

The IPPC ePhyto Solution

FACILITATING SAFE TRADE IN PLANTS AND PLANT PRODUCTS

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CAREC SPS WEEK
20 April 2021



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The IPPC ePhyto Solution - Background

- “ePhyto” is short for electronic phytosanitary certificate. In simple terms, it is the data contained in a phytosanitary certificate in digital form.
- The 2019 UNESCAP/ADB Innovation Award-winning IPPC ePhyto Solution helps countries comply with the Trade Facilitation Agreement of the World Trade Organization, specifically **Articles 7.9** (release of perishable goods) and **10.1** (simplifying formalities and documentation requirements for cross-border trade)
- The Solution also meets the requirements of International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM) 12 Annex 1.
- The ePhyto Solution allows countries to electronically exchange ePhytos with each other through a central hub, quickly, accurately and at no purchase cost. Countries can join the system for free once they meet the necessary requirements.
- The risk of loss, damage or fraud to the certificate is greatly reduced, as is the administrative burden on both border agencies and business.



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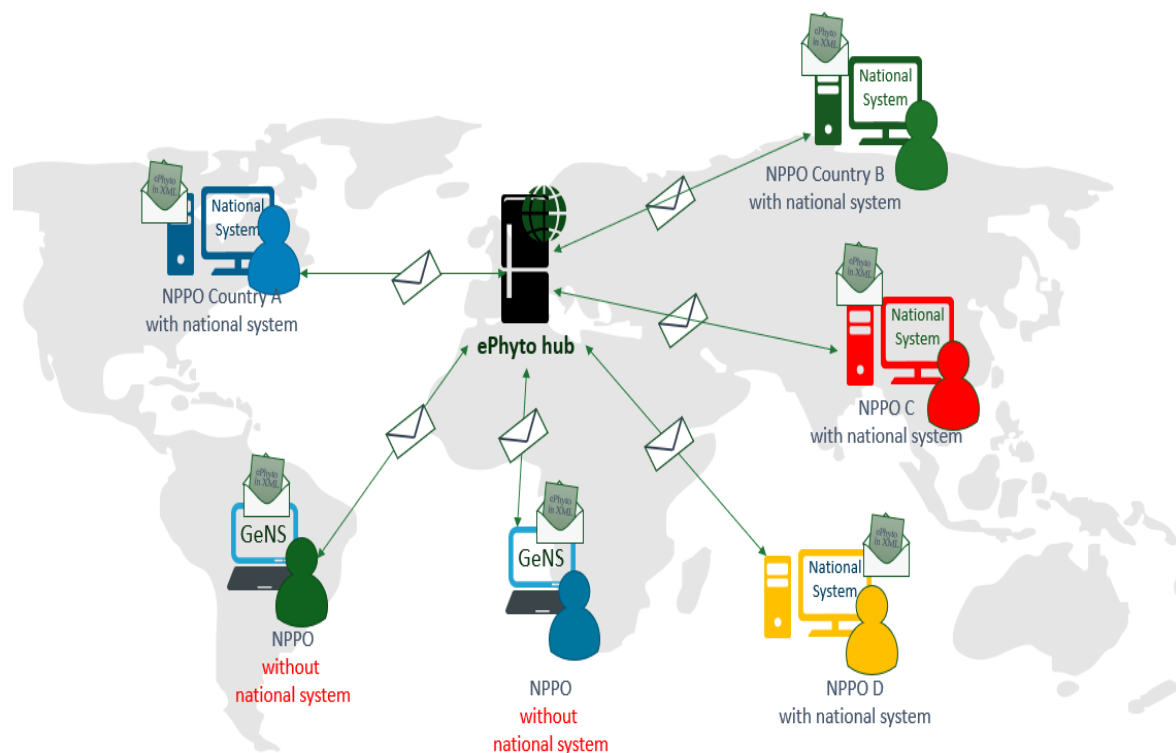
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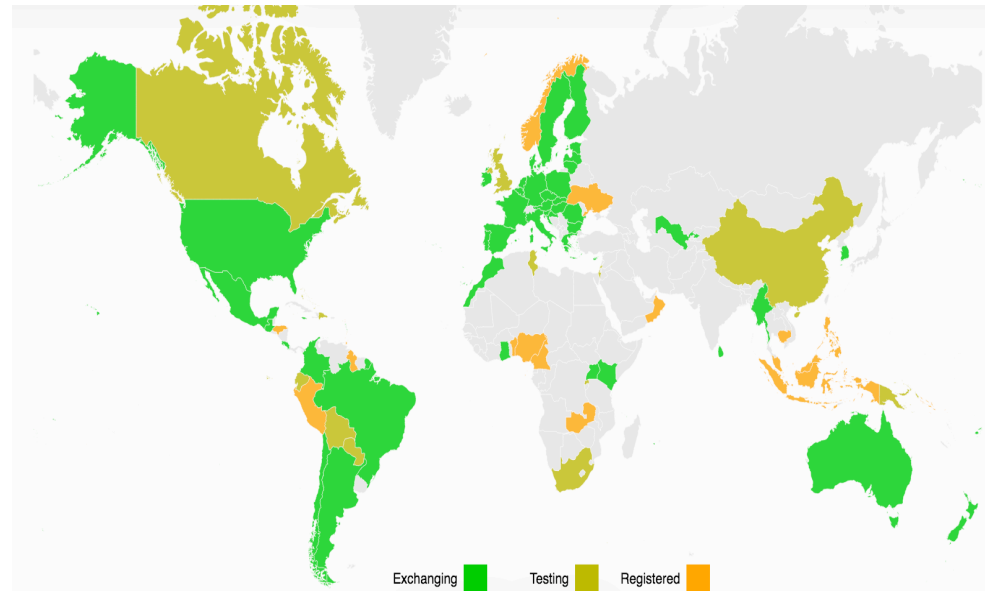
The IPPC ePhyto Solution

