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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 2019, is being circulated at the request of the International Plant Protection Convention secretariat (IPPC).

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This report provides an overview of the main activities of the International Plant Protection Organization (IPPC) secretariat since the last SPS Committee meeting in July 2019.

### **1 GOVERNANCE AND STRATEGIES**

#### **IPPC Strategic Framework (2020-2030)**

1.1. The fourteenth meeting of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM-14, 2019) endorsed the IPPC Strategic Framework (SF), 2020-2030 with minor notes for consideration by the authors, a graphical overview is presented in Table 1. The SF was reviewed and endorsed by the Strategic Planning Group (SPG). The new strategic framework details the IPPC mission, vision, goal, three strategic objectives, three core activities and eight development agenda items.

1.2. The IPPC secretariat has developed a Theory of Change to help contracting parties (CPs) understand their contributions to the Strategic Objectives in the SF, the FAO Strategic Objectives and the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. The IPPC secretariat is also in the process of developing a monitoring and evaluation matrix to help measure the implementation of the SF over the next ten years.

Table 1



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## Strategic Planning Group

1.3. The IPPC Strategic Planning Group (SPG)<sup>1</sup> meeting was held at FAO-HQ in Rome, Italy, from 8-10 October 2019. The following are highlights of the main strategic topics discussed:

- Endorsement of the IPPC Strategic Framework for 2020-2030, to be presented to CPM-15 (2020) for final adoption;
- Pest Outbreak Alert and Response System - The SPG reviewed the action plan and budget proposed for the 5<sup>th</sup> IPPC development agenda 2020-2030 "Strengthening Pest Outbreak Alert and Response System". The SPG recognized the need for extra budgetary resources and recommended to delay some activities in the project and to promote it during the International Year of Plant Health (IYPH) in 2020 to get additional funds secured;
- Surveillance - the SPG took note of the activities to be conducted on surveillance, namely, the possible revision of the IPPC Plant Pest Surveillance Guide; the creation of an IPP Surveillance Landing Page; the organization of the International Pest Free Area (PFA) and Surveillance Symposium; the creation of a global surveillance projects register, as well as the creation of a global plant health surveillance information portal on the IPP. The SPG recognized the importance of work on surveillance and noted the lack of resources to undertake additional work on surveillance;
- A new IPPC communications strategy based on the IPPC Strategic Framework for 2020-2030 would be developed after IYPH, to learn from its experience throughout 2020.

## Commission on Phytosanitary Measures Bureau

1.4. The Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) Bureau<sup>2</sup> met on 7 and 11 October 2019 in Rome, Italy to discuss and agree upon important administrative, strategic and financial budgetary matters. The Bureau endorsed a proposal of the IPPC Financial Committee to entertain in-depth reviews of the budget, once a year, with the purpose of improving IPPC's work plan and budget allocations. In preparation for CPM-15 (2020), the Bureau reviewed the agenda, the outline of the special topics sessions and the list of side sessions, with special attention to the preparation for the Ministerial Session to be held on 2 April 2020.

## 2 IPPC NETWORKS

### IPPC Regional Workshops for 2019

2.1. Seven IPPC regional workshops (RW) have been delivered over the last few months, and 248 participants from 139 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. This year, the Standards Committee and Implementation and Capacity Development Committee members were present in all regions. Nine Regional Plant Protection Organizations (RPPOs) from the seven regions played an active role and the participation of FAO offices was recorded in all regions.

### Technical Consultation among Regional Plant Protection Organizations

2.2. In the IPPC, the IPPC secretariat is mandated to convene a meeting of RPPOs to:

- a) promote the development and use of relevant international standards for phytosanitary measures; and
- b) encourage inter-regional cooperation in promoting harmonized phytosanitary measures for controlling pests and in preventing their spread and/or introduction.

2.3. The 31<sup>st</sup> TC-RPPOs is planned for 21-25 October in Abuja, Nigeria, hosted by the Inter African Phytosanitary Council (IAPSC) and the NPPO of Nigeria.

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

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

### 3 STANDARD SETTING

3.1. The Standard Setting Unit (SSU)<sup>3</sup> of the IPPC secretariat facilitates the standard setting procedure<sup>4</sup> that is overseen by the Standards Committee (SC)<sup>5</sup>. The standard setting work program<sup>6</sup> is available on the IPPC website.

