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COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

Thirteenth Session
Rome, 16-20 April 2018
Report of the activities of the Standards Committee (SC)
Agenda item 10.1
Prepared by the IPPC Secretariat

I. Introduction

1. This report provides a record of the activities of the Standards Committee (SC) in 2017 as well as an insight into the work that is on the horizon for the SC and consequently for the contracting parties (CPs). Detailed reports supporting this information are available on the IPP¹.
2. The SC has again exceeded expectations with fifteen ISPMs adopted by CPM-12 (2017) and seven DPs adopted by the SC on behalf of the CPM. The SC has also recommended five ISPMs (including one phytosanitary treatment) for adoption by CPM-13 (2018). The SC has also been engaged in various other work, highlights are the discussions on improving the cooperation between the SC and the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC), the process and the criteria for the call for topics for standards and implementation, the use of new molecular technologies in diagnostics (e.g. NGS and the interpretation of its results) and the oversight of the ePhyto list of products. As part of the continuing process for the improvement of its procedures, the SC modified the timing for the DP notification period to avoid confusion when reporting the number of DPs adopted in a year by the SC on behalf of the CPM.
3. Progress in the SC's work on the development of ISPMs depends entirely on the commitment and technical input from experts from all regions of the world. This includes contracting parties, regional plant protection organizations, international organizations which all helped in the work on standards. The commitment of contracting parties to provide experts as members of the Standards Committee is

¹ Standard Setting web page: <https://www.ippc.int/core-activities/standards-setting>

essential for the functioning of the Committee and allows the IPPC fulfil its mission as the standard setting organization in plant health. In addition to the valuable comments received from CPs, regional plant protection organizations (RPPOs) and international organizations the SC has also utilized specific technical input from these organizations and help with organizing some of our meetings. The SC would also like to recognize the support from the CPs in providing SC members and experts to participate in the standard setting process.

4. This report highlights the significant input provided by the SC, technical panel and expert drafting group members and the stewards of draft ISPMs. Over 50 of the Over 80 topics on the *List of topics for IPPC standards* have progressed, and this has required considerable input from all involved, i.e. the IPPC Secretariat, the SC, technical panels, experts, CPs, RPPOs and other organizations.

5. The work of the Standards Committee depends entirely on the commitment and dedication of the staff of the Standard Setting Unit of the IPPC Secretariat. Their constant support for the work of the SC cannot be over appreciated. I would like to specifically emphasize that the SC would not be able to function without the professionalism and dedication of the IPPC Secretariat's Standard Setting Unit (SSU). In spite of a significant workload and resource constraints the SC continued to strive to meet the CPM expectations, but could not do this without their commitment and team work.

II. Contracting parties' support for the standard setting activities

6. As in the previous years, CPs and international organizations continued their support for the activities related to the IPPC standard setting.

7. Special thanks should be directed to countries that supported the standard setting-related meetings and for providing in-kind staff support for the Secretariat:

- Canada – for hosting and providing financial support for the meeting of the Expert Working Group (EWG) for the development of ISPM on the *Authorization of entities to perform phytosanitary actions* (2014-002)
- Viet Nam – for hosting the meeting of the EWG for the development of the Revision of ISPM 8 (*Determination of pest status in an area*) (2009-005)
- International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) – for hosting and co-funding the meeting of the Technical Panel on Phytosanitary Treatments (TPPT)
- France, New Zealand, USA and the IAEA for providing in-kind staff support for the Secretariat.
- Italy – for hosting the meeting of the Technical Panel for the Glossary (TPG).

8. We greatly value these contributions. We look forward to their continuation in the future and thank in advance those, who have already made such arrangements for 2018.