The Solution consists of the ePhyto Hub (with direct connections for countries with their own national systems) and the web-based Generic ePhyto National System (GeNS – for countries without their own infrastructure) exchanging harmonized messages in a uniform format and structure.



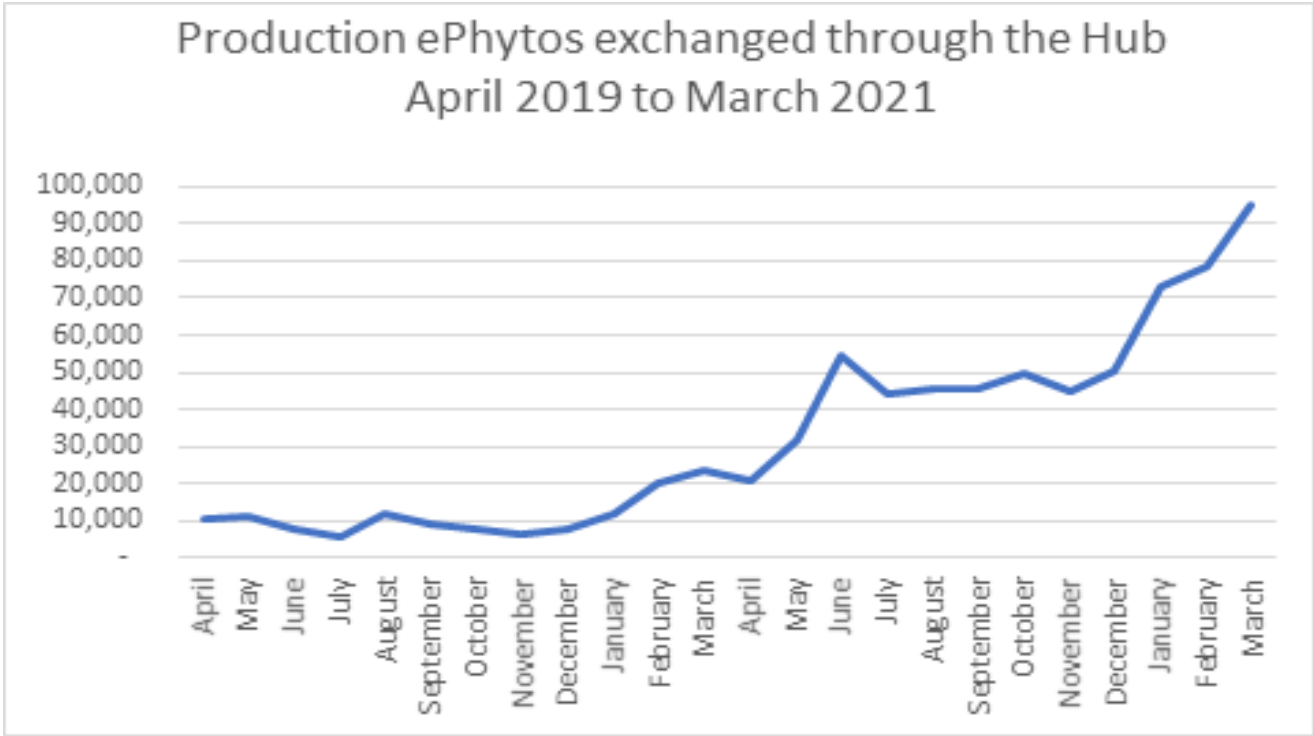
The IPPC ePhyto Solution

- Fully operational as of July 2019; as of 1 April 2021, 51 countries exchanging ePhytos real-time, 40 additional countries in the process of onboarding. (See map at www.ephytoexchange.org)
- All EU member countries connected through TRACES, demonstrating how other types of systems, such as national single windows, can be easily connected.
- Several countries are exchanging paperless – Argentina, Chile, Sri Lanka and the US were the first, others now transitioning.



The IPPC ePhyto Solution

The system is effortlessly handling approximately 80,000 certificates per month, with the capacity to handle (in the current configuration) up to 100,000 certificates per day.



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The IPPC ePhyto Solution

- The system was initially set up to exchange electronic phytosanitary certificates, but any certificate (animal health, food safety, etc.), once coded in XML, can be exchanged.
- NPPOs, agricultural and forestry industries, as well as freight forwarders and others are already benefitting from transaction cost reductions, improved trade security, risk management and increased trade flows.
- The IPPC Secretariat is collaborating with the Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation, industry and the World Bank in implementation efforts in a number of countries around the world.
- Special recognition to CAREC member Uzbekistan which on its own prepared for and is now fully operational.



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The IPPC ePhyto Solution – The ePhyto Hub

