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International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) Regional Workshop for Africa (2024)



REPORT

20-23 August 2024, Kinshasa (DRC)

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1. Introduction

- [1] The International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) 2024 Regional Workshop was held from 20 to 23 August at the Memling Hotel in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The workshop was organized by the IPPC Secretariat in collaboration with the Inter-African Phytosanitary Council of the African Union (AU-IAPSC), the FAO Office in DRC and the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security of the DRC.
- [2] The theme of the 2024 IPPC Regional Workshops is "Plant Health, Safe Trade and Digital Technology".
- [3] Seventy-three (73) participants attended this important meeting, including 21 delegates representing the Contracting Parties, representatives of the Standards Committee (SC) and the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC), FAO offices, international and national organizations as well as civil society in the DRC.
- [4] The main objectives of the IPPC Regional Workshops (RAs) were to:
- 1) To provide a forum for countries in the region to prepare, analyse and discuss comments on draft ISPMs, International Standards on Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs) specifications, Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CMP) recommendations and draft implementation and capacity development documents.
 - 2) Strengthen phytosanitary capacities, promote technical resources to support the implementation of the IPPC and ISPMs, and raise awareness of the activities of the IPPC community; and
 - 3) Facilitate the exchange of information, the sharing of best phytosanitary practices and the dissemination of national and regional implementation experiences.
- [5] The Kinshasa 2024 regional workshop was a real innovation in the sense that it was the first IPPC workshop whose opening and closing were chaired by His Excellency the Minister in charge of Agriculture and Food Security, but also in which national actors of the phytosanitary system were invited to participate in the workshop.

2. Opening Ceremony

- [6] The opening ceremony was marked by three speeches.
- [7] Mr. Osama EL LISSY – IPPC Secretary recalled the key role of the IPPC regional workshops in reviewing and evaluating the recommendations of the CMP as well as ISPMs which are important tools to prevent the introduction and spread of plant pests that impact the region. He reaffirmed the need for collaboration at the regional level to fulfil the mandate of protecting plant resources and facilitating safe trade and thus reversing negative trends in plant pest statistics. The IPPC Secretary's opening remarks are available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AofOoxyHjJY&t=11s>
- [8] ONGONE OBAME Aristide, FAO Representative in the DRC, reaffirmed FAO's willingness to support the DRC authorities in the development of agriculture and initiatives contributing to plant protection. He drew attention to the fact that we are called upon to comply with international standards of phytosanitary measures if we are to avoid costly eradication and control interventions in the event of emergency parasitic epidemics in our regions and countries.
- [9] H.E. Mr. Grégoire MUTSHAIL MUTOMB, Minister of Agriculture stressed that with its 240 official entry points, and its strategic position in the center of Africa which allows it to share its borders with 9 other neighboring countries, the DRC gives a very important place of trade. Imports of plants, plant products and other regulated items are the preferred route for the introduction of pests that significantly affect the country's agricultural production, thus plunging many Congolese into a situation of food insecurity. He

added that like other nations, the Democratic Republic of Congo remains mobilized, through the Directorate of Plant Protection, in the face of the initiatives developed by the International Plant Protection Convention, for a more effective plant health that secures the country's production for the good of our farmers.

[10] The opening ceremony ended with the traditional group photo.

3. Organization of the Meeting

3.1. Election of the President and Rapporteurs:

[11] Professor Kalondji Adrien of the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences of the University of Kinshasa, DRC) was chosen as Chair of the meeting by the host country. Ms. Saholy Nomenjanahary RAMILIARIJAONA (Madagascar) and Louisa Delfin Mutsa MAKUMBE (Zimbabwe) were elected rapporteurs for the taking of notes in French and English respectively for the preparation of the workshop report.

3.2. Adoption of the meeting agenda

[12] The agenda of the meeting was adopted without amendments

3.3. List of participants

[13] The list of participants is attached to the report of the regional workshop in Annex 1.

4. Updates on governance and policy issues.

4.1. IPPC Secretariat update on communications

[14] The main points raised by this presentation concerned the IPPC Communication Strategy 2023-2030, recent communication milestones, publications, the new IPPC branding, the celebration of the International Day of Plant Health and the creation of the IPPC Regional Communication Network.

[15] The meeting highlighted the need for better coordination of information on social and scientific publications developed within the IPPC community.

4.2. CN Update

[16] The 2023 and 2024 activities were presented with a focus on the draft ISPMs approved by the Standards Committee (SC) for consultation in 2024 and the key outcomes of the November 2023 and May 2024 NC meetings.

[17] One contracting party stressed the need for CN to provide more precision between plant products and foodstuffs.

4.3. IC Update

[18] A presentation was made to inform the Africa region on the main activities of the Implementation and Capacity Building (IC) Committee and its contribution to the implementation of four of the development programmes of the IPPC Strategic Framework (2020-2030).

[19] The meeting was informed that regular consultation of the IPP website (www.ippc.int) is the preferred means of being informed of the activities of the IPPC as well as the calls for experts and other technical contributions requested from Contracting Parties.

[20] The meeting recognized the need for African countries to improve their participation in IPPC activities and appeals.

5. Update on CMP Focus Group Activities.

5.1. CPM Task Force on Climate Change and Phytosanitary Issues

- [21] The objective of this focus group is to develop and consult on the "IPPC Action Plan on the Impacts of Climate Change on Plant Health". The RA for Africa recognized the need to integrate climate change as one of the key elements of the ISPM revision.

