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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

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

The following communication, received on 13 October 2017, is being circulated at the request of the International Plant Protection Convention secretariat (IPPC).

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This report provides an overview of IPPC activities since the last SPS meeting in July 2017:

1. Seven IPPC regional workshops (RWs) were organized for Africa, Asia, Latin America, Near East and North Africa, Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia, Southwest Pacific, and the Caribbean. A total number of 206 participants from 117 countries benefited from the workshops. The RWs had three main objectives:

- Improve contracting parties' capacities to analyze draft ISPM for efficient commenting;
- Build phytosanitary capacities and raising awareness on the IPPC activities;
- Exchange of experiences at the regional level;
- The feedback from participants indicated that the RWs are considered an essential venue for information sharing on emerging issues, networking and the exchange of experiences.

2. Under the Framework of FAO-China South-South Cooperation Programme the IPPC has received funds to implement a project on Capacity Development for contracting parties. The project was officially launched during the regional workshop held in Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia on 5-8 September 2017.

3. The project aims to facilitate the exchange of resources, technologies, innovations and knowledge between developing countries to help build sustainable food systems and enhance their capacities to improve their own livelihoods. The expected outcome of the project is to increase the capacity of developing countries at the institutional, national and regional levels.

4. The IPPC continues working on the development of the ePhyto system. The last meeting of the ePhyto Steering Group (ESG) took place in October 2017. The meeting was devoted to a discussion on the ePhyto Hub, (which is now running as a pilot), finalizing details of the hub user interface and connection procedures. The ESG also reviewed and adjusted details of the anticipated costs of the hub operation that is required to develop a business plan for the sustainability of the operation. The ESG finalized the specifications for the generic ePhyto national system (GeNS), reviewed and adjusted development timelines and began preparations for the 3rd IPPC Global Symposium on ePhyto with the theme "ePhyto & Trade Facilitation", which will take place in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 22 to 26 January 2018. Details of the Symposium are posted at: <http://www.ippc.int/en/ephyto/ephyto-symposia/3rd-global-symposium-on-ephyto-kuala-lumpur-malaysia-22-26-january-2018>.

5. The IPPC secretariat has commenced development of a Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) framework. The framework will assist the Secretariat to monitor its work programme taking into account its impact at the strategic global level (including linkages to the FAO and UN SDGs), at the national level of contracting party implementation and activities undertaken by the IPPC secretariat. It is expected that the M&E framework will allow for enhanced responsiveness and continuous improvement towards the IPPC mission of protecting global plant resources from pests, as well as responding to changing regional and national needs.

6. Preparation for the International Year of Plant Health (IYPH) is under the way. The final decision on the IYPH is expected to be obtained at the 2018 United Nations (UN) General Assembly. The IYPH Steering Committee will meet 8-10 November 2017.

7. The IPPC Strategic Planning Group (SPG) met in October 2017 and discussed, *inter alia*:

- Progress on a sustainable funding proposal for the IPPC work programme;
 - The IPPC Strategic Framework for 2020-2030;
 - A Trade Facilitation Agreement Action Plan;
 - Strategies for the global plant protection community related to e-commerce;
 - The advances in E-Phyto;
 - An International Phytosanitary Conference - Proposal to establish an IPPC format for a regular phytosanitary conference: The "International Phytosanitary Conference" – Kenya.
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