



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



International  
Plant Protection  
Convention



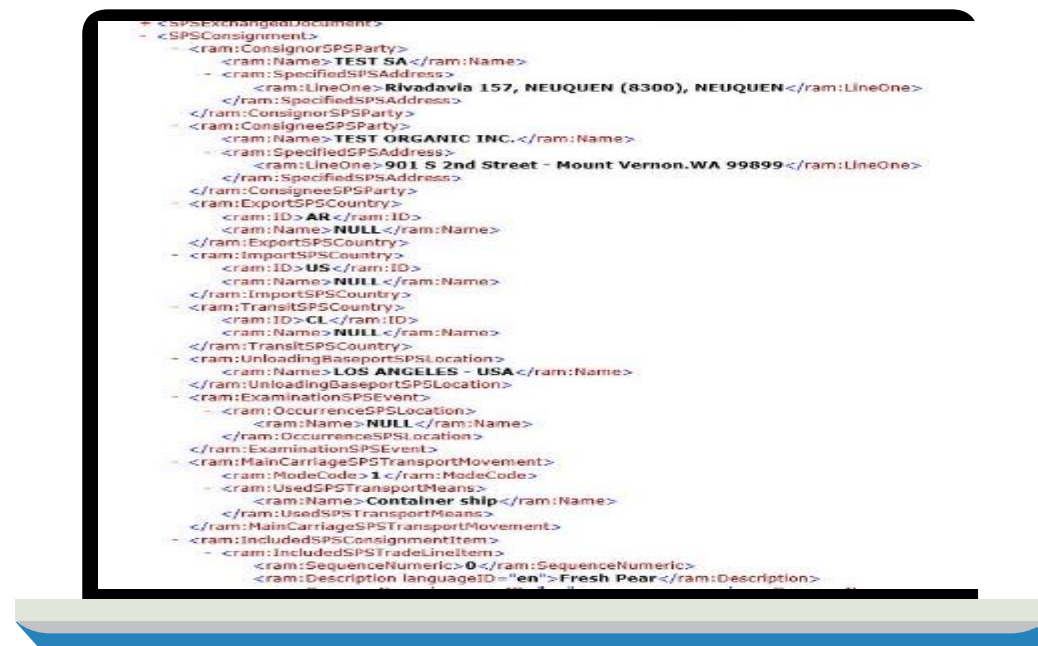
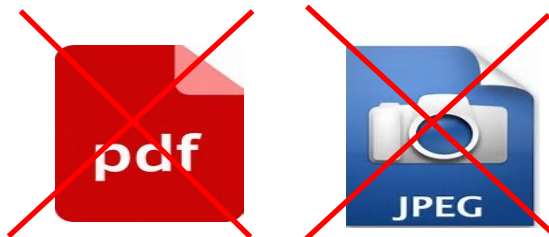
## The IPPC ePhyto Solution

