



EPHYTO STEERING GROUP MEETING
ONLINE MEETING
MARCH 2026

Participants attendance list

Region / Role	Name / Organization	Email address
Europe Member	Ms Helene KLEIN Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety (DG SANTE) Directorate G – Crisis preparedness in food, animals and plants	Helene.KLEIN@ec.europa.eu
North America Member (ESG Chairperson)	Mr Christian B. DELLIS United States Department of Agriculture, Animal, Plant Health Inspection Service, Plant Protection and Quarantine	christian.b.dellis@usda.gov
CPM Bureau	Mr Barik DRIS Chef de la Division de la protection des végétaux Office National de Sécurité Sanitaire des Produits Alimentaires (ONSSA) Morocco	dris.barik@onssa.gov.ma
Southwest Pacific Member	Mr Piriariki MAAO Biosecurity Service Ministry of Agriculture Cook Islands	piriariki.maa@cookislands.gov.ck
Africa Member	Mr Josiah Musili SYANDA Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS)	
IPPC Secretariat	Mr Gianluca NUZZO ePhyto Coordinator	Gianluca.Nuzzo@fao.org
IPPC Secretariat	Ms Valeria Lugini Programme specialist	Valeria.Lugini@fao.org



CPM outputs

- [1] The ePhyto Coordinator reported that the Commission on Phytosanitary measures (CPM) 20 (2026) endorsed the updated fees of the funding model, recalculated based on the latest platform usage, using the current funding model. These fees will apply for the period 2027–2028. In addition, the CPM also endorsed both the change management framework and the decision-making framework, providing a structured basis for future governance. In this matter, the CPM endorsed the establishment of a new governance body to replace the ESG. The new governing body will focus on strategic and policy aspects, with a primary objective of improving the funding model, and supporting the implementation of ePhyto in the countries. The Terms of Reference of the new body are expected to be adopted by the CPM Bureau at the end of April, followed by a call for experts and regional representatives to be issued shortly. The ESG activities will continue during the transition phase until the new governing body is operational, the ESG will then be dissolved.

CPM documents:

- [Adopted CPM report](#)
 - [Draft terms of reference for the new ePhyto governance body](#) (CPM 2026/CRP/13_Rev1)
 - [IPPC ePhyto Solution Change Management delegation of authority revision](#) (CPM 2026/CRP/14)
 - [Review of governance, operational resilience and funding sustainability of the IPPC ePhyto Solution](#) (CPM 2026/CRP/04)
 - [ePhyto review of recent incidents](#) (CPM 2026/41)
 - [IPPC ePhyto solution funding model](#) (CPM 2026/13)
 - [IPPC ePhyto Solution change management and enhancement proposals](#) (CPM 2026/12)
- [2] The ePhyto Coordinator reported that during the CPM there was significant interest from countries in the harmonization of additional declarations project, with several countries confirming their interest in participating and sharing the efforts, as some of them are already developing their own tools and databases. He also reported that several discussions were held with countries regarding their ePhyto implementation plans. These exchanges confirmed that implementation efforts are actively progressing across different regions and that we need more standardization of practices and go over the simple technical implementation of the IPPC ePhyto Solution.

Regional Updates

- [3] The Africa member reported that across Africa, countries are at different stages: some are implementing national systems, while others are considering the use of GeNS. Many countries are currently in a decision-making phase between these options. The issue of different approaches among countries was raised at the Inter-African Phytosanitary Council meeting in Entebbe, highlighting the need for a harmonized regional approach.
- [4] The ePhyto Coordinator explained that, during the CPM, the kick-off concerning the project (UNJP/GLO/1420/EC) *Implementation of the ePhyto in Central Africa and in European Union Countries* took place. In addition, the ePhyto Product Manager explained that Global Alliance is currently implementing the solution in Sierra Leone and Liberia. The ePhyto product Manager also reported to the



ESG members that meetings were also held with Rwanda, which has decided to use its national system. It was also noted that Mauritania was the most recent country to go live on GeNS, following Angola.

- [5] The North American member reported that exchanges between the United States and Canada are ongoing and gradually increasing. Canada is also working towards expanding exchanges with additional countries, including Mexico. The representative also expressed interest in identifying GeNS countries willing to participate in testing activities of the Country Response (SPSAcknowledgement) as first attempt to cover the non-compliance notifications. In this regard, the Africa representative suggested Somalia as a potential testing partner, noting that the country is currently in the testing phase. Caribbean countries, including Jamaica, were also mentioned as possible participants.
- [6] The European member representative did not report specific regional updates but raised concerns regarding requests to conduct testing in a production environment. It was underlined that such an approach is not acceptable, as it may create confusion at border control posts, where test certificates could be interpreted as real consignments.
- [7] The Bureau member informed participants that a workshop will be held in Morocco on 11–12 May, to promote the adoption of ePhyto and encourage greater engagement from countries.

Technical updates

- [8] The ePhyto Coordinator presented proposed updates to GeNS. It was explained that, currently, when the “Additional Information” field within the treatment section within GeNS is left empty, the system displays the message “No additional information available.” It was therefore proposed that, if no information is provided, no message should be displayed. It was also noted that the treatment section is not currently visible in the certificate. A proposal was made to ensure that this section is displayed with an appropriate heading. The ePhyto Coordinator asked the group to confirm whether these changes could be endorsed, and no objections were raised.
- [9] The meeting discussed the addition of the unit of measure “*each*” to the IPPC standard list. It was noted that this unit is already included in the UNECE code list, but is not part of the IPPC sub-list used by the ePhyto solution. Participants agreed that its inclusion would support cases where commodities are counted individually. It was further confirmed that this change would not require any modifications to existing systems.
- [10] The changes below have been endorsed by ESG:

Area	Description	Status
ePhyto Harmonization	Add ‘EACH’ as a Unit of Measure (UOM) in the active list and publish the corresponding entry on the ePhyto landing page.	Endorsed by ESG
ePhyto Gens	IGN-3561 III. Disinfestation and/or Disinfection Treatment header missing from the PDF certificate generate from GeNS. The PDF certificate template will be updated to include the missing header, ensuring the treatment section is visible and correctly labeled	Endorsed by ESG



ePhyto Gens	IGN-3562 The treatment information includes a field called Additional Information and it is relevant to the treatment information, however when no text is available should be removed or blank, currently displaying "no additional information available".	Endorsed by ESG
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Next Meeting

- [11] It was agreed that the next ESG meeting would be provisionally held during the first week of May 2026, subject to confirmation of the exact date.