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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

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REPORT OF INTERNATIONAL PLANT PROTECTION CONVENTION (IPPC)

The following communication, received on 20 October 2018, is being circulated at the request of the International Plant Protection Convention secretariat (IPPC).

This report provides an overview of the main activities of the IPPC secretariat since the last SPS Committee meeting in July 2018.

1 GOVERNANCE AND STRATEGIES

1.1 IPPC Strategic Framework (2020-2030)

1.1. Based on the thirteenth meeting of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM-13, 2018) decision, the IPPC Strategic Framework (2020-2030) was shared with contracting parties (CPs), Regional Plant Protection Organizations (RPPOs) and other interested stakeholders to collect comments through the IPPC Online Comment System, resulting in 850 comments received. These comments were considered by the IPPC Strategic Planning Group (SPG) meeting (9-11 October 2018) and the Framework was revised. The Framework will now be presented to CPM-14 (April 2019) for the endorsement.

1.2 Strategic Planning Group

1.2. The IPPC Strategic Planning Group (SPG)¹ meeting was held at FAO-HQ in Rome, Italy, from 09-11 October 2018. The main strategic topics discussed were the IPPC Strategic Framework and complementary investment plan, safe trade facilitation action plan, ePhyto five-year plan and e-commerce, emergencies/emerging pests. The SPG also considered to what extent the IPPC community should be involved in addressing antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and agreed to forward this issue to CPM-14 (2019) for discussion. Updates were also given on the new call for topics and the discussions of the Focus Group on commodity and pathway standards. The SPG were also updated on progress on the International Year of Plant Health (IYPH) 2020 proclamation that is expected to be done by the UNGA 2nd Committee by end of November 2018.

1.3 Commission on Phytosanitary Measures Bureau

1.3. The CPM Bureau² met on the 8th and 12th of October 2018 in Rome, Italy to discuss and agree upon important administrative, strategic and financial budgetary matters. Among key financial budgetary matters, the Bureau noted the IPPC Financial Committee (FC) meeting report, recommended the 2020 work plan and budget of the IPPC secretariat to CPM-14 (2019). In preparation for CPM-14 (2019), the Bureau reviewed the agenda, the outline of the special topics session on Plant Health and the Environment (also the 2019 theme) and the list of side sessions.

¹ Link to report of SPG meeting: <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/governance/strategic-planning-group/>.

² Link to report of CPM Bureau meeting: <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/governance/bureau/>.

1.4 Task force on topics

1.4. In response to the Call for Topics: Standards and Implementation, the first to call for implementation topics, 36 topics were submitted, including 10 for diagnostic protocols for regulated pests, 13 for standards or revisions of standards and 13 for implementation resources³.

1.5. The CPM Bureau had established a Task Force on Topics (TFT)⁴, which combined members of the Standards Committee (SC), the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC) and the CPM Bureau, to review the topic submissions and develop recommendations to the SC, IC and CPM. The TFT met (1-3 October) to review these submissions. The TFT emphasized the need to prioritize topics within the context of the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020-2030, especially in view of other ongoing discussions within the IPPC community, such as those on commodity and pathway standards, and e-commerce.

1.6. They identified synergies between topics, highlighting the value of regional coordination when submitting topics, and the need for collaboration between standards setting and implementation activities. For some topics, the TFT recommended a different way of addressing the problem from that originally proposed in the submission. The TFT recommendations to the CPM will be presented for input from both the Standards Committee and the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee and then the TFT, considering this input, will make recommendations to CPM-14 (2019).

2 IPPC NETWORKS

2.1 IPPC Regional Workshops for 2018

2.1. Seven IPPC Regional workshops (RW) have been delivered over the last few months. 222 participants from 141 countries attended these workshops held in: Africa, Asia, Caribbean, Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia, Latin America, Near East and North Africa, and the Pacific. These workshops were delivered in collaboration with FAO regional and sub-regional offices, regional plant protection organizations and different international organizations.

2.2. From the draft ISPMs sent for first consultation, "Authorization of entities to perform phytosanitary actions" (2014-002) generated the most discussion and diverse opinions expressed.

