



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



International
Plant Protection
Convention

IPPC Regional Workshop



Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE): From Different Perspectives to Collective Action

A country-led process for strengthening phytosanitary systems.



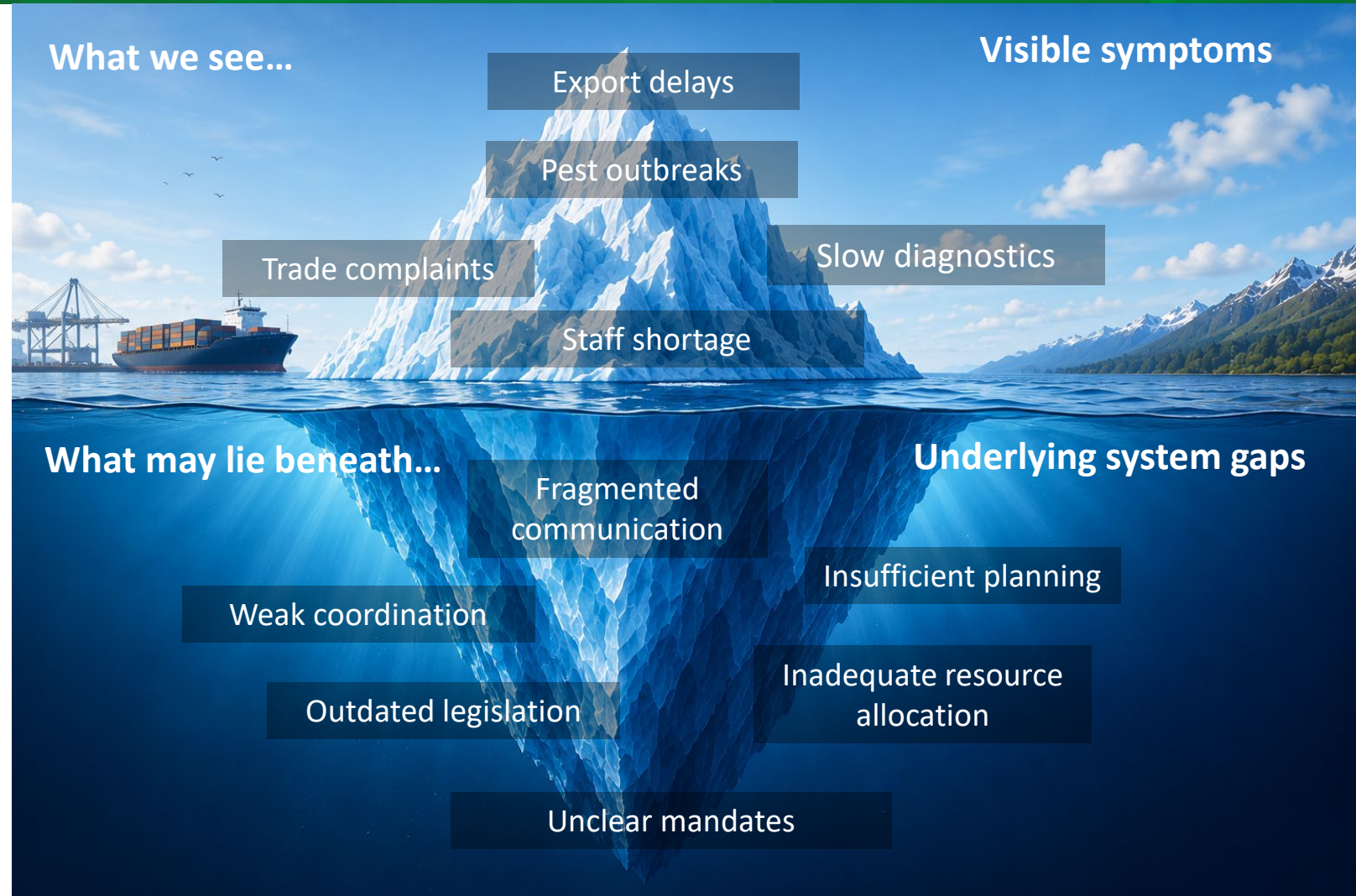
Why does the PCE exist?