III. ISPMs adopted by Standards Committee on behalf of CPM and Specifications approved by the SC

9. The SC adopted the following seven diagnostic protocols (DPs) on behalf of the CPM in January and August 2017:

- 1) DP 18 (*Anguina* sp.) (2013-003), Annex to ISPM 27 (*Diagnostic protocols for regulated pests*)
- 2) DP 19 (*Sorghum halepense*) (2006-027), Annex to ISPM 27
- 3) DP 20 (*Dendroctonus ponderosae*) (2006-019), Annex to ISPM 27
- 4) DP 21 (*Candidatus Liberibacter solanacearum*) (2013-001), Annex to ISPM 27
- 5) DP 22 (*Fusarium circinatum*) (2006-021), Annex to ISPM 27
- 6) DP 23 (*Phytophthora ramorum*) (2004-013), Annex to ISPM 27

7) DP 24 (*Tomato spotted wilt virus, Impatiens necrotic spot virus and Watermelon silver mottle virus*) (2004-019), Annex to ISPM 27.

10. The SC approved the following specification enabling a call for experts and drafting of the standard to proceed:

8) Specification 66 (*Audit in phytosanitary context*) (2014-014), priority 2.

IV. Consultations

11. The draft ISPMs and DPs listed in this section have been considered and revised by the SC, the SC-7, the TPG, the TPDP or the TPPT.

12. The following nine draft ISPMs were submitted for consultation for the first time:

- 1) draft 2017 amendments to ISPM 5 (*Glossary of phytosanitary terms*) (1994-001)
- 2) draft ISPM on *International movement of cut flowers and foliage* (2008-005)
- 3) draft ISPM on *Requirements for the use of fumigation treatments as phytosanitary measure* (2014-004)
- 4) draft DP for *Bactrocera dorsalis* complex (2006-026), Annex to ISPM 27
- 5) draft DP for *Conotrachelus nenuphar* (2013-002), Annex to ISPM 27
- 6) draft DP for *Ips* spp. (2006-020), Annex to ISPM 27
- 7) draft DP for *Puccinia psidii* (2006-018), Annex to ISPM 27
- 8) draft Revision of DP 2: *Plum pox virus* (2016-007), Annex to ISPM 27
- 9) draft DP for *Xylella fastidiosa* (2004-024), Annex to ISPM 27.

13. The following four draft ISPMs were submitted for consultation for the second time:

- 1) draft 2015 and 2016 amendments to ISPM 5 (*Glossary of phytosanitary terms*) (1994-001)
- 2) draft revision of Annex 1 (Approved treatments associated with wood packaging material) and Annex 2 (The mark and its application) to ISPM 15 (*Regulation of wood packaging material in international trade*): inclusion of the phytosanitary treatment Sulphuryl fluoride fumigation and revision of the dielectric heating section (2006-010A&B)
- 3) draft Revision of ISPM 6 (*Surveillance*) (2009-004)
- 4) draft ISPM on *Requirements for the use of temperature treatments as phytosanitary measures* (2014-005).

14. Only one DP notification period², was opened this year – from 1 July to 15 August 2017. During that notification period³ CPs were notified of the following two draft DPs presented for adoption:

- 1) draft DP for *Phytophthora ramorum* (2004-013), Annex to ISPM 27
- 2) draft DP for *Tomato spotted wilt virus, Impatiens necrotic spot virus and Watermelon silver mottle virus* (2004-019), Annex to ISPM 27.

V. Recommendation of draft ISPMs to CPM-13 (2018) for adoption

15. The SC at its November 2017 meeting and via e-decision agreed that the following five draft ISPMs be recommended to CPM-13 (2018) for adoption (see also CPM 2018/03 and attachments):

- 1) draft 2015 and 2016 amendments to ISPM 5 (*Glossary of phytosanitary terms*) (1994-001)

² SC May 2017 report: <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/84388/>

³ DP notification period on the IPP: <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/standards-setting/notification-period-dps/>

- 2) draft Revision of Annex 1 (Approved treatments associated with wood packaging material) and Annex 2 (The mark and its application) to ISPM 15 (*Regulation of wood packaging material in international trade*): inclusion of the phytosanitary treatment Sulphuryl fluoride fumigation and revision of the dielectric heating section (2006-010A&B)
- 3) draft Revision of ISPM 6 (*Surveillance*) (2009-004)
- 4) draft ISPM on *Requirements for the use of temperature treatments as phytosanitary measures* (2014-005)
- 5) draft PT Heat treatment for *Bactrocera dorsalis* on *Carica papaya* (2009-109), Annex to ISPM 28 (*Phytosanitary treatments for regulated pests*).

