

The Generic ePhyto National System (GeNS)

ePhyto Factsheet #3

What can the GeNS do?

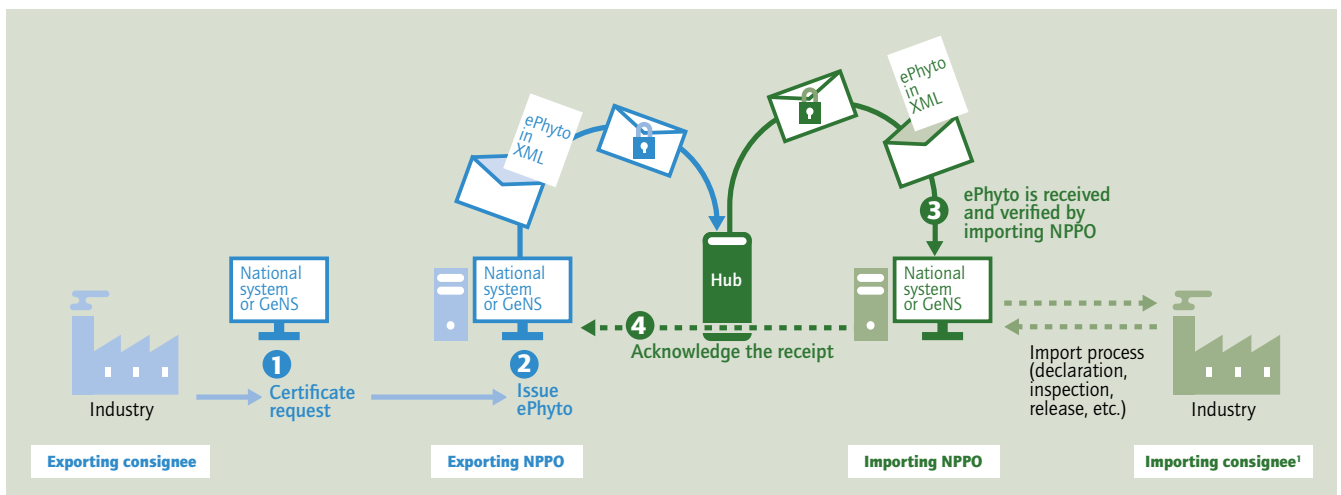
The Generic ePhyto National System (GeNS) is a basic web-based system to produce and receive ePhytos, which allows countries without a national system or with limited information technology to exchange ePhytos with their trading partners via the global Hub. In its early stage, the GeNS will be developed with basic functions as below:

- ◆ Entering consignment information resulting in an export certification request by industry
- ◆ Checking and changing this data by industry or National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs) inspectors
- ◆ Approval of the certificate request by NPPO inspectors
- ◆ Issuing an ePhyto by the NPPO officer
- ◆ Producing an ePhyto with data in the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT) format and contents as per Appendix 1 of ISPM 12
- ◆ Sending ePhytos to the global Hub
- ◆ Receiving ePhytos from the global Hub
- ◆ Producing a paper phytosanitary certificate ready for signing and stamping, for export to countries that cannot yet receive ePhytos
- ◆ Printing of ePhyto data on paper, if required
- ◆ Storage of ePhytos for later reference
- ◆ Security connection with the global Hub
- ◆ User friendly and web-based interface with different roles for industry and NPPOs

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 diagram reflects the ePhyto transmission process (whether from a NPPO's own national system or the GeNS), depicting the movement of an ePhyto from exporting to importing parties.



¹ The process of the consignee obtaining a certificate is dependent of each NPPO's specific business process.

How can my country prepare for utilizing the GeNS?

Implementation of the GeNS may require consideration of business and technical operations of the NPPO to fully utilize the system. That may include consideration of the following:

- ◆ Obtaining policy support for implementing the GeNS including consideration of finances to support changes to infrastructure, if required
- ◆ Reviewing national legislation and business processes for phytosanitary certification and making necessary adjustments
- ◆ Engagement with your stakeholders as your industry will use the GeNS as well to provide ePhyto information and requests for certification
- ◆ Accept teleconference/video training provided by the IPPC Secretariat and the ePhyto Steering Group (ESG), if required

When can my country participate?

The pilot of the GeNS commenced in the 4th quarter of 2018. It will be available for wider use for those countries without a national system or those interested to connect to the Hub through the GeNS when the pilot and reconfigurations are complete. The IPPC will notify contracting parties once the GeNS is available for broader uptake.

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

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

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