



*Enhancing Phytosanitary Systems for Healthy
Plants, Safe & Sustainable Trade”*



INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF
PLANT HEALTH
2020

Subtheme

Emerging innovation in Phytosanitary systems

Title

**ELECTRONIC CERTIFICATION: IMPROVING PHYTOSANITARY SYSTEMS FOR
HEALTHY PLANTS, SAFE AND SUSTAINABLE TRADE – CASE REVIEW**

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Introduction – ePhyto



- An **ePhyto** certificate is an electronic phytosanitary certificate.
- It is the electronic equivalent of the **wording and data** of the paper phytosanitary certificates, transmitted by **authenticated and secure electronic means** from the NPPO of the exporting country to the NPPO of the importing country.
- **ePhyto** is NOT a **copy** or **scan image**, or **email** of a printed phytosanitary certificate.



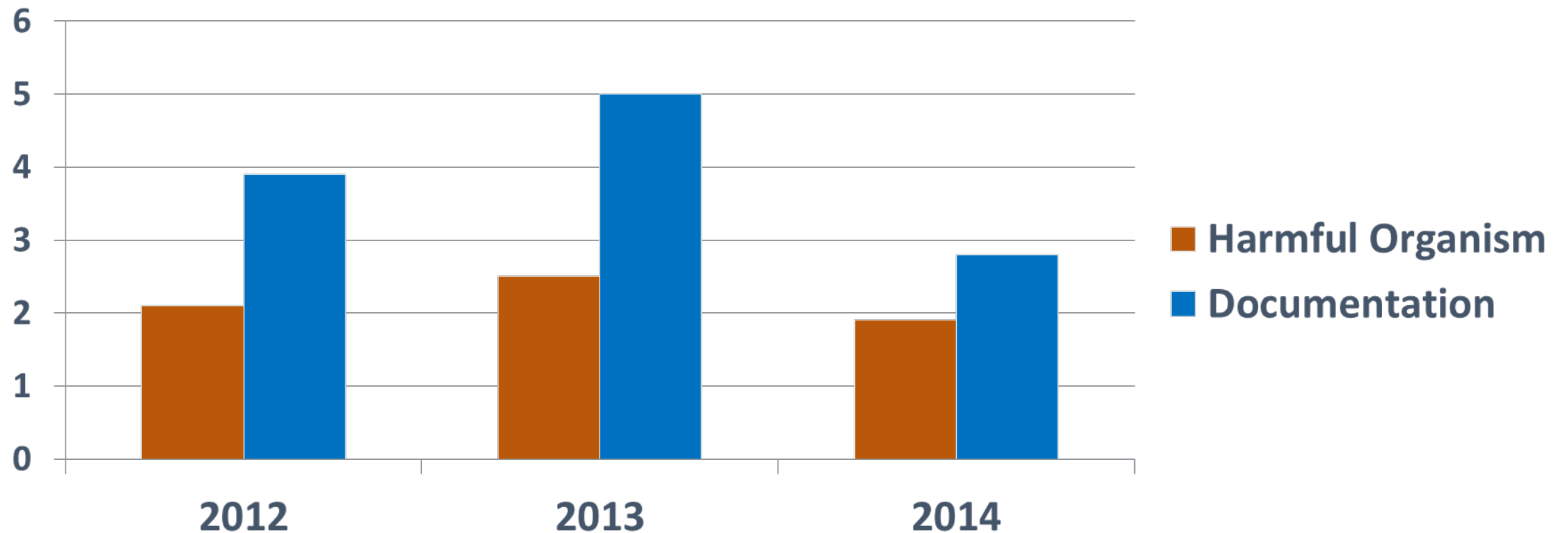
Problem Statement – Why ePhyto



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- **Challenges of Paper Phytosanitary Certificate**
 - Forgery, alteration – Risk of pest introduction, loss of government revenue
 - Defacing - Delays of consignment clearance
 - Lost in transit – replacement is lengthy and costly
 - Place specific - physical movement to collect the paper leading to delays
 - Storage – Risk of losing the certificate
 - Transportation channel – Mostly handed to the traders although it is an NPPO to NPPO communication
 - Authentication – In most cases NPPOs have to make perform verification before releasing consignments
 - Repudiation – use of expensive security paper as assurance of the issuing NPPO