5.2. CMP Sea Container

- [22] The work carried out by the Focus Group was presented with a focus on the complexity of the topic and the different options discussed to define the appropriate way forward in the effective management of pest risks associated with sea containers.
- [23] National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs) were invited to include sea containers in their national work plan and stressed the need to cooperate with exporters on the cleanliness of sea containers.

5.3. CMP Panel on the Safe Delivery of Food and Other Humanitarian Assistance (FGSA)

- [24] Considering that the safe provision of food and other humanitarian assistance could lead to pests that could have medium- and long-term impacts on the economy, the environment and communities, the objective of this panel is to identify options on how the IPPC community can manage the phytosanitary risks associated with the provision of food and other humanitarian assistance.
- [25] African countries were advised to closely follow the IPPC discussions on the provision of food and other humanitarian assistance as some of them are benefiting from humanitarian assistance. It was noted that the issue of using food aid as seeds to restore affected communities requires special attention.

6. Normative procedures and draft standards sent for consultation

6.1. Online Commenting System (OCS)

- [26] In addition to the OCS training provided by the IPPC Secretariat, a presentation on the SCO was made to refresh the knowledge and skills of the participants. The OCS presentation described the features of this tool and a step-by-step demonstration on how to navigate inside and submit feedback.
- [27] The discussion highlighted the need to significantly improve the participation of African countries in the IPPC consultation.
- [28] Participants were invited to advocate at the NPPO level (including the Head of NPPO) on the importance of national consultation and upon their return to their respective countries to organize a meeting to this effect.
- [29] Participants also agreed that there was a need to improve collaboration among NPPOs through better networking and that more practical and pragmatic solutions should be identified at the national level to improve input to the standard-setting process.

6.2. Standards Setting Process

- [30] The video representing the main steps in the IPPC development process was shown. The video is available at the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W8zciLFG--8>

6.3. Draft ISPM as part of the 1st consultation: draft Annex Field inspection (2021-018) to ISPM 23 (Guidelines for Inspection)

- [31] This Annex describes field inspections of plants produced for international trade and provides requirements for field inspections that are conducted by or on behalf of a NPPO as a stand-alone phytosanitary measure,

as a component of a systems approach, or in combination with one or more other measures, to verify compliance with phytosanitary requirements.

[32] Participants discussed and agreed to the following comments:

(a) Different views were expressed in the event that field inspection was to be made mandatory in the Annex to ISPM 23. Given the limitations of capacity and resources, there was consensus to implement an inspection based on import requirements and the results of the pest risk analysis.

(b) Countries requested that sampling guidelines for field inspection be recommended in order to harmonize inspection activities similar to the shipment sampling methods recorded in ISPM 31

(c) Delete the second part of the sentence Section 1: Principle of field inspection Paragraph 2: "The term 'pest' may refer to a single species or to several species" explaining the plant pest and thus avoiding a new definition that does not comply with ISPM 5.

d) That the NC reconsider whether "biology" of the pest could be replaced by "bioecology" in section 5. Other considerations for field inspection.

6.4. Draft ISPM under 1st consultation: Draft revision of ISPM 26 (Establishment of fruit fly (Tephritidae) free areas) (2021-010)

[33] The scope specifies what the standard should not apply to. If a country has declared the absence of a fruit fly in an area in accordance with ISPM 8 (Determination of the Status of a Pest in an Area), the establishment and maintenance of an AFP in accordance with this standard should not be required by importing countries, unless there is technical justification.

[34] Participants discussed and agreed to the following comments:

a) Section 7.1 approved the proposal for an annex containing information on how to examine a female to determine insemination or an explanation on how to assess this.

(b) Section 7.2 endorses the proposal to delete these criteria, as the determination of a reliable origin of the fruit fly species would depend on a comprehensive analysis of the genetic structure of the target fruit fly population throughout its range.

(c) Section 2.3 accepted the proposal to replace the host material with total harvest and proper disposal or treatment prior to removal.

(d) Section 2.3 agreed on a proposal to add measures, as the listed measures should be mutually exclusive. Actions may include:

- Phytosanitary treatment of host batches for export
- Cancellation of hospitality shipments from the affected area
- Disinfestation of guests
- Operation of roadblocks to prevent the movement of infested host products from the affected area to the rest of the fruit fly-free area.
- Additional trapping to ensure fruit flies are free

6.5. Draft ISPM Specification under Consultation: Draft Specification on the Revision of the Draft Reorganized ISPM for Pest Risk Analysis (2023-037)

[35] The completely revised and reorganized ISPM should define the basic principles and requirements of the PRA: determining whether an organism is a pest and assessing the risk of introduction and consequences under the IPPC.

[36] Participants discussed and agreed to the following comments:

- a) It should be clarified in the document that these requirements apply only to quarantine pests in lieu of "regulated pests" which takes into account regulated non-quarantine pests addressed in ISPM 21.
- b) In the PRA rationale, it helps define the pest and the conditions.
- c) Reconsider the use of "should" in this standard to avoid confusion in translated versions.
- d) The experts who will be involved in the working group must not belong to the organization mentioned.

6.6. Draft specification for the safe provision of food and other humanitarian assistance (2021-020)

[37] The draft specification describes the scope of the proposed ISPM. ISPM should provide guidance to NPPOs in donor, transit or recipient countries on the safe movement of aid.

