

# IPPC ePhyto Solution

## Strengthening National Legislation to Support Electronic Phytosanitary Certification in COMESA countries

JOSIAH SYANDA



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# The IPPC ePhyto Solution - Background

- “ePhyto” is short for **electronic phytosanitary certificate**. In simple terms, it is the data contained in a phytosanitary certificate in digital form.
- The IPPC ePhyto Solution meets the requirements of International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM) 12 Annex 1.
- The ePhyto Solution allows countries **to electronically exchange ePhytos** with each other through a central hub, quickly, accurately and at no purchase cost. Countries can join the system for free once they meet the necessary requirements.
- The risk of loss, damage or fraud to the certificate is greatly reduced, as is the administrative burden on both border agencies and business.



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# The IPPC ePhyto Solution - Background

- The system was initially set up to exchange electronic phytosanitary certificates, but any certificate (animal health, food safety, etc.), once coded in XML, can be exchanged.
- NPPOs, agricultural and forestry industries, as well as freight forwarders and others are already benefitting from transaction cost reductions, improved trade security, risk management and increased trade flows.
- Food gets to where it needs to be faster without sacrificing attention to matters of plant health
- The IPPC Secretariat is collaborating with the Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation, industry and the World Bank in implementation efforts in a number of countries around the world.
- Special thanks to the STDF for providing the resources to start the project.



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# What is an ePhyto?

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8" standalone="true"?>
<SPSCertificate xmlns="urn:un:unece:uncefact:data:standard:SPSCertificate:17" xmlns:ns1="urn:un:unece:uncefact:data:standard:ReusableAggregateBusinessInformationEntity:21">
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    <ram:ID>779068</ram:ID>
    <ram:TypeCode>851</ram:TypeCode>
    <ram:StatusCode>70</ram:StatusCode>
    <ns1:DateTimeString>2018-04-10T10:54:44-03:00</ns1:DateTimeString>
    <ram:IssueDateTime>
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    </ram:IssueDateTime>
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      <ram:Name>Servicio Nacional de Sanidad y Calidad Agroalimentaria</ram:Name>
    </ram:IssuerSPSParty>
    <ram:IncludedSPSNote>
      <ram:Subject>SPSFL</ram:Subject>
      <ram:ContentCode>5</ram:ContentCode>
    </ram:IncludedSPSNote>
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    </ram:SignatorySPSAuthentication>
    <ram:ProviderSPSParty>
      <ram:Name>NULL</ram:Name>
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        <ram:Name>AR - BS BUIQUES GUSTAVO</ram:Name>
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        <ram:ID>1</ram:ID>
        <ram:Content>
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    </ram:SpecifiedSPSAddress>
  </ram:ConsignorSPSParty>
  <ram:ConsigneeSPSParty>
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    </ram:ApplicableSPSCClassification>
    <ram:ApplicableSPSCClassification>
      <ram:SystemName>IPPCPCVP</ram:SystemName>
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    <ram:ApplicableSPSCClassification>
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    </ram:OriginSPSCountry>
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- <SPSExchangedDocument>
  - <ram:Name>NULL</ram:Name>
  - <ram:ID>779068</ram:ID>
  - <ram:TypeCode>851</ram:TypeCode>
  - <ram:StatusCode>70</ram:StatusCode>
- <ram:IssueDateTime>
  - <ns1:DateTimeString>2018-04-10T10:54:44-03:00</ns1:DateTimeString>
- <ram:IssuerSPSParty>
  - <ram:Name>Servicio Nacional de Sanidad y Calidad Agroalimentaria</ram:Name>
- <ram:IncludedSPSNote>
  - <ram:Subject>SPSFL</ram:Subject>
  - <ram:ContentCode>5</ram:ContentCode>



