

Piloting ephyto certification in Ethiopia

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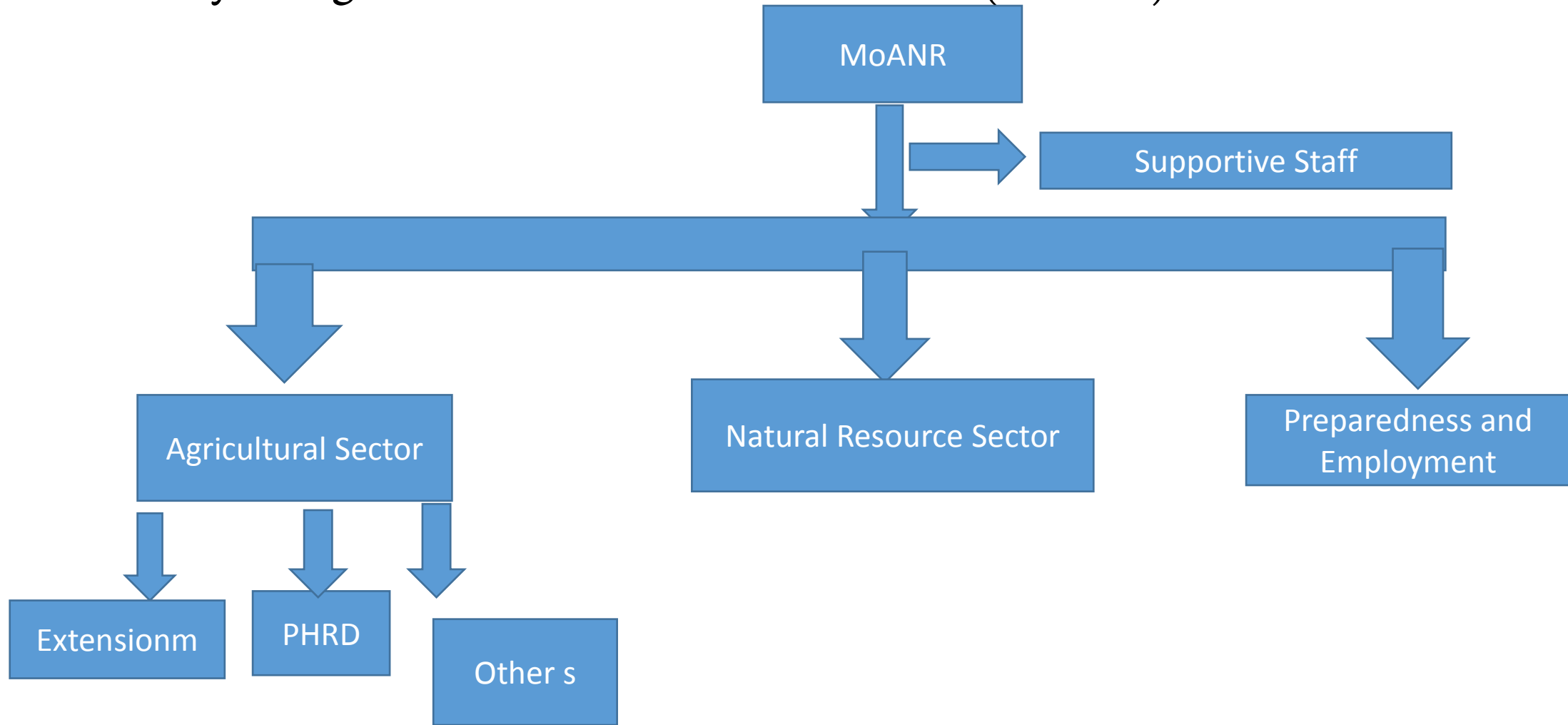


