

## **PHYTOSANITARY IMPORT REQUIREMENTS**

The Plant Protection Office of Lesotho (Department of Research) facilitates agricultural trade for both importers and exporters and safeguard agricultural and natural resources from the risks associated with the entry, establishment or spread of exotic plant pests and diseases. This is achieved by regulating the importation of agricultural products by import requirements and issuing out import permits.

Guidelines for importation of plants and plant material:

- Plants and plant material may be imported into Lesotho by means of an import permit.
- The issuance of Import Permit depends on the risk involved. An Import Permit contains a statement of conditions to be fulfilled before importation is allowed into Lesotho.
- The importer must first contact the Department of Research Services before importing any plant and plant material into the country to get information regarding the requirements to import.
- The consignment must be accompanied by authenticated Phytosanitary Certificate issued by the National Plant Protection Organization of the country of origin as indicated on the Import Permit.
- Wood packaging material must be treated in line with IPPC guidelines, (ISPM 15) '*Guidelines for regulating wood packaging material in international trade*'.