

The IPPC ePhyto Solution: Implementing the Generic ePhyto National System (GeNS) in the Asia and Pacific Region

UNESCAP

Asia Pacific Trade Facilitation Forum



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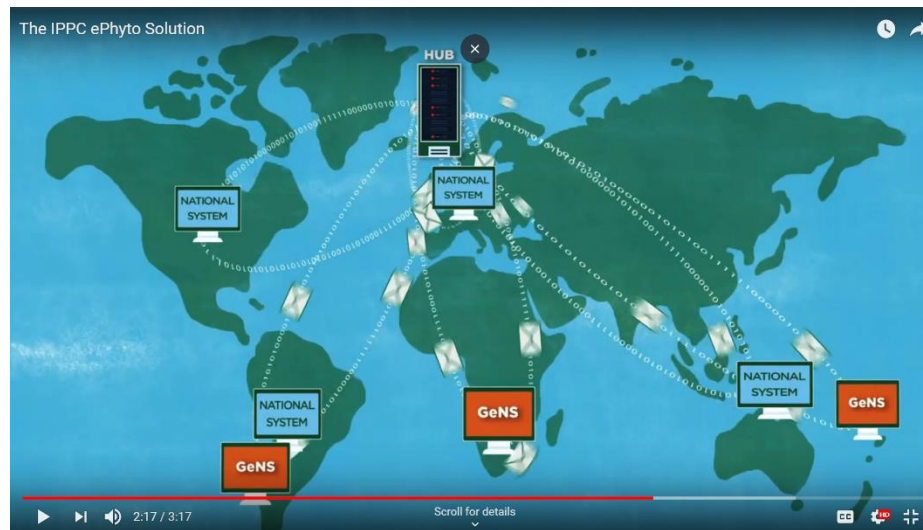


International Plant
Protection Convention



Improving Safe Trade in Plants and Plant Products

ePhyto in 3 Minutes



https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=2&v=gjDz7aOv-Ys



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Improving Safe Trade in Plants and Plant Products

The ePhyto Solution Project *-in brief-*

- Now fully operational, this is a project to facilitate the electronic exchange of phytosanitary certificates.
- The system enables countries to produce, send and receive phytosanitary certificates according to Appendix 1 of ISPM 12 using a single harmonized set of rules
- The only project of its kind among the three SPS “sisters” (IPPC, Codex, OIE)



The ePhyto Solution Project *-in brief-*

- Allows developing and developed countries to participate regardless of infrastructure capacity
- Simplified setup and participation
- Initial funding from the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF), augmented with resources from IPPC Contracting Parties.



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Who Benefits?

- National Plant Protection Organizations, especially in developing and least developed countries,
- Implementation of the ePhyto GeNS will directly support the ability to expand trade by reducing the cost of doing business for the private sector
- The infrastructure development and investment required to ensure successful implementation of ePhyto will result in increased ease of doing business and enhanced e-commerce opportunities
- NPPOs and all associated plant-related industries can benefit from transaction cost reductions, improved trade security, risk management and increased trade flows.



The IPPC ePhyto Solution Consists of:

Hub

System to facilitate exchange of ePhytos between NPPOs

GeNS

Generic ePhyto National System

Centralized web-based system to allow countries without their own systems to produce, send and receive ePhytos through the hub

Harmonized message

Uniform format, structure and accompanying codes and lists where applicable

What is an ePhyto?

ePhyto is the electronic **equivalent** of a paper phytosanitary certificate (ISPM 12)



NOT a paper certificate



NOT a scanned certificate

Standardized XML schema



This is part of an ePhyto

Why ePhyto?

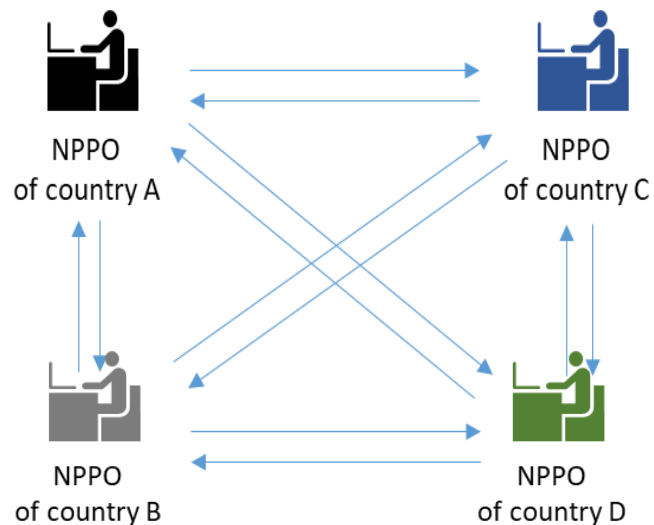
In the beginning

Point-to-point transmission

Point-to-point exchange is when ePhyto exchange occurs directly between an exporting country and an importing country.