A 3-year survey showed non-compliant documents trigger a higher number of import rejections than actual plant health issues (harmful organisms)



*Source: Union Fleurs



Objectives



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To provide a **secure** platform for exchange of electronic phytosanitary certificates (known as "ePhytos") to facilitate **safe** and **efficient** trade and movement of plants and products across international borders -



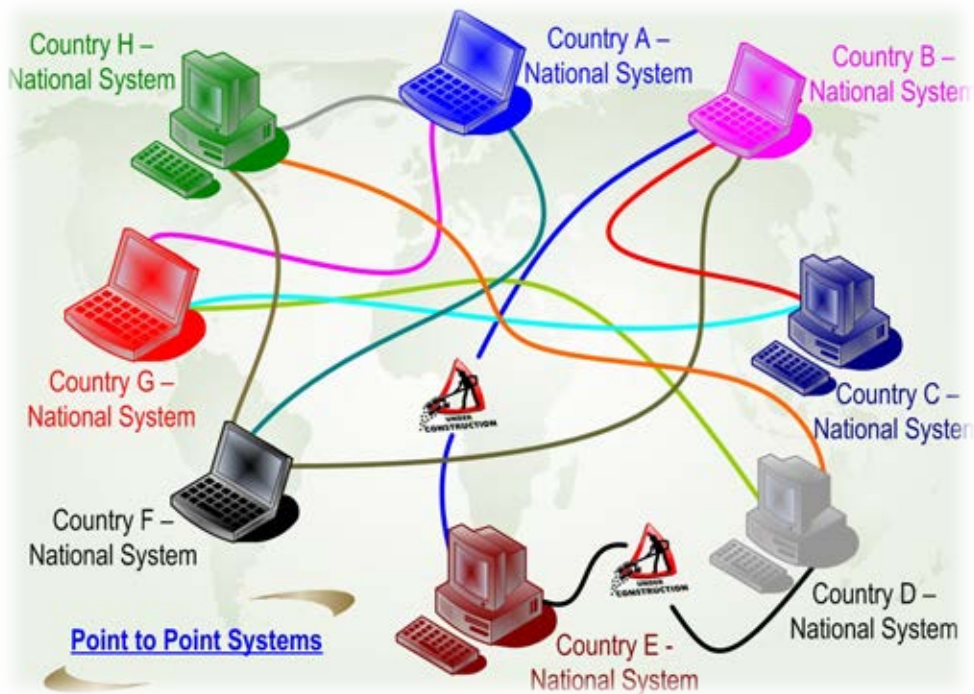
Benefits – ePhyto



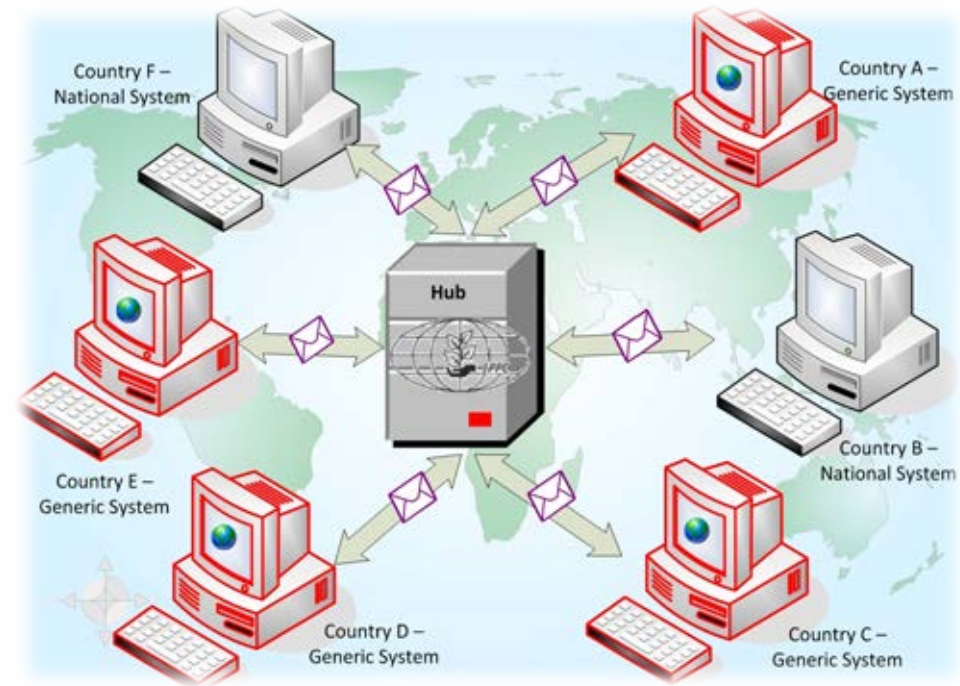
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- Reduces fraudulent documentation
- Reduces data entry and validation functions by NPPO staff
- Improves security in transmission of certificate documentation
- Improves planning for the arrival and clearance of plants and plant products at customs
- Reduces delays in receiving replacement phytosanitary certificates
- Maximize the investment by building on existing initiatives
- Reduce ongoing and costly bilateral arrangements
- Ability to link into the World Customs Organization “One Window” initiative and harmonize codes and processes

- A global ePhyto feasibility study was done in 2014
([file:///C:/Users/hp/Downloads/A Global ePhyto Feasibility Study.pdf](file:///C:/Users/hp/Downloads/A%20Global%20ePhyto%20Feasibility%20Study.pdf))



Bilateral – Point to Point set up
Costly and does not support harmonization



Multilateral – ePhyto Hub, less costly and supports harmonization - Recommended



Methodology cont'