# Paper Representations

## Argentina certificate (from their system)

CERTIFICADO FITOSANITARIO PHYTOSANITARY CERTIFICATE		
N° 779068		
DE: Organización Nacional de Protección Fitosanitaria de ARGENTINA FROM: National Plant Protection Organization of ARGENTINA		
PARA: Organización(es) Nacional(es) de Protección Fitosanitaria de: TO: The Plant Protection Organization(s) of:		
ESTADOS UNIDOS United States		
DESCRIPCIÓN DEL ENVÍO/ DESCRIPTION OF THE CONSIGNMENT		
1 - Nombre y dirección del exportador Name and address of the exporter CAMPO GRANDE S A 2022421, PEDREGAL (5529), MENDOZA, ARGENTINA	2 - Nombre y dirección declarada del destinatario Declared name and address of the consignee : PAPAYA FRUGT GRONT SALG OG BANANMODNING I/S GRONLOKKEVEJ 10 - 5000 ODENSE C P.IVA DK 32 86 72 78	
3 - Medio de transporte declarado Declared means of conveyance Marítimo - Buque Contenedor Maritime - Container ship	4 - Punto de entrada declarado Declared point of entry NEW YORK	
5 - Nombre del producto, número y descripción de bultos Name of produce, number and description of packages 15 cajas de Ajo Fresco 15 box of Fresh Garlic	6 - Cantidad declarada Quantity declared 40.0000 kg 40.0000 kg	
7 - Nombre botánico de la planta Botanical name of plant Allium sativum	8 - Lugar de origen Place of origin ARGENTINA - MENDOZA	9 - Marcas distintivas Distinguishing marks CAMPO GRANDE
10 - Por el presente se certifica que las plantas, productos vegetales u otros artículos reglamentados descritos aquí han sido inspeccionados y/o analizados, de acuerdo con procedimientos oficiales adecuados, y se consideran libres de plagas cuarentenarias especificadas por la contraparte importadora y que cumplen con los requisitos fitosanitarios exigidos por esta, incluyendo los relativos a plagas no cuarentenarias reglamentadas. This is to certify that the plants, plants products or other regulated articles described herein have been inspected and/or tested according to appropriate official procedures and are considered to be free from the quarantine pests, specified by the importing contracting party and to conform with the current phytosanitary requirements of the importing contracting party including those for regulated non-quarantine pests.		
DECLARACIÓN ADICIONAL/ ADDITIONAL DECLARATION		
11 - Sin Declaraciones Adicionales No additional declarations Fecha de Inspección: 22-enero-2018 Inspection date: 22-january-2018		
TRATAMIENTO DE DESINFECCIÓN Y/O DESINFESTACIÓN/ DISINFECTION AND/OR DISINFESTATION TREATMENT		
12 - Tratamiento/ Treatment	13 - Producto químico y concentración (Ingr. activo)/ Chemical and Concentration (active ingredient)	
14 - Duración/ Duration	15 - Temperatura/ Temperature	
16 - Fecha/ Date	17 - Información adicional/ Additional information	
DATOS DE EXPEDICIÓN/ INFORMATION OF EXPEDITION		
Lugar y fecha de expedición Place and date of issue	CIUDAD AUTONOMA DE BUENOS AIRES, 22-enero-2018 CIUDAD AUTONOMA DE BUENOS AIRES, 22-january-2018	
Official autorizado Authorized officer	AR - 85 - BUIGUES GUSTAVO	
La correspondiente CNP, sus funcionarios y representantes declinan toda responsabilidad económica y/o comercial resultante de este certificado. Cualquier adulteración o uso indebido de este documento es penado por la ley. The corresponding NPO, its officers and representatives decline any financial and/or commercial responsibility in connection with this certificate. Any adulteration or improper use of this document is punished by law.		
CUVE 257790688582		

