



IPPC ePHYTO STEERING GROUP

VIRTUAL MEETING REPORT

17 DECEMBER 2019

Participants

[1] The December virtual meeting of the the ePhyto Steering Group (ESG) addressed the high priority action items from the face-to-face meeting of the ESG that was held in November 2019. The meeting had the following participants:

- (1) Mr Christian Dellis (US, Chair)
- (2) Mr Peter Neimanis (AU)
- (3) Mr Gianluca Nuzzo (UNICC)
- (4) Mr Younes Kabbab (MOR)
- (5) Mr Walter Alessandrini (AR)
- (6) Mr Josiah Syanda (KE)
- (7) Mr Craig Fedchock (IPPC Secretariat)
- (8) Mr Denis Alex (IPPC Secretariat)
- (9) Ms Aoife Cassin (IPPC Secretariat)

[2] Participants not able to attend:

- (1) Mr Philippe Loopuyt (EU)
- (2) Mr Venkat Venkateswaran (UNICC)
- (3) Ms Chen Ying (CN)

1. Hub Updates

[3] The UNICC gave a brief update on the recent activities regarding the Hub. It was noted that they are still investigating the failing messages from Argentina and are working on a fix.

[4] The ESG were asked to review the updated document regarding accepting / rejecting documents. It was mentioned that the UNICC could design a feature so the NPPO Admin can know the type of document they are accepting. Christian has sent a document of statuses so these can be included.

[5] In relation to the Channel feature, the UNICC are ready to move to the next phase of testing.

[6] Status of countries:

- Morocco: Should be set up on the Hub by the end of year.
- South Korea: are comfortable with how the system is functioning, plan to use mainly for importing from early next year.
- Oman: Requested to meet with IPPC / UNICC (early February 2020)

- Central Asia countries – regional workshop or global symposium suggested.

[7] The removal of territories from the country list was also briefly discussed and Christian Dellis will continue to work on this with the UNICC.

[8] The next scheduled update for the Hub will be in March 2020.

2. GeNS Updates

[9] The UNICC gave an update on the GeNS, and as discussed at the meeting in Maryland, they are preparing a template so they can send a monthly report on usage, UAT and Production, similar to the one that is used for the Hub monthly report. The GeNS report will also contain information of forward release schedules with the list of changes, as agreed by the ESG. The target is to send the first GeNS report out by January 2020.

[10] Status of countries:

- Uganda: Testing in GeNS using the ESG test account. They are requested to send their onboarding document to Christian to get them started on their own ePhyto instance. So far, six staff have been trained via skype and Josiah plans to travel to Uganda once they have an instance set up in the GeNS
- Benin: Requested to use the GeNS, they will be sent the information and will need to complete the onboarding document
- Kenya: Currently they are reconfiguring their national system to use the Hub.
- Rwanda: Have been sent all information needed to join the GeNS, the onboarding document still needs to be completed
- Zambia: Interested in creating their own national system
- South Africa: Are currently only sending and not receiving. Josiah will follow up with them and it was suggested for them to try to send and receive ePhytos with the US and Argentina to ensure they are using the most up to date version. It was also suggested they can use the validation tool for self-assessment.

[11] The ESG noted the request from participants at the African workshop to translate the onboarding document into French. The Secretariat informed the ESG that this can be done by the end of January 2020.

3. 2020 Workshops

[12] The ESG were updated on the plans for a Near East ePhyto Workshop at the end of February 2020. It was noted that Oman might also be interested in hosting a workshop.

[13] It was also noted that another regional workshop for COMESA member states will be held in February or early March 2020.

4. Any Other Business

[14] Lastly, the ESG were informed that New Zealand are currently in testing to allow them to start exchanging fully with Pacific countries

[15] There will be a bilateral meeting between the US and Colombia in December. Colombia were informed to reach out to Walter Alessandrini, the ESG member in the region.

[16] Other follow up action items were briefly discussed and are reflected in the table below.

Action	Responsible	Deadline
1. ToRs for company and NPPO Admin roles	UNICC / IPPC Secretariat	January
2. Send the draft letter of benefits for using standardized paper phytos to ESG for review	IPPC Secretariat	Done
3. Send the report template for Secretariat and NPPOs to the ESG for review	IPPC Secretariat	Done
4. Follow up on the Conditions of Use document that had been drafted by FAO legal, one for the Hub and one for the GeNS on the legal requirements for countries using the GeNS	IPPC Secretariat / FAO legal	January
5. Translate the GeNS Onboarding document into French	IPPC Secretariat	January
6. Send the draft STDF final report to ESG for review	IPPC Secretariat	Done