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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

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**REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL PLANT PROTECTION  
CONVENTION SECRETARIAT (IPPC)**

The following communication, received on 29 June 2016, is being circulated at the request of the International Plant Protection Convention secretariat (IPPC).

1. This report covers the period April – June 2016.
2. The Eleventh Session of Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM-11) took place on 4-8 April 2016.
3. The Committee is invited to note that the number of contracting parties to the IPPC remains at 182.
4. Nine Standards were adopted and noted by consensus at CPM-11, including: two International Standards on Phytosanitary Measures, two Phytosanitary Treatments, and five Diagnostic Protocols. This is one of the Commission's biggest achievements in standard setting, as the IPPC is the only international standard setting organization for plant protection.
5. During CPM-11, the IPPC contracting parties also added three new topics to the list of topics for IPPC standards and noted the review of 30 standards by Language Review Groups and 198 standards to incorporate ink amendments. CPM-11 also adopted a new Standard Setting Procedure to help ensure inclusiveness and transparency in setting standards, as well as the IPPC Framework for Standards and Implementation, which will support the cooperative work on setting and implementing standards. The CPM-11 discussed the concept of a commodity standard and agreed to Terms of Reference for a working group to further discuss the concept.
6. The IPPC secretariat also organized a very successful special topics session on sea containers, with eight speakers presenting different views, which was webcast to the world. Contracting parties applauded the efforts of the presenters to provide a global view on this hot topic and decided to put the development of the draft standard on hold, requesting the Bureau to develop complimentary actions.
7. Of particular interest to the SPS Committee, the IPPC secretariat held a pre-CPM-11 training session on the categorization of commodities according to their pest risk – International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM) 32 – on 3 April 2016 in Rome, Italy. The training was attended by 95 participants, including representatives from contracting parties, RPPOs and international organizations, who actively contributed to the exercises and discussions held.
8. The FAO-IPPC-CIHEAM International Workshop on *Xylella fastidiosa* and the Olive Quick Decline Syndrome (OQDS) was successfully held from 19-22 April 2016, in Bari, Italy. The Workshop was organized by FAO, IPPC and CIHEAM (the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies), with support of the Near East Plant Protection Organization (NEPPO) and the European Plant Protection Organization (EPPO). This is the first international workshop on *Xylella fastidiosa* since the pest was reported on olive trees in 2013, in Puglia, Italy. Over 140 participants attended the Workshop from 36 countries as well as eight international and regional organizations.

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9. The 4<sup>th</sup> IPPC seminar on Plant Health Standards and Food Security, was held at FAO-HQ (Sheikh Zayed Centre) on 13 May 2016, which focused on how standards for plant health directly enhance food security globally. Over 100 participants attended the Seminar, including the permanent representatives of three Rome-based UN agencies, members and observers of the IPPC Standards Committee, as well as the IPPC and FAO staff.

10. The 28<sup>th</sup> IPPC Standards Committee (SC) convened from 9 to 13 May at FAO-HQ in Rome. Key discussions included: the review and approval of ISPMs for country consultation, considering the reorganization of the suite of fruit fly standards, oversight of the work of the Technical Panels, and discussions on how to enhance the interactions between standard setting and implementation facilitation units. Four draft ISPMs were approved for consultation: the draft standards on surveillance, temperature treatments requirements, the amendments to the *Glossary* and the *International movement of wood*. All consultations on draft ISPMs this year will be conducted through the new Online Comment System (from 1 July to 30 September 2016), available at <https://ocs-new.ippc.int/>. Comments will also be requested on implementation issues for all standards that are submitted for country consultation.

11. On conclusion of the STDF Project 350 "Global Phytosanitary Manuals, Standard Operating Procedures and Training Kits" by the IPPC secretariat, over 300 new phytosanitary technical resources have been posted, and more than 20 technical resources have been developed, including phytosanitary manuals, e-learning tools, training kits, advocacy materials, factsheets and photographic resources. The primary objective of this project was to enhance the global phytosanitary capacity to protect plant resources from pests of plants through strengthening contracting parties' ability to implement the IPPC and its ISPMs. By providing contracting parties with a concrete set of internationally accepted technical resources, the project aimed to support implementation of core functions of contracting parties and ultimately work towards: a) establishing and strengthening national plant health systems; b) enhancing contracting party capacity to meet their international obligations; c) improving/maintaining access to markets through setting efficient phytosanitary systems; and d) supporting a national import and export certification programme.

12. The report of the IPPC secretariat would not be complete without an update on the secretariat's financial situation accompanied by a strong request for additional resources to sustain the work programme beyond the a minimal one to two year period. The secretariat has made significant strides in the secretariat's financial management practices; clarity and transparency are no longer issues – lack of sustained resources for operations is the primary problem. Secretariat operational funds are basically resourced by trust funds and projects, while the payroll comes primarily from the regular programme. Any extra resources come from project funds, or are provided from other donors, or in the form of in-kind contributions. A key change made in the past few years is the improved rigour and transparency of secretariat budgeting and the annual work plan.

13. While there is a commitment from FAO to provide regular programme funds to the secretariat, as noted above these resources primarily provide support for personnel. There is a clear need to stabilise and provide sustained investment in core operational programmes. One way this could be done is by introducing sustained voluntary contributions. Such a fund could provide a more stable basis to establish operational and longer-term work programmes. This topic was discussed and supported by the Bureau for further discussion at the Strategic Planning Group meeting in October 2016, with a plan to introduce the idea at CPM-12 in 2017.

14. In reference to CPM-12 (2017), during CPM-11 the Republic of Korea offered, and the CPM accepted, to host CPM-12 in Incheon, Korea. This will be the first time in the history of the CPM that the meeting will be held outside of Rome. The IPPC secretariat greatly appreciates this generous offer and is looking forward to a highly successful CPM-12.

15. Finally, at the opening session of CPM-11, Dr Rudy Rabbinge, emeritus professor at Wageningen University & Research, delivered a keynote address emphasizing the crucial role of Plant Health in Food Security in the past and in the future. This keynote address helped to kick-off the thematic year of Plant Health and Food Security, one of the five thematic years leading up to a hoped-for International Year of Plant Health in 2020. For 2017, the theme is "Plant Health and Trade Facilitation".

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