

# PRACTICES AND CHALLENGES IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE E-PING SYSTEM

10<sup>th</sup> March, 2026

Phyllis W. Githaiga

Principal Inspector, Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service



# TBT/SPS E-PING

- Platform facilitates SPS and TBT measures.
- Browse notifications on new and updated product regulations.
- Find information on trade concerns and other documents discussed in the WTO SPS and TBT Committees.



# IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES AND CAPACITY GAPS IN NOTIFICATION HANDLING AND SUBMISSION

## 1. Increasing Volume of Notifications

The number of notifications has significantly increased over time, creating challenges in timely downloading, reviewing, analyzing, and tracking them. Additionally, notifications are often received without a structured or thematic order, making systematic review difficult.

## 2. Delayed Responses

Response timelines are affected by prolonged consultations with stakeholders, the need to evaluate regulatory options, and limited technical and financial resources for system development and coordination.

## 3. High Staff Turnover at National Enquiry Points (NEPs)

Frequent turnover of trained NEP officials results in loss of institutional memory and technical expertise, affecting continuity and efficiency.



#### **4. Limited Digital Literacy and Inadequate ICT Equipment**

Gaps in digital skills and insufficient access to appropriate ICT infrastructure hinder effective notification preparation, submission, and monitoring.

#### **5. Capacity Building of NEP Staff (80% Progress)**

Ongoing training initiatives have strengthened staff capacity in preparing and submitting notifications, with approximately 80% implementation achieved.

#### **6. Inter-Agency Collaboration (50% Progress)**

Collaboration with other Kenyan NEPs is underway to identify unnotified regulations and draft notifications for submission by the National Notification Authority (NNA), with approximately 50% progress achieved.

#### **7. Short duration to implement notifications**

In order to address notifications stakeholder engagement is necessary especially where systems have to be agreed upon and implemented. This may require review and development of processes, capacity building and financial investments



# PROPOSED AND BEST PRACTICES

1. **Continuous Capacity Building, Improve Digital Literacy and ICT Infrastructure:**  
Ensure sufficient digital Literacy and Access to digital equipment through trainings/capacity building and partnering with the development partners
2. **Establish a Centralized Digital Notification Management System**
3. **Develop Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)**
4. **Strengthen Inter-Agency Coordination**
5. **Introduce Performance Monitoring and Reporting**
6. **Create a Knowledge Management and Handover System**
7. **Establish stakeholder Engagement Framework**
8. **Secure a dedicated office that deliberates on the notifications and operates with planned schedules/meetings with the relevant stakeholders and**
9. **Establish a Coordinated team to handle notifications and STCs**



# LESSONS LEARNT

- Notifications requires team work among the NEPs and private sectors
- There is need to have continuous engagements among NEP-NNA and the stakeholders
- There is need to build capacity among the senior management within the NEP to fast track the approvals of the drafted notifications
- Early Planning is Critical
- Volume Requires Systems, Not Manual Processes
- Institutional Memory Must Be Protected
- Capacity Building Must Be Continuous
- Inter-Agency Collaboration is Essential
- Clear Timelines Reduce Back-and-Forth Delays
- Monitoring and Accountability Improve Compliance





**Managing Director**  
**KENYA PLANT HEALTH INSPECTORATE SERVICE (KEPHIS)**

P. O. Box 49592-00100 Nairobi, Kenya.

E-mail: [director@kephis.org](mailto:director@kephis.org)



# THANK YOU

