

F. No. 18-53/2005-P.P. I (Pt.)  
Government of India  
Ministry of Agriculture  
(Department of Agriculture & Cooperation)

Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi  
Dated: the 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 2006

**OFFICE MEMORANDUM**

I am directed to refer to the notifications issued by this Department authorizing functionaries across the country for the purpose of issuance of phytosanitary certificates for export of plants and plant materials in terms of the SPS Agreement of the WTO and countries obligations under the international plant protection convention. In terms of the same, all plants and plant materials being exported from the country required to be covered by a phytosanitary certificate, in conformity with the import conditions specified for specific plant/plant products by the concerned importing country, based on inspection, fumigation and quarantine treatment.

2. I am further directed to inform disconcerting reports of rejection of our export consignments on phytosanitary grounds, i.e. detection of pest/disease infestation by the exporting country in our export consignments. It is also a fact that China has recently initiated stringent action in respect of consignment of sesame being exported from India on grounds that these were found to be infested with quarantine pests and weeds etc. It is quite possible that any repeat of such detection by the importing country could result in a ban on import of our plants and plant materials by such countries.

3. I am further directed to point out that country's obligations under the international plant protection convention require that phytosanitary certificates are not only issued after due inspections, treatments etc. but should conform to the requirements of the importing country and should be uniform in content and style. To address this issue, this Department has issued instructions to all phytosanitary issuing authorities repeatedly. However, reports of non-conforming phytosanitary certificates continued to be received from other countries importing our plants/plant materials.

4. In this context, I have been directed to emphasis that the need for strict adherence for the protocols and guidelines issued by this Department (and Dte. of Plant Protection Quarantine & Storage) for issuance of phytosanitary certificates. It is requested that all phytosanitary certificate issuing authorities under your jurisdiction are advised accordingly, so that our agri-export consignments are not rejected by importing countries on phytosanitary grounds.

In case any further clarification is required on any issue relating to phytosanitary certification process and procedure, the same could be obtained from either the undersigned or from

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- (ii) Dr. O.R. Reddy, Joint Director (Plant Quarantine),  
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This letter may be treated as most important.

Yours sincerely,

Sd/-

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