3 STANDARD SETTING

3.1. The Standard Setting Unit (SSU)⁵ of the IPPC secretariat facilitates the standard setting procedure⁶ that is overseen by the Standards Committee (SC)⁷. The standard setting work programme⁸ is available on the IPPC website.

3.1 November SC meeting

3.2. The SC will convene in FAO HQ from 19-23 November. They will discuss draft standards that are currently under development or have come from a second round of consultations and will also consider the recently submitted proposals for new standards. The agenda of the meeting is available on the IPPC website⁹.

3.2 Consultations on draft Specifications and draft ISPMs

3.3. The standard setting procedure includes periods of consultation, when contracting parties can review and provide suggestions on draft standards. The 2018 consultation period on draft

³ All topic submissions are publicly available at: <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/standards-and-implementation/call-for-topics-standards-and-implementation/>.

⁴ Link to TFT meeting report: <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/standards-and-implementation/call-for-topics-standards-and-implementation/>.

⁵ IPPC secretariat Standard Setting Unit (SSU): <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/2463/>.

⁶ Introduction to the standard setting process: <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/83835/>.

⁷ SC: <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/standards-setting/standards-committee/>.

⁸ List of topics for IPPC standards: <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/standards-setting/list-topics-ippc-standards/list>.

⁹ Agenda of the 2018 November SC meeting: <https://www.ippc.int/en/events/event/626/>.

Specifications and ISPMs started on 2 July and closed on 31 August and 30 September, respectively. The following Specification and ISPMs were reviewed:

- Draft 2018 and 2017 Amendments to ISPM 5: Glossary of phytosanitary terms (1994-001);
- Draft Revision of ISPM 8: Determination of pest status in an area (2009-005);
- Draft ISPM: Authorization of entities to perform phytosanitary actions (2014-002);
- Draft ISPM: Requirements for the use of modified atmosphere treatments as phytosanitary measures (2014-006);
- Draft ISPM: Requirements for the use of fumigation as a phytosanitary measure (2014-004);
- Draft Specification: Use of systems approaches in managing the pest risks associated with the movement of wood commodities (2015-004).

3.4. The draft ISPMs, the draft Specification and the compiled comments are posted on the IPPC website¹⁰.

3.3 Adopted Diagnostic Protocols

3.5. The following diagnostic protocols (DPs) were adopted by the SC on behalf of the CPM and accepted by IPPC contracting parties during the notification period¹¹ from 1 July - 15 August 2018:

- DP 25: *Xylella fastidiosa*;
- DP 26: *Austropuccinia psidii*;
- DP 27: *Ips* spp;
- DP 28: *Conotrachelus nenuphar*;
- Revision of DP2: *Plum pox virus*.

3.6. The draft DP for *Bactrocera dorsalis* complex (2006-026) received an objection and further steps will be discussed by the Technical Panel of Diagnostic Protocols and the SC.

3.4 CPM Recommendation on Next Generation Sequencing

3.7. The consultation period for CPM recommendations last for three months, from 15 May to 15 August 2018. The following CPM recommendation was submitted for consultation¹²:

- Next Generation Sequencing technologies as a diagnostic tool for phytosanitary purposes.

3.8. The draft CPM Recommendation will be presented to the CPM Bureau and it will be presented to the CPM-14 (2019) for adoption.

3.5 Commodity and pathway standards

3.9. The Focus Group (FG) on Commodity and Pathway Standards met from 3-5 October in FAO HQ¹³ to discuss the concept of commodity and pathways standards that is anticipated to expedite market access negotiations, enhance phytosanitary security and achieve strategic goals of the IPPC and FAO. The FG met with the objective to provide guidance to the CPM on how to progress with the

¹⁰ Consultations for draft ISPMs: <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/standards-setting/member-consultation-draft-ispms/> and draft Specifications: <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/standards-setting/member-consultation-draft-specifications-ispms/>.

¹¹ DP notification period: <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/standards-setting/notification-period-dps/>.

¹² Consultations for CPM Recommendations: <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/governance/cpm/current-consultations-for-cpm-recommendations/>

¹³ FG on Commodity and Pathway standards: <https://www.ippc.int/en/news/safe-trade-facilitation-of-plants-and-plant-products-by-harmonized-phyto-sanitary-measures-in-commodities-standards/>.

development of such standards. The main outcomes of the meeting were presented to the IPPC Strategic Planning Group¹⁴ and the full recommendations will be presented to the CPM-14 (2019).

