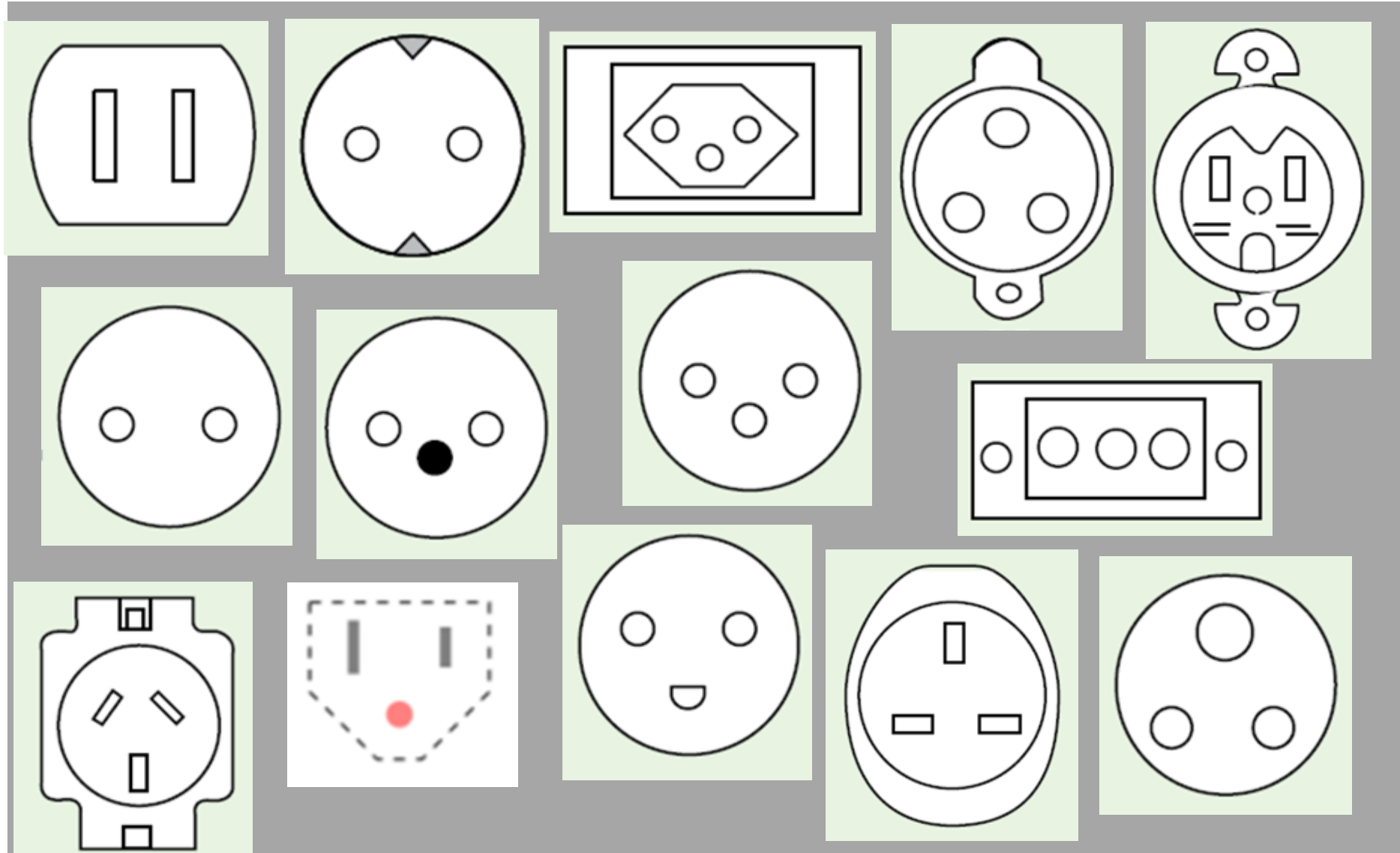




# The IPPC ePhyto Solution

November 2022



Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations



International Bank  
for Reconstruction and  
Development

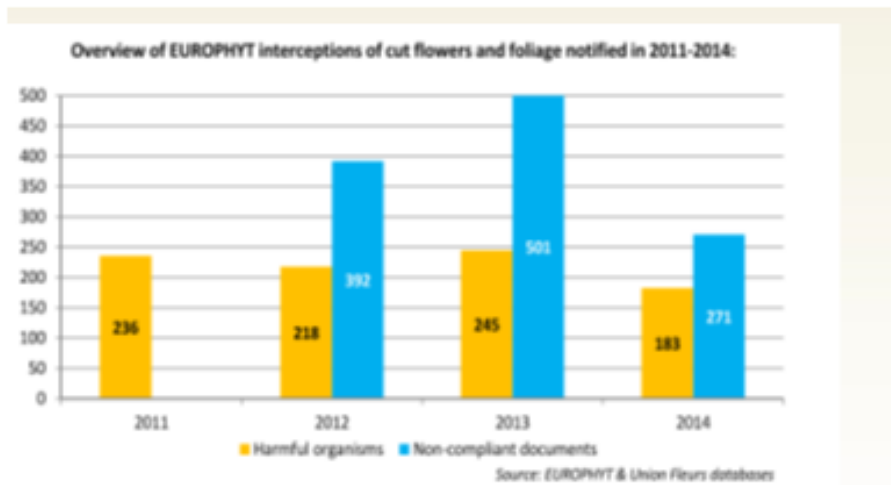


ICC



# Why ePhyto?

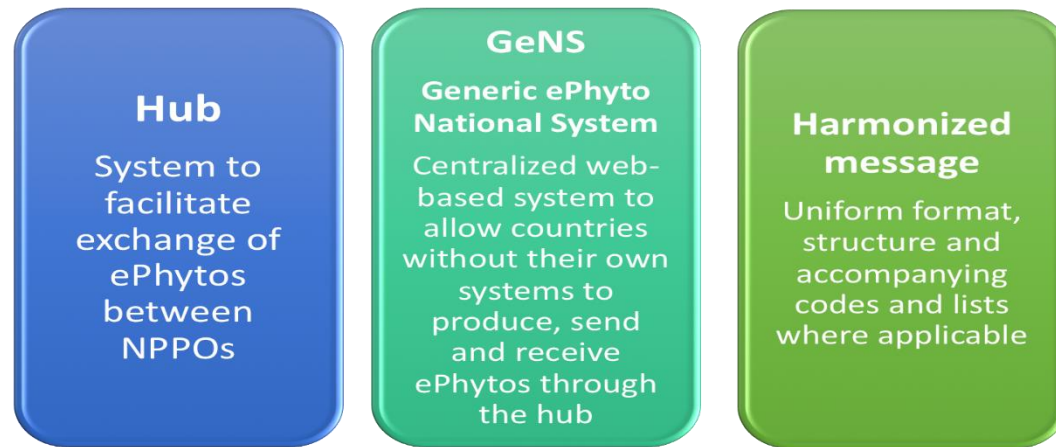
- Inefficient processes in place - labor intensive and highly manual with physical paperwork being couriered around and often re-entered
- Millions of emails sent – in the grains industry alone more than 275 million emails are sent annually to process the estimated 11,000 shipments of grain transported on the ocean worldwide
- Any re-issuing of paper phytosanitary certificates has a tremendous cost for business
- Time and money
- Deterioration of commodities waiting for clearance
- Customer claims for late deliveries or bad quality
- Mountains of paper, a lot of it expensive paper, are produced, printed and stored or destroyed on an annual basis



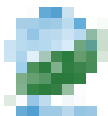
Non-compliant documents trigger a higher number of import rejections than actual plant health issues (harmful organisms)

# OVERVIEW OF THE IPPC EPHYTO SOLUTION

- “ePhyto” is short for **electronic phytosanitary certificate**. In simple terms, it is the data contained in a phytosanitary certificate in digital form.
- The IPPC ePhyto Solution consists of:



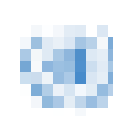
- The IPPC ePhyto Solution **meets the requirements** of International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures (**ISPM**) **12 Appendix 1** and
- Helps countries comply with Articles 7.9 (release of perishable goods) and 10.1 (simplifying formalities and documentation requirements for cross-border trade) of the **Trade Facilitation Agreement** of the World Trade Organization.



