



Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries  
(MAAIF)



# UGANDA EXPERIENCE - ELECTRONIC PHYTOSANITARY CERTIFICATION GeNS (e-Phyto)

BY

UGANDA - NPPO

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# Introduction of NPPO Uganda



The Department of Crop Inspection and Certification (DCIC) in the Ministry of Agriculture Animal Industries and Fisheries (MAAIF) is the National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO) of Uganda.

## **Mandate:**

- Facilitate safe trade, protect the country from foreign pests as well as protect Uganda's trading partners from introduction of quarantine pests from Uganda that could be associated with plants, plant products and regulated articles moving in international trade.
- Support sustainable crop inspection and certification in conformity with national and international phytosanitary, seed/ planting materials and agro-chemicals control requirements; for improved food security, and household incomes.





# Why e-Phyto (GeNS) for Uganda

## Solve;

- Interceptions due to Inadequate **documentation** / additional declarations.
- Challenges in referencing for **authenticity between or by NPPOs**.
- **Costs** involved for Government – Printing paper certificates and **storage** for hard copy duplicates.
- Delays in government procurement systems for manual Phytosanitary certificates (PCs).
- **Costs** involved by exporters such as, **transport, time** to pick up PCs or **loss of documents** enroute to export destination.
- Simpler and fast **Data analysis**.
- Delayed reports and real comprehensive data to support **informed Government decisions** .
- Justification gaps to support needed **Inspector numbers, deployments, equipment, support risk analyses and prioritise commodity chains** for increased market access.



# Pre-requisites for E-phyto (Gens) - 1. stakeholder Engagements



1. NPPO Staff (Inspectors)
2. Applicable Regulations
3. Administrative Institution's Top Ministry Leadership
4. Political leadership
5. Private sector- exporters
6. Commodity Crop Apex or Associations

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7. Export Destination National Plant Protection Organization Offices (NPPO)



# Steps taken to implement e-Phyto by NPPO Uganda



## Mixed method approach used

- Inspectors sensitized by Head NPPO - took one day.
- Ministry Administration and Political leadership sensitized by the Head NPPO and technical team, providing background/ justification, (e.g. previous audit reports) documentation interception reports, lack of information and reports took two days.
- Head NPPO sent out official communication (letters and emails) to various relevant Ministries, Departments, Agencies, Notice boards, and by hand /use of inspectors to private sector ( one week).
- Use of NPPO/ Ministry Website was done.
- New procedure documented and sent out to exporters' emails data base, ensure dissemination of new guidelines, promote advantages and ease of process.
- NPPO Inspectors trained as trainers of trainees who then trained individual commodity value chain exporters. **Apex associations supported quick mobilization and organisation of member trainings.**
- **Recruitment of** Information Technology Officer to continuously train individual exporters enrolled subsequently.
- **Gradual roll out of sectors** for onboarding and **set deadlines** for full migration. **Removal of hard copies.**





# GeNS launch in Uganda

Uganda first started with the UAT (User Acceptance Environment) with URL: [Ug.uat.ephytoexchange.org](http://Ug.uat.ephytoexchange.org).

The URL was used for training all the stakeholders including Exporters, NPPO inspectorate, government entities involved in the movement of plant and plant product as well testing the system in order to adjust some key areas in the system to fit the Ugandan system.

UAT environment was also used to test issuance, sending and printing of e-phytosanitary certificate by Ugandan NPPO as well as receiving electronic certificate from her training partner.



# The change from manual to e-Phyto



1. First, training and exposure conducted for the Uganda Contact System Person by Regional e-Phyto Coordinator .
2. Time periods consists of developing the e-Phyto in the User Acceptance environment.
3. Change over commenced with inhouse intense training for all Phytosanitary Inspectors by the E-Phyto Regional Coordinator (Josiah Siyanda).
4. Uganda launched issuance of electronic phytosanitary certificate through the IPPC HUB on 22.07.2020.
5. Official communication went out to IPPC Contracting Members and to Uganda stakeholders on the same day.
6. Timeline for phase 1( a grace of one month period) was indicated and enforced.
7. A few companies selected and were involved in the testing trial period of one -month before official launch.
8. The manual system for issuance of phytosanitary system continued in parallel for about 5 month. During this time, sector by sector was being added.
9. Later the manual system was replaced fully with e-phytosanitary certificate.





