



# ePhyto Factsheet #9

[www.ippc.int](http://www.ippc.int)

## ePhyto pilot

### The ePhyto Solution

The Commission on Phytosanitary Measures in 2015 (CPM-10) encouraged the Secretariat of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) to advance a proposal to the Standard and Trade Development Facility (STDF) for the development and implementation of an ePhyto Solution. The STDF approved the proposal in October 2015. The project intends to develop and operationalize a hub and generic national system for the internationally harmonized transfer of ePhytos<sup>1</sup>.

### Hub and generic system

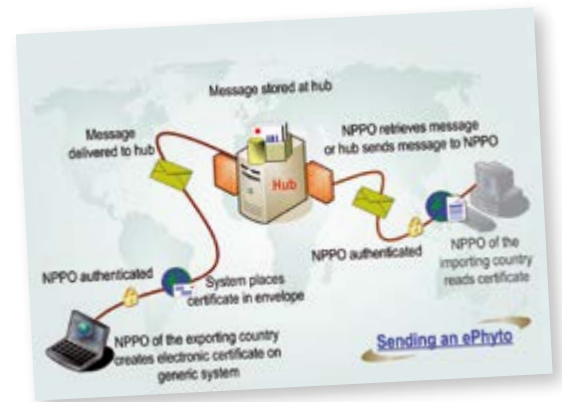
The hub facilitates transfer of certificates from the national plant protection organization (NPPO) of the exporting country to the NPPO of the importing country using a harmonized protocol. The generic national system allows NPPOs to produce and send an ePhyto to the hub. It also allows NPPOs to retrieve ePhytos from the hub for imported consignments.

### Piloting an ePhyto Solution

A proposed pilot of the system is scheduled for the middle of 2016. The purpose of the pilot is to test a hub and a generic national system to verify that it effectively produces, transfers and retrieves ePhytos. The pilot is also intended to ensure that training and support tools for the implementation of the ePhyto Solution are produced and tested. These include tools for countries to undertake the business changes necessary to effectively participate in ePhyto.

### Pilot countries

The pilot requires that the pilot countries commit time and resources to receive training, to test the systems and to conduct the evaluation. Pilot countries will be required to issue both paper and electronic certificates for consignments during the period of the pilot. They will be required to undertake the training required to participate in the pilot and to have sufficient infrastructure and resources to allow for immediate involvement. The countries will also be required to assist the ePhyto Steering Group (ESG) which is overseeing the pilot in verifying that the Solution operates effectively. Assessment activities will include verifying that information on electronic certificates match paper certificates; working with trading partner NPPOs to determine if mismatches in information relate to transmissions issues or errors in issuance of documents; responding to evaluation surveys; etc.



<sup>1</sup> ePhyto is an electronic phytosanitary certificate.

## Country selection for the pilot

To select candidate countries for participation in the pilot, the ESG undertook a preparedness survey in late 2015. The survey asked countries to respond to a number of questions regarding their capacity to initiate the use of an ePhyto system. The survey was sent to the IPPC contact points of countries. 80 countries responded to the survey. The ESG evaluated the responses both quantitatively and qualitatively to determine a "best fit" for the pilot based upon criteria such as: trade volume, legislative readiness, availability of infrastructure and resources to assist with pilot evaluation, commitment and interest in participation, etc.

## Countries selected

The ESG also considered that the number of countries participating in the pilot must be sufficient to test the system but must not exceed the ESG's and the project's capacity to work with countries in implementing the pilot. The ESG therefore recommended that 14 countries participate in the pilot. These are: Australia, Chile, China, Ecuador, Egypt, Ghana, Guatemala, Kenya, The Republic of Korea, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Samoa, Sri Lanka and the United States of America. The ESG may add an additional country where French is the national language to ensure that the pilot also tests language considerations.

## Phase 1 of project

Not all 14 countries may participate in the initial pilot phase. The final selection of countries that take part in the initial phase is dependent on the complexity of generic system developed for country use; the availability and simplicity of testing and other operational factors, such as resources for training and number of languages that can be handled. Especially for the pilot of the generic national system initially only three countries may be able to participate. The first phase of the pilot is expected to operate for 3-4 months. Following phase 1, the Solution and the training tools will be evaluated and if required adjusted

## Phase 2 of project

As a second phase, additional countries will be invited to participate both in using the hub and the generic national system. The systems will continue to be tested and adjusted, if necessary. Additional countries can make use of the experiences of phase 1 participants and will be able to more easily participate.

## Interested in participating?

Countries interested in participating should complete the survey posted at: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GlobalePhyto> if they have not already done so. The ESG will continue to evaluate the survey information and notify countries of progress during the pilot.

The ESG will then also work with countries with greater challenges to implement ePhyto to assist them with business reengineering required to initiate use of the ePhyto Solution.

Should you have any questions regarding the pilot please contact the IPPC ePhyto Project Manager at [shane.sela@fao.org](mailto:shane.sela@fao.org)

### CPM 11

- Noted the work of the ePhyto Steering Group and the IPPC Secretariat in advancing development of ePhyto;
- Supported the continued work of the Secretariat and the ePhyto Steering Group under the oversight of the CPM Bureau
- Acknowledged the support provided by the Republic of Korea in hosting the 2<sup>nd</sup> ePhyto Symposium
- Acknowledged the support provided by Canada with the contribution of the Project Manager for the project
- Supported the implementation of the STDF project to pilot the hub and the generic national system to promote the use of ePhyto by CPs worldwide including developing countries
- Requested the Secretariat report back to CPM12 on progress in implementation of the ePhyto project.
- Noted the decision of the Bureau regarding ePhyto pilot program contracting party participants.

### Additional resources

The IPPC website has a lot of information on the history of ePhyto development – use the links below to find out more information:

- [IPPC ePhyto – home page](#)
- [IPPC ePhyto – Steering Group and recent developments](#)
- [IPPC ePhyto – codes and schema](#)

### Contact us

#### ePhyto Steering Group

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