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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

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REPORT OF INTERNATIONAL PLANT PROTECTION CONVENTION (IPPC) FOR THE PERIOD OF 1 JUNE 2020 TO 1 OCTOBER 2020

COMMUNICATION FROM THE IPPC SECRETARIAT

The following communication, received on 1st October 2020, is being circulated at the request of the International Plant Protection Convention secretariat (IPPC).¹

1 INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF PLANT HEALTH 2020

1.1. The IPPC secretariat and [IYPH ISC](https://www.ippc.int/en/ph/iyphisc/)² continue to implement the IYPH action plan with fruitful achievements. New dates were set for the [International Plant Health Conference](http://www.fao.org/plant-health-2020/events/events-detail/en/c/1250609/)³ and IYPH closing ceremony in Helsinki, now scheduled on 28 June to 1 July 2021. Prof. Maria Lodovica Gullino is leading the study on the impact of climate change on plant health.

1.2. The IYPH website and FAO and IPPC social media channels are being filled with plant health-related contents. Among them, an [IYPH activity book](http://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/ca9327en)⁴ (now available in nine languages), an IYPH brochure, four videos for stakeholders, a [video animation](https://youtu.be/ioAl18nMxpI)⁵, an [art and drawing competition](http://www.fao.org/plant-health-2020/art-competition/enter-the-contest/en/)⁶ for children, a [photo contest](http://www.fao.org/plant-health-2020/photo-contest/enter-the-contest/en/)⁷, and a new social media campaign: "[A day in the life of a plant health professional](https://www.facebook.com/ippcheadlines/videos/289673568908198)".⁸ Nineteen countries have issued IYPH commemorative stamps and three countries have each minted an IYPH commemorative coin.

1.3. The IPPC secretariat has issued four monthly IYPH newsletters since June 2020. Over 400 IYPH-related events, particularly webinars are being recorded to take place worldwide. IYPH was highlighted at seven IPPC regional workshops, two FAO Regional Conferences, four online training sessions on TR4, the [Virtual World Seed Congress](https://govirtual.worldseed.org/)⁹, and many other national and regional events. Various IYPH gadgets and materials are being produced, e.g. 2020 calendars by Croatia, IPPC secretariat, EPPO, NAPPO and Greece.

1.4. The proposal for an International Day of Plant Health (IDPH), championed by Zambia and promoted by the CPM, the CPM Bureau and the IYPH International Steering Committee as a key IYPH legacy has been submitted to the FAO Committee on Agriculture and as of today it is likely to be submitted to the FAO Council for further review.

¹ The original document was prepared for the March 2020 SPS Committee meeting, but as this SPS meeting was cancelled, this report was not released. This report has been updated to include all activities from November 2019 to June 2020.

² IYPH ISC: <https://www.ippc.int/en/ph/iyphisc/>.

³ International Plant Health Conference: <http://www.fao.org/plant-health-2020/events/events-detail/en/c/1250609/>.

⁴ IYPH activity book: <http://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/ca9327en>.

⁵ Video animation: <https://youtu.be/ioAl18nMxpI>.

⁶ Art and drawing competition: <http://www.fao.org/plant-health-2020/art-competition/enter-the-contest/en/>.

⁷ Photo contest: <http://www.fao.org/plant-health-2020/photo-contest/enter-the-contest/en/>.

⁸ A day in the life of a plant health professional: <https://www.facebook.com/ippcheadlines/videos/289673568908198>.

⁹ Virtual World Seed Congress: <https://govirtual.worldseed.org/>.

2 THE COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES, BUREAU AND SUBSIDIARY BODIES AND GROUPS

2.1 Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM)

2.1. The fifteenth session of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM-15), including its Ministerial Segment, has been postponed to 15-19 March 2021. The modalities of the meeting will be agreed in cooperation with the CPM Bureau, depending on the evolution of the COVID-19 pandemic and will be communicated at a later stage.

2.2. Two virtual meetings were organized for IPPC contracting parties in different time zones to exchange information on ongoing activities by the IPPC secretariat and IPPC governing and subsidiary bodies. The briefing was attended by over 160 participants from more than 75 NPPOs, ten RPPOs, and the IPPC secretariat.

2.2 CPM Bureau

2.3. The CPM Bureau held eight virtual meetings since April 2020 to advance the IPPC work plan throughout the pandemic and discussed the importance of the IPPC community preparedness to adapt to the evolving situation.

