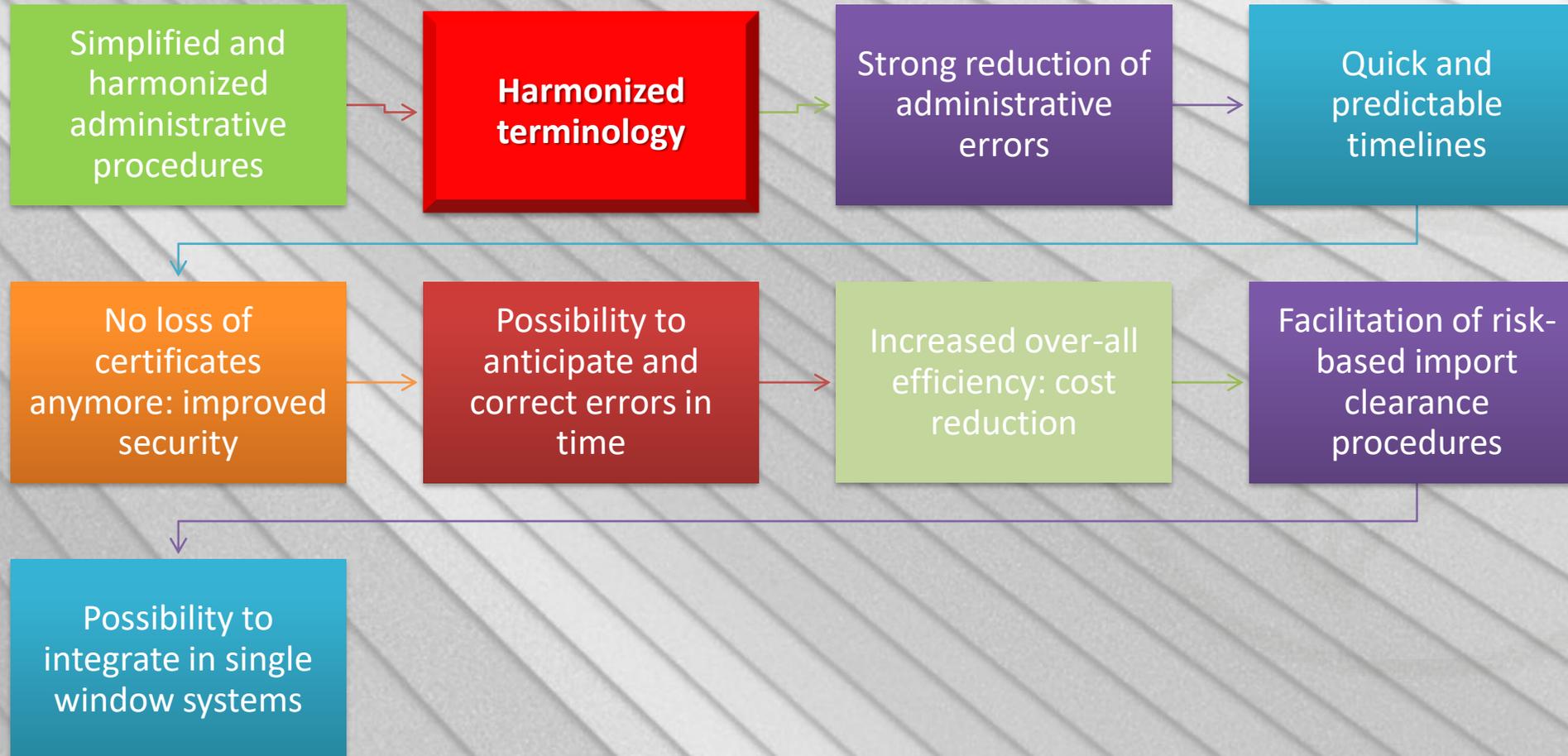
- Inconsistencies in terminology, e.g. botanical names
- Misspellings of Additional Declarations
- Missing or wrong Additional Declarations

