



21 June 2018

(18-3906)

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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Original: English

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

The following communication, received on 20 June 2018, is being circulated at the request of the International Plant Protection Convention secretariat (IPPC).

This report provides an overview of the main activities of the IPPC secretariat since the last SPS Committee meeting in March 2018.

### 1 GOVERNANCE AND STRATEGIES

#### 1.1 CPM-13

1.1. The 13<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) was held in the FAO headquarters, Rome, Italy on 16-20 April 2018, with the highlights below:

- *Organized* a series of activities to showcase the 2018 IPPC annual theme "Plant Health and Environmental protection", including a keynote address delivered by Dr. Cristiana Paşca Palmer, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), as well as a Special Topic Session and an IPPC-CBD Joint Side Event on Plant Health and Environmental Protection.
- *Supported* the continuous effort for development of the IPPC Strategic Framework for 2020-2030, in particular by carrying out the extensive consultation among NPPOs and RPPOs as well as other international organizations.
- *Supported* the further development of the International Year of Plant Health (IYPH) initiative by agreeing the skeleton of IYPH programme events and their associated estimated costs, and encouraging Contracting Parties (CPs) to provide extra-budgetary contributions to enable promotional activities to be done.
- *Strengthened* the cooperation between standards setting and implementation by setting up the process for the Call for Topics "Standards and Implementation", and improving work of the Task Force on Call for Topics.
- *Adopted* five International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs), with two Diagnostic Protocols (DPs) noted, as well as the fruit fly standards harmonized, reorganized and approved.
- *Strengthened* the work on commodity and pathway specific ISPMs by developing the Terms of Reference for a focus group on this issue.
- *Supported* extensive application for the IPPC ePhyto solutions, establishment of the ePhyto Business Model, and development of a five-year plan for ePhyto.
- *Recognized* the Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency (CAHFSA) as an RPPO under Article IX of the IPPC, which is the 10<sup>th</sup> RPPO of the IPPC Community.

## 1.2 CPM Subsidiary Body of Standards Committee (SC)

1.2. The IPPC Standards Committee (SC) met on 14-18 May 2018 at FAO headquarters, Rome, Italy, with the highlights below:

- *Revised* four standards drafted by different expert groups in 2017 and approved all drafts for submission to the first consultation period (1 July-30 September 2018).
- *Approved* electronically six draft DPs to the DP notification period (i.e. adoption period) (1 July-15 August).

## 1.3 CPM Subsidiary Body of Standards Committee Working Group (SC-7)

1.3. The Standards Committee Working Group (SC-7) was held on 21-23 May 2018 at FAO headquarters, Rome, Italy, with the highlights below:

- *Revised* two draft standards and the comments from the first consultation period performed in 2017.
- *Approved* two draft ISPMs for second consultation period (1 July-30 September).

## 1.4 CPM Subsidiary Body of Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC)

1.4. The second meeting of the IPPC Implementation Capacity and Development Committee (IC) was held on 21-25 May 2018 at FAO headquarters, Rome, Italy, with the highlights below:

- *Discussed* thoroughly the governance and strategic directions of their work to ensure that the work is focused on the CPM priorities and that efficient, clear and transparent processes and procedures are in place.
- *Discussed* also a draft procedure manual for implementation and capacity development with the hope to have the first version approved in November 2018.
- *Agreed* to establish two new IC Sub-groups on Dispute Avoidance and Settlement and on the Implementation, Review and Support System (IRSS).
- *Recognized* the Sea Container Task Force (SCTF) as an IC Sub group.
- *Agreed* the oversight mechanism related to National Reporting Obligations.

## 2 IMPLEMENTATION AND CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

### 2.1 IPPC Regional Workshops for 2018

2.1. Seven IPPC Regional Workshops (RW) are being organized for Africa, Asia, Latin America, Near East and North Africa, Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia, Southwest Pacific and the Caribbean, in collaboration with FAO regional and sub-regional offices, regional plant protection organizations and different international organizations. The RW have three main objectives:

- *Strengthening* capacity on how to analyze draft ISPMs and to formulate productive comments.
- *Building* phytosanitary capacity and raising awareness on various activities of the IPPC community.
- *Exchanging* experiences and ideas at the regional level.

