

The Global ePhyto Hub

ePhyto Factsheet #2

What is the IPPC Global ePhyto Hub?

The IPPC Global ePhyto Hub is a central exchange system for ePhytos that can be used by all countries linked to it. It is commonly referred to as the "Hub". Under this approach, an exporting National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO) can transfer an ePhyto via a secure system to the Hub. The Hub will then transfer the ePhyto to the importing country's "mailbox" in the Hub, where the importing country can retrieve it from the Hub. The Hub requires that all countries that participate in exchanging ePhytos use standardized messaging for the transmission and retrieval of ePhytos. This eliminates the need for multiple bilateral access agreements and enables all countries (NPPOs) wishing to do so to participate. (See Figure 1).

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.

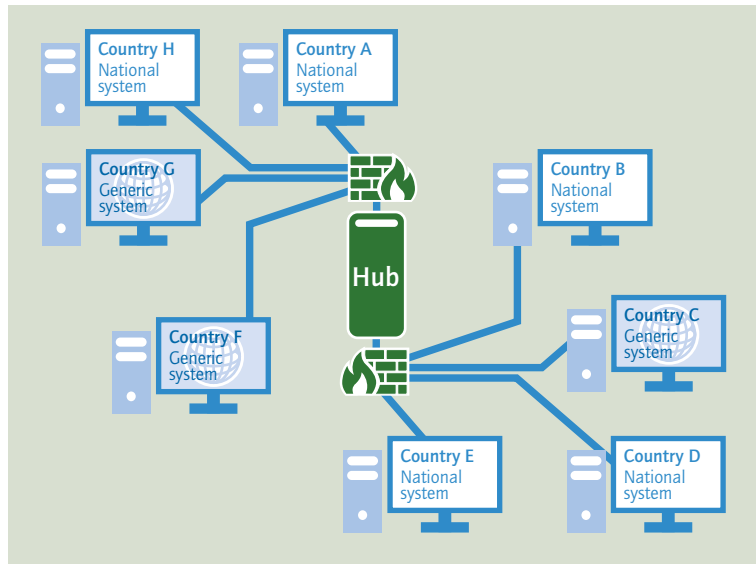


Figure 1
The Hub allows NPPOs to exchange certificates with other NPPOs connected to the Hub via a generic web-based or an existing national system containing harmonized rules for participation.

How can my country participate?

The Hub is now active and available for countries to use. Countries may use either their national electronic certification system or the Generic ePhyto National System (GeNS) (to read more about the GeNS refer to Fact Sheet 3) to connect to the ePhyto global Hub. It is important to clarify that when a country uses the GeNS it automatically uses the Hub. When a country intends to use the Hub with its own national electronic system, the country must first register for use of the Hub. Registration is done by following [this process](#).

Countries with their own national systems interested in connecting to the Hub should make sure that they have the following functionalities before registering to connect:

- ◆ Produce phytosanitary certificate data in electronic XML form;
- ◆ Create the ePhyto message according to the mapping guidance provided at the link: <https://www.ephytoexchange.org/AdminConsole/index.html?#docs>
- ◆ Send and receive ePhytos through the Hub web service;
- ◆ Communicate with the Hub using transport layer security;
- ◆ Store electronic phytosanitary certificates or electronic phytosanitary certificate data.

Then, once you are confident you are able to connect to the Hub - commence the on-boarding process as in Figure 2.

When can my country participate?

All countries with their own national systems that meet the above-mentioned requirements are welcome to register and begin the onboarding process. For further details refer to the [Guide to Joining the ePhyto Hub](#).

Something you might want to know about the Hub

- ◆ The version of United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT) schema in use, at a given time, is established by the IPPC.
- ◆ The Hub reads the envelope information only in order to deliver message to the correct destination. The privacy of the message content is maintained throughout the transaction and only the destination NPPO will read the message.
- ◆ The messages are kept in the Hub only until retrieved by the NPPO of the import country.
- ◆ Communication with the Hub uses HTTPS protocol.
- ◆ The Hub allows for encrypted transfer through TLS (Transport Layer Security) of ePhyto data between countries.
- ◆ Authentication will be used to ensure the identity of both sending and receiving NPPOs.
- ◆ Use of the Hub is voluntary.

For more information about the ePhyto Solution, please visit: <https://www.ippc.int/en/ephyto>

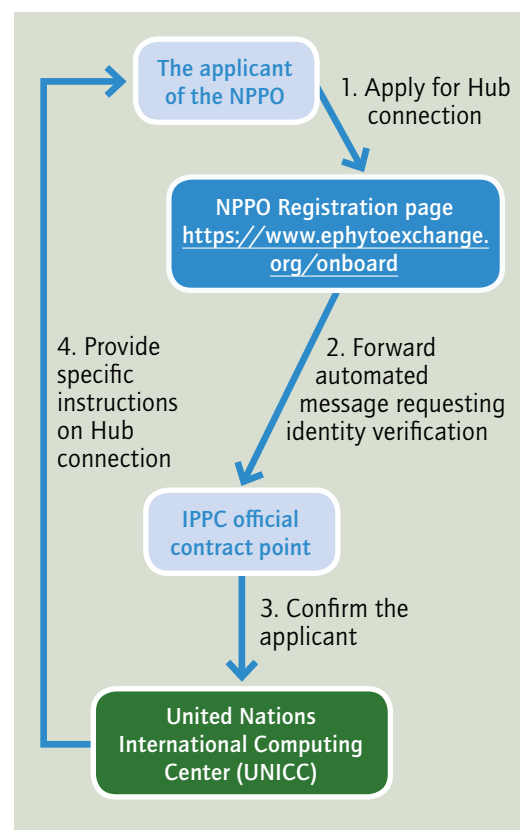


Figure 2

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