

IRSS WEBINAR

The Story so Far

10 December 2021

The IPPC Implementation and Review Support System (IRSS) invites you to an interactive webinar on IRSS's journey, its milestones and impact on the plant health sector. During the webinar, key speakers will also share the wealth of studies, topics and materials currently available as well as chart a new pathway for a better and more sustainable IRSS that will benefit the IPPC community, national and regional plant protection organizations, governance bodies, contracting parties to the IPPC, and beyond.

Agenda

08:30 – 08:40: Opening remarks by Brent Larson, IFU Lead

08:40 – 09:00 : "Planting the seed:" Presentations

1. History of IRSS by Brent Larson, IFU Lead
2. EU Perspective: Investing in IRSS by Roman Vagner, Plant Health Administrator, European Commission and DG Health and Food Safety (SANTE)

09:00 – 09:20: "Bearing fruit:" Interviews

1. IRSS key achievements and milestones with Melanie Bateman, Crop Health Adviser, CABI
2. Impact of IRSS tools with Kyu-Ock Yim, Export Management Division, Animal and Plant Quarantine Agency of Rep. of Korea

09:20 – 09:40: "Continued growth:" Interview on ongoing IRSS work

1. Natalia Sherokolava, Consultant on Phytosanitary Diagnostic Protocols, FAO
2. Ringolds Arnitis, International Consultant on Phytosanitary Systems, FAO

09:40– 10:00: "Pruning:" Interview on next steps on IRSS and best practices

1. Descartes Koumba, IRSS Lead, IPPC Secretariat
2. Gaspar Avendano Perez, Technical Coordinator, OIE Observatory

10:00 – 10:20: Panel Q&A with speakers

10:20 – 10:30: Online survey: Participant feedback on the webinar

Closing remarks by Sarah Brunel, IFU Deputy Team Lead



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Brent Larson

Brent Larson is a Canadian national who began his career in 1989 with the Canadian federal department of agriculture, moving to the Canadian National Plant Protection Organization in 1991 where he gained experience in field work, setting plant protection policy and overseeing the delivery of phytosanitary programs across Canada. Later, he took on the role as the Canadian International Standards Officer and represented Canada in various international fora. He was a Working Group Member of the North American Plant Protection Organization's (NAPPO) and he was a member of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures' (CPM) Standards Committee. In 2002, he joined the IPPC Secretariat as the Standards Officer, facilitating the IPPC Standard Setting Process. In March 2018 he took on the role as the lead of the Implementation and Facilitation Unit (IFU), facilitating the implementation of ISPMs and coordinating phytosanitary capacity development activities. He represented the Standard Setting unit on the IRSS Triannual review group from its inception and later, as the IFU lead, helped establish governance processes to manage the IRSS and improve transparency and inclusiveness of the related decision-making processes.



Roman Vagner

Roman Vágner earned a degree in agricultural sciences at the Czech University of Life Sciences Prague in 1986. He began his professional career as a junior administrator for external plant quarantine at the National Plant Protection Organisation of the Czech Republic. Over the years, he held several positions within the NPPO, before eventually holding the position of the Head of the institution's Plant Quarantine Department. He left the Czech NPPO in 2006 to join the European Commission's Plant Health Unit in DG SANTE (Directorate-General for Health & Food Safety), where he has been working ever since. Among other duties, he also acts as the European Commission's IPPC desk officer.



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Melanie Bateman

Melanie Bateman is an entomologist based at the Centre for Agriculture and Bioscience International (CABI) Swiss Centre. She works with a wide range of stakeholders to promote sustainable consumption and production patterns, focusing on the sound management of plant pests and pesticides. She has previously worked for the Secretariat of the International Plant Protection Convention as well as the NSF Center for Integrated Pest Management on topics related to plant health. She is also a lecturer for a master's course on policy considerations for integrated crop management which is jointly organized by CABI, the University of Neuchatel and the Canton of Jura in Switzerland. This course introduces students from a wide range of countries and professions to the IPPC and other multilateral agreements related to agriculture, the environment and trade.



Descartes Koumba

Descartes Koumba Mouendou (Gabon) is an agricultural engineer specializing in plant production, with a background in environmental management. He worked in the plant production and protection department at the FAO Sub-Regional Office for Central Africa for five years. He joined the Implementation Facilitation Unit (IFU) of the IPPC Secretariat in 2019. Within the IPPC Secretariat, he is the Implementation Facilitation Officer in charge of coordination of the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC), which oversees the Implementation Review Support System (IRSS). Descartes is also the IPPC Secretariat lead for IRSS and coordinates the activities of the IC Sub-group on IRSS.



