



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



International  
Plant Protection  
Convention

# REPORT

## 2026 IPPC Regional Workshop for the Near East and North Africa (NENA) Region

*Under the theme*

*“The Importance of Plant Health in One  
Health”*

*Salalah, Oman | 8–11 September 2025*

**IPPC Secretariat**

The designations employed and the presentation of material in this information product do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) concerning the legal or development status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The mention of specific companies or products of manufacturers, whether or not these have been patented, does not imply that these have been endorsed or recommended by FAO in preference to others of a similar nature that are not mentioned.

The views expressed in this information product are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of FAO.

© FAO, [2025]



Some rights reserved. This work is made available under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 3.0 IGO licence (CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO; <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/igo/legalcode/legalcode>).

Under the terms of this licence, this work may be copied, redistributed and adapted for non-commercial purposes, provided that the work is appropriately cited. In any use of this work, there should be no suggestion that FAO endorses any specific organization, products or services. The use of the FAO logo is not permitted. If the work is adapted, then it must be licensed under the same or equivalent Creative Commons licence. If a translation of this work is created, it must include the following disclaimer along with the required citation: “This translation was not created by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). FAO is not responsible for the content or accuracy of this translation. The original English edition shall be the authoritative edition.

Disputes arising under the licence that cannot be settled amicably will be resolved by mediation and arbitration as described in Article 8 of the licence except as otherwise provided herein. The applicable mediation rules will be the mediation rules of the World Intellectual Property Organization <http://www.wipo.int/amc/en/mediation/rules> and any arbitration will be conducted in accordance with the Arbitration Rules of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL).

**Third-party materials.** Users wishing to reuse material from this work that is attributed to a third party, such as tables, figures or images, are responsible for determining whether permission is needed for that reuse and for obtaining permission from the copyright holder. The risk of claims resulting from infringement of any third-party-owned component in the work rests solely with the user.

**Sales, rights and licensing.** FAO information products are available on the FAO website ([www.fao.org/publications](http://www.fao.org/publications)) and can be purchased through [publications-sales@fao.org](mailto:publications-sales@fao.org). Requests for commercial use should be submitted via: [www.fao.org/contact-us/licence-request](http://www.fao.org/contact-us/licence-request). Queries regarding rights and licensing should be submitted to: [copyright@fao.org](mailto:copyright@fao.org)

## Contents

1. Introduction .....	5
2. The Objectives of the IPPC RW.....	5
3. Opening Of the Sessions .....	6
Welcome Remarks .....	6
Meeting Arrangements .....	8
4. Updates on Governance and Strategic Issues.....	8
4.1 Governance and strategy (CPM, CPM Bureau) .....	8
4.2: Update from the IPPC Secretariat on Communications and the 2025 IDPH .....	9
4.3 Updates from the Standards Committee (SC).....	10
4.4 Updates from the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC) .....	10
4.5 Communication on Enhancing Pest Outbreak and Response Systems (POARS) .....	11
4.6 Communication on the CPM Focus Group on Climate Change and Plant Health Issues ...	11
4.7 Communication on the CPM Focus Group on Sea Containers.....	12
4.8 Communication on the CPM Focus Group on the Safe Provision of Food and Other Humanitarian Aid .....	13
4.9 Communication on the CPM Focus Group on Global Coordination in Plant Health Research.....	13
4.10 Communication on the CPM Focus Group on Global Diagnostic Laboratory Networks..	14
4.11 Communication on the CPM Focus Group on Plant Health in the Context of the One Health Approach .....	14
5. Section 1: Discussion of Draft Standards and Recommendations.....	15
5.1 IPPC Standard Setting Process in Brief .....	15
5.2 Draft ISPM under First Consultation: Draft Annex on International Movement of Fresh Banana Fruit (Musa spp.) to ISPM 46.....	15
5.3 Draft ISPM under First Consultation: Proposed Annex on International Movement of Fresh Taro for Consumption to ISPM 46.....	16
5.4 Draft ISPM under Second Consultation: Draft Revision of ISPM 26 on the Establishment of Pest-Free Areas for Fruit Flies (Tephritidae).....	16
5.5 Draft ISPM under Second Consultation: Draft Annex on Field Inspection to ISPM 23 Guidelines for inspection .....	17
5.6 Draft ISPM Specifications under Consultation: Annex on Remote Audit Procedures to ISPM 47 Auditing in the Phytosanitary Context.....	17
5.7 Draft ISPM Specifications under Consultation: Revision of ISPM 12 Phytosanitary Certificates .....	18
5.8 Draft ISPM Specifications under Consultation: Revision of ISPM 23 Inspection Guidelines .....	18
5.9 Discussion on the Reconsideration of International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures .....	19
6. SECTION 2: Implementing and raising awareness in the framework of FAO/ RPPOs .....	19
6.1 Regional FAO Phytosanitary Capacity Development Activities.....	19