## Same certificate received from Argentina via ePhyto in US

PCIT Generated Foreign Certificate Derived from Electronically Supplied Data		FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
Servicio Nacional de Sanidad y Calidad Agroalimentaria		PLACE OF ISSUE PUERTO DE BUENOS AIRES (CIUDAD AUTONOMA DE BUENOS AIRES)
		NO. 779068
		DATE INSPECTED April 10, 2018
PHYTOSANITARY CERTIFICATE		X
TO: THE PLANT PROTECTION ORGANIZATION(S) OF United States		
CERTIFICATION		
This is to certify that the plants, plant product or other regulated articles described herein have been inspected and/or tested according to appropriate official procedures and are considered to be free from the quarantine pests, specified by the importing contracting party and to conform with the current phytosanitary requirements of the importing contracting party including those for regulated non-quarantine pests.		
DISINFESTATION AND/OR DISINFECTION TREATMENT		
TREATMENT DETAILS		
DESCRIPTION OF THE CONSIGNMENT		
1. NAME AND ADDRESS OF EXPORTER CAMPO GRANDE S A 2022421, PEDREGAL (5529), MENDOZA, ARGENTINA		2. DECLARED NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE CONSIGNEE : PAPAYA FRUGT GRONT SALG OG BANANMODNING I/S GRONLOKKEVEJ 10 - 5000 ODENSE C P.IVA DK 32 86 72 78
3. NAME OF PRODUCE AND QUANTITY DECLARED (1) garlic (Bulbs) 40.0000 kilogram		4. BOTANICAL NAME OF PLANTS (1) Allium sativum
5. NUMBER AND DESCRIPTION OF PACKAGES (1) 15 Box		6. DISTINGUISHING MARKS (1) CAMPO GRANDE
7. PLACE OF ORIGIN (1) MENDOZA		8. DECLARED MEANS OF CONVEYANCE Container ship (Maritime transport)
		9. DECLARED POINT OF ENTRY NEW YORK
ADDITIONAL DECLARATION		
No additional declarations		
Page 1 of 1		
10. DATE ISSUED April 10, 2018	11. INSPECTOR	12. NAME OF AUTHORIZED OFFICER (Type or Print) AR - 85 BUIGUES GUSTAVO
No financial liability with respect to this certificate shall attach to Servicio Nacional de Sanidad y Calidad Agroalimentaria or to any of its officers or representatives.		

Standardized format leads to easier document review

# The ePhyto solution

## Hub

System to facilitate exchange of ePhytos between NPPOs

## GeNS

### Generic ePhyto National System

Centralized web-based system to allow countries without their own systems to produce, send and receive ePhytos through the hub