VI. Other issues discussed by the SC

A. Concept of a Commodity Standard

16. In May 2017, the SC revised and approved the draft ISPM on the *International movement of cut flowers and foliage* (2008-005) for consultation and again in November the SC discussed major issues raised on this draft ISPM coming from the first consultation. Among those issues there were many diverse proposals on the way forward, e.g. to have an ISPM with specific requirements (commodity standard), make it a manual on PRA for cut flowers, to delete the topic from the IPPC List of topics, to revise the specification, or to change the draft into an annex to an adopted ISPM. The SC agreed to not to forward the draft to the SC-7 meeting in May 2018 and felt many of the issues were related to the concept already discussed as *commodity standards*.

17. In May and November 2017 the SC reviewed and revised the draft ISPM on *International movement of grain* (2008-007). The issues included whether to include a group of commodities or focus more the scope of the ISPMs, the possibility to base the ISPM on specific globally agreed requirements, inclusion of commodity pest lists in the ISPMs and possibility to establish requirements for importing countries. As many of the issues for this draft ISPM were of similar nature as those for the draft ISPM on the *International movement of cut flowers and foliage* (2008-005), the SC requested the Bureau to have an in-depth discussion on the conceptual challenges relating to the development of commodity ISPMs at CPM-13 (2018) in order to guide the SC in its further work on commodity standards. The SC agreed to develop a discussion paper (See Agenda 9.3, Conceptual challenges in standards development in terms of implementation) to facilitate this discussion, which would be based on the experience gained by the SC from their work on the development of both draft ISPMs.

B. Closer collaboration between SC and IC

18. In May 2017, the SC selected one member to participate in the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC) meetings, representing the SC. In addition, the SC is proposing modifications to the SC Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure to also allow a representative of the IC to participate in SC meetings. (See agenda 10.3).

19. The SC also designated two of its members to take part, along with two IC members, in the work of the focus group to develop the criteria for the call for topics: standards and implementation. (See agenda 9.1)

20. The SC continues to consider comments on potential implementation issues collected during the consultations of draft ISPMs and forwards to the IC for their consideration.

21. The SC believed that coordination of dates for the SC and IC meetings is necessary to facilitate for the participation of the SC and IC representatives in each other's meetings.

C. Draft Specifications

22. The SC at the November 2017 meeting considered the steward's responses to the consultation comments received, approved the draft specification *Audit in the phytosanitary context* (2015-014) and recommended the CPM change the priority from 2 to 1 as they agreed that the ISPM was urgently needed as audits are referred to in many other ISPMs. The SC did not have time to review the following draft specifications presented at the meeting would be subject to approval via SC e-decisions:

- For approval for consultation: draft specification on *Use of systems approaches in managing risks associated with the movement of wood commodities* (2015-004)
- For approval: draft specifications on: Revision of ISPM 12 (*Phytosanitary certificates*) (2015-011) and Supplement to ISPM 11 (*Pest risk analysis for quarantine pests*) on *Guidance on the concept of the likelihood of establishment component of a pest risk analysis for quarantine pests* (2015-010).

D. SC-7

23. The SC-7 considered the comments to the following four draft ISPMs, submitted during the 2015 or 2016 consultation:

- 1) draft 2015 and 2016 amendments to ISPM 5 (*Glossary of phytosanitary terms*) (1994-001)
- 2) draft Revision of Annex 1 (Approved treatments associated with wood packaging material) and Annex 2 (The mark and its application) to ISPM 15 (*Regulation of wood packaging material in international trade*): inclusion of the phytosanitary treatment Sulphuryl fluoride fumigation and revision of the dielectric heating section (2006-010A&B)
- 3) draft Revision of ISPM 6 (*Surveillance*) (2009-004)
- 4) draft ISPM on *Requirements for the use of temperature treatments as phytosanitary measures* (2014-005)

24. The SC-7 approved all four draft ISPMs for a second consultation.

E. Summary of e-Decisions

25. To expedite the development of ISPMs and the large number of draft DPs and PTs, and to decide other pending issues, the SC has been using decisions via electronic means (forums and polls).

