



**REPORT OF INTERNATIONAL PLANT PROTECTION CONVENTION (IPPC)
TO THE SPS COMMITTEE MEETING ON 22-24 JUNE 2022
FOR THE PERIOD: 15 FEBRUARY – 30 MAY 2022**

COMMUNICATION FROM THE IPPC SECRETARIAT

The following communication, received on 30 May 2022, is being circulated at the request of the International Plant Protection Convention secretariat (IPPC).

1 COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

1.1. The Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) sixteenth session (CPM-16) took place virtually on 5, 7 and 21 April 2022. The CPM-16 working papers and the draft report is available at <https://www.ippc.int/en/cpm-sessions/cpm-16/>.

1.2. The WTO SPS Secretariat developed a paper to the CPM-16 and it is available [here](#).

1.3. Nine draft International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs), including Annexes, were adopted:¹

- ISPM 46 (Commodity-specific standards for phytosanitary measures);
- ISPM 47 (Audit in the phytosanitary context);
- Focused revision of ISPM 12 (Phytosanitary certificates) in relation to re-export and revoked the previously adopted version;
- 2019 and 2020 amendments to ISPM 5 (Glossary of phytosanitary terms) and revoked the previously adopted version;
- PT 40 (Irradiation treatment for Tortricidae on fruits);
- PT 41 (Cold treatment for *Bactrocera zonata* on *Citrus sinensis*);
- PT 42 (Irradiation treatment for *Zeugodacus tau*);
- PT 43 (Irradiation treatment for *Sternochetus frigidus*);
- PT 44 (Vapour heat-modified atmosphere treatment for *Cydia pomonella* and *Grapholita molesta* on *Malus pumila* and *Prunus persica*).

1.4. The CPM-16 also noted that the Standards Committee adopted on behalf of the CPM the following diagnostic protocols (DPs) as annexes to ISPM 27 (Diagnostic protocols for regulated pests):

- DP 30 (*Striga* spp.);
- DP 31 ('*Candidatus Liberibacter*' spp. on *Citrus* spp.).

1.5. The ISPMs will be available on the IPP at the [adopted standard page](#).

1.6. The CPM-16 also adopted the CPM Recommendation R-10 on [Reduction of the incidence of contaminating pests associated with regulated and unregulated articles to protect plant resources and facilitate safe trade](#). The purpose of this CPM recommendation is to reduce the incidence of

¹ See news item on the International Phytosanitary Portal (IPP): <https://www.ippc.int/en/news/cpm-16-adopts-nine-new-plant-health-standards-to-enhance-plant-health-worldwide/>.

contaminating pests on and in regulated and unregulated articles and other pathways in order to protect plant health, biodiversity and food security and to facilitate safe trade. In this recommendation, "unregulated articles" refers to plants, plant products, traded goods, storage places, packaging, conveyances, containers, soil, and any other objects, organisms or materials capable of harbouring or spreading contaminating pests, that are not subject to phytosanitary measures.

1.7. A highlight of the CPM-16 was the adoption of the overarching standard ISPM 46 which applies to commodities being moved through international trade. As the IPPC takes on a new direction by putting greater focus on commodity- or pathway-specific topics, it was recognized that the international phytosanitary community might view this as a challenge. The CPM had agreed on the principles around commodity standards and it highlighted the sovereign authority of contracting parties and that no additional obligations are imposed on importing countries by commodity standards, over and above the obligations already identified in the IPPC.

1.8. The ISPM 46 is designed to support the development of phytosanitary import requirements where measures are technically justified to facilitate safe trade. Contracting parties should thus consider available commodity standards when developing phytosanitary import requirements, including pest lists and options for phytosanitary measures. The specific commodity standards, which will be annexes to ISPM 46, will be developed by the [IPPC Technical Panel on Commodity Standards](#) and the forecast is that in 2023 the first specific commodity standard for mango fruit will be submitted for consultation period with the aim to be adopted in 2025.

2 IPPC OBSERVATORY²

2.1. Regarding implementation of the IPPC standards, another highlight from the CPM-16 was the approval of the transition of the IPPC's [Implementation Review and Support System \(IRSS\)](#) to the [IPPC Observatory](#). The IPPC Observatory should be a sustainably funded system aimed at improving contracting parties' implementation of the IPPC, the ISPMs and CPM recommendations. The missions of the IPPC Observatory have been essentially focused to collect data through studies and surveys and provide recommendations. With an allocated base funding from the IPPC secretariat and with dedicated full-time staff, the IPPC Observatory will function better under the IPPC secretariat while being guided by the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC) Sub-group. A three-year work plan, a resource mobilization plan and a communications strategy adapted to target audiences will be in place to guide the IPPC Observatory's work.

