



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



International  
Plant Protection  
Convention



# The IPPC ePhyto Solution in African countries

**Overview of the IPPC ePhyto Solution**

Webinar, 21 June 2023

## Outline

1. Do these look familiar?
2. What is an electronic phytosanitary certificate?
3. What is the IPPC ePhyto Solution?
4. A brief history of the IPPC ePhyto Solution
5. Legislative prerequisites for electronic certification
6. Information on the ePhyto website
7. Key figures on the IPPC ePhyto Solution
8. Collaboration
9. Future development and challenges

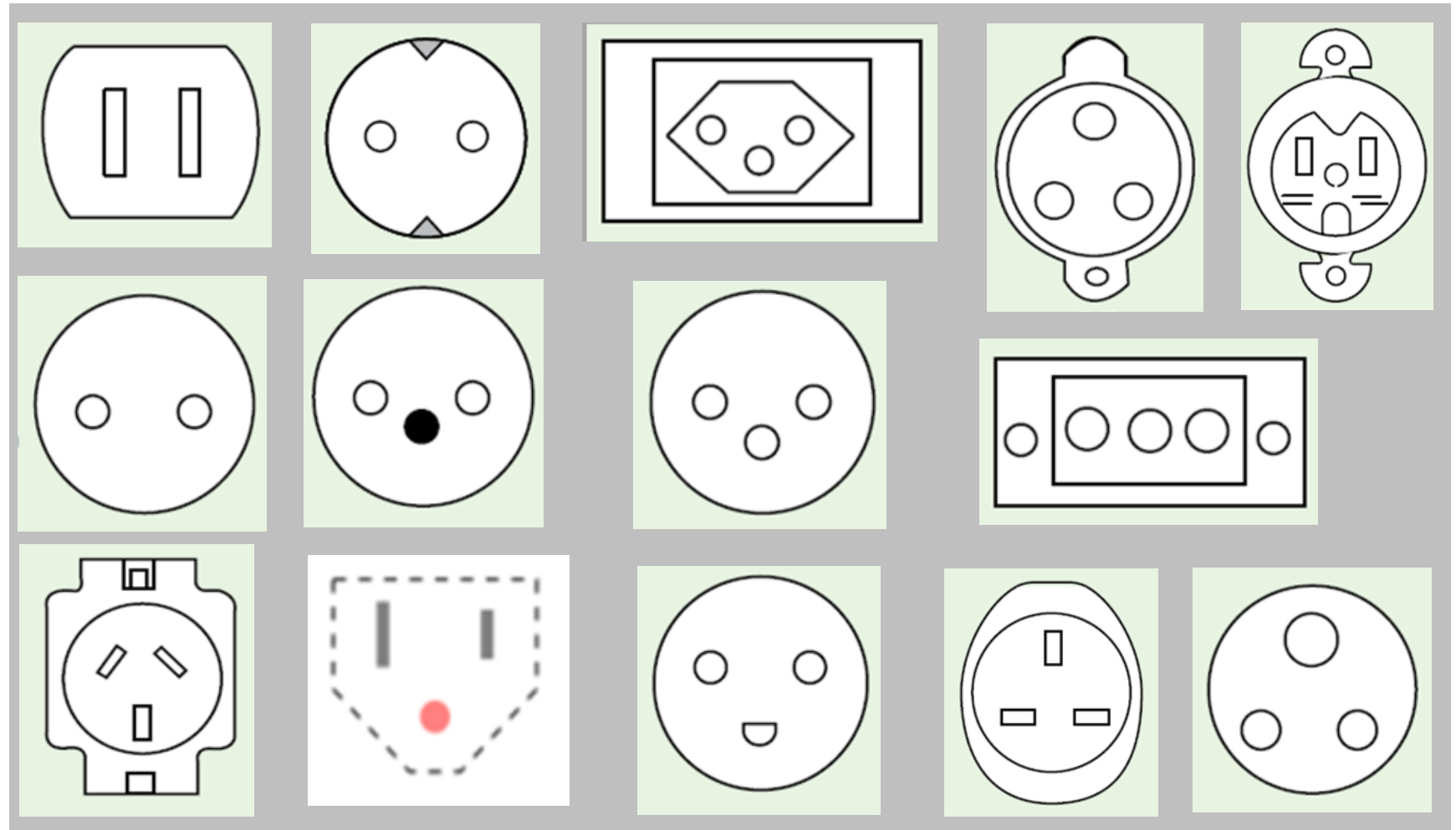


Improving Safe Trade in Plants and Plant Products



### Overview of the IPPC ePhyto Solution

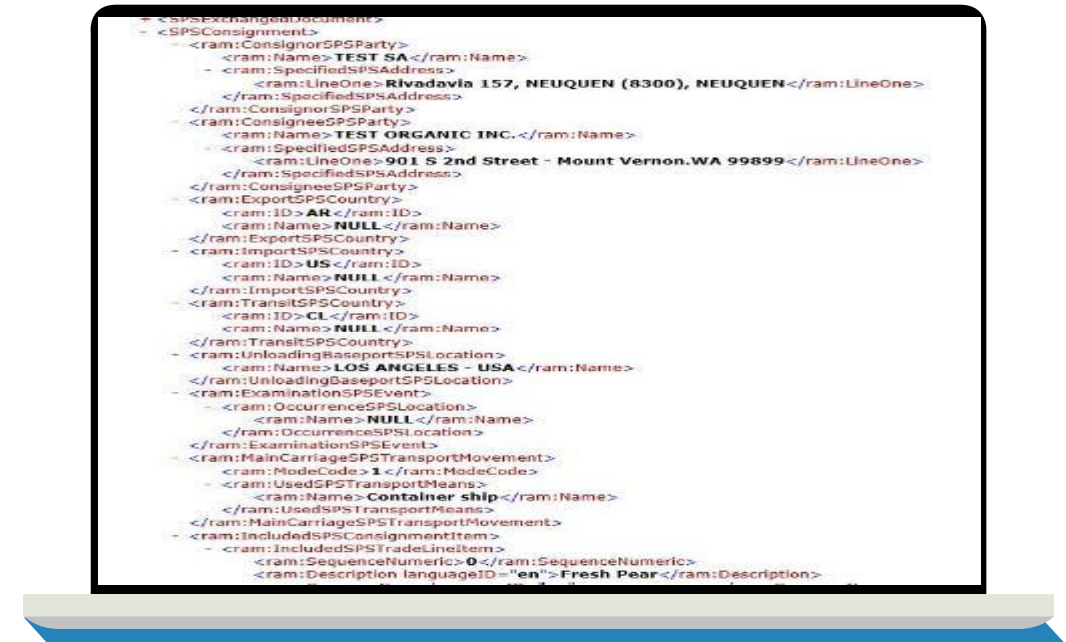
## 1. Do these look familiar?



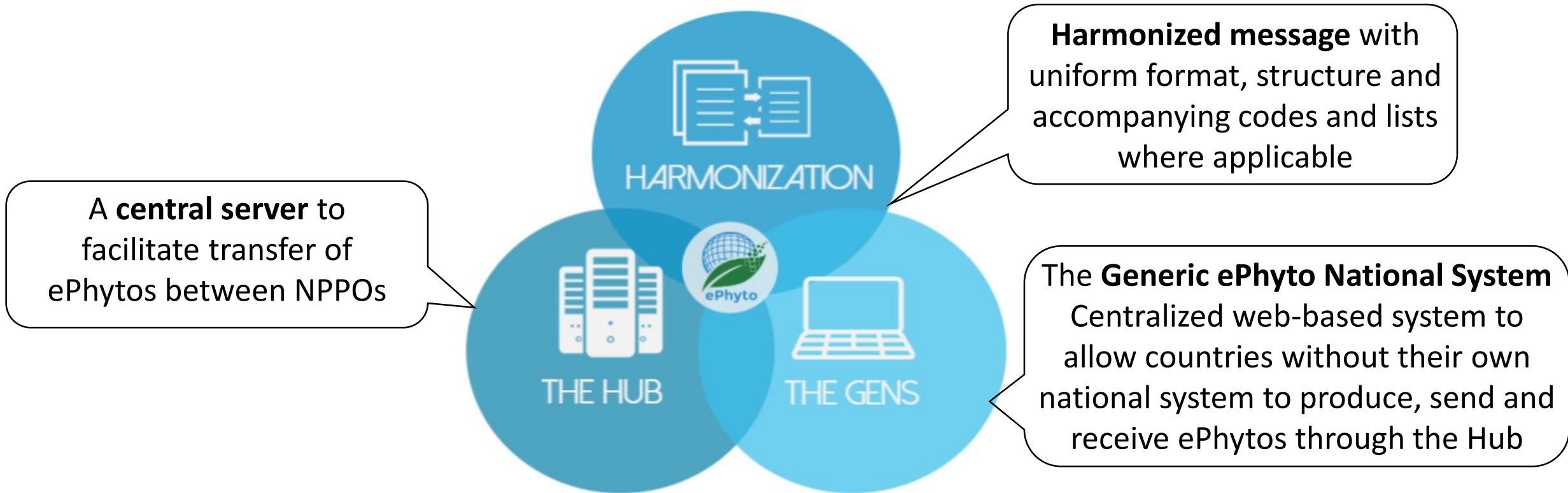
## 2. What is an electronic phytosanitary certificate?

