Overview on the electronic phytosanitary certificate (e-Phyto) And the possibility of its introduction into Egypt, Cairo 10-4-2019

Under the FAO-EBRD Public-Private Dialogue in the Egyptian Grain Sector Project
Outlines

• Where we are coming from?
• ePhyto and ePhyto solution, What is it about?
• Where are we now?
• What we are going to gain?
• Trending @ #
• Conclusion
• Are we there yet!
Where we are coming from?

- The first IPPC meeting on electronic phytosanitary certification was held in Wageningen, **the Netherlands in 2006**.
- **In 2009**, IPPC meeting organized by the North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO)
- **In 2011**, the first IPPC global ePhyto symposium was held in the Republic of Korea.
- Followed by many meetings as the RPPOs (COSAVE, APPPC, EPPO and NEPPO) shows their strong interest in establishing electronic phytosanitary certification system.
- **In 2012**, an appendix to ISPM 12 on electronic phytosanitary certification was approved paving the way for more efficient and effective communication between governments.
- **At the 2014** governing body meeting of the IPPC (CPM 9) a new appendix to ISPM 12 was adopted to harmonize the .xml format of the phytosanitary certificate, how it is to be transmitted electronically and the allowable content of the fields of the certificate.
Where we are coming from? Cont...

- In 2015, 2nd IPPC Global ePhyto Symposium was hosted by the Republic of Korea.
- In 2015, at CPM 10 establishment of an ePhyto hub to facilitate the exchange of electronic certificates, the Secretariat submitted a proposal for the development of a hub and supporting infrastructure to produce and receive certificates to the World Trade Organization’s (WTO) Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF).
- In 2016, was the real starting of the ePhyto project.
- As per CPM 2016/CRP/03, out of 80 contracting parties, Egypt was one of 15 countries selected initially to start. Egypt confirmed its willingness to participate in the pilot.

Initial selection of contracting parties

From these 80 contracting parties, 15 were initially selected as possible participants in the initial pilot phase (see Annex). These 15 contracting parties received a letter from the IPPC Secretariat requesting their confirmation in participating in the pilot. The following 8 contracting parties have confirmed their willingness to participate in piloting the hub with their existing national system:

- Australia
- Chile

Furthermore, 6 contracting parties have confirmed their willingness to participate in the pilot using a generic national system:

- Ecuador
- Egypt
- Ghana
- Guatemala
- Samoa
- Sri Lanka
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Region</th>
<th>System for sending and receiving ePhytos</th>
<th>Summary of Survey Results</th>
<th>Overall rating including qualitative considerations of further development needed before this country can join the pilot</th>
<th>Date of receipt of confirmation notification (2016)</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>Some</td>
<td>14 March</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Low</td>
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<td>National</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>2 March</td>
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</table>
Where we are coming from? Cont...

- **In 2017**, the IPPC secretariat has commenced that the ePhyto project thanks to generous contributions from the Republic of Korea and the United States of America, in addition to human and financial resources support provided by Canada. These resources were used to establish a work agreement with the UNICC to commence the development of technical specifications for the hub and Generic National System (GeNS). The Secretariat further reported that sufficient funding (including the STDF project funding) has been received to build and test the ePhyto Solution and complete the pilot.

- **In 2018**, The 3rd IPPC Global Symposium on ePhyto Held in Malaysia with the Theme “ePhyto and Trade Facilitation.

- **In 2019**, 

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**Pre-CPM-14 Session on ePhyto Presentation and Demonstration**

Posted on Tue, 19 Feb 2019, 09:35

The IPPC Secretariat announces a **Pre-CPM-14 Presentation and Demonstration on ePhyto** that will take place from **10:00 to 12:00 on Monday 01 April 2019** at FAO HQs in the Iraq Room (A235).

During this session the IPPC ePhyto Group will provide a presentation on the elements of the ePhyto Solution Project, the most recent developments in ePhyto and the outlook for the future. In addition, representatives of the Industry Advisory Group will also be in attendance and will provide their insights on the development of the system. Following this, the members of the ePhyto Group will provide a live demonstration of the exchange of ePhyto in the Hub as well as a hands-on demonstration of the web-based Generic National System (GeNS) system.