4 IMPLEMENTATION AND CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

4.1 November IC meeting

4.1. The Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC) will be meeting in November 2018 (agenda posted on the IPP calendar¹⁵) and will be discussing strategies for Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE), guides and training materials, sharing web based information and projects. A special review of implementation and capacity development projects on plant health will take place; for this, partner organizations will also be invited to share their projects.

4.2 IPPC Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE)

4.2. The IPPC secretariat continues supporting contracting parties' capacity development through the application of the Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE) tool in three countries (Palestine, Tunisia and Uzbekistan) through different projects to develop national capacity development strategies and action plans and review phytosanitary legislation in place in accordance with the project goals. The Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC) is currently in the process of developing a strategy for the PCE.

4.3 IPPC Guides and training material

4.3. The IPPC secretariat is in the final stages of the production of guides on Pest Free Areas and Pest Risk Communication with the involvement of phytosanitary experts from several FAO regions. The development of these technical resources is driven by gaps identified through the IPPC IRSS General Surveys of 2012-2013 and 2016, as well as the IPPC Framework for Standards and Implementation. These guides should be ready by the end of 2018. Future plans include the development of the IPPC guide on pest status, implementation of ISPM 15 and pest management among others.

4.4 IC Sub-group on Implementation and Review Support System

4.4. The IC Sub-group on Implementation and Review Support System (IRSS) oversees the IRSS activities and functions under the guidance of the IC. The group met virtually in September and discussed the IRSS Triennial Implementation Review Report (2014-2017). The Sub-group commented on the recommendations of the second cycle Report to be further discussed by the CPM Bureau. The IC Sub-group also considered proposals for the IRSS third cycle to become part of the IRSS third cycle work programme. The IC will make the final decision on the topics.

4.5 Web based phytosanitary resources

4.5. The implementation and capacity development resources, formerly available on the Phytosanitary Resource Page have now been moved to the IPP (<https://www.ippc.int>). The secretariat is currently working on reorganization of the IPP to help ensure easy access to the resources. Guides and training material can now be found on the following page: <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/capacity-development/guides-and-training-materials/>

4.6 IPPC National Reporting Obligations Year: Regulated Pests Lists

4.6. The focus of National Reporting Obligations (NRO) activities by IPPC contracting parties in 2018 has been on regulated pests lists. The NRO update newsletter for July-September 2018 has been published in August 2018. Third NRO Workshop was held back to back with the Regional IPPC Workshop for Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia (CEECA) in Moscow, Russian Federation from 7 to 8 September 2018. Participants learned about the latest developments and received

¹⁴ IPPC Strategic Planning Group - Document 18_SPG_2018_Oct: <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/86544/>

¹⁵ IC November 2018 provisional agenda: <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/governance/strategic-planning-group/>.

practical advice about NROs; practiced uploading national reports; shared experiences about the obstacles they faced when reporting and established good practices at the national level. The participants also gave a valuable feedback to improve NRO mechanism.

5 TRADE FACILITATION

5.1 ePhyto

5.1. The IPPC's ePhyto project focuses on the development and deployment of an ePhyto Solution to facilitate the exchange of electronic phytosanitary certificates (ePhytos). The Solution consists of an electronic server system referred to as a hub to facilitate the exchange of ePhytos and a web-based system, referred to as the GeNS, that allows countries without national systems to create, send and receive ePhytos through the hub. The hub development was completed in June 2018, following testing of the system by ten pilot countries. Currently 20 countries are at various stages of implementing use of the hub. The United States, Argentina, Chile, the Netherlands and New Zealand are actively exchanging electronic certificates for plant products moving in international trade.

5.2. The GeNS design development is nearing completion. Three pilot countries (Ghana, Samoa and Sri Lanka) are expected to begin testing some of the functionality of the system in October 2018, with full testing expected to commence in late November. The hub and GeNS has been designed by the ePhyto Steering Group (ESG), an expert working group of the IPPC, and has been developed and is being operated by the United Nations International Computing Centre (UNICC) under contracts established between the UNICC and the IPPC secretariat (through the Food and Agriculture Organization's Information Technology Division). Key mapping of the paper phytosanitary certificate to the electronic certificate message was completed by the ESG in early 2018.

