

Inter- American Coordinating Group in Plant Protection
GICSV
ePhyto Working Group

ePhyto Working Group report 01/2021

Date: June 8th 2021
Time: 08:00 am Central America Time
Hosted: Videoconference. Zoom Session.
Link to join the meeting: <https://iica.zoom.us/j/86342184326?pwd=eXdJNEl4Vm5MSHdiRkwrOXVsNjhnUT09>
 ID de reunión: 863 4218 4326
 Código de acceso: ePhyto2021

I. Participants list

Group	Participants	Institution
ePhyto	CAHFSA	
	Damian Rowe	MICAF, Jamaica
	CAN	
	Carlos Saravia Obregón	Senasa Perú
	César Salas	Senasa Perú
	COSAVE	
	Rodrigo Robles	SAG Chile
	NAPPO	
	Christian Dellis	USDA/APHIS
	Michael Perry	USDA/APHIS
	Maggie Smither Johnson	USDA/APHIS
	Edgar Reyes	SENASICA, México
	Francisca de la Cruz	SENASICA, México
	Nedelka Marín Martínez	Technical writer and interpreter.
	Maribel Hurtado	Scientific Oficial
	OIRSA	
	Nancy Villegas	OIRSA
	Oscar Zelaya	Technical Director

	IICA	
	Lourdes Fonalleras	Technical Secretariat

1. Opening sesion

Technical Secretariat (TS) explains that, at the beginning of this year, GICSV Coordination was renewed and transferred from COSAVE to NAPPO according bylaw. Dr. Stephanie Bloem, NAPPO Executive Director, is the GICSV Coordinator on behalf of NAPPO for next biennial.

Maribel Hurtado, NAPPO Scientific Official welcomes the participants on behalf Dra. Bloem, who couldn't attend this meeting because other previous commitment.

2. Meeting objectives. Consideration and adoption of the agenda

Draft agenda was approved without modifications.

Agenda	
	1. Opening sesion. <i>GICSV Coordinator.</i>
	2. Meeting objectives. Consideration and adoption of the agenda. <i>GICSV Coordinator.</i>
	3. ePhyto Working Group Coordinator: election.
	4. GICSV Work Plan 2021 - 2023. Deliverables validation
	5. ePhyto contingency Plan. COSAVE proposal. <i>Cosave presentation.</i>
	6. GICSV ePhyto contingency Plan: next steps and schedule.
	7. Date and topics for next meeting. <i>Moderator: Group Coordinator</i>

Participants introduce himself.

3. ePhyto Working Group Coordinator: election

The TS explains that Walter Alessandrini, WG Coordinator, retired from public service in March. This is the reason because the WG need to define a new Coordinator.

TS mentions that WG members are the ones who define the Coordinator and, since many of the members of the WG are new, show and explain the group members and Coordinator responsibilities.

TS invites the RPPOs to nominate members as Group Coordinator and only COSAVE express interest and nominate Rodrigo Robles. RPPOs express their agreement and Eng. Rodrigo Robles assumes as Coordinator of ePhyto WG.

4. GICSV Work Plan 2021 - 2023. Deliverables validation

Coordinating Group reviewed the Work Plan and updated it for 2021-2023 biennium, for this reason WGs are requested to review the assigned deliverables, which, although they do not differ substantially from those assigned to them, may have certain modifications.

- **2.4.1. Verification of delegates list.** The RPPOs have already confirmed their delegates.

- **2.4.2. Working Group meetings schedule.** Coming days, WG Coordinator will send to TS a meeting schedule proposal for 2021, which will be shared with WG for analysis and comments, trying to define it electronically.
- **2.4.3. Meetings agendas.** Once the meetings are scheduled, agendas will be generated and shared with WG prior to their development.
- **2.4.4. Exchange information on events, technical documents, and others to update GICSV website.** ST indicates that it is a permanent activity of all WGs.
- **2.4.5. and 2.4.6. Contingency plan on ePhyto.** Defined by the WG in 2020, the Group seeks to develop a contingency plan to supports America and the Caribbean NPPOs to solve potential problems that may arise trough electronic certificates generating and transmitting process. In 2020, the WG agreed to work based on a COSAVE proposal, available to WG members. In the next point of the agenda WG will define next steps.
- **2.4.7. Step-by-step roadmap for ePhyto based on the GeNS system.** CAHFSA developed and submitted a proposal that was enriched by NAPPO. CAHFSA indicates that the proposal is ready to share with WG for comments, it will deliver it shortly.
- **2.4.8. Materials to improve ePhyto understanding.** A presentation will be made to guide RPPOs on available materials. WG Coordinator indicates that many materials has been collected by IPPC to present them in a simple mode, as support to countries system implementation in easy and executive way. NAPPO points out the available IPPC materials (https://www.ephytoexchange.org/doc/mapping/Mapping_ISPM_12_to_ePhyto_standard_Export_certificate_V.2.pdf), including “Guidelines and Requirements for electronic Phytosanitary Certificates” and highlighted the information related to ePhyto codes list, and mapping document, available in English. The WG agrees that it would be interesting to translate them into Spanish. WG Coordinator, with NAPPO support (Mr. C. Dellis) will review and identify the documents necessary to advance the translation. CAHFSA emphasizes this information can be useful in the roadmap they are designing for countries that are not yet in the system. WG agrees that, for countries without experience, it is important to have a contact that supports and accompanies the system implementation process; an expert who knows the system at a technological level can make easy the process for adopt the system . NAPPO members indicate their willingness to collaborate and it is incorporated into the Work Plan.