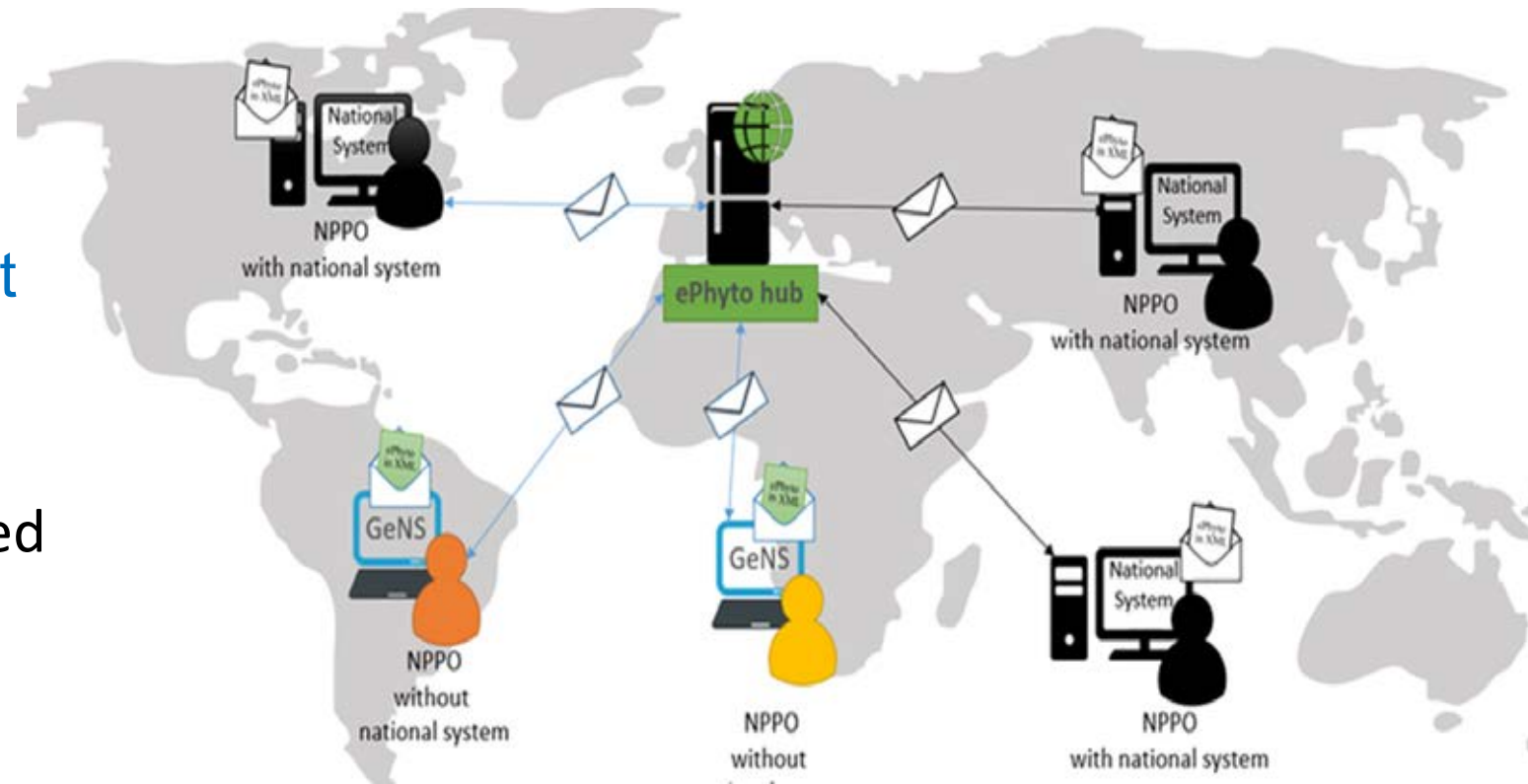
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CPM-8 (2013) recognized the need for a programme to specifically promote and provide guidance on the development of ePhyto, and provide information and tools for those countries that opt to use an ePhyto system.

The 8th session of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) established the IPPC ePhyto Steering Group to commence work on key components to assist countries with their implementation of ePhyto.

The ePhyto Steering Group provides oversight, guidance and advice on IPPC efforts to facilitate the international exchange of electronic phytosanitary information among contracting parties.

- **The Hub:** a system to facilitate the exchange of ePhytos between National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs). (functions like a post office)
- **The GeNS:** a centralized web-based system that enables countries (without their own national systems) to produce, send and receive ePhytos through the Hub.



