44th Meeting of the IEC-ISO-ITU-UNECE eB MoU/MG
Report from UN/CEFACT AGRI Domain

Background

The United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT) Agriculture, Fisheries and Agri-Foods Domain (AGRI) concentrates on the business processes, commercial practices and official procedures involved in the international trade transactions in agriculture commodities, and on the electronic information exchange about agriculture production processes (animals and plants), food production, and food safety. Fishery, forestry and hunting are also included in the scope of the Agriculture Domain. The Domain covers the agriculture and food supply chain from seed/feed to plate in all aspects from B2B, B2G, G2G and B2C. It also covers the non-food agriculture production (production of timber, fibres, fat and oil, trade in endangered species, etc.).

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Agri-Food Domain builds upon the structures and work items formerly established by the agriculture business group (TBG18) and its predecessor within the UNECE Working Party 4 which was founded in the 1960s.

Under this area of activity, UN/CEFACT develops and maintains e-business standards related to Agriculture, Fisheries and Agri-Food. These include key themes such as:

- Electronic Sanitary-Phyto-Sanitary Ceritificates (UN/CEFACT eCert)
- eQuality Certificate
- Fisheries Languages for Universal eXchange (UN/FLUX)
- Animal Traceability / Primary Natural Products Traceability
- Electronic Laboratory Observation Reporting (eLAB)
- Crop Data Sheet Process (eDAPLOS)
- Electronic Crop Reports (eCROPS)
- Agronomical Observations Report (Agro Obs)
- RASFF (Rapid Alert System for Feed and Food)

Recent achievements of UN/CEFACT AGRI

Sustainable Textile and Leather Traceability and Transparency

This UN/CEFACT project developed and adopted UNECE Recommendation 46, Business Requirement Specifications, the UN/CCL RDM, and XML schemas to support information exchange in textile and leather value chains.

In 2022 fruitful results have been achieved building on a blockchain system for the cotton and leather value chains to pilot the project tools, with DNA markers and Satellite Imagery.

Upcoming activities

White Paper Digital Product Conformity Certificate Exchange

This white paper explores possibilities for accessibility of conformity attestations in the supply chain and for the use of technology to link conformity attestations to the physical product supply.

On short notice the draft of this white paper will become available for public review.

White Paper Digitization Transit Accompanying Documents

This white paper looks into the transit requirements and possibilities for paperless handling of trade certificates, using as example sanitary, plant and veterinary control certificates, CITES permits and waste certificates. The paper will look at new solutions to ensure third party access to data of trade documents in legitimate circumstances.

The draft of this paper is expected to become available for public review in the course of this year.

Project "eQuality Certificate" (P1068).

This project has been launched in September 2017 and is, despite its extension until the end of 2022, still not completed. One of the reasons is a lack of implementation pilots to gain experience in the use of the tools that are developed in this project.
The progress of the project will be evaluated and the UN/CEFACT Bureau will use the results of this evaluation for considerations how to move on with this project.

Sustainable Development and Circular Economy Reference Data Model

Improving sustainability including circularity continue to be a major objective of many industries and sectors, in order to increase their ability to manage their supply chains more effectively and sustainably. As a view on the top-level UN/CEFACT Buy/Ship/Pay Reference Data Model, all stages of product life cycle will be considered from the point of view of sustainability and circular economy, including processes such as farming, cultivation, mining, hunting/fishing, forestry, manufacturing, transport/logistics and retail. All developments will be aligned to the UN/CCL and the project team will work with the relevant domains with respect to ABIE developments.

Semantic harmonization

The UN/CEFACT AGRI Domain continues to invite all groups within the agriculture, fisheries and agri-food spaces to submit their data requirements needs in order to harmonize them with existing standards and to other procedures in the supply chain. This is in line with the eB-MoU/MG resolution R07/06.