



## **THE IPPC IN 20 YEARS**

*PAPER SUBMITTED BY THE NETHERLANDS*

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A contribution to the discussion in the Strategic Planning Group October 2014 on the future of the “IPPC in 20 years”.

In the past 60 years the IPPC has significantly contributed to the reduction of the introduction and spread of plant pests and has played a big role in ensuring global food security and the protection of biodiversity. The IPPC can and should continue to play this important role in the future, but it is therefore important to look at global trends and developments that take place that may affect the position of the IPPC as the global international platform for plant health. The Strategic Planning Group is the right forum to have this discussion. The SPG should also consider how to take this process further. It is very appropriate that the SPG starts this discussion now, in view of the IPPC Strategic Framework that will end in 2019.

In its current Strategic Framework 2012 – 2019 the IPPC has defined its core function to:

- Enhance its contribution to the global food security agenda through new and updated standards aimed at preventing pest spread in trade;
- Active information exchange programmes related to communicating pest occurrence, outbreaks, and sharing of other critical pest information among countries;
- Enhance IPPC actions and measures aimed at safeguarding the environment, forests, and biodiversity against plant pests;
- Support the safe expansion of food and agricultural trade;
- The phytosanitary capacity of members through the assessment of NPPOs’ capacities and needs, and the subsequent development of prioritized assistance programmes;
- Actively review and support the broad implementation of IPPC and its standards through an Implementation Review and Support System;
- Implement cost-effective approaches to its work and adopt new approaches for prioritizing, monitoring and evaluating IPPC programmes and activities.
- Continuously explore possible additional roles of IPPC.

In principle these core functions will be also relevant for the next 20 years of the IPPC. But they should be looked at in the perspective of the fact that the world has changed significantly in the past and will likely change in the near future as well. Some trends and development, globally identified e.g. by FAO include:

- The growth of the world population towards 9 billion people. This raises important questions and challenges regarding how to ensure food security.
- An increased competition for natural resources which will also affect the global food production but it will also impact economic developments and biodiversity.
- Climate change and its impact on food production and biodiversity
- Science and technology innovations (e.g. in the area of plant health new detection methodologies and an increased use of electronic systems for collection and exchange of Phytosanitary data;
- globalization in economic trade on one hand but also more focus on regional cooperation/coalitions
- Increased disparity between different parts of the world in terms of economic status and development

Such developments and probably many others have an impact on the role of governments around the world including multilateral intergovernmental agreements such as the IPPC. In order to be able to fulfil its important role in the future the IPPC should investigate such trends and developments and should consider what the possible impacts are for the IPPC. Questions arise such as:

- To what extent can multilateral intergovernmental arrangements such as the IPPC be effective in addressing global developments, taking account the increasing pressures on available resources of governments/NPPOs.
- To what extent could other stakeholders (such as NGOs, industry) be more involved in policy development and decision making in the IPPC and also be given more responsibility for the protection against spread of pests, in order to make better use of resources outside of governments/NPPOs?
- How can the IPPC contribute to global developments such as the UN Post 2015 Development Agenda and the FAO developments. Could this also create opportunities to raise the profile of the IPPC and advocate its importance?
- What should be the core activities of the IPPC in the future. Do we want to continue with the development of sophisticated “high level” standards and should these standards be developed in the whole range of plant protection or should we focus more on specific areas (such as food security, biodiversity, specific pathways, pests or commodities?). And what does it mean in this context to pay more attention to implementation of standards.

In going through the exercise of a strategic discussion the IPPC might also look at similar developments that are taking place within our sister standard setting bodies Codex and OIE. It would be interesting to see what we can we learn from these organisations (and maybe others such as the CBD) regarding their role as international standard setting bodies.

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