IPPC Contracting Parties, Regional Plant Protection Organizations (RPPOs) and other observers attending the CPM-14 are invited and encouraged to attend this Session.
According to **IPPC ARTICLE IV**, 2. The responsibilities of an official national plant protection organization shall include the following:

(a) the issuance of certificates relating to the phytosanitary regulations of the importing contracting party for consignments of plants, plant products and other regulated articles;

According to **IPPC ARTICLE V** Phytosanitary certification

1. Each contracting party shall make arrangements for phytosanitary certification, with the objective of ensuring that exported plants, plant products and other regulated articles and consignments thereof are in conformity with the certifying statement to be made pursuant to paragraph 2(b) of this Article.

The IPPC issued two ISPMs related to the certification and certificates.

- **ISPM 7** – the Phytosanitary certification system
- **ISPM 12** – Phytosanitary certificates
Phytosanitary Certificates

An official paper document or its official electronic equivalent, consistent with the model certificates of the IPPC, attesting that a consignment meets phytosanitary import requirements [FAO, 1990; revised CPM, 2012]

- Covers plants, seeds, fruits and vegetables, cut flowers, grains, etc

- Plant and Plant Products Market worth hundreds of $billions annually

- Issued by the National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO) of the exporting country to the NPPO of the importing country, to indicate that consignments of plants, plant products meet the specified phytosanitary requirements by the importing country

- Under the FAO’s International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)
ePhyto and ePhyto solution, What is it about?

- **ISPM 12** clarifies the electronic phytosanitary certificates point 1.4.
- **ISPM 12** includes **APPENDIX 1: Electronic phytosanitary certificates, information on standard XML schemas and exchange mechanisms (2014)**

This appendix was adopted by the Ninth Session of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures in April 2014. This appendix is for reference purposes only and is not a prescriptive part of the standard.

**APPENDIX 1: Electronic phytosanitary certificates, information on standard XML schemas and exchange mechanisms (2014)**

**Introduction**

Electronic phytosanitary certificates are the electronic equivalents of phytosanitary certificates in paper form and may be used if they are accepted by the national plant protection organization (NPPO) of the importing country. When electronic phytosanitary certificates are issued by the NPPO of the exporting or re-exporting country, they should be made directly available to the NPPO of the importing country.
ePhyto vs Paper certificates
The ePhyto Solution

Allows Contracting Parties with or without national electronic certificate system to exchange ePhytos through a single point

The ePhyto Solution consists of two major components:

1. A global hub – a centralized system to facilitate exchange of ePhytos between NPPOs;

2. A Generic ePhyto National System (GeNS) – a web-based system to allow countries WITHOUT their own systems to produce, send and receive ePhytos in the XML format and exchanged via the Hub.
The IPPC ePhyto Solution - One to Many

NPPO Country A with national system

NPPO Country B with national system

NPPO C with national system

NPPO D with national system

NPPO without national system

GeNS

GeNS

National System

National System

National System

International Plant Protection Convention

Protecting the world's plant resources from pests
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country Registered to the Hub</th>
<th>Country registered but pending approval</th>
<th>Country registered and in production through the Hub</th>
<th>Country registered but pending approval</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>Australia</td>
<td>Bangladesh</td>
<td>Switzerland</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chile</td>
<td>Belgium</td>
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<td>China</td>
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<td>Costa Rica</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Korea (the Republic of)</td>
<td>South Africa</td>
<td>South Africa</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Where are we now?
• In 2018, the Egyptian agri-export reached to **Five million tons** for the first time ever.