Resulting in delays; critical for perishable products

Resulting in returns; critical for bulky products

Resulting in high costs

Advantages

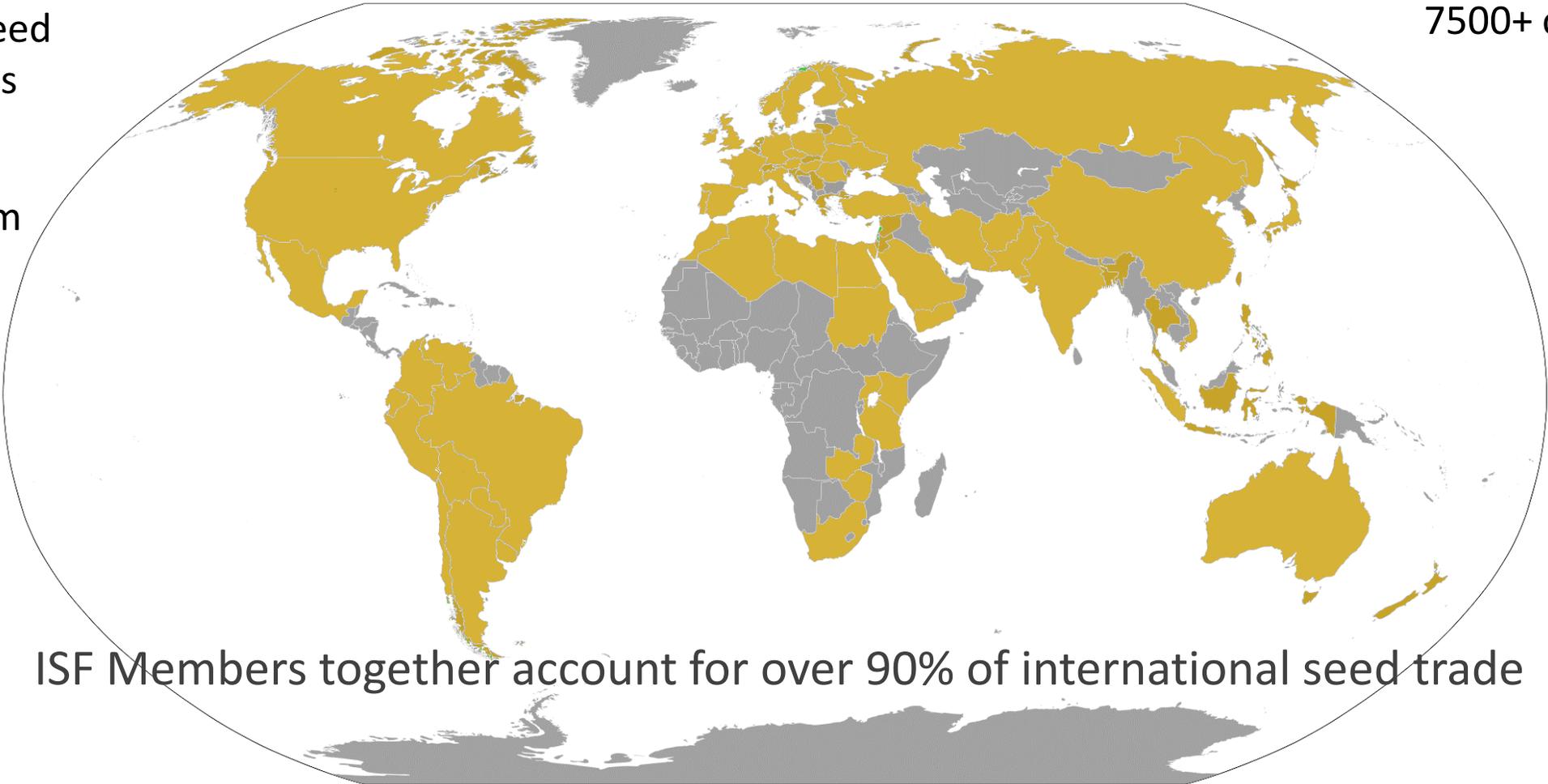


The International Seed Federation

58 National seed associations as members

