



4 March 2022

(22-2004)

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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Original: English

**REPORT OF INTERNATIONAL PLANT PROTECTION CONVENTION (IPPC)  
TO THE SPS COMMITTEE MEETING ON 23-25 MARCH 2022  
FOR THE PERIOD: 1 OCTOBER 2021 – 15 FEBRUARY 2022**

COMMUNICATION FROM THE IPPC SECRETARIAT

The following communication, received on 2 March 2022, is being circulated at the request of the International Plant Protection Convention secretariat (IPPC).

## 1 THE COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

1.1. The Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) sixteenth session (CPM-16) is confirmed to take place virtually on 5, 7 and 21 April 2022. Working papers for the CPM-16 are available at <https://www.ippc.int/en/cpm-sessions/cpm-16/>.

1.2. Nine draft International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs), including Annexes, are being recommended for adoption:

- 1) Draft ISPM: Commodity-specific standards for phytosanitary measures (2019-008);
- 2) Draft ISPM: Audit in the phytosanitary context (2015-014);
- 3) Draft ISPM: Focused revision of ISPM 12 (*Phytosanitary certificates*) in relation to re-export (2015-011);
- 4) Draft 2019 and 2020 amendments to ISPM 5 (*Glossary of phytosanitary terms*) (1994-001);
- 5) Draft Annex to ISPM 28: Irradiation treatment for Tortricidae on fruits (2017-011);
- 6) Draft Annex to ISPM 28: Cold treatment for *Bactrocera zonata* on *Citrus sinensis* (2017-013);
- 7) Draft Annex to ISPM 28: Irradiation treatment for *Zeugodacus tau* (2017-025);
- 8) Draft Annex to ISPM 28: Irradiation treatment for *Sternochetus frigidus* (2017-036);
- 9) Draft Annex to ISPM 28: Vapour heat - modified atmosphere treatment for *Cydia pomonella* and *Grapholita molesta* on *Malus pumila* and *Prunus persica* (2017-037 and 2017-038).

1.3. Two diagnostic protocols, annexes to ISPM 27 (*Diagnostic protocols for regulated pests*) are being presented for noting, as they were adopted by the IPPC Standards Committee on behalf of the CPM:

- 1) DP 30: *Striga* spp. (2008-009);
- 2) DP 31: '*Candidatus Liberibacter*' spp. on *Citrus* spp. (2004-010)

### 1.1 CPM Bureau<sup>1</sup>

1.4. The CPM Bureau held seven virtual meetings from October 2021 up to 15 February 2022 to advance the IPPC work plan of the IPPC community.

1.5. The CPM Bureau provided guidance for the three newly established CPM Focus Groups (FGs) on Implementation of the IPPC Strategic Framework development agenda; Climate change and phytosanitary issues; and Communication. It also discussed some International Year of Plant Health

<sup>1</sup> CPM Bureau: <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/governance/bureau/>.

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(IYPH) Legacies, including some IYPH Webinars paving the way to the first International Plant Health Conference (IPHC).

1.6. The CPM Bureau also discussed and approved the 2022 IPPC secretariat Work Plan and Budget and the details for the CPM-16 preparation, including its provisional agenda. As it is under the CPM Bureau remit, they also approved the CPM Recommendation on "Reduction of the incidence of contaminating pests associated with regulated and unregulated articles to protect plant resources and facilitate safe trade (2019-002)" with recommendation to the CPM-16 for adoption.

## 1.2 IPPC Dispute Settlement Procedure

1.7. Two sets of dispute settlement procedures (DSPs) under the IPPC were developed and adopted by the Interim Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (ICPM). The first version of the DSPs (1999) was adopted by the ICPM at its 2nd Session in 1999. At that Session, the ICPM also mandated the further elaboration of certain aspects of the 1999 DSPs. As a result, at its 3<sup>rd</sup> Session in 2001, the ICPM adopted specific procedures (2001 DSPs) set forth in Section F to N of Appendix XI to the Report of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Session of the ICPM.

1.8. In 2019, the Strategic Planning Group (SPG), a subsidiary body of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM), reviewed a document outlining the difficulties with the 1999 and 2001 DSPs and agreed that the inconsistencies found in the 1999 and 2001 DSPs should be worked on, but this work was postponed until the end of the International Year of Plant Health (IYPH) in June 2021. In July 2021 the CPM Bureau approved resources for this review and a revised version of the IPPC DSPs was presented to the SPG at the October 2021 meeting. The SPG recommended to send the revised IPPC DSPs for adoption by CPM-16(2022) and assign the role of the Dispute Settlement Oversight Body to the CPM Bureau.