#### November SC meeting

3.2. The SC will convene in FAO HQ from 11-15 November 2019. They will discuss draft standards that are currently under development and review the draft standards that have been revised, based on the second round of consultations. The agenda of the meeting is available on the IPPC website.<sup>7</sup>

#### Consultations on a draft CPM Recommendation and draft ISPMs

3.3. The CPM has established a procedure for the development of drafts which includes periods of consultation when contracting parties can review and provide suggestions on draft documents.

3.4. The 2019 consultation period on draft ISPMs started on 1 July and closed on 30 September. The following were circulated for comments:

a. First consultation

- Draft annex to ISPM 27:
  1. Diagnostic protocol for *Striga spp.* (2008-009)
- Draft annexes to ISPM 28:
  1. Draft PT: Irradiation treatment for *Bactrocera dorsalis* (2017-015)
  2. Draft PT: Cold treatment for *Ceratitidis capitata* on *Prunus avium*, *Prunus domestica* and *Prunus persica* (2017-022A)
  3. Draft PT: Cold treatment for *Bactrocera tryoni* on *Prunus avium*, *Prunus domestica* and *Prunus persica* (2017-022B)
  4. Draft PT: Cold treatment for *Ceratitidis capitata* on *Vitis vinifera* (2017-023A)
  5. Draft PT: Cold treatment for *Bactrocera tryoni* on *Vitis vinifera* (2017-023B)
  6. Draft PT: Irradiation treatment for *Bactrocera tau* (2017-025)
  7. Draft PT: Irradiation treatment for *Carposina Sasakii* (2017-026)
  8. Draft PT: Irradiation treatment for the genus *Anastrepha* (2017-031)

b. Second consultation

1. Draft 2018 Amendments to ISPM 5: Glossary of phytosanitary terms (1994-001)
2. Revision of ISPM 8: Determination of pest status in an area (2009-005)
3. Draft ISPM: Authorization of entities to perform phytosanitary actions (2014-002)
4. Draft ISPM: Requirements for the use of modified atmosphere treatments as phytosanitary measures (2014-006)

3.5. The 2019 consultation period on draft CPM Recommendations started on 1 July and closed on 30 August. The following were circulated for comments:

- Draft CPM Recommendation on safe provision of food and other aid to prevent the introduction of plant pests during an emergency situation (2018-026);

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<sup>3</sup> IPPC Secretariat Standard Setting Unit (SSU): <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/2463/>.

<sup>4</sup> Introduction to the standard setting process: <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/83835/>.

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

<sup>6</sup> List of topics for IPPC standards: <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/standards-setting/list-topics-ippc-standards/list>.

<sup>7</sup> Agenda of the 2019 November SC meeting: <https://www.ippc.int/events/event/640>.

- The draft ISPMs, draft CPM Recommendations and their compiled comments are posted on the IPPC website.<sup>8,9</sup>

## 4 IMPLEMENTATION AND CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

### IPPC Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE)

4.1. Regarding the conduct of PCEs, projects are currently on-going involving a PCE in Nicaragua and Sri Lanka. A project for conducting a PCE in Uzbekistan is closed, modules were not completed and a National Phytosanitary Capacity Building Strategy was not drafted. The IPPC secretariat continues to promote the PCE and several countries have expressed interest.

### IPPC Guides and training material

4.2. The IPPC Pest Free Areas Guide has been posted on the IPPC.<sup>10</sup> The IPPC International Symposium on Pest Free Area and Surveillance<sup>11</sup> is to convene on 28 October - 1 November, Shizuoka, Japan. The Symposium is an implementation and capacity development event with the main objectives to raise awareness of: (i) the international phytosanitary framework for pest free areas (PFAs) and pest surveillance; (ii) IPPC resources for implementing the IPPC and ISPMs with an emphasis on the PFA and pest surveillance; (iii) provide a platform for presenting and promoting specific PFA and pest surveillance initiative; (iv) generate ideas for national and global capacity development strategies on PFAs and pest surveillance, and reinforce partnerships and collaboration between CPs, RPPOs and different stakeholders at the national, regional and global levels.

4.3. The development of the IPPC Pest Status Guide has been initiated with the first meeting of the Working Group on 16-20 September 2019. The overall objective of the Pest Status Guide (2017-039) is to provide general guidance to national plant protection organizations and to support the implementation of ISPM 8: Determination of pest status in an area (2009-05). The Pest Status Guide will also address challenges identified in Implementation and Review and Support System (IRSS) surveys - including, the 2012 ISPM 8 Survey and the 2012 and 2016 IPPC General Surveys. The guide is to be finalized and published in 2020.

