

# Electronic Phytosanitary Certification

A Presentation by the  
International Plant Protection Convention  
Secretariat



# Definitions – ePhyto Certificate

**An electronic phytosanitary certificate.**

**Is NOT a copy of a printed phytosanitary certificate that is emailed.**

**Is a secured data set using XML for transmission securely and electronically between an exporting and an importing NPPO.**

**Is the equivalent of a paper phytosanitary certificate and may be used if accepted by the NPPO of the importing country.**

# CPM 9 (2014) decisions

**Encouraged the ePhyto Steering Group urgently to continue its work including:**

- increasing awareness
- facilitating capacity development opportunities (with the Capacity Development Committee)
- finalising procedures for maintenance of harmonised terms, codes and transmission protocols
- updating transmission protocols and the databases of harmonised terms and codes
- continuing with the analysis of a possible ePhyto hub taking into account the recommendations in the summary of the ePhyto Hub Feasibility Study provided in CPM 2014/INF/13; and,

**Requested the CPM Bureau to report back to CPM-10 (2015) on the progress made on ePhyto, and providing adequate information to the CPM to make decisions on how to proceed with ePhyto.**

# Two Critical Technical Components

- **Harmonisation**
- **Efficient Electronic Transmission**



# Harmonisation

**ISPM 7, ISPM 12 and now Appendix to ISPM 12 provide excellent basis for harmonisation.**

**Using the same fields and terms**

**Transmitting the information in a consistent format**

**Steering Group working on establishing datasets for common fields/terms used in phytosanitary certificates.**

**Steering group will work with Secretariat to establish processes to keep these up to date.**

**Harmonisation simplifies and reduces the cost of trade.**

**Maintaining and strengthening harmonisation will benefit all NPPOs.**



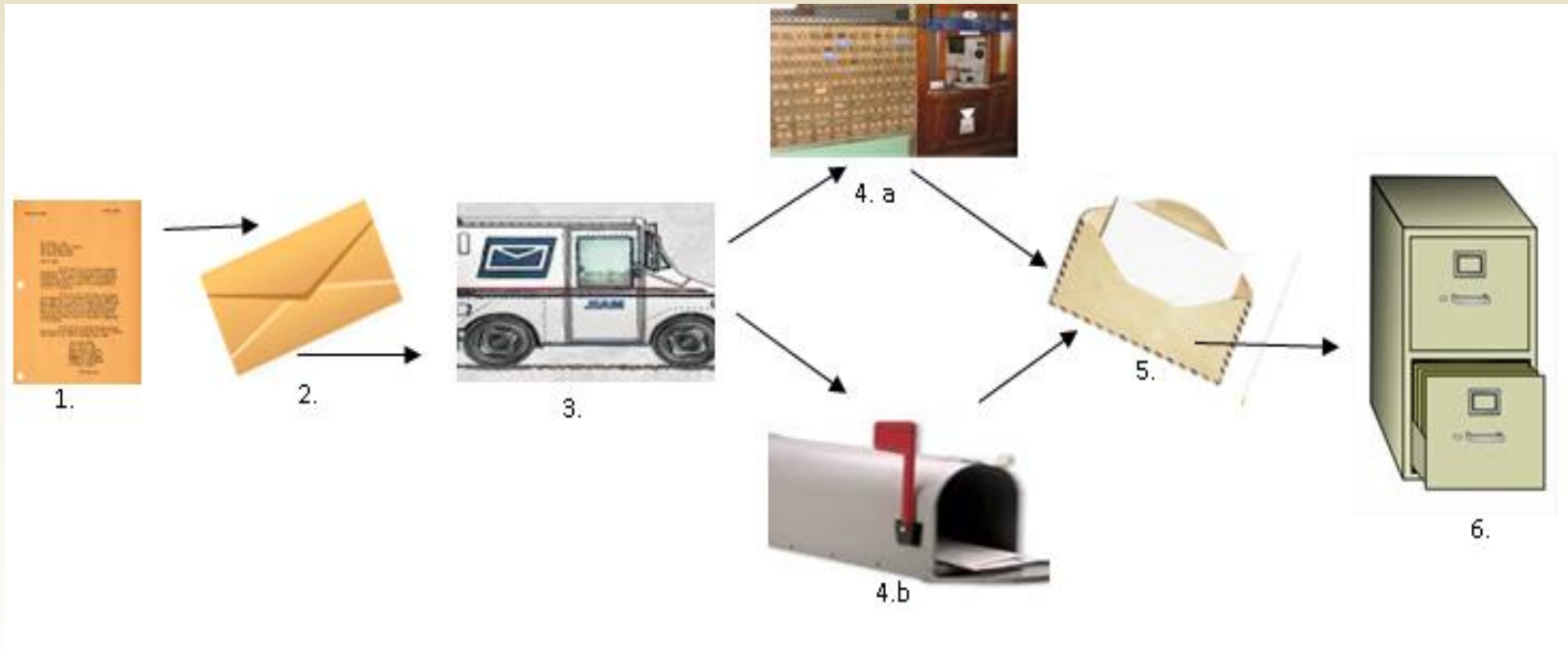
# Efficient Electronic Transmission

Electronic transmission speeds up information exchange, reduces cost, minimises opportunity for fraud, creates opportunity to align with 'single window' initiatives.