2.1 Pest Outbreak Alert and Response Systems Focus Group

2.2. The CPM Focus group on Pest Outbreak Alert and Response Systems met virtually in 2021 and delivered recommendations³, which summary was provided to CPM-16 in 2022. CPM-16 agreed that a steering group should be set to continue on this activity. The CPM Bureau further worked on the Terms of Reference for this Steering Group, and a call shall be launched soon.

2.2 Sea Containers Focus Group

2.3. CPM-16 (2022) discussed the outcomes of the Sea Containers Task Force (SCTF) and agreed to establish the CPM focus group (FG) on Sea Containers. The Call for nominations for this CPM FG has been launched with deadline of 10 June. For more information, please visit the "Calls for nominations for CPM Focus Groups" web page: <https://www.ippc.int/ru/core-activities/governance/cpm/cpm-focus-group-reports/calls-for-nominations-for-cpm-focus-groups/>.

2.4. The purpose of this Focus Group is to review all relevant materials and recommendations, develop viable options that will contribute to risk management, and provide CPM with recommendations, including the option of development of an ISPM.

² See news item on the IPP: <https://www.ippc.int/en/news/cpm-approves-transition-of-implementation-review-and-support-system-to-the-ippc-observatory/>.

³ IPPC secretariat (2022) Recommendations for an Effective Pest Outbreak Alert and Response System https://assets.ippc.int/static/media/files/mediakitdocument/en/2022/03/POARS_All_Recommendations.pdf.

2.5. An international workshop is planned to take place in London, in hybrid format, on 19-20 September 2022. More information at: <https://www.ippc.int/en/events/event/1243/>.

2.3 Focus Group on Food and Other Humanitarian Aid

2.6. The CPM-16 established a CPM Focus Group on Food and other Humanitarian Aid, with the purpose to support the objectives of the IPPC strategic framework 2030 to enhance global food security and protect the environment from the impacts of plant pests, also highlighted in the CPM Recommendation [R-09 Safe provision of food and other humanitarian aid to prevent the introduction of plant pests during an emergency situation](#).

2.7. The Focus Group will operate until 2023 and the call for experts is open, with 10 June 2022 as deadline. For more information [click here](#). The first meeting is scheduled for July 2022.

2.8. One of the main tasks of this focus group is to propose solutions for the development of a standard, as well as other supplementary tools and material.

2.4 Focus Group on Climate Change and Phytosanitary Issues

2.9. The CPM-16 also approved the 2022–2025 action plan⁴ for the implementation of the development agenda item "Assessment and Management of Climate Change Impacts on Plant Health" of the IPPC Strategic Framework. The Focus Group is meeting remotely and it is expected that the group, together with the CPM Bureau, discuss the resource mobilization and implementation aspects of the work.

2.5 International Day of Plant Health – 12 May

2.10. The United Nations designated [12 May the International Day of Plant Health \(IDPH\)](#) to raise global awareness on how protecting plant health can help end hunger, reduce poverty, protect biodiversity and the environment, and boost economic development. The Day is a key legacy of the International Year of Plant Health 2020.

2.11. At the first ever celebration of the [IDPH 12 May 2022](#), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has called for more investment in innovation in a field crucial for boosting food security and transforming how our food is produced, delivered and consumed. "On this very first International Day of Plant Health, we will reflect on plant health innovations for food security," said FAO Director-General QU Dongyu in his opening remarks, adding that investments are needed in research, capacity development and outreach. In the first celebration day it also had a one hour technical session chaired by Mr Osama EL-LISSY, the IPPC Secretary and had the participation of the CPM Chairperson Mr Lucien Konan KOUAMÉ highlighting the contribution of the global plant health community to food security.

3 STANDARDS COMMITTEE⁵

3.1. In a series of focused virtual meetings, the IPPC Standards Committee (SC) is progressing its work and developing international standards for phytosanitary measures (ISPMs). The SC had one focused meeting in April, after the CPM, to revise and approve draft Specifications for consultation period.

3.2. The SC May 2022 meeting (9-11 and 13 May 2022) was mainly for the revision and approval of draft ISPMs for first consultation period. The SC also elected its new Chairperson, Ms Sophie Peterson (Australia) and thanked Mr Ezequiel Ferro for his great work as chairperson of this committee for the last five years.

⁴ IPPC Focus Group on Climate Change and Phytosanitary Issues work plan: <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/90659/>.

⁵ Standards Committee: <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/standards-setting/standards-committee/>.

3.3. Following the SC May, the SC working group, or the SC-7, met the following week to revise and approve four draft ISPMs for second consultation.

