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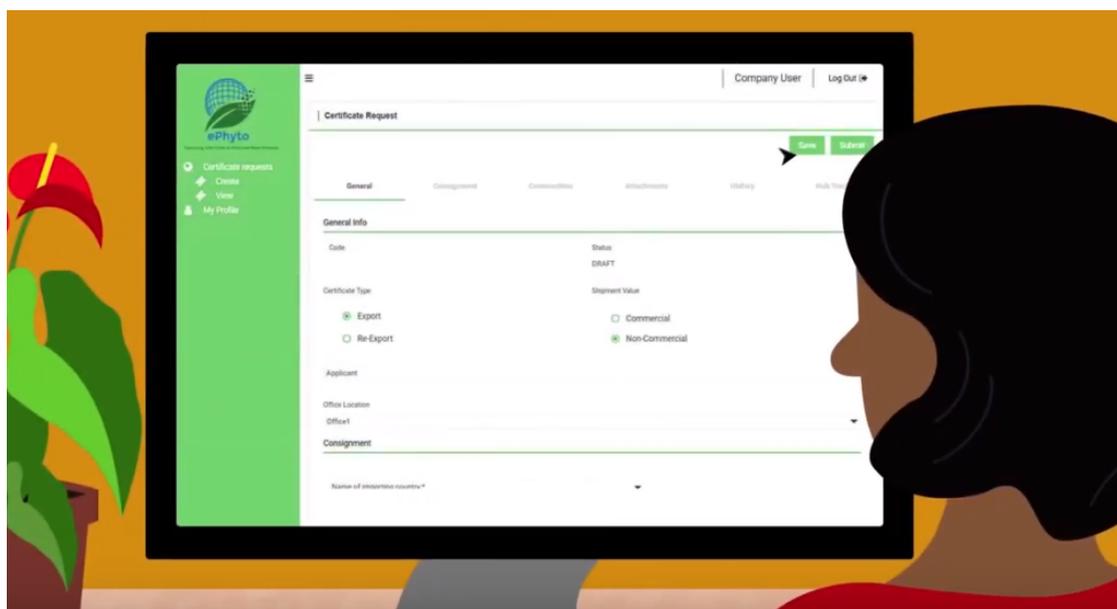
# IPPC EPHYTO SOLUTION NEWSLETTER

JULY 2019



## ISSUE 8- A Dedication to the GeNs

The IPPC is proud to announce that the Generic ePhyto National System (GeNs) will be released on July 15 2019. In celebration of this upcoming event this month's issue is dedicated specifically to the GeNS. In this issue you will find pilot countries sharing their views of the GeNS and why they chose to pilot the system. Industry Advisory Group member, Union Fleur shares her excitement towards the release of the GeNS and what it means for perishable commodities such as flowers. This is followed by the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) which provides a short perspective on what the GeNS means for trade facilitation. Scroll down to read more. We hope you enjoy this issue!



### What is the GeNS and how does it differ from the Hub?

The IPPC ePhyto Solution has always been described to hold three core components: the Hub, the GeNS and Harmonization. A question that often comes up is what is the difference exactly between the Hub and the GeNS? This is simple, the Hub is the component of the system that facilitates the exchange of ePhytos between National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs).

Countries have two options to connect to the Hub; they either connect their own electronic system or they can use the GeNS. The GeNS provides countries with a system that connects directly to the Hub and it is able to produce, send and receive ePhytos. The GeNS is an option for countries that do not have their own national system or need a temporary solution while they build or update their own. The GeNS makes the ePhyto Solution a global solution as it grants all interested countries access to the system.

## Why the GeNS ? Pilot Countries Explain



### Samoa

As a small island country with limited resources, we heard about the countless benefits regarding GeNS hence our interest to participate in the implementation of the system in Samoa.

There were adequate preconditions that facilitated the implementation of the GeNS. We have supportive legislation in place for the sustainability of GeNS. Due to Samoa's strategic location, knowledge of processes, trade profiles, willingness, regional distribution and enthusiasm of exporters and importers, we felt that there was a huge potential for the implementation of GeNS in the country.

The High security during ePhyto exchange for protecting the sensitive data in phytosanitary certificates, elimination of fraudulent certificates and increase in transparency of certificates were some of the benefits which we hoped to enjoy.

accessed electronically in real-time. In addition, GeNS will reduce the costs associated with sorting, distributing, retrieving, and archiving paper documents. The reduction of costs associated with printing and shipping paper certificates would also benefit us as regulators as well as the industries and the general public. The idea of having 24/7 (round-the-clock) service desk to provide assistance in technical matters for backup and recovery of records is another benefit to look forward to as we often have issues with electricity failure and problems with our local servers. With regards to Industry, GeNS will improve the clearance time of goods at the border with pre-arrival processing of certificates. The Reduction in delays in receiving replacement phytosanitary certificates are some added benefits of having GeNS.

Written by: NPPO Samoa - ePhyto Team



## Sri Lanka

The GeNS, a system component of the IPPC ePhyto Solution has immense benefits to developing countries like Sri Lanka who do not have their own national system. Sri Lanka was selected as a pilot country to implement the GeNS by a global survey conducted by IPPC Secretariat.