In each case, the country needs to establish separate bilateral arrangements with each country to facilitate exchange.

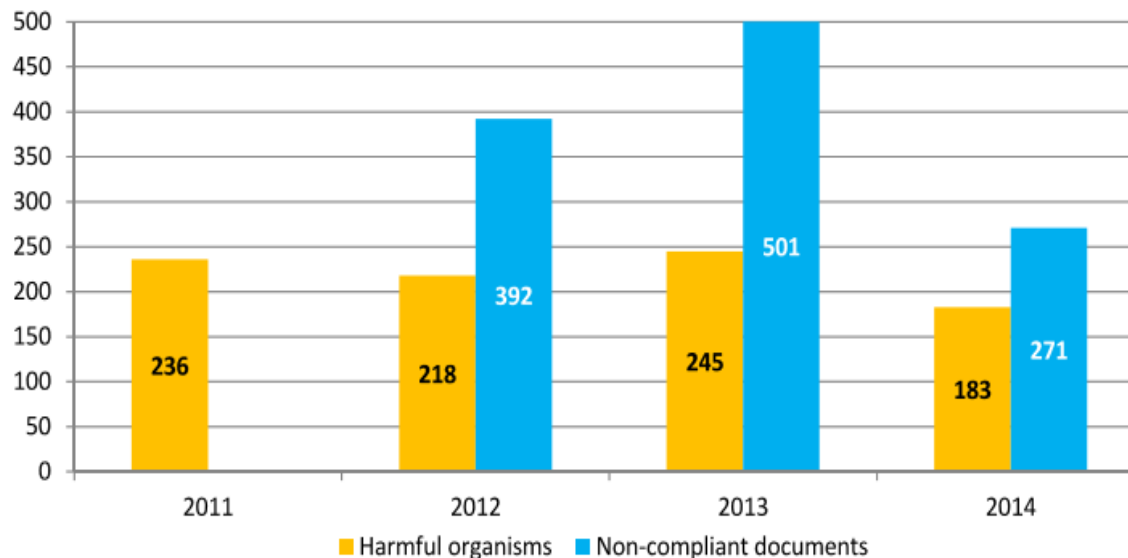
High costs for establishing separate connections (@\$120K per connection) and significant annual costs (\$20K-100K) for maintaining separate connections with each partner country



Why ePhyto? An example

Non-compliant documents trigger a higher number of import rejections than actual plant health issues (harmful organisms):

Overview of EUROPHYT interceptions of cut flowers and foliage notified in 2011-2014:



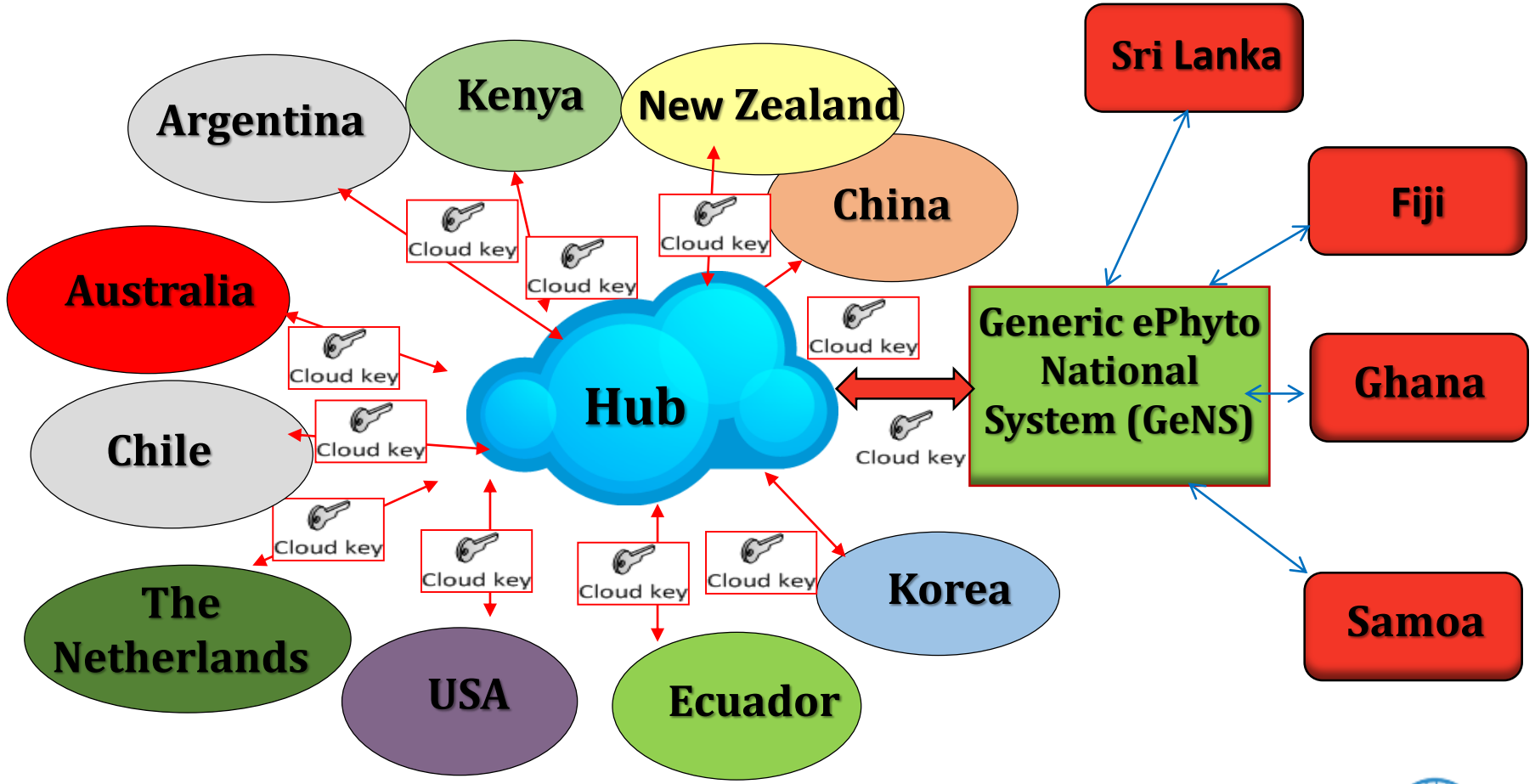
Source: EUROPHYT & Union Fleurs databases

