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**Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures**

Original: English

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

The following communication, received on 1 March 2017, is being circulated at the request of the International Plant Protection Convention secretariat (IPPC).

1. The International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) is an international plant health agreement, originally established in 1952 and revised in 1997, that aims to protect cultivated and wild plants by preventing the introduction and spread of pests. The strategic objective of the IPPC is to protect food security and the environment while facilitating trade through strengthening capacity and capability of its contracting parties. The IPPC is recognized as the only international standard setting body for plant health by the World Trade Organization Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (WTO SPS Agreement).

2. The IPPC is governed by the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM). The IPPC secretariat, hosted by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations as an Article XIV body, works together with 183 national plant protection organizations (NPPOs) and nine regional plant protection organizations (RPPOs) to: a) develop strategic and action plans on world's phytosanitary issues; b) set up international standards, facilitate standard implementation; c) deal with phytosanitary disputes; d) share phytosanitary information; and e) cooperate with other international organizations on relevant plant health-related matters.

3. The year 2016 has been a milestone for the IPPC, as it was the first year for the Convention to implement the IPPC annual themes towards 2020. This year has been extraordinary for the IPPC community, as we collectively made remarkable achievements, with ten major ones highlighted in this report:

- the IPPC 2016 annual theme;
- IPPC governance and strategic activities;
- coordination of standards;
- implementation of standards;
- enhancing communications and advocacy;
- developing the International Year of Plant Health;
- strengthening the IPPC network;
- enhancing international cooperation;
- improving resource mobilization; and
- strengthening the internal management of the IPPC secretariat.

4. *The first achievement was to disseminate the IPPC 2016 annual theme - Plant Health and Food Security.* The IPPC secretariat organized a keynote address at CPM 11 on the IPPC annual theme for the first time in its history, which was delivered by Professor Rudy Rabbinge from Wageningen University of the Netherlands. We also organized a series of activities to showcase this IPPC annual theme, including two IPPC seminars, one Committee on Food Security (CFS) side-event, and one video message from the IPPC Secretary to the 2016 IPPC Regional Workshops.

5. *The second achievement was to organize IPPC governance and strategic activities.* The IPPC secretariat provided strong support in the organization of all meetings of the IPPC governing bodies. We also made a close follow-up with implementation of all important CPM decisions, such as setting-up a Focus Group on the establishment of an oversight body for implementation,

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working on a sustainable funding mechanism for IPPC secretariat work programmes, and initializing IPPC strategic planning for 2020-2030.

6. *The third achievement was to coordinate a record numbers of standards.* Over 40 standards were progressed, with 12 standards adopted (two regular standards, two phytosanitary treatments, and eight diagnostic protocols) and 28 standards presented for adoption (five regular standards, 11 phytosanitary treatments, and 12 diagnostic protocols). This was the highest number of standards covered for a single year in the IPPC's history.

7. *The fourth achievement was to promote the implementation of standards.* Five Training Workshops on PCE were organized with the participation of 40 phytosanitary experts from 36 countries, and 21 lawyers from 13 countries plus FAO staff. Sixteen projects were implemented with six completed and an additional ten were active, covering over 15 contracting parties (CPs). One focus group was established on a surveillance pilot project, dealing with three potential pests.

8. *The fifth achievement was to enhance communication and advocacy.* The new IPP home page and new online comment system (OCS) were released. Over 170 items of headline and brief news were issued, an increase of 70% in comparison with 2015. The 2015 IPPC Annual Report was published, with distribution of 1,000 copies.

9. *The sixth achievement was to promote the development of the International Year of Plant Health (IYPH) 2020.* The Steering Committee for IYPH 2020 was established, and its first meeting was organized in FAO-HQ in Rome, Italy. One side-event on IYPH 2020 was held during the 25<sup>th</sup> session of Committee on Agriculture (COAG) of FAO. The resolution for IYPH 2020 was endorsed at the 25<sup>th</sup> session of COAG of FAO, and then endorsed at the 150<sup>th</sup> FAO Council.

10. *The seventh achievement was to strengthen the IPPC network.* An IPPC Workshop on National Reporting Obligations (NROs) in Asia was organized for the first time in the several years. Seven IPPC Regional Workshops were held, with 212 participants from 144 CPs. The annual Technical consultation (TC) among Regional Plant Protection Organizations (RPPOs) was conducted in Rabat, Morocco, with the participation of all nine RPPOs and one region (Caribbean) for the first time in many years.

11. *The eighth achievement was promoting international cooperation.* In particular, cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Administration (IAEA) was deepened on standard setting. Cooperation with the World Customs Organization (WCO) was initiated on ePhyto. Cooperation with UNEP was also started on biodiversity-related issues.

12. *The ninth achievement was to strengthen resource mobilization.* The initiative of sustainable funding for the IPPC work programme was proposed, and strongly supported by the CPM Finance Committee, CPM Bureau, and Strategic Planning Group (SPG). The IPPC multi-donor trust fund was supported by Australia, France, Republic of Korea, New Zealand and the United States of America. New IPPC projects were received from European Commission (EC) and STDF, and pledged from China.

13. *The tenth achievement was strengthening internal management of the IPPC secretariat.* The action plan for the Enhancement Evaluation of the IPPC secretariat was implemented, mainly for reshaping the IPPC secretariat's structure with establishment two professional units (Standard Setting and Implementation Facilitation) and one supporting team (Integration Support). Quality management as well as standardization of documents and information materials were strengthened by setting up several relevant Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).

14. 2017 will be another important year for the IPPC, as it will be the year for implementation of the next IPPC annual theme - "Plant Health and Trade Facilitation", as well as a year for celebrating the 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the IPPC. Among many the tasks and activities for 2017, five are key:

- *advocate* the IPPC annual theme "Plant health and trade facilitation" for 2017, and promote IYPH 2020 to be endorsed in FAO conference;
- *organize* the CPM 12 in the Republic of Korea, and establish a new oversight body for implementation;

- *complete* the projects STDF-401 and EC-IRSS, and implement the new projects on IPPC Implementation from European Commission, ePhyto from STDF, and Capacity Development from the FAO-China SSC Programme;
- *strengthen* the IPPC network at regional and national levels, and enhance international cooperation with relevant technical, trade, environment and industry organizations; and
- *continue* efforts to mobilize additional resources and restructure the IPPC secretariat, and celebrate the 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the IPPC.

15. The IPPC secretariat would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude to WTO-SPS Secretariat for the strong support and close cooperation.

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