[38] Participants discussed and agreed to the following comments:

- a) CN was asked to reconsider the applicability of this standard in certain situations such as civil war
- b) The drafting group was invited to provide additional guidance for carrying out phytosanitary certification in emergencies.
- c) Participants stressed the need to involve stakeholders from humanitarian donors, NGOs, WFP, FAO, etc. in the process of reviewing the draft ISPM.
- d) CN was asked to revise the French version of Task 7 to ensure consistency with the English version
- e) The participants were to raise awareness among the political authorities of the risks associated with humanitarian aid, especially when the NPPO is not involved in emergency management and humanitarian aid.

[39] Countries were strongly invited to submit their comments on the draft ISPMs in OCS before the end of the consultation period (30 September), allowing their views and concerns to be considered when considering the version of the standard that will then be adopted by the CMP.

7. Implementation and awareness-raising in FAO/RPPO activities

7.1. Collaborative efforts to control transboundary plant pests in the Southern African region: key achievements and lessons learned

[40] The presentation highlighted the development of regional systems and capacities for the early detection, accurate identification as well as effective, sustainable and coordinated management of these pests in the 16 SADC Member States. It was supported by the EU-funded project "Support for the operationalization of SADC's Regional Agricultural Policy (STOSAR) as well as the main achievements.

[41] FAO-SFS shared with the participants the main achievements and lessons learned in the implementation of the three Plant Health components of the project:

- Harmonized regional strategies for the control and management of transboundary crop pests and diseases.
- Coordinated control and management of transboundary plant pests and diseases at regional level.
- Capacity-building for plant pest and disease control at regional and national levels

7.2. African Phytosanitary Programme (ASP): Update

- [42] The presentation described the implementation of the African Phytosanitary Programme (ASP) (<https://www.ippc.int/en/about-app/>), the main objectives of which are to provide NPPOs with the capacity to intervene effectively and in a timely manner to control pests of regulatory, economic and environmental importance.
- [43] The APP, which started in 2023, is currently supporting and strengthening the capacities of 11 pilot African countries to conduct proactive plant pest surveillance, timely and adequate pest identification and diagnosis, and effective pest data collection, storage, and analysis.

7.3. Implementation of the APP in the pilot countries - the case of Kenya

- [44] KEPHIS, the NPPO of Kenya, one of the APP pilot countries, presented the main components of Kenya's APP operational work plan. This presentation provided an opportunity to appreciate the activities carried out within the framework of the PPA for the surveillance of priority pests for Kenya in the implementation of the PPA in the pilot phase (Banana Bunchy Top Virus, *Fusarium oxysporum f.sp. cubense* Tropical Race 4 and *Xyllela fastidiosa*) as well as the challenges related to the mobilization of resources to support trainings, Field data collection and laboratory diagnostics.

7.4. Implementation of the APP in the pilot countries - the case of Mali

- [45] The Office of Plant Protection of Mali presented the activities implemented under the PPA and shared its experiences on how this program has raised the profile of the NPPO at the national level. Mali has developed a five-year operational plan with a budget to work towards the development and implementation of a dynamic phytosanitary system so that it can improve food and nutrition security, livelihoods and trade, as well as the establishment of a sustainable financing mechanism for plant protection activities.

7.5. Harmonization of the phytosanitary legal framework in Central Africa

- [46] PRASAC shared information on the STDF project which aims to implement selected modules of the IPPC Phytosanitary Capacity Assessment (PCE) tool in the six CEMAC beneficiary states¹ and to update national phytosanitary legislative frameworks through harmonized regulation at the sub-regional level.
- [47] The direct effect of this project is the harmonization and strengthening of the legal and institutional framework as well as the pest control capacities of the CEMAC States in the phytosanitary field to facilitate trade in agricultural products and to participate fully in the international plant protection framework.

7.6. Fusarium TR4 in Africa

- [48] The presentation highlighted the important work carried out by the University of Stellenbosch to increase knowledge about TR4 fusarium and to strengthen the capacity to identify and monitor this fungal disease. This presentation detailed the economic and social impact of TR4, the status of propagation and data on the sensitivities of the different varieties of banana crops cultivated.
- [49] The discussion clarified that the University studied the genome to determine the origin of the pathogen, and this is the analysis that was carried out in Mayotte and Mozambique to determine the origin of the pest and the link of spread.
- [50] The lack of spread observed in some regions is not always due to a negative TR4 result from the surveys but to the lack of surveillance, so the most important thing is to carry out regular surveillance. FAOSTAT statistics are not always accurate, but these data are used to identify important banana production areas and where to focus studies.

¹ Central African Economic and Monetary Community

[51] Several training courses have been organized for the benefit of NPPO staff in Africa. However, NPPOs need to communicate with each other to improve the exchange of expertise.

[52] Countries were informed that the introduction of pests is not inevitable and that alternative solutions are possible, such as the use of resistant varieties, effective surveillance activities and collaboration with industry to reduce the risk of introduction.

7.7. Call for topics

[53] The presentation shared the main outcomes of the 2023 Call for Topics and reminded participants that the Call for Topics for Standards and Implementation is open every two years to address the phytosanitary issue of global importance.

[54] This is the main opportunity for IPPC stakeholders to propose topics for standards. The presentation also highlighted how using online submission helps streamline the process.

[55] African countries were invited to prepare the 2025 call for topics by involving technical and scientific institutions related to plant health and national stakeholders, to coordinate at the AU IAC regional level, and to invite African representatives to the IC and the NC to support the preparation of the African Contracting Parties' topic proposals.