## Harmonized message

Uniform format, structure and accompanying codes and lists where applicable



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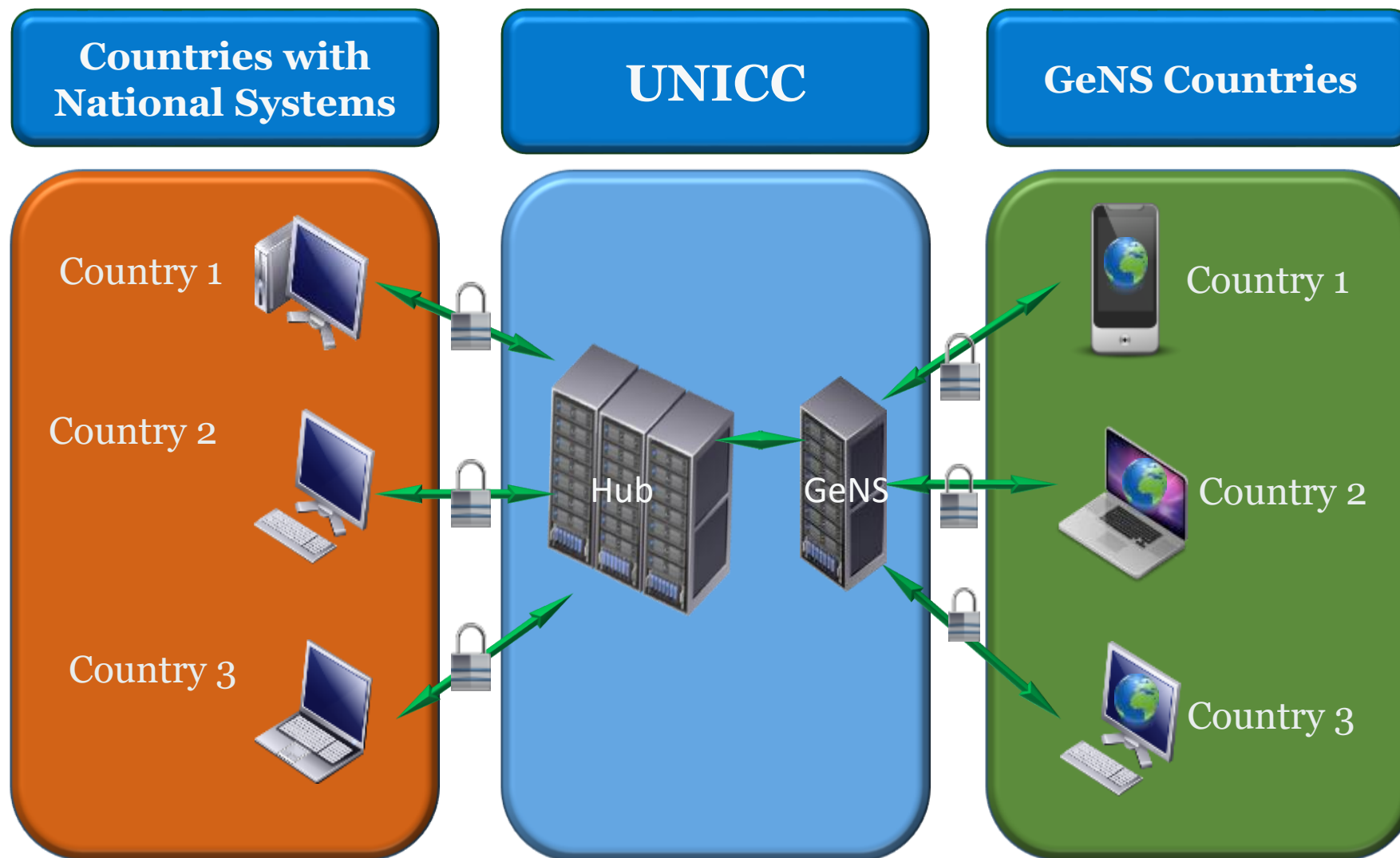