4.4. Future plans include the development of the implementation resource(s) for ISPM 15, subject to extra budgetary resources.

### Projects

4.5. Currently the IPPC secretariat is managing the following five projects:

1. Strengthening the capacity of developing contracting parties to implement the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC). In the framework of the FAO-China South-South Cooperation (SSC) Programme (China-funded, secretariat reports to donor);
2. European Commission support for implementation of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) (EC-funded, secretariat reports to donor);
3. Rolling out Systems Approach Globally - sharing tools for enhanced application of Systems Approach and market negotiation on plant pest risk (STDF-funded, secretariat reports to donor, IC is the project steering committee). A training for future facilitators on the use of Beyond Compliance Tools was completed and the project team is now working on the implementation of the trade cases to validate future facilitators;
4. Cooperation for development of the ePhyto Solution and implementation of the Convention and International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (Japan-funded, secretariat reports to donor);

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<sup>8</sup> Consultations for draft ISPMs: <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/standards-setting/member-consultation-draft-ispms/>.

<sup>9</sup> Consultations for draft CPM Recommendations: <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/governance/cpm/current-consultations-for-cpm-recommendations/>.

<sup>10</sup> Pest Free Area Guide - <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/capacity-development/guides-and-training-materials/>.

<sup>11</sup> IPPC International Symposium on Pest Free Area and Surveillance - <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/capacity-development/symposia/symposium-on-pfas-and-surveillance/#>.

5. The third cycle (2018-2020) of the IPPC Implementation Review and Support System (IRSS). (EC-funded, secretariat reports to donor).

4.6. Several new projects will be submitted to the IC in November 2019 to determine whether the projects are aligned with the IPPC strategic objectives, and have strategic value and a competitive advantage. These include the FAO COMESA project for Africa and two new EU projects (implementing IPPC, ISPMs and CPM Recommendations and another supporting pest outbreaks, commodity standards and ePhyto).

4.7. In November 2019, the IC will review phytosanitary projects that have an implementation or capacity development component. These will include projects the IPPC secretariat is involved with either for FAO backstopping or in a project management role, as well as any projects submitted in response to a call. It is hoped to glean valuable outputs from these projects and then promote them to enhance communication and encourage better use of the project outputs.

### **IC Sub-group on Implementation and Review Support System**

4.8. The IC Sub-group on Implementation and Review Support System (IRSS) oversees the IRSS activities and functions under the guidance of the IC.

4.9. A survey on pest free areas is being developed and hoped to be launched at the IPPC Symposium on Pest Free Areas and Surveillance at the end of October. As information on pest free areas has been a point of interest for SPS delegates, we will request the WTO-SPS Secretariat to help in disseminating the request to complete this survey.

4.10. A study on the delegation of NPPO functions in the context of third party authorization is currently being undertaken by the secretariat.

4.11. Two general surveys were conducted in 2012 and 2016 to identify the challenges faced by member countries in implementing the IPPC Convention, the ISPMs and the CPM-Recommendations (CPM Recommendations were included in General Survey II conducted in 2016): Currently, a comparative analysis of the results of both surveys is being undertaken.

4.12. IRSS surveys as data-collection instruments have been discussed, and the IPPC secretariat is looking for ways to enhance the response rate of surveys administered through the IRSS.

4.13. A system for monitoring and evaluation of the IPPC secretariat and the IPPC community is being built through collaboration with the Centre for Development Innovation, Wageningen University. A theory-of-change has been developed to track progress against the Strategic Framework 2020-2030, alongside an evaluation matrix. A study on national level monitoring and evaluation systems in the phytosanitary community will be undertaken to encourage countries to develop their own monitoring and evaluation systems.

### **IC Sub-group on Dispute Avoidance and Settlement (DAS)**

4.14. A call was made for members of the IC Sub-group on Dispute Avoidance and Settlement (DAS), however only two nominations were submitted, even after the deadline was extended and the call re-issued. The lack of interest in the IPPC Dispute Settlement Process was discussed at the SPG October 2019 meeting and the IPPC secretariat was requested to take no further action in the DAS work at this time. In regard to the current dispute, the CPM Bureau advised the IPPC secretariat to wait for a joint response from the two parties that are currently involved in resolving a dispute.

