

# Information Document (INF)

## Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation

20th Session of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM-20)

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### ePhyto Implementation Support in Collaboration with the IPPC Secretariat

Since 2018, the Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation (the Alliance) has partnered with the IPPC Secretariat to accelerate the global implementation of the IPPC ePhyto Solution. To date, the Alliance has successfully completed ePhyto projects in twelve countries and is currently supporting implementation in six additional countries<sup>1</sup> as outlined below:

#### Completed ePhyto Projects

Cameroon	Colombia	Ecuador
Fiji	Jordan	Madagascar
Morocco	Nigeria	Senegal
Thailand	Togo	Ukraine

#### Current ePhyto Projects

Armenia	Cambodia
Liberia	Mauritania
Sierra Leone	

Across all projects, the Alliance has supported countries in implementing the IPPC ePhyto Solution, either through deployment of the Generic ePhyto National System (GeNS) or by interfacing existing national systems or single windows with the IPPC ePhyto Hub.

Country-level implementation includes:

- Reviewing and aligning national phytosanitary certification processes with IPPC standards and GeNS workflows;
- Conducting business process analysis to enable a smooth digital transition;
- Supporting legal and regulatory reforms to allow electronic certification, including eSignature where applicable;
- Assisting with configuration and deployment of GeNS, or technical interfacing of national systems with the IPPC ePhyto Hub;
- Facilitating integration with related systems such as ePayment platforms or national single windows;

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.tradefacilitation.org/our-projects/>

- Providing training to NPPO staff and onboarding to private sector users; and
- Supporting IT readiness where required.

All projects are delivered through close consultation with public and private stakeholders to ensure operational uptake and sustainability. Following implementation, the Alliance measures results – assessing time and cost savings associated with the shift from paper-based to electronic certification.

## ePhyto Africa Initiative

Beyond country-level projects, the Alliance works with the IPPC Secretariat and regional partners<sup>2</sup> to advance the ePhyto Africa Initiative. The programme promotes a coordinated, continent-wide approach to ePhyto implementation – moving from ad hoc country engagement toward a structured regional framework.

Implementation is underway in Sierra Leone and Liberia, while discussions with additional countries are progressing to assess readiness and shape future project engagement. The initiative's implementation methodology includes:

- Legal and regulatory frameworks assessment;
- Business process alignment;
- Technical configuration of GeNS or national system interfaces with the IPPC ePhyto Hub;
- Stakeholder training; and
- Operational rollout planning.

Where needed, the initiative also supports broader phytosanitary certification capacity to ensure that electronic exchange is embedded within existing systems.

All activities are carried out in close coordination with the IPPC Secretariat and initiative stakeholders to ensure full alignment with the official IPPC ePhyto Solution and regional priorities.

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<sup>2</sup> The key stakeholders in the ePhyto Africa Initiative are the IPPC Secretariat (FAO), African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), African Phytosanitary Council of the African Union (AU-IAPSC), Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation (GATF), TradeMark Africa (TMA), the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF), and the ePhyto Industry Advisory Group (IAG)

## Measuring Carbon Impact of ePhyto

As a results-based organisation, the Alliance places strong emphasis on monitoring and evaluation. In 2025, the Alliance conducted research to estimate the carbon emissions savings associated with the ePhyto solution. Drawing on survey data from 258 firms across 10 countries, the report "*Move Goods, Not Paper: Carbon Impacts of Digitalising Trade Procedures – Evidence from the ePhyto Case*" found that:

- Nearly 7.7 million ePhyto certificates were exchanged through the Hub between January 2018 and December 2024.
- This resulted in estimated carbon emissions savings of approximately 63,300 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent – roughly equal to the absorptive capacity of more than 2.9 million trees.<sup>3</sup>

The findings underscore how digitalisation of trade procedures supports not only efficiency and transparency, but also sustainability.

## About the Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation

The Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation is a public-private partnership supporting trade-led growth. Its mission is to deliver targeted and measurable trade facilitation reforms through public-private partnership in developing and least developed countries, in support of implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement.

Established in 2015, the Alliance works with governments and businesses to streamline trade-related processes and improve the efficiency, predictability and cost-effectiveness of cross-border trade.

The Alliance is jointly led by the International Chamber of Commerce, the World Economic Forum and the Center for International Private Enterprise, in cooperation with Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), and is supported by the governments of Canada, Germany and Sweden, as well as the European Union.

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<sup>3</sup> [https://www.tradefacilitation.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/Move-Goods-Not-Paper-Carbon-Impacts-of-Digitalising-Trade-Procedures\\_Alliance-Knowledge-Paper.pdf](https://www.tradefacilitation.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/Move-Goods-Not-Paper-Carbon-Impacts-of-Digitalising-Trade-Procedures_Alliance-Knowledge-Paper.pdf)