For a country to participate in the Hub with a national system it is mandatory to have the capacity to produce electronic phytosanitary certificates (ePhytos).

The national system needs to have at least the following functionality:

- Enter phytosanitary certificate data electronically
- Produce phytosanitary certificates (ePhytos and/or paper)
- Send ePhytos
- Store of electronic phytosanitary certificate data
- Receive ePhytos
- Decrypt ePhytos
- Validate the structure of the ePhyto message
- Read/view/print/produce pdf of ePhytos

The IPPC ePhyto Solution – GeNS

- Review, fill-out and submit the GeNS on-boarding document (https://www.ephytoexchange.org/doc/GeNS_NPPO_OnBoarding_V5.pdf)
- Get executive support, assign a project manager and establish a working group
- Raise awareness with local industry and other stakeholders
- Determine whether domestic legislation supports electronic data exchange and allow off shore data storage
- Finalise the project plan for GeNS implementation
- Identify ePhyto training requirements before and after implementation, Number of staff, Locations, Roles
- Ensure sufficient local resources are in place to use GeNS after implementation

The IPPC ePhyto Solution

Have questions? The ePhyto Team is ready to help:

- The IPPC Secretariat – ippc-ephyto@fao.org craig.fedchock@fao.org aoife.cassin@fao.org
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- The United Nations International Computing Centre – ippc_app_support@unicc.org
- The Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation of the World Economic Forum -
tom.butterly@weforum.org
- The World Bank - ssela@worldbank.org
- The ePhyto Industry Advisory Group - R.SouzaRichards@worldseed.org or adcastillo@grains.org
- www.ephytoexchange.org



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Thank you for your attention!!

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