2.4. The CPM Bureau discussed important procedural matters, such as dates for CPM-15 in 2021 and dates of Financial Committee (FC) and the Strategic Planning Group (SPG) in October 2020, and made an initial review of the draft work plan and budget of the IPPC secretariat for 2022. The CPM Bureau endorsed 12 May as the proposed date for the establishment of an International Day of Plant Health, and discussed the IPPC secretariat's positioning in the new FAO structure.

2.5. The CPM Bureau provided guidance on standard setting, namely advancing work on the issue of authorisation of entities to perform phytosanitary actions, the re-organization of standards related to pest risk analysis (PRA), and approved the draft ISPM on commodity standards and the draft specification for the Technical Panel on Commodity Standards for consultation.

2.6. The CPM Bureau also authorized the IPPC secretariat to proceed with the following two Implementation and Capacity Development (ICD) topics as a high priority pending CPM official change of priority: Surveillance and e-Commerce as priority 1, and provided guidance on the approach in implementing the IPPC development agenda, on the draft IPPC partnership strategy, and on the issue of one health approach and plant health.

2.7. The CPM Bureau agreed to extend the mandate of the Sea Container Task Force until the end of 2021 and agreed to the establishment and TORs of a Focus Group on Strengthening Pest Outbreak Alert and Response Systems.

2.3 Strategic Planning Group (SPG)

2.8. The first ever Strategic Planning Group (SPG) virtual meeting is scheduled on 8-9 October 2020 to advance strategic discussions on eight IPPC development agendas foreseen by the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020-2030, and present new IPPC communication and partnership strategies.

2.4 Standards Committee

2.9. The Standards Committee (SC) approved the following for the 2020 consultation:

2.10. The 2020 consultation period opened on 1 July 2020 for 20 drafts:

- three draft specifications (first consultation) – closed 31 August 2020;
- four draft ISPMs (first consultation) – closed 30 September 2020;
- 12 draft phytosanitary treatments (PTs) – closed 30 September 2020;
 - five for first consultation;
 - seven for second consultation;
- one CPM recommendation (second consultation) – closed 30 September 2020.

2.11. The compiled comments for the three draft specifications are available on the IPP on the [draft Specifications page](#)¹⁰.

2.12. Draft ISPMs and the draft CPM Recommendation are still available for commenting via the [online commenting system \(OCS\)](#)¹¹. For more information on the consultation periods, visit the [draft ISPM consultation page](#)¹², or the [draft CPM Recommendations page](#)¹³ on the IPP.

2.13. The SC held two virtual meetings.

2.14. The SC held its first informal virtual meeting on 14 July 2020 to be briefed on general updates from the IPPC secretariat, CPM Bureau decisions and to discuss the plan for the next steps in relation to the Commodity Standards and the reorganization of PRA standards. The SC also discussed the topic on authorization of entities to perform phytosanitary actions and the tentative webinar on this theme.

2.15. The SC made recommendations on the stewards and assistants nominations for the Technical Panel on Commodity Standards (TPCS) and the draft ISPM on Commodity-based standards for phytosanitary measures. The SC noted that the stewards would address country comments on the overarching concept standard submitted for the first round of consultations in 2020, and additional SC members could steward the development of standard for individual commodities once they are in the work programme.

2.16. The 35th SC meeting was held on 23 September 2020. The agenda¹⁴ is available on the IPP. The meeting report will be available soon.

2.17. Reports of the SC meetings are posted on the IPP¹⁵.

2.18. Technical Panels work under the oversight of the SC, updates on the following are provided:

- The Technical Panel on Diagnostic Protocols (TPDP) met on 10 September to welcome new members and to discuss its work programme. There are 19 draft diagnostic protocols (DPs) under various stages of development. The TPDP asked the Secretariat to open a call for authors for the remaining DPs that were added to the work programme and recommended to the SC that the of Revision of DP 5 (*Phyllosticta citricarpa* (McAlpine)) Aa, (2019-011) be "under development" as new information is being provided. The meeting report¹⁶ will be available in due course and a related news item¹⁷ is posted on the IPP.
- The Technical Panel on Phytosanitary Treatments (TPPT) met virtually on 2 July 2020 and reviewed their work programme. They agreed to start the revisions of ISPM 18 (*Guidelines for the use of irradiation as a phytosanitary measure*) throughout a series of virtual meetings. They also had further discussions and finally approved the responses to consultation comments on the Irradiation treatment for *Zeugodacus tau* (2017-025) to be presented to the SC.
- The Technical Panel for the Glossary (TPG) is considering organizing virtual meetings to review its work programme. As it was proposed by TPG and agreed by SC to achieve the best quality of translation of ink amendments, the TPG members have translated ink amendments to "commodity class" that were reviewed and approved by the SC in May 2019. This ink amendment will be presented according to the agreed processes.