3.4. The SC is still revising draft phytosanitary treatments and draft diagnostic protocols for approval for the consultation period this year. In summary, the SC approved the following draft Specifications and ISPMs for the 2022 consultation period.

Draft specifications consultation period (1 July – 30 August):

- Annex International movement of mango (*Mangifera indica*) fruit to ISPM 46 (*Commodity-specific standards for phytosanitary measures*) (2021-011);
- Field inspection (including growing season inspection) (Annex to ISPM 23 (*Guidelines for inspection*)) (2021-018);
- Revision of ISPM 26 (*Establishment of pest free areas for fruit flies* (Tephritidae)) (2021-010).

First consultation on draft ISPM (1 July – 30 September):

- Criteria for determining host status of fruits to fruit flies based on available information (Annex to ISPM 37: *determination fruit fly host status*) (2018-011);
- 2022 Amendments to ISPM 5.

Second consultation on draft ISPMs (1 July – 30 September):

- Revision of ISPM 4 (*Requirements for the establishment of pest free areas*) (2009-002);
- Use of specific import authorizations (Annex to ISPM 20: *Guidelines for a phytosanitary import regulatory system*) (2008-006);
- Revision of ISPM 18 (*Guidelines for the use of irradiation as a phytosanitary measure*) (2014-007);
- 2021 Amendments to ISPM 5.

3.5. The next SC meeting is planned to be a focused meeting, virtually, in July 2022. For more information please check the [IPP calendar here](#).

4 IMPLEMENTATION AND CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (IC)⁶

4.1. Since last update, two IC virtual meetings were held (VM19 on 16 March and the VM20 from 16 to 19 May 2022). The IC VM19 was scheduled to review the four following draft specifications for guides and training materials to go for the 2022 consultation (1 July – 30 August):

- Authorization of entities to perform phytosanitary actions, Guide (2018-040);
- National Reporting Obligations (NROs) Guide, revision (2021-026);
- Implementation of risk-based inspection for imported consignments, Guide (2018-022);
- Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE) facilitator training materials (2014-008).

4.2. During the IC VM20, the IC discussed the projects managed by the IPPC secretariat and held an open session (webinar) to discuss projects from partner's and international organizations to promote synergies and share experiences on implementation and capacity development activities. This VM20 was also the opportunity for the IPPC secretariat units and teams to provide updates to the IC.

4.3. Reports from these meetings will be posted soon on the IPP⁷. In addition, the detailed activities of the IC Sub-groups and Teams are also available on the IPP.⁸

⁶ <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/capacity-development/capacity-development-committee/>

⁷ IC meeting reports: <http://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/capacity-development/capacity-development-committee/>.

⁸ <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/capacity-development/capacity-development-committee/ic-sub-group/>.

4.4. Moreover, following CPM-16 (2022), the SPS Committee should be informed of some decisions having an impact on the activities of the IC:

- The revised IC Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure has been adopted and the number of committee members is now fourteen and this revised version brings more clarifications on the missions and the process of member selection;
- The revised IPPC Dispute Settlement Procedures has been adopted and the oversight of the IPPC dispute settlement procedure is moved from the IC to the CPM Bureau, but dispute avoidance is maintained within the IC mandate;
- The establishment of the CPM Sea Container Focus Group to replace the Sea Container Task Force (which were under the oversight of the IC). The CPM Bureau would have oversight of work of the Focus Group on Sea Containers.

4.1 IPPC Guides and training materials

4.5. Work on the development of the IPPC guides and training materials has progressed considerably in early 2022. Three guides are under development and on track to be published in the second Quarter 2022:

- Contingency planning guide: for outbreaks of quarantine pests (2019-012);
- e-Commerce guide (2017-039);
- Guide to support implementation of ISPM 15 (2017-043).

4.6. In addition, two new e-learning courses have recently been published:

- **Pest risk analysis.** A tutored version of the course was delivered to participants from COMESA countries in May, the self-study version of the course is available in the COLEACP portal and has been followed by 39 participants from 15 countries;
- **Surveillance and reporting obligations (2020-012).** This self-study course is currently available in the FAO eLearning academy portal.

4.7. Two other eLearning courses are expected very soon, all the technical content has been drafted and is at the final stages of conversion into an eLearning format:

- Phytosanitary export certification system e-learning course (2020);
- Inspection e-learning course (2022-012).

4.8. All these training materials will be promoted in an upcoming webinar in July 2022.

4.9. However, two new topics were added to the List of Implementation and Capacity Development Topics during the CPM-16 (2022):

- Audits in the phytosanitary context, new guide (2021-009);
- National reporting obligations (NRO), revision to existing guide (2021-026).

4.10. Further information on the List of Implementation and Capacity Development Topics is available on the IPP.⁹

4.2 National Reporting Obligations

4.11. 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.

