ePhyto Progress Report

10 April 2017

# Project Plan

The IPPC Secretariat had anticipated that much of the development and piloting of the ePhyto Solution would be completed by end of 2016. However, a number of project aspects took longer than anticipated including:

* The development of the technical specifications and detailed system requirements;
* The project plan approval required significant negotiation and ongoing refinement including adding more information on the administrative structure of the project; countries implementation support processes and details on the process for developing a sustainable funding structure;
* The bureaucracy associated with establishing agreements and securing funds

The delays associated with the process reinforces the fact that ePhyto is a complex project; involving a number of stakeholders with differing points of view. It is also carving out new ground in the international arena and unanticipated delays are a natural consequence of its complexity. More realistic time frames have now been established.

The plan was approved by the Standards and Trade Development Facility in December 2016 and funds transferred. The project was fully implemented following establishment of service agreements with the United Nations International Computing Centre in March 2017.

# Project Progress

However, significant progress has been made during 2016/2017. These include:

* + Developing the technical specifications and requirements for the design of the hub and generic ePhyto national system (GeNS);
	+ Finalizing the mapping of harmonized codes and data elements for use in the ePhyto mapped to the data elements in the paper phytosanitary certificate;
	+ Development of the Web Services Description Language that allows national systems to communicate with the hub in a harmonized manner;
	+ Commenced working with the GeNS pilot countries (Ghana, Samoa and Sri Lanka) to assist with business process changes required to implement ePhyto
	+ Began developing the evaluation criteria for the pilot
	+ Established criteria for conducting business modelling evaluation (costing and funding)
	+ Engaged with FAO Legal Office to review legal arrangements for operating hub/GeNS
	+ Engaged with World Customs Organization, CITES, CODEX, UNCTAD, UNESCAP. The idea being to align with other initiatives (single window, e-CITES, etc. ) and to leverage other opportunities such as capacity development being done by other organizations

# The pilot

The pilot of the hub by countries with national systems will not be synchronised with the pilot by countries using the GeNS. The GeNS is likely to be developed about 6-8 months after the development of the hub. The GeNS development is contingent on evaluation of existing software. The process of evaluation takes longer to finalize than the development of the hub.

It is expected that the each pilot (hub and GeNS) will conclude within 3 months of commencement. Conclusions will be finalized soon after the close of each pilot. Each component will then be adjusted, followed by additional countries invited to participate.

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| **Countries with national systems to connect to the hub**ArgentinaAustraliaChileChinaEcuadorGuatemalaKenyaKoreaNew ZealandThe NetherlandsUSA | **Countries to use the GeNS**Egypt1GhanaSamoaSenegal1 Sri Lanka |
| 1. Countries that will begin use of GeNS following initial implementation
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# Current project time line

| **Key tasks** | **Current status/projected timing** |
| --- | --- |
| Establish agreements with Service Provider | Completed |
| Finalize harmonization of fields and codes for phytosanitary data elements | Nearing completion |
| Develop specification for GeNS | Nearing completion |
| Establishment of evaluation criteria for assessment of ASYCER | Draft complete/criteria to be finalized April 2017 |
| Assessment of ASYCER (existing U.N system which may be adapted for use) | May/June 2017 |
| Evaluation report | May 2017 |
| Development of GeNS | 4th Quarter 2017 |
| Develop specifications for hub | Completed |
| Build hub | 3rd Quarter 2017 |
| Develop support documentation for connecting to hub | Late 2nd Quarter or early 3rd Quarter 2017 |
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| Build hub | 3rd Quarter 2017 |
| Develop support documentation for connecting to hub | Late 2nd Quarter or early 3rd Quarter 2017 |
| Establish pilot evaluation criteria | Underway |
| Pilot of hub | 3rd or 4th Quarter 2017 |
| Pilot of GeNS | Early 2018 |
| Evaluation of hub pilot | 2018 |
| Evaluation of GeNS pilot |
| Inventory of available tools | Completed |
| Capacity building/business adaptation needs assessment | Project planning underway |
| Development of capacity development/business adaptation tools | Preliminary work underway with several countries (Ghana, Samoa and Sri Lanka) |
| Field testing of the tools | Late 2017-2018 |
| Finalization of tools development | 2018 |
| Establishment of contractor to assist with assessment of business modelling options | Selection process underway |
| Scoping of options used by other organizations to support operation | 2nd Quarter 2017 |
| Develop criteria for evaluation of costs of operation |
| Establishment of expert consultation on business modelling options assessment | 3rd/4th Quarter 2017 |
| Establishment of pilot evaluation criteria  |
| Development of options document for CPM | 2018 |