Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

International Plant Protection Convention

Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs

Changing Trade Patterns for Plants and Plant Products

Technology Solutions - ePhyto

London, 21 – 23 September 2022

International Plant Health Conference

PROTECTING PLANTS PROTECTING LIFE

FAO/IPCC Technology Solutions - ePhyto

An innovative project called the **ePhyto Solution** of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)

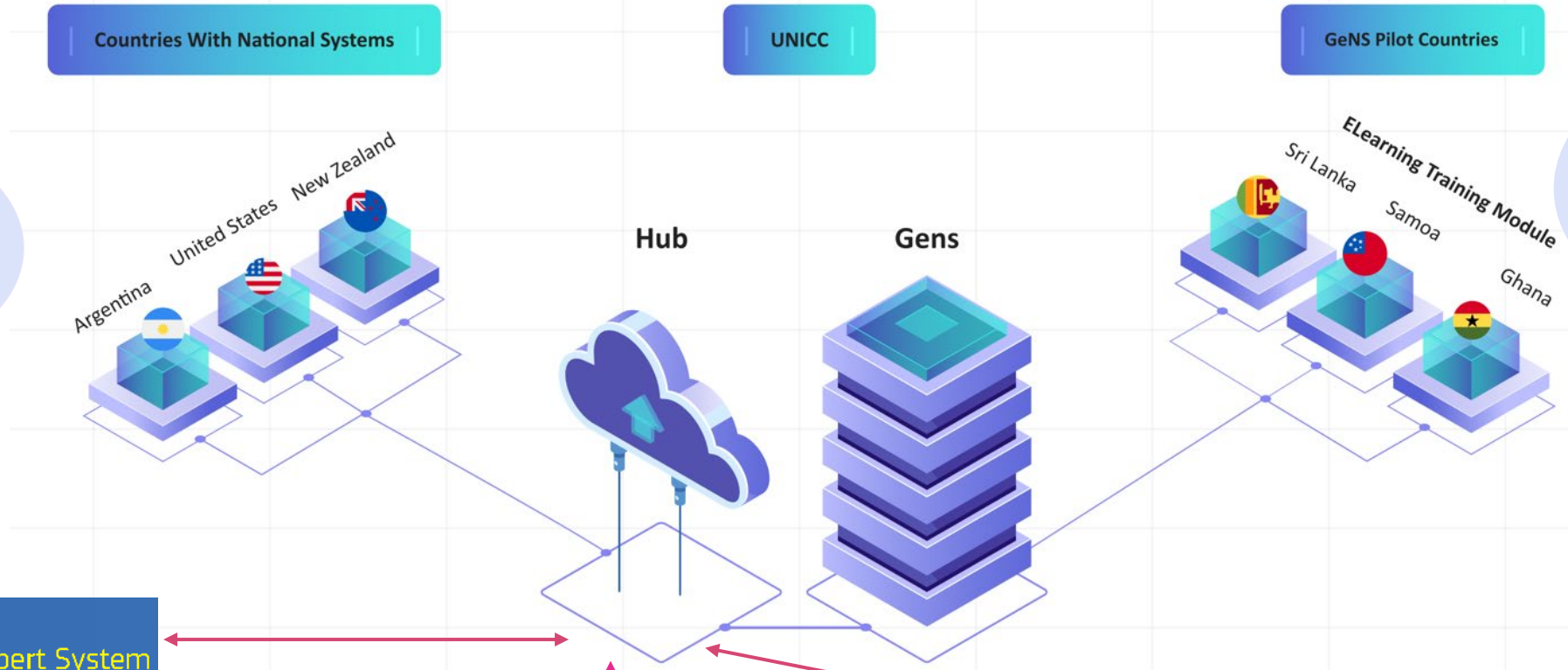
The ePhyto Solution aims to modernize the phytosanitary certification process and hold tremendous potential for trade facilitation.