- Electronic equivalent of a paper certificate
- ePhyto = electronic phytosanitary certificate
- Requirements of ISPM 12 apply
- May be issued where accepted by the importing country
- Should use standardized language (XML)

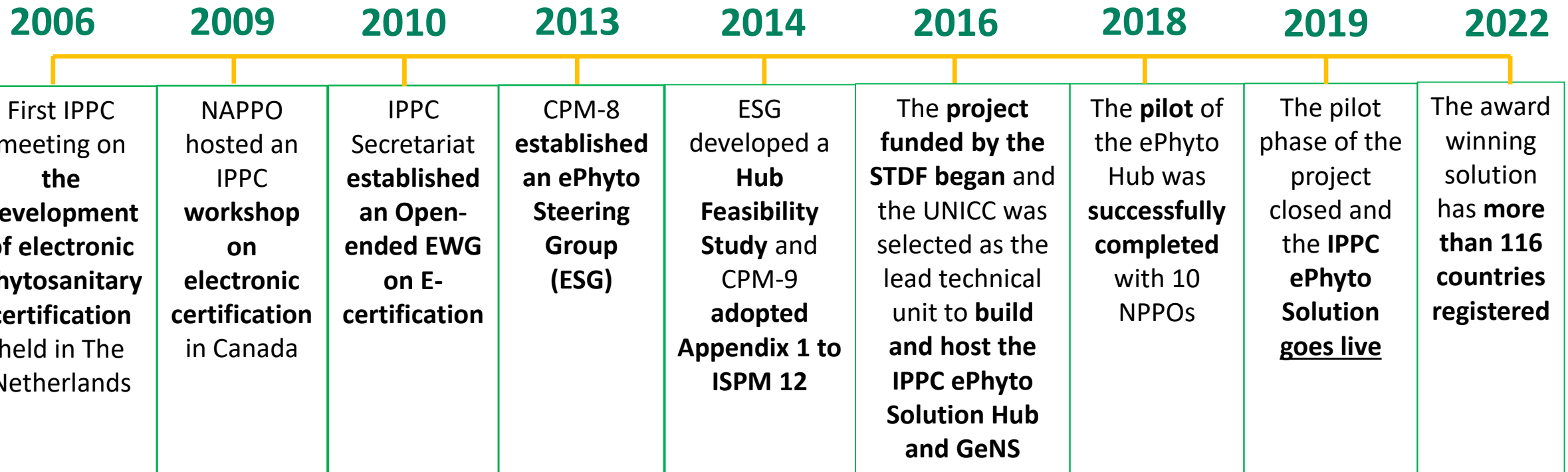
- Not a scanned certificate



### 3. What is the IPPC ePhyto Solution?

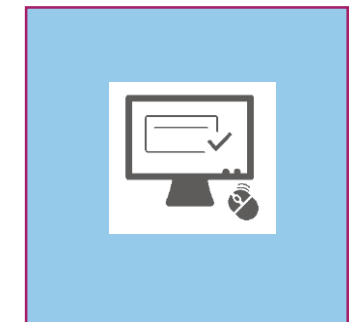


## 4. A brief history of the IPPC ePhyto Solution



## 5. Legislative prerequisites for electronic certification

- ePhytos are recognized by ISPM 12 as a valid means of exchanging phytosanitary information between exporting and importing countries
- But **national legislation must expressly recognize the validity of ePhytos**
- Webinar on [How to Strengthen National Legislation to Support Electronic Phytosanitary Certification in COMESA Countries \(March 2022\)](#)
- Model regulations proposed