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

¹¹ Online commenting system (OCS): <https://ocs-new.ippc.int/>.

¹² Draft ISPM consultation page: <https://www.ippc.int/core-activities/standards-setting/member-consultation-draft-ispms/>.

¹³ Draft CPM Recommendations page: <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/governance/cpm/current-consultations-for-cpm-recommendations/>.

¹⁴ SC 2020-09 agenda: <https://www.ippc.int/events/event/871>.

¹⁵ SC meeting reports: <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/standards-setting/standards-committee/>.

¹⁶ TPDP meeting reports: <https://www.ippc.int/core-activities/standards-setting/expert-drafting-groups/technical-panels/technical-panel-diagnostic-protocols/>.

¹⁷ TPDP News item 2020-09: <https://www.ippc.int/en/news/making-progress-in-plant-pests-diagnostics-the-ippc-technical-panel-on-diagnostic-protocols-meets-to-advance-its-work-in-pandemic-times/>.

2.5 Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC)

2.19. The IC have been meeting virtually since June 2020:

- VM03 (three sessions: 24 June, 1 and 15 July): List of Implementation and Capacity Development Topics;
- VM04: 9 July: Review of specific Drafts of Implementation Plans for guides and training materials;
- VM05: 22 July: Update on STDF project: Beyond Compliance;
- VM06: 30 September: Enhancing communications between IFU and IC/IC leads.

2.20. Reports from these meetings are posted on the IPP¹⁸.

2.21. The IC oversees Implementation and Capacity Development (ICD) activities of the IPPC Community. In addition to the IC meetings, the IC oversees two IC Sub-groups: Sea Container Task Force (SCTF) and Implementation Review and Support System (IRSS) as well as several teams. In addition, it oversees the development of Guides and Training, ICD web resources, phytosanitary projects and the conduct of Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluations (PCE).

2.6 Guides and Training materials

2.22. The following Guides and Training materials are currently under development:

- *e-Commerce guide for plants, plant products and other regulated articles (2017-039)*: The IC approved the Draft Outline for consultation in 2020. The [compiled comments](#)¹⁹ and the final [Outline](#)²⁰ for the guide are available on the IPP. A call for experts will be issued in the coming weeks;
- *Export certification, e-Learning materials (2020-003)*: Experts have met to begin development;
- *Guide to support the implementation of ISPM 15 (2012-015, 2017-043 and 2018-012)*: Experts have been selected and will soon meet;
- *Pest risk analysis, e-Learning materials (2020-002)*: Experts have met to begin development;
- *Pest Status Guide (2017-048)*: The guide has been drafted, but publication is pending adoption of the revision of ISPM 8 Determination of pest status in an area (2009-005);
- *Plant Pest Surveillance Guide (2017-049) revision*: Experts are reviewing the guide (originally published in 2016) to ensure it is in line with ISPM 6 (*Surveillance*), which was adopted in 2018.

2.7 Web-based information for Implementation and Capacity Development

2.23. A Phytosanitary Systems landing page²¹ has been developed in collaboration with the IC. The landing page is composed of several component pages. Each component page brings together ISPMs, CPM Recommendations, Guides and training materials and contributed resources on a given subject. It is hoped that these webpages will help NPPO staff and other stakeholders find all relevant information to help them implement ISPMs.

2.24. SPS members are encouraged to visit these webpages and provide comments to support continual improvements to these pages (ippc@fao.org).

¹⁸ IC meeting reports: <http://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/capacity-development/capacity-development-committee/>.

¹⁹ Compiled comments: <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/88597/>.

²⁰ Outline: <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/88773/>.

²¹ Phytosanitary System landing page is available at: <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/capacity-development/phytosanitary-system/>.

