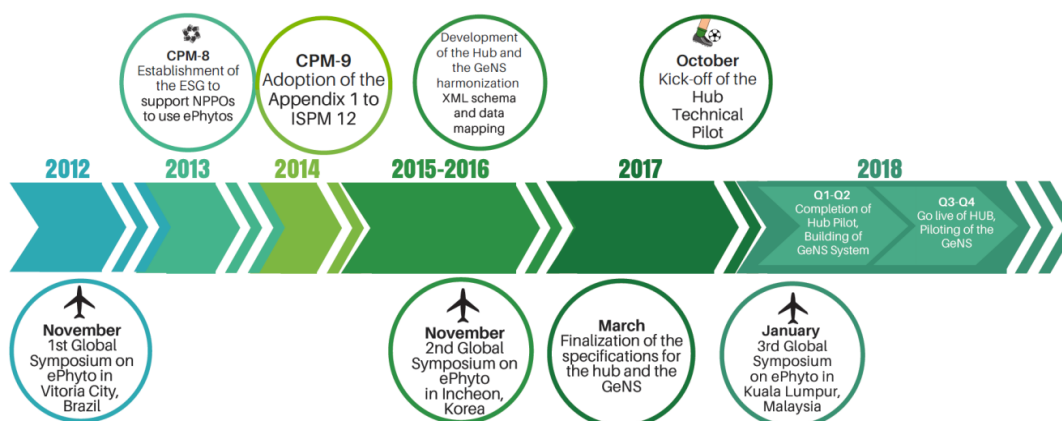


IPPC ePhyto Project

NEWSLETTER

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ePhyto Solution

The [ePhyto Project](#) seeks to establish a technology solution to advance the harmonized implementation and use of electronic certificates (ePhytos) for the international trade of plants and plant products.

3rd IPPC Global Symposium on ePhyto



[The 3rd IPPC Global Symposium on ePhyto](#), with the theme “ePhyto and Trade Facilitation” was held from 22-26 January 2018 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The symposium was a great success. It was jointly hosted by the Malaysian Department of Agriculture, the Australian Department of Agriculture and Water Resources,

the Asia Pacific Plant Protection Commission (APPPC) and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), with attendance of over 90 individual participants, representing 36 different countries and 20 different industry associations and NGOs.

A Perspective on the Symposium;

The 3rd IPPC Global Symposium on ePhyto was a great success! It was an important event to demonstrate the progress of the project and focused on the theme of ePhyto supporting trade facilitation to prepare for the implementation of the Hub and Generic ePhyto National System (GeNS). The symposium brought together senior officials from national & regional plant protection organizations, IPPC, Codex, United Nations International Computing Centre, Standards and Trade Development Facility, World Trade Organization and Regional Development Banks. The international plant products industry was represented by the International Grain Trade Coalition, Wood Packaging Association and Cotton Advisory Committee.

I look forward to the developments of ePhyto being further communicated through regional workshops being planned for Africa and Latin America in 2018.

– Mr. Peter Neimanis, ePhyto Steering Group (ESG) Chair



✚ The [ePhyto Steering Group \(ESG\)](#) met with staff of the UNICC at their offices at the U.N. Support Base in Valencia, Spain from 2-6 October 2017. The meeting kicked off [the pilot of the global Hub](#), which is now underway.

✚ The IPPC Secretariat and the United Nations International Computing Centre (UNICC) finalized the project development and service agreements on the Generic National ePhyto System (GeNS) in January 2018. The system is currently under development and expected to be piloted in the second half of the year.

✚ The IPPC Secretariat and ESG members are working with three developing countries to implement the GeNS nationally once developed. The work is focused on assisting the countries to evaluate their current paper processes and to outline the necessary steps to implement the business process changes required to support efficient use of electronic certificates

✚ The IPPC Secretariat is working with the World Bank develop an implementation guide that countries may use in analyzing their business processes in a manner that supports ePhyto implementation in a risk-based management framework.

Year	Month	Delivered	FailedDel...	Pending...	Total
2018	01 - January	3052	1	5013	11600
	02 - February	1037		30	1067
	03 - March	1250	1	18	1272
	04 - April	223		5995	6218
2017	05 - August	5431		36	5556
	06 - September	94		25	128
	07 - October	23		10	33
	08 - November	4		1	5
	09 - December	1431		62	1493
	10 - January	3879		20	3899
	11 - February	11003	1	6049	17249
Grand total					

THE HUB ADMINISTRATION PORTAL

ePhyto: catalyst of trade facilitation

"I expect ePhyto to become a catalyst of harmonization in the way plants and plant products are imported and exported. I expect to see this both in terms of harmonization of phytosanitary requirements as well as in terms of phytosanitary certification and inspection procedures. This will have a very positive impact on facilitation of safe trade of plants and plant products."

