



NAPPO

North American Plant Protection Organization
Organización Norteamericana de Protección a las Plantas

NAPPO Meeting Report

Expert Group:	Electronic Certification – ePhyto	
Location:	Zoom meeting	
Date:	May 21, 2025	
Chairperson	Christian Dellis (APHIS PPQ)	
Participants:		
Delfino Hernández (SENASICA)	Paul Newman (Canada Industry)	Michael Perry (APHIS PPQ)
Cara Grant (CFIA)	Anna Birmingham (CFIA)	Hoffmann Blassio (SENASICA, AMC member)
Tanya Staffen (CFIA, AMC member)	Stephanie Dubon (APHIS PPQ, AMC member)	Nedelka Marín-Martínez (NAPPO)
Alonso Suazo (NAPPO)		
Summary		
Project:	Electronic Phytosanitary Certification	
General comments:	<p>The meeting focused on updates regarding electronic phytosanitary certificate exchanges between countries, including progress reports, challenges with mixed commodities shipments, and system implementations. Discussions covered potential applications of artificial intelligence in phytosanitary certification and plans for the EG progress report to be presented at the upcoming NAPPO annual meeting in Ottawa. The group concluded by establishing a plan for recurring expert group meetings every four months to maintain collaboration and address ongoing developments in the field.</p>	
Item 1:	Country updates	
Consensus:	<p>United States</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sent 400,000 ePhytos to 100 trading partners. • Received 650,000 ePhytos from approximately 80 trading partners. • Successful testing the ePhyto exchange with Japan and Thailand. • Added new countries using the generic IPPC system (Azerbaijan, Benin). <p>Canada</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issued 3,000 ePhytos to US (non-mandatory). • ePhyto exchange takes place with the U.S. only, but plans are underway to include Mexico. • Resolved US / Canada border office communication issues regarding ePhytos. • Pending federal budget approval for system expansion 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Working on system efficiencies and data optimization.Planning Mexico integration to the system. <p>Mexico</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Normal operations after February maintenance.Supporting El Salvador, Honduras, and Nicaragua in testing the ePhyto system.Working on EU formalization.Active exchange with France, Spain, and Germany.	
Item 2:	IPPC updates	
Consensus:	<p>The chairperson informed that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">The IPPC has collected an estimated \$300,000 from 9-10 trading partners.More countries continue to join the ePhyto exchange through the IPPC hub.	
Other subjects	<p>The chairperson informed about problems associated with ePhytos with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">handling mixed commodities shipments, e.g., flower bouquets, and bird seeds,data standardization needs and,personal phytosanitary certificates processing <p>Annual Meeting:</p> <p>The Technical Director informed the EG about the upcoming NAPPO Annual Meeting in Ottawa, Canada, and requested the EG's participation with one presentation. Tanya Staffen indicated that the agenda includes a section on practical cases from the industry and asked for assistance from an EG industry member.</p> <p>The Technical Director also asked about the application of Artificial Intelligence in ePhyto and informed the group about the upcoming symposium on Artificial Intelligence at the NAPPO Annual Meeting.</p>	
Next Steps		
Responsible Person	Action	Date
NAPPO Secretariat	Schedule recurrent meetings every 4 months	
Next Meeting		
Location:	Zoom meeting	
Date:	TBD. The Technical Director will send a poll to schedule the next meeting. Recurrent meetings will be scheduled every 4 months.	
Proposed Agenda Items		
1.		
2.		