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# IPPC ePhyto solution



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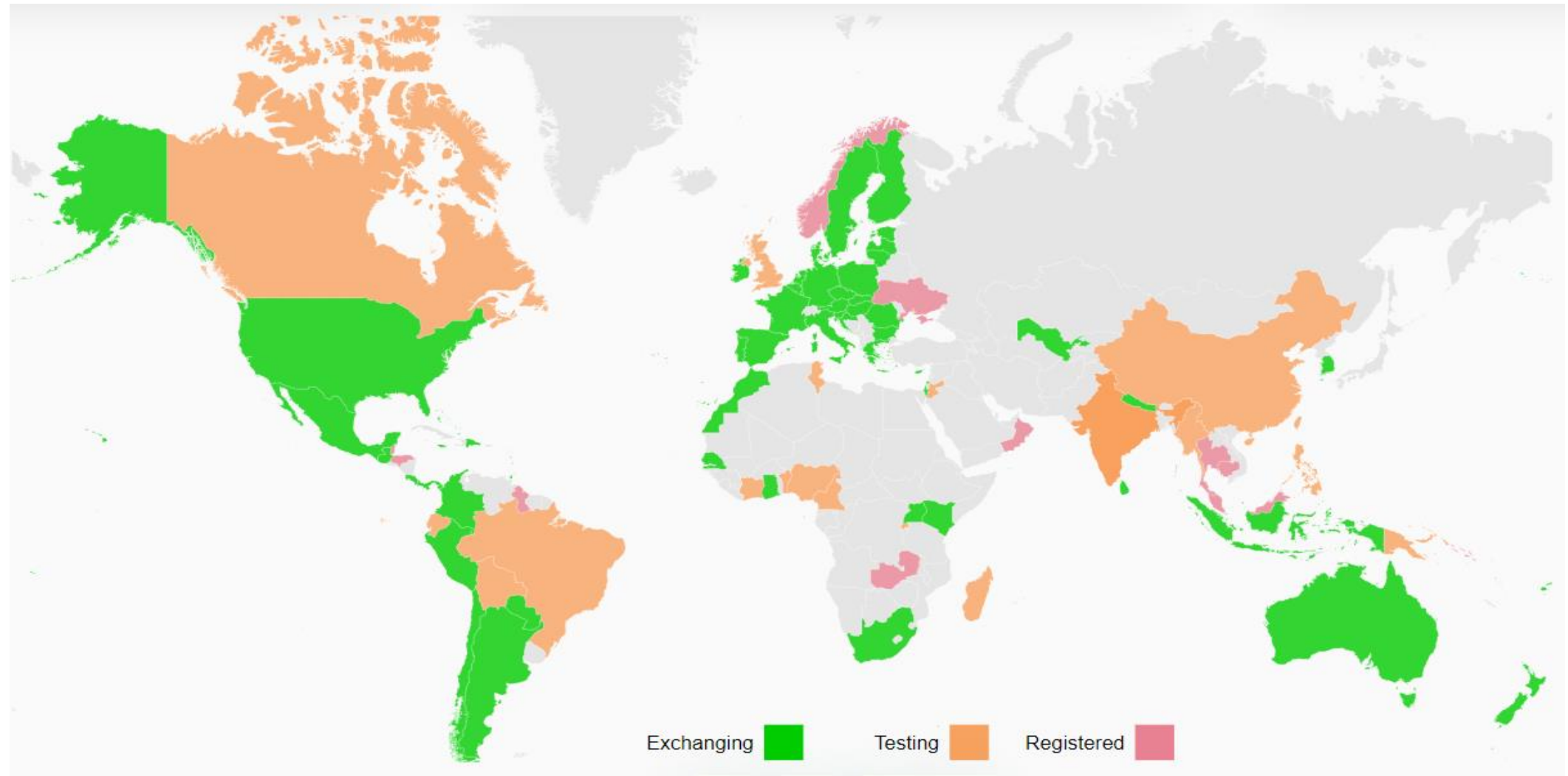
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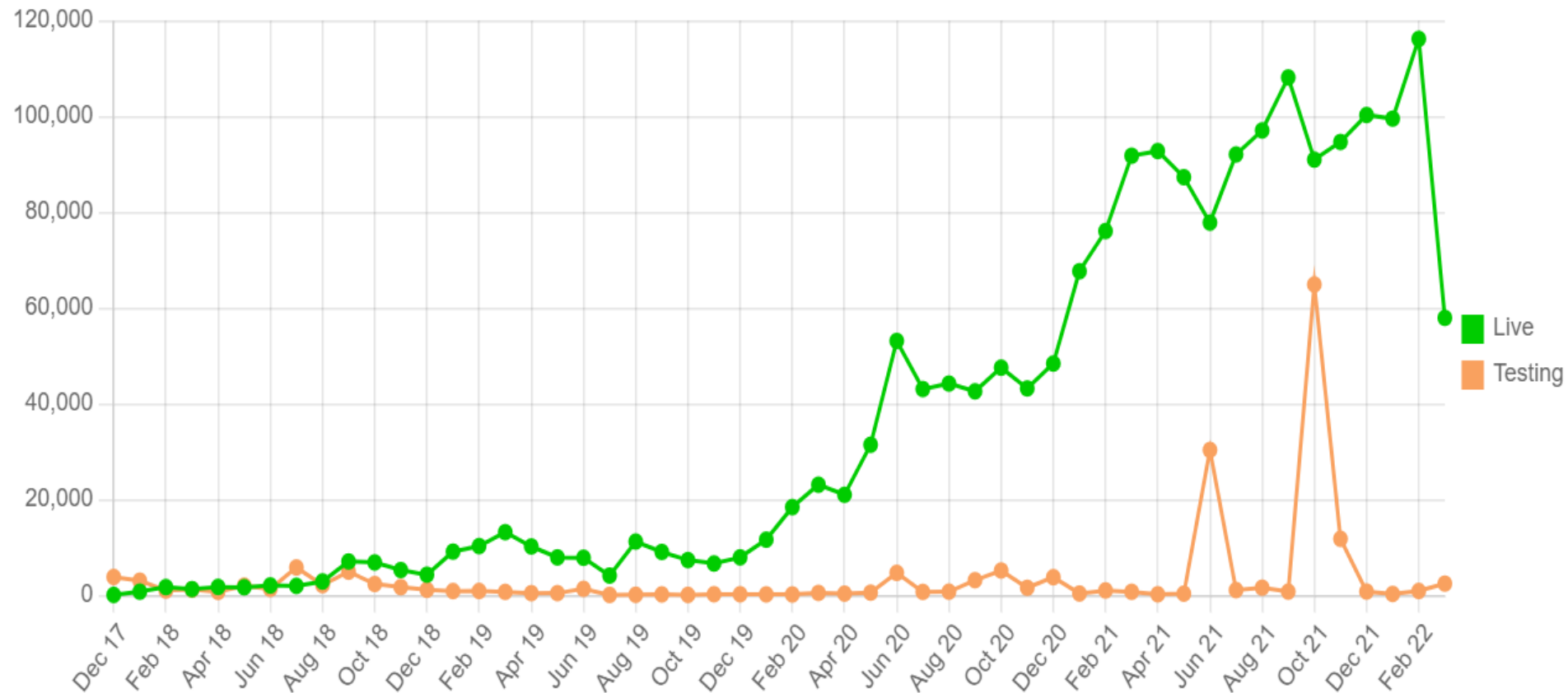
# Country Participation – Hub and GeNS March 2022