Strengthening phytosanitary systems is not straightforward.

Countries often face:

- Multiple stakeholders with different perspectives;
- Numerous competing priorities;
- Limited resources;
- Increasing trade and pest pressures;
- Difficulty translating challenges into coordinated action.

The PCE helps countries move beyond symptoms to understand the phytosanitary system as a whole.





The PCE journey

NPPO led with stakeholder engagement throughout the PCE process

The PCE is informed by diverse perspectives from stakeholders identified by the NPPO, which may include:

- NPPO staff
- Farmers and producer organizations
- Exporters
- Diagnostic laboratories
- Researchers and academia
- Policy-makers
- Other relevant government authorities
- Private sector and industry representatives
- Additional stakeholders as appropriate to the national context





PCE Lab: *Plantasia* hypothetical case

The Phytosanitary background

Plantasia's exports have increased by 40% over the last five years. At the same time:

- Government budgets have remained largely unchanged.
- New export markets are requesting additional phytosanitary declarations.
- Pest detections have increased in neighboring countries.
- Demand for inspections, diagnostics, and certification services continues to grow.

The stakeholders have identified the following issues on export certification:

1. Delays in the certification of shipments are affecting trade.
2. Sample turnaround times are increasing, and requests exceed available capacity.
3. There is not enough operational capacity to conduct export inspections.
4. Diagnostic expertise is fragmented across institutions.

Question:

- Are these independent problems? Or could they reflect deeper system constraints?

Challenge 1 (3 MINUTES)

If you were the head of the NPPO, which issue would you address first?

Instructions

- Review the four issues.
- You have **2 votes (dots)**.
- Vote for the issue that Plantasia should investigate first.
- The issue with the most votes becomes the **priority gap** for further analysis.

Output:

Priority gap selected by the group.



Challenge 2 (5 MINUTES)

For this exercise, **let's assume** that the group selected the following gap:



Delays in the certification of shipments
are affecting trade.

Instructions

1. Work with the person next to you.
2. On a YELLOW sticky note, write ONE possible contributing factor.
3. On a GREEN sticky note, write ONE possible consequence.
4. Place your sticky notes on the wall.
5. Be ready to discuss emerging themes.



Effects

What could happen if
certification delays continue?



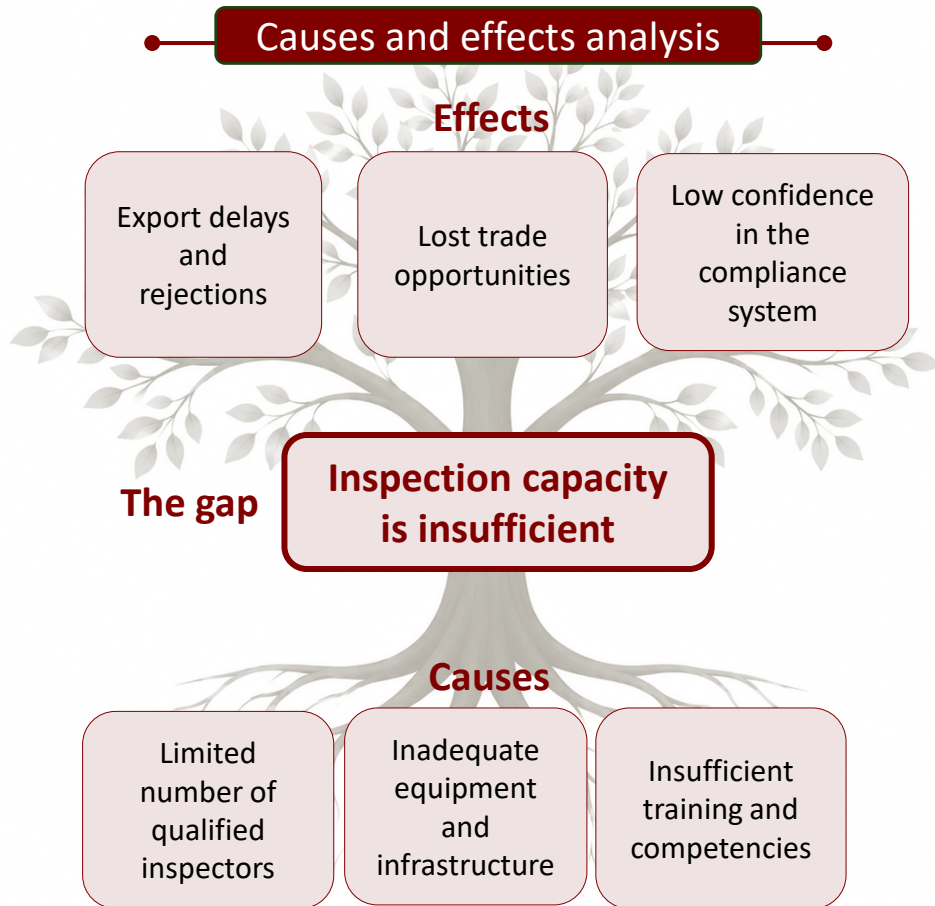
Delays in the certification of
shipments are affecting trade.