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International Standard  
for Phytosanitary Measures



IPPC

WTO

Trade Facilitation Agreement

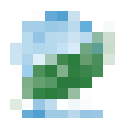
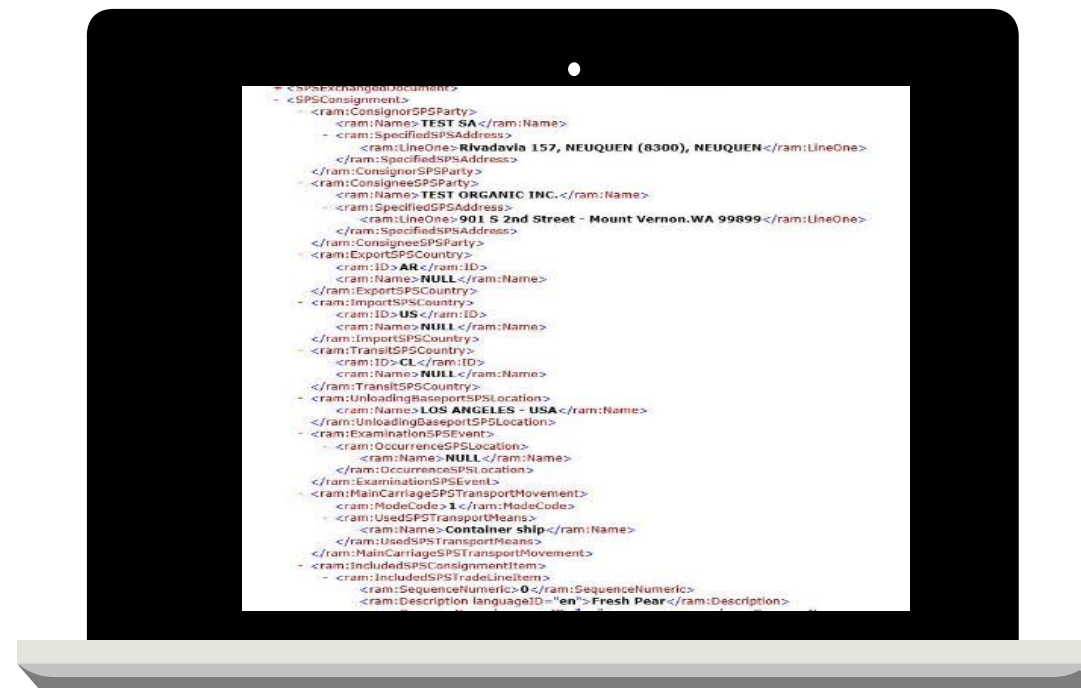
ePhyto is the electronic **equivalent** of a paper phytosanitary certificate (ISPM 12)



**NOT** a paper certificate, but they can be printed



**NOT** a scanned certificate.



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# HUB Overview

Centralized system to facilitate exchange of ePhytos between NPPOs

A National system(s) or the Generic National System (GeNS) communicates with the hub

