



THIRTY-SIXTH SESSION

TECHNICAL CONSULTATION AMONG REGIONAL PLANT PROTECTION ORGANIZATIONS

CONCLUSIONS AND DISCUSSIONS ABOUT IPPC REGIONAL WORKSHOPS

AGENDA ITEM 5.2

(Prepared by the IPPC Secretariat)

- [1] The International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) Regional Workshops are annual IPPC activities with objectives to analyse and prepare comments online for draft International Standards on Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs), to build phytosanitary capacity and raise awareness on various activities of the IPPC Community and provide a forum to exchange experiences and ideas on the regional level.
- [2] The seven 2024 IPPC regional workshops (RWs) were conducted in August and September and convened anywhere between three to five days, in-person or hybrid mode with an agenda that included the following:
 - 1. IPPC Secretariat updates.
 - 2. Discussion and formulation on draft International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs) for first and second consultation in the Online Commenting System (OCS).
 - 3. Phytosanitary capacity building to raise awareness about phytosanitary resources available for NPPOs in the IPPC community.
 - 4. Regional topics of interest and experiences, and
 - 5. an optional day for a field visit to laboratory and plant production facilities in the host country in.
- [3] The Secretariat involved the regional organizing committees to convene the IPPC regional workshops while the Online Commenting System (OCS) was open during the consultation period from July – September. The 2024 IPPC Regional Workshops delivered in Africa, Asia, Caribbean, Europe and Central Asia, Latin America, Near East and North Africa, and Southwest-Pacific, had 263 participants from 111 contracting parties and three territories attending the workshops (see Table 1 below).

Table 1: Attendance by number of participants and contracting parties for each of the seven regional workshops.

Regional Workshop hybrid and in-person	Number of Participants	Number of Contracting Parties
Africa	73	21
Asia	33	17
Caribbean	17	13
Europe and Central Asia	33	20
Latin America	47	19
Near East and North Africa	33	11
South Pacific	27	13*
Total	263	114

* Includes 3 territories

- [4] IPPC Regional Workshop organizing committees collaborated with the Secretariat to find a balance between addressing global and regional issues and solving logistical and funding peculiarities. Reports of these IPPC regional workshops are on the International Phytosanitary Portal (IPP).
- [5] The Secretariat held a debriefing meeting on 12 September 2024 and invited IPPC Secretariat leads and staff to give feedback on the results of the workshops. The preliminary responses in the RW survey indicated an overall satisfaction from participants on the 2024 IPPC regional workshops.
- [6] The success of the regional workshop was attributed to:
- (1) Active collaboration among regional organizing committees composed of the IPPC Secretariat, a representative from the Standards Committee (SC) and Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC), and co-organizers with representatives of RPPO(s), FAO regional and sub-regional offices, host country and any other relevant partner organizations supporting the workshop.
 - (2) Organizing committee members and participants were encouraged to make their best efforts to secure funding for regional workshop activities.
 - (3) The IPPC recognizes the Republic of Korea for its full financial and organizational contributions for the many years of sponsoring the Asia IPPC Regional Workshop
 - (4) This year the Secretariat provided \$165,000.00 to support the IPPC Regional Workshops
 - (5) The workshops comments on draft ISPMs were submitted through the Online Comment System and closed on 30 September 2024.

This summary report is given on observations and recommendations that could be used to improve the organization of future IPPC regional workshops.

[7] Financial support

The budget allocated in 2024 enabled the secretariat to support some costs for meeting facilities and supplies in the regional workshops. Regional organizing committees were encouraged to submit estimates for secretariat funding early, and as much as possible fund their own travel, interpretation, and report writers. Regions benefited by portioned expenses based on World Bank criteria for airfare, lodging and DSA for eligible workshop attendees. A suggestion was made to widen FAO communication channels early to establish Letters of Agreement with partners to support RW travel arrangements and financial assistance as needed, as some understood that funding comes only from the IPPC. Recognition

[8] Level of comments discussed

The Regions reporting in-person and hybrid meetings had lively rounds of comments submitted in the OCS and survey. Substantive in-person and virtual discussions about draft international standards met the objectives of the IPPC regional workshop.

[9] Regional workshops and OCS training

In terms of general discussion, the dates of the regional workshops accommodated the open period of OCS. Refresher OCS training was held to improve the participation of new contracting parties' representatives in the consultation process. Again, this year there may be more comments if the draft standards were presented in other languages.

[10] Knowledge sharing during the in person/hybrid workshop

With a general appreciation of the in-person or hybrid RWs, speakers were able to simultaneously share real-time screens with online viewers and in-person attendees.

[11] The IPPC regional workshops agenda

The global RW agenda was ambitious for a three-day meeting and was adapted by each region to ensure sufficient discussion and debate of primary topics on standards, recommendations and allow further review of implementation subjects. Scheduling additional days dedicated to in-depth conversations for important draft standards and implementation issues were welcomed.

[12] The IPPC regional workshops excelled in terms of deliverance, insight, and knowledge sharing related to International Day of Plant Health, draft standards and recommendations, and implementation subjects of interest such as eCommerce, ePhyto, and exercises for regional pest interests.

[13] **The IPPC Secretariat wishes to thank** Korea, Democratic Republic of Congo, Trinidad and Tobago, Armenia, Nicaragua, Morocco, and Fiji as gracious hosts, and to the seven IPPC Regional Workshop organizing committees for their unwavering support, energetic collaborations, and financial contributions to present the 2024 IPPC Regional Workshops annual event.

[14] The TC-RPPOs is invited to:

Note the update in this paper and discuss the role of RPPOs in coordinating the IPPC Regional Workshop organizing committees.