

Electronic Phytosanitary Certification (ePhyto)

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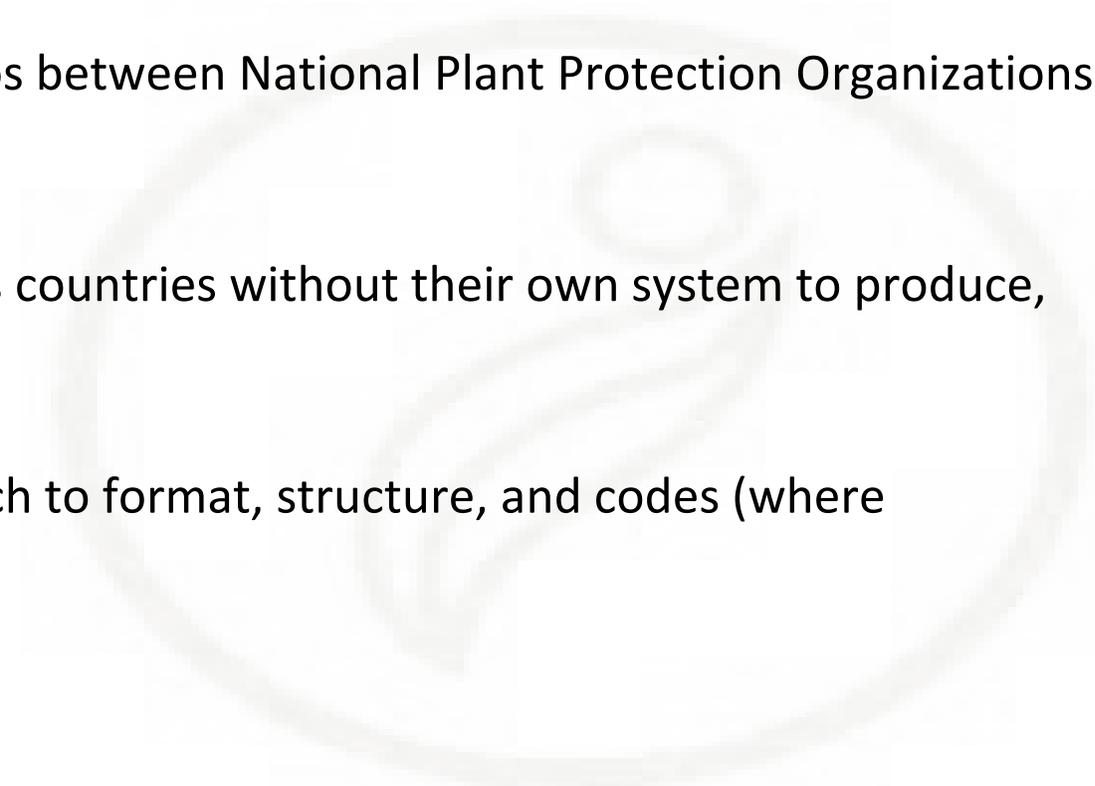
APSA 6th Online Phytosanitary Expert Consultation

The IPPC ePhyto Solution is the electronic certification system that has three core components;

The Hub: a system to facilitate the exchange of ePhytos between National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs).

The GeNS: a centralized web-based system that allows countries without their own system to produce, send and receive ePhytos through the Hub.

Harmonization: harmonized and standardized approach to format, structure, and codes (where applicable) in the certificate exchange process.



HUB

The HUB is a centralized system to facilitate exchange of ePhytos between NPPOs with a set of prescribed rules of connection and defined structure/codes/terms for the XML message.