2.8 Projects

2.25. While the [IPPC secretariat manages several projects](#)²², concrete steps were taken for the implementation of the [FAO Common Market for Southern and Eastern Africa \(COMESA\) Trade Facilitation project](#).²³ Working Groups were established and met for their first virtual meeting, aiming respectively at developing e-learning materials on Pest Risk Analysis and on Phytosanitary Export Certification. These e-learning modules and courses will be available to all and are being developed in collaboration with the Comité de Liaison Europe-Afrique-Caraïbe et Pacifique (COLEACP).

2.9 Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation

2.26. Although many activities have been put on hold due to COVID-19, there are increasing attempts to conduct Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluations (PCEs) virtually. This is particularly true for the PCEs being conducted virtually in four countries in the Caribbean (Dominica, Santa Lucia, The Bahamas, Trinidad and Tobago). The ongoing PCEs in Sri Lanka and Sierra Leone should soon proceed virtually as well. A PCE will also be conducted in Belarus within the framework of an FAO project.

2.27. The Implementation and Capacity Development PCE Team met virtually to consider how to progress the work related to the PCE, in particular on how to exchange experiences on implementing PCEs virtually and how to ensure visibility of PCE activities. Furthermore, the evaluation of the STDF project "STDF/PG/401 Developing a network of PCE facilitators" which trained PCE facilitators just started and should be finalized by the end of 2020.

2.10 Design thinking

2.28. The IPPC secretariat is facing several challenges for the delivery of its activities resulting from travel restrictions due to the global pandemic, limited team resources within the IPPC secretariat, and low awareness of guides and training materials developed by the IPPC secretariat. A consulting firm was engaged to carry out a pilot project using the "design thinking approach" in order to identify how to leverage digital methods to efficiently deliver IPPC secretariat implementation and capacity development activities at global, regional and national levels. This study was structured in three steps: 1) setting the scope; 2) understanding the user; and 3) defining the challenges and setting priorities.

2.29. Interviews were conducted with five staff members in Madagascar and in Kenya (i.e. the Head of the NPPO, the legislation officer, the surveillance officer, the diagnostic officer and the field operations officer, in each country). These individual interviews aimed at getting the users feedback on their experience with the IPPC secretariat implementation and capacity development tools and services. The analysis of these interviews is being used to identify:

- key learnings on the NPPO organization, access to IT and internet and the various levels of awareness about the IPPC mission and the IPPC secretariat's tools and services;
- three "personas" or fictitious, stereotyped characters were identified to help understand the perspectives of different types of users of the IPPC secretariat's tools and services;
- a training journey representing the different opportunities for NPPO interactions with the IPPC secretariat, which identifies the various touch points between the IPPC secretariat and the different personas.

2.30. Several workshops were held using the facilitation tool "Klaxoon" to brainstorm and identify detailed steps in the users' journey. These workshops focused on one of the main challenges, namely "how to improve communication between the IPPC secretariat and NPPOs and provide easy access to all IPPC materials". Besides being an opportunity to train the IPPC secretariat staff on the design thinking methodology, this exercise provided useful insights on how to improve communication, accessibility and use of IPPC secretariat materials and resources.

²² IPPC Secretariat manages several projects: <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/capacity-development/projects-on-implementation-and-capacity-development/>.

²³ FAO Common Market for Southern and Eastern Africa (COMESA) Trade Facilitation project: <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/capacity-development/projects-on-implementation-and-capacity-development/comesa-trade-facilitation-programme/>.

2.11 Fall Armyworm (FAW) and red palm weevil

2.31. The FAO/IPPC Technical Working Group (TWG) for the Global Action for FAW control on "Quarantine and Phytosanitary in Relation to Trade" have had three virtual meetings since it was established in July 2020. This group is embedded in the overall "FAW Global Action" structure to ensure efficient networks are established at the national, regional and global levels to control and prevent FAW. It will also provide vital communication and awareness between all relevant government, industry, donor and scientific stakeholders. The [Terms of Reference](#)²⁴ of this group have been prepared, a briefing paper to detail the priorities and outputs of the TWG and guidelines for the prevention of FAW are being drafted and should be finalized by the end of 2020.

2.32. The IPPC secretariat has developed a webpage²⁵ on FAW, an overview of the activities of the FAO/IPPC TWG group and minutes of the meetings are already available.

2.33. Regarding activities on red palm weevil, a FAO project in the Near East and North Africa region will include a component on the control and prevention of this pest.