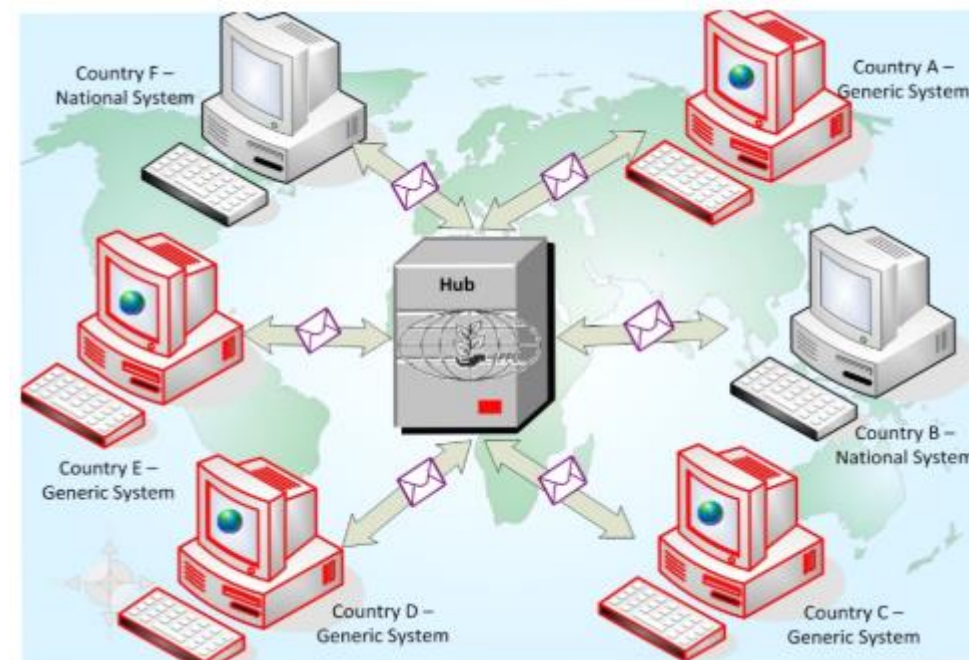
- Pushes certificates to the hub
- Receives certificates from the hub by push or pull

Hub components

- Administration Interface
- Web Service

Prescribed rules of connection

Defined structure/codes/terms for the XML message.



# THE IPPC EPHYTO SOLUTION UPDATES

## eSignatures

### What is an electronic signature?

An electronic signature (e-signature) refers to data in electronic form attached to or logically associated with other data in electronic form and which is used by the signatory to sign.

Due to EU regulation, any country wishing to trade with EU Member States using the ePhyto Solution needs to have the ePhytos signed digitally.

This feature has been implemented in the GeNS for those countries requesting it – NPPOs need to work with the certification provider and UNICC



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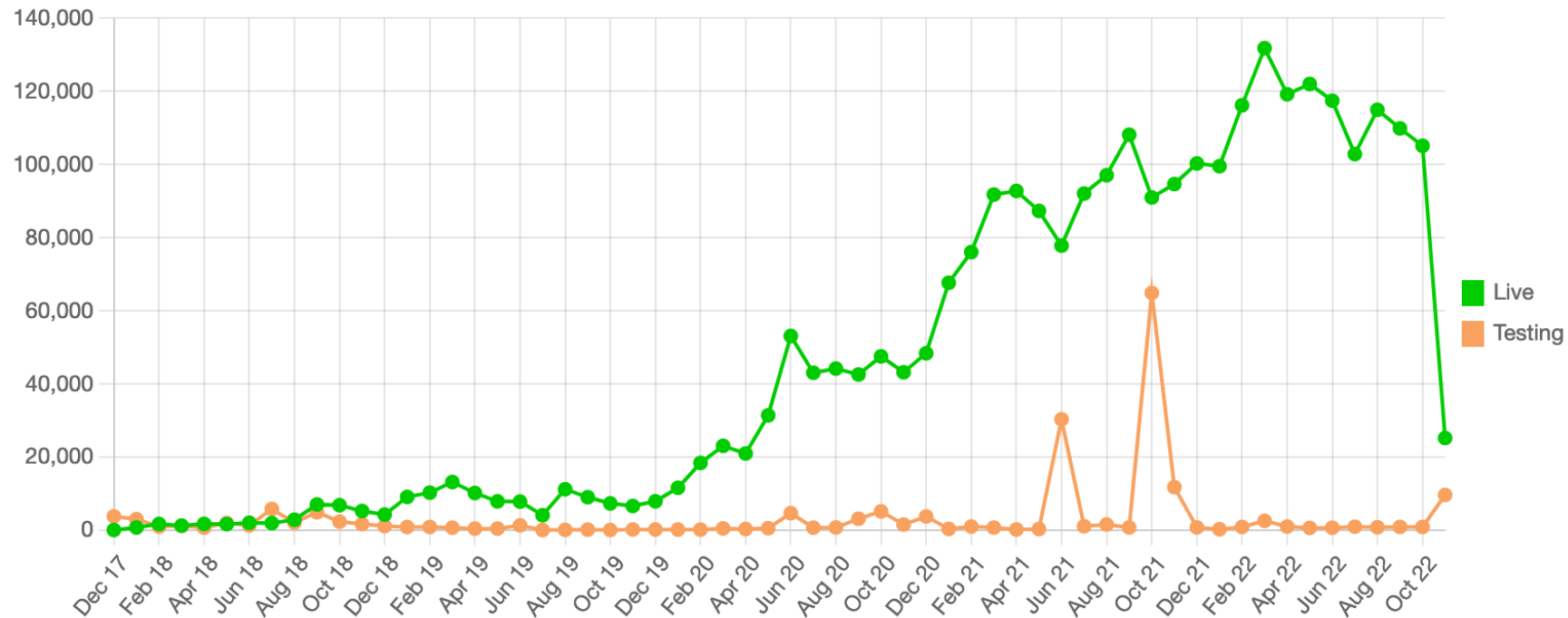
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UNEP