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Kyu-Ock Yim

Kyu-Ock was the Chairperson of the IPPC Commission on Phytosanitary Measures from 2014-2016, Vice Chair of the FAO International Year of Plant Health Steering Committee, and Chair of the APPPC Standing Committee for Plant Quarantine. Kyu-Ock was also chief organizer of the IPPC CPM-12, with the Republic of Korea as host country. She has been working in the NPPO of the Republic of Korea since 1999 and has been involved with the IPPC community since then, as well as for International organizations, bilateral cooperation, official development assistance projects, PRA for import, and research on plant pathology, among others. Kyu-Ock is currently a member of the IRSS IC Subgroup. She holds a Ph.D. in Plant Science from the University of California, Davis, USA, and has a master's and a bachelor's degree in Agricultural Science from Seoul National University.



Natalia Shekolova

Natalia is an expert on EPPO Panel on Diagnostics and Quality Assurance, a technical expert in plant quarantine of the National accreditation body, and representative of All-Russian Plant Quarantine Center in EUPHRESKO. She has been the Deputy Director and chief expert of the All-Russian Plant Quarantine Center since 2000. Her expertise include creating plant quarantine laboratories from zero level, practical application of laboratory methods for pest identification, implementation of relevant ISPMs, EPPO Standards, national legislation, quality control audits in the laboratories, and accreditation of laboratories and inspection bodies. From 1984-2000, she worked in the State Inspectorate for Plant Quarantine of Kyrgyzstan as entomologist, then head of the laboratory. From 2010-2020, Natalia participated in FAO and WB projects in strengthening the capacity of phytosanitary diagnostic and inspection services of Azerbaijan, Armenia, Uzbekistan. In 2013-2018, she was the EPPO Vice-Chairman. She graduated from Kyrgyz State University with a master's degree in biology in 1980.



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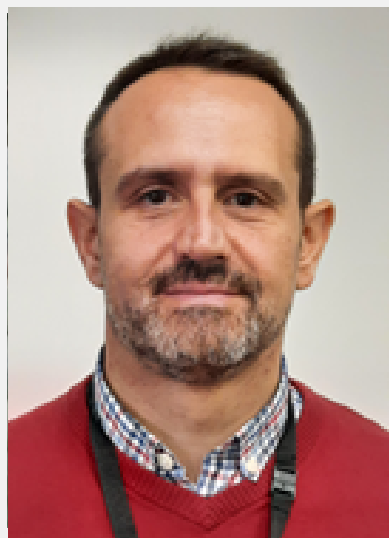
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Ringolds Arnitis

Ringolds is Chief advisor to the Director of the State Plant Protection Service of Latvia with a long theoretical and practical experience both at national and international level regarding plant health and protection systems. From 2000-2010, he was the Director of the State Plant Protection Service in Latvia. He is responsible for the creation and development of the phytosanitary system in Latvia including drafting legislation, building of new laboratories, training of personnel, implementing IT technologies, creation of surveillance and eradication programs, as well as export certification and import control. Ringold's international experience includes Director General of the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (2011-2013), representative of Latvia in ICPM/CPM (1999-2010), ICPM/CPM Standards Committee member (2002-2007), from 2009 has been working as international phytosanitary consultant and tutor in different FAO and other projects in Central Asia, East Europe, EU, Africa, Asia. Since 2021, Ringolds has been a Member of the CPM Implementation and Capacity Building Committee. In 1993, he graduated from the University of Agriculture of Latvia with a master's degree in agronomy and started to work in the State Plant Protection Service in 1993 as agronomist.



Gaspar Avendano

Gaspar Avendano qualified as a veterinarian in 2003 (Universidad de Murcia, Spain) and received his Ph.D. from the University of East Anglia (UK) in 2015. He has a background in public and animal health as well as market access policy. He currently works for the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) where his mission is to improve the monitoring of the implementation of OIE standards by contributing to the development of the OIE Observatory.



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Sarah Brunel

Sarah Brunel is a French engineer in Agriculture from ISARA-Lyon, she also holds a Master's Degree in International affairs from the Sorbonne University and another one in Anthropology from the French Museum of Natural History. She has 20 years of progressive national, regional and global experiences in plant protection, as well as environmental protection and capacity development. She authored over 50 publications in these fields. In her current position as Acting Officer in Charge of the Implementation Facilitation Unit within the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) Secretariat, she is in charge of the management of the unit including staffing, budgeting and resource mobilization, coordinating of implementation, facilitation and capacity development activities and of managing projects, including the IRSS project. She is the IPPC Secretariat lead for the new IPPC development agenda on "Strengthening Pest Outbreak Alert and Response Systems". She is also the IPPC focal point for the "One Health" FAO Programme Priority Area.



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