2.12 Implementation Review and Support System (IRSS)

2.34. The IRSS is under the oversight of the IC with input from the SC. The IRSS was established to review the implementation of the IPPC, its ISPMs and CPM recommendations and to provide support to strengthen areas identified as lacking or needing further guidance. The main funding for this work has come from the EU under three project cycles. Currently we are in the third cycle (2018-2020) which ends in December 2020, however due to COVID-19, considerations are being given to extending this project.

2.35. The IC Sub-group works in accordance to the Terms of Reference²⁶ (TOR) approved by the IC. A procedure for submission²⁷ of Topic Proposals allows new topics or suggestions for changes in priority to be submitted by the Bureau, RPPOs, IC, SC and the IPPC secretariat. A list of IC approved IRSS topics for studies and surveys is posted on the IPP.

2.13 IPPC Regional Workshops

2.36. Seven IPPC Regional Workshops (RW) have been delivered virtually in 2020. Dates, agendas, schedules, documents and presentations are all posted on the IPP.²⁸ Reports are also posted on the IPP, as they are finalized.

2.14 Monitoring and Evaluation

2.37. The Secretariat continues to work with Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation (WCIDI) (within the legal entity Stichting Wageningen Research (Stichting WR), part of Wageningen University) under a letter of agreement. A literature review of M&E frameworks and implementation within the SPS areas has been published.²⁹ A Call³⁰ for case studies on good practices for monitoring and evaluation of national phytosanitary systems was launched, however the response has been very low. SPS members are encouraged to consider responding to this call in order to help the IPPC secretariat gather examples of good practices that may be shared with the IPPC Community.

²⁴ Terms of Reference:

https://www.ippc.int/static/media/files/publication/en/2020/09/ToRs_Quarantine_and_Phytosanitary_in_Relation_to_Trade2020-08-18_2.pdf.

²⁵ FAO Global Action for Fall Armyworm (FAW) Control: Preventing FAW introduction into new areas <https://www.ippc.int/en/the-global-action-for-fall-armyworm-control/#a>.

²⁶ Terms of Reference: <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/86154/>.

²⁷ Procedure for submission of Topic Proposals <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/88059/>.

²⁸ IPPC Regional Workshops: <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/capacity-development/regional-ippc-workshops/2020-ippc-regional-workshop/>.

²⁹ Evidence on effects of plant pests on IPPC strategic objectives and monitoring and evaluation mechanisms by the SPS community: Report based on literature review and interviews with SPS organisations: <https://research.wur.nl/en/publications/evidence-on-effects-of-plant-pests-on-ippc-strategic-objectives-a>.

³⁰ Call for Case Studies on Good Practices for M&E: <https://www.ippc.int/en/calls/call-for-case-studies-on-good-practices-for-monitoring-and-evaluation-of-national-phytosanitary-systems/>.

2.38. The Secretariat would like to set up Monitoring and Evaluation for the IPPC Community, in particular to help contracting parties to monitor the implementation of the IPPC Strategic Framework (2020-2030) development agenda items, but is waiting for guidance from the CPM Bureau and Strategic Planning Group.

2.15 Strengthening Pest Outbreak Alert and Response Systems

2.39. In July 2020, the Bureau discussed this topic and agreed to establish a CPM Focus Group, which will meet virtually, hopefully by the end of 2020. The Bureau also agreed the IPPC secretariat should issue a call for experts to participate in the Focus Group on Strengthening Pest Outbreak Alert and Response Systems. The Bureau revised and agreed to a Terms of Reference of this Focus Group, which will shortly be available on the dedicated programme IPP Webpage³¹. A call for experts for this Focus Group was issued in September.

2.16 National Reporting Obligations

2.40. IPPC secretariat provides regular assistance to IPPC contact points and their IPP editors throughout the year to facilitate reporting through the IPP. The [Pest reports bulletin](#)³² is being maintained and updated. The IST continues to collaborate with the FAO Intelligence and Coordination Unit of the Food Chain Crisis Management Framework (FCC-ICU) to streamline pest reports.

3 PROMOTING TRADE FACILITATION

3.1 Authorization of Entities

3.1. The IPPC secretariat will take part in the SPS thematic session on Voluntary Third-Party Assurance as part of National SPS Control Systems, which will be held on Tuesday, 3 November 2020. The IPPC Community refers to this concept as authorization of entities to perform phytosanitary actions.