# Summary of the certificates successfully exchanged through the HUB



Total Live Exchanges:

2,814,044

Total Test Exchanges:

197,227

# Additional information and highlights

- The value of plant product exports from countries that issue ePhyto certificates has increased significantly, with over 4.8 billion USD recorded in 2018 to over 79 billion USD in 2021.
- In 2021 only 10.6 percent of the value of plant exports requiring phytosanitary certifications was covered by the ePhyto solution, meaning there is scope for expanding country participation in the use of ePhyto



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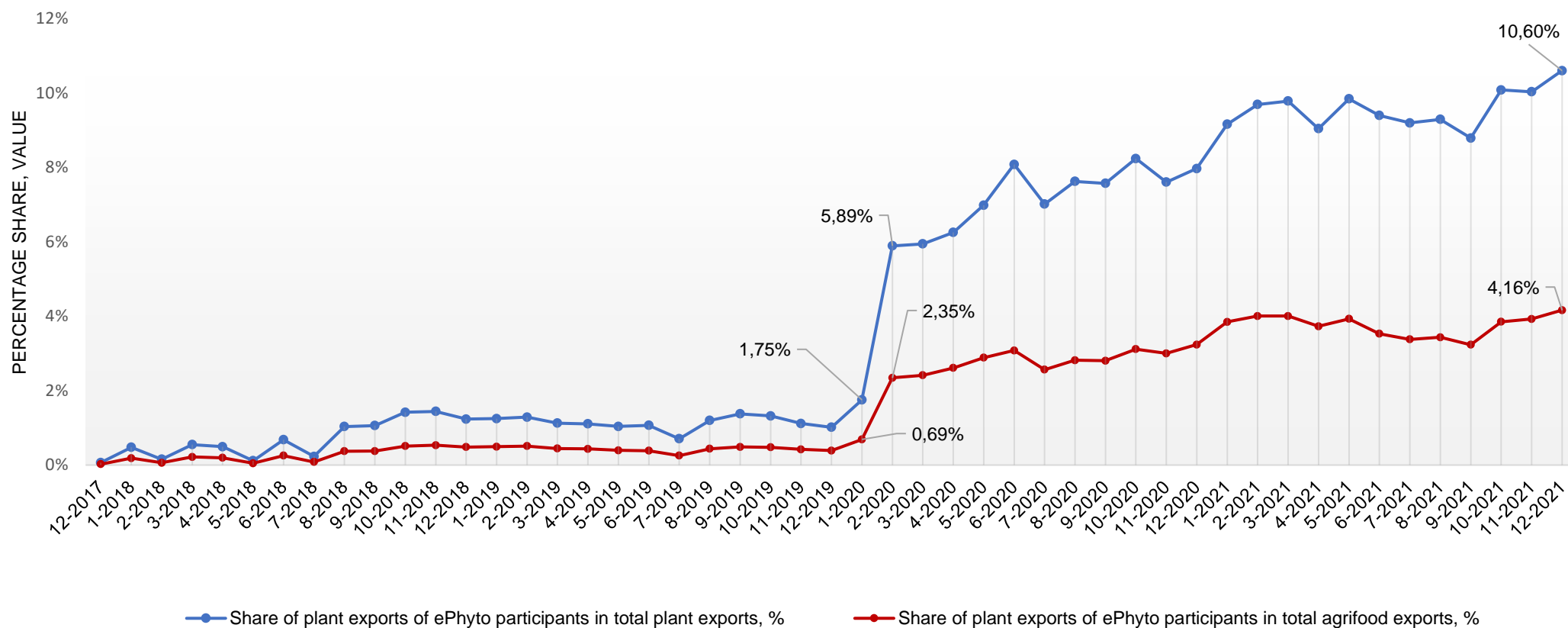


