

## Country Report

Sri Lanka National Plant Quarantine Service is fully comply with the guidelines given by the ISPM 12 and its Appendix 1. The Phytosanitary certificate issued by Sri Lanka is organized in a manner that all the necessary information required for certification is included.

Sri Lanka has not initiated the issuance of e-phyto and still the hard copy certificates are issued. However, the structure of certificate is digitalized and therefore it will be easier to convert in to E-phyto. But still the structure comply with the hard copy certificate and do not comply with UNCEFACT SPS Schema given by the IPPC.

The legal background of Sri Lanka does not restrict usage of electronic documentation and electronic transactions. It is not specified by the Plant protection related acts, but a new generalized act is in action for the regulation of electronic transactions by which the government influence and encourage public institutions to convert in to electronic digitalized system.

The Department of Agriculture Sri Lanka, (where the National Plant Quarantine Service is also a part of it) has a separate technical division to develop information and communication facilities related to Department institutions. Therefore, the National Plant Quarantine Service has the initiative to start e-phyto system.

However, due to issues in infrastructure and technological barriers, the National Plant Quarantine Service of Sri Lanka was not yet able to initiate the activities. Since our officers have a very good IT knowledge, they can be trained easily to handle the new system. But we need to purchase hardware to establish the system, and we need to develop the software system to respond for requests on issuance of phytosanitary certificates to the exporters, to accept the phytosanitary certificates from other countries and to issue phytosanitary certificates.

For all these activities, which Sri Lanka has the technical capacity (by outsourcing) we need financial support. Sri Lanka is willing to join the e-phyto system in the future.