## 2 STRATEGIC PLANNING GROUP (SPG)<sup>2</sup>

2.1. The Strategic Planning Group (SPG) virtual meeting was held on 19 and 21 October 2021 in two sessions per day (AM 10 to 12 and PM 14 to 16 Rome time). The main topics discussed were discussion items from CPM focus groups (FGs), emerging topics such as IPPC and one health, partnership strategy and IYPH legacies as well as framework for Standards and implementation and revised Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC) terms of reference and rules of procedure, as well as for the IPPC Dispute Settlement Procedure.

## 3 STANDARDS COMMITTEE<sup>3</sup>

3.1. In a series of focused virtual meetings, the IPPC Standards Committee (SC) is progressing its work in developing international standards for phytosanitary measures (ISPMs) and having strategic discussions related to the implementation of the new IPPC Strategic Framework.

3.2. The SC also approved the Specification 72 on the Reorganization and revision of pest risk analysis standards and the work will commence in 2022.

3.3. The SC also approved nine ISPMs, including annexes, to be presented to the CPM-16 for adoption. The SC also discussed several other points that are being presented for the CPM-16, such as the Adoption of the List of topics for IPPC standards, adjustments to the Standard Setting Process to facilitate the development of phytosanitary treatments, and discussions on the topic "Food and other humanitarian aid in phytosanitary context" and a proposal for the establishment of a CPM Focus Group.

3.4. In February 2022, the SC on behalf of the CPM adopted the thirtieth first Annex to ISPM 27 (*Diagnostic protocols for regulated pests*) for '*Candidatus Liberibacter*' spp. on *Citrus* spp.

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<sup>2</sup> Strategic Planning Group: <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/governance/strategic-planning-group/>.

<sup>3</sup> Standards Committee: <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/standards-setting/standards-committee/>.

(2004-010), the causal agent responsible for the citrus greening or Huanglongbing (HLB), one of the most destructive citrus diseases.

3.5. Currently, there are four Technical Panels under the oversight of the SC and updates on the following are provided:

- The Technical Panel on Diagnostic Protocols (TPDP) met six times and worked via electronic forums (e-decisions) to select DP authors and to discuss various DPs to advance their work programme. During the year, there was the [DP Notification Period](#) and subsequent adoption of DP 30 *Striga* spp., one draft DP on *Candidatus Liberibacter* spp. on *Citrus* spp. went to country consultation in July and another draft DP on "*Genus Ceratitidis*" was submitted to the [IPPC Expert Consultation Period](#).
- The Technical Panel on Phytosanitary Treatments (TPPT) met six times virtually in 2022. They discussed their work plan and the remaining phytosanitary treatments on their work programme. They addressed comments from contracting parties and recommended five PTs for adoption by CPM-16 (2022). The TPPT recommended to streamline the process for the development of phytosanitary treatments by making the need for a second consultation dependent on whether substantial comments are submitted. The TPPT also evaluated four new treatment proposals and recommended adding them to the work programme.
- The Technical Panel for the Glossary (TPG) had a virtual meeting in December 2021 to review its work programme and address comments raised during consultation period draft ISPMs. The TPG discussed the proposals for new and revised terms/definitions, which will be compiled into new draft Amendments to the Glossary to be submitted to the Standards Committee in May 2022. The TPG also worked on the proposals for amendments to "General recommendations on use of terms in ISPMs" and introductory wording in the [IPPC Style Guide \(2019\)](#).
- The Technical Panel on Commodity Standards (TPCS): already established by the CPM and with its Specification approved ([Specification TP 6](#)), this technical panel is yet to be formed. The SC is to select its members that will serve for a 5-year term, following the IPPC Standard Setting Procedure.

#### **4 IMPLEMENTATION AND CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (IC)**

4.1. Since June 2021, the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC) has held two virtual meetings, the VM15 on 9 July and the VM16 on 29 September 2021.