### **Web based phytosanitary resources**

4.15. The International Phytosanitary Portal (IPP: <http://www.ippc.int>) is being restructured by the IPPC secretariat, with input from the IC to reorganize technical resources such as guides and training materials, as well as links to related standards into the various components of a phytosanitary system. This is hoped to provide National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs) with more user-friendly access to all the tools they need to help implement the standards and CPM Recommendations. The IPPC secretariat is also calling for *Contributed Resources*, which are technical resources developed outside the auspices of the IPPC secretariat, but nonetheless useful. These

resources are also posted on the IPP after being reviewed by the IC to ensure that they are in line with the criteria developed by the IC. Guides and training materials, including contributed resources, can also be found on the following page: <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/capacity-development/guides-and-training-materials/>.

## **5 TRADE FACILITATION**

### **ePhyto**

5.1. The award winning ePhyto Solution project continues to make great strides. The ePhyto Solution Project, with partial funding from the STDF, has been recognized by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, as well as the Asian Development Bank for the innovative and positive trade facilitation effort the project embodies. As a result, the project received the 2019 Trade Facilitation Innovation Award from the Asia Pacific Trade Facilitation Forum in September. Following that event, ePhyto experts met with the Indian government NPPO, which subsequently began the on boarding process for ePhyto, followed by an intensive week of training in Sri Lanka to assist them as a pilot country in finalizing implementation of the GeNS, which is the internet-based system.

5.2. Approximately 40 additional countries are at some stage of participation in either the ePhyto Hub (the system that connects countries when they already have a national system) or the GeNS system. Since the end of June a number of training and implementation events have taken place. The first took place in the Caribbean region. This training focused on presenting and training attendees on the GeNS System. Following this event, a number of regional NPPOs began the on boarding process for ePhyto including Jamaica, Antigua and Barbuda, the Cayman Islands, Grenada, Guyana, and St. Lucia. Subsequent to this event, another regional workshop for the Pacific Plant Protection Organization was also held in Fiji with several countries beginning the on boarding process for the GeNS from that region, including Fiji, Papua New Guinea, and the Marshall Islands. Regional partner Samoa had already been a GeNS pilot country and is completing the on boarding process. There has been significant interest from other government's agencies and international organizations to investigate utilizing our solution for their certificates. These organizations include Codex, OIE, WCO and the International Maritime Organization. UNCEFACT has also approached the IPPC with strong interest in partnering on a specific project and will be presenting their ideas to the upcoming ESG meeting in November. Piloting is expected to take place later this year with veterinary certificate exchanges between Australia and New Zealand, as well as between Paraguay and Chile. The ePhyto Hub was specifically established in such a way as to facilitate the transmission of any type of certificate.

5.3. With regard to upcoming events, the IPPC has been invited to participate in an IMO eCertification working group on November 4 to familiarize that organization with the ePhyto Hub and GeNS. The Eurasian Economic Commission will be hosting an electronic certification seminar/workshop on 13-14 November in Moscow, and IPPC has been invited to participate. The ePhyto Steering Group will be meeting the week of 11 November in the Washington, D.C. area, with the participation of UNCEFACT Vice-Chair Harm Jan van Burg and Codex CCFICS Chair Erik Bosker. The following week there will be an Africa regional ePhyto workshop (co-funded by the IPPC and USDA APHIS) with 22 countries participating. To close the year, there will be a regional ePhyto workshop for the Middle East held in Egypt during the first week of December, as well as ESG/UNICC support for a Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation project in Morocco.

### **eCommerce**

5.4. Cross-border e-Commerce is expected to continue to grow and this means that there will be an increase in the volume and diversity of merchandise that is shipped internationally by mail or courier services. In order for the global plant protection framework to keep pace with this, NPPOs and regional plant protection organizations (RPPOs) should collaborate with other government agencies and stakeholders to monitor internet trade and to ensure that e-Commerce goods comply with relevant phytosanitary import requirements.

5.5. An e-Commerce action plan was noted by CPM-14 (2019) within the five-year investment plan of the IPPC secretariat – in relation to the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020-2030. Activities to be carried out during 2020-2030 would include: international communications, establishment of an

inter-agency network and the development of a joint inter-agency toolkit for the regulation and screening of e-Commerce and courier/postal pathways. The CPM-14 also endorsed the draft project work plan, however no resources were allocated. Canada committed to an in-kind contribution of a staff member, for two years, to work as a member of the IPPC secretariat's Implementation and Facilitation Unit, to advance the e-Commerce project and other CPM priorities that facilitate trade. However extra-budgetary resources would be required to fully implement this plan.