Members from 75 countries

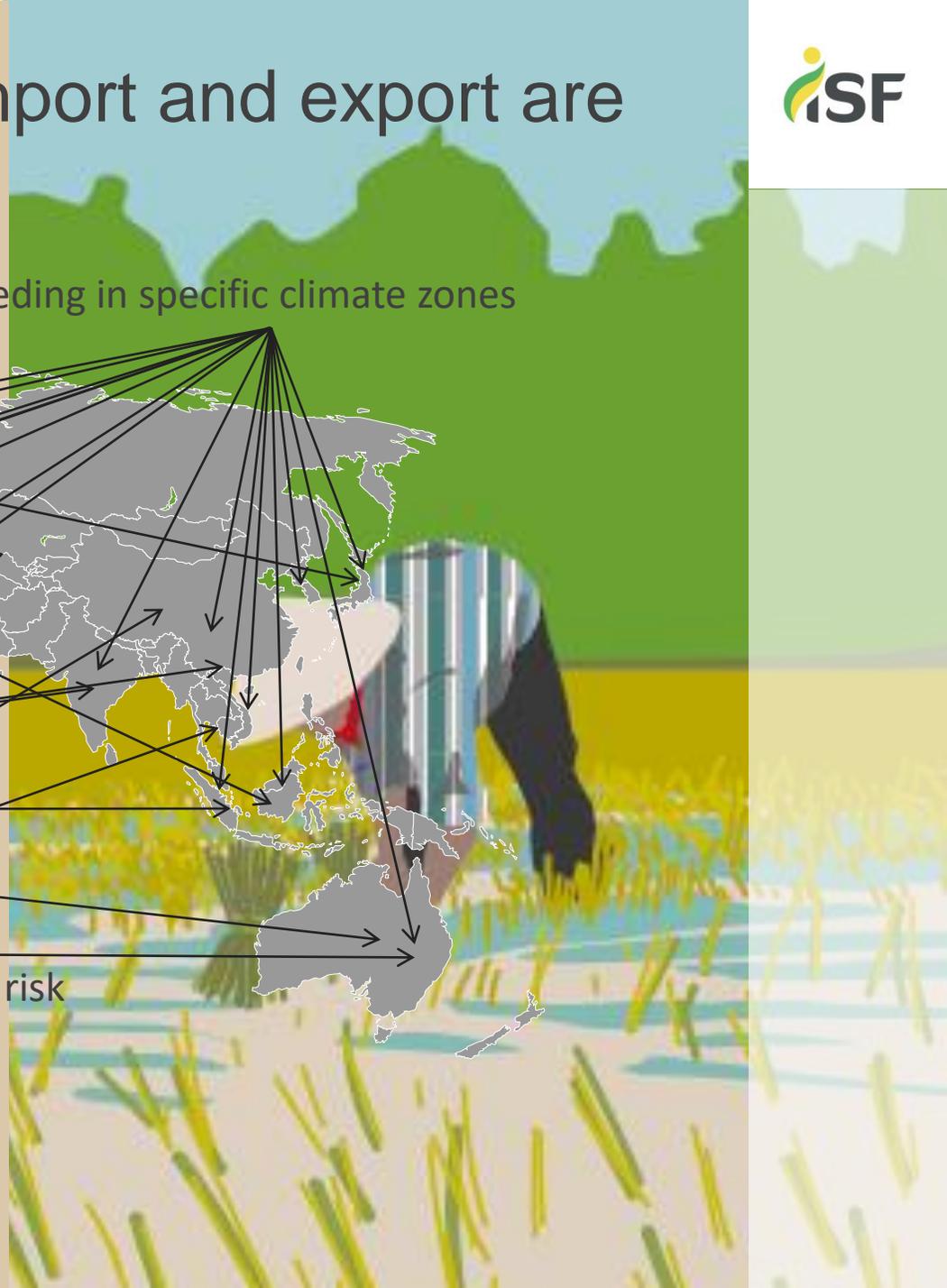
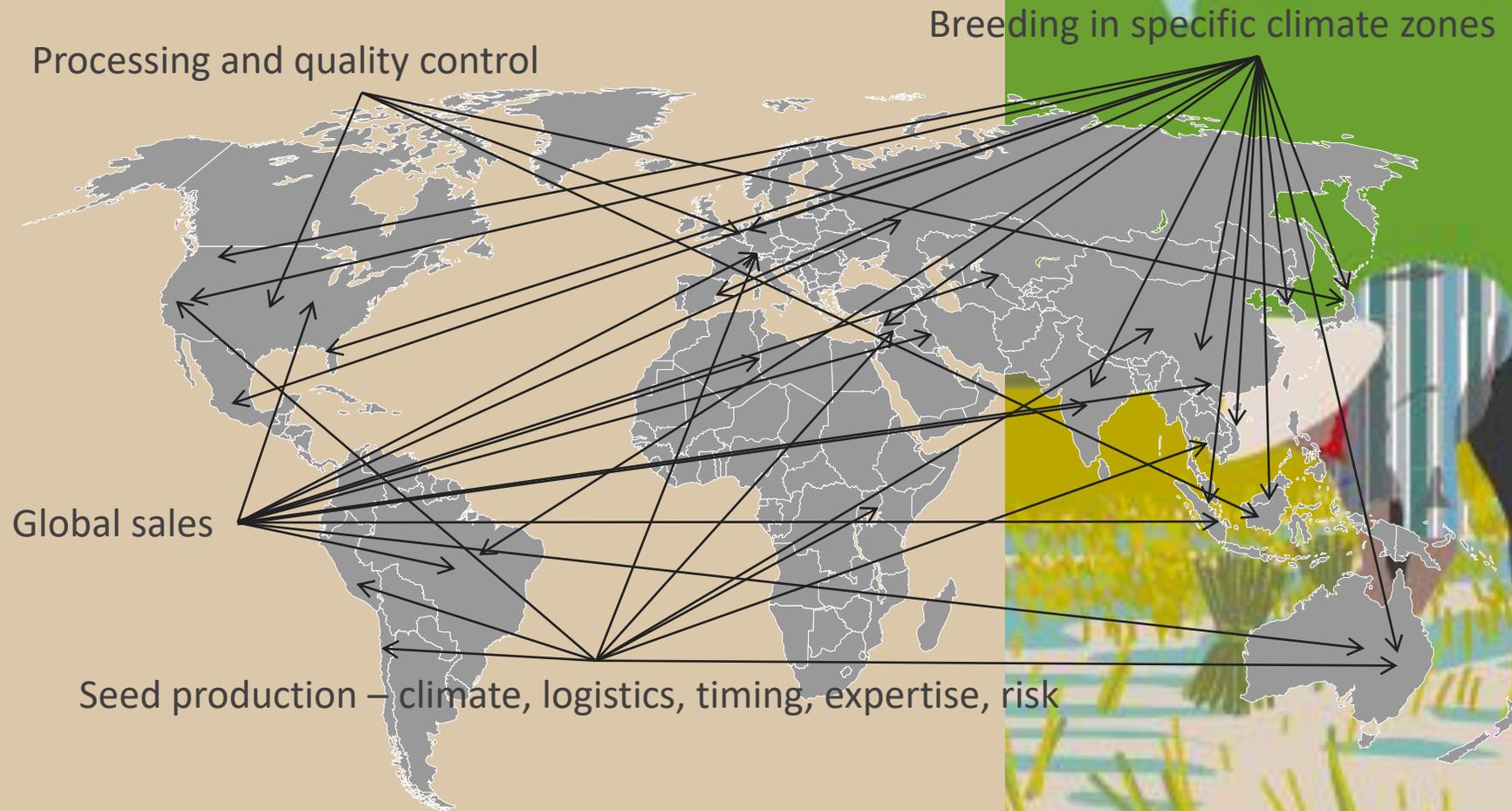
7500+ companies