## Overview of the IPPC ePhyto Solution

### 6. Information on the ePhyto website

<https://www.ephytoexchange.org/landing/>



#### HARMONIZATION

- Overview
- Documentation

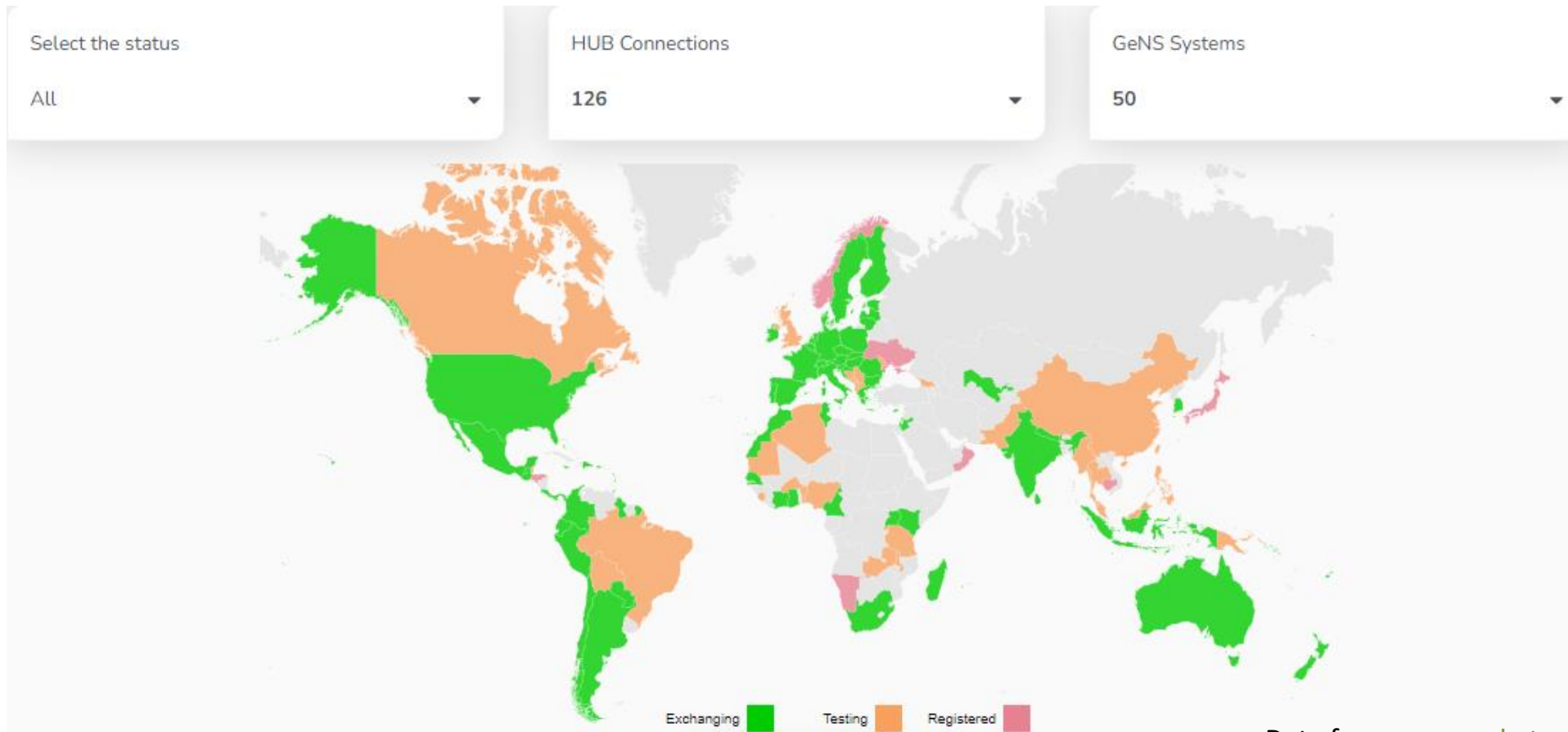
#### HUB GeNS

- Overview
- Guide to joining
- Documentation
- Infographics

CONTACT:  
IPPC Secretariat: [ippc@fao.org](mailto:ippc@fao.org)  
ePhyto Team: [ippc-ephyto@fao.org](mailto:ippc-ephyto@fao.org)