6.2 Activities of the Near East Plant Protection Organization (NEPPO) .....	21
6.3 Activities of the National Plant Protection Organization of Oman .....	22
6.4 Topics of interest for the NENA Region.....	22
6.5 IPPC call for topics: lessons learned and future topic submissions .....	24
6.6 Identification of regional IPPC implementation issues to be shared with the IC .....	25
7. Section 3: Moving together from ideas to action (facilitated session).....	25
7.1 The IPPC ePhyto Solution .....	25
7.2 IPPC Plant Health Campus .....	26
7.3 Update on Fusarium TR4 Global Coordination .....	27
7.4. IPPC Observatory Study on E-commerce and Phytosanitary Risks .....	28
7.5 Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluations (PCE) and latest developments .....	28
7.6. IPPC Observatory – the IPPC Third General Survey .....	29
7.7. IPPC Workshop on Systematic Approaches .....	30
7.8 National Reporting Obligations .....	30
7.9 Africa Phytosanitary Program (APP).....	31
8. IPPC In-kind contributions translation process: a collaborative approach.....	32
9. Sustainable Financing Mechanisms for IPPC RW NENA region: .....	33
10. Conclusion of the Workshop/ Date and Venue of the Next Meeting.....	34
11. Online Survey .....	34
12. Adoption of the Report.....	35
13. Closing of the meeting .....	35
14. Technical Visit .....	35
15. The workshop Materials .....	35
Recommendations of the 2026 IPPC RW – NENA region .....	36
Annexes:.....	38
• Annex 1: Agenda (Arabic and English) .....	38
• Annex 2: List oof Participants .....	38
• Annex 3: Comments on Draft ISPMs.....	38

## 1. Introduction

- [1] The IPPC regional workshops are among the most critical activities for standard-setting, implementation, and capacity development. More information, including objectives and reports, is available on the following link <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/capacity-development/regional-ippc-workshops/>
- [2] The 2025 IPPC Regional Workshop for the Near East and North Africa region was held from 8th to 11th of September 2025 in Salalah city, Oman.
- [3] The Workshop was organized in collaboration between the International Plant Protection Organization (IPPC), the FAO Regional Office for the Near East and North Africa (FAO-RNE), the FAO Sub-regional office for North Africa (SNE), the Near East Plant Protection Organization (NEPPO), and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Water Resources of Oman (MAFWR).
- [4] The workshop was co-funded by the IPPC Secretariat and FAO-RNE, with an in-kind contribution from the host country, Oman, specifically in support of the field visit.
- [5] The workshop gathered 45 participants representing 18 IPPC contracting parties (CPs) across the NENA, including Algeria, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, Yemen, and the UAE. In addition to the partner organizations, including FAO, NEPPO, and the IPPC Secretariat, as well as representatives from USDA/APHIS and members of the IPPC Implementation and Standards Committees (IC and SC) (**Annex 2**).
- [6] The meeting was considered a unique opportunity to update the IPPC contracted members on the current activities and achievements of FAO (including FAO projects in the region), IPPC, and NEPPO, and to gather opinions on activities, including standard-setting and implementation, as well as and capacity development committees.
- [7] In addition, the annual meeting is used as a tool for capacity development, training IPPC Official Contact Points on specific tools such as the Online Comment System (OCS) and the National Reporting Obligation (NRO), and other related issues, such as the evaluation of NPPO Different Activities.