The implementation of the GeNS initiated in November 2018 with the User Acceptance Testing

The GeNS brings greater efficiency and reduction of administrative costs. For Sri Lanka, these are important characteristics as it allows faster clearance and even pre-arrival document clearance, which is critical when dealing with agricultural and food products with a short shelf life. The GeNS facilitates the quick replacement of phytosanitary certificates if needed. The communication that the system provides to import and export countries is of great benefit to traders.

Finally, GeNS is compatible with National Single Window system which is currently also being implemented in Sri Lanka with the collaboration of World Trade Organization (WTO).

**Written by: M.P.M. Senarathne, Assistant Director of Agriculture (Development) National Plant Quarantine Service Katunayake, Sri Lanka**



## **Ghana**

Plant Protection and Regulatory Services Directorate is the NPPO of Ghana. For over ten decades, the model of certificate transmission in international trade was the paper phytosanitary certificate that accompanies plant and plant products shipment.

The system was fraught with delays in the transmission of certificates to our contracting parties as a result of bureaucratic and complex procedures involved. There were issues of missing certificates, forged signatures, faked certificates leading to request for authentication from our contracting parties. In looking for a more secured system of transmission of certificates directly between exporting and importing NPPOs, Ghana signed on to the ePhyto GeNS.

Ghana issued the first ePhyto Certificate on the 20<sup>th</sup> of June, 2019 to the Netherlands:

**Commodity: - Assorted Cut Flowers**

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As a pilot country, we are overwhelmed with the results and hope the implementation our GeNS will go a long way to;

1. Help eliminate forgery of Phyto -certificates issued by third parties.
2. Minimise missing certificates and improve security during transmission.
3. Speed up transmission of certificates and clearance of plant and plant products at the point of entry.
4. Relief the NPPO of Ghana of numerous request for authentication of certificates.
5. Enhance effective communication and trust between the contacting parties.
6. Reduces delays in receiving replacement of Phytosanitary Certificates when required.
7. Link up the NPPO to other stakeholders in need of relevant information.

Ghana shall continue to sensitize and train its major stakeholders during the piloting period to ensure an efficient system when we fully take off.

Written by:NPPO Ghana - ePhyto Team

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## INDUSTRY PERSPECTIVE - The need for speed in cut flower trade



The international cut flower trade, reaching a value of 15 billion EUR per year, is very globalized and integrated worldwide. It heavily relies on key players in developing countries in Africa and South America to supply destination markets. Due to the high perishability and very short life-cycle of cut flowers, the global supply-chain needs smooth, efficient and

so at peak times of the year such as Valentine's day or Mothers' day.

Efficient phytosanitary certification systems, of which the international cut flower trade is a major user, and fast and reliable clearance processes at borders are therefore a very essential component of the supply-chain to secure safe and sustainable trade. The implementation of the IPPC ePhyto Solution, and the launch of the GeNS in particular (as it will allow developing countries without their own national electronic certification systems to connect and exchange ePhytos) is a much-welcomed step which is expected to significantly facilitate the international movement of products across borders in a faster, safer and cost-effective manner.

**Written by: Sylvie Mamias, Secretary General**

**On behalf of UNION FLEURS – International Flower Trade Association**

More information on Union Fleurs is available at: [www.unionfleurs.org](http://www.unionfleurs.org)

## STDF supports safe trade with ePhyto



In today's changing global trade landscape, facilitating safe trade for plants and plant products matters more than ever. The Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) global partnership helps developing countries to trade by tackling sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) gaps that can block exports.

With the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement entering into force, governments and industry worldwide have been actively seeking solutions to move goods across borders more quickly and efficiently.

Globally there are win-win opportunities to facilitate trade, from following international

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electronic SPS certification comes into play to help reduce trade transaction costs, facilitate trade as well as to protect health.

Experiences on the ground in developing countries highlight how electronic SPS certification improves compliance with regulations and policies, reduces errors and fraud, supports risk management and builds trust and cooperation among border agencies. But, what happens when countries face challenges to access electronic certification due to a lack of technical and financial resources?

The STDF is proud to be funding the IPPC ePhyto project through a total of USD 1,120,000 since 2016, supporting developing countries to transition to electronic phytosanitary certification. That includes the Global Hub to harmonize electronic exchange, and the GeNS for countries to produce, send and receive certificates. Now, it's exciting to see the latest developments in Ghana, Samoa and Sri Lanka.

With an easily accessible GeNS, electronic phytosanitary certification can become a reality for many developing countries that do not have the resources to develop their own certification system. The STDF is closely involved in IPPC ePhyto Project and looks forward to profiling the results and lessons going forward.

Find out more: [www.standardsfacility.org/PG-504](http://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-504) and [www.standardsfacility.org/SPS-eCert](http://www.standardsfacility.org/SPS-eCert)

**Written by: Simon Padilla, Economic Affairs Officer- STDF Secretariat**

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To learn more about the IPPC ePhyto Solution, how it works and its benefits watch this short 3 min clip or click here to access the [IPPIC ePhyto Solution Beginners Guide](#)

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