

**e-Phyto**   
**Regional**  
**Workshop**

April 18-20  
2023  
Argentina

# 1.- Background

E-Phyto is the abbreviation for "Electronic Phytosanitary Certificate" and is the electronic equivalent of the Phytosanitary Certificate in XML format. All information contained in a paper Phytosanitary Certificate is contained in the ePhyto. Guidelines for language, message structure and exchange protocols for ePhytos are detailed in Appendix 1 of ISPM 12.

Electronic phytosanitary certificates can be transmitted between National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs) electronically, reducing the possibility of fraudulent documentation, improving the efficiency of information management, facilitating data validation and speeding up the commodity release process.

Among the most important ePhyto milestones, the I<sup>o</sup>, II<sup>o</sup> and III<sup>o</sup> ePhyto Global Symposium held in 2012 in Brazil, 2015 in Korea and 2018 in Malaysia, respectively; the Regional ePhyto Workshop in Buenos Aires in 2018; the Creation of the ePhyto Steering Group at CPM-8 in 2013; the approval of Appendix 1 of ISPM 12 at CPM-9 in 2014 and the creation of the Technical Group of the Regional Plant Health Committee (Cosave) for electronic Certification in 2015 stand out.

Likewise, the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) has developed a global communications Hub whose purpose is to standardize the communication of electronic certificates, through which many countries are currently exchanging ePhytos. The IPPC has also developed the Generic ePhyto National System (GeNS) that allows countries that do not have a national system for the production of Phytosanitary Certificates to participate in the global exchange. To date, according to the IPPC ad-hoc website ([ephytoexchange.org/landing/](http://ephytoexchange.org/landing/)), 115 countries are connected to the Hub and 45 to the GeNS.






Electronic Phytosanitary Certification continues to be of great interest to the international community, both for NPPOs and industry sectors using Phytosanitary Certificates, due to its impact on the facilitation of trade for plant products.

Although there has been great progress in the implementation of ePhyto in many countries, there still continues to be a disparity of knowledge and implementation in Latin American countries and in the different sectors of the industry.

## 2.- General objective

Increase and improve knowledge to expedite and extend the participation of countries in ePhyto solution.

## 3.- Specific Objectives

-  **Update on the situation of Latin American countries regarding ePhyto implementation.**
-  Identify and discuss persistent obstacles to ePhyto implementation in the different countries.
-  Promote a network of ePhyto experts among the countries of the Region.
-  Identify possible topics for cooperation.
-  Promote the development of an ePhyto regional agenda.

## 4.- Participant profiles

The workshop is aimed at officials with expertise in information technology and phytosanitary certification from Latin American countries. The workshop will also involve the participation of industry sectors to share their experience with ePhyto.

The NPPOs will appoint as participants a high-level official from the area of plant protection with decision-making capacity in the area of Phytosanitary Certification and ePhyto, as well as an official from the area of Information Technology involved in the implementation of electronic certification and/or phytosanitary certification in their countries.

## 5.- Modality and duration

The workshop is organized over three days, from April 18 in the morning to April 20 in the afternoon, and will take place at the Manuel Belgrano Auditorium of the Argentine Foreign Ministry, located at Esmeralda 1216, Autonomous City of Buenos Aires. Each day will have morning and afternoon sessions, beginning at 9 a.m. and ending at 5 p.m. There will be a break in the morning, one for lunch and another in the afternoon.

The workshop will have simultaneous interpretation Spanish-English and will have a live broadcast of plenary sessions.