### 2.2 IPPC Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE)

2.2. The IPPC secretariat continues supporting contracting parties' capacity development through the application of the Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE) tool in three countries (Tunisia, Uzbekistan and Nicaragua) through different projects to develop national capacity development

strategies and action plans and review phytosanitary legislation in place in accordance with the project goals.

### **2.3 IPPC Guides on Pest Free Area and Risk Communication**

2.3. The IPPC secretariat continues working on the production of guides on Pest Free Areas and Pest Risk Communication with the involvement of phytosanitary experts from several FAO regions. The development of these technical resources is driven by gaps identified through the IPPC IRSS General Surveys of 2012-2013 and 2016, as well as the IPPC Framework for Standards and Implementation. They should be ready by the end of 2018.

### **2.4 IPPC National Reporting Obligations (NRO) Year: Regulated Pests Lists**

2.4. The focus of NRO activities by IPPC contracting parties in 2018 will be on creating, posting and updating regulated pests lists by NPPOs and IPPC Contact Points through the NRO Year of Regulated pest lists starting in April 2018. Activities of the IPPC secretariat will include: a distribution of the NRO newsletter (NROs UPDATE); one NRO training workshop for the countries of Eastern Europe and Central Asia to take place in September 2018 and one exercise during the IPPC 2018 Regional Workshops.

## **3 TRADE FACILITATION**

### **3.1 ePhyto**

3.1. The IPPC ePhyto Project Technical Committee (PTC)/ePhyto Steering Group (ESG) met during the week of 28 May in Dublin, Ireland. The PTC agreed that the ePhyto Hub is now open for business, meaning that interested IPPC Contracting Parties with the capacity to do so may now begin to integrate their existing national systems into the Hub. The PTC also presented the current status of the Generic National System (GeNS) by the United Nations International Computing Center (UNICC), and members provided significant input into what will be the final version for use in the GeNS pilot beginning in September. The intention is for the entire ePhyto Solution to be open for business by January 2019.

3.2. The PTC discussed a proposed short-term (five years) business model of the ePhyto, as well as the transition from an ePhyto project to an ePhyto operation. The overarching goal is to have a fully sustainable ePhyto operation by 2024, with a clear agreement that much remains to be done in order to arrive at that goal. A final business model will be presented to CPM-14 (2019) for approval.

### **3.2 eCommerce**

3.3. The IPPC is collaborating with the World Customs Organization (WCO) on activities related to eCommerce. The CPM Bureau is considering the development of a dedicated project on eCommerce provided financial resources could be mobilized.

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

3.4. The Sea Containers Task Force (SCTF) is implementing their multi-year and 2018 work plans to guide implementation of the Sea Container Complementary Action Plan for Assessing and Managing the Pest Threats Associated with Sea Containers. The SCTF and Complementary Action Plan aim to reduce the pest risks associated with sea containers and measure the impact of the IMO/ILO/UNECE Code of Practice for Packing of Cargo Transport Units (CTU Code) during the next five years, as well as to increase awareness of pest risks of sea containers and information to assist NPPOs better manage these risks.

## **4 INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF PLANT HEALTH (IYPH)**

4.1. The third meeting of the IPPC International Year of Plant Health Steering Committee (IPPC IYPH StC) was held on 23-25 April 2018, at FAO headquarters, Rome, Italy. The participants discussed the updates on actions to support IYPH Proclamation at UNGA, and IYPH Programme

Development in terms of financial support, partnership and communication and advocacy. The highlights of the meeting are as follows:

- *Developed* an IYPH information package in cooperation with the IPPC Secretariat and FAO.
- *Recognized* the International Seed Federation (ISF) as an official member of the IYPH StC.
- *Finalized* the stakeholder analysis to support the achievement of expected outcomes and outputs and the further development of the IYPH work programme.

## **5 INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

5.1. Mr. Jingyuan Xia, Secretary of the International Plant Protection Convention and Mr. Kunio Mikuriya, Secretary General of the World Customs Organization (WCO), signed an agreement to promote cooperation on matters of common interest to help facilitate the international trade of plants and plant products in a safe and efficient matter at the WCO Headquarters in Brussels on 19 June 2018. The areas where the two organizations will cooperate include, but are not limited to, electronic data exchange (ePhyto), eCommerce, Sea Containers, Single Window and Communication and Advocacy. In addition, the IPPC and WCO will establish a joint work plan with specified activities focused on advancing their common goals.

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