Resources and more information - <https://www.ephytoexchange.org/>

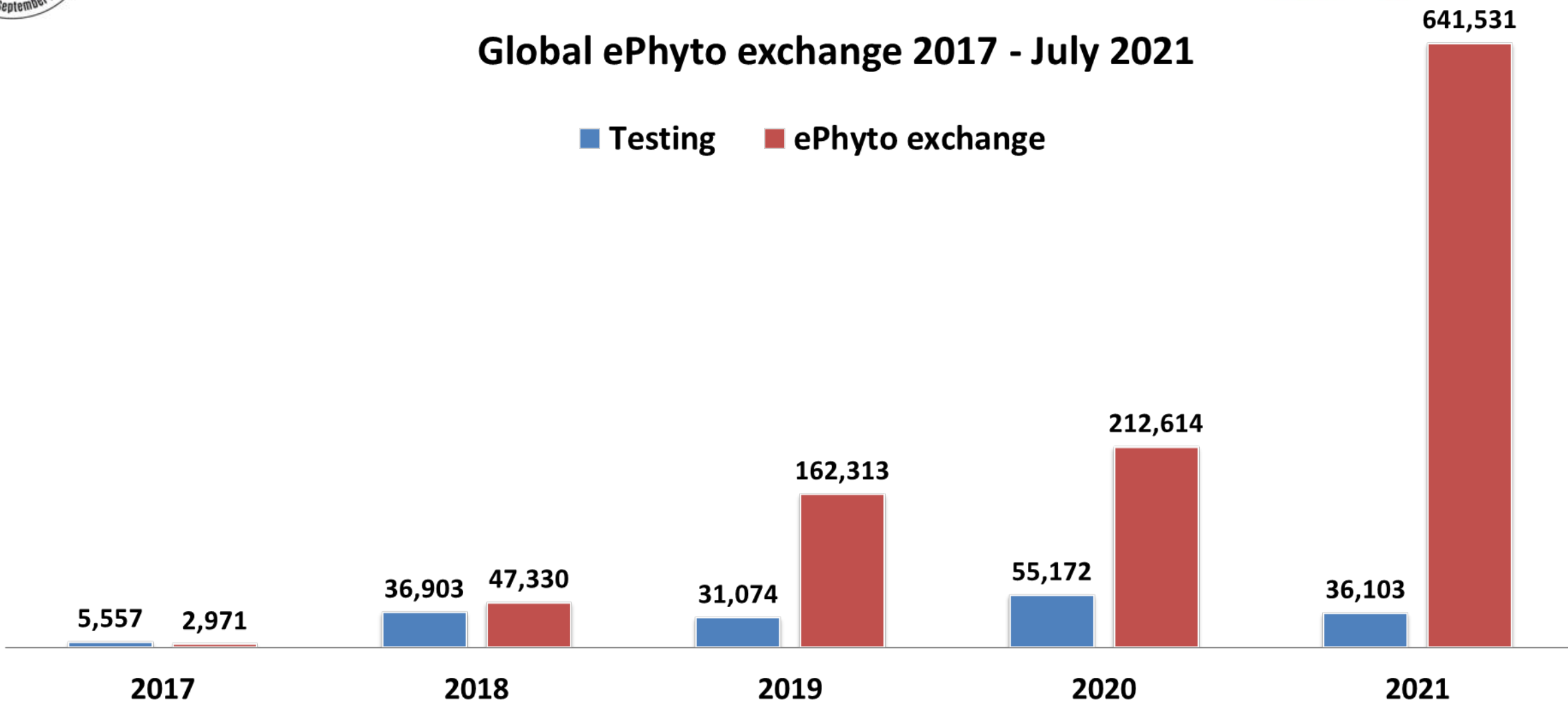


Results cont'



Global ePhyto exchange 2017 - July 2021

■ Testing ■ ePhyto exchange





Conclusions



- Strong NPPO engagement of leading countries, to enhance the ePhyto solution (Chile, ARG, U.S, EU member states, Kenya, Uganda, Ghana, Morocco, New Zealand, Australia already exchanging and many more in the User testing phase)
- Global evolution in wake of Covid- 19 pandemic has opened roads for expansion: reducing physical contact effects has created an acceleration of the onboarding momentum
- Enabling regulatory environment is needed to accelerate onboarding
- Onboarding to the hub at minimum costs: While concrete onboarding costs depend on individual country conditions, the costs for the onboarding to the ePhyto hub only include the costs for the IT-staff to connect the existing national system to the ePhyto hub or if no system in place, training costs for the personal to use the GENS system
- Awareness in the sector growing: recognition of value of digital solution creating momentum and understanding top-down and bottom-up
- Benefits of the solution are being realized by the NPPOs who have implemented the solution



Recommendations



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- NPPOs to initiate adoption of ePhyto to harness its benefits and gain from the global networks
- There is need to facilitate conversations between importers, exporters, NPPOs in the adoption process of the ePhyto solution
- Understand current status of the ePhyto implementation in each country –help to foster the relationship with the development partners e.g. the Global Alliance for trade Facilitation
- Case-studies: Identifying bottlenecks in the functionality of the system for continual improvement



Acknowledgements



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Thank you

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