8. Collaboration and partnership

8.1. Agricultural digitalization for the strategic contingencies of cassava viral diseases in the DRC

[56] The IITA presentation highlighted how mobile disease diagnostic applications are used to verify the presence, absence or quantification of pathogens as well as the importance of digitalization in agriculture with the practical case of cassava brown streak disease in DRC.

[57] The discussion raised the need to raise awareness in order to seriously combat the introduction and spread of plant pests with the support of digital tools.

8.2. CONAPAC

[58] CONAPAC (National Confederation of Farmers of Congo) is a national platform that brings together the provincial federations of agricultural producers in the DRC, which bring together more than 500,000 households representing farmers in 26 provinces. The platform advocated the need to take into account standards at the farmer level and implement agricultural production and processing standards.

[59] At the farmer level, CONAPAC noted that pest alerts are a concern because tools and resources are not available to control plant pests such as fruit flies.

8.3. COPAGEL

[60] Agricultural cooperative to support farmers in the value chain of seeds, maize, rice, soybeans and production and processing of 2000ha of maize and vegetables. This organization promotes agricultural interpenetration and supports farmers facing mine completion and mine pollution, the challenges of rural roads without access to bank loans.

8.4. COREP

[61] The PRC is a national committee that helps raise awareness about antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and the risks associated with pesticide overuse. The presentation highlighted the cyclical relationship between use in animals, plants and humans through food and water, highlighting the One Health approach.

- [62] The PRC highlighted the key role of raising awareness of AMR among farmers on the use of pesticides in agriculture to manage antimicrobial products, with humans being the end-user of all antimicrobials.

8.5. Médecins Du Monde (MDM)

- [63] International Medical Organization working on the One Health approach to positively influence human health and focusing on the use of pesticides in horticulture.
- [64] Efforts are also being made to assess the impact of pesticide use on horticulture and provide medical care to farmers and their families. The MDM organisation also campaigns for the security of horticulturists' land, which is constantly threatened by urban expansion.

8.6. Activities of the NPPO of the DRC

- [65] The NPPO of the DRC shared with its African counterparts, its structure and its main missions in plant protection and contribution to healthy trade. This presentation also highlighted the national operational action plan under the PPA as well as the surveillance activities of the 5 pests selected for the pilot phase.
- [66] The host country ended the presentation of the partners by appreciating the opportunity to introduce its partners, as they also play an important role in setting standards. He is grateful for their personal commitment to come and appreciate the setting of standards. This is reflected in their commitment to finance themselves and in their coming from very distant countries. The NPPO of the DRC encouraged other NPPOs to involve stakeholders in their engagements.

9. IPPC implementation: moving from ideas to action together

9.1. IPPC ePhyto Solution

- [67] The IPPC ePhyto is an abbreviation for "electronic phytosanitary certificate", which is the electronic equivalent of a paper certificate. Simply put, this is the data contained in a phytosanitary certificate in digital form and compliant with ISPM 12. The presentation highlighted the advantages of ePhyto over paper certificates as well as the increasing evolution of ePhyto's trade and registered countries around the world.
- [68] The discussion raised the need for more African countries to join the ePhyto solution and for the IPPC Secretariat, during discussions on the sustainable financing model, to continue to provide more information and training on ePhyto.

9.2. New IPPC Guides and e-learning courses

- [69] IPPC guides, e-learning courses and training kits provide information to support NPPOs in their work to implement the IPPC, ISPMs and CMP recommendations by supporting the development of national strategies, policies, legislation, SOPs, manuals and training programmes by developing phytosanitary capacities.
- [70] Recently, the IPPC published the following resources:
- Online Course on National Reporting Obligations
 - Online course on pest monitoring and status determination
 - Participation in the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures of the International Plant Protection Convention
 - E-commerce: A guide to managing the pest risk posed by goods ordered online and distributed through postal and courier channels

- Wood Packaging Material Regulation: Understanding the phytosanitary requirements for the movement of wood packaging material in international trade
- Emergency Preparedness: A Guide to Developing Contingency Plans for Quarantine Pests
- Banana Fusarium Tropical Race 4 (TR4) Prevention, Preparedness and Response Guidelines

[71] All of these training resources are available free of charge on the IPPC website:
<https://www.ippc.int/en/about/core-activities/capacity-development/guides-and-training-materials/>

9.3. Update on the TR4 Global Coordination

- [72] This presentation provided an overview of the activity-related role assigned by CPM-17 (2023) to the IPPC Secretariat in coordinating the global response to Fusarium Tropical Race 4 (TR4).
- [73] To ensure this coordination effectively, the IPPC Secretariat is working on the development of a resource mobilization plan as there are currently no funds available for this programme and on the development of public-private partnerships to advance the global coordination of TR4, as requested by the IPPC community.

9.4. Electronic Commerce Guide for Plants, Plant Products and Other Regulated Items in International Trade

- [74] The objective was to present the new IPPC Observatory study on e-commerce. This study is being conducted at an important time as e-commerce has grown exponentially over the past decade, which has had a significant impact on global trade.
- [75] Countries were invited to collaborate with relevant departments and institutions involved at the national level in e-trade in plants and plant products and to respond to the survey by the end of October 2024.
- [76] For more information on e-commerce, participants were invited to watch the video on e-commerce: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XDEaNfAZ2sM> and read the IPPC Guide to E-Commerce: <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc8209en>

9.5. Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCEs) and latest developments

- [77] The definition, procedure, access requirements and benefits of the IPPC phytosanitary capacity evaluation were clarified to the participants.
- [78] The ECP modules as well as the main results of the ECP modernization study were presented with a focus on their contribution to the ECP Strategy 2020-2030 and its 6 key result areas.

