



26 June 2019

Virtual Meeting Report of the IPPC ePhyto project Technical Committee & IPPC ePhyto Steering Group

Present Participants:

Christian Dellis (US)
Peter Neimanis (AU, Chair)
Craig Fedchock (IPPC Secretariat)
Laura Vicaria (IPPC Secretariat)
Aoife Cassin (IPPC Secretariat)
Venkat Venkateswaran (UNICC)
Gianluca Nuzzo (UNICC)
Younes Kabbab (MAR)
Philippe Loopuyt (EU)
Walter Alessandrini (AR)

Participants not able to attend:

Chen Ying (CN)
Josiah Syanda (KE)

1. [Hub and GeNS updates_ UNICC](#)

Hub Update – Next steps

The next major changes to the Hub will be to connect to the EU Traces system. The EU requested a single connection, which the Hub currently does not support. To accommodate the request the UNICC are preparing a draft design with the specific changes needed for the Hub to allow a single connection to connect to the EU Traces system (which may also work for industry systems).

GeNs Update

Ghana are now exchanging and Samoa are planning to be live at the end of July.

UNICC are working on the major updates that are critical for the GeNs go live on 15 July, which were discussed and decided on during the London trip attended by some ESG/PTC members. All other non-critical feedback received from pilot countries will be considered at the post implementation review. A lot more feedback is expected to be received later in the year, as more countries will start using the GeNs.



The USDA ran a workshop in the Caribbean in June, mainly focusing on the GeNs. Eight countries (Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, St Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia, St Vincent & the Grenadines, Cayman Islands and Jamaica) filled out their onboarding documents and the UNICC will set up test instances in the GeNs for each country.

At this year's NAPPO meeting, they are planning to do an exchange demo with a GeNs country and the US, similar to what was done previously with Argentina.

Work is continuing to have the relevant information and documentation ready for the GeNs landing page. Version 1 of the customization document can be published at this stage and updated as necessary. This document will be posted on the landing page

Upcoming: UNICC (Venkat Venkateswaran) presenting on ePhyto in Geneva for Digitalisation of the commodity trade.

2. London visit – Peter & Christian

ESG/PTC members attended the annual strategic planning day of the International Grain Trade Coalition (IGTC) to give a presentation on the IPPC ePhyto Solution.

There were updates from the Industry case studies from Ms Alejandra Castillo, Regional Director for South Asia for the U.S. Grains Council, on the commercial impacts and benefits for traders using the ePhyto Hub in 2018.

IGTC is keen to explore the possibilities of industry systems connecting to the Hub. Industry will need to have a copy of the ePhyto, for commercial reasons but for security and fraud reasons the ePhytos need to go from government to government. Once all other major activities have calmed down, the UNICC can start working on technical documents and solutions on how to make this connection possible. The solution should work for the EU (maybe ASEAN) and potentially for industry systems.

As planned, ESG/PTC members met with plant health and IT experts from the UK NPPO, who had expressed interest in the IPPC ePhyto Solution. They discussed the IPPC ePhyto Solution's technical aspects and business processes and participants recognized the benefits of close collaboration among industry, plant health organizations, IT providers and the IPPC Secretariat.

3. Workshop Updates - Craig

The South West Pacific workshop, organized by the PPPO has secured funding from Australia and New Zealand. It will be in Fiji at the end of August for two days, and will be similar to the Caribbean workshop in that, it will mainly focus on the GeNs.

The logistics are being finalised but the agenda is well set, and includes many demos of the system. A representative from the World Bank was invited to give a presentation ePhyto and trade facilitation.

The Africa workshop is currently being planned for mid-November; it will be two days ePhyto, two days another topic, maybe pest surveillance and then a one day field trip.

The ePhyto Solution

Improving the Safe Trade of Plants and Plant Products



The Near East still want to hold a workshop in Morocco after the Africa workshop takes place in November. The IPPC Secretariat will work with the ESG member to plan.

4. Other

Craig informed ESG members that the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC) reached out and would like to have a video conference in August for him to present the IPPC ePhyto Solution. They may also be interested in holding a workshop.

Action	Owner	Status
GeNS customization documents to be finalized and posted to the landing page		complete
GeNS presentation	Laura Vicaria	Document shared
Prepare a draft design o changes needed for the Hub to allow a single connection to connect to the EU Traces system	UNICC	Under review