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The IPPC Standard Setting Process in a Nutshell

5.1 Prepared for the IPPC Regional Workshops 2025



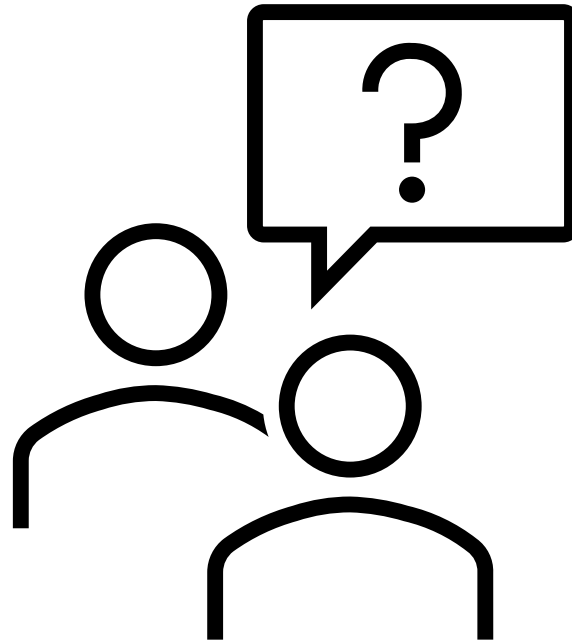
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Why set international standards?





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Why set international standards?



The aim of international standards is to harmonize phytosanitary measures.



Contracting parties have **access to a same, level playing field** upon which **all** can safely trade plants and plant products.



Facilitate **safe international trade**, protect the **environment** and ensure **food security**.



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Phytosanitary measures: basic principles



- Only when necessary
- No more restrictive than necessary
- Technical justification
- Minimal impact
- Non-discrimination (→Equivalence of phytosanitary measures)
- Transparency

ISPM1 - *Phytosanitary principles for the protection of plants and the application of phytosanitary measures in international trade* (adopted in 1993, revised in 2006)



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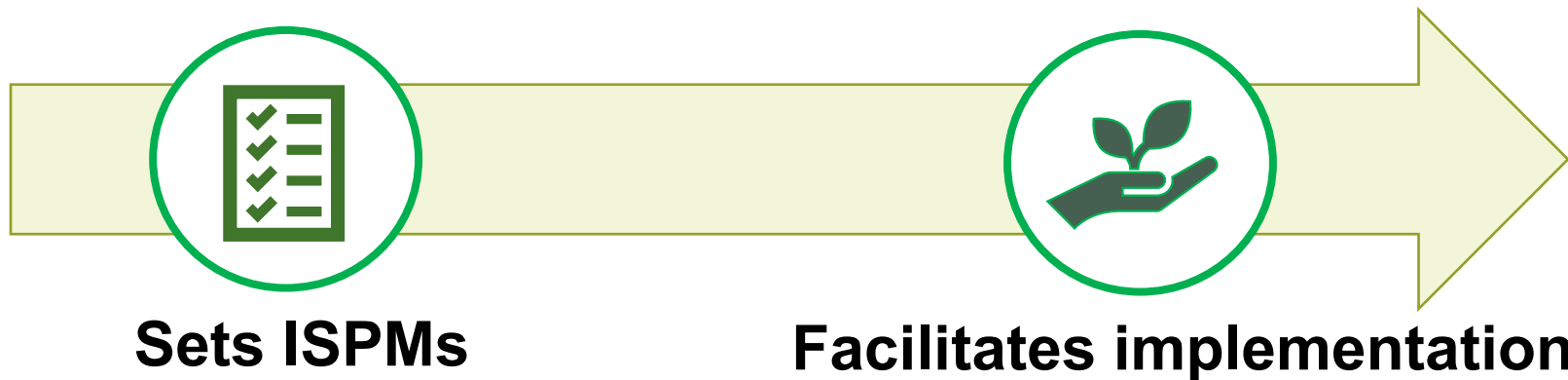


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In practice, what does the IPPC do?

- The IPPC develops International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs), CPM recommendations and facilitates their implementation to ensure food security, facilitate safe trade and reduce the risks to agriculture and biodiversity.





