



29th August 2018

Virtual Meeting Report of the IPPC ePhyto project Technical Committee & IPPC ePhyto Steering Group

Present Participants:

Peter Neimanis (AU, Chair)
Laura Vicaria (IPPC Secretariat)
Gianluca Nuzzo (UNICC)
Walter Alessandrini (AR)
Christian Dellis (US)
Venkat Venkateswaran (UNICC)
Shane Sela (IPPC Secretariat)
Craig Fedchock (IPPC Secretariat)
Nico Horn (NL)

Participants not able to attend:

Heqin Yang (CN)
Younes Kabbab (MAR)
Josiah Syanda (KE)

1. 5 year strategic plan – Shane

The milestones draft document of the 5 year plan (primarily shaped by discussion that took place at the PAC and IAG meeting in July) was distributed to the ESG for approval. It was to provide some detail to what is expected in the next five years. On the 15th of September the PAC is expecting to receive this document for review, and thus the ESG has been encouraged to provide feedback as soon as possible [action item].

2. regional workshops – Walter and Younes/Josiah

The NENA ePhyto workshop was originally scheduled to take place from the 12-14th November. There has yet not been any confirmation on location. ESG members raised their concerns on the preparation timeframe of this meeting given the original suggested date. It was requested that Shane reach out to Younes and Josiah who were not present on the call to discuss a process for moving forward.

Following a brief discussion about the upcoming Latin America workshop, ESG members highlighted the need to develop a Caribbean specific meeting/training with potential funds from USA and Canada.

3. Progress of HUB – UNICC

The UNICC noted that there are currently 16 countries registered on the system. The UNICC is in the process of developing a report that will be shared with the ESG with a full overview of statistics regarding the transactions. Following the request from the IAG in July to have



some clarity on what countries are in registered vs. actively exchanging certificates and those which are ready to participate in the case study, the IPPC requested that the UNICC provide greater detail on the status of countries.

The UNICC is also currently revising the design of the main screen of the Hub. The UNICC has proposed a main landing page which will provide links to NPPO registration on the hub and separately registration for use of the GeNS. Such an approach will allow any country to pursue the most appropriate approach for exchange. The UNICC will provide greater details on the proposal in the following weeks.

The version 2.2 of the mapping was recently published. The US confirmed that use of the mapping is going smoothly. New Zealand is actively exchanging with the USA and Argentina. Chile is actively testing and modifying their XML and will soon be ready to fully exchange certificates as well.

The US and other ESG members agreed that the issue remains regarding the misleading listing of registered countries labelled “sending and receiving”. Following discussion, it was noted that countries identify status and therefore it was agreed that a more detailed procedure should be developed for countries to follow. UNICC highlighted that the validation tool will also help moderate this issue.

4. industry case studies – ESG

The Industry Advisory Group is leading an operational hub/cost/benefits system analysis with the objective to increase our understanding the impact of ePhytos on plant product trade logistics. The US confirmed that their case study with Argentina is currently underway. The Netherlands is expecting to meet with Chile within a couple of weeks to initiate their case studies. In order to ensure all ESG members had the most updated document related to the industry case study the IPPC will be circulating it again following the call [action item].

5. GeNS update, GeNS Testing, and Evaluation Document - UNICC/Vicaria

The UNICC provided answers to the following question:

- **When is the GeNS pilot with Kenya, Sri Lanka, and Samoa going to start?** It was clarified that initially there will be the pre-pilot phase (Pre UAT phase). This phase will reflect the development of each functionality of the system and will be released and tested as soon as they are developed. The pilot will follow there after.

With reference to the countries listed in the question, it was clarified that the pilot countries of the GeNS are Ghana, Samoa and Sri Lanka. They will be testing the GeNS as so will the ESG. Kenya as part of the ESG should not be outlined individually but form part of the ESG identifier. ESG members agreed.

- **Is the GeNS pilot going to be connected with HUB PROD or UAT?** The pilot it self, once all is ready for it, will run through a UAT version of the Hub (keeping them in parallel).



- **Countries that are connected to the HUB should “turn them on”?** During the pilot phase the GeNS countries will be connected to the UAT version of the HUB. Once they are ready for production they will be connected to the production Hub. It was clarified that the UNICC will inform the ESG when they would like for their countries (with existing systems) to send a few certificates for testing and review. This exchange will help test the end-to-end system, and key evaluation point. The US enquired on the possibility to include, as part of the XML header, the term GeNS if the certificate is begin sent out by a GeNS country. This will help countries understand how to treat them and review them. The UNICC will add this request to the Hub backlog and evaluate it.
- **If so, then we will need to publish start date/time for each country (somewhere on the HUB console) ?** to this there was no particular opinion, it is up to the ESG to demine if they want this type of listing.

As a final point the IPPC encouraged the ESG to provide feedback on the GeNS evaluation document that was recently circulated [action point]. The IPPC also requested for the UNICC to provide an overview of dates for the test phases in order to complete the GeNS letter [Action point]. The UNICC further clarified that the testing phase will consist of an open feedback approach. They will be developing a presentation to guide them with the feedback approach before the testing is to initiate. The feedback will then be consolidated before the pilot phase.

Next Meeting:

The Next ESG teleconference was schedule for September 27th 2018.

Meeting Closed

Action Item	Owner	Due Date	Status
5 years strategic draft document to be reviewed by the ESG	ESG	7 th of September	
IPPC to follow up with Josiah and Younes on NENA work shop (location and date)	Shane	ASAP	Done
Hub report to also reflect which countries are	UNICC	September	



registered and which are in production phase			
With reference to countries labeling themselves as sending and receiving, a procedure needs to be drafted for countries to follow. Objective to have consistent approach.	ESG		Action point from July ESG meeting-Overdue
Circulate IAG case study document to the ESG	Shane	ASAP	Done
ESG to provide feedback on GeNS Evaluation document	ESG	Sep 7 th	Done
UNICC to provide expected dates of GeNS testing phases for GeNS letter	UNICC		