# The IPPC ePhyto Solution

Summary of the certificates successfully exchanged through the HUB



Total Live Exchanges:

1923234

Total Test Exchanges:

180903



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# ePhyto uptake in COMESA region

- The current member countries in alphabetical order include Burundi, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Rwanda, Seychelles, Sudan, Swaziland, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.
- 2 countries are doing live global ePhyto exchange
- 4 countries have expressed interest to implement ePhyto



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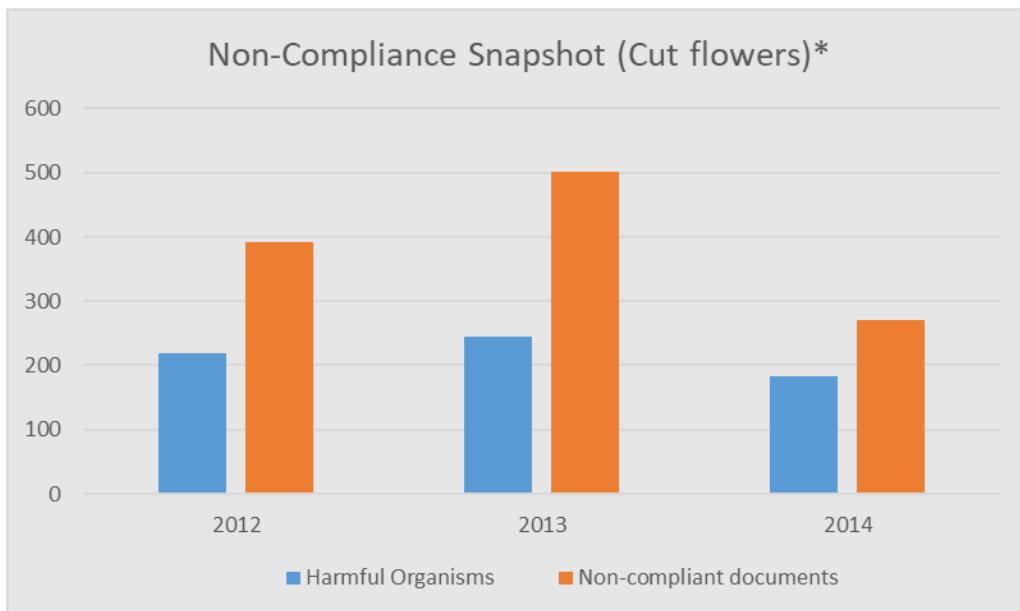
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# Why ePhyto?

