



# Seminar on EU Plant Health Requirements

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Interim evaluation of the phytosanitary situation of Thai plants for EU export

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## Background data

- Export of Thai plant material to EU has a specific market niche
- High number of EU interceptions: 30-40% of all plant health interceptions in EU
- EU audits in Thailand in 2006, 2008 and 2010
- High level negotiations to find a solution





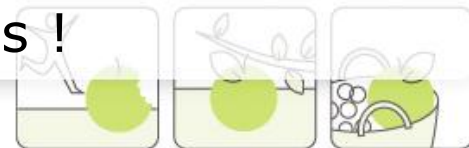
- First steps:
  - TH: improve the situation of 5 key commodities
  - EU: organisation of technical assistance and workshop





## Recent evolution

- Since 15 March 2011: for 5 main commodities: not more than 5 interceptions per year
- Thailand stopped temporarily the export
- Thai system with listed establishments for EU export of the 5
- Since export restarted: no interceptions of the 5 >> system functions correctly
- Other plant commodities: no progress !





## Observations

- Plant health problems touch upon whole chain:
  - Farmers
  - Packers
  - Exporters
  - Thai export inspection services
  - EU import inspection services
  - [ EU growers ]





## Specific problems

1. Several EU quarantine pests are widespread in Thailand > farmers to apply control methods
2. **Packing stations** have **critical** role in the chain: stop all non compliant material
3. Major bottleneck is **export inspection**:
  - 100.000 phytosanitary certificates/ year
  - 40% for EU
  - with limited resources





## Export certification procedure

(See EU import control)

1. Inspection request
2. Physical check
  - all consignments
  - intensity based on experience and international inspection standard
  - risk based: commodity, *origin*, climatic conditions..





3. Identity check:
  - correct quantities
  - correct names
4. Document check: complete phytosanitary certificate with additional declaration for plants







Currently: all 4 steps concentrated at airport

- difficult to manage
- new Thai approach:
  - involve actively stakeholders through listing of packing houses
    - responsibility to provide clean material
    - *suggestion: as location for export request + official identity/physical check?*





- keep final responsibility at airport
  - issuance of phytosanitary certificate
  - overall verification of consignments





- NB1 Phytosanitary certificate: under IPPC:
- free from quarantine organisms of country of destination
  - practically free from other organisms
- > do not export risks: precautionary approach





## NB2 Plants for planting high risk commodities:

- have to originate from pest free nurseries
- to be officially confirmed on phytosanitary certificate





## Preliminary conclusions

- New Thai system is effective to prevent plant health problems
- Urgent need for broadening the system to other plant material
- Revision of EU approach only possible when the whole plant export to EU has been upgraded





# Towards an EU – Thai Plant Health Strategy ...

...WHERE **PREVENTION** IS BETTER THAN THE CURE

