



Meeting of the Industry Advisory Group 14 March 2018

Participants

Nelli Hajdu
Raquel Izquierdo de Santiago
Dennis Johnson
Katy Lee
Gary Martin
Gerard Meijerink (Chair)
Shane Sela
Peter Wakefield

Introduction and opening

Members of the IAG met by way of conference call.

Preparations for industry case studies of the impact of ePhyto on trade

IAG members reported on current preparations for undertaking an analysis of impacts to trade resulting from implementation of the ePhyto hub.

Representatives of the grain sector reported that a number of companies are keenly interested in participating in the pilot. The companies along with regional industry associations are collaborating with the national plant protection organizations (NPPOs) of the hub pilot countries to establish the specific parameters of bilateral transactions which could be evaluated. The grain industry members are targeting beginning the evaluation by 1st June 2018.

Representatives of the fresh fruit and vegetable sectors noted that they had not received any commitments from companies to undertake studies, but noted that further discussion is occurring.

The representative of the seed sector noted that there was interest in participating in evaluating the impacts of implementing ePhyto by several companies and in particular in looking at transactions between the Netherlands and Chile and possibly Australia. Several US-based seed companies are also interested to participate. He noted that meetings with representatives of the Dutch NPPO regarding the analysis had indicated that the Dutch

NPPO would not be undertaking the analysis based upon transactions through the hub but based on direct bilateral ePhyto exchanges. Members noted that the purpose of the evaluation was specific to identifying the costs and benefits of the hub system to trade and that the Dutch proposal would confound results. They did not discourage testing of bilateral exchanges or gathering of information on time/cost savings of ePhytos in this framework.

The cotton industry representative noted that one company had indicated interest in participating and that further interest from another company was likely.

Review of the terms of reference of the study

Members proposed a number of changes to the proposed terms of reference:

1. The members agreed with the comments provided by Peter Neimanis, Chair of the ePhyto Steering Group;
2. The scope of the testing should not be limited to companies trading amongst themselves but could be between unrelated exporters and importers;
3. The activities should recognize that the NPPOs, exporters, importers involved should collaborate to identify the specific parameters to be tested in each trade event and collaborate in how the evaluation should be done. The text of the Annexes should be amended to reflect that these offer only examples of possible evaluation areas and reporting;
4. The scope of the evaluation should continue to focus on evaluating the impacts of using the hub and not on bilateral ePhyto exchanges;
5. During the evaluation NPPOs, exporters and importers should be encouraged to report on additional/future areas of evaluation;

Next meeting

The members agreed that the next in-person meeting should follow obtaining results from the case studies and suggested that a meeting date should be established quickly to avoid conflicts. The Secretariat agreed to send out a request for the meeting.

Action items

Item	Due Date	Responsibility
Meeting date for next in-person meeting	15 March 2018	Sela
Revision of terms of reference of case studies	20 March 2018	Sela