4.12. 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 Guide - Revision (2021-026) to the CPM for

⁹ <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/capacity-development/list-topics-ippc-implementation/list>.

inclusion in the Implementation and Capacity Development List of Topics (ICD LOT), noting that the IC proposed to assign a priority level of 1.

4.13. 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.

4.14. The 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](#)¹⁰ is being maintained and updated.

4.15. The CPM-16 added the revision of the Guide to national reporting obligations (2021-026) to the List of implementation and capacity development topics and noted that the IC would assign a priority level of 1. The CMP noted the IC's decision to allow IPPC contact points to delete any of their NROs documents on their country page on the IPP, and that while the record would no longer be visible on the country page on the IPP, the data would be archived and be made available only to the generator of the record upon request; and noted that although NROs activities were unfunded, France will provide an in-kind staff contribution to work partly on advancing the NROs 2022 workplan.

4.3 Web-based information for Implementation and Capacity Development

4.16. A Phytosanitary Systems landing page¹¹ 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.

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

4.4 Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation

4.18. Regarding the PCE, the following progress can be highlighted:

- The PCE desk study Purchase Order being reviewed;
- PCE in Nepal completed in March 2022, first PCE with direct donor (World Bank) participation;
- FAO and the European Union have ratified project GCP/GLO/949/EU for funding 9 PCEs in COMESA countries.

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 mid-May 2022, there were 110 countries registered, with 68 countries in full production. In addition, the ePhyto Solution has now surpassed over two million certificates exchanged and continues to grow. Additional features have been added to the Generic ePhyto National System (GeNS – the web-based application for countries without their own national systems) including eSignature and a French language version. Forthcoming this year will be an Arabic language version of the GeNS (developed with the support of the Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation) as well as an ePayment feature. With more and more countries coming onboard there are always requests to add additional features. When considering these requests, the IPPC secretariat always strives to ensure that any new features added to the system will have applicability across the system for any country wishing to make use of the feature. Finally, as colleagues are aware, 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

¹⁰ Pest reports bulletin: <https://www.ippc.int/en/countries/reportingsystem-summary/all/>.

¹¹ Phytosanitary System landing page is available at: <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/capacity-development/phytosanitary-system/>.

per month. The IPPC again 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 webpage¹² 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 were held on 24 March, 19 April and 10 May and to be open to the IPPC Community. Further information and technical materials on these webinar sessions are available on the IPP.¹³

7 IPPC COMMUNICATIONS AND ADVOCACY

7.1. The IPPC secretariat continue to produce communication and advocacy materials (2021 IPPC Annual report, released 26 headline news and 18 announcements) in 2022 as well as social media content that reached a wider audience with a steady increase in percentages compared to the same period in 2021. The Secretariat continues to maintain and update the IPPC website in six FAO languages. In coordination with FAO, the IPPC secretariat and United Kingdom are co-organizing 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.

8 IPPC CALL FOR EXPERTS AND OTHER MATERIAL

8.1. For information on upcoming calls for various IPPC groups, please check the website: <https://www.ippc.int/en/calls/category/deadline/>.

9 UPCOMING IPPC EVENTS¹⁴

- **August/September 2022**: IPPC Regional Workshops on draft ISPMs and Capacity Development. Various locations;
- **19-20 September 2022**: International Workshop on reducing the introduction of pests through the Sea Container Pathway. London, United Kingdom;
- **20 September 2022**: ePhyto Industry Advisory Group Meeting. London, United Kingdom;
- **21 to 23 September 2022**: International Plant Health Conference (IPHC). London, United Kingdom. The Conference will convene countries from around the world to discuss global scientific, technical and regulatory issues related to plant health aiming to contribute to a number of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, amongst other objectives.

10 IPPC VIDEOS AND OTHER TOOLS

10.1. The IPPC secretariat wishes to share with you the new tools available.

- Video on the IPPC standard setting procedure: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W8zciLFG--8>
- Video on Pest risk analysis: Why we do it and why it is important?: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MXtQ9zVUqI0&t=212s>

¹² ePhyto webpage: <https://www.ephytoexchange.org/landing/>.

¹³ <https://www.ippc.int/en/news/workshops-events/webinars/workshop-series-fusarium-tr4-diagnostic-surveillance-inspection-and-simulation-exercise/>.

¹⁴ Please check the IPP calendar: <https://www.ippc.int/en/year/calendar/>.

- e-learning course on Surveillance and reporting obligations:
<http://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?id=824>
 - e-learning course on Pest Risk Analysis (developed in collaboration with COLEACP):
<http://training.coleacp.org/course/index.php?categoryid=208>
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