Why ePhyto?

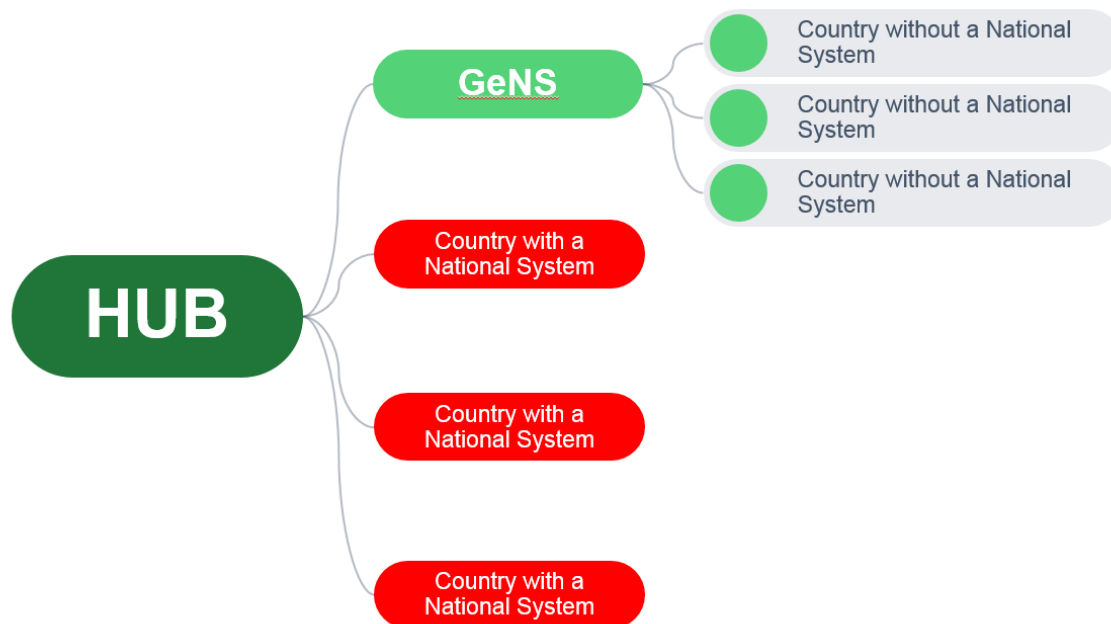
1. National efficiencies
2. Reduction in trade costs/time
3. Improved security
4. Simplification of information flow between traders and government
5. Options for data transfer and sharing
6. Expedited clearance of commodities
7. Better evaluation of risks
8. Ability to address certification problems in advance of commodity arrival
9. Resource planning prior to commodity arrival



The ePhyto (Hub and the GeNS)



Generic National System (GeNS)



