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!