Easy-SMTA

Marco Marsella
Operations Specialist, Global Information System
marco.marsella@fao.org

What is the Standard Material Transfer Agreement?

- Standard contract for parties wishing to exchange PGRFA under the MLS

- Ensures that the provisions of the Treaty are enforced

- Eliminates negotiation time

- Contracting Parties and international genebanks agree to use the SMTA for Annex 1 crops

- All recipients (including non-CPs) must use a SMTA to transfer PGRFA received with a SMTA

- SMTA can be adopted voluntarily for non-Annex 1 crops subject to national legislation

- Providers report to the Secretariat of the Treaty about the SMTAs they issue

SMTA reporting

Why?

- Reporting about SMTA contracts is an obligation of the Provider according to Art. 5-e of the SMTA

- SMTA reports inform the Governing Body on the operation of the Treaty

- SMTA reports can be used when resolving disputes among parties

What?

- Information on the Provider and the Recipient

- List of material transferred

- General information on the SMTA contract (e. g. symbol, language, date accepted)

When?

- Within 2 years of the SMTA finalization

To whom?

- To the Governing Body through the Secretariat of the Treaty

How?

- Using Easy-SMTA, of course!

What is Easy-SMTA?

A web-based system developed by the Treaty Secretariat

- To assign Permanent Identifiers (PID) to Providers and Recipients

- To facilitate the preparation and reporting of SMTAs *within* the system

- To facilitate the reporting of SMTAs produced *outside* the system

- To provide statistics and indicators on the MLS to the Governing Body

- Supports online acceptance of click-wrap SMTAs

- Available in the 6 Official UN Languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish)

- The languages for the user interface and the SMTA document are independent

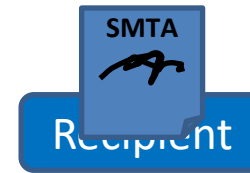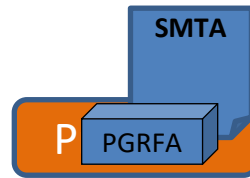# Easy-SMTA

SMTA reports collected since June 2012

As of March 10th, 2023 it stored:
- 92,000 SMTAs (+16/day)
- 6.5M materials (+1,096/day)
- 15,824 users
- 59 provider countries
- 182 recipient countries
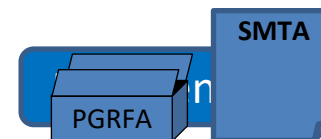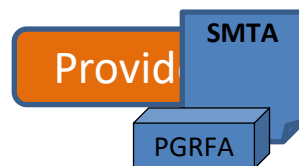
SMTA reporting

Three types of SMTA acceptance

Signed: Paper contract to be signed by Recipient before shipment

Click-wrap: Recipient accepts ~~contract~~ online

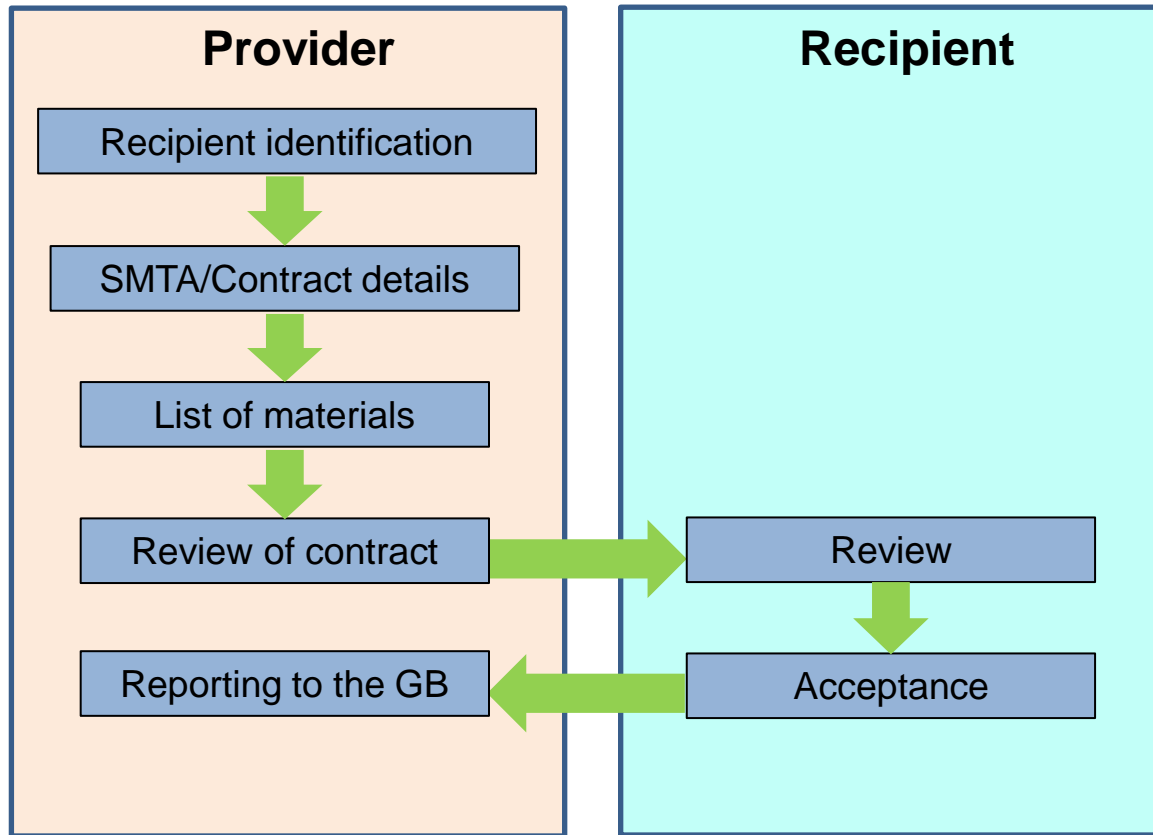Shrink-wrap: SMTA shipped with PGRFA. Recipient accepts by opening package

Easy-SMTA

SMTA generation and reporting

Amendments and cancellations are supported!

Easy-SMTA

Reporting options

- Through Easy-SMTA Web pages

  - At the end of the generation and approval process

  - Fill and submit the form to report SMTAs generated elsewhere

- Using batch files (text or MS Excel)

  - We provide documentation and templates

- Using the XML protocol

  - We provide documentation, support and a sandbox system for testing

Easy-SMTA demo

PGRFA-Treaty@fao.org