9.6. IPPC Commodity Standards

- [79] The presentation provided more information on the purpose of commodity standards, which aim to support the development of phytosanitary import requirements that are technically justified and facilitate safe trade.
- [80] The next key steps in this standard are:
- A webinar on IPPC product standards (Q1 2025)
 - First draft provisional commodity standard submitted for adoption: the first commodity-specific standard under ISPM 46: Draft Annex on the International Movement of Mangoes (*Mangifera indica*) to ISPM 46 (Commodity-Specific Standards for Phytosanitary Measures)
 - Second draft of the product standard presented for the first consultation: *pending the call for information materials and the meetings of the TPCS*

9.7. National reporting obligations

- [81] The purpose of the presentation was to remind countries of their commitments as Contracting Parties to the IPPC. The purpose of the NROs is to ensure that a minimum of official phytosanitary information is available to ensure safe trade, safeguard food security and protect the environment from plant pests.
- [82] This discussion was an opportunity to raise awareness that the Official Contact Point (PCO) is responsible for keeping his country's information on the PPI up to date. Application forms must be submitted to the IPPC Secretariat. Once appointed, the BCP has access to the IRP as well as editing rights to download and update all required reports.
- [83] In addition to the seven public obligations, contracting parties must fulfil bilateral obligations, which means that all CPs must make information available when required by another FP. All PCs have the right to request this information.

10. Field activities

- [84] The NPPO of the DRC offered participants a field visit to farms to observe strategies and management systems for plant pests such as fruit flies and *Tuta absoluta*.
- [85] The field activity was therefore an opportunity for the participants to observe and discuss with the managers of the DAIPN agricultural farm on diseases such as *Tuta absoluta* and bacterial wilt encountered in the production of tomatoes in greenhouses. This visit also allowed them to see the difficulties caused by the fruit fly on the mango.



11. Conclusion of the workshop

- [86] The Chair made general comments on the holding of the meeting and expressed appreciation for the quality of the discussions and highlighted the significant contributions of stakeholders, including invited stakeholders. He then presented the programme of the closing session of the regional workshop.

12. Evaluation of the workshop

- [87] Participants were invited to provide online feedback on the preparation and organization of the regional workshop in order to improve the future IPPC regional workshop. The link to the survey was shared via email and WhatsApp to meeting participants. :

https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=aMQ6Frir0ESB_dnbFeOvliIikqx5SIhCm-4MbcqocZIUNFhBM0s2TVNQQUU1WlhZVE5VNzhZMIJYUS4u

13. Dates and venue of the next regional workshop

- [88] After discussion and deliberation, participants agreed that the date for the IPPC Regional Workshop in 2025 has been set for **26-29 August**.

[89] Participants agreed that the host country for the IPPC Regional Workshop for Africa in August 2025 should be the **Republic of Congo** (Brazzaville) as Option 1 and Comoros as Option 2 in the event that Option 1 is unable to host the meeting.

[90] The Republic of Congo is cordially invited to launch preparations in collaboration with the IPPC, IASC and FAO as soon as possible in order to identify possible opportunities and challenges in advance.

14. Adoption of the report

[91] As usual, one of the facilitators presented the main decisions and recommendations of the workshop to the plenary for discussion and approval.

[92] The participants made the following recommendations:

To the IPPC Contracting Parties

- 1) The workshop took note of the achievements of the NC and IC and invited countries to contact African representatives in these bodies to obtain more information on their activities and thus better understand the issues related to the NC and IC work plan.
- 2) Africa's representatives to the NC and IC were requested to better coordinate the communication and information of their respective committees to the contracting parties, to regularly share the main outcomes of the NC and IC meetings, and to ensure effective coordination before and during the consultation period in the Africa region.
- 3) Participants were strongly encouraged to subscribe to the latest IPPC news and newsletter, to contribute to the work of the various IPPC committees and working groups, and to apply for calls for experts.
- 4) Countries were invited to revise their national phytosanitary legislation with tools such as Module 2 of the CEP to strengthen the missions of phytosanitary inspectors under the law and put in place legal provisions to allow inspectors to be sworn in.
- 5) Contracting Parties were invited to work closely with donors of food and humanitarian aid to mitigate the risks associated with donations of plants and plant products.
- 6) NPPO managers were urged not to "limit" NPPO activities to the sole responsibility of the official IPPC point of contact, but to assign certain NPPO tasks to different staff members by ensuring that IPPC information is received and implemented in a timely manner by ensuring that authorized staff have access to the OCS account.
- 7) NPPOs were invited to establish an appropriate mechanism at the national level to allow national stakeholders to provide input on the draft specifications and standards during the consultation period starting on 1 July and to ensure that the comments submitted reflect consensus with national stakeholders and not the opinion of the IPPC focal point alone.
- 8) Countries were invited to conduct the PCE to identify weaknesses in their national phytosanitary systems and assess their level of implementation of the IPPC and ISPMs adopted.
- 9) Countries were invited to liaise with Stellenbosch University to identify opportunities for staff training to conduct regular monitoring of *Fusarium FocTR4*.

At the IPPC Secretariat.