4.2. During these meetings, the IC discussed different options to streamline the review process of Contributing Resources and revised criteria related to this process. The IC established an IC Team to deal with Banana *Fusarium* Wilt (TR4), see below section on emerging pests. They also discussed and adjusted the Framework for standards and implementation.

4.3. In the framework of the collaboration between the IC and SC, an update was provided to the IC on the activities and main decisions of the SC. The IC was also updated on the ongoing process of transition to a sustainable IPPC Implementation Review and Support System (IRSS).

4.4. Reports from these meetings will be posted soon on the IPP.<sup>4</sup>

##### **4.1 IPPC Guides and training materials**

4.5. A new database for the List of Implementation and Capacity Development Topics<sup>5</sup> was developed and published on the International Phytosanitary Portal (IPP) in October 2021. This database is readily searchable and identifies the Implementation and Capacity Development topics that have been adopted by the CPM, along with their priority, stage, and status.

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<sup>4</sup> IC meeting reports: <http://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/capacity-development/capacity-development-committee/>.

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/capacity-development/list-topics-ippc-implementation/list>.

4.6. In January 2022, a new webpage for published IPPC Guides and training materials<sup>6</sup> was published on the IPP. The webpage includes a searchable list and clearly indicates the FAO languages versions available for each product.

4.7. The following IPPC Guide was revised to align with the revision to ISPM 6 (*Surveillance*) and to include case studies and published on the International Phytosanitary Portal in October 2021:

- *Plant Pest Surveillance Guide*. Rome<sup>7</sup>. Published by FAO on behalf of the Secretariat of the International Plant Protection Convention.

4.8. Three new e-learning courses are being developed under the framework of a new MoU between the *Comité de Liaison Europe-Afrique-Caraïbe-Pacifique* (COLEACP) and the IPPC secretariat that was signed in November 2021. This collaboration with COLEACP combines the IPPC Secretariat's expertise on phytosanitary issues with COLEACP's expertise in developing e-learning courses and delivering training courses in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific. The following e-learning courses are expected to be available by May 2022:

- *Pest risk analysis* (2020-002)
- *Export certification* (2020-003)
- *Inspection* (2020-011)

4.9. In November, the IC approved three draft specifications for guides and training materials and work on these guides is expected to be initiated later in 2022 or in 2023:

- *Knowing and understanding the IPPC - plant health officer training curricula* (2017-054)
- *Development and implementation of regulations and legislation to manage phytosanitary risks on regulated articles for NPPOs, guide* (2018-008)
- *Developing phytosanitary procedures to maintain phytosanitary security of consignments for export, guide* (2018-028)

4.10. The IC also agreed that draft Specifications for the following IPPC Guides and training materials should be prepared for consultation in 2022:

- *Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE) facilitator training, training kit* (2014-008)
- *Risk based inspection of imported consignments, guide* (2018-022)
- *Authorization of entities to perform phytosanitary actions, guide* (2018-040)

## 4.2 National Reporting Obligations

4.11. IC Team on National Reporting Obligations (NROs) finalized the proposal for correspondence of values of pest status between the revoked (1998) and the new version (2021) of ISPM 8 (Determination of pest status in an area). The Team considered how best to visualize pest reports and organized a meeting with the CPM Focus Group on Pest Outbreak Alert and Response Systems, it is hoped to advance this work in 2022. The IPPC secretariat updated the relevant drop-down menus on the IPP, replacing the values for the pest status categories with the ones listed in the revised ISPM 8.

4.12. The IC Team on NROs finalized the proposal for correspondence of values of pest status between the revoked (1998) and the new version (2021) of ISPM 8 (Determination of pest status in an area). Following this decision, the IPPC secretariat updated the relevant drop-down menus on the IPP, replacing the values for the pest status categories with the ones listed in the revised ISPM 8.

4.13. The IC Team on NROs drafted the Terms of Reference for the IC Sub-group on NROs and presented them to the IC in November 2021. As several things have changed in relation to how contracting parties meet their NROs obligations, the IC Team on NROs agreed that the NROs guide needed to be updated. The Team proposed a revision of the guide, along with a submission form and a draft Specification to the IC and the IC agreed to proposing National Reporting Obligations

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/capacity-development/guides-and-training-materials/>.

<sup>7</sup> <https://doi.org/10.4060/cb7139en>.

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Guide - Revision (2021-026) to the CPM for inclusion in the Implementation and Capacity Development List of Topics (ICD LOT), noting that the IC proposed to assign a priority level of 1.