ISF Members together account for over 90% of international seed trade

A non-governmental, non-profit making organization that has represented its members' interests since 1924, and is widely regarded as the voice of the global seed industry

Vegetable seed business is global - import and export are essential



Essential elements

Re-export is very common and essential in seed trade

- The information on the phytosanitary certificate of the country of production is essential for seed companies for later re-export
- Strong wish for harmonization of additional declarations to allow re-exports

Long time frame for re-export, up to ten years

- This information needs to be available for seed companies for many years after initial import
- Long transition period from paper to ePhyto is needed where scanned copies of phytosanitary certificate of origin are accepted (or transferred to an electronic form)



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ADVANTAGES

- More secure
- Shorter routes (NPPO-NPPO)
- Less delays
- Digital, structured information

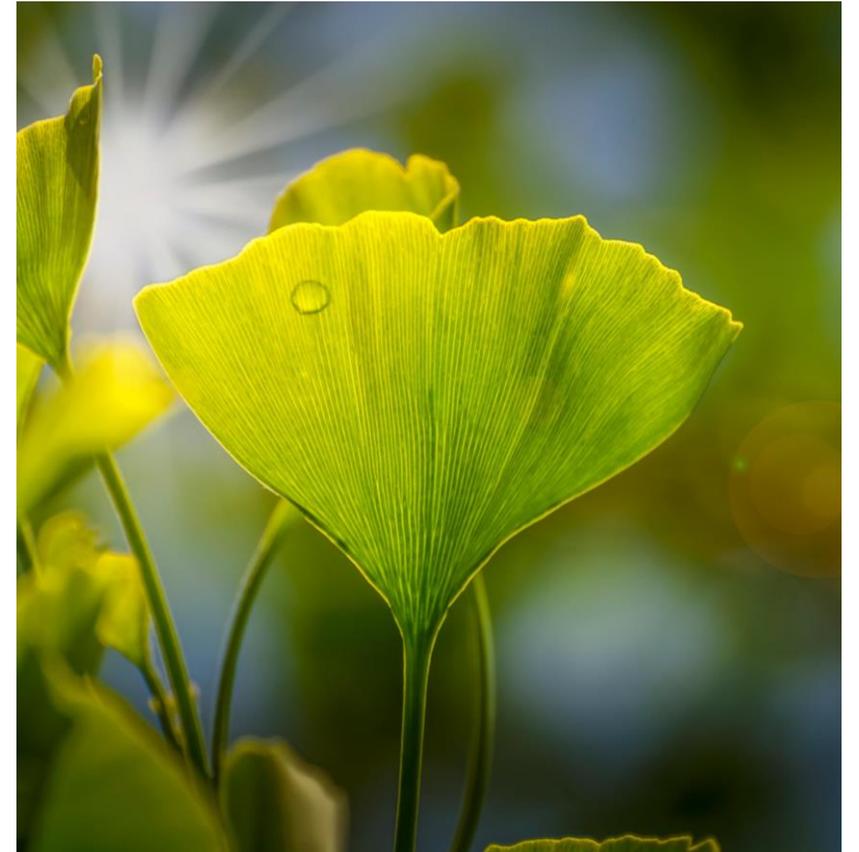
OPPORTUNITIES

- **Harmonization of requirements (terms, names)**

MESSAGE FROM THE IAG

The IAG emphasizes:

1. Support for an all-encompassing adoption of a fully functioning ePhyto exchange model, with the proactive involvement of the entire supply chain.
2. The need for private sector operators to continue to practice well-established, efficient and safe trade.
3. Government engagement with IAG industry representatives working around the world to provide practical insights on the commercial impacts of the system via the “industry case studies”, to contribute to a strong IPPC ePhyto Solution.





Seed is Life