

IPPC EPHYTO SOLUTION

NEWSLETTER



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✓ IPPC EPHYTO HUB IS OPEN FOR USE !

International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) Secretariat proudly announced on the 15th of June that the IPPC ePhyto Hub is open for use. After completing its pilot stage and applying all needed technical changes, the Hub is now ready for all interested countries to connect (Click Here to find out more). Joining the Hub is not mandatory, but it offers the opportunity for countries with existing national electronic certification systems that comply with the requirements for the format of the phytosanitary certificate to exchange them electronically, with all other countries connected to the hub. Countries without national electronic certification systems of their own will be offered the opportunity to use the GeNS system once the pilot is completed and reviewed (expected by the end of 2018).

GENS DEVELOPMENT HAS STARTED

Further to the finalization of the Generic ePhyto National System (GeNS) requirements developed by the ePhyto Steering Group (ESG), the UNICC project team has currently initiated the development of the GeNS. This is a web-based system to allow countries without their own systems to produce send and receive ePhytos in the correct format that will be exchanged through the hub. The GeNS is focused on the certificate issuance workflow from an application for export certification by the client in the country of export to receipt of the certificate by the national plant protection organization in the country of import. The various modules and functionalities of the GeNS workflow will be developed and released in a phased approach as shown in the diagram. The 3 pilot countries: Sri Lanka, Samoa & Ghana will assist the project team in testing, reviewing and fine-tuning the gens during each of the phases and culminating in the pilot.

- Mr. Venkatram Venkateswaran, ePhyto Project Technical Committee (PTC) member representative of the International Computing Center (ICC)

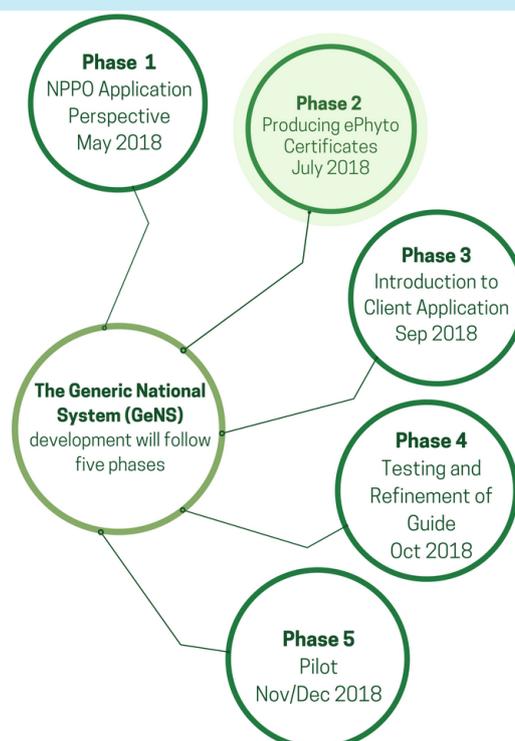


Alejandra Danielson Castillo (IGTC)
New IAG Chair

NEWLY APPOINTED INDUSTRY ADVISORY GROUP (IAG) CHAIR

Upon the completion of his two-year term, Mr. Gerard Meijerink announced during the recent IAG meeting held in Rome in July 2018, that he would step down from his role as Chair of the IAG. IAG members and the Secretariat thanked him for his hard work, dedication and significant contribution to the IAG and the advancement of the ePhyto Solution. The IAG selected Alejandra Danielson Castillo, representative of the International Grain Trade Coalition (IGTC) as the new Chair of the IAG.

"I look forward to my role as chair, where we will be focusing on executing as many case studies as possible. As trade faces so many challenges today, it is encouraging to witness the collaboration happening amongst countries, governments, and industries united to develop this tool that will influence how we work and trade together." - Alejandra Danielson Castillo, Industry Advisory Group Chair



Phase 2: Includes all of the functionality for the NPPO to produce paper certificates. This initial phase will not include the option for the client to enter the application information.

Phase 3: Will add in the client's ability to apply for the certificate and request changes or withdraw the request for certificate prior to dispatch

Phase 4: Will add the functionality to send the electronic version of the certificate to the hub and to receive electronic certificates from the hub.

Phase 5: Testing will commence with pilot countries exchanging certificates first in a test environment and then with actual consignments moving in international trade



The ESG Team, meeting in Dublin, Ireland in May 2018. This photo captures the live demo of the GeNS in its first phase while the team gives some initial feedback.

HUB PILOT EXPERIENCE

The pilot of the Hub is closed, as announced at CPM 2018. To have delivered a functional Hub is a great achievement and I would like to thank all those that contributed – notably, the ePhyto Steering Group (ESG), pilot countries and the United Nations International Computing Centre (UNICC). From the Australian perspective, it has been rewarding working together on a global solution. Connecting to the hub was well supported by the UNICC and the documented processes. The UNICC was very responsive to our feedback and made quick changes, where they could. Now we are continuing to work with other pilot countries to finalise the harmonised schema and codes before other countries start joining the hub.

- Mr. Peter Neimanis, the ePhyto Steering Group (ESG) chair

DONOR INITIATIVE

The ePhyto hub, as noted above, is now open for participation by those countries with existing electronic phytosanitary certification systems. Some technical adjustments may be required for participation in the hub but working with the UNICC specialists should facilitate a smooth transition. As the use of the hub builds up, sustaining the operation will be critical. As a result, the IPPC Secretariat continues to seek donors to support the operation for the first five years while a full business model is researched and established.

-Mr. Craig Fedchock, IPPC Advisor/World Bank coordinator

COMING NEXT

The IPPC regional workshop on ePhyto for Latin America (11-13 September 2018)

The Regional Workshop on ePhyto for Latin America will be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina from 11th to 13th September. The participation of 19 NPPOs is expected from countries of Latin America, the Caribbean and members of regional organizations. The workshop will have as speakers, experts from the IPPC ePhyto Steering Group, and from International Organizations such as the IPPC, UNICC, and STDF. This Workshop will be conducted thanks to the support of COSAVE, IPPC, FOAR, and IICA. The main objectives of the Workshop are: Identify the current status of Latin American countries on ePhyto, identify possible obstacles for the implementation of ePhyto in countries, as well as identify experts in the region and other points of cooperation.

-Mr. Walter Alessandrini, ePhyto Steering Group (ESG) member representative of the Latin America Region

The IPPC regional workshop on ePhyto for Africa and Near East (12-14 November 2018)

The Inter-Africa Phytosanitary Council (IAPSC) and Near East Plant Protection Organization (NEPPO), with the support of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), are planning to host a regional workshop on the ePhyto solution for the benefit of the countries of Africa, Near East and North-African regions. The aim of this workshop is to enhance and expand knowledge about the ePhyto Solution among these countries and encourage their participation and involvement in the global exchange of ePhyto certificates.

The IPPC has asked the UAE if it would be willing to host the workshop. The IPPC and the RPPOs of the concerned regions are counting on substantive support from donor countries in the region to hold this event, as currently available funds are not sufficient to cover the participation of the expected participants (at least 70 country representatives).

-Mr. Younes Kabbab, ePhyto Steering Group (ESG) member representative of the Near East Region