Globally harmonized approach for electronic phytosanitary certification (ePhyto) in accordance with an adopted International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM) 12 Phytosanitary Certificates

*The ePhyto Project received a trade facilitation innovation award at the UNESCAP Asia-Pacific Trade Facilitation Forum (New Delhi, India) in **September 2019**.*

ePhyto Solutions

Avg. of 13,000 certificates per month exchanged through the HUB



110 countries connected

44 GeNS countries

TRACES
TRAde Control and Expert System

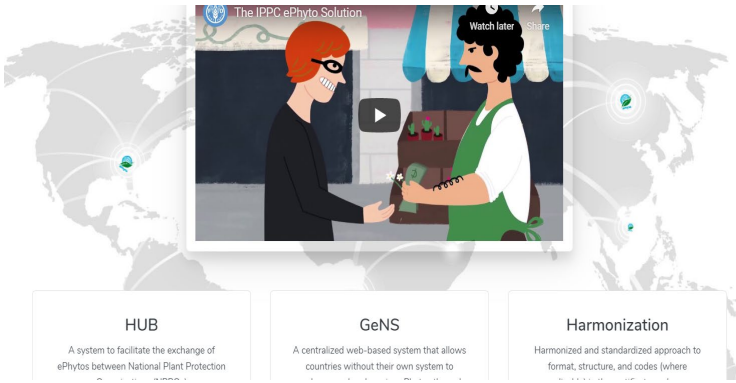
Exchange with all 26 EU countries

Single window Solutions

Customs Solutions

Madagascar xGazy**, Morocco, Senegal & many others**

ePhyto Solutions - Features



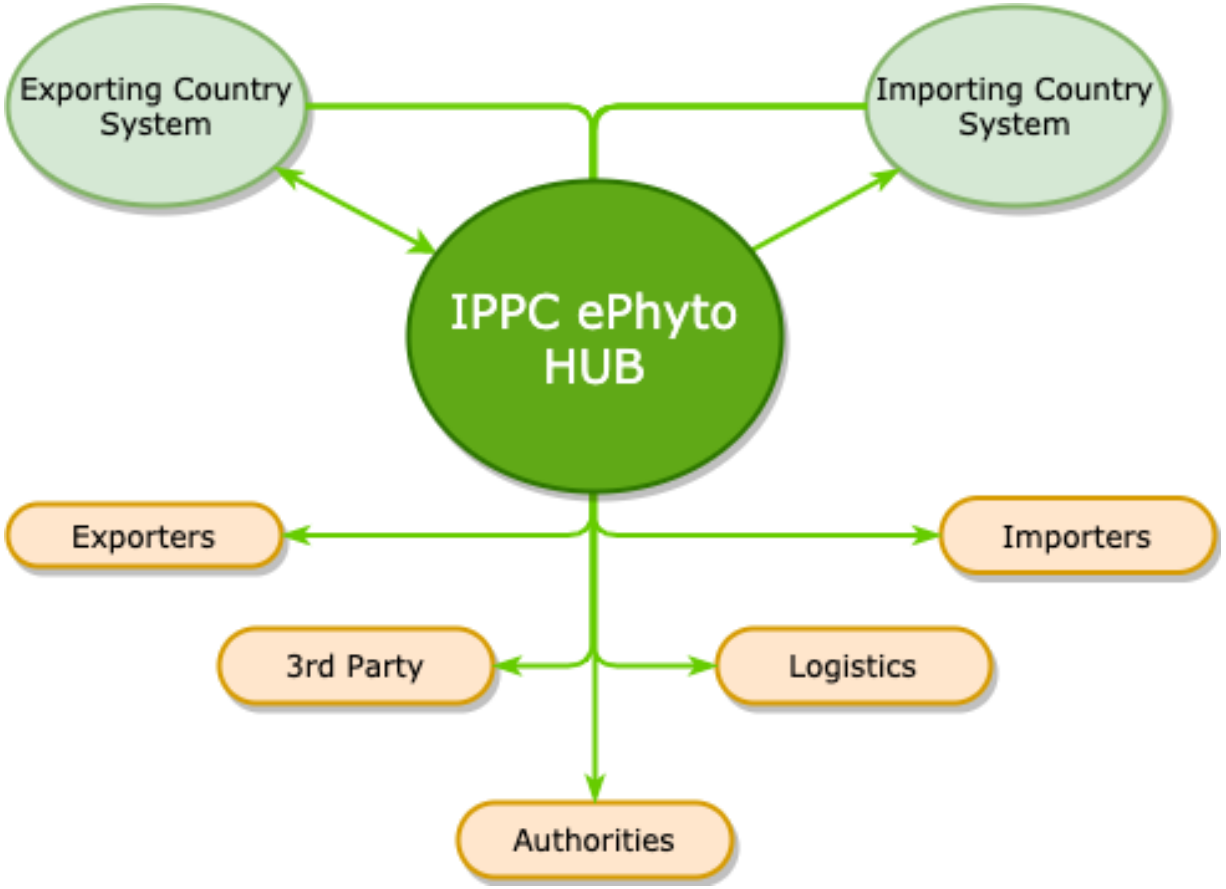
- Validation Tool - Defined structure/codes/terms for the XML messages
- Data compliant in the UN/CEFACT format as per ISPM12 Appendix 1
- Digital Signature and eSeal support available in GeNS and already implemented for exchanges with EU.
- Exchange protocol is Simple Object Access Protocol (SOAP) over HTTPS
- QR code for certificates, Search facility, Copy certificates and data export
- Automatic exchange with countries already participating
- Everyone uses the same standards and rules. Simple configuration / workflows / reports / dashboards
- The systems are secured, monitored, supported and will be available 24/7
- Multi-language support

