IMPLEMENATION OF ePhyto PROJECT IN SRI LANKA

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Sri Lanka
SRI LANKA

Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

- An Island (1,340km coastal line)
- Area - 65,610 km²
- Capital – Colombo
  Sri Jayawardenapura
- Population - > 21 million
  Sinhalese 73.8%, Tamil 8.5%, Moors 7.2%,
  Buddhist 69.1%, Muslim 7.6%, Hindu 7.1%, Christian 6.2%

Latitude 5° 55. to 9° 50. North,
Longitude 79° 42. to 81° 52.
Economy

- **Labour Force**
  - 31.8% - agriculture
  - 25.8% - industry
  - 42.4% - services

- **Gross Domestic Product (GDP)**
  - Per capita: $6,200
  - composition by sector: Agriculture: 11.1%, Industry: 31.5%, Services: 57.5%

- **Agriculture & Products**
  - Rice, Tea, Rubber, Coconuts, Sugarcane, Grains, Pulses, Oilseed, Spices, milk, Eggs, Hides, Beef, Fish
NPPO

• National Plant Quarantine Service

• Plant Quarantine Activities commenced in 1880

• Present institute was established in 1994
NPQS Activities & International Commitments

• **Two major concerns**
  – Protection of Sri Lankan environment and economy from alien pest invasions – **Imports**
  – Protection of Sri Lankan economy by assuring phytosanitary quality of export plant material – **Exports**

• **Signatory to both**
  – Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) matters of the WTO
  – International Plant Protection Convention
Major Import Items to Sri Lanka

- Fresh fruits
- Vegetable seeds
- Seed potato
- Grass seeds
- Planting material
- Animal feed: Wheat, Soybean meal
- Plant products: Fiber, Bamboo, Rattan, Sorghum heads
- Human consumption: Groundnut, Cashew, Cocoa, Pop corn, Herbal cuts
## Major Import Partners

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plant Commodity</th>
<th>Main Exporters</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fresh fruits &amp; vegetables</td>
<td>China, Australia, India, Egypt, Pakistan, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Animal feeds</td>
<td>USA, India, Malaysia, Pakistan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timber</td>
<td>Malaysia, South Africa, Finland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seed Potato</td>
<td>Netherland, USA, France</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Onion and Potatoes</td>
<td>India, Pakistan, China, Bangladesh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pulses</td>
<td>India, Vietnam, Canada, Australia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ground nut, Pop corn</td>
<td>India, South Africa</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Regulation of Imports
Import Licensing

Request for import an article

An item that already importing
- Same origin: Issuance of Import permit/license
- Different origin: Compatibility with available PRA → Continue PRA
  - Continue PRA

New Article
- Check whether a regulated article → Continue PRA
  - Continue PRA

Management Options
- For each shipment
- 03 months validity
- Issuance / rejection of Import license
  - Can be extended for another 03 months
Custom Notification on the Consignment Entry

Registration of Import Consignment

Document Checks

Inspection

Laboratory Testing/Post Entry Isolation

Release

Rejection of Entry, Re-export, Destruction

Treatment
Major Agricultural Export Items from Sri Lanka

- Coconut Products
- Tea
- Spices
- Rubber
- Fresh fruits & fresh vegetables
- Live plants
- Wooden items
- Food stuff
- Animal feed
## Major (Agricultural) Export partners

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plant Commodity</th>
<th>Main importers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tea</td>
<td>EU countries, Russia, Turkey, Iran &amp; Iraq</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rubber</td>
<td>USA, Japan, Canada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coconut and Coconut Products</td>
<td>EU countries, Turkey, Egypt, China, USA, Maldives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fresh Fruits and Vegetables</td>
<td>EU countries, Middle East countries, Maldives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ornamental Plants</td>
<td>EU countries, Korea, Maldives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spices</td>
<td>EU countries, India, EU countries</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Regulation of Exports

