



The ePhyto Pilot

ePhyto Factsheet #4

System Pilot

The Hub and the Generic ePhyto National System (GeNS) began piloting in early 2018. The purpose of the pilots is to test the system to verify that it effectively handles certification requests and produces, transfers and retrieves ePhytos.

The Hub pilot was successfully completed during the first quarter 2018. The GeNS pilots commenced in the fourth quarter of 2018. After the pilot an evaluation will be conducted to assess the functionality, user friendliness, stability, security, efficiency, etc. of the Solution. The evaluation of the findings will be used to determine the next steps of improvement associated with the system and service.

The outcome of the pilot will be used to refine the Solution components for full implementation by all National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs).

Selection Criteria for Pilot Countries

To select candidate countries for participation in the pilots, the ePhyto Steering Group (ESG) undertook a preparedness survey in late 2015. The survey asked countries to respond to a number of questions regarding their capacity to initiate the use of the ePhyto Solution. The survey was sent to the IPPC contact points of contracted parties. Eighty countries responded to the survey. The ESG evaluated the responses both quantitatively and qualitatively to determine a "best fit" for the piloting based upon the criteria of trade volume, being trading partners, legislative readiness, availability of infrastructure and resources to assist with evaluation, commitment and feasibility in participation, etc.

The ESG considered that the number of countries participating in the pilot must be sufficient to test the system but must not exceed the ESG's and the project's capacity to work with countries in implementing the piloting.

Requirements of Pilot Countries

- ◆ commit time and resources to receive training, to test the systems and to support the evaluation;
- ◆ issue both paper certificates and ePhytos for the consignments during the period of the piloting;
- ◆ assist the ESG in testing the functionality of the system, the harmonization of the XML messages and the quality of support documents and service.

The ePhyto Solution, initiated in 2011 by the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) with the financial support of the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) and donor countries, aims to improve the safe trade in plants and plant products.

The Pilot Countries

Thirteen countries were selected to pilot the Hub and GeNS.

- ◆ The Hub pilot countries are: Argentina, Australia, Chile, China, Ecuador, Kenya, Korea, the Netherlands, New Zealand, and the United States of America
- ◆ The GeNS pilot countries are: Ghana, Samoa and Sri Lanka

Industry Pilot

Following the technical pilot of the Hub, the Industry Advisory Group (IAG) began conducting case studies to evaluate and validate the impact of implementing the exchange of phytosanitary certificates via the ePhyto Hub on the efficiency of trade. These case studies will document observations of trading companies and NPPOs in implementing ePhytos exchanged through the Hub. Similar steps will be taken with the GeNS once its technical pilot is complete.

Additional resources

The IPPC website has a lot of information on the history of ePhyto development – use the links below for more information:

- ◆ [IPPC ePhyto – home page](#)
- ◆ [IPPC ePhyto – Steering Group and recent developments](#)
- ◆ [IPPC ePhyto – codes and schema](#)

Contact us

ePhyto Steering Group

International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)

Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Rome, Italy

Tel: +39 06 5705 4812 | Fax: +39 06 5705 4819

Email: ippc-ephyto@fao.org

Web: www.ippc.int

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