ePhyto Solutions – Channel forwarding

A country will be able to specify multiple recipients on the ephyto envelope while sending it to the destination country.

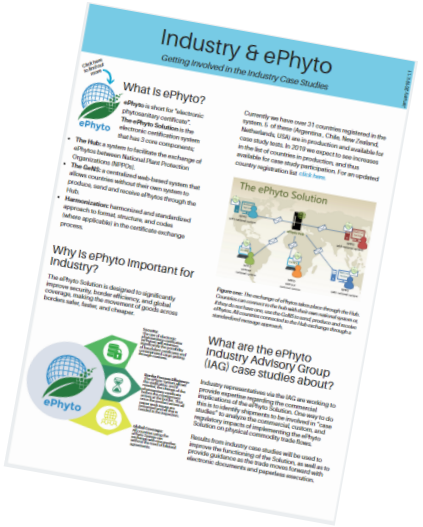
Exporter ABC is sending rice from USA to Argentina and needs to inform the shipping company XYZ at the time the ePhyto is issued.

The sender will add the forwarding channel codes on the envelope header of the ePhyto.



ePhyto Solutions - Benefits

- National efficiencies
- **Reduction in trade costs/time**
- Improved security
- Simplification of information flow between traders and government
- Options for data transfer and sharing
- Expedited clearance of commodities
- Better evaluation of risks
- Ability to address certification problems in advance of commodity arrival
- Resource planning prior to commodity arrival



- **Industry participation -** Industry representatives via the ePhyto Industry Advisory Group (IAG) are working to provide expertise regarding the commercial implications of the ePhyto Solution through the use of case studies.

- Case studies completed or are currently underway for mapping efficiencies and savings https://www.ephytoexchange.org/landing/caseStories.html

ePhyto Solutions - Roadmap

- Connecting to other systems (ASEAN Single window system, customs systems etc.)
- Collaboration with eTIR looking for the integration of the ePhyto in their system and TIR documents
- GeNS - Arabic interface
- GeNS - eBilling feature to allow NPPO bill for the certification services and confirm payments
- HUB Industry Channel registration to allow self-registration of global platforms (i.e., logistics, blockchain etc.)
- Modernization and improved collaboration tools including community discussions
- Exchange of other certificates

UNICC – Context

UNICC has been responsible for the development, hosting, supporting and administering the ePhyto solutions for the IPPC.

UNICC is the core shared service provider for the United Nations system, providing agile, cost-effective, UN-audit compliant high value digital business solutions. UNICC is highly competitive with today's technology marketplace, often building synergies with industry partners as well as with its Clients and Partner Organizations.

Creating Value

- Experience and expertise for UN organizations
- United Nations Immunities and Privileges
- UN mandate for shared services, efficiently, cost-effectively
- Superior operations and agile project management
- Partner Organizations have a say in UNICC strategy and direction
- Strategic partnerships with global organizations with shared agendas.

UNICC – Standards, Certifications & Best practices

UNICC Operations

UNICC staff are trained in many industry certifications, qualifications and best practices.

1. **ISO/IEC 27001**
   ISO 27001:2013 information security certification
2. **ISAE 3402**
   ISAE 3402 audit standard
3. **COBIT 5**
   COBIT 5 governance standard
4. **PRINCE 2**
   PRINCE2 project management certification
5. **ITIL V3**
   ITIL service management framework
6. **ISO/IEC 20000**
   ISO 20000:2018 service management system certification
7. **ISO/IEC 22301**
   ISO 22301:2019 Business Continuity Management certification

ePhyto - Resources

Fact sheets, guides, PowerPoints, meeting reports, harmonization codes etc..

https://www.ephytoexchange.org

https://www.ippc.int/en/ephyto/

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Thank you

Venkat V.
Application Delivery – United Nations International Computing Center (UNICC)

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