**CAREC Conference on ePhyto, 11-13/09/2023, Tashkent, Uzbekistan**

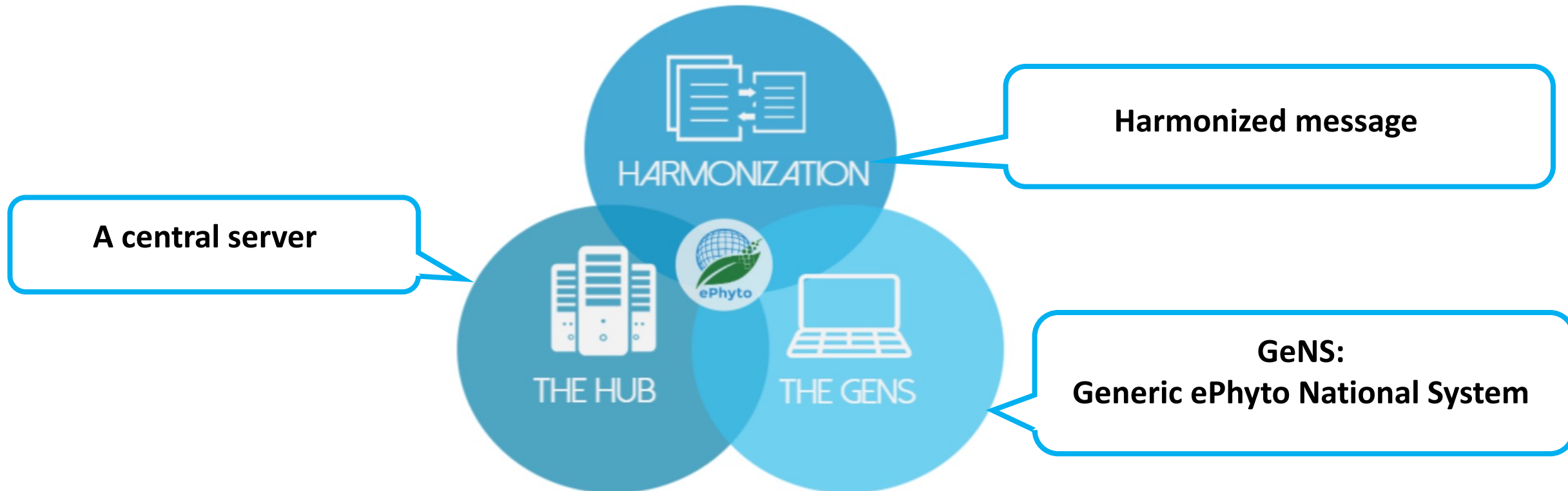
**Dominique MENON, ePhyto Manager, IPPC Secretariat**

## What is an ePhyto?

- Electronic equivalent of a paper certificate
- ePhyto = electronic phytosanitary certificate
- Requirements of ISPM 12 apply
- May be issued where accepted by the importing country
- Should use standardized language (XML)
- **Not a scanned certificate**










## Overview of the IPPC ePhyto Solution



## Why ePhyto (1/2)?










-  Signature, stamp can be falsified
-  Damaged
-  Lost
-  Handled by numerous parties
-  Costly re-issuance
-  Deterioration of commodities waiting for clearance
-  Problem of "original certificate" and copies

*versus*

ePhyto

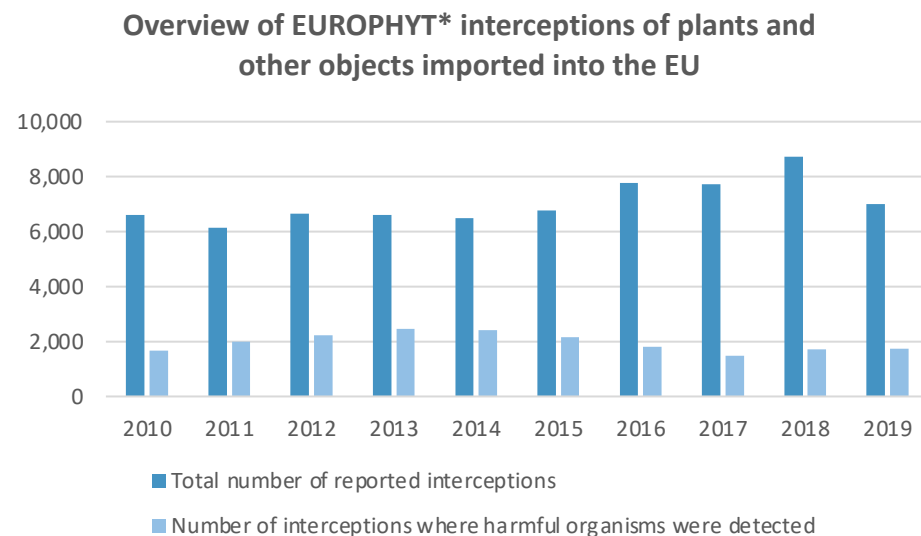


-  Very difficult to falsify
-  No deterioration
-  Bring with you as many as you want, accessible everywhere
-  Easy to circulate
-  Easy re-issuance
-  Faster clearance
-  No problem of obtaining "officially certified copies"