-- Mr. Gerard Meijerink, Industry Advisory Group Chair

Hub Technical Pilot

After the UNICC completed the development of the Hub system, the ESG kicked off the pilot on 6th October 2017.

Ten countries have initiated registration and connection with the hub. Some of these countries have moved to exchange certificates in the operational environment.

Hub pilot countries:

Argentina, Australia, Chile, China, Ecuador, Kenya, the Republic of Korea, Netherlands, New Zealand and the United States.

Country Experience with piloting the hub

"The Hub pilot has been highly successful and it's great to see it in practice now. The overwhelming consensus has been that connecting to the Hub is straight forward. The only challenge that seems to remain is getting participating countries certificates in the IPPC mapping format. A significant advantage of the Hub thus far has been that once a country provides feedback according to any identified issues with the mapping and the changes are made, then any other participating country following the mapping can receive certificates. It really streamlines the participation of multiple countries and facilitates the sending and receiving of certificates."

-- Mr. Christian B. Dellis, the ESG member representative of North America and representative of a pilot country.

The technical pilot of the Hub closed at the end of March 2018. An evaluation is currently underway. Once the Hub is ready to onboard new countries the IPPC Secretariat will be releasing an announcement to inform all contracting parties.

Looking at the impacts on trade

Following the Hu^h pilot, the ESG and IAG are working with NPPOs to undertake a small study on impacts from ePhyto implementation. The objective is to work with specific traders in an effort to see what the benefits are to traders following implementation. The study although small in scale may inform a larger effort to undertake a full cost-benefit analysis.

"Even though Phytosanitary Certification is a National Plant Protection Organizations responsibility, it is well known that, in practice, there are other people and organizations involved and they use it for different purposes. For instance, banks, plant product industries and other organizations require the Phytosanitary Certificates for commercial matters.

The next phase of the Pilot, involving the industry, is critical to recognize which facilities we can provide to them in order to achieve a paperless phytosanitary certification in the near future."

– Lic. Walter Alessandrini, ESG member representative of Latin America

Generic ePhyto National System (GeNS)

A web-based system to allow countries to produce send and receive ePhytos, the ESG with the UNICC finalized the GeNS design in Valencia, Spain in October 2017. The UNICC has started building the GeNS system. The design of the system includes: a user friendly surface, capacity to work in lower bandwidths and a mobile friendly user-interface.

"Samoa is currently using emails when the need arises to send Phytosanitary certificates, but this will be scanned and sent directly from our NPPO to the NPPO of the importing country. It (the GeNS) is an initiative that Samoa hopes to establish, hence continual technical assistance and funding is prioritised to strengthen our involvement to ensure the pilot trial phase is successful."

– Mr. Pelenato Fonoti, Head of Samoa Plant Quarantine Service

After development of the system, **the GeNS is expected to ready for piloting in the 3rd or 4th quarter 2018.**

GeNS pilot countries:

Ghana, Samoa and Sri Lanka.

Moving to a stable solution

The development, testing and limited operation of the ePhyto Solution has been funded by the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF), Australia, Canada, USA, Switzerland and Korea. The ESG and a contractor hired by the IPPC Secretariat, Trade Development and Facilitation Consulting (TDFA) are working on developing a funding model. At the same time the IPPC Secretariat and the ESG are working on advancing the development of an implementation and transition plan to move from project to "business as usual" operation. Donor funding by contracting parties is critically needed to continue operations.

ePhyto Solution in 2018

2018 will be a landmark in the development and implementation of ePhyto – as we will see the culmination of numerous years of effort from many people across the electronic certification landscape.

It's important to recognize the work of those that contributed over the last ten years. First, I would like to express my deep appreciation to past and present members of the ePhyto Steering Group (ESG). The ePhyto project is in addition to our normal day-to-day jobs and the ESG has fully accepted this responsibility. They have driven the ePhyto agenda and I look forward to that continued passion and enthusiasm.

The ePhyto Steering Group inherited a strong legacy from a series of expert working groups and the earlier steering committee. These groups established the fundamentals of ePhyto and members continue to provide valuable input into the realization of ePhyto.

The Hub, as a single point of exchange, is being tested by pilot countries now and are performing as intended. We still have some further work to achieve the desired harmonization of the ePhyto message, and after the industry pilot, we will invite other countries to start the process of connecting to the Hub.

The GeNS provides a great opportunity for countries without a national system to participate in the exchange of ePhytos. Late 2018 will see GeNS tested by some pilot countries, and once implemented, we will be able to roll it out to more countries.

By the end of 2018, we will be standing on the dawn of a new, exciting era of electronic certification. I look forward to greater collaboration with NPPOs, trade facilitation agencies and other certification bodies as we work to realize the benefits and vision of electronic certification.

-- Mr. Peter Neimanis, ESG Chair