26. This year the SC conducted the following 18 e-decisions:

- 1) six to approve draft DPs for consultation
- 2) four to approve draft specifications for ISPMs
- 3) two to approve responses to consultation comments
- 4) four to approve the selection of experts
- 5) one to approve responses to an objection and
- 6) one to agree to recommend a phytosanitary treatment to the CPM for adoption.

F. TPs & EWGs

27. The SC oversees the work of the technical panels and expert working groups (EWGs). A summary of their work is presented below.

Technical Panel for Diagnostic Protocols (TPDP)

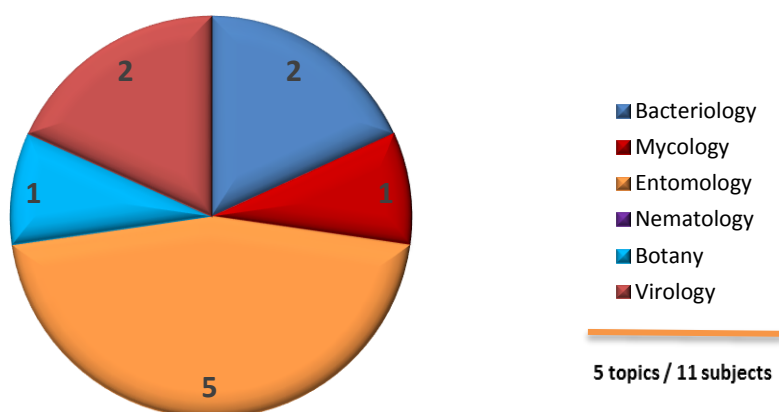
28. The TPDP⁴ is comprised of eight members⁵ and has a work programme with six disciplines or topics, and 11 draft DPs under various stages of development (See figure 1). All of the DPs on the List of topics for IPPC standards⁶ are drafted; however, one DP is pending the development of validated molecular tools for the identification of fruit fly larvae. The TPDP oversees the work of over 40 authors in various countries⁷, to help ensure quality and consistency of the DPs.

29. The number of draft DPs at various stages of development over the years is shown in figure 2. Thirteen draft DPs progressed in 2017 and in 2018, it is projected that ten draft DPs will flow through the standard setting process.

30. The TPDP's work programme was delivered through consultations (see section IV entitled Consultations, above) as well as six TPDP e-forums.

31. The TPDP held one face-to-face meeting in February 2017 in the FAO headquarters in Rome, Italy. The report from the meeting is available on the IPP⁸.

Figure 1: TPDP Work Programme (as of December 2017)