5.6. A Guide on e-Commerce (2017-039) is already included on the List of Implementation and Capacity Development Topics. CPM-14 (2019) noted topics for two ISPMs related to e-Commerce have also been included on the list of topics for IPPC standards. An informal network of e-Commerce experts will be formed to support this work.

### **Sea Containers Task Force (SCTF)**

5.7. The third meeting of the IPPC Sea Containers Task Force (SCTF) took place in Baltimore, United States on 23-27 September 2019. The main objective of the meeting was to review the SCTF's work since it was established in 2017; and to decide on a road map for developing recommendations for the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC) and the 2021 Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM-16) on the way forward to minimize the phytosanitary risks associated with the movement of sea containers. The meeting served as the venue to increase collaboration with the World Customs Organization (WCO) and International Maritime Organization (IMO). One of the outputs of the meeting, an IPPC Best practice guidelines on Measures to minimize pest contamination and a leaflet developed by the SCTF, will be posted on the IPP and made available to the stakeholders once approved by the IC during their November 2019 meeting. The results of the SCTF Questionnaire on Monitoring of Sea Container Cleanliness will also be made available in all official FAO languages on IPP.

## **6 INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF PLANT HEALTH (2020)**

6.1. 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 in accordance with Resolution A/RES/73/252 of the General Assembly of the United Nations. Supported by the IPPC community, the Government of Finland championed the proposal for the declaration of the International Year of Plant Health, which was proclaimed in December 2018 by consensus. The IPPC secretariat planned and delivered presentations on a number of occasions, including in IPPC regional workshops, and other relevant regional events and international conferences, such as the International Congress of Plant Pathology in Boston, amongst others.

6.2. The IPPC secretariat and the IYPH Steering Committee (StC) agreed to update the governance structure to include FAO relevant divisions in accordance with the mandate of the General Assembly of the United Nations and created the IYPH International Steering Committee (ISC), Technical Advisory Body (TAB) and secretariat to facilitate the implementation of the IYPH as per UNGA Resolution. The IYPH ISC is composed of seven representatives from the FAO Regions, representatives from the private sector and civil society and IYPH secretariat. The IYPH ISC has gathered four times in 2019 and plans to increase meeting frequency throughout 2020, to continue the facilitation of implementation. The IPPC secretariat delivered several key elements to kick-start the IYPH activities: a website, a get-started guide, an action plan, a visual identity and human-interest stories, amongst others. The IPPC secretariat is currently collaborating with the IYPH ISC and secretariat to gather momentum in view of the launch events that will take place in Rome and New York City, at FAO and UN Headquarters respectively, during the month of December.

## **7 INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

7.1. The IPPC secretariat collaborated with a number of international organizations to create synergy towards achieving common goals. An update on key partnerships is listed below.

7.2. The IPPC secretariat continues its collaboration with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) to implement a joint approach to minimize the phytosanitary risks associated with the movement of sea containers. In this regard, the ongoing work on the revision of the IMO inspection programmes for cargo transport units carrying dangerous goods to include criteria on sea containers



cleanliness, is to be conducted via participation of the IPPC secretariat in the relevant IMO correspondence group.

7.3. The secretariats of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and the World Customs Organization (WCO) entered into a three-year joint workplan. The workplan identifies seven major areas for bilateral cooperation.

7.4. COLEACP is currently translating 8 IPPC Guides into French as an in-kind contribution and is fully financing the implementation of a phytosanitary capacity evaluation (PCE) in Sierra Leone under the supervision of the IPPC secretariat.

7.5. The World Trade Organization (WTO), World Bank Group (WBG), CIHEAM, COPA-COGECA and International Seed Federation (ISF) are members of the International Year of Plant Health International Steering Committee (IYPH ISC) and actively contributing towards the implementation of the IYPH action plan.

7.6. The IPPC secretariat is taking part in the Biodiversity Liaison Group and in the UN Environment-led project on creating synergies among biodiversity-related conventions.

7.7. Cooperation with academia is on the rise in view of the IYPH and the new IPPC Strategic Framework for 2020-2030, which entails increased phytosanitary research coordination and work on plant health and climate change. Contacts were established with Euphresco, CIHEAM, CABI, the International Society for Plant Pathology, and the Universities of Bari, Firenze, Rome La Sapienza, Turin, Tuscia and York, among others.

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