## Why ePhyto (2/2)?

☹️ More problems with non-compliant documents than actual plant health issues

😊 Less non-compliant documents thanks to harmonization



\* EUROPHYT - European Union Notification System for Plant Health Interceptions

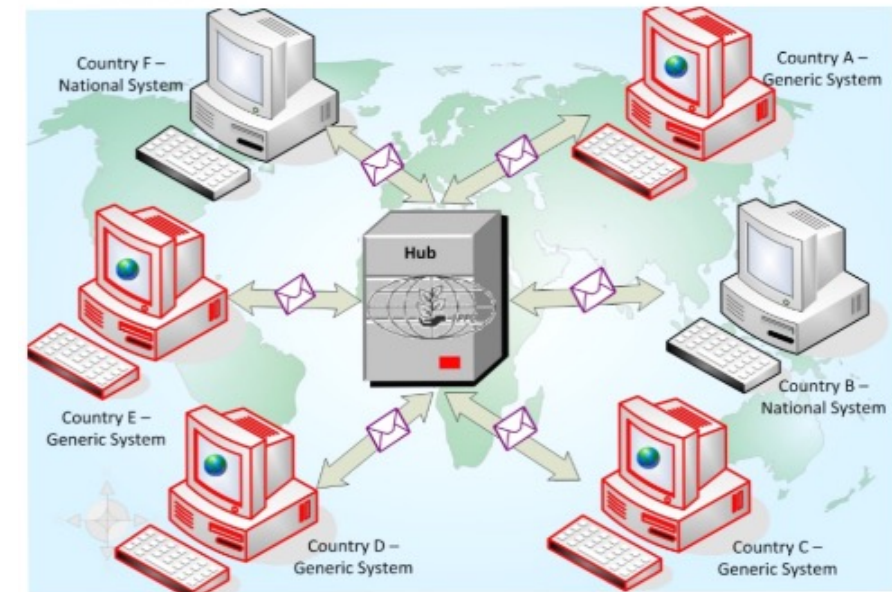
**Inefficient processes in place with paper certificates:  
time, money and increased risks of spreading pests**