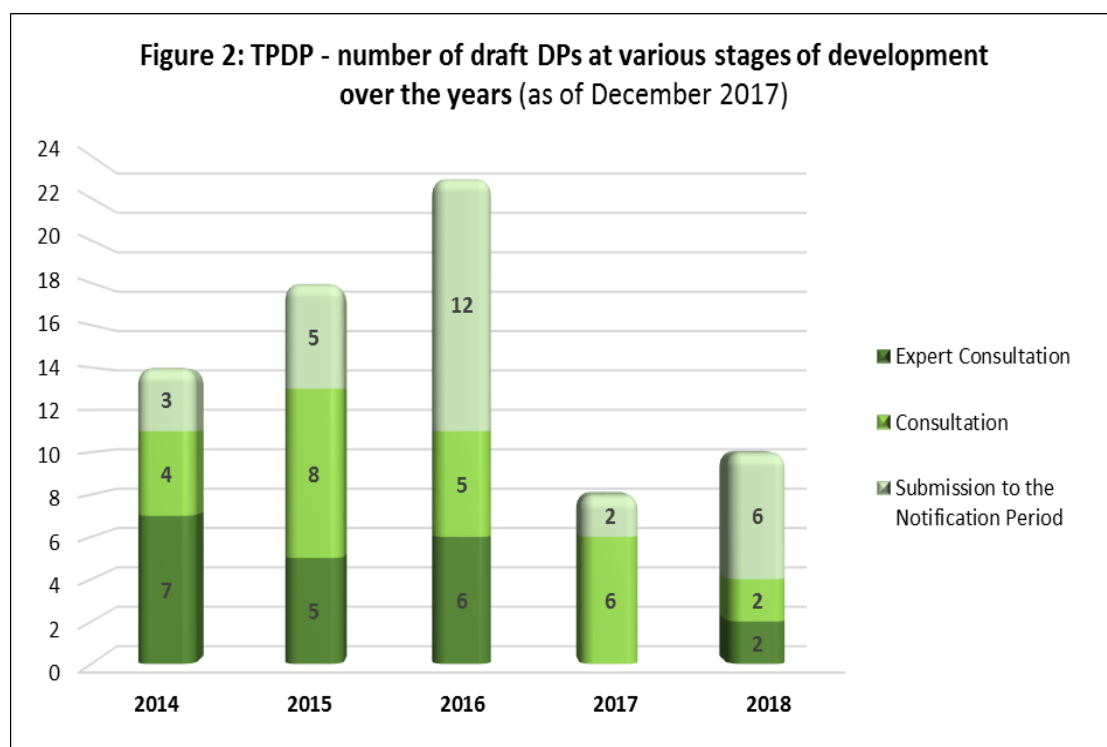
⁴ TPDP webpage: <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/standards-setting/expert-drafting-groups/technical-panels/technical-panel-diagnostic-protocols/>

⁵ TPDP membership list: <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/81560/>

⁹ List of topics for IPPC standards: <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/84405/>

⁷ IPPC DPs drafting groups: <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/2582/>

⁸ Reports of the TPDP meetings: <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/standards-setting/expert-drafting-groups/technical-panels/technical-panel-diagnostic-protocols/>



Technical Panel for Phytosanitary Treatments (TPPT)

32. The TPPT is composed of nine members⁹. The TPPT members are committed and engaged for the development of quality ISPMs and PTs that meet the requirements outlined in ISPM 28 (*Phytosanitary treatments for regulated pests*).

33. The TPPT work programme comprises two draft PTs and five draft ISPMs (on requirements for the following types of treatments: chemical, fumigation, irradiation, modified atmosphere, and temperature)¹⁰. One draft PT (Vapour heat treatment for *Bactrocera dorsalis* on *Carica papaya* (2009-109)) was awaiting additional research data. The TPPT reviewed the research data on their 2017 July meeting, revised the draft PT and recommended it for approval for adoption by CPM-13 (2018). To note that the other draft PT Heat treatment of wood using dielectric heating (2007-114) received an objection to its adoption prior to CPM-12 (2017) and the TPPT is still assessing the data supporting the objection.

34. This year the TPPT held one face-to-face meeting in July in Vienna, Austria, hosted by IAEA, and four virtual meetings (January, April, October and November). The reports from the meetings can be found on the IPP¹¹.

35. The IPPC Secretariat opened a call for phytosanitary treatments this year¹². CPs and RPPOs may submit phytosanitary treatments to be adopted as annexes to ISPM 28 or posted on the Phytosanitary Resources Page¹³ as contributed resources. The call remains open, so treatments can be submitted at any time. Submissions that arrived by 5 June 2017 were assessed by the TPPT at their face-

⁹ TPPT membership list: <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/81655/>

¹⁰ List of topics for IPPC standards: <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/standards-setting/list-topics-ippc-standards/>

