

Analysis on failure to comply with export phytosanitary requirements by Sri Lanka

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Abstract

The National Plant Quarantine Service (NPQS) acts as the National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO) for Sri Lanka to the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) which is an international plant health agreement that aims to protect cultivated and wild plants by preventing the introduction and spread of pests in regard of phytosanitary requirement fulfillment for international trade. According to ISPM 13 standard of IPPC, adopted by the third session of the interim commission on phytosanitary measures in April 2001 common reasons for receiving of Non Compliance (NC) with violation of phytosanitary requirements including failure to comply with phytosanitary import requirements, detection of regulated pests, failure to comply with documentary requirements, prohibited consignments, prohibited articles in consignments (e.g. soil), evidence of failure of specified treatments, repeated instances of prohibited articles in small, non-commercial quantities carried by passengers or sent by mail. Considering the past four years' non-compliances; presence of harmful organism, document errors, prohibited items and absence of special requirements are the major reasons for receiving non-compliances by Sri Lanka. There is an increasing trend of receiving non-compliance in 2019 due to unauthorized exports without phytosanitary certificates, which is beyond the control of National Plant Quarantine Service. Further export through postal and courier services and carrying in accompanied baggage in small quantities without complying with the export conditions have led to the interception at the destinations and subsequent increase non-compliances against Sri Lanka. Number of corrective measures have been taken by the National Plant Quarantine Service to reduce the number of non-compliance notifications. Raising awareness, strengthening field certification and auditing, bringing many crops under certification program, banning of farmer fields inability to comply with the phytosanitary conditions are the key measures taken to rectify this issue. Complying with phytosanitary conditions is most important to Sri Lanka to secure in international trade and it is all our responsibility as Sri Lankans to be in line with the required phytosanitary requirements for relevant countries.

Key words: International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures, National Plant Quarantine Service, Non-compliance, Phytosanitary Certificate, Phytosanitary requirement

****This abstract has been presented as a poster at the Annual Symposium of Department of Agriculture, 2019**