3.2. Under the IRSS, a study on the use of Authorized Entities to Perform Phytosanitary Actions is being carried out to give us a snapshot of the current use. A draft of this study will be available in early October 2020 and once published an announcement³³ on the IPP will be issued.

3.3. In addition, a webinar will take place on 20 October 2020 on "Enhancing the understanding of the concept on authorization of entities to perform phytosanitary actions". This webinar is replacing the previously planned CPM side session and aims to provide a forum to present the concept of authorization, present case studies and demonstrate successes and challenges identified while authorizing entities. It will provide an opportunity for discussing concerns and positions. The webinar will have interpretation into English-Russian. A small Standards Committee (SC) working group that developed the paper on this topic for the CPM is being consulted on the agenda and the operations for this webinar and once the arrangements are finalized an announcement³⁴ on the IPP will be issued.

3.2 e-Commerce

3.4. The IPPC e-Commerce programme, which has been identified as a developmental agenda in the IPPC Strategic Framework for 2020-2030, is under the oversight of the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC) with input from the Standards Committee (SC). The key outputs of the IPPC secretariat's work plan for the e-Commerce programme include: establishing an informal network of e-Commerce experts, strengthening collaboration between the IPPC secretariat and other key international organizations, gathering relevant technical resources and making these resources available to the IPPC community and developing a new IPPC Guide on e-Commerce (see *update under Guides and training materials*).

³¹ Strengthening Pest Outbreak Alert and Response Systems IPP Webpage <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/capacity-development/programmes/strengthening-pest-outbreak-alert-and-response-systems/>.

³² Pest reports bulletin: <https://www.ippc.int/en/countries/reportingsystem-summary/all/>.

³³ IPP Announcement webpage: <https://www.ippc.int/en/news/category/announcements/>.

³⁴ IPP Announcement webpage: <https://www.ippc.int/en/news/category/announcements/>.

3.5. The secretariats of the World Customs Organization (WCO), Universal Postal Union (UPU), Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), WTO-STDF, Codex and OIE have all nominated representatives to participate in the IPPC e-Commerce network along with experts from a number of NPPOs and RPPOs and some industry stakeholders. The network is intended to enhance collaboration among the participants, facilitate the exchange of information about e-Commerce initiatives and issues, and identify opportunities for addressing the phytosanitary risks associated with cross-border e-Commerce. Currently the network is discussing various national responses to the packets of unsolicited and unauthorized seeds that were recently mailed to recipients in many countries of the world.

3.3 ePhyto

3.6. Since June 2020, the IPPC ePhyto Solution continues to grow – 46 countries are now exchanging phytosanitary certificates via the IPPC ePhyto Solution. A few more countries have gone live, including Guatemala, Colombia and Uganda. The first training in French was conducted for Tunisia and subsequent training is being planned for Nigeria. New countries are also being engaged through collaboration with the World Economic Forum's Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation including Madagascar, and the Alliance is also setting up a training for field staff on ePhyto in order to help increase awareness in other countries where the Alliance operates. The World Bank is also becoming more active and is investigating the implementation of ePhyto in connection with efforts to establish a single window in Zambia. The IPPC was pleased to participate in a successful STDF-sponsored webinar on ePhyto on 23 September. Nearly 250 attendees from around the world actively participated in the webinar.

3.7. Next steps for the IPPC ePhyto Solution include system enhancements, additional messaging for exchanging and continued outreach to other interested organizations to discuss possible collaboration to transform the IPPC ePhyto Solution into an "SPS Digital Solution". The IPPC is also very interested in collaborating with colleagues in UNCTAD's Asycuda effort to establish a sound relationship which will enhance the single windows concept through a relationship between ePhyto and Asycuda.

3.8. More information can be found on the ePhyto webpage³⁵ on the IPP.

3.4 Sea Containers Task Force

3.9. The CPM Bureau agreed to extend the SCTF for one additional year until the end of 2021 to allow the SCTF to complete planned activities.

4 STRENGTHENING COMMUNICATION AND ADVOCACY

4.1 IPPC Communications and Advocacy

4.1. Since June 2020, the IPPC secretariat has coordinated and posted 36 IPP headline news items, and produced two videos on IYPH, all translated into six FAO languages as well as social media work especially in relation to the IYPH.

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

³⁵ ePhyto webpage: <https://www.ephytoexchange.org/landing/>.