4.14. The IPPC secretariat received a request from one IPPC Contact Point to delete the NROs documents they had posted on the IPP as they considered there was no legal reasons for a Contracting Party not to retain full control of their information provided.

4.15. IC VM 17 discussed the four options presented to them by the IC Team on NROs for how to handle the removal of NROs documents and decided to allow IPPC Contact points to delete their NROs documents on their country pages on the IPP as they wish. While the record would no longer be visible, the data will be archived and be made available only to the generator of the record upon request.

4.16. 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](#)<sup>8</sup> is being maintained and updated. The IST continues to collaborate with FAO Intelligence and Coordination Unit of the Food Chain Crisis Management Framework (FCC-ICU) to streamline pest reports.

### 4.3 Sea Containers Task Force

4.17. The IPPC Sea Container Task Force has successfully completed its mandate. The [Sea Container Task Force \(SCTF\)](#), a subgroup of the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC), was established in 2017 to guide the IPPC's work on sea containers and associated phytosanitary risks.

4.18. The original tasks of the SCTF included measuring the impact of the [Code of Practice for Packing of Cargo Transport Units Code \(CTU Code\)](#); facilitating the efficient implementation of the Complementary Action Plan for Assessing and Managing the Pest Threats Associated with Sea Containers; exploring the use of the Authorized Economic Operators concept within the World Customs Organization (WCO)'s SAFE Framework of Standards and the data model for sea container cleanliness purposes; and increasing the awareness of pest risks in the sea container pathway.

4.19. The final report of the SCTF will be submitted to the [sixteenth session of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures](#). The report will include possible ways forward and a number of targeted measures to address specific issues related to pest contamination of sea containers. Furthermore, thanks to strong collaboration between national plant protection organizations and industry representatives, the SCTF put forward a number of recommendations for action to reduce phytosanitary risk in the sea container pathway.

### 4.4 Web-based information for Implementation and Capacity Development

4.20. A Phytosanitary Systems landing page<sup>9</sup> has been developed and updated in collaboration with the IC. These webpages provide linkages to relevant ISPMs, CPM recommendations, Guides and training materials as well as contributed resources and are a useful one stop site for NPPOs to build better national phytosanitary systems.

4.21. SPS members are encouraged to visit these webpages and provide comments to support continual improvements to these pages ([ippc@fao.org](mailto:ippc@fao.org)).

### 4.5 Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation

4.22. The IC Team on PCE met to follow up on discussions regarding the agreed PCE desk study. The members advanced the content of the proposed purchase order. Though, this activity is put on hold until IFU is fully staffed.

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<sup>8</sup> Pest reports bulletin: <https://www.ippc.int/en/countries/reportingsystem-summary/all/>.

<sup>9</sup> Phytosanitary System landing page is available at: <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/capacity-development/phytosanitary-system/>.

4.23. The IC Team members also reviewed the proposed content of the new PCE factsheet, which is to replace the existing two factsheets on the IPP to be made available for CPM-16 (2022).

4.24. The virtual PCEs in Sri Lanka, Fiji and Mongolia were further advanced.

## 5 EPHYTO

5.1. The IPPC ePhyto Solution continues to grow and provide user countries with the opportunity to exchange digital phytosanitary certificates with any country using the system. As of the end of December 2021, there were 103 countries registered, with 65 countries in full production. In addition, in 2021, the ePhyto Solution surpassed over one million certificates exchanged and is quickly on its way to the next million. There is room for growth, however. The system was built to handle up to one hundred thousand certificates per day, but at present it is averaging about one hundred thousand certificates per month. The IPPC invites our SPS sisters and any other international organization wishing to exchange digital certificates to contact the Secretariat to discuss ways to facilitate those exchanges through the system.

5.2. More information can be found on the ePhyto webpage<sup>10</sup> on the IPP.

## 6 EMERGING PESTS

6.1. Banana *Fusarium* Wilt (TR4): The IC Team on *Fusarium* TR4 progressed on preparing a draft of the prevention, preparedness, and response guidelines for *Fusarium* TR4, which is currently under review. In addition to that, the team agreed on the organization of a "Virtual workshop training series on *Fusarium* TR4 diagnostic, surveillance, inspection and simulation exercises", consisting of three sessions to be held on 24 March, 19 April and 10 May and to be open to the IPPC Community. Another pertinent point is that the team agreed on a specific questionnaire to assess the countries' capacities to respond to *Fusarium* TR4 outbreaks that the IPPC secretariat will launch.

