



IPPC ePHYTO PROJECT TECHNICAL COMMITTEE & IPPC ePHYTO STEERING GROUP

VIRTUAL MEETING REPORT

24 JULY 2019

Participants

[1] The monthly virtual meeting of the IPPC ePhyto Project Technical Committee (PTC) and the ePhyto Steering Group (ESG) had the following participants:

- (1) Mr Christian Dellis (US)
- (2) Mr Peter Neimanis (AU, Chair)
- (3) Mr Gianluca Nuzzo (UNICC)
- (4) Mr Younes Kabbab (MAR)
- (5) Mr Walter Alessandrini (AR)
- (6) Ms Chen Ying (CN)
- (7) Mr Josiah Syanda (KE)
- (8) Ms Laura Vicaria (IPPC Secretariat)
- (9) Ms Aoife Cassin (IPPC Secretariat)

[2] Participants not able to attend:

- (1) Mr Philippe Loopuyt (EU)
- (2) Mr Venkat Venkateswaran (UNICC)
- (3) Mr Craig Fedchock (IPPC Secretariat)

1. Hub Updates

[3] The UNICC gave a brief update on the recent activities to the Hub. They are reviewing the plan for the next releases and they have the code translations in the backlog. They will be added to the list of codes and will be made available for download from the webpage.

[4] The two main changes that the UNICC are working on, include;

- a standardized way, using the Hub to send acknowledgment from the receiving country because countries are asking if the GeNS already supports this
- a document on the Channel Delivery Feature to allow the Hub to ID a third party. This is under review and will be circulated with the ESG.

2. GeNS Updates

[5] The UNICC gave an update on the GeNS, informing the group that the latest upgrade, released on 23 July had most of features that were discussed and agreed upon at their meeting in London. Two new releases are scheduled for mid-August and again, in September and the September update will include an announcement on the inspection screen.

- [6] The group were also updated on the user manual production documents, which are under review to make them more user-friendly for inspectors, with the aim to have them published as soon as possible. These will be included in the UNICC training manuals.

2.1 New GeNS countries – Next steps

- [7] The group discussed the number of potential GeNS countries we are reaching through the ePhyto workshops; Christian is currently working with eight countries from the Caribbean, 15 countries attended the West Africa workshop, and around 20 countries will be attending the Pacific workshop at the end of August. The group discussed what the next steps for these countries will be and it was questioned which countries will be displayed on the Hub console i.e. at what stage of registration. The Secretariat mentioned that the map used to show stages of registration is mainly for communications purposes and that this map has its limitations i.e. it does not display smaller island countries. The Secretariat suggested that it would be worth designing a map, using the UN structure that we could use going forward for communication material but it could also potentially be displayed on the landing page.
- [8] The team discussed that the Hub monthly report is a good document that outlines what stage of development a country is in i.e. test or production. The UNICC clarified that GeNS countries do not need to do a separate Hub registration. Once they start testing, they will be listed and appear as registered in the Hub, and the monthly report will show if they are already exchanging in production phytos.
- [9] To help manage country expectations when they are “signing up” to the GeNS, it was decided to include some timeframes in the response letter as filling out the onboarding (customization) document can be time consuming. It was mentioned that out of eight s from the Caribbean workshop, only one (Jamaica) has so far been sent to UNICC to set up the UAT.

Overview of the steps

- [10] The following steps for new GeNS countries was agreed:

- (1) Country sends official expression of interest in the GeNS via letter / email to the IPPC Secretariat
- (2) The Secretariat sends back the response letter. Timeframe: Within 1 week of receiving
- (3) The country sends the completed onboarding document to Christian for review. Timeframe: Approx. 1 month
- (4) Once approved, the Secretariat / Christian will forward document to UNICC to set up the test instance for that country. Timeframe: Approx. 1 week

3. Workshops status and feedback

Caribbean workshop

- [11] Christian shared advice from the Caribbean workshop and gave useful tips for similar future workshops including:
- having a computer lab available at the workshop so participants can log in and familiarize themselves with the system
 - sending the onboarding document ahead of the workshop so participants can have them partially filled in
 - starting countries off with just viewing incoming certificates can be great for those that receive more phytos than they issue. It means they do not need to have an all or nothing implementation of ePhyto
 - fully training the NPPO administrator instead of having the UNICC set up everything for them so they know how to add a user and extend the lookup list etc.
 - Encourage countries to use the GeNS template for the certificates as opposed to their own country certificates

Pacific workshop

[12] The Pacific workshop is organized for the end of August and is being funded by Australia and New Zealand. They are planning to take a similar approach to the Caribbean one; they will have three groups of countries, working together in a more interactive environment.

4. Any Other Business

[13] Ms Chen informed the ESG that China are preparing to start testing in the Hub. Christian, Chen and Walter to start talking offline to set up some test exchanges between US and China.

[14] It was noted that Brazil seems to be getting pretty close to production in the Hub.

[15] Lastly, the ESG were informed of a conference call scheduled between Christian, UNICC and Israel for the end of July to discuss Israel potentially joining the Hub.

Action	Responsible	Deadline
1. IPPC Hub - Channel Delivery Feature document to be sent to ESG for review	UNICC / Christian DELLIS	Done
2. Amend the response letter for countries registering for the GeNS to include response time to manage expectations	IPPC Secretariat	Done
3. Develop a map for the landing page (UN structure) to include the smaller islands.	UNICC	September
4. Follow up on the Conditions of Use document that had been drafted by FAO legal, one for the Hub and one for the GeNS on the legal requirements for countries using the GeNS	IPPC Secretariat	September
5. Send out the new version of the GeNS Onboarding document	Christian DELLIS	Done
6. Share the presentations used for the Caribbean workshop with ESG members	Christian DELLIS	Done