Benefits

Use of the Hub is voluntary

The Hub is a single, multilateral system

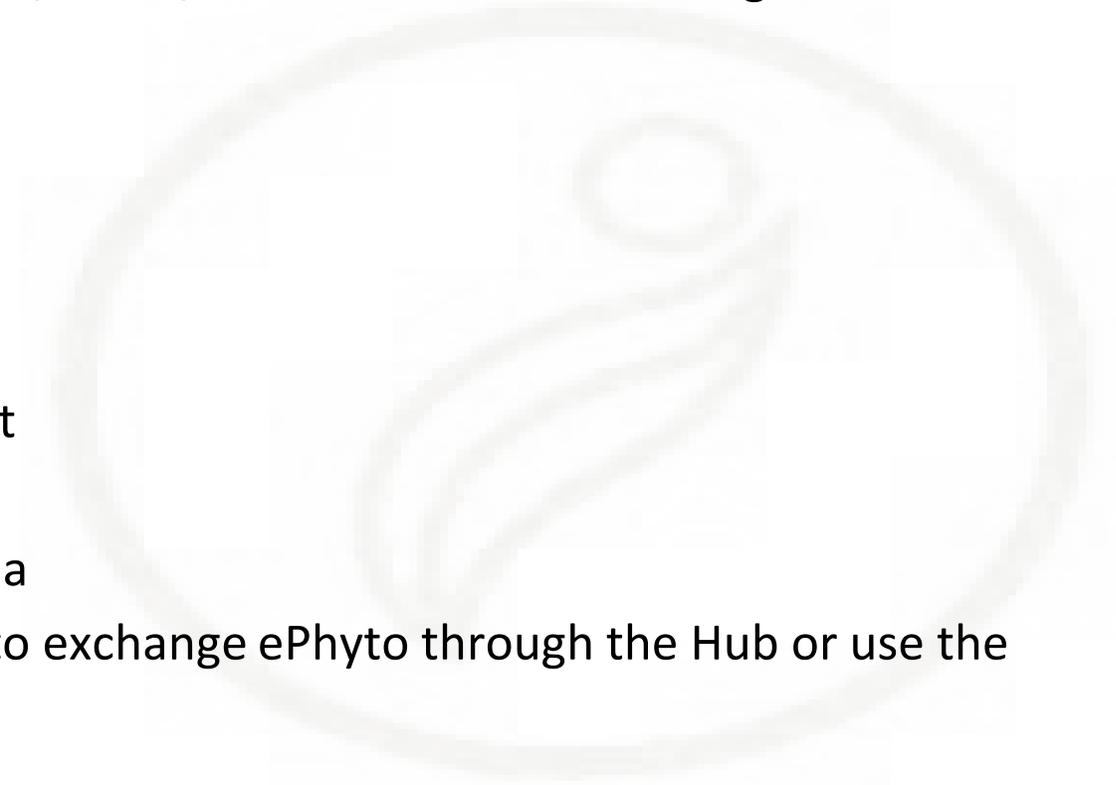
The Hub will be available 24/7 (secure and monitored)

No information (messages, transactions) should be lost

There is a single exchange protocol

The IPPC determines the version of UN/CEFACT schema

Participating countries will require a National System to exchange ePhyto through the Hub or use the Generic system



Why is ePhyto important for the industry?

The ePhyto Solution is designed to significantly improve security, border efficiency, and global coverage, making the movement of goods across borders safer, faster, and cheaper. It aims to implement an accessible way for all governments to exchange phytosanitary certificates electronically via a global Hub.

The work on the ePhyto file is growing as more and more countries adopt the solution, and there is an increasing interoperability with the private sector.