## 2. The Objectives of the IPPC RW

- [8] The objective of IPPC RW 2025 in the NENA region is to build capacity in a range of areas related to IPPC. For the year 2025, the IPPC regional workshop for NENA focuses on “Importance of plant health within the framework of the One Health approach”.
- [9] In addition, the IPPC regional workshops are an opportunity for participants to acquire skills on how to analyze draft International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs) and provide productive

comments for draft ISPMs and recommendations for consultations in 2025, to build phytosanitary capacity and raise awareness of IPPC-related activities, and finally, to exchange experiences at the regional level.

- [10] Draft ISPMs and recommendations to be considered for comments have been announced on the International Phytosanitary Portal (IPP) on the first of July 2025 (those included first and second consultations):

<https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/standards-setting/member-consultation-draft-ispms/>

And on the Online Comment System (OCS) webpage at: <https://ocs-new.ippc.int/>

- [11] The IPPC Official Contact Points were also invited to consider the resource materials on the OCS at: <https://ippc.int/en/online-comment-system>.

### **3. Opening Of the Sessions**

#### **Welcome Remarks**

- [12] Mr. Abdulhakim El Waer, FAO Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for the Near East and North Africa, together with Mr. Ahmed bin Nasser Al Bakri, Undersecretary for Agriculture of Oman's Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources, and Ms. Shaza Omar, Phytosanitary Specialist, IPPC, and Mr. Ben Jamaa Mohamed Habib, Executive Director of the Near East Plant Protection Organization (NEPPO).
- [13] A keynote address delivered by Mr. Hamdan Al-Wahaibi, Director General of Agricultural Development, MAFWR, on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Wealth, and Water Resources of the Sultanate of Oman. He began by extending a warm welcome to all regional and international participants.
- [14] Mr. Hamdan stressed the critical importance of strengthening regional and international cooperation in plant health, noting that shared threats necessitate a unified approach across borders. He then underscored the paramount role of Plant Quarantine in Oman, highlighting its fundamental function in safeguarding national food security and protecting Oman's valuable biodiversity from invasive pests. Dr. Hamdan elaborated on the Ministry's proactive plans and programs designed to detect and combat the spread of agricultural pests effectively. He affirmed Oman's unwavering commitment to the ISPMs and actively supports key IPPC initiatives, including the ePhyto initiative for the electronic exchange of phytosanitary certificates, and the "One Health" approach that guides the sector's strategy. He concluded his remarks by extending sincere gratitude to Dr. Ahmed bin Nasser Al Bakri, the Undersecretary, for his generous sponsorship of the event. He offered his best wishes for the workshop's success in achieving all its objectives.

- [15] Dr. Abdulhakim El Waer welcomed participants to the 2025 IPPC NENA Regional Workshop, expressing appreciation to the Government of the Sultanate of Oman and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Water Resources for hosting and supporting the event in Salalah under the theme “*The Importance of Plant Health in the One Health Approach.*” He reaffirmed FAO’s commitment to promoting plant health as a cornerstone of food security, environmental sustainability, and resilient livelihoods. Dr. El Waer highlighted the growing interconnection between plant, animal, human, and ecological health and called for stronger coordination among national and regional actors to manage transboundary pest threats. He also drew attention to the humanitarian situation in Gaza, emphasizing FAO’s solidarity with affected communities and the need to ensure safe access to food and agricultural inputs. Concluding his remarks, he encouraged participants to translate the workshop discussions into concrete, collaborative actions that strengthen phytosanitary systems and contribute to achieving FAO’s “Four Betters”: Better Production, Better Nutrition, a Better Environment, and a Better Life.
- [16] In a speech via recorded video, Ms Beth Bechdol, the FAO Deputy Director-General, acknowledged the 2025 regional workshop's importance in advancing global food security and plant protection through the IPPC. The speaker affirmed that the IPPC is central to preventing pest spread, facilitating safe trade, and protecting biodiversity, emphasizing that regional workshops are crucial platforms for collaboration and capacity building. Given rising threats from climate change and global trade, participants' engagement is vital for reviewing draft ISPMs and discussing emerging topics like the ePhyto system and the One Health approach. Ms. Bechdol concluded by wishing the participants a productive and action-oriented session to shape the IPPC's future direction.
- [17] Ms. Shaza Omar from the IPPC Secretariat delivered an opening address, welcoming all attendees. She affirmed the paramount importance of the workshop, describing it as a vital opportunity to exchange expertise and strengthen collective regional efforts aimed at confronting shared challenges and risks in the field of plant health. Ms. Shaza also stressed the necessity of utilizing this event as a new and advanced step toward achieving greater practical cooperation and sustainable success in the region. Concluding her remarks, she extended sincere thanks and appreciation to the Host Country Oman for the excellent organization and hospitality, and to the organizing entities for their substantial efforts in making the workshop a success.
- [18] Mr. Thaer Yaseen, FAO Regional Plant Protection Officer, emphasized the workshop's role as a vital platform for coordination. “We are here to align our positions on draft international phytosanitary standards and reinforce collective action against shared plant health risks. This regional solidarity is more critical than ever in an era of increasing global trade and pest movement, Mr. Yaseen stated.
- [19] Mr. Mohamed Habib Ben Jamaa, the Executive Director of NEPPO, delivered a speech emphasizing the profound importance of the IPPC and the ISPMs. He highlighted that these standards are crucial for establishing technically justified phytosanitary measures that ensure safety without

