

*For Immediate Release*

*17 March 2023, BAF Headquarters, Suva*

## **BAF wishes to Inform all Relevant Stakeholders on the Implementation of Electronic Phytosanitary Certification System**

BAF, to improve its phytosanitary services for all plants and its products and to enhance facilitation of its import and export clearance has implemented the ePhyto solution.

BAF is the regulatory body that issues Phytosanitary Certificates to certify export consignments of plants or plant products, the certificate indicates that the consignments of plants, plant products or other regulated articles meet specified phytosanitary import requirements and are in conformity with the certifying statement of the appropriate model certificate.

ePhyto is short for “electronic phytosanitary certificate” which is the electronic version of the information contained in a phytosanitary certificate.

The ePhyto System is the IT system called GeNS, it is a web based system which is used to generate (produce) countries phytosanitary certificates and exchange the certificate electronically between National Plant Protection Organization's (NPPO) which consists of two main elements i.e. create/receipt of ePhytos and a mechanism for exchange.

BAF since 1 July 2020, had implemented the system and now with assistance from the Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation (the Alliance) has fully implemented the system in Fiji following extensive awareness and training with relevant stakeholders and with the Biosecurity Team.

Hence, effective 25 March 2023, BAF will go live with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) on the ePhyto solution and will embark on the paperless issuance of electronic phytosanitary certifications for all commercial export consignments and for clearance of all commercial import consignments. Exporters will no longer be required to collect and send hard copy Phytosanitary Certificates to the US and importers will only be required to provide the Phytosanitary Certificate Number or Copy of the certificate for BAF to carry out the import clearances.

BAF encourages all exporters to register on the new system and join BAF in this electronic transformation.

GeNS is an initiative of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) that enables its users to send and receive electronic versions of phytosanitary certificates. The exchange platform was funded through the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) program and developed by the United Nations International Computing Centre (UNICC).

To register (Exporters) or for any further clarification, do not hesitate to contact the BAF ePhyto Team at BAF Headquarters on 331 2512 or alternately, on email [ephyto.support@baf.com.fj](mailto:ephyto.support@baf.com.fj).



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