5.3. The IPPC secretariat has also been working closely with the ESG and an industry working group and a working group composed of international organizations undertaking similar electronic initiatives to validate the operation of the ePhyto Solution and to develop a strategy for supporting capacity development and country implementation. A strategic implementation plan has been developed for the operation and national implementation of ePhyto for the medium-term period of 2019-2023. Key elements of the plan include:

- Funding of the operation of the Solution will be based upon donor funds (at an estimated minimum requirement of about \$750,000 annually);
- Donor support for capacity development of countries to implement ePhyto will also be sought in cooperation with the World Bank;
- Governance of the hub and GeNS is proposed to be provided by a dedicated staff within the IPPC secretariat which is intended to also provide support to other trade facilitation projects;
- Undertaking of a cost-benefit analysis to document the value proposition of the Solution to countries, the IPPC and to the trading community so that a fair long-term cost recovery approach can be developed;
- Further efforts to work with other international and regional organizations to harmonize electronic certificate approaches to facilitate trade.

5.2 eCommerce

5.4. The IPPC secretariat is collaborating with the World Customs Organization (WCO) on activities related to e-Commerce and a representative from the IPPC secretariat attended the 4th meeting of the WCO Working Group on e-Commerce (WGEC) in October 2018 during which the WCO Standards on e-Commerce were discussed. The CPM's Strategic Planning Group considered the project proposal (still unfunded) and recommended it to be presented to CPM-14 (2019) for approval.

5.3 Sea Containers Task Force (SCTF)

5.5. The Sea Containers Task Force (SCTF) is implementing their multi-year and 2018 work plans to guide implementation of the Sea Container Complementary Action Plan for Assessing and

Managing the Pest Threats Associated with Sea Containers. The SCTF and Complementary Action Plan aim to reduce the pest risks associated with sea containers and measure the impact of the IMO/ILO/UNECE Code of Practice for Packing of Cargo Transport Units (CTU Code) during the next five years, as well as to increase awareness of pest risks of sea containers and information to assist NPPOs better manage these risks.

5.6. The SCTF second meeting will convene on 5-9 November 2018, in Shenzhen, China. The group will finalize the Guidelines on Sea Container Cleanliness Survey and Inspection for NPPOs and questionnaire for monitoring sea containers cleanliness. Both documents and associated actions will assist in monitoring the uptake and efficiency of the CTU code.

6 INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF PLANT HEALTH (2020)

6.1. CPM-13 (2018) agreed to a skeleton list of International Year of Plant Health (IYPH) programme events and their associated estimated costs as developed by the IYPH Steering Committee (IYPH StC). It also urged CPs to provide extra-budgetary contributions to enable promotional activities to support the IYPH proclamation process. They were also urged to propose potential IYPH events and activities. IPPC activities to promote the proclamation of the IYPH at the UN General Assembly have primarily focused on creating awareness amongst stakeholders about the IYPH proposal. Presentations were given at a number of occasions, including the IPPC regional workshops, and other relevant regional events and international conferences such as the International Congress of Plant Pathology in Boston. In addition to the public relations activities carried out, the Government of Finland has prepared a draft resolution, which has been tabled to the UN General Assembly Second Committee. In order to promote the proposal, the Embassy of Finland to the UN in cooperation with the IPPC secretariat are planning to hold a reception for UN ambassadors at the end of October 2018.

6.2. In order to solicit support for the proposal at the UN General Assembly, the Chair of the IYPH Steering Committee contacted CPs' official contact points and sent an information package developed by the IPPC secretariat and the IYPH StC. The purpose of this communication was to request National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs) to contact their foreign ministries and UN permanent representations and urge them to support the IYPH proposal once it has been discussed at the UNGA. The endorsement decision by the UNGA is expected to be taken by the end of November 2018.

7 INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

7.1. The IPPC secretariat collaborated with the International Seed Federation (ISF) to facilitate the implementation of ISPM 38 on international movement of seeds. A joint session was delivered during the IPPC regional workshops to identify gaps of the implementation and provide a venue for the exchange of opinions among different stakeholders.