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The IPPC standards: International Standards on Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs)

KEY POINTS



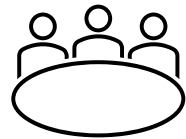
Subject matter experts develop ISPMs



The development of ISPMs are overseen by the CPM's Standards Committee



ISPMs undergo technical review during consultation period

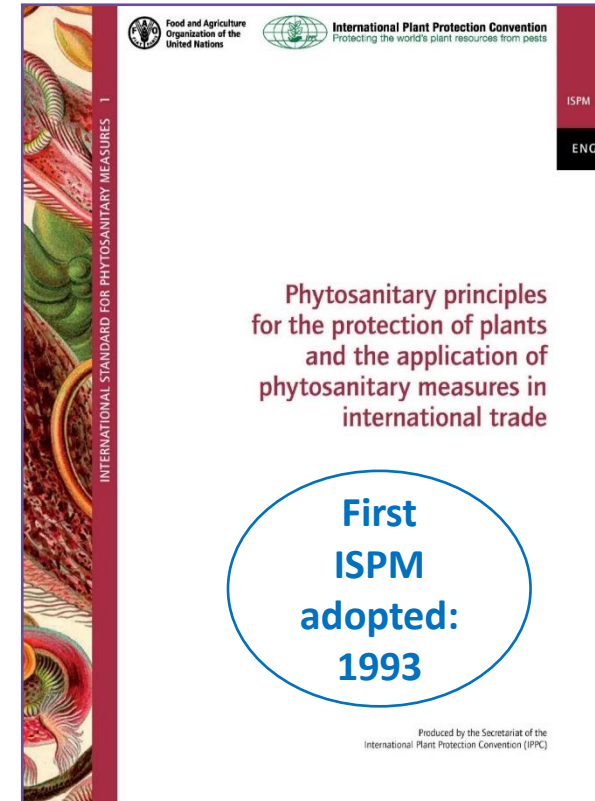
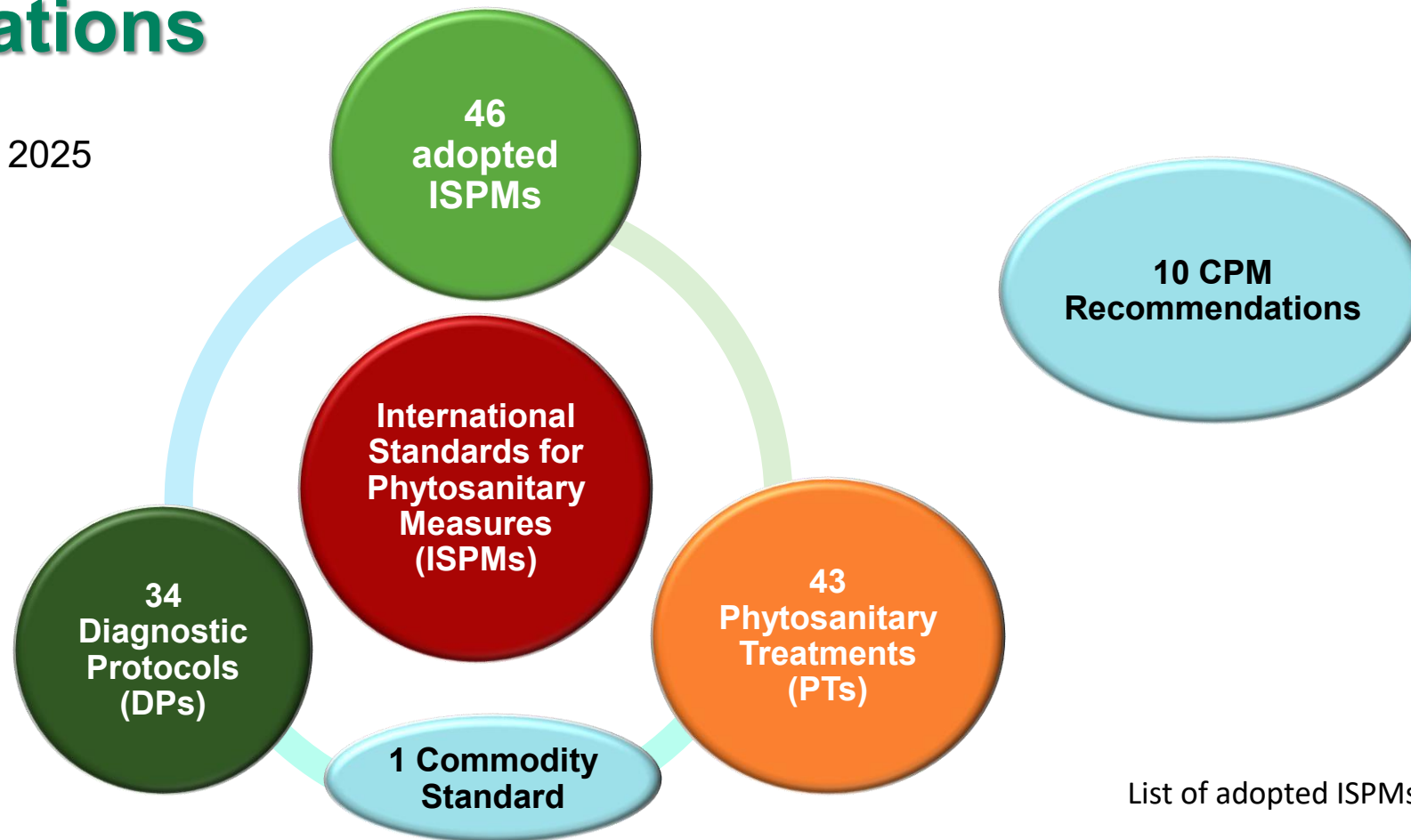


The Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) adopts ISPMs



ISPMs: The framework for phytosanitary systems and operations

As of March 2025



List of adopted ISPMs: <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/626/>



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International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs)

pest surveillance

phytosanitary certificates

pest free areas

glossary terms

pest reporting

pest risk analysis

export certification

diagnostic protocols

audit in the phytosanitary context

phytosanitary treatments

wood packaging material

commodity-specific standards

international movement of seeds

international movement of wood



CPM Recommendations

HTS technologies

E-commerce

Sea Containers

Safe provisions of humanitarian aid

IPPC coverage of aquatic
plants

Threats to biodiversity posed by
alien species



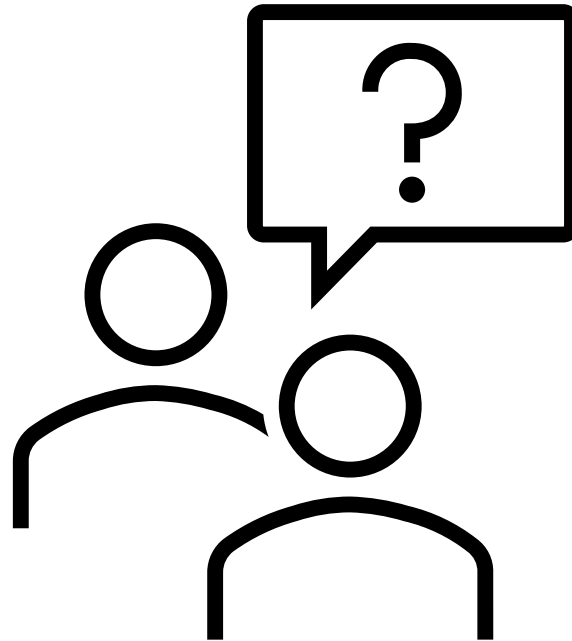
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How is the IPPC standard setting process works?





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Standards Committee (SC)



Consists of 25 members from each of the seven FAO regions



Oversees the IPPC Standard Setting Process



Manages the development of ISPMs



Provides guidance and oversight to the work of Expert Drafting Groups



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IPPC Standard Setting Process



**List of
topics**

(Stage 1)



**Drafting
standards**

(Stage 2)



**Consultation and
review**

(Stage 3)



**Adopting and
publication**

(Stage 4)



IPPC Standard Setting Process



List of topics

(Stage 1)



Drafting standards

(Stage 2)



Consultation and review

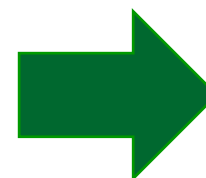
(Stage 3)



Adopting and publication

(Stage 4)

~ 6-8 years



✓ **T**ransparent process

✓ **I**nclusive process

✓ **P**articipatory - all
contracting parties can
participate in all steps



List of topics (LOT)

(Stage 1)

CPs and RPPOs

Submit topics

SC

Reviews topics submitted
Recommend priorities and
submit to CPM

CPM

Reviews, changes and
adopts List of topics
(LOT) for IPPC standards

Call for topics:
every 2 years

To submit the topics
for ISPMs

✓ Draft specification

✓ Literature review

✓ Justification

SC and CPM
review LOT
annually



Drafting standards

(Stage 2)

Development of a specification*

*subjects do not need specifications



Assigns a lead Steward and assistant(s) for each topic
Reviews draft Specification
Approves draft Specification for consultation period

Makes draft Specification publicly available

Solicits comments through Online Comment System (OCS) **90 days**
Comments received: compiles → makes publicly available → submits to
Steward and to SC for consideration

Revises and approves Specification

Makes Specification publicly available



Drafting standards

(Stage 2)

Preparation of a
draft ISPM

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Secretariat

Expert
Drafting
Group (EDG)
(EWG or TP)

SC

Issues call for experts – Nominations for EWG or TP members from NPPOs and RPPOs

Drafts or revises draft ISPM in accordance with Specification

Reviews draft ISPM at the meetings (for DP or PT, electronically)
Decides:

- to approve the ISPM for consultation
- to return it to Steward or EDG or
- to put it on hold



Consultation and review

(Stage 3)

