

Are seed regulations the answer to virus Management??



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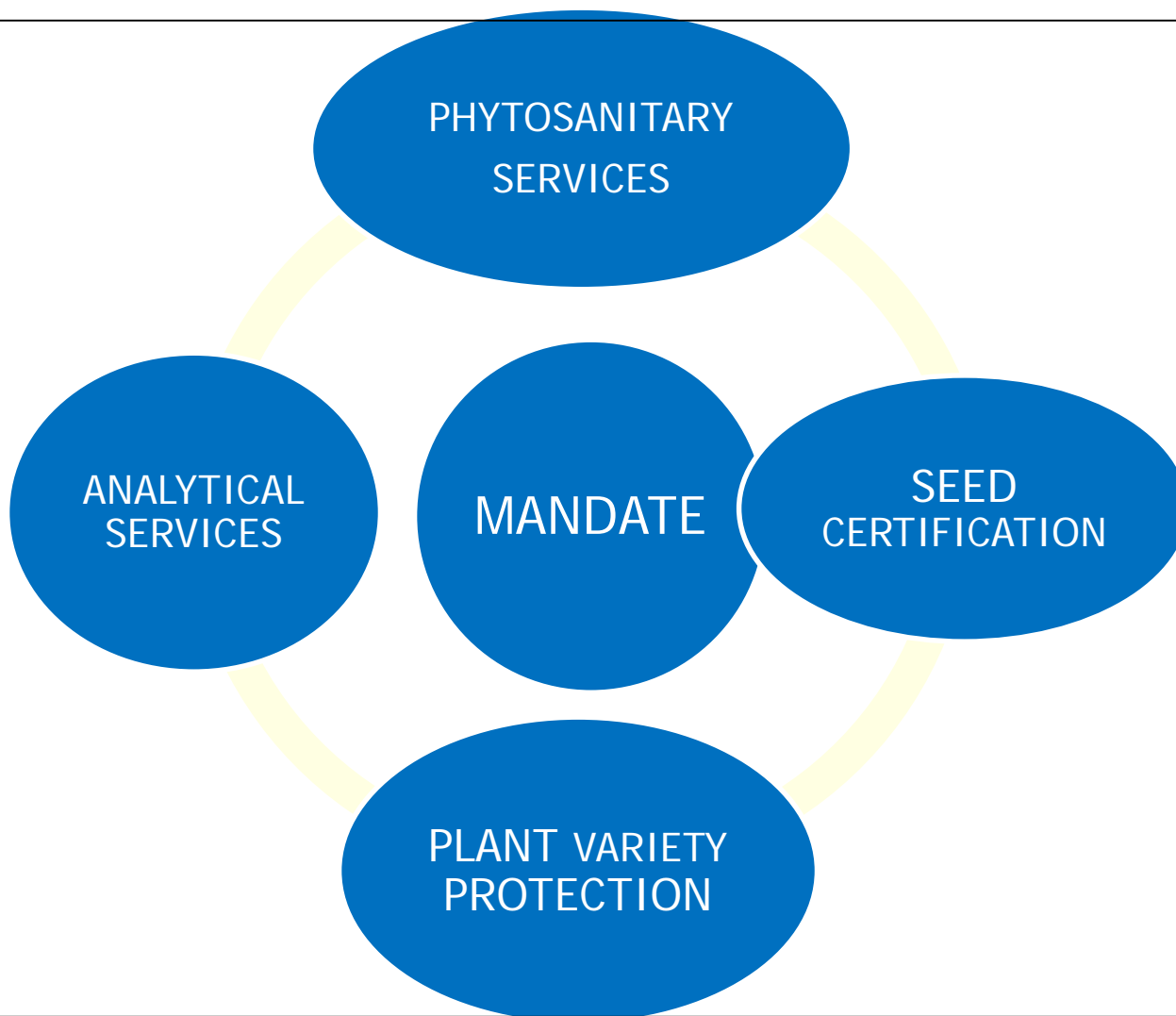
KEPHIS



KEPHIS is a state corporation that offers regulatory services in agricultural sector. It is the official NPPO Kenya.