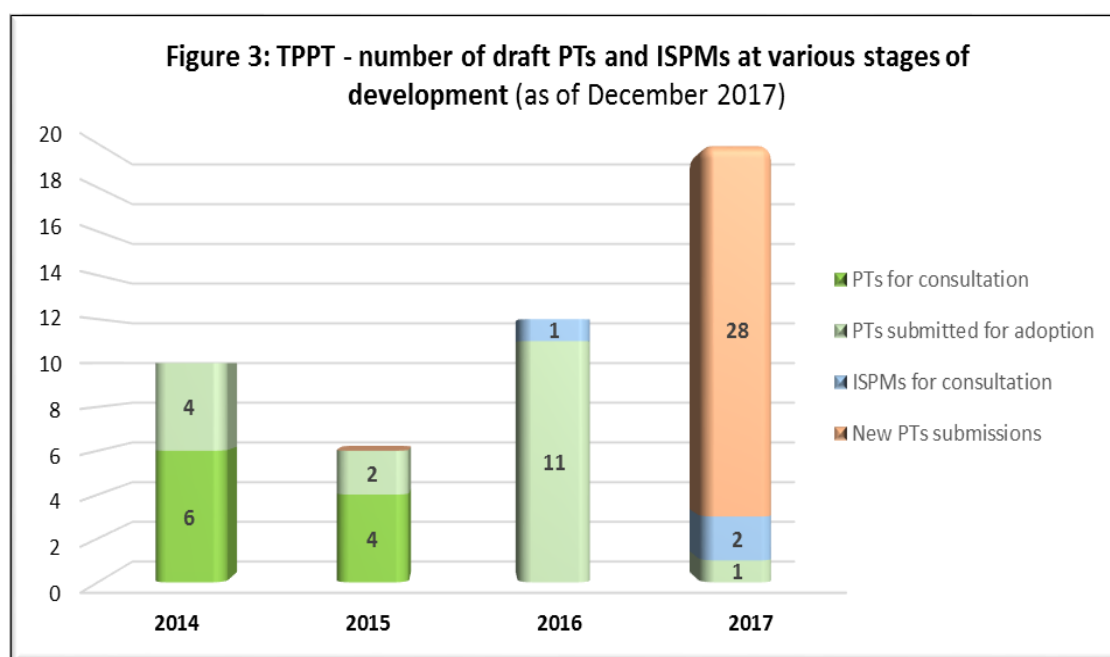
¹¹ Reports of the TPPT meetings: <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/standards-setting/expert-drafting-groups/technical-panels/technical-panel-phytosanitary-treatments/>

¹² Call for Phytosanitary Treatments: <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/standards-setting/calls-treatments/>

¹³ Phytosanitary Resources Page: <http://www.phytosanitary.info/>

to-face meetings This year 25 submissions¹⁴ were received prior to this date and another five submission have arrived during the remainder of the year. The assigned TPPT leads evaluated them against the *Criteria for justification and prioritization of proposed topics*¹⁵. Seven submissions were reviewed by the TPPT at the July 2017 meeting. The TPPT agreed to recommend them for inclusion in the work programme as eight subjects, since one of the submissions was split into two. The TPPT will continue the assessment of the submissions at their next meetings. The next cut-off date is 30 January 2018.

36. The number of draft PTs and draft ISPMs on the requirements of treatments as phytosanitary measures at various stages of development over the years is shown in figure 3. For the year of 2017 it also shows that 28 treatments submissions were received from the call for phytosanitary treatments but it is too early for forecast the numbers for 2018.



Technical Panel for Forest Quarantine (TPFQ)

37. The TPFQ is composed of eight members¹⁶ and deals with technical matters regarding quarantine issues relating to the pests of wood, wood packaging material and tree species. It also works closely with the TPPT in developing guidance related to treatments for wood commodities and ISPM 15 treatments. TPFQ's primary function is reviewing relevant technical and scientific information to provide guidance to the SC on development, amendment and revision of standards relating to forest quarantine. The TPFQ also provides input into the assessment of draft phytosanitary treatments for pests of tree species or wood, when requested by the SC.

38. One member of the TPFQ is also the Chairperson of International Forestry Research Group (IFQRG)¹⁷. IFQRG scientists, at no cost to the IPPC Secretariat, provide scientific and technical

¹⁴ Call for treatments and all submissions: <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/standards-setting/calls-treatments/>

¹⁵ Criteria for justification and prioritization of proposed topics: <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/2367/>

¹⁶ TPFQ membership: <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/1191/>

¹⁷ IFQRG website: <https://www.ippc.int/en/external-cooperation/organizations-page-in-ipp/internationalforestryquarantineresearchgroup/>

information resulting from analysis of complex phytosanitary issues and seek to address research needs identified by the TPFQ and the SC.

