

# UKRAINE



## THE CHALLENGE

In recent years, with European Union support, Ukraine has digitalised many aspects of its agricultural trade. However, several key border processes remain paper based.

Until 2025, traders looking to acquire the phytosanitary certificates required to import or export agricultural products had to complete a cumbersome application process that created unnecessary costs and delays. The State Service of Ukraine for Food Safety and Consumer Protection (SSUFSCP) handles around 220,000 such applications every year and the cost of obtaining a certificate varies depending on the crop, type of transport and cargo volume. This manual process was a significant administrative burden for both government and private sector.

The ongoing conflict in Ukraine compounded the need to digitalise this system and integrate it into the IPPC ePhyto Hub, enabling electronic phytosanitary certificate exchange.

Ukraine is among the world's top agricultural producers and a major international trader in commodities requiring phytosanitary certificates. It is one of the leading exporters of oil seeds and grains and many countries, especially developing and least developed economies, rely upon it for grain imports. Beyond the obvious economic gains for Ukraine and its agricultural sector, easing exports from Ukraine has wider benefits for global food security.



## WHAT WE DID

The Alliance's project enhanced digitalisation within Ukraine's national phytosanitary certification system (PHIS) and connected it to the IPPC ePhyto Hub. It also updated the connection between PHIS and Ukraine's laboratory information management system (LIMS), which is used to test samples of agricultural exports for pests and diseases as part of the phytosanitary certification process. Linking the two systems and creating an access point for businesses allows laboratory results to be shared digitally, reducing manual handling and physical travel.

In addition to IT inputs to adapt PHIS to the requirements of the Hub, including the capacity to receive and manage import certificates, the Alliance supported change management to enable the transition from manual to digital. This included extensive training for more than 750 agency staff across all regions in Ukraine in a cascading 'train the trainer' programme that involved two lead inspectors and trainers per region. For the private sector, the project supported the development of online training material including user explanation videos accessible through an eLearning platform.

Lastly, the project supported the legal and regulatory changes required to authorise ePhytos, resulting in their formal legalisation in November 2024. While new legislation on registration requirements enacted in early 2025 is currently limiting full private sector uptake, the platform is operationally ready and will enable a complete end-to-end digital phytosanitary certification process once the legislation takes effect.



## THE IMPACTS

Introducing the IPPC ePhyto Solution has had measurable short and long-term benefits for Ukraine and global food security.

Since the system's go live in February 2025, Ukraine has exchanged more than 100,000 ePhytos via the IPPC ePhyto Hub.

Connecting PHIS to the Hub has also enabled Ukraine to link with the EU's trade control and expert system (TRACES), supporting closer regulatory alignment and deeper integration with European trade processes.

The new system is improving the security, efficiency, transparency, and predictability of the country's cross-border agricultural trade in several ways, including:

- reducing the difficulties, costs and delays associated with the exchange of paper certificates
- streamlining the arrival, departure and clearance of plants and plant products
- reducing the cost of acquiring phytosanitary certificates by USD18 per certificate for fruit exports and USD66 per certificate for cereal exports
- easier rerouting of shipments due to digitalised re-issuance procedures (a 2-day border delay for a cereal shipment costs 53,965USD!)

In the current conflict situation, digitalising the application process can help mitigate or even eliminate potentially dangerous journeys undertaken by traders to obtain paper certificates, enhancing personal safety.

### HOST ORGANISATIONS



### IN COOPERATION WITH



### SUPPORTED BY



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