Report of the Virtual Meeting of the ePhyto steering group (ESG) and

Project Technical Committee (PTC)

# Participants:

**Present**:

Peter Neimanis

Craig Fedchock

Laura Vicaria

Walter Alessandrini

Christian Dellis

Younes Kabbab

Josiah Syanda

Venkatram Venkateswaran

Shane Sela

Nico Horn

**Absent:**

Shashank Rai

Maoyu Chen

# Agenda

1. Update on current status of hub development – Venkat/Shashank
2. Status of harmonization document - Christian/Walter/Younes
3. Status update/ discussion of product description document- Nico
4. Malaysia- Global Symposium, Ephyto and Trade Facilitation Committee- Peter
5. Any other Items

# Update on current status of hub development

Shane provided the update concerning the development of the Hub based on recent meeting with the ICC. Work on the hub is on track. Most of the ICC team is assembled. The purchasing needed to start working on the server is taking place.

However with regards to the GeNS development there are some outstanding items. The first being the specification document that we had expected to receive last week. The second being the proposal for building the GeNS. This document was expected to be delivered by the end of the month of June, however has yet to be received.

Overall the development of the GeNS has been projected to take longer than originally expected. Based on the reviewed timeline the pilot of the GeNS is now expected to start in March.

For both the GeNS and the Hub there needs to be further development on the criteria for evaluation of the pilot phase. We need to obtain a clear vision of what we classify as a successful pilot. Specific to the GeNS there was discussion regarding the need to evaluate the work flows, and assuring that all scenarios were covered. This is something that needs to be worked on early on before the pilot stage begins.

**Status of harmonization document**

The harmonization document has undergone significant changes. All changes that have been incorporated are to make it easier for people to facilitate their own processes.

Next week changes will be finalized. The interest is to lock down the mapping document so that people can start using it.

Modification of the website is expected to take place following a meeting with Shane and Christian on July 11th. The idea is to run a demo page that will contain all documents which team members will be able to test run before bringing the page live. End of July website should be ready.

Walter has been working on sample documents. Drafting out XML documents

Drafted out:

* Regular ePhyto
* Re-export ePhyto
* ePhyto with multiple commodities
* These will be shared out soon

There was also specific mention concerning the potential to share the ePhyto checking program used by GeNS (XSDs or whatever, especially for PTC mapping) so it could be integrated by all participating countries in their own Generic Systems, to be sure that everybody is making the same checks and exchanging the same formats?

**Status update/ discussion of product description document- Nico**

Nico has shared two sets of documents, the product description and product updating document. Action point: Comments need to be finalized by mid July.

Discussion regarding the product list focused on producing an initial list with strong basis and on a periodic basis provide countries the option to amend and add to it. It was concluding that producing a usable list is far more important than producing a list that will easily get endorsed.

**Global Symposium, “ePhyto and Trade Facilitation” - Peter**

The APPC have US$ 40 k for a regional workshop allocated in their budge

With the progress of ePhyto globally, and hub coming together and GeNS following and all the effort along with trade facilitation the idea is to have this money actually go towards a global symposium

The suggested Host Country is Malaysia. Malaysia is a very active in getting electronic certification, very driven for their own development, and very keep to start working with IPPC with ePhyto project. Thus making it an ideal location.

Part of Australia’s recent contribution to IPPC (US$ 55K) are dedicated to this symposium which will be dedicated to assuring developing country representatives will be able to attend. In total, we already have US$ 95K committed to hosting the symposium.

The date that has been suggested for hosting the symposium are 22-26 of January 2018. The Agenda and the budget break down will be drawn out in the coming weeks.

**Other**

Team Meeting in Valencia: Organization for this meeting is on its way. Invitation letter and agenda are expected to be distributed in the coming weeks.

Bureau Meeting Washington Last Week:

Craig provided a short update on the Washington Bureau Meeting.

There was good interaction with the Bureau. As for the IAG meeting, he observed that there was some initial concern from the team with regards to the pace of the project. However once explained about the difficulties and reason for delay across the process of the project, they were more understanding.

The IAG showed interest discussing financing options for sustaining the project. The International Cotton Advisory Committee more specifically demonstrated interest in providing financial support in the future, following the Pilot phase. The World Bank was very interested from a trade facilitation perspective. They demonstrated interest in supporting the project in areas of training.

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| Action Point | Owner | Due Date |
| Shane to re-share hub documents | Shane | 30.6.2017 |
| Team to provide comments on Hub document | Team | 16.7.2017 |
| Product description  Product updating  Documents🡪 all comments submitted | Team | Mid July |
| Product Description and product update document🡪 require correct formatting. | Christian to email Nico with clear instructions |  |
| UNICC to Forward the GeNS Specifications for final review | UNICC | Mid July |