SUMMARY OF KEPHIS MANDATE





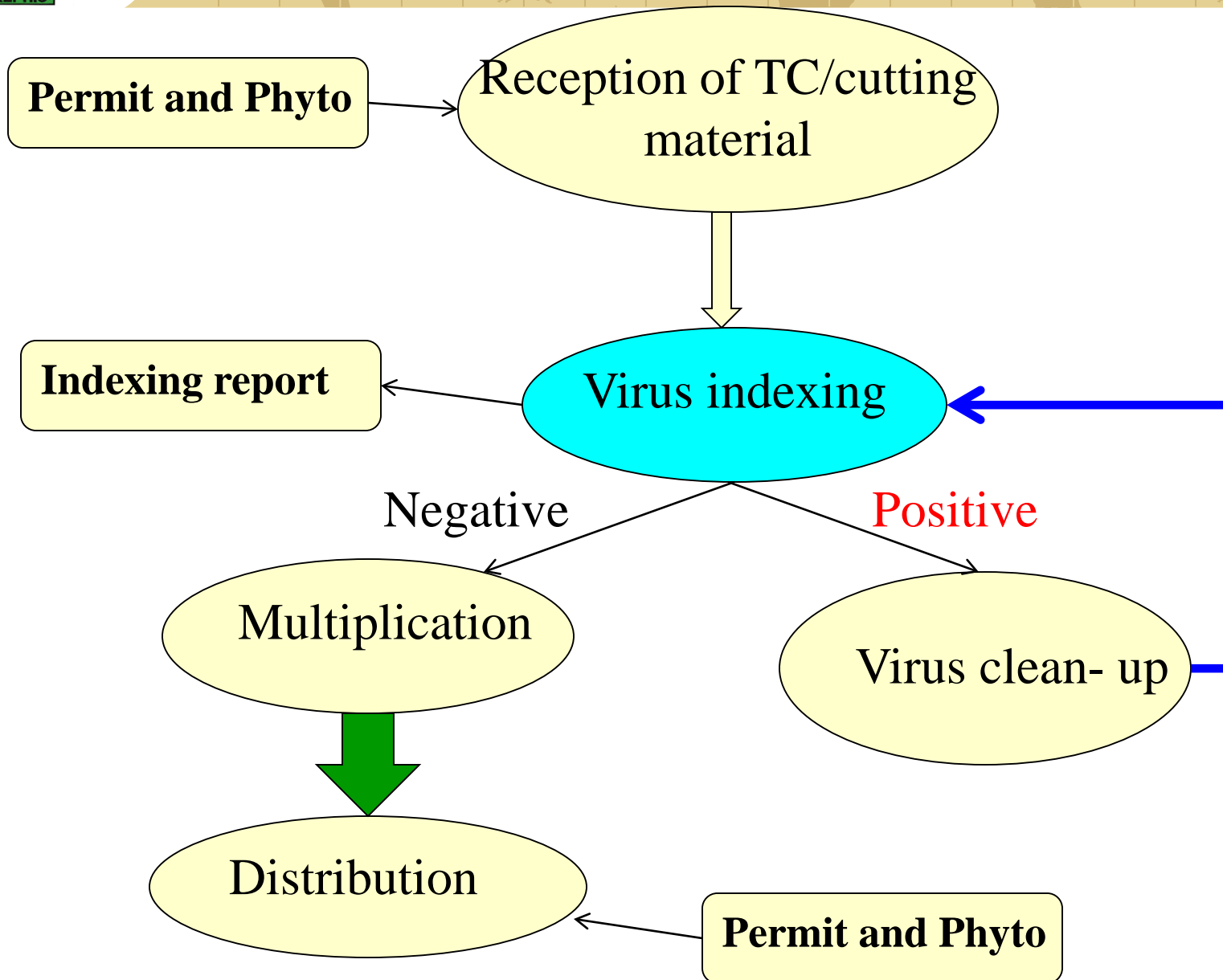
Regulations

- ✚ **Phytosanitary certification** - Use of phytosanitary procedures leading to the issue of a Phytosanitary Certificate (exchange of germplasm)
- ✚ **Seed certification**- ensure conformity to government set standards and ensure clean and healthy planting seeds are accessible to the farmers.



Phytosanitary measures applied on plants and plant products

1. Import permit (Q label)
2. Phytosanitary certificate for imported consignment
3. Inspection at entry points
4. Holding of plants in isolation (OQ, CQ)
5. Material are multiplied in tissue culture or established in greenhouse (cutting)
6. Plants are tested for Bacteria and viruses
7. Infected material can be cleaned through thermotherapy and meristem tip culture





Challenges and prospects

- ✚ Main challenge is mainly time taken and cost of indexing

Future interventions

- ✚ Adopt new molecular detection techniques (ClonDiag array and LAMP) for sweet potato viruses
- ✚ Explore quicker alternative methods for virus clean up e.g. cryotherapy



Seed Certification

- ❖ In Kenya, it is a requirement by law that all planting materials being offered for sale must undergo certification by a designated regulatory authority (**KEPHIS**)
- ❖ Implements CAP 326 (seed and plant variety protection Act)



Seed certification system

- ✿ KEPHIS has a unit dealing with seed certification
- ✿ It undertakes seed certification from Registration of seed crops in the field to labelling and sealing during packaging (processing) to ensure conformity to government set standards and ensure clean healthy planting seeds are accessible to the farmers.



Certification of sweet potato

- ✚ Standards for certification of sweet potato have been developed and are being implemented.
- ✚ These are effort to certify sweet potato planting materials
- ✚ **Main challenge in certification is visual identification**

THANK YOU



**For more information
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