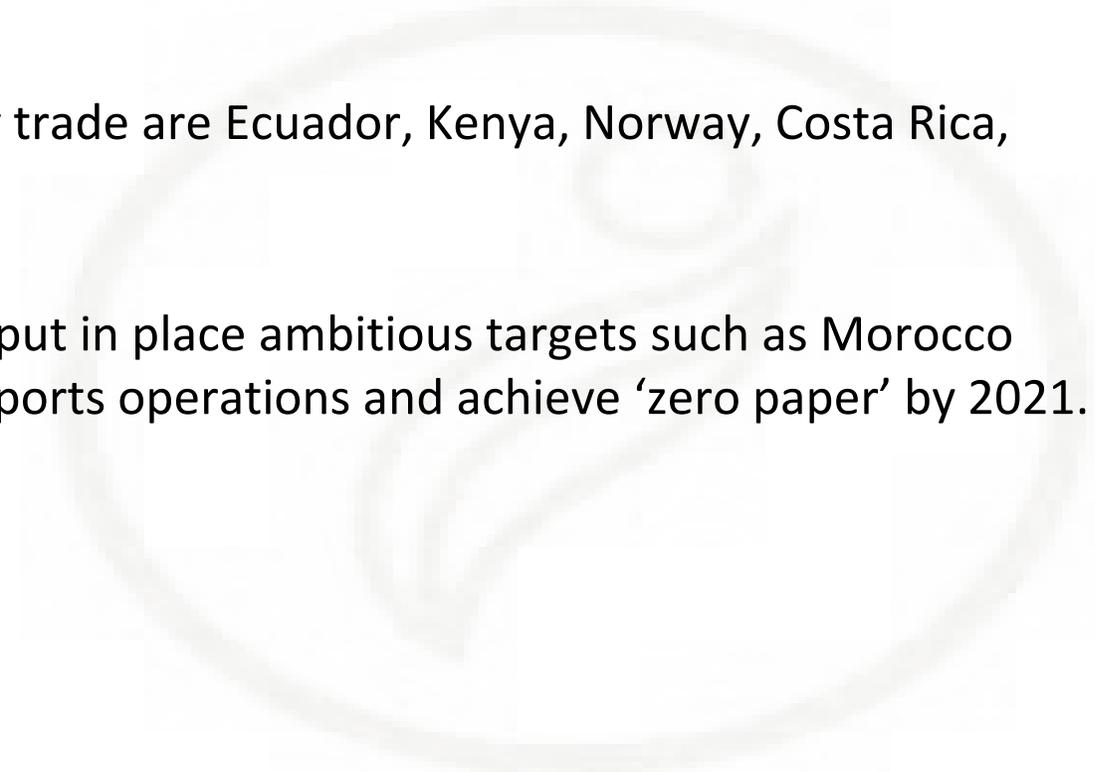
Nearly 90 economies are now registered with ePhyto and 43 are fully active (helped by **EU** coming online with TRACES). Forty of these economies (including the EU, Argentina, Chile, New Zealand, Ghana, Morocco and the USA) are in production and are available for case study tests.

In 2020, we expect to see increases in the list of economies in production, and thus available for case study participation.

Economies fully able to send and receive are Argentina, Brazil, Chile, **Fiji**, Hong Kong, Jamaica, **Korea**, Morocco, **New Zealand**, **Samoa**, South Africa, **Sri Lanka**, USA and all the EU member economies.

Economies advancing but still only capable of one-way trade are Ecuador, Kenya, Norway, Costa Rica, Rwanda, Guatemala and Myanmar.

Certain economies are using this as an opportunity to put in place ambitious targets such as Morocco which is aiming to “fully digitalise all import and exports operations and achieve ‘zero paper’ by 2021.



ePhyto Industry Advisory group (IAG)

The Industry representatives via the IAG are working to provide expertise regarding the commercial implications of the ePhyto Solution. One way to do this is to identify shipments to be involved in “case studies” to analyze the commercial, custom, and regulatory impacts of implementing the ePhyto Solution on physical commodity trade flows.

Results from industry case studies will be used to improve the functioning of the Solution, as well as to provide guidance as the trade moves forward with electronic documents and paperless execution

Since 2018 13 case studies have been conducted, with plenty of enthusiasm from plant product sectors but limitations owing to the small number of economies that are fully enabled to both send and receive ePhytos.

The 13 case studies have mainly been in the grains sector (Argentina-USA, Argentina-Chile, USA-New Zealand) but there have also been a number of tests in cotton and seeds.



Initial findings in the IAG case studies

The IAG's top priority is to bring in as many economies and commodity flows as possible. Early observations from the case studies reveal some positive feedback such as time and cost savings, ePhyto's contribution to greater efficiency and ease of export/import.

As we go forward with case studies, it is critical to ensure participation across multiple commodities and economies.

We need more case studies to analyze benefits, gaps for improvement, and areas needing support – i.e. getting more economies enrolled into the Hub - that must be addressed to ensure the ePhyto is feasible and accessible to all stakeholders involved. One of the main objectives of these case studies is to collect hard data that will drive decisions as the ePhyto Solution Project enters its final phases.

IAG messages

- it's critical that countries sign up
- once signed up, it's important that countries follow up and work on the technical issues that will enable live exchanges,
- once in live mode, its essential that trade users learn how to use the system and,
- It is vital that NPPO's have the system running and working





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