- 10) Participants recommended that the IPPC Secretariat, in addition to social media, promote epidemiological mapping on the emergence of different pests as a communication tool on plant health issues.
- 11) The meeting agreed that the IPPC Secretary could send a letter annually to the Ministers responsible for plant protection reminding them of the main deadlines and commitments expected from the NPPO, including the submission of comments during the consultation period.
- 12) Participants recommended that the mandate of the Marine Container Task Force be extended to continue this important work.
- 13) The meeting agreed that solutions to manage the risk associated with marine containers must be practical, efficient and cost-effective, as well as respectful of the environment and human health.
- 14) The meeting noted the willingness of the FPCC to provide technical and financial support for the participation of CEMAC countries in future IPPC regional workshops and expressed its deep appreciation for this.
- 15) Many countries have expressed interest in joining the IPPC ePhyto solution (such as Guinea-Bissau, Sierra Leone, Burundi, Mozambique, Mauritania...) and have requested support, advice and training from the IPPC Secretariat to this effect. Participants also highlighted the need to raise awareness among decision-makers and politicians about the ePhyto solution.

At the IAC-AU

- 16) The IASC-AU was asked to follow up with countries as soon as the consultation opened on 1 July to remind them to submit comments in the SCO.
- 17) The IASC-AU was requested to guarantee in advance each year the necessary resources to support the participation of African countries and the preparation of the host country for the organization of the IPPC Regional Workshop for Africa.
- 18) A regional initiative should be launched to organize face-to-face training on the SCO for NPPO staff involved in the submission of comments in the SPA.
- 19) Participants recommended that a capacity-building training programme on the identification of plant pest symptoms be developed and implemented.

[93] The final report will be sent to participants in English and French for review and comments, and the revised versions will be published on the IPPC website.

15. Closing of the workshop

[94] At the end of the four-day work of the regional workshop, His Excellency the Minister of Agriculture and Food Security personally thanked the participants for taking part in the work of the regional workshop despite the difficult global health context. He expressed appreciation for the quality of the exchanges with the hope that the revised standards will contribute to strengthening national and regional phytosanitary systems with an impact on production and food security.

[95] The Minister reaffirmed that the DRC would spare no effort to implement the various innovations in order to revitalize agricultural production and better ensure food security in line with the national policy which aims to make agriculture the spearhead against poverty.

- [96] The Minister also wanted to alert the phytosanitary community to the aggression suffered by his country, the Democratic Republic of Congo in the East, which is causing many innocent victims with a direct impact on agriculture and food security in the DRC.
- [97] He wished delegates a safe return to their respective countries and closed the sessions of the 2024 IPPC Regional Workshop for Africa.
- [98] This closing ceremony was also an opportunity for the symbolic delivery to the DRC of the digital tools of the Africa phytosanitary program.



Appendix 1 : List of Participants

No.	Country / Organization	Name of participant	Position/ address
1	Chad	OKALA born Neloumta MADIBE	Deputy Director of PV
2	Mauritania	Khattar BREIKA	Head of department
3	Sierra Leone	Sulaiman SANKOH	NPPO/ Senior Agric. Officer (DPV/MASA/RIM)
4	Central African Republic	Jocelin Parfait BAKONDJA	Director of Plant Health (MPD/MADR)
5	Madagascar	Saholy Nomenjanahary RAMILIARIJAONA	Director of PV/ MinAE
6	Malawi	David KAMANGIRA	Senior Deputy Director
7	Lesotho	Motlatsi Solomon MOLATELA	Lesotho
8	Guinea Bissau	Luis Antonio TAVARES	IPPC/ Cont Point
9	Mali	Halidou MOHOMODOU	IPPC/ Director General/PV
10	Cameroon	Edouard NYA	IPPC/ Head of Laboratory At. Analys Diag/ MINADER
11	Senegal	Papa Massar FALL	IPPC/Quarantine Officer (CAE)
12	Zambia	Diana Kapungwe TEACHES	SPHI
13	Zimbabwe	Louisa Delfin Mutsa MAKUMBE	NPPO/ Acting Head
14	Mozambique	Afonso SITOLE	Mozambique
15	Kenya	Florence Mutave MUNGUTI	Deputy Director Kephis Kenya
16	Burundi	Goreth ITANGISHAKA	Director of DVP Burundi
17	Cote d'Ivoire	N'guessan Gaston KOUASSI	Head of the Phytosanitary Controls Department (DPVCQ),
18	IC	Lucien KOUAME KONAN	Inspector/ Ministry. Agri
19	Comoros	Issa Mze HASSANI	Head of the start. DSPU
20	IC	Faith NDUNGE	Deputy Director IC Member
21	SC	Prudence Tonator ATTIPOE	SC member
22	FAO-SFS	Peter CHINWADA	Expert FAO
23	USDA	Andrea LOCKETT	Agricultural attache (USDA/APHIS)
24	South Africa	Mostert GLAUDINA	Researcher/Stellenbosch University
25	IPPC secretariat	Emmanuel Plarhar KRAH	FAO Consultant
26	IPPC Secretariat	Descartes KOUMBA MOUENDOU	Agricultural officer FAO HQ Rome, Italy
27	Gabon	EMBINGA ENGANDJI Eric	Advisor DG AGASA
28	Gabon	BIKET MEBIAME Shella	Director/ Risk Assessment/ AGASA/APRM)
29	PIGLET	ONDO-AZI Alain Serge	CSPV/ PRASAC/CEMAC
30	CPAC	Jeannot Ghislain MBOUROU	CPAC/CEMAC Director
31	RD Congo	Noelly MANTANTU	Communication SG/MINAGRI
32	RD Congo	Divine TENGE TENGE	Consultant/ Médecins du Monde
33	RD Congo	Aimé NKUNKU	Director/ National Occupational Health Program (Min Health)
34	RD Congo	Clément TENGE TENGE	Expert CD/ MINIDER
35	RD Congo	NABAMI NYEMBO Lydiane	PCA/ COOPAGEL
36	RD Congo	Doris EKOTA	MINAGRI
37	RD Congo	LONYOKOLA LIKAKA	DPTV/ AGI
38	RD Congo	MBOMBO SABWE Noella	Protocol / General Sec/ MINAGRI
39	RD Congo	Joseph MATABARO	Researcher/ MINAGRI
40	RD Congo	ILUMU NTAKU Jean	Direction Ago Industries/ DAI
41	RD Congo	MBOMA MBAKALA	Expert / MINAGRI

