



27 September 2018

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

Participants:

Peter Neimanis (AU, Chair)
Younes Kabbab (MAR)
Craig Fedchock (IPPC Secretariat)
Laura Vicaria (IPPC Secretariat)
Gianluca Nuzzo (UNICC)
Christian Dellis (US)
Shane Sela (IPPC Secretariat)

Participants not able to attend:

Nico Horn (NL)
Josiah Syanda (KE)
Walter Alessandrini (AR)
Heqin Yang (CN)
Venkat Venkateswaran (UNICC)

Update on Hub

- registered countries UNICC

The UNICC reported that there are a number of newly registered countries, including: Morocco, Canada, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Paraguay, Peru, and South Africa. The monthly report with full details is due to be distributed shortly. There are no major issues to be reported.

With reference to questions raised regarding the validation tool, the UNICC informed the ESG that there had not been much feedback received on it at this stage. However, that is likely to change once the GeNS piloting phase initiates (more on this later). The US spoke about the need to develop sample certificates from a variety of different countries.

Further meetings will follow (with Christian, Walter and Gianluca) with reference to mapping announcements with related to documentation.

It was announced that Chile, Argentina, US, and NZ are exchanging in production through the Hub, further proving the concept.



Clarification on South Africa registration - UNICC/ Nico

Nico was unable to join the call but provided the following explanation with reference to the South African registration to the Hub:

“The Netherlands has worked with South Africa to get them connected to the Hub with the newest mapping, this seems to work well technically. South Africa has also registered for the Hub and most likely has received the credentials to connect to the Hub. These credentials have not reached the technical team of South Africa, therefore they cannot actually connect yet. Most likely the credentials are somewhere in the organisation in South Africa. This is an internal issue that has to be solved by them and may need internal decisions. As far as our technical people in the Netherlands have tested it with them, they are technically ready to connect to the Hub. Therefore they only have to sort these internal issues out and then they can decide when to connect to the Hub.”

The IPPC has requested that the Dutch to inform the ESG through the European representative all the activities that they are undertaking in reference to ePhyto collaboration with other countries.

The Chair reiterated that it is important that we communicate to each other which countries are being supported by the ESG.

Update on GeNS

The GeNS application is ready for testing and demonstration. The UNICC clarified that they would like to carry out an “ESG GeNS review” before opening the system to the pilot countries and officially initiating the testing (pre-pilot phase). UNICC will follow up with an email with full details of this review process and meeting time in the coming week.

In the Caribbean, there has been strong interest in the GeNS system (9/10 countries). It is likely that a meeting will be organized in July 2019 for this region to get them all registered to the GeNS. Once Samoa is ready a similar process could occur in the South Pacific region in mid 2019.

The GeNS letter is in final review and following approval it will be released to the GeNS Pilot countries.

With reference to additional GeNS Pilot countries, some questions were raised regarding the conditions of their participation. It was clarified that other countries are free to join the GeNS pilot process, however no project funds would be made available to them to support their in-country work to implement the system. Should they have the funds to support themselves in the latter form, all training and technical support will indeed be made available to them.



Workshops

- Latin America Workshop feedback- Peter, Laura, Christian

The Latin America workshop was very successful with a strong commitment from all NPPOs to participate in ePhyto. It provided the ESG members that attended a clear understanding of the country interest to join the system and which component they were looking to use (15 countries for hub and 3 for GeNS). Both technical and implementation workshops went smoothly and provided lots of clarity and motivation to the participating countries.

Further discussion took place with reference to Brazil's request to obtain the source code of the GeNs to build their own system. Following IPPCs support of such a sharing process, and keeping in mind any security challenges, the UNICC will need to review this option of having an open source project, and follow up. It was agreed to set up a meeting with Brazil and Christian, Younes and Gianluca to get an understanding of their needs and potential options.

- NENA/ Near East Workshop- rescheduling and steps forward - Josiah, Younes, Shane

It was clarified that the response from the UAE is still pending. In the meantime, it has been highlighted that Oman has shown interest to host the workshop. Given these delays the workshop has been moved to February 2019. Shane and Younes to follow up on the coming week.

Strategic Plan - Shane

The Strategic Plan document has been drafted and will be discussed at the SPG in the coming week. One item that was discussed in detail during this call was the outline of separate finances for capacity development vs the operational elements. As well as ensuring that the ePhyto organizational set up within the secretariat is independent of standard setting and implementation facilitation. Through this discussion it was further highlighted that there will be a need to emphasize at the SPG that given the present ePhyto strategy, the link that is in the IPPC strategic framework between ePhyto and the capacity development unit should be removed.

Departure – Shane

At the conclusion of the meeting Shane announced his forthcoming departure from CFIA, and consequently from ePhyto activities, to assume a position at the World Bank. The ESG Chair and IPPC Secretariat thanked Shane for his efforts to advance ePhyto and wished him well in his new position.

Tasks:

Task	Owner	Due Date
Other countries (other than the US) to develop sample XMLs and certificate	ESG	ASAP
GeNS Letter requires final review and distribution	Peter, Craig, Venkat, Laura	Done



UNICC to follow up on the possibility of providing Brazil (and other countries) the source code of the GeNS to build their own system	UNICC	Next meeting
Set up meeting with Brazil and selected ESG members to discuss the source code request	Christian	Done
Shane and Younes to follow up on location of NENA workshop	Shane and Younes	Pending

Pending from last meeting:

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
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