



E Certification: U.S. Seed Industry Perspective

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E-Certification Comments

- Currently, the seed industry is not using any form of E-certification; if there are options available, we are not aware of them.
- E-certification could resolve many problems that exist with paper certificates:
 - Lost originals or certified copies
 - Problems associated with lot numbers that change when seed is re-exported through various countries
 - Translation issues
 - Additional demurrage charges when shipments are held due to administrative problems with paper certs

Issues to Consider as E-Certification Moves Forward

- Need for a global platform/uniform operating system (Note study commissioned last year by the IPPC on this issue). A way must be found for all trading partners/NPPOs to use E-certification.
- For the seed industry, **E-re-export certification** will also be urgently needed.

Issues to Consider

- Can we use E-certification to resolve issues with languages, additional declaration terminology, use of “additional phytosanitary information”, documentation of phytosanitary measures used?
 - If the creation of E-certificates was **menu-driven**, most of the documentation needed on the phytos could be accomplished with the use of **drop-down menus** and **boiler plate language**. This would avoid problems with NPPOs refusing phytosanitary certificates due to minor variations in language that really do not change the meanings.

Issues to Consider

- Are there other global automation systems that could be adapted to use for global E-certification rather than starting from scratch?
 - Some platforms already exist; e.g. global credit card and ATM transactions
 - In the banking industry, there are international standards in place for this purpose.

Thank You!