Why might certification delays
be happening?

Causes



From the analysis to the strategy development



From consequences → desired state:

What positive future condition do we want to achieve?

Transform into a strategy logic

From causes → solutions:

What should be done to address the underlying causes?

Strategy development

Goal/impact

Safe trade and preserved market access

Outcome

Export certification services are timely, reliable and aligned with demand

Outputs

- Inspection workload and staffing needs are assessed.
- Inspectors are trained and equipped to meet certification demand
- Resource and cost-recovery needs are identified.

Activities

- Review export inspection workload and seasonal peaks.
- Identify staffing, equipment and transport gaps.
- Update inspection procedures and service standards.
- Develop and deliver targeted training for inspectors
- Assess whether service fees cover operational costs.

Tasks

Resources

Responsible

Timelines



From one example to the full PCE journey

The PCE Lab followed one issue. A full PCE applies this logic across selected modules and turns it into a country-owned strategy.



The PCE is not only an assessment. It turns shared diagnosis into ownership, strategy and action.



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PCE in action across regions

Documented examples showing how the PCE can move countries from diagnosis to reform, strategy and implementation.

AFRICA

Kenya (2024)

Validated strategy and renewed investment path

Successive PCEs supported priorities, policies, laboratories, funding and strategy.

[Access story](#)

ASIA

Nepal (2022)

Trade facilitation and investment clarity

Stakeholders agreed on SPS priorities and where to position investments.

[Access story](#)

EUROPE & CENTRAL ASIA

Uzbekistan (2023)

PCE validation to shape reforms

Validated PCE helped frame phytosanitary reforms and alignment with standards.

[Access story](#)

LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

Nicaragua (2019)

New phytosanitary law and stakeholder ownership

PCE supported strategy, collaboration and modern plant health legislation.

[Access story](#)

NEAR EAST

Lebanon (2011)

Priorities for a strategic framework

PCE was requested to identify priorities and prepare a national action plan (project: GCP/LEB/021/ITA).

[Access story](#)

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC

Pacific Islands (2010)

Regional baseline across 14 national PCEs

PCEs generated baseline data and regional capacity-development priorities (project STDF133).

[Access story](#)

Across regions, the PCE helps countries transform agreed gaps into reforms, strategies, investments and action.



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The value of the PCE is its
adaptability:

it helps each country define its own
path from gaps to action.

Ready to strengthen your phytosanitary
system? Let the PCE help your country move
from gaps to action.





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Thank you

IPPC Secretariat

Food and Agriculture Organization
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