Communication from Brazilian Plant Protection Organization

Considering the Covid-19 pandemic situation, the Brazilian Plant Protection Organization decided to implement electronic signature in the Phytosanitary Certificates. This change aims to decrease the physical contact between people directly involve in plant exporting operations.

The Plant Health Department, as the Brazilian Plant Protection Organization, will be in charge of sending Phytosanitary Certificates to importing countries as long the Covid-19 pandemic lasts.

The Plant Health Department is going to send the Phytosanitary Certificates to the IPPC contact points, using the email address available in the IPPC website.

Furthermore, the Brazil's Plant Health Department is willing to receive the Phytosanitary Certificates issued by the National Plant Protection Organization of the exporting countries.

The Plant Healthy Department will be overseeing the received Phytosanitary certificates and pass them out to the entry point for performing documentary analysis.

It is important mentioning that Brazil's Phytosanitary Certificate has security elements to ensure its authenticity. The signature and the other items of the document can be verified by the importing country using the QR code.

Some information about querying the site for authenticity checking is listed below:

1. During the query process, an alert message may occur while accessing the site. In this case it is necessary for the querent to verify that the warning message is only because the Brazilian Root Certification Authorities are not installed in your browser.

2. To avoid this warning message, the consultant must install the *"ICP-Brasil"* **certificates** in your browser. Or you can add a security exception, if you prefer.

3. The Brazilian root certification authorities can be found at: https://www.iti.gov.br/repositorio/repositorio-acraraiz

4. If the reading of the QR Code fails, the authenticity can be consulted manually, through the address: https://sistemas.agricultura.gov.br/qrcodefito.

5. Once on the site, add the Certificate number and the access code available on the Phytosanitary Certificate or Phytosanitary Certificate for Re-export to verify its authenticity.

6. For the authenticity query of the CF it is important that the overseas consultants keep the roots of the Brazilian authority's encryption certificates updated in their browsers to avoid alert messages.

If such messages appear in the browser, official *"ICP-Brasil"* **certificates** can be installed or a security exception added since it is a page of official systems of the Brazilian Government.

7. Certificates can be found at the following address: https://www.iti.gov.br/repository/repository-ac-raiz#