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## Monthly Value share of plant exports that require ePhytos from countries that issue ePhyto certificates



## FUTURE PLANS

- CPM Focus Group on Sustainable Funding for ePhyto
  - Aim to present short, medium, and long term solutions to CPM-17 (2023)
- Translation into other languages (GeNS)
  - French and Arabic versions are live
- Routine maintenance and enhancements
  - Channel enhancements
  - ePayments
- Continued collaboration with non-phytosanitary agencies/organizations (OIE/Codex/Others)
  - NPPO workshops with the ePhyto Industry Advisory Group (IAG)
  - Ongoing projects with the Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation and World Bank
- Linkage to other government systems (Single Windows, Customs, ASYCUDA, Industry etc.)



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WCO

WCO

# Remaining Challenges

- Some countries still want to establish bilateral exchanges only
- Lack of resources to support coming onboard (equipment, personnel)
- Lack of political will in senior leadership
- Some countries are developing their own national systems and prefer to wait to connect via those systems to the Hub

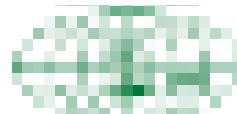
## COLLABORATION

The IPPC Secretariat is working with a number of international organizations and groups to make the ePhyto Solution a trade facilitation tool for any country (or organization) wishing to use it. These include:

- The Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation of the World Economic Forum
- The ePhyto Industry Advisory Group
- The Standards and Trade Development Facility
- The World Bank and International Finance Corporation
- The World Customs Organization



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Phyto Solutions
Case Stories

HOME
HUB
GeNS
HARMONIZATION
CONTACT

Argentina
 Fiji
 Jamaica
 New Zealand
 Uganda
 USA
 Uzbekistan
 Republic of Korea
 Sri Lanka
 Costa Rica
View all

The United Nations designated 12 May the International Day of Plant Health (IDPH)

Select the status
All

HUB Connections
112

GeNS Systems
44

### HOW DOES ePhyto HELP YOU?

ePhyto is short for "electronic phytosanitary certificate". The IPPC ePhyto Solution is a tool that transition paper phytosanitary certificate information into a digital phytosanitary certificate or "ePhyto". This electronic exchange between countries makes trade safer, faster and cheaper.

[GET IN TOUCH](#)

#### HUB

A system to facilitate the exchange of ePhytos between National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs)

[KNOW MORE](#)

#### GeNS

A centralized web-based system that allows countries without their own system to produce, send and receive ePhytos through the HUB

[KNOW MORE](#)

#### Harmonization

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

[KNOW MORE](#)

### IPPC ePhyto Solutions

International Plant Protection Convention Secretariat (IPPC) Viale delle Terme di Caracalla 00153 Rome, Italy.

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Find out more and register [bit.ly/3eiGNtz](https://bit.ly/3eiGNtz)

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How to join, technical documentation, case studies and other information.



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*Thank you for your attention!!*



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