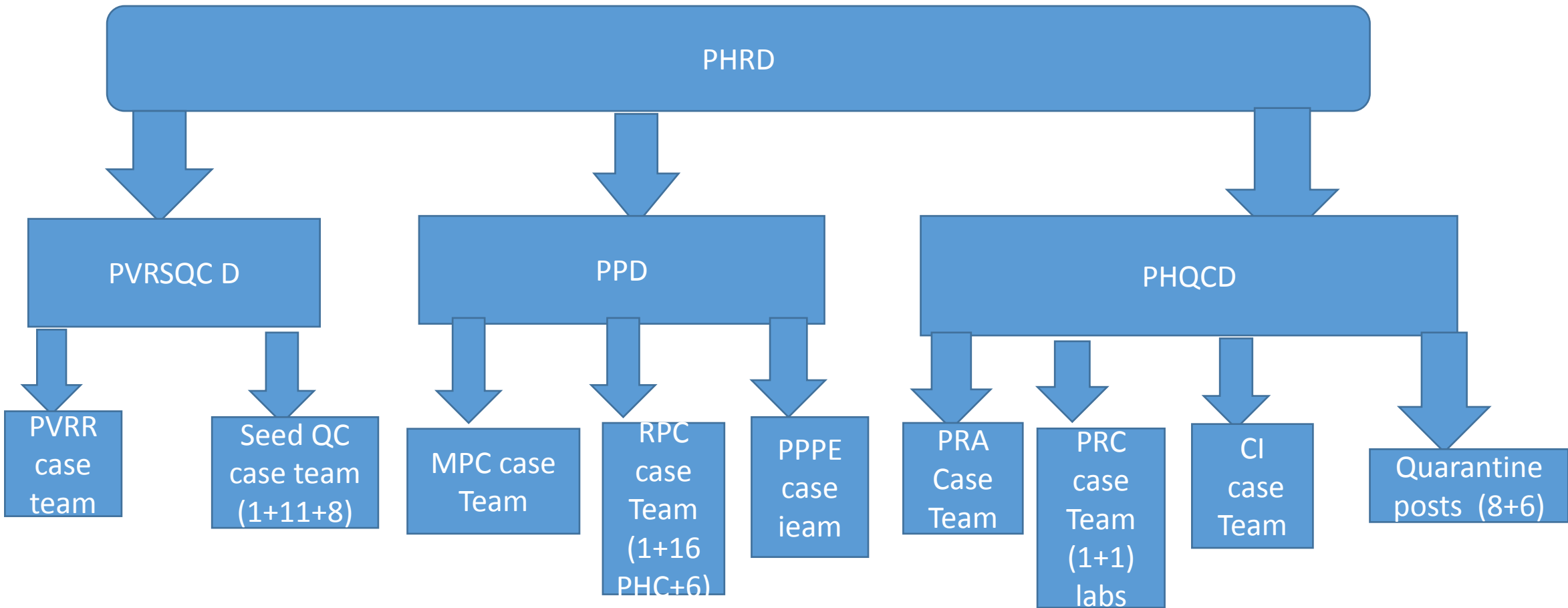
1. Introduction

- **Agriculture** is the foundation of the **Ethiopia's** economy, accounting for half of GDP, 83.9% of exports, and 80% of total employment.
- Ethiopia has a diverse agro-ecological zone, suitable for the production of different crops.
- It is center of origin and diversity for many crops.
- It produces Cereals, pulses, oil crops, different horticultural crops including flowers.
- The exportable crops produced and exported are **Oil crops** (Sesame, Noug), **Pulses** (chickpea, Haricot bean, soya bean, green gram), **stimulant crops** (coffee and tea), **Horticultural crops** (Flowers, herbs and fruits).
- It also **imports different type** of crops (for **seed** and **consumption**) from different countries of the world

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- To protect its crop diversity and other countries according to the international agreements and standards from pests, the country has a **regulatory** body under the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resource (MoANR)





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- **Phytosanitary certification** is an important tool used **to facilitate the movement of plants, plant products and other regulated articles in** the international trade.
- In the certification process **application for inspection** is considered as a primary step to achieve the objective
- The **regulatory body responsible** to issue the phytosanitary certificate needs **to make sure that the consignment is inspected** for its compliance with the international standards.
- More than 45, 500 phytosanitary certificate are given every year

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- Phytosanitary certificate is issued upon the fulfillment of the import requirements of the importing countries.
- Phytosanitary certificate can be issued in paper format or electronic form
- Electronic certification offers important benefits to businesses and governments through:
 - ✓ reduced transaction costs,
 - ✓ lower administrative burdens and,
 - ✓ the timely and secure exchange of information between competent authorities.
- With the above background Ethiopia considered the importance of e-phyto certification as means of improving efficiency and effectiveness.

2. Piloting ephyto certification in Ethiopia

- To fulfill its needs in the e-phyto certification **Ethiopia** requested the assistance of the **kingdom of The Netherlands** and secured technical assistance in collaboration with **UNCTAD**
- The automation of multiagency business processes for issuing control and monitoring of electronic phytosanitary certificates plays an important role in the implementation of the e-electronic governance concept
- The efficient transactional interaction between **national customs administration, ministry of agriculture** (plant health services), **traders** and **farmers** in the **single window environment** brings benefits to all parties involved through facilitating trade in agricultural products

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- An electronic phytosanitary certificate **module** known as **ASYCER** has been developed in collaboration with ERCA for practical implementation of ephyto certification
- The Kingdom of The **Netherlands** provided financial resources to UNCTAD high level expertise to develop the ASYCUDA based **e-certification as pilot in Ethiopia**.
- the module **integrated** the relevant functions of the **ASYCUDA world system** and The **Netherlands export control system**
- All functions, templates, electronic documents formats of messages , data elements are fully **aligned** with **international** and **European standards**
- The module allows to **automate** the entire process from the **creation of an electronic application** to its **management** by competent national authorities, evaluation of criteria, issuing the electronic phytosanitary certificate, monitoring and control over its use in the **secure** and **real time** environment .

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- The ASYCER as a product of UNCTAD ASYCUDA has **user friendly interface** containing **clear instructions** for all operations to be performed in the system by relevant user groups according to their roles .
- In Ethiopia **few flower** producing **farms** were **selected** for the piloting of the **ephyto** certification and were **trained** how to use the system
- In the exercise of the ephyto development, the UNCTAD experts **trained** inspectors of the Ethiopian **NPPO** and the **IT** experts within the MoA and ERCA.

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- The server of the ASYCER was **housed** at ERCA linked to the IT services of the MoA.
- Such arrangement was preferred because the system was based on the ASYCUDA world which the customs are familiar in its use and application at that time.

3. Major challenges encountered during piloting

- Turn over of trained personnel from the government institution (ERCA and MoA)
- Inconvenience of the location of the server in using the system
- Absence of dedicated personnel in maintaining the server at the ERCA
- Absence of VPN in the ministry of agriculture

4. Recommendations

- Further technical **training** to the **inspectors, traders,** and **IT** staffs is needed
- The possibility of **relocating** the server from **ERCA** to **MoANR**
- **IT** services need to be assessed to enable the ministry to assign a dedicated **IT** profesional to maintain, operate, and use the system (already **assessed** but **needs raining**)
- the **fullfilment** of **IT equipement** necessary for the **implementaion** of system
- **Awareness creation** to all stakeholders
- **Scale up** and **connecting** to the **quarantine posts**
- Continuous **follow up** until it is well **managed** by **NPPO** staffs

THANK YOU FOR
YOUR ATTENTION



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