After all glitches and challenges in the UAT environment were handled by the developer, all the data in the UAT environment were migrated into Production/live environment under URL: [ug.ephytoexchange.org](http://ug.ephytoexchange.org)

Since Uganda migrated to production/live stage 141,348 Electronic and Paper phytosanitary certificates have been issued destined to various destination across all the border posts.

So far, Uganda has received approximately 1,992 electronic phytosanitary certificates from her trading partners mainly Kenya, Argentina and USA and many others.







# Advantages of GeNS – in regard to Uganda NPPO

1. Connected to the HUB to facilitate certificate exchanges with other NPPOs

2. Reduction in the paper work/manual work.

3. Ability to supervise all the operations, and ability to deactivate non-compliant users and withdrawal of e-phytosanitary certificate.

4. Saves time for consignment clearance since the phytosanitary certificate are sent electronically.

5. The misplaced/lost phytosanitary pepper phytosanitary certificate can be reprinted or replaced with ease.

6. Eases NPPO operation more especially during this COVID-19 PANDEMIC environment/situation

7. It has eliminated the use of attachments since the system can allow adding as many commodity as a user wishes and it can accommodate many words for additional declaration.

8. Generally, the system less tedious, and more comfortable to use, compared to the manual system.





# Advantages of GeNS in regard to NPPO Ugandan Continued.

**9. Ugandan NPPO is able to participate in exchange of Phytosanitary certificates regardless of capacity of NPPO infrastructure.**

- **12. . Complete elimination of fraudulent documentation i.e. forgery of either plant passport or import permit thus improving the reputation of NPPO**

**10. Reduction in documentary interceptions since the additional declarations are usually populated in the e-Phyto system**

- **13. Ability to check the authenticity of an e-Phyto after receipt by use of QR code and ability to receive the e-phytosanitary certificate from the other trading partners through the HUB**

**11. Data analysis made easy since the system can be customized to provide reports according to the country needs**

- **14 Provides safe environment for data storage and data retrieval of the from an e-Phyto system-**
- **Ability to store e-Phytos for later reference**



# Internet connectivity challenges



Problems related to the internet connection and the availability of electrical power in the phytosanitary service stations implementing ePhyto?

- ▶ The GeNS is an IT system based on 'web-technology'; the users of the system do not need any specific IT setup on their computers.
- ▶ Provisions have been put in place to ensure satellite offices are connected to the broad band internet backbone system.
- ▶ Regulations were enforced to ensure private sector export facilities are connected with internet to facilitate phytosanitary requests, NPPO certification and issuance of Phytosanitary certificates immediately after inspection.

## What lasting corrections have been made?

- ▶ Internet connections setup for e-transactions and with the adjustments to able to move up with the system. Setup access points at the vital centers like Entebbe Airport and Ministry Head Office.
- ▶ Move from desktops to laptops and tablets arranged to enable inspectors to be able to perform the e-certifications
- ▶ Regulations for Plant Protection and Health Import and Export (2020) being reviewed to provide for e-Certification by both public and private sector



# Challenges of Using GeNS



Some of the countries are not yet logged into GeNS hence they cannot receive electronic phytosanitary certificates.

Some customs and NPPOs of some countries do not accept the electronic phytosanitary certificate and need bilateral discussions.

The National e-payment systems not yet able to intergrate.





## The Republic of Uganda

### Generic ePhyto National System (GeNS)

Enter your email\*

Enter your password\*

➔ LOGIN

[Reset Password](#)  
[Company Registration](#)



Improving Safe Trade in Plant and Plant Products



# End



Thank you for your kind  
attention,  
Thank you e-Phyto Team.