**→ electronic certification more efficient**

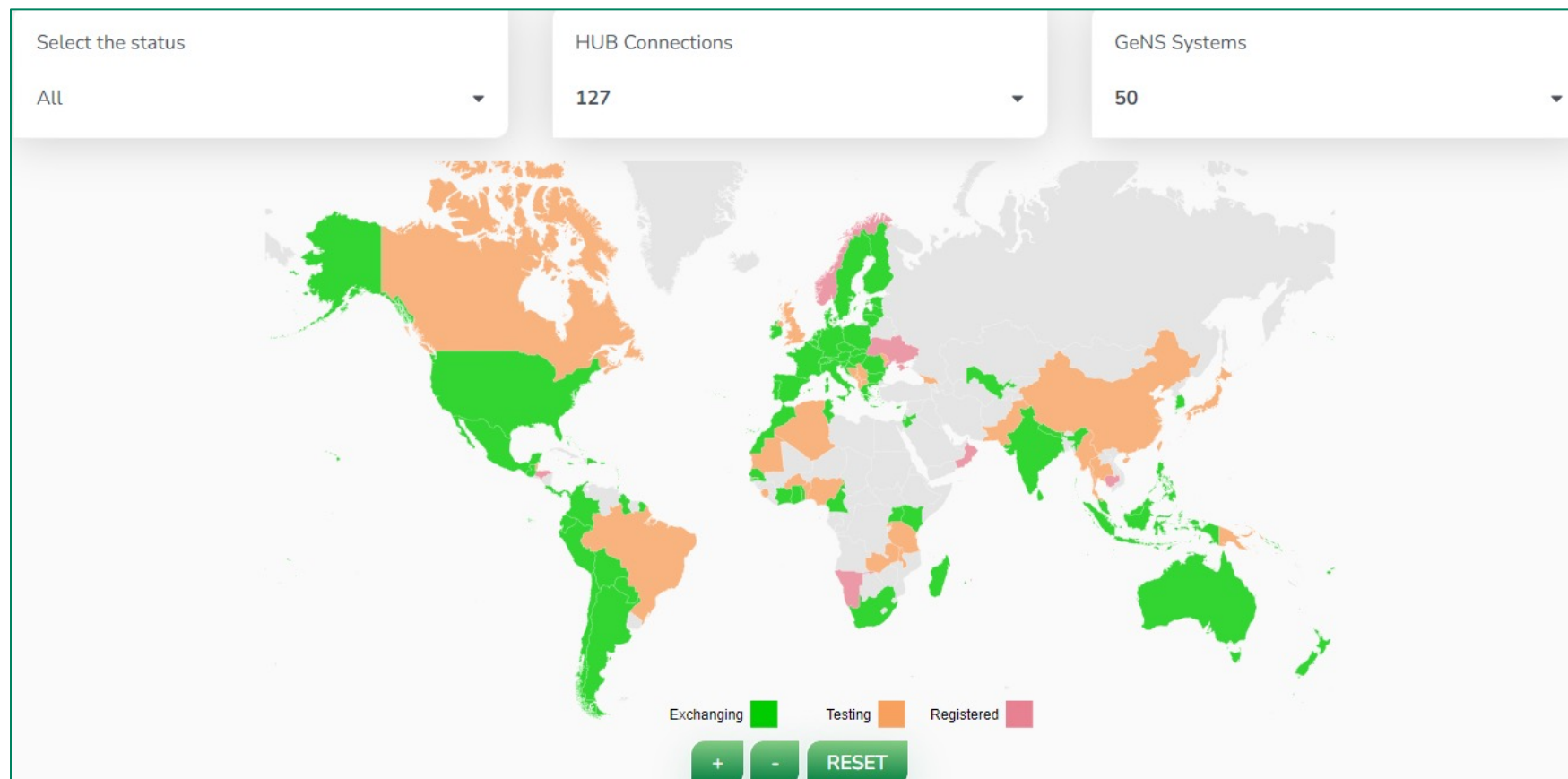
## The IPPC ePhyto Solution

### The added value of the IPPC ePhyto Solution

- **Hub:** no need for costly bilateral IT agreements and thus send and receive ePhytos from any other country also connected
  - **GeNS:** no countries excluded of the digital exchange
  - **Harmonization** of electronic phytosanitary certification
- The IPPC ePhyto Solution makes trade safer, faster and cheaper