## 7.1 Key figures on the IPPC ePhyto Solution (1/2)

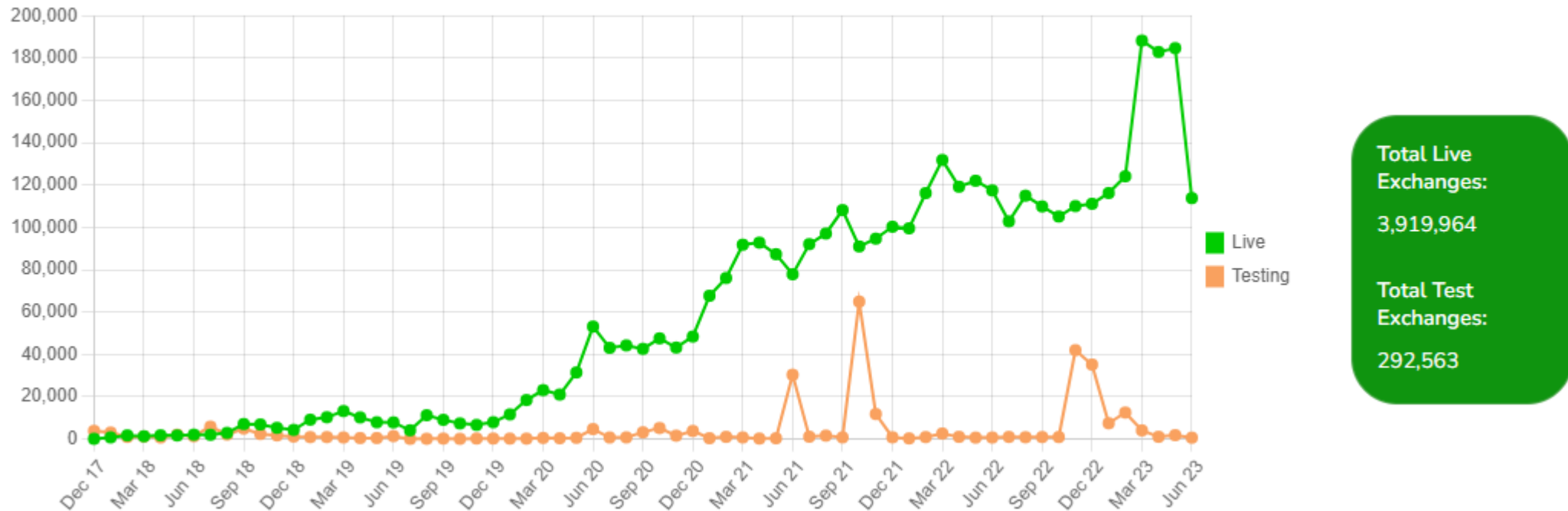


- **126 countries onboard:**
  - Registered: 9
  - Testing: 40
  - Live: 77
- **Out of 77 countries, 25 using the GeNS**

Data from [www.ephytoexchange.org](http://www.ephytoexchange.org) as per June 2023

## 7.2 Key figures on the IPPC ePhyto Solution (2/2)

Summary of the certificates successfully exchanged through the HUB



The system is increasingly handling over 180,000 certificates per month, with the capacity to handle (in the current configuration) up to 100,000 certificates per day

Data from [www.ephytoexchange.org](http://www.ephytoexchange.org) as per June 2023

## 8. Collaboration

The IPPC Secretariat is working with a number of international organizations and groups. These include:

- The United Nations International Computing Centre 
- The Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation of the World Economic Forum 
- The Standards and Trade Development Facility  STANDARDS and TRADE  
DEVELOPMENT FACILITY
- The World Bank and International Finance Corporation  **IFC** International  
Finance Corporation  
WORLD BANK GROUP  
*Creating Markets, Creating Opportunities*
- The World Customs Organization  **World Customs Organization**  
Organisation mondiale des douanes
- The ePhyto Industry Advisory Group (IAG)
  -  **FCC**  
FEDERATION OF  
COCOA COMMERCE
  -  **CIOPORA**
  -  **IGTC**  
International Grain Trade Coalition
  -  NATIONAL ALFALFA & FORAGE ALLIANCE  
**NAFA**
  -  since 1952  
**Europatat**  
European Potato Trade Association
  -  **freshfel**
  -  **ISF** International Seed Federation  
Seed is Life
  -  **iwpa**
  -  **GEA** Global  
Express  
Association
  -  **UF** UNION  
FLEURS  
INTERNATIONAL FLOWER TRADE ASSOCIATION
  -  **INTERNATIONAL  
COTTON  
ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE**  
**ICAC**
  -  **SHAFPE**  
SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE ASSOCIATION  
OF FRESH FRUIT EXPORTERS

## 9. Future development and challenges

- CPM Focus Group on Sustainable Funding for ePhyto
  - Seeking short, medium, and long term funding solutions
- Translation into other languages (GeNS)
  - French and Arabic versions are live, **Spanish soon!**
- Routine maintenance and enhancements
  - Channel enhancements
  - ePayments
- Continued collaboration with non-phytosanitary agencies/organizations (WOAH/Codex/Others)
  - NPPO workshops with the ePhyto Industry Advisory Group (IAG)
  - Ongoing projects with the Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation and World Bank
- Linkage to other government/non-government systems (Single Windows, Customs, ASYCUDA, Blockchains (Covantis, eBills of Lading, etc.))





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# Thank you

## IPPC Secretariat

Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations (FAO)

[ippc@fao.org](mailto:ippc@fao.org) | [www.ippc.int](http://www.ippc.int)