But how many phytosanitary certificates?
Citrus, 44575, 60%

Potatoes, 6052, 8%

Onions, 12235, 16%

Pomegranates, 5217, 7%

Grapes, 6840, 9%
On the other hand

Through the past three years, Egypt imported around 35,561,190 tons of wheat with average 10-12 million ton per year, as Egypt imports around 25 million tons of grain and oilseeds / year.
The Central Administration of Plant Quarantine (CAPQ) of the ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation has around 38 points of entry and they are going to be 40 soon, there are mainly **6 points of entry of grain imports** (Alexandria port, El–Dekhiela port, Port Said, Damietta port, Adabiyah port and Safaga port) from the below statics average of **370 vessels** are annually discharge the shipments of wheat to these 6 ports.

Meanwhile, Egypt needs to reduce the economic costs of imports by enhancing the infrastructure and reduce the time of inspection, sampling and releasing of the consignments as the current time for releasing a consignment of grain in Egypt considered to be very long.
Current infrastructure of CAPQ

- The current situation of CAPQ reflects the shortage of IT infrastructure for e-Phyto project, currently there is no link between the 38/40 points of entry and the central office.

- On November 12th, 2018 CAPQ signed a contract with Ministry of Military Production in order to provide the IT infrastructure needed to link the points of entry with the central office as well as establish an automated platform for the inspection processes in addition to ERP system for the administration, storage and personnel (the estimated time for the project is three years).
Current regulatory framework

- Other than the IPPC and its ISPMs, there is no clear national regulation regarding the approval of ePhyto.

- CAPQ proposed a new regulation and it was notified to WTO “G/SPS/N/EGY/90” it has an annex concerning the issuance of phytosanitary certificates.

- We can overcome this point by issuing a ministerial decree on approval of the exchange of ePhyto.
Current human resources

• CAPQ has a number of inspectors that reaches to **700** however the staff are not enough for the daily work, Head of CAPQ requested the employment of more inspectors in the upcoming period.

• **Capacity building** of a significant amount of these inspectors shall be provided on different areas, especially on issuing the phytosanitary certificates and the ePhyto.
What we are going to gain?

- reduce the costs and delays related to the inspection of goods for phytosanitary certification, the payment of fees and the issuance of certificates;

- improve documentation of the inspection process;

- reduce costs associated with printing and shipping paper certificates;

- reduce costs associated with sorting, distributing, retrieving and archiving paper documents;

- increase assurances for access of imported consignments by ensuring that documentation is delivered to import authorities in a timely manner and that any issues related to documentation may be addressed prior to arrival of the consignment.
What we are going to gain?

- Expedite communication on specific phytosanitary certificates between exporting and importing NPPOs.
- Decrease fraudulent certificates and increase transparency of certificates that have been issued and received between NPPOs.
- Increase efficiency by removing manual processing of import documentation.
- Enable information to be more efficiently stored and accessed (i.e. “in real-time”).
- Improve reporting and data analysis to make more sound, risk-based decisions.
- Integrate existing border management systems and facilitate imports and exports; ePhyto is a classic opportunity for SW implementors.
Is it reliable!

SECURITY
The use of electronic phytosanitary certificates (ePhytos) will minimize significantly the possibility of fraudulent certificates and contaminated cargo getting through customs.

BORDER PROCESS EFFICIENCY
The ePhytos System allows the verification, and if needed, the change of the phytosanitary certificate before the consignment arrives at the border. Thus once the product arrives all paperwork issues are prevented and all that is needed is the inspection.

GLOBAL COVERAGE
All countries using the ePhytos System can exchange with one another without the need of bilateral agreements.
Trending @ #

- Public – Public and Public Private with international organization

WCO_OMD @WCO_OMD · 22 Jun 2018
The #WCO and the Secretariat of the #IPPC join forces to facilitate #trade whilst protecting societies from undesirable effects
bit.ly/2K36RZI
@ippcnews
#TradeFacilitation #ElectronicData #ElectronicDataExchange #ePhyto #eCommerce #SingleWindow
Trending @ #

• Who is interested

Project Advisory Committee is composed of FAO, UNICCC, the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT), The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), World Customs Organization (WCO), the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), OIE, Codex, World Bank Group, the Netherlands, Australia and the US.
Global interest

Union Fleurs (International Flower Trade Association)