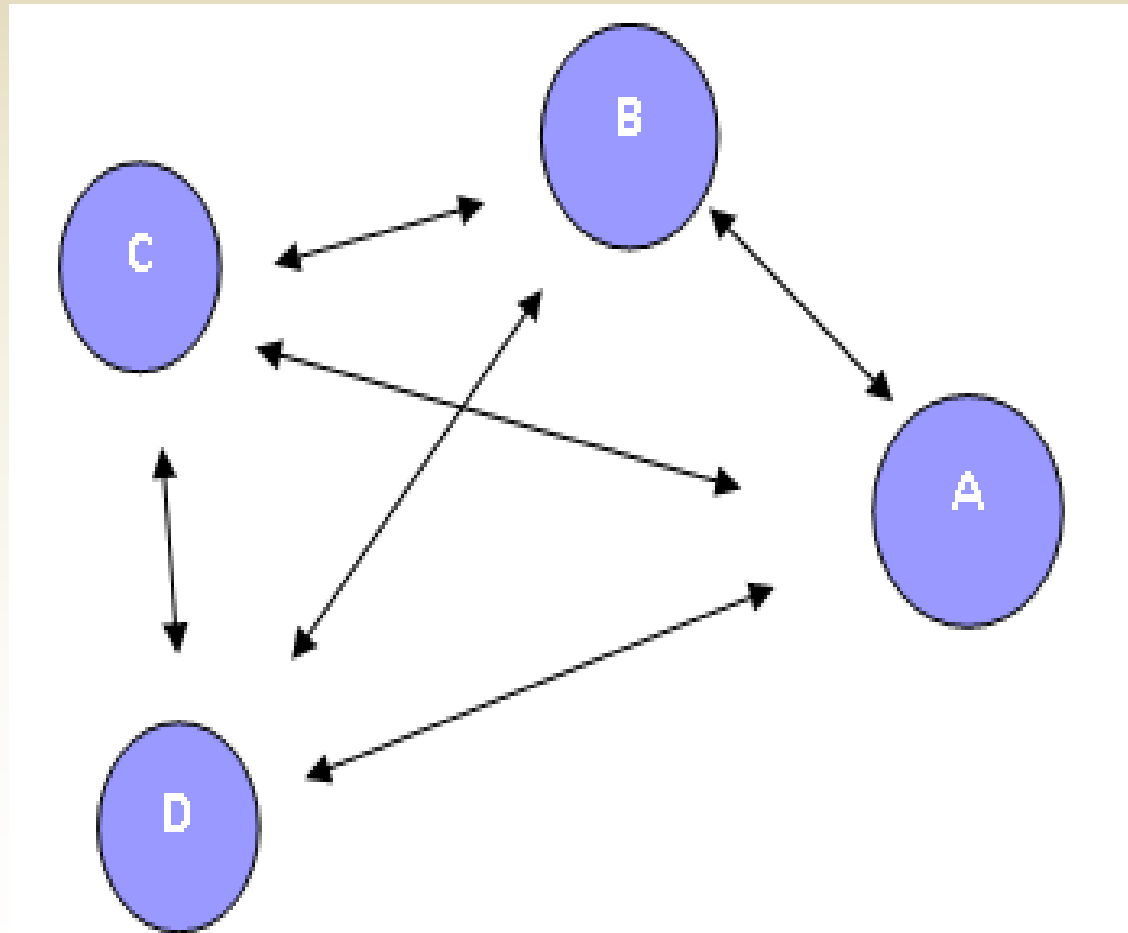
Steering Group are continuing to analyse all issues associated with establishing a hub (single point), or point-to-point transmission of electronic phytosanitary certificate information.