42	RD Congo	KABALA Godefroid	Expert / DPROTV
43	RD Congo	MAMBA MAMBA DAMASCUS	Director /DPROTV
44	RD Congo	Guy BUKAS MUSAS	Expert PRODAN
45	RD Congo	TSHISAMBU MAMBA	Delegate/ NPPO
46	RD Congo	Clerisse CABINGA	Plant Patologiste/ IITA
47	RD Congo	MAMBA THAMBO Reddy	Inspector/Plant Protection Officer (NPPO)
48	RD Congo	Justin CIGUGI	Head of Division (DPROV)
49	RD Congo	MUAMBA MUBILAY Stephane	Inspector (NPPO)
50	RD Congo	KAMBALA MALANGU Guy	Head of Office - DPROTV
51	RD Congo	MOSELI EPEPISA Constant	Head of Office - Phytosanitary Surveillance (CPROTV)
52	RD Congo	MY HEART	Head of Division (DPROTV)
53	RD Congo	NZAJI LUPELEKESE Benoit	Director/ MINAGRI- PNR
54	RD Congo	TSHIAMANINE NINA	NPPO Inspector
55	RD Congo	MULABA MPOYO JP	Director PROTV
56	RD Congo	BUSHABU BOPE Gauthier	Head of Office DPROV
57	RD Congo	MY NAME IS IN THE SPOTLIGHT	Expert DEP
58	RD Congo	LUMANGI KAMBAMBA Michel	ATB1/ DATAME (Agriculture)
59	RD Congo	TCHILOLO GINA	Director/PNBC
60	RD Congo	KIKONGO MAJIYA Germaine	Head of Office/ DPROTV
61	RD Congo	Christine META	Assistant Admin/HR- FAORDC
62	RD Congo	MABOBI Andrice	MINAGRI Press
63	RD Congo	SAKASAKA Francine	Protocol / General Dry/ MINAGRI
64	RD Congo	MOUDOUDOU Jean Blaise	Scientific Director CPAC/ CEMAC
65	RD Congo	Daudet NDAMBI	Ir Agronome/ ANAV Foundation
66	RD Congo	MUHANI MUSEREMU Norbert	CD DANTIC/ MINAGRI
67	RD Congo	Fabrice MALUMBA	Project Manager/ Caritas Kinshasa
68	RD Congo	MAONEO NYABALINDA	Expert/ MINAGRI
69	RD Congo	Bernard BUYAMBA	CP AGRISA
70	RD Congo	SANGA KETA BENITA	Protocol / General Dry/ MINAGRI
71	RD Congo	Gilbert TCHIMANGA	SB/ ANAPEX
72	RD Congo	Rosalie BYUMA	President/ FEPPAKIN/ CONAPAC
73	RD Congo	Joel MUKENDI	Laboratory Manager/ Plant Clinic

Appendix 2 : Agenda de l'Atelier Regional

No	Item	Presenter / Facilitator	Time (min.)	Document
Day 1 (Tuesday 20, August), morning / 8:30 AM participants registration				
Opening session : 9:00 am				
1	Opening of the Session		40	
1.1	Welcome remarks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Welcome and facilitation - IPPC Secretariat - FAOR DRC - AU-IAPSC - Minister of Agriculture DRC - Group photo 	Damascus Mamba Osama El- Lissy Aristide Ongone Sandrine Bayendi-Loudit H.E. Grégoire Mutshayi NPPO Communication		In-person Video In-person In-person In-person
2	Meeting Arrangements		15	
2.1	Election of the Chair and the Rapporteur	All	5	Chair /DRC Rapporteurs / AU
2.2	Adoption of the Agenda	All	10	Doc
3	Administrative Matters	FAO- DRC	25	
3.1	Participants list	Meta Christine	5	Doc
3.2	UNDSS Country security Briefing	Rayminor Hates	20	Presentation
4.	Updates on Governance and Strategic issues			
4.1	Governance and strategy (CPM, CPM Bureau)	Jan Venter	20	Presentation
4.2	Update from IPPC Secretariat on Communications (IDPH & Coms Networks)	Descartes Koumba	20	Presentation
4.3	Update from SC	Caution Attipoe	20	Presentation
4.4	Update from IC	Lucien Kouamé	20	Presentation
Day 1 (Tuesday 20, August), afternoon - 14:00- 17:00				
4.5	Getting In Touch About Strengthening Pest Outbreak and Response Systems (POARS)	Jan Venter	20	Presentation
4.6	Getting In Touch About CPM FG on Climate Change and Phytosanitary Issues	Faith Ndunge	20	Presentation

