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COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

Eleventh Session
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ePhyto Report - ePhyto Pilot Recommendation
Agenda item 10.6
Prepared by the IPPC Secretariat
English only

1. CPM-10 (2015) unanimously supported the submission of a project proposal to the Standard and Trade Development Facility (STDF) on advancing an ePhyto solution. The CPM also supported the Secretariat to implement the project, subject to the outcome of the STDF proposal decision. In addition, CPM-10 (2015) encouraged the ePhyto Steering Group and the Secretariat to urgently continue their work in this area under the oversight of the CPM Bureau. The CPM requested that the Bureau report back to CPM-11 (2016) on progress. The project document is in the final stage of approval by the STDF Secretariat and a proposed pilot of the system is scheduled for the middle of 2016.

2. The purpose of the pilot is to verify that the ePhyto system components, the hub and generic system meet the needs of contracting parties and to verify that the training and support tools required for contracting parties to commence participation in ePhyto are both useful and effective. The hub provides a harmonized interface for transfer of electronic certificates. The generic system is a web-based option that will allow national plant protection organisations (NPPOs) to produce and receive electronic certificates. To test the hub, the pilot will include contracting parties with existing national systems which can be reconfigured to transmit ePhytos through the hub. To test the generic system, the pilot will also include contracting parties without existing systems.

3. To select candidate contracting parties for participation in the pilot, the ePhyto steering group (ESG) conducted a preparedness survey in late 2015. Based upon the responses provided by

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contracting parties to the survey, the ESG undertook a quantitative and qualitative evaluation of contracting parties best suited to participate in the pilot. Factors considered included: trade volume, legislative readiness, availability of infrastructure and resources, regional importance, national commitment and interest. The ESG also considered that the number of contracting parties participating in the pilot must be sufficient to effectively test the system and the supporting implementation tools, but must also consider that potential adjustments of the system following the pilot may impact the participating contracting parties. Limited resources available to support contracting parties during the pilot also influenced the number of contracting parties which may participate. The ESG therefore recommended to the CPM Bureau that: Australia, Chile, China, Ecuador, Egypt, Ghana, Guatemala, Kenya, New Zealand, Samoa, Sri Lanka, The Netherlands, The Republic of Korea, and the United States of America participate in the pilot (see attached recommendation).

4. The CPM Bureau agreed.
5. The CPM is invited to:
 - 1) *note* the decision of the Bureau regarding ePhyto pilot program contracting party participants.

Recommendation from ESG to the Bureau regarding contracting parties for the ePhyto pilot

To: CPM Bureau

From: IPPC ePhyto Steering Group (ESG)

Date: March 24, 2016

Introduction

In the context of the STDF Project, a hub and a generic national system is proposed to be built and tested along with the development of training tools to support country implementation, advocacy materials and a long term work plan for the ongoing operation of an ePhyto system. During the initial testing phase, contracting parties will be selected to use the hub and/or the generic national system to pilot the ePhyto system. After this testing phase, the hub and generic system will be evaluated and adjusted if necessary. All contracting parties will then be encouraged to participate with a target 'go live' mid-2017. This aligns well with 2017 being the IPPC year of Plant health and trade facilitation

Role of Bureau

To come to a decision on which contracting parties should participate in the pilot of the ePhyto system, the ESG was asked to recommend to the Bureau, contracting parties that are best placed to pilot the hub and generic national system. The Bureau is asked to review the recommendation of the ESG and if appropriate, to announce its decision during CPM-11 in Rome.

In the context of the STDF Project, donors have requested that the IPPC establish a governance plan for the project that includes a consultation committee composed of other international agencies (e.g. CODEX, OIE, WCO, etc.) who are undertaking similar e-document initiatives and to consider in its implementation of ePhyto, the recommendations of these agencies including possibly the list of potential pilot contracting parties.

Readiness survey

To select contracting parties for the initial pilot phase of the STDF project, a readiness survey was sent to all IPPC contact points in December 2015. The survey assessed the stage of development of ePhyto in contracting parties and their potential to be engaged in the pilot. 80 contracting parties responded to the survey and were assessed quantitatively on trade volume, legislative readiness, availability of infrastructure and resources and on qualitative factors such as regional importance, communication and interest.

Initial selection of contracting parties

From these 80 contracting parties, 15 were initially selected as possible participants in the initial pilot phase (see Annex). These 15 contracting parties received a letter from the IPPC Secretariat requesting their confirmation in participating in the pilot. The following 8 contracting parties have confirmed their willingness to participate in piloting the hub with their existing national system:

- Australia
- Chile

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- China
- Kenya
- The Republic of Korea
- The Netherlands
- New Zealand
- United States of America

Furthermore, 6 contracting parties have confirmed their willingness to participate in the pilot using a generic national system:

- Ecuador
- Egypt
- Ghana
- Guatemala
- Samoa
- Sri Lanka

Recommendation

The ESG recommends that all 8 contracting parties with existing national systems participate in the pilot hub. There is expected to be minimal training required for these contracting parties other than developing guidance on linking the national system to the hub system.

For the pilot of the generic national system, the number of contracting parties able to participate in the initial pilot depends, amongst others, on the amount of work required to join the pilot, the resources available, both in the project and in the respective contracting parties, and the training required. The ESG recommends that all six contracting parties that have indicated their willingness to participate be selected initially. Depending on how the development of the generic system progresses, the readiness of these contracting parties and the resources required and available, the pilot can start initially with three to six contracting parties. If not all six can participate in the initial stage, it will be considered how they can join as soon as possible in a further stage of the project.

The ESG therefore recommends that Australia, Chile, China, Ecuador, Egypt, Ghana, Guatemala, Kenya, The Republic of Korea, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Samoa, Sri Lanka and the USA are selected to participate in the initial stage of the pilot.

Annex: Country Selection Summary

On 2nd March 2016, the IPPC Secretariat sent a letter to the contact points of fifteen contracting parties selected by the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), ePhyto Steering Group (ESG) as suitable candidates for participation on the ePhyto pilot. The letter requested their confirmation that the contracting parties were willing to participate in the pilot. The following contracting parties have confirmed their willingness to participate.

Country	Region	System for sending and receiving ePhytos	Summary of Survey Results		Date of receipt of confirmation notification (2016)
			Percentage score for quantitative criteria (trade volume, infrastructure, and supporting legislation)	Overall rating including qualitative considerations of further development needed before this country can join the pilot	
Australia	APPPC/PPPO	National	85	Low	3 & 22 March
Chile	COSAVE	National	76	Low	15 March
China	APPPC	National	62	Moderate	22 March
Ecuador	CAN	Generic	56	Moderate	4 March
Egypt	NEPPO	Generic	47	High	22 March
Ghana	IAPSC	Generic	68	Moderate	21 March
Guatemala	OIRSA	Generic	68	Moderate	22 March
Kenya	IAPSC	National	74	Low	15 March
Korea	APPPC	National	65	Some	14 March
Netherlands	EPPO	National	71	Low	8 March
New Zealand	APPPC/PPPO	National	85	Low	21 March
Samoa	APPPC/PPPO	Generic	65	Some	8 March
Sri Lanka	APPPC	Generic	76	Low	21 March
U.S.	NAPPO/PPPO	National	97	Low	2 March

Annex: Work plan