Discussed for many years, began in earnest in 2015 with STDF grant award for US\$1 million. Fully operational and in service as of July 2019 (Hub and Gens) – August 2021 - 100 countries registered, 57 in production. Argentina, Chile, Sri Lanka, USA, Mexico and others are paperless.

- Reduces non-compliant certificates = More paper work rejections than pest finds.
- **Eliminates inefficient paper processes** = labor intensive.
- Efficiency gets food faster where it is needed
- Reduces the re-issuance of paper phytosanitary certificates = tremendous cost in time and money with paper.
- Loss of commodities waiting for clearance.
- Reduces industry claims for late deliveries or bad quality.
- ePhyto protects legitimate trade.
  - Fraudulent certificates
  - Pest introduction



\*Source: Union Fleurs



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# ePhyto Case Studies

## Sent: 01 October 2021 11:13 – Client in Turkey Sends a distress email

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,  
please accept my apologies for just contacting some of you **by random**. We have a **problem of acceptance with a Phytosanitary certificate** for sawn timber from **XXXXXXXX** exported to Turkey. The officials in Turkey (reading us in copy) were **doubtful about the validity of this Phyto** in question, so they **asked for confirmation** from **xxxxxx**. Such a **confirmation has been sent by e-mail from the person in charge**, Mr. @@@@ (also reading us in copy).

Thanks a lot to him for his cooperation!

Now the people in **Turkey found out that Mr. @@@@** is not listed as the person in charge in **XXXXXXXX** on the FAO-homepage. But the person listed there is on retirement already since 2018. As a **consequence the Phytosanitary certificate is not accepted** and Turkish officials seem to decide that the container needs to **be returned to Africa**.

Please, **is there anyone amongst you that could help us in this matter**, give proof that Mr. @@@@ is really the person in charge and to **make the officials in Turkey trust** in this info so that **they might accept the Phyto?**

Thank you very much for your kind assistance.



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# ePhyto Case Studies

Le mercredi 6 octobre 2021, 11:31:17 UTC+1, IPPC response

Dear Colleagues,

The IPPC received the email below concerning the validity of a phytosanitary certificate from XXXXXX. Could you be kind enough to assist us in **determining whether or not the phytosanitary certificate in question is valid or not?** Is Mr. @@@@ in fact the head of the NPPO at present? If so, I would urgently request that he: 1) updates the IPPC contact page, 2) provides a copy of a sample phytosanitary certificate from XXXXX, and 3) **investigate joining the IPPC ePhyto Solution to reduce the possibility of future problems of this sort.** I do not have a contact phone number for Mr. XXXXXX, but I have copied him on this email. The company is quite concerned as **demurrage charges are adding up and this not only will affect the company financially but could also have an impact on Guinea's ability to trade.**

Thank you very much in advance for your kind assistance!

Craig Fedchock



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# Channel Delegation

Single Window systems can now connect to the HUB to send/receive ePhytos on behalf of countries they manage.