Exporter makes a request to fulfill import conditions

Analysis of the request

Categorization according to the import requirements

Notify relevant Technical Division on the request

Visit to the site

Re evaluation of import conditions by the TDs

Sample collection and Site Inspections

Compilation of Technical report by each TD

Submission of the report

Final report

Submission of the report to the Exit port

3rd evaluation of import conditions

Pre export mandatory inspection for conformity

Issuance of Phytosanitary Certificates

Treatment

Sample Analysis

Sample Analysis and Site Inspections

Compilation of Technical report by each TD

Submission of the report

Final report

Notification to the exporter

Notification of consignment to exit point

Terminate export activity

Exporter Operations Division

Technical Labs

Borders
Phytosanitary Certification at Airport, Katunayake

- Registration of Exporters
- Submission of Export Application with Commodity List
- Pre Export Mandatory Verification for Conformity
  - Test Reports
  - Treatment Certification
  - No Objection Letters from relevant Institutes
  - Other Certificates
  - Bill of Lading
  - Parties copy from the Department of Customs
- Inspection of Consignment
- Final Approval for Export
- Issuance of Phytosanitary Certificate
Phytosanitary Certification at Sea port, Colombo

Registration of Exporters

Request for Export Registration

Consignment Inspection/ Sample Testing/ Laboratory Tests (NPQS/ or other laboratories)

Prior-Approval for Export

Pre Export Mandatory Verification for Conformity

Final Approval for Export

Issuance of Phytosanitary Certificate

- Test Reports
- Treatment Certification
- No Objection Letters from relevant Institutes
- Other Certificates
- Bill of Lading
- Parties copy from the Department of Customs
Export Inspection
Phytosanitary Certificates are issued

• To attest that the Plants, Plant products and other regulated articles
• meet the phytosanitary import requirements of the importing country.
• are in conformity with the certifying statement.
• are certified in accordance with the ISPM 12.
Types of Phytosanitary Certificates in Sri Lanka

• Phytosanitary certificates for exports
• Phytosanitary certificates for re-exports
• Electronic Phytosanitary certificates for exports and re-exports
Phytosanitary Certificates Issued

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Airport</td>
<td>59624</td>
<td>58591</td>
<td>58828</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seaport</td>
<td>42199</td>
<td>43295</td>
<td>43605</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>101823</td>
<td>101886</td>
<td>102433</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What is Electronic Phytosanitary Certification?

• Is NOT a copy of a printed Phytosanitary certificate that is emailed.
• Secured data set using XML for transmission securely and electronically between an exporting and an importing NPPO.
• Equivalent of a paper Phytosanitary certificate and may be used if accepted by the NPPO of the importing country.
Why ePhyto is Important to Sri Lanka?

- Speed up Information exchange.
- Reduced cost.
- Minimizes opportunities for fraud.
- Creates opportunity to align with the ‘Single Window’ initiatives.
The Process

1. NPPO of the exporting country creates electronic certificate on generic system.
2. NPPO of the importing country reads certificate.
4. NPPO authenticated.
5. NPPO retrieves message or hub sends message to NPPO.
7. Message delivered to hub.

Transmission of an ePhyto
Key Players of ePhyto Issuing Process

- NPPOs of both importing and exporting countries
- Exporters
- Importers
- Department of customs
- Government institutes that issuing “No objection letters”
  - TRI - CDA
  - RRI - Department of Forest
  - RRDI - Department of Export Agriculture
Based on the Global Survey Conducted by the IPPC

- Ten countries participate in piloting the hub with their existing National Systems (Argentina; Australia; Chile; China; Ecuador; Kenya; The Republic of Korea; The Netherlands; New Zealand; USA).

- Five countries confirmed their willingness to participate in the pilot using Generic ePhyto National System (GeNS) after implementation (Egypt; Ghana; Guatemala; Samoa; Sri Lanka).

(Source: IPPC)
During the Implementation Period of the ePhyto

Both
• Manual and
• Electronic processes

Will work together for some time
Expected System Changes

• Laboratory test report and treatment certification will be submitted to exit ports via GeNS.

• Other supporting documents will be submitted via GeNS to the entry points by exporters.

