Launch of ePhyto in Fiji

MEDIA RELEASE: Biosecurity Authority of Fiji (BAF) Board Chairman marks the official launch of the transformative agri-food project.

**SUVA, July 18, 2022 –** [A landmark initiative](https://www.tradefacilitation.org/project/taking-final-steps-towards-full-electronic-phytosanitary-certification-3/) to fully introduce electronic phytosanitary (ePhyto) certification for global Fijian trade in plant and plant products has been marked by the BAF Board Chairman Mr. Naushad Ali, at an official launch of the project on Monday.

In July 2020, Fiji became one of the first countries in the region to use electronic phytosanitary certification, exchanging ePhytos with New Zealand. It is now taking the final steps to fully integrate into the [International Plant Protection Convention](https://www.ippc.int/en/) (IPPC) ePhyto Hub, enabling the country’s vital agri-food sector to exchange necessary export and import documentation with key markets quickly, accurately, and at low cost.

This adoption will streamline trade with key markets in several, practical ways, including improving planning for the arrival and clearance of goods; expediting clearance of produce from ports; allowing faster more cost-effective completion of required certification; automating the process for issuing ePhytos to non-registered traders; and enabling the quick replacement of erroneous paperwork.

The [Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation](https://www.tradefacilitation.org/) (the Alliance) is working with the [Biosecurity Authority of Fiji](https://www.baf.com.fj/) (BAF), to enable this seamless electronic exchange with other main export markets, including the United States and Australia and other countries in the Pacific region already linked to the IPPC ePhyto Hub.

[The project](https://www.tradefacilitation.org/project/taking-final-steps-towards-full-electronic-phytosanitary-certification-3/), which is expected to conclude in mid-2023, involves connecting traders and satellite BAF offices to the new system, providing appropriate training in requisite IT equipment and assisting BAF in reviewing and revising its practices to take full advantage of the digitalisation process.

This initiative has the full backing of the [Pacific Islands Forum](https://www.forumsec.org/), which is helping to promote the work of the Alliance in Pacific Island countries.

Fijian businesses are actively supporting this initiative and are assisting BAF in the transition phase, participating in training and engaging in early testing of the new system.

Further, the private sector also committed to working alongside Government on a project steering committee to bring about a mutually successful conclusion for the country and for traders.

“The Alliance is partnering with IPPC in several countries to support the introduction of the ePhyto solution, recognising the powerful, transformative potential for national

competitiveness, for individual businesses and also for consumers*,”* said Alliance Director, Philippe Isler**.**

*“*We are delighted to be supporting Fiji to join the fast-growing list of countries realising the benefits of joining the IPPC Hub*,”* said Mr Naushad Ali, Chairman of the BAF Board.

“The ePhyto will change the way BAF operates and provides service to its local, regional and international stakeholders. The ePhyto solution has been the missing link in BAF’s pursuit of a safe and efficient trading vision that is now being realized. And this only has been possible with BAF’s Global Partners such as The Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation, for providing the necessary technical and funding assistance; without whom this project would have not eventuated, and the International Plant Protection Convention, the IPPC, whose initiative has led us to where we are today. The support from the World Bank must also be acknowledged as they are also looking to enhance the connectivity of the ePhyto system with the cargo clearance process,” Mr. Ali added.

“The ePhyto project in Fiji will allow BAF and Fijians to benefit of best practices regarding to the exchange of phytosanitary certificates, facilitating trade procedures, improving safety and security, as well as exportations,” added Dr Thomas Orliac, Team Leader of the ePhyto Project in Fiji.

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