## Key figures (1/3)

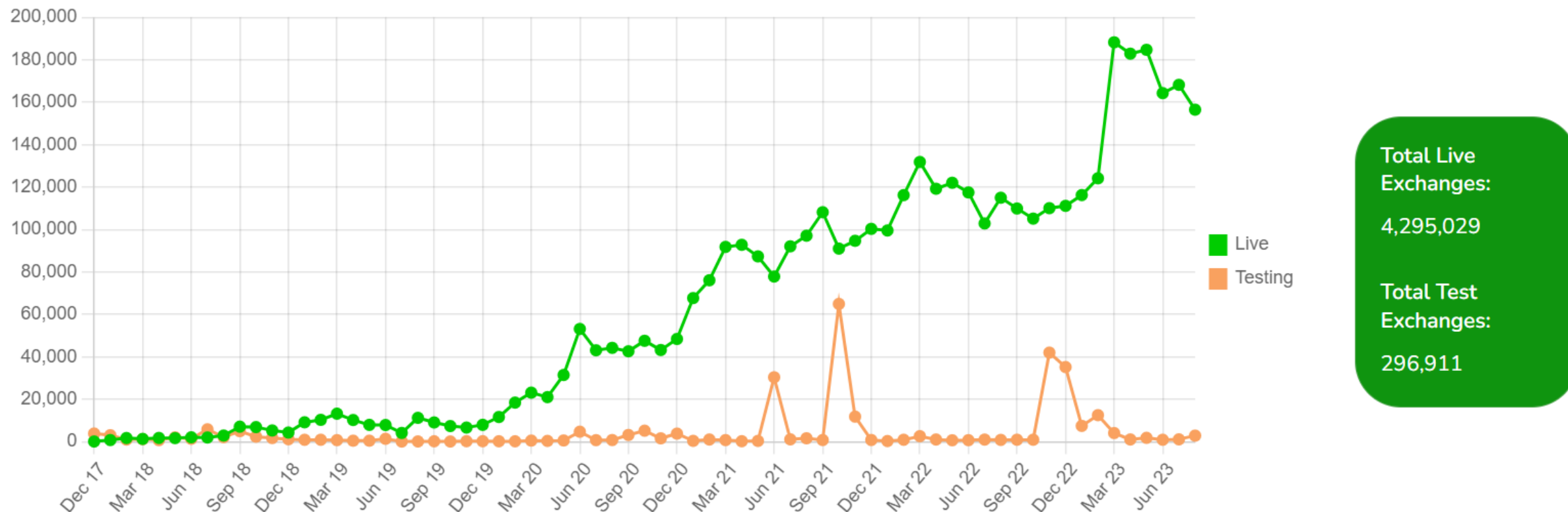


- 127 countries on board:**
- Registered: 9 (4 GeNS)
  - Testing: 36 (19 GeNS)
  - Live: 82 (27 GeNS)

Data from [www.ephytoexchange.org](http://www.ephytoexchange.org) as per August 2023