4.7	Getting In Touch About CPM FG on Sea Containers	Descartes Koumba	20	Presentation
4.8	Getting In Touch About CPM FG on Safe Provision of Food and Other Humanitarian Aid (FGSA) - Comments on the "safe aid pathway diagram"	Lucien Kouamé	30	Presentation + comments
5	Section 1: Discuss substantive comments on draft standards and recommendations			
5.0	Online Comments System (OCS) training	Emmanuel Krah	60	Presentation and practice
5.1	The IPPC standard setting process in a nutshell Link to video	Emmanuel Krah	10	Presentation
Day 2 (Wednesday 21, August) morning 08:30-12:30				
5.2	Draft ISPM under 1st Consultation: Draft annex Field inspection (2021-018) to ISPM 23 (Guidelines for inspection)	David Kamangira	50	Presentation and review of comments
5.3	Draft ISPM under 1st Consultation: Draft revision of ISPM 26 (Establishment of pest free areas for fruit flies (Tephritidae)) (2021-010)	David Kamangira	50	Presentation and review of comments
5.4	Draft ISPM under 1st Consultation: Draft on annex Design and use of systems approaches for phytosanitary certification of seeds (2018-009) to ISPM 38 (International movement of seeds)	Caution Attipoe	40	Presentation and review of comments
5.5	Draft ISPM under 2nd Consultation: Draft annex International Movement of Mango (Mangifera indica) Fruit (2021-011) to ISPM 46	Caution Attipoe	40	Presentation and review of comments
5.6	Draft ISPM under 2nd Consultation: Draft annex Use of systems approaches in managing the pest risks associated with the movement of wood (2015-004) to ISPM 39 (International movement of wood)	David Kamangira	30	Presentation and review of comments
Day 2 (Wednesday 21, August) afternoon 14:00- 17:00				
5.7	Draft Specification for ISPMs under consultation: - Draft specification on Revision of the draft reorganized pest risk analysis ISPM (2023-037)	Caution Attipoe	40	Presentation and review of comments
5.8	Draft Specification for ISPMs under consultation: - Draft Specification for Safe provision of food and other humanitarian aid (2021-020)	Lucien Kouamé	30	Presentation and review of comments
6	Section 2: Implementing and raising awareness in the framework of FAO/ RPPOs			
6.1	Regional FAO phytosanitary capacity development activities	Peter Chinwada	20	Presentation
6.2	Key plant health challenges in Southern Africa	Peter Chinwada	20	Presentation
6.3	AU- IAPSC activities in 2024	Sandrine Bayendi-Loudit	20	Presentation

6.4	Implementation of the Plant Health Strategy for Africa	Sandrine Bayendi-Loudit	20	Presentation + Doc
Day 3 (Thursday 22, August) morning 08:30-12:30				
6.5	Africa Phytosanitary Program (APP): Update	Descartes Koumba	20	Presentation
6.6	APP implementation in pilot countries - case of Kenya	Florence Munguti	20	Presentation
6.7	APP implementation in pilot countries - case of Mali	Halidou Mohomodou	20	Presentation
6.8	Harmonization of the phytosanitary legal framework in central Africa	Alain Ondo Azi	20	Presentation
6.9	Management of the Banana Fusarium TR4	Diane Mostert	20	
6.10	Phytosanitary Research Coordination project and survey	Joseph Mulema	20	
6.11	IPPC call for topics: lessons learned and future topic submissions	Emmanuel Krah	30	Presentation + Discussion future topics
6.12	NPPO of DRC and partnership and private sector 1. COPAGEL 2. CONAPAC 3. IFCO 4. INDIGO 5. MSF DRC 6. WFP CONGO 7. ENABLING		10 10 10 10 10 10 10	Brief presentations
Day 3 (Thursday 22, August), afternoon 14:30- 17:00				
6.13	Activities of the NPPO of DRC	Mamba Damas	20	
6.14	Questions and Answers on regional issues	Chair	30	Discussions
7	Section 3: Moving together from ideas to action			
7.1	The IPPC ePhyto Solution	Descartes Koumba	20	Presentation
7.2	New IPPC Guides and e-learning courses	Faith Ndunge	20	Presentation
7.3	Update on TR4 Global Coordination	Lucien Kouamé	20	Presentation
7.4	E-commerce Guide for plants, plant products and other regulated articles in international trade	Faith Ndunge	30	Video / Presentation
Day 4 (Friday 23, August), morning 08:30-12:30				
7.5	Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluations (PCE) and latest developments	Descartes Koumba	20	Presentation

7.6	IPPC commodity standards: - Key Principles Overview - Call for information material for new commodity standards	David Kamangira	20	Presentation
7.7	National Reporting Obligations	Faith Ndunge	20	Presentation
9	Conclusion of the workshop	Chair	5	
10	Online survey of the workshop	All participants	10	
11	Date and venue of the next regional workshop	Chair	5	
12	Adoption of the report (Decisions and recommendations only)	All participants	30	
13	Close of the meeting	Minister of Agriculture	20	
Day 4 (Friday 23, August): Afternoon 13:30 - 17:00				
6.15	Field activity to DAIPN, Centre des metiers and SAFARI beach: Visits to horticultural farms to observe the management of two plant pests (<i>Tuta absoluta</i> and fruit flies)	Coordinated by NPPO and FAO- DRC	150	Practice