# Basic Functionality

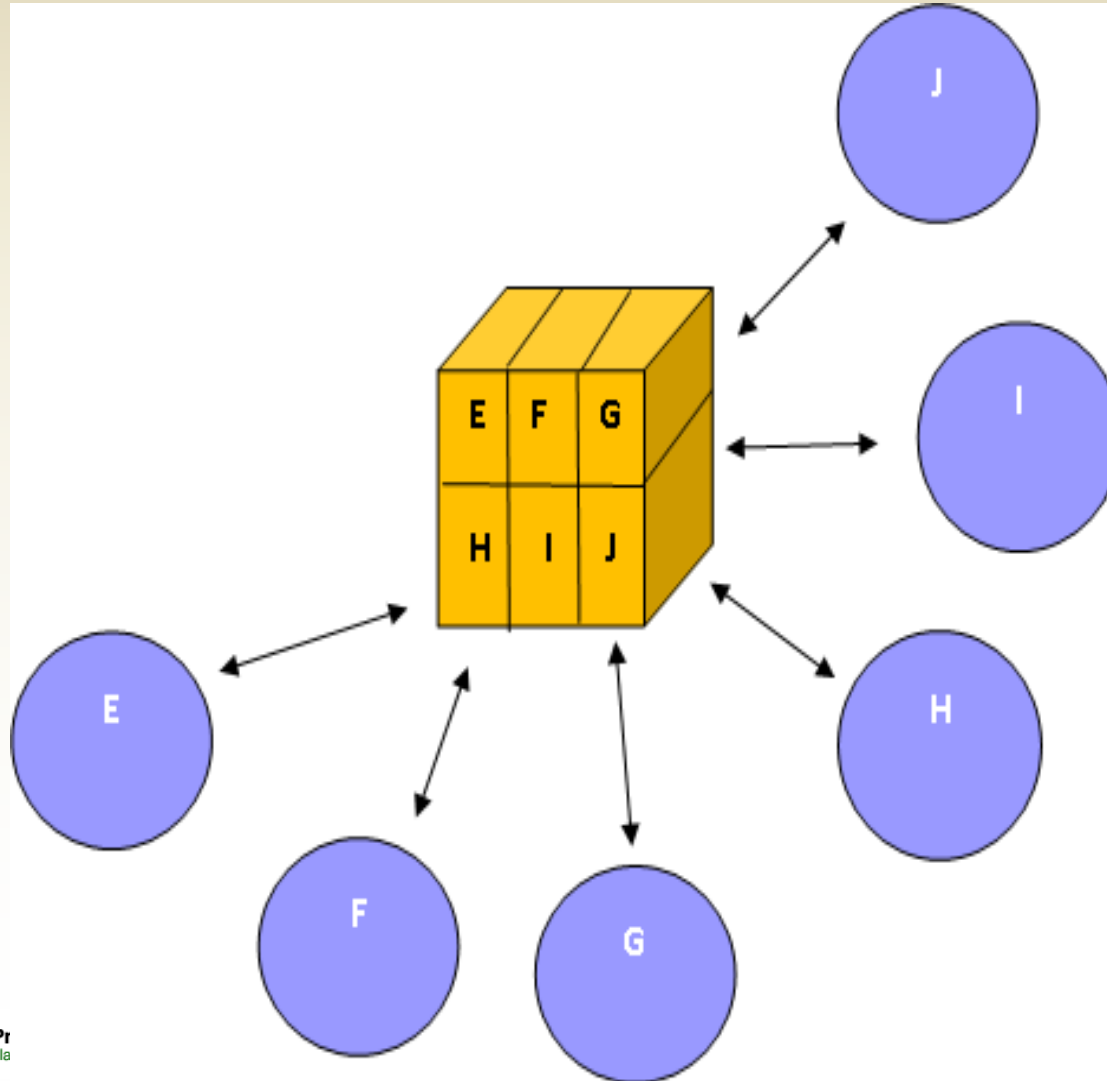


# Point to Point transmission





# Single Point (Hub) Transmission



# Current Status of Discussions

Questions asked at CPM are being worked on and  
FAQ's will be produced.

Engaging with FAO Legal to clarify any legal issues.

Developing a technical specification for a hub and  
a generic electronic transmission system for  
NPPOs to use

Developing detailed costs to build and maintain a  
hub and to maintain harmonised terms and  
message protocols.

# Current Status of Discussions (2)

**Awareness raising materials and events are being organised, e.g. These regional IPPC workshops, CPM side session, advocacy documents for NPPOs to within their governments.**

**A major capacity development project is being scoped to support global efforts and develop generic multi-use tools.**

**Further analysis of the benefits of a hub (single point) verses point-to-point transmission options.**

# Future Discussions for CPM

**At CPM-10 (2015) the Commission will be asked to approve (or not) the development of a hub for single point transmission, plus the development of a simple generic system that would be available to all NPPO's to allow them to:**

- Enter phytosanitary certificate data**
- Produce phytosanitary certificates (ePhytos including encryption and/or paper)**
- Send off ePhytos via the hub**
- Store phytosanitary certificate data**
- Receive and decrypt ePhytos**
- Read/view/print/produce pdf ePhytos**

# Future Discussions for CPM (2)

Options for funding hub development and operating costs will be discussed.

Options to fund maintenance of harmonised terms will be discussed.

# Questions for Workshop Discussion

**What is my NPPO's biggest constraint to being able to move to electronic certification?**

**Does your NPPO have domestic legislation or regulations that would present a barrier to electronic certification, e.g. Requirements for paper certificates, specific formats for certificates, wet signatures?**

**If you established a national electronic certification system how would you cover the costs?**

- Government funding?
- Cost recovery from exporters?
- Do you have the legal power to cost recover from exporters?

**If a basic generic electronic system to exchange certificate information was available to NPPO's, would your NPPO want to or be able to use it?**



# Opportunities



# Impacts





# Key Things to Consider / Understand

