



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



International
Plant Protection
Convention

REPORT

Focus Group on Sustainable Funding of the IPPC ePhyto Solution

**Virtual Meeting
27 April 2022**

IPPC Secretariat

Required citation:

IPPC Secretariat. 2022. *Report of the meeting of the Focus Group on Sustainable Funding of the IPPC ePhyto Solution, 27 April 2022*. Rome. Published by FAO on behalf of the Secretariat of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC).

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1. Opening of the meeting

- [1] The IPPC Secretary, Osama EL-LISSY, welcomed the participants to the meeting and stressed the importance of finding a solution for sustainable funding of the ePhyto initiative.

2. Meeting arrangements

- [1] The IPPC Secretariat (hereafter “the Secretariat”) provided the necessary operational and administrative updates prior to the start of the meeting.
- [2] The Secretariat and each member of the Focus Group introduced themselves and stated their motivation to be part of the group. The membership list is presented in Appendix 2 to this report.

2.1 Election of the Chairperson

- [2] The Focus Group (FG) participants elected Ms Lisa WINTHROP (New Zealand/SWP member) as Chairperson of the Focus Group.

2.2 Adoption of the agenda

- [3] The FG members adopted the agenda as presented in Appendix 1 to this report.

3. Setting the scene and brainstorming session on the way forward

3.1 Research already done – sustainable funding solutions

- [4] Mr Tom BUTTERLY, an observer to the Focus Group representing the World Economic Forum introduced the research report he did for the Secretariat some years ago.
- [5] The report presented options and recommendations developed by TDAF Consulting regarding the Business Model for the ePhyto Solution. The following recommendations were presented and four main business models were considered, namely:
- Funding by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
 - Funding by Donors, including funding support from Lead National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs) and or Industry
 - Participant Based Funding
 - Combination approach.
- [6] The report recommended focusing initially (i.e. for the first 5 years) on a no-fee total support model inclusive of all the above areas (Operational, Administration and Capacity Building), funded through a Multi-donor Trust Fund to be established by the IPPC Secretariat within FAO. This was done by the IPPC Secretariat through the existing Multi-donor Trust Fund.
- [7] The Focus Group discussed the findings of the report and there was a consensus that a cost-benefit analysis needs to be done for the ePhyto system.
- [8] It was agreed that the IPPC Secretariat would share this report¹ with the group, alongside other relevant documents.

3.2 Current situation and the state of the development of the ePhyto system

- [9] Mr Craig FEDCHOCK, IPPC Senior Advisor and ePhyto Manager gave a brief introduction informing the group that interest in, and usage of, the IPPC ePhyto Solution was increasing. The number of ePhytos exchanged has exceeded two million and close to a thousand people have participated in various webinars on the Solution organized by the Secretariat and the ePhyto Industry Advisory Group (IAG).
- [10] Mr FEDCHOCK also updated the group that progress was being made on translating the ePhyto Solution Generic ePhyto National System (GeNS) into FAO languages. Madagascar is the first country to pilot

¹ <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/91214/>

the French version and work is progressing for an Arabic version with support from the Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation (GATF). Work is also being done on the cost benefit analysis by FAO and some other parties.

3.3 Proposed approaches to the task

- [11] Mr Marko BENOVIC, Budget and Finance Specialist at the IPPC Secretariat was due to present an agenda item on some innovative solutions including bitcoin lighting network for payments and research already done – sustainable funding solutions. However due to time restraints these items were not reached in the limited meeting time and so, they were deferred to future meetings.

3.3 Discussion on the IPPC Strategic framework 2020-2030 – ePhyto Development Agenda item

- [12] The Secretariat briefly introduced the [IPPC Strategic framework 2020-2030](#) and the linkages to the ePhyto Solution but there was not much time for discussion on this topic.

4. Any other business

- [13] No other business.

5. Date and arrangements of the next meeting

- [14] The FG discussed the need to review their Terms of References and discuss in more detail the objectives of the focus group in more at the next meeting and to specifically discuss criteria/principles for a cost recovery model.

- [15] They decided it would be necessary to meet monthly and the next meeting will be held on 25 May 2022.

7. Close of the meeting

- [16] The Chairperson thanked the participants for their contributions and the Secretariat closed the meeting.

Appendix 1: Agenda

**COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES
FOCUS GROUP ON SUSTAINABLE FUNDING OF THE IPPC EPHYTO SOLUTION
VIRTUAL MEETING**

	AGENDA ITEM	DOCUMENT NO.	PRESENTER
1.	Opening of the Meeting	--	Osama EL LISSY <i>IPPC Secretary</i>
2.	Meeting Arrangements		Marko BENOVIC
2.1.	Document list	--	
2.2.	Participant list	--	
3.	Introductions and election of Chairperson		All
4.	Adoption of the Agenda	01_ePhyto SF FG_2022_Apr_Tel	Chairperson
5.	Setting the scene and brainstorming session on the way forward		All
5.1.	Research already done – sustainable funding solutions		Tom BUTTERLY
5.2.	Current situation and the state of the development of the ePhyto system		Craig FEDCHOCK
5.3.	Proposed approaches to the task - Innovative solutions – bitcoin lighting network for payments		Marko BENOVIC
5.4.	IPPC Strategic framework 2020-2030 – ePhyto Development Agenda - discussion		All
5.5.	Discussion		All
6.	Any Other Business		Chairperson
7.	Next Meeting	--	Chairperson
8.	Closing of the Meeting	--	Chairperson

Appendix 2: Membership list

FAO Region	Name, Organization, Country	e-mail account
Africa	VACANT	
Asia	Mr Shigemi TEPPEI Deputy Director Plant Protection Division, Food Safety and Consumer Affairs Bureau Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) Japan	tepei_shigemi780@maff.go.jp
Europe	Mr Samuel BISHOP Head of International plant health policy and risk co-ordination York, UK	sam.bishop@defra.gsi.gov.uk
Latin America and the Caribbean	VACANT	
Near East and North Africa	VACANT	
North America	Mr Ibrahim SHAQIR Associate Deputy Administrator, Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) USA	ibrahim.shagir@usda.gov
Southwest Pacific <i><u>Chairperson</u></i>	Ms Lisa WINTHROP Group Manager, Plant Health Group, MPI, New Zealand	lisa.winthrop@mpi.govt.nz
Southwest Pacific / ESG Rep	Mr Peter NEIMANIS EL2, Director Business Systems Program Plant Export Operations Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment Australia	Peter.Neimanis@awe.gov.au
Industry Rep	Ms Alejandra DANIELSON Regional Director for South Asia, U.S. Grains Council	adcastillo@grains.org
CPM Bureau Rep	Mr Peter THOMSON Director Plants & Pathways Biosecurity New Zealand	Peter.Thomson@mpi.govt.nz
UNICC Rep	Mr Venkat VENKATESWARAN Head - Applications Delivery United Nations International Computing Centre (UNICC)	venkat@unicc.org
Observer	Mr Tom BUTTERLY ePhyto Initiative Manager, World Economic Forum	Tom.Butterly@weforum.org
IPPC Secretariat	Mr Craig FEDCHOCK	Craig.Fedchock@fao.org
IPPC Secretariat	Mr Marko BENOVIC	Marko.Benovic@fao.org
IPPC Secretariat	Ms Aoife CASSIN	Aoife.Cassin@fao.org