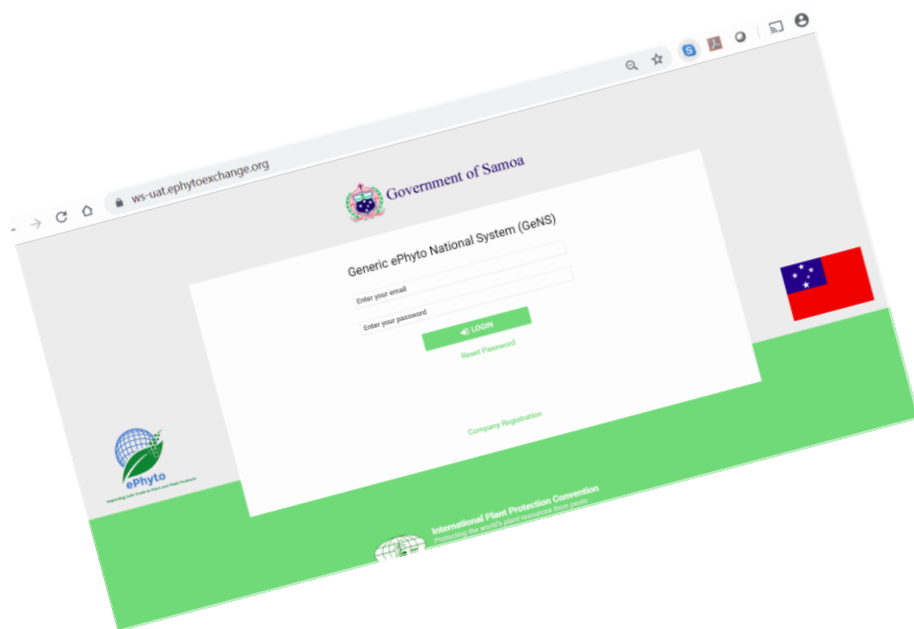
Pilot

- Ghana (full operation)
- Sri Lanka
- Samoa

Early Adaptors

- Fiji
- Jamaica
- St. Kitts and Nevis
- Cayman Islands
- Myanmar
- Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
- Antigua and Barbuda
- Papua New Guinea
- Myanmar
- Cambodia

System Functions – GeNS



- Export Certificates
- Import Certificates
- Reference Data management
- Managing users, exporters and consignee lists
- Managing my information
- Users and Roles
- Workflows

All maintained by UNICC;
countries do not need to
maintain the system.

GeNS implementation in the Asia / Pacific region

- Sri Lanka, Samoa and Ghana have been pilot countries for GeNS implementation as countries without national systems – Ghana now in full operation.
- Myanmar, Fiji Papua New Guinea and others are implementing the GeNS.
- Many additional countries in Asia (including Cambodia, Vietnam, Malaysia, Korea, China and others) are in the process of joining the ePhyto Solution for ePhyto exchange via GeNS or their National systems.
- There are plans for establishing a Project Manager located in Fiji to assist making arrangements to implement GeNS in the the Pacific countries



Innovativeness and cost effectiveness of the project

- reduced costs associated with sorting, distributing and retrieving paper certificates. As well as costs associated with certificate delays, staff time and negotiating bilateral arrangements
- ePhyto Cost Benefit analysis, targeting financial and in-kind benefits of the system after ePhyto implementation, has already been demonstrated in some test cases.
- Long term sustainability of this project without external funding = public/private sector partnerships.



GeNS Deliverables

1. Digital channels for effective and efficient trade facilitation applicable to developing countries that do not have own national system
2. Involve key government and industry stakeholders in the design and implementation of GeNS
3. Scale to move services (relating to plant exports) and potentially to other commodities etc. in future
4. Objective to reduce time and costs of trade
5. Potential to scale innovation to other government certification



The SDGs and ePhyto

The project will directly and indirectly support SDG1 (No Poverty), SDG 2 (Zero hunger), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure), SDG 13 (Climate Action), SDG 15 (Life on Land) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

SDG 1 and 2: The ePhyto Solution facilitates a stronger management of pest spread, which consequently helps minimize crop loss and increase food security. Active participation in industry due to low costs on ePhyto will benefit and enhance agricultural trade = minimise poverty and hunger, as expansion of agricultural exports is critical for economic growth in rural areas.

SDG 8: By providing a more efficient means for the management of pests, the IPPC ePhyto solution can help facilitate economic growth by reducing the impact of climate change and food insecurity derived from pest distribution

SDG 9: Investments in infrastructure, trade facilitation and competitiveness achieved by the implementation of this project will reduce the cost of doing business in developing countries, while trade facilitation ensures that businesses can take advantage of international opportunities.

SDG 13 and 15: Minimise the current use of paper certificates for phytosanitary certification = have a positive impact on biodiversity and climate change due to minimising deforestation thus enhancing natural resource management and land productivity.

SDG 17: Collaboration with multiple organizations and industry partners. Working together to develop a system that makes sense not only for government representatives but also for industry and future organizations that would like to join the electronic certification world



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Thank You!