6.2. Fall armyworm (FAW): FAO/IPPC FAW Technical Working Group "Quarantine and Phytosanitary Measures fully completed their responsibilities according to the terms of references and decided to monitor and evaluate the impact of the work done on prevention, preparedness and response and promote the prevention, preparedness and response guidelines for adaptation at the regional and national levels.

## 7 IPPC COMMUNICATIONS AND ADVOCACY

7.1. The IPPC secretariat is monitoring the process to establish the International Day of Plant Health and Zambia has been holding informal consultations at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City on 24 February, 1 and 4 March 2022. The draft resolution establishing the IDPH is expected to be endorsed by the General Assembly of the United Nations at its 76<sup>th</sup> Session by March 2022. The United Kingdom confirmed its availability to host the first International Plant Health Conference in London, from 21 to 23 September 2022 in a hybrid setting.

7.2. 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.

### 7.1 IPPC webinar series

7.3. The IPPC secretariat hosted a series of webinars between October and December 2021. The webinars were held in English with simultaneous interpretation into French and Arabic. Additional information is available on the IPP:<sup>11</sup>

- Fall Armyworm Training (Part 1: 22 October; Part 2: 19 November; Part 3: 10 December)
- Pest Status, Surveillance and Systems Approaches: webinar on the new IPPC guides (22 October)
- Remote Sensing in Plant Health (2 November 2021)

<sup>10</sup> ePhyto webpage: <https://www.ephytoexchange.org/landing/>.

<sup>11</sup> IPP Webinar Page: <https://www.ippc.int/en/news/workshops-events/webinars/>.



- Export certification and Pest Risk Analysis: webinar on the new IPPC e-learning materials (19 November)
  - **16 February 2022:** The Standard Setting Unit (SSU) organized an IPPC webinar on "IPPC commodity standards: a new time for the IPPC community" on the 16 February 2022. In an interview-style format, the webinar had over 140 participants from over 40 countries from all FAO regions. It addressed the concept around the IPPC commodity standards and its key principles, the development process and the main points of the commodity-based "over-arching" draft ISPM (this draft ISPM is being presented to the CPM-16 (2022) for adoption), the approved Specification TP 6 of the Technical Panel on Commodity Standards (TPCS), soon to start operating, potential benefits and challenges in implementing the IPPC commodity standards, with a focus for developing countries and least developed countries (LDC), and some examples and lessons learned of the development of regional commodity-based standards for phytosanitary measures the webinar provided. More information at: <https://www.ippc.int/en/news/workshops-events/webinars/ippc-commodity-standards/>.
  - **24 March 2022:** A next webinar is planned for 24 March 2022 on "How to Strengthen National Legislation to Support Electronic Phytosanitary Certification in COMESA Countries". The webinar will present the results of the study on the legal aspects of introducing ePhyto, conducted as part of the FAO support to Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) trade facilitation programme. The webinar will be held in English. More information is available at: <https://www.ippc.int/en/news/workshops-events/webinars/how-to-strengthen-national-legislation-to-support-electronic-phytosanitary-certification-in-comesa-countries-march-2022/>.
  - **24 March, 19 April, and 10 May 2022:** A series of workshops on "*Fusarium* TR4 Diagnostic, Surveillance, Inspection and Simulation Exercises" are planned to take place on 24 March, 19 April, and 10 May 2022. Session 1 will cover *Diagnostic*, Session 2 *Surveillance*, and Session 3 *Inspection and Simulation Exercises* of *Fusarium* TR4. All workshop sessions will be held in English, sessions in April and May will have simultaneous interpretation in French and Arabic. More information is available at: <https://www.ippc.int/en/news/workshops-events/webinars/workshop-series-fusarium-tr4-diagnostics-surveillance-inspection-and-simulation-exercise/>.
  - **31 March 2022:** A webinar is planned for 31 March 2022 on "The IPPC Standards Setting Process: an overview". More information at: <https://www.ippc.int/en/news/workshops-events/webinars/ippc-webinar-on-the-standard-setting-process/>. There will be two sessions with interpretation available into all UN official languages.
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