International Federation of Cocoa Commerce Limited

International Grain Trade Coalition (IGTC)

International Seed Federation (ISF)

International Wood Products Association (IWPA)

International Community of Breeders of Asexually Reproduced Ornamental and Fruit Varieties (CIOPORA)

International Cotton Advisory Committee

The Global Express Association

European Seed Association (ESA)

European potato trade association (Europatat)

European Fresh Produce Association (Freshfel Europe)
ICAC Executive Director Kai Hughes (top left) was in Geneva yesterday for an
meeting of the electronic phytosanitary certification (ePhyto) Industry Advisory
Group (IAG). ICAC is one of 11 organisations that belong to the IAG.

During #CPM14 members of the @ippcnews and @ISTAseedtesting Secretariats
had a side meeting. There will be further cooperation in seed as a pathway.
#seedtesting for seed health, ISPM 38 implementation and ePhyto. A common
meeting on IYPH was agreed. #seedtest #seedquality @FAO

Speaking on behalf of the ePhyto Industry Advisory Group during the IPPC’s CPM in
Rome this morning, ISF’s Dennis Johnson emphasized the importance of
collaboration between NPPOs and industry to perform case studies to identify
challenges and benefits of the electronic exchange of phytosanitary certification. ISF
supports the ePhyto initiative and urges national seed associations to contact their
NPPOs, discuss ePhyto implementation timelines, and assist with case studies.

#DYK that Europatat is supporting the #ePhytoSolution initiative? Curious about
this project? Click here and find out how to get involved ➡️ bit.ly/2Gloxr6
#IPPC #foodsecurity #trade #innovation #technology #plantprotection

What is ePhyto?

- Electronic phytosanitary certificates
- Facilitates trade
- Reduces paperwork and time
- Improves traceability
- Supports industry

Why is ePhyto important for industry?

- Faster trade
- Reduced costs
- Improved efficiency
- Increased competitiveness

What are ePhyto Industry Advisory Group (IAG) case studies about?

- Implementation and use of ePhyto
- Challenges and benefits
- Lessons learned
- Recommendations for improvement
IGTC Chairs ePhyto Industry Advisory Group (IAG), at WTO

The Industry Advisory Group (IAG) of the ePhyto Solution met on 30 January at WTO in Geneva, Switzerland. IGTC was elected Chair of the IAG in July 2018 for a term of two years, with Alejandra Danielson Castillo (US Grains Council) taking the role. Seven global commodity flows were represented at Wednesday’s Geneva meeting, with agreements on:

- The launch of a cross-sector communications campaign to promote a fully functioning ePhyto Solution.
- Industry’s role in calling for an increase in governments registering for the ePhyto Solution to ensure maximum global coverage.
- The urgent need for all commodity flows to “test” ePhyto exchange via case studies, to determine the interoperability with commercial operations.
11.02.2019
IGTC supports industry-wide digitalization workshop in Geneva
A grain trade workshop was held on 31 January in Geneva, with the aim of exchanging information on current digitalization initiatives and identifying critical pathways for interoperability between them.

The event was an opportunity for government representatives and organizations such as the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and World Bank to have feedback first-hand from grain traders on the ePhyto Solution. It was also a chance for all, including delegates from other commodity flows, to hear about the current work that is taking place to standardize and digitize global agricultural commodity trade operations for the benefit of the entire industry. The workshop was co-organized by the IGTC Secretariat, Archer Daniels Midland, Bunge, Cargill Incorporated, COFCO International and Louis Dreyfus Company.
ePhyto and SDGs
Conclusion

- Egypt is a key player in the agricultural trade.
- It is a must to proceed with ePhyto in Egypt.
- The advantages of ePhyto and the global interaction.
ePhyto video

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jZb58a6wL9U&t=4s
This question will be answered in the following few months
Thank you!

Islam.aboelela@fao.org

ePhyto Gateway
https://www.ippc.int/en/ephyto/

Twitter
https://twitter.com/ephytonews

Linkedin
https://www.linkedin.com/company/the-ephyto-solution/