39. The TPFQ has worked virtually through two meetings (June and September)¹⁸ to provide input into the following:

- 1) draft Annex to ISPM 15 (*Regulation of wood packaging material in international trade*) on Criteria for treatments for wood packaging material in international trade (2006-010)
- 2) resolution of the objection to the adoption of the Heat treatment of wood using dielectric heating (2007-114), submitted to CPM-12 (2017).

Technical Panel on Pest free Areas and Systems Approaches for Fruit Flies (TPFF)

40. The TPFF did not have a meeting since 2015, when they proposed a reorganization of the suite of fruit fly ISPMs.

41. The reorganization is expected to increase consistency across the standards and allow minor technical updates, as necessary.

42. The reorganization was presented for noting by CPM-12 (2017), but no consensus was reached and the CPM agreed that a small group of countries would develop a revised proposal for the reorganization, which would then be presented to the SC for consideration. In November 2017, the SC discussed the revised proposal and agreed to present it to CPM-13 (2018) (See agenda 10.4).

Technical Panel for the Glossary (TPG)

43. The TPG is composed of nine experts¹⁹ with knowledge of phytosanitary systems who together represent all FAO languages.

44. The TPG held one face-to-face meeting in December 2017, hosted by FAO in Rome, where they reviewed consultation comments on the draft 2017 Amendments to the Glossary and modified the draft Amendments accordingly, as well as comments on one draft ISPM in relation to the use of terminology, consistency and translation issues that may affect the draft standard. The TPG discussed eleven Glossary terms and continued their work on general recommendations on consistency, which contains a list of terms published in the IPPC Style guide²⁰ that facilitate the drafting of standards.

45. There are currently 27 terms on the TPG work programme

EWG on the development of draft ISPM on Authorization of entities to perform phytosanitary actions (2014-002)

46. The meeting of the EWG for the development of ISPM on *Authorization of entities to perform phytosanitary actions* (2014-002) was held in Ottawa, Canada, in June 2017.

47. The topic was added to the *List of topics for IPPC standards* by CPM-9 (2014).

48. The draft standard provides a framework that enables NPPOs to develop and implement a programme for the authorization of entities to perform specific phytosanitary actions. The standard

¹⁸ Reports of the TPFQ: <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/standards-setting/expert-drafting-groups/technical-panels/technical-panel-forest-quarantine/>

¹⁹ TPG membership list: <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/8069/>

²⁰ The IPPC Style guide: https://www.ippc.int/static/media/files/publication/en/2016/02/IPPCStyleGuide_2016-02-11_vwpAclH.pdf

outlines the key requirements for the development of the authorization programme, the criteria for eligibility of entities to become authorized, and identifies the roles and responsibilities of the parties involved in an authorization programme. The standard also outlines types of audits and non-conformities. The EWG agreed that the possibility to authorize entities other than NPPOs to issue phytosanitary certificates should be excluded from the scope of this ISPM, in line with the IPPC and ISPM 7 (*Phytosanitary certification system*).

49. The draft ISPM on *Authorization of entities to perform phytosanitary actions* (2014-002) will be presented to the May 2018 SC meeting for approval for the first consultation.

EWG on the development of draft revision of ISPM 8 Determination of pest status in an area (2009-005)

50. The meeting of the EWG for the development of draft revision of ISPM 8 *Determination of pest status in an area* (2009-005) was held in Hanoi, Viet Nam, in September 2017.

51. The topic was added to the *List of topics for IPPC standards* by CPM-5 (2010). During the following years, countries raised several issues relevant for the determination of pest status in an area, which was later on reflected in the work of the EWG developing the revision.

52. The EWG agreed on the draft revision, which included the sources of information used to determine the status of pests, guidance on reliability of information sources, descriptions of the revised categories of pest statuses and the responsibilities of relevant NPPOs.

53. The draft revision of ISPM 8 *Determination of pest status in an area* (2009-005) will be presented to May 2018 SC meeting for approval for the first consultation.

54. The CPM is invited to:

- 1) *note* the Report on the activities of the Standards Committee in 2017.