## Key figures (2/3)

Summary of the certificates successfully exchanged through the HUB



**Total Live Exchanges:**  
 4,295,029

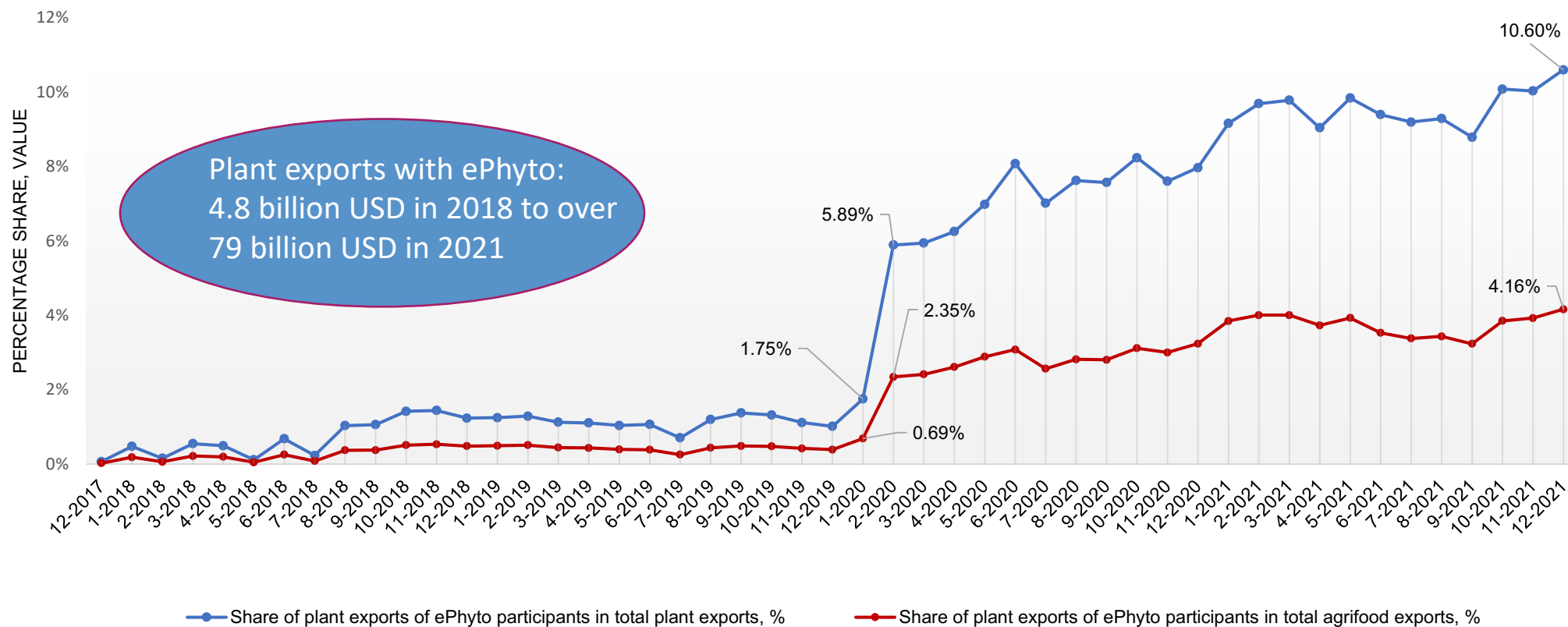
**Total Test Exchanges:**  
 296,911

Data from [www.ephytoexchange.org](http://www.ephytoexchange.org) as per August 2023