**First
consultation
- 90 days**

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Secretariat

Draft ISPM approved by SC for 1st consultation → makes publicly available

Solicits comments through the Online Comment System (OCS)

Compiles comments and makes publicly available → submits to Steward for consideration

Steward

Reviews and prepares responses to comments + revises draft ISPM → submits to IPPC Secretariat

SC-7

Records responses to major issues in SC-7 meeting report

Approves draft ISPM for 2nd consultation

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Draft ISPM approved by SC for 2nd consultation → makes publicly available



Consultation and review

(Stage 3)

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Solicits comments through Online Comment System (OCS)

Compiles comments and makes publicly available → submits to Steward for consideration

Steward

Reviews and prepares responses to comments + revises draft ISPM → submits to IPPC Secretariat

SC

Reviews: comments + steward responses to comments + draft ISPM

Provides summary of the major issues discussed as part of SC meeting report

Recommends draft ISPM to CPM for adoption

Second
consultation
– 90 days



Adopting and publication

(Stage 4)

SC

recommends
draft ISPM to CPM
for adoption

Draft ISPM posted on
webpage of **CPM**
session

If **CP** does not support adoption
of draft ISPM → **OBJECTION**
(up to 3 weeks before CPM
session)



To submit an
objection

✓ Technical justification

✓ Suggestions for improvement

If no objection,
CPM adopts ISPMs
without discussion



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Adopting and publication

(Stage 4)



Adopted ISPM, PT or DP is made publicly available

Publication of an ISPM

CPs and **RPPOs** may form a **Language Review Group (LRG)** → proposes adjustments*
to translations of adopted ISPMs

*These adjustments are noted at next CPM session



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**List of
topics**

(Stage 1)



**Drafting
standards**

(Stage 2)



**Consultation and
review**

(Stage 3)



**Adopting and
publication**

(Stage 4)



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IPPC Standard Setting Process main steps and calendar

Submitting topics	Call for topics (every 2 years) *SC and CPM	Next call in 2025: May to August
Submitting phytosanitary treatments	Open call	Ongoing call (via IPP)
SC nominations	1 time per year	CPM sessions - Letter for nominations
Experts' nominations	Throughout the year	Call for experts: EWGs, Technical Panels, DP drafting groups (authors)
SC meetings	3 times per year	SC May, SC-7 (May) and SC November
Consultation period for draft Specifications and ISPMs (via OCS)	1 time per year (90 days)* *For draft DPs: 2 times per year	01 July – 30 September *For draft DPs: 30 January – 03 May
Consultation period for CPM Recommendations (via OCS)	1 time per year (90 days)	01 July – 30 September
Expert consultation on draft DPs	Throughout the year (at least 30 days)	(via IPP)
DP Notification period (adoption process for draft DPs) (via IPP)	2 times per year (45 days)	01 July – 15 August 05 January – 20 February
Adoption of ISPMs	1 time per year	CPM sessions



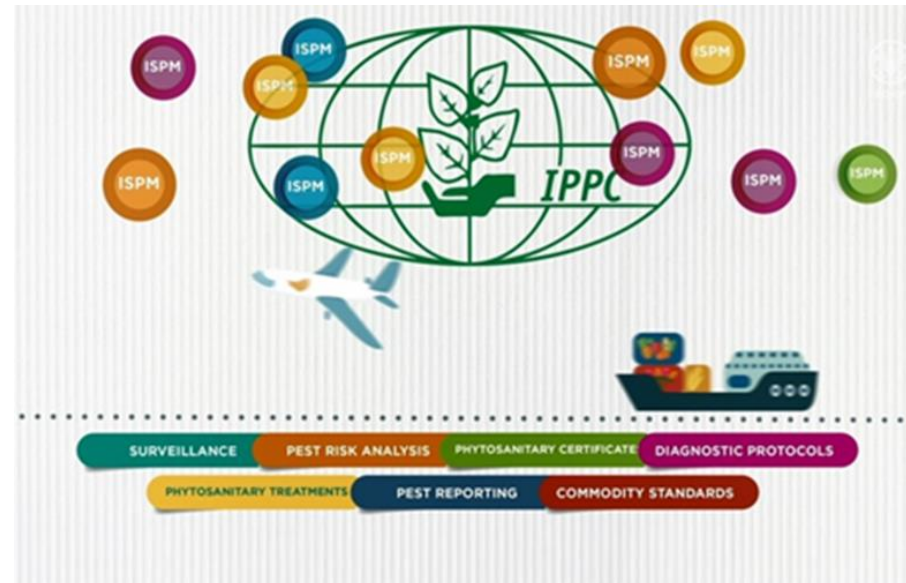
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VIDEO: Standard Setting Procedure: International Standards on Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs)



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W8zciLFG--8>





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Thank you

IPPC Secretariat

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