creating unnecessary restrictions on international trade. Mr. Ben Jamaa then acknowledged the pivotal role of RPPOs in supporting the implementation of the IPPC framework. Moving forward, he reviewed the strategic directions and projects of NEPPO, notably mentioning the beginning of the process to develop regional standards tailored to the unique needs of the region. He pointed to the importance of the preparatory workshop organized by NEPPO for the NENA countries, stressing its vital role in training participants for effective and positive engagement in the ongoing regional workshop. He concluded his address by extending his sincere gratitude to all attendees and organizers for their commitment and participation.

## Meeting Arrangements

### • Election of Chair & the Rapporteur

[20] Mr. Abdul Hamid Al-Riyami (MAFWR, Oman) was elected as Chairperson of the workshop, and Mrs. Al-Ghalya Al-Rikhi (MAFWR, Oman) was elected as rapporteur from the hosting country, along with Mr. Ahmed Abdelmottaleb (IC member) of the workshop.

### • Adoption of the Agenda

[21] Mr. Dris Barik (Morocco) suggested adding an agenda item about preparing for the upcoming SPG meeting. The participants agreed to adopt the workshop agenda as presented by the Chair, with the addition of the suggested topic (**Annex 1**).

### • Administrative Matters

### • Participants list (*Annex 2*)

## 4. Updates on Governance and Strategic Issues

### 4.1 Governance and strategy (CPM, CPM Bureau)

[22] Mr. Dris Barik, a member of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) Bureau, delivered a detailed presentation on the current state of IPPC Governance and its strategic achievements, emphasizing the Convention's core mandate and recent operational successes.

[23] The presentation reaffirmed the IPPC's mission as an intergovernmental treaty supported by 185 contracting parties, focusing on protecting global plant resources, facilitating safe trade, and developing and promoting the application of International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs). The strategic vision aims to minimize the spread of plant pests and effectively manage their impacts globally.

[24] Mr. Barik highlighted governance achievements, including the successful execution of recent meetings and key decisions made during CPM-19, underscoring the Bureau's role in steering the organization.

[25] Significant progress was noted in Communication and Advocacy. The 2024 IDPH was particularly successful, reporting over 60 participating countries, coverage by 45 media outlets, and high social



media engagement (982K users reached). Furthermore, efforts in Knowledge Management continue, with the regular publication of IPPC newsletters and ongoing work to maintain and redesign the IPPC Website (International Phytosanitary Portal - IPP).

[26] In the area of International Cooperation, the report confirmed the successful execution of seven regional workshops across Africa, Asia, Europe, and the Near East in 2024. Updates were also provided on the Technical Consultation among Regional Plant Protection Organizations (TC-RPPO), confirming that the 36th consultation was held successfully in 2024 and setting the stage for the 2025 meeting.

[27] In conclusion, Mr. Barik's update reinforced the stability of the IPPC's strategic direction and the commitment to enhancing global phytosanitary capacity through harmonized standards and proactive international collaboration.

#### **4.2: Update from the IPPC Secretariat on Communications and the 2025 IDPH**

[28] Mr. Dris Barik delivered a comprehensive update on the IPPC Secretariat's communication strategy and notable achievements, with particular focus on the International Day of Plant Health (IDPH) and future regional network development.

[29] The presentation confirmed that all communication activities are guided by the 2025 Annual Communications Plan, with a special emphasis on raising IPPC visibility, as demonstrated by the strong branding and promotion efforts for CPM-19.