## Key figures (3/3)

### Monthly Value share of plant exports that require ePhytos from countries that issue ePhyto certificates

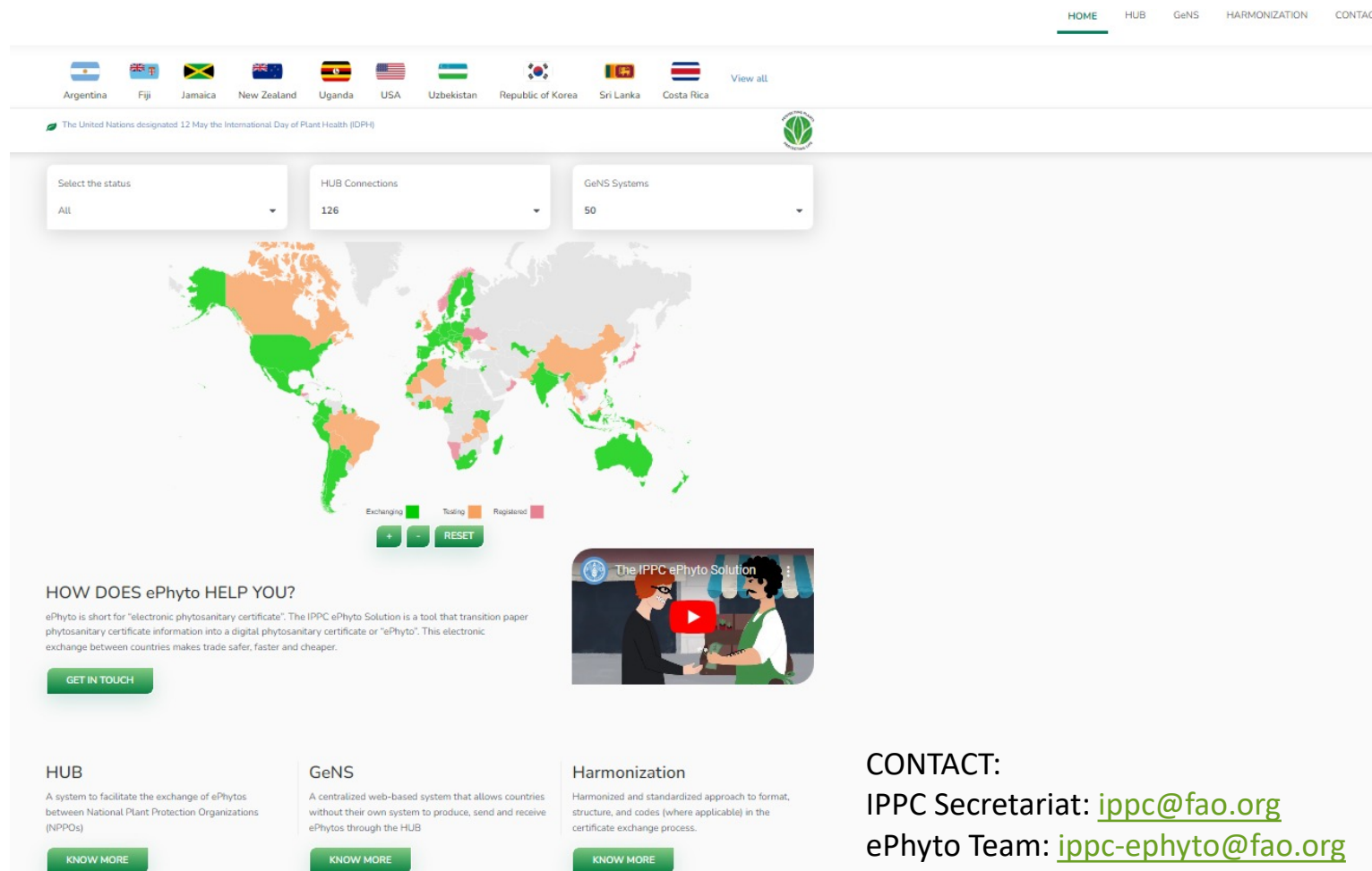


Source: Draft note on the evolution in the exchange of ePhytos since the inception of the Hub – FAO (EST & CFI)

## ePhyto website

[www.ephytoexchange.org](http://www.ephytoexchange.org)

How to join, technical  
documentation, case  
studies and other  
information!



The screenshot shows the ePhyto website interface. At the top, there is a navigation menu with links for HOME, HUB, GeNS, HARMONIZATION, and CONTACT. Below the menu is a horizontal bar with flags for various countries: Argentina, Fiji, Jamaica, New Zealand, Uganda, USA, Uzbekistan, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, and Costa Rica, followed by a 'View all' link. A banner below the flags states: 'The United Nations designated 12 May the International Day of Plant Health (IDPH)'. The main content area features three dropdown filters: 'Select the status' (set to 'All'), 'HUB Connections' (set to '126'), and 'GeNS Systems' (set to '50'). Below these filters is a world map where countries are color-coded: green for 'Exchanging', orange for 'Testing', and pink for 'Registered'. A legend at the bottom of the map includes a 'RESET' button. To the right of the map is a video player titled 'The IPPC ePhyto Solution'. Below the map, there is a section titled 'HOW DOES ePhyto HELP YOU?' with a 'GET IN TOUCH' button. At the bottom, there are three columns of information: 'HUB' (A system to facilitate the exchange of ePhytos between National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs)), 'GeNS' (A centralized web-based system that allows countries without their own system to produce, send and receive ePhytos through the HUB), and 'Harmonization' (Harmonized and standardized approach to format, structure, and codes (where applicable) in the certificate exchange process.). Each column has a 'KNOW MORE' button.

CONTACT:  
IPPC Secretariat: [ippc@fao.org](mailto:ippc@fao.org)  
ePhyto Team: [ippc-ephyto@fao.org](mailto:ippc-ephyto@fao.org)

## The IPPC ePhyto Solution

### Collaboration

- Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation of the World Economic Forum
- The Standards and Trade Development Facility
- The World Bank and International Finance Corporation
- World Customs Organization
- ePhyto Industry Advisory Group (IAG)



## Future plans

- CPM Focus Group on Sustainable Funding for ePhyto
  - Seeking short, medium, and long term funding solutions
- Translation into other languages (GeNS)
  - French and Arabic versions are live, **Spanish soon!**
- Routine maintenance and enhancements
  - Channel enhancements
  - eSignature/eSeal
  - ePayments
- Continued collaboration with non-phytosanitary agencies/organizations (WOAH/Codex)
- NPPO workshops with the ePhyto Industry Advisory Group (IAG)
- Ongoing projects with the Global Alliance and World Bank
- Linkage to other government/non-government systems (Single Windows, Customs, ASYCUDA, Blockchain companies)





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# Thank you

## IPPC Secretariat

Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations (FAO)

[ippc@fao.org](mailto:ippc@fao.org) | [www.ippc.int](http://www.ippc.int)