Identification and communication of potential improvements in some functionalities not yet developed in ePhyto. Considering that there are systems that have more functionalities than ePhyto, such as digital signature, product grouping, CAN proposes that these functionalities be part of an inputs list to improve ePhyto. It is suggested that countries adopting ePhyto identify potential improvements and report them to the IPPC to evaluate development and incorporation in the system. In this way, NAPPO points out as interesting functionalities to incorporate into the electronic signature, responses in case of non-compliance or pest detection, mapping scheme for mixed products and others. COSAVE points out the importance of messages service.

WG agrees to incorporate into the work plan a task to drawing up a coordinated list of ePhyto system potential improvements, to share with IPPC, as a tool to make public potential improvements to the system and problems that the countries identify.

CAN points out the importance of working in support of countries that have not yet incorporated the ePhyto system, WG agrees.

- **2.4.9. Consider and support regional and hemispheric initiatives.** TS recalls the Seminar "Adoption of a system for issuing electronic phytosanitary certificates to support trade in Latin

America and Caribbean" held in October 2020, which allowed to know implementation situation and identify coordination and support needs. WG agrees.

- **2.4.10. To consider and include other proposed tasks of working group.** TS mentions that these new activities may arise throughout the year.

With the incorporation of the new tasks, the deliverables of the work plan are validated by the GT ePhyto.

5. COSAVE ePhyto contingency Plan.

COSAVE share its proposal for the contingency plan, which has 3 components that define the resolution way:

- WHO: defines NPPO official contact points responsible for ePhyto and for contingency solve.
- WHAT: Identifies the certificate, inspector, and contingency place into ePhytos exchange process.
- HOW: Defined action steps and technological tools to solve the problem.

6. GICSV ePhyto contingency Plan: next steps and schedule

TS recalls the objective, COSAVE's proposal is the basis for a hemispheric document that's provide a solution in a contingency case. NAPPO support allow the English version be available, and shared with the Group members. WG agrees the RPPOs will analyze the proposal and send, until July 9, comments, and suggestions by email to the Coordinator with a copy to the TS and GICSV Coordinator (Stephanie Bloem). WG Coordinator, with the support of the TS, will summarize the comments in a document that they will share with the Group and then have a meeting.

7. Date and agenda of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on August 17 at 9:00 am (Costa Rican time).

8. Acknowledgment

Working Group members and TS thanks NAPPO for the generosity of providing interpretation for the meeting and especially Ms. Nedelka Marín Martínez for the effort made in this regard.

9. Commitments

Commitments	Responsible	Date
To hare proposal for 2021 meeting program ePhyto WG.	WG Coordinator TS	As son as possible
Share information on national, regional, and international events, technical documents and others about ePhyto to uploaded into GICSV website.	RPPOs	Permanent

To share a step-by-step roadmap for ePhyto based on the GeNS system.	CAHFSA	As soon as possible.
To analyze and provide feedback, if any, on the step-by-step roadmap for ePhyto based on GeNS system.	RPPOs	As soon as possible
To incorporate into 2021 - 2023 Work Plan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support and accompaniment to the system implementation process. • Preparation of a coordinated list of potential improvements to ePhyto system, to will share with IPPC 	TS	As soon as possible.
To identify the materials that would be useful for GICSV, to translate into Spanish.	WG Coordinator and Christian Dellis.	As son as possible.
To analyze ePhyto contingency plan proposal shared by COSAVE (WG members has Spanish and English versions) and send comments and suggestions to WG Coordinator with a copy to TS and GICSV Coordinator.	RPPO	July 9 th 2021
Compile the comments and suggestions on ePhyto contingency plan proposal prepared by COSAVE	WG Coordinator TS	July 26 th 2021