• The Phytosanitary certificate will be issued for export based on the assessment via GeNS provided all the supporting documents are available.

• The custom notification on the consignment entry may not be required in future since GeNS will be providing information to relevant entry points about the arrival of consignment.

• The use of paper registers for manual recording will become redundant after GeNS is implemented.
Expected System Changes

• No prior approval for export is necessary and bill of lading and customs declaration is not required to issue the Phytosanitary certificate as currently operated.

• The use of registers for recording will become redundant after GeNS is implemented, as the information will be recorded electronically in the system.

• Current verification processes at Colombo, Sea port on assessing shipment records provided by exporter with bill of lading for compliance before issuing Phytosanitary certificates will be redundant
What have we so far achieved?

- Government commitment throughout the hierarchy.

- Funds for required infrastructure were requested and allocated by the 2016 Government budget.

- Cabinet approval.

- An agreement has been prepared to sign between Ministry of Agriculture, Sri Lanka and Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources Department Australia requesting technical assistance for ePhyto.
• Work in close cooperation with Exporters, Export Development Board, Sri Lanka Customs and the Chamber of Commerce, Sri Lanka.

• An Industry awareness session was conducted in December 2016 for stakeholders with the support received from the Chamber of Commerce, Sri Lanka.
What have we so far achieved, Cont. . . ,

• Project Manager, Technical Manager and Secretary are operating for GeNS implementation and management.

• The process maps have been prepared to regulate business processes for exports/imports in airports and sea ports.

• Stakeholder database for exporters/importers is finalised.

• Lists of importers and exporters, commodity lists with HS codes are compiled.
## Infrastructure Development for ePhyto Implementation in Sri Lanka

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Desktop Pc</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virus Guard</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UPS</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Printers</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Routers with Internet connections</td>
<td>06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Backup Server</td>
<td>07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laptop for technical Solutions</td>
<td>01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laptop</td>
<td>06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colour Printers</td>
<td>02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tabs</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Many GeNS work stations will be developed during this year as follows;

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIA</td>
<td>06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seaport, Colombo</td>
<td>06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NPQS, Katunayake</td>
<td>02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PQS, Gannoruwa</td>
<td>02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MRIA, Mattala</td>
<td>01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seaport, Hambanthota</td>
<td>01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>17</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Potential for ePhyto Sustainability

• Key industry bodies are willing to endorse the implementation of GeNS as potential benefit. This will significantly surpass the initial costs.

• Sri Lanka could contribute a fee for ongoing ePhyto exchange/maintenance after implementation (with the aim of recovering this fee from ePhyto users (exporters and importers).

• Allocations from the government budget will be possible to ensure the sustainability of GeNS.

• Sri Lanka also has the capacity to develop contingency plans to regulate its business processes after GeNS is implemented.
SWOT Analysis

• **Strengths**
  - Government's consent & leadership
  - Willingness of the industry and other stakeholders
  - Qualified staff
  - Ability to work in English
  - Ability to do team work

• **Weaknesses**
  - Limited space for inspection
  - Limited facilities for inspection
  - Potential high cost for Phytosanitary certification with GeNS
  - (needs to be reviewed to regulate ePhyto GeNS and certificate exchange charges).
SWOT Analysis

• **Opportunity**

  Sri Lanka has been selected by the IPPC as pilot country to implement the GeNS

• **Threat**

  Continuous support for electronic Phytosanitary certification
  Government request to go on automation ASAP.
We Need

• Training
• Funds for initial stage:
  ➢ system establishment,
  ➢ awareness and,
  ➢ Operational activities.
• Cooperation from the international community.
• Consultancy/ Advice etc.,
We Expect

- Initial deployment of ePhyto in Sri Lanka with the support from IPPC, APPPC and Australian Department of Agriculture & Water Resources ASAP
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

• Ministry of Agriculture, Sri Lanka
• Director General of Agriculture
• Australian Department of Agriculture & Water Resources (DAWR)
• Peter Neimanis (Chair), ePhyto Steering Group
• Chin Karunaratne, Senior Project Scientist, DAWR.
Thank You!