The delegation rule can be adjusted on the following criteria:

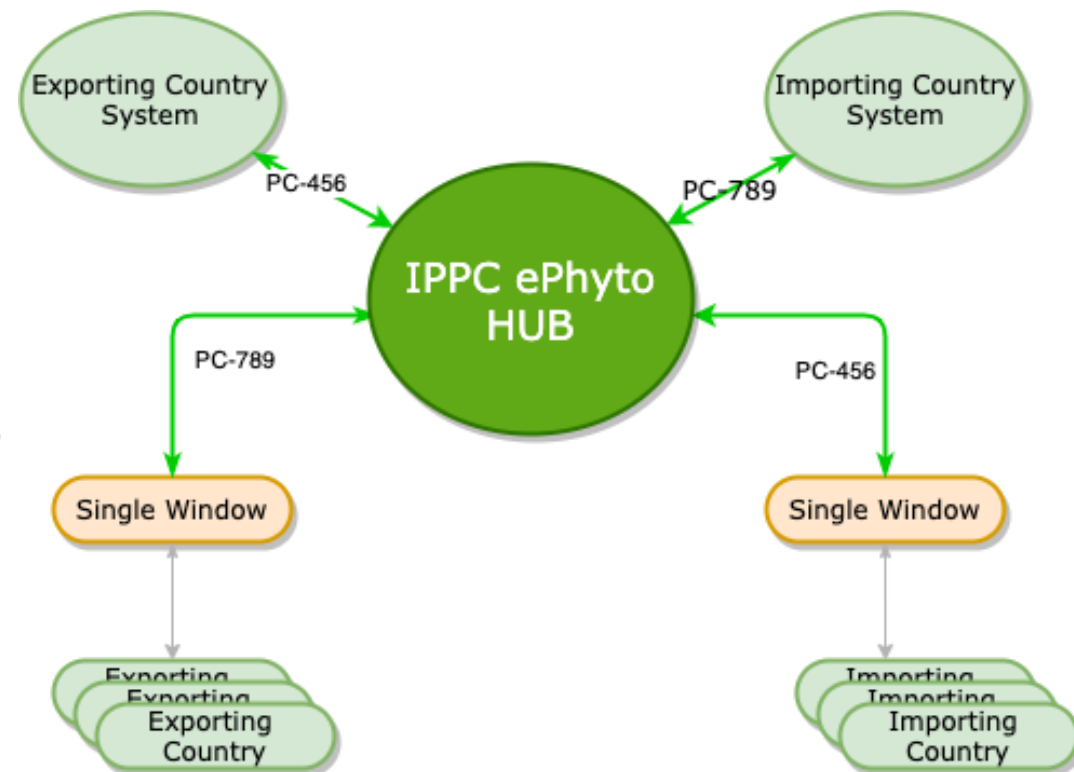
- Incoming/Outgoing messages
- Document Type (*Regular and Re-export*)
- Document Status (*Issued, Withdraw*)

Something similar can also be configured to send copies of ePhytos to those who need them.



## The EU Traces system is using this feature.

Countries can send ePhytos to any EU member (or **any** country on the ePhyto Solution ) through the HUB, and the message will be pulled by the Traces system and delivered to the intended country.



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# The IPPC ePhyto Solution – How to Join

- For a country to participate in the Hub with a **national system** it is mandatory to have the capacity to produce electronic phytosanitary certificates (ePhytos).
- The national system needs to have some specific functionalities and this information is provided in detail on the ePhyto webpage: [www.ephytoexchange.org](http://www.ephytoexchange.org) This includes among other things, the ability to enter phytosanitary certificate data electronically, produce phytosanitary certificates (ePhytos and/or paper), and store electronic phytosanitary certificate data.
- For a country to participate in **the GeNS**, it must review, fill-out and submit the GeNS onboarding document, also available at the [www.ephytoexchange.org](http://www.ephytoexchange.org) webpage
- For either approach, **YOU MUST RAISE AWARENESS WITH SENIOR OFFICIALS, LOCAL INDUSTRY AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS**



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# www.ephytoexchange.org

## Online Video Training for GeNS

### IPPC ePhyto solutions - Training platform

GeNS Training is now live



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# Thank you



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