[30] The highlight was the successful execution of the 2025 IDPH, which featured a high-level hybrid event hosted by OIRSA in El Salvador. This event championed the theme of "The importance of plant health in One Health". It garnered significant political and media attention, including participation from the FAO Director-General and several Ministers.

[31] Regarding the Regional Communications Network, the presentation outlined a shift toward a new strategic approach: "do less with more impact". This involves prioritizing short- to medium-term goals, segmenting audiences, and clearly communicating measurable results.

[32] A crucial next step, approved by the CPM Bureau in December 2025, is the launch of a formal survey to assess the information needs of NPPOs and RPPOs. This data will be critical for bridging existing information gaps before the network is scaled up. Final guidance on scaling the regional network will be provided once the new IPPC Secretary is entirely on board. NPPOs were strongly encouraged to provide immediate feedback to the Secretariat's Communications Specialist to ensure regional needs are captured.

### 4.3 Updates from the Standards Committee (SC)

- [33] Mr. Nader ElBadry, a key representative of the Standards Committee (SC), provided a comprehensive overview of the SC's work, which is central to the development and implementation of International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs). The presentation reinforced the Standards Setting Unit's (SSU) role in providing the technical guidance necessary for contracting parties to implement the IPPC Strategic Framework.
- [34] The report confirmed the successful conclusion of key planning sessions, including the SC May 2025 and SC-7 Working Group meetings, ensuring the standard-setting pipeline remains robust.
- [35] Crucially, Mr. ElBadry detailed the standards moving forward: the Draft Revision of ISPM 26 on Pest-Free Areas for fruit flies and a new Draft Annex to ISPM 23 were noted as proceeding to the second consultation phase. Additionally, two critical Diagnostic Protocols (DPs) have entered the formal notification period.
- [36] A significant strategic announcement was the trial of a new year-round Call for Topics for new and revised ISPMs, shifting away from the previous biennial system. This is intended to increase the IPPC's responsiveness to emerging global threats.
- [37] Finally, the SC established a Small Working Group tasked with exploring the future of ISPMs, specifically to improve their accessibility, clarity, and use of plain language. This initiative highlights the SC's commitment to ensuring standards are not only scientifically sound but also practical for all National Plant Protection Organizations to implement.

### 4.4 Updates from the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC)

- [38] Mr. Ahmed Abdelmottaleb provided a detailed update on the critical work of the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC), a Subsidiary Body of the CPM responsible for bridging the gap between standard adoption and practical implementation.
- [39] The IC's mandate is centered on implementation support and capacity development, aligning with the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020-2030. Key focus areas include advancing Electronic Data Exchange (ePhyto), developing strategies for E-commerce Pathways risks, strengthening Pest Outbreak Alert Systems, and finalizing guidelines for Third-party Authorization.
- [40] Recent IC meeting highlights include approving the 2025 work plans for various teams and the IC sub-group. The IC also evaluated implementation materials, approved procedures for guide development, and promoted the use of e-learning.

[41] A significant development is the enhanced collaboration between the IC and the Standards Committee (SC), with improved communication processes and reciprocal attendance of committee chairpersons. This ensures that real-world implementation challenges inform ISPM development.

[42] Finally, Mr. Abdelmottaleb outlined several avenues for regional NPPOs to contribute, including submitting implementation topics, responding to IPPC Observatory surveys, and supporting the translation and review of implementation materials.

#### **4.5 Communication on Enhancing Pest Outbreak and Response Systems (POARS)**

[43] Ms. Shaza Omar from the IPPC Secretariat presented a crucial update on the progress of the Pest Outbreak Alert and Response Systems (POARS), one of the eight core Development Agenda Items in the IPPC Strategic Framework.

[44] The presentation highlighted that the work is driven by the POARS Steering Group, established by CPM-16 in 2022. The group's current tasks include defining technical capability, establishing effective governance, developing collaboration strategies, and assessing financial needs to operationalize the system.

[45] A core component is the procedure for identifying emerging pests, which is based on specific criteria and involves a Call for Nominations. As a result of the first call, 26 potential pests were nominated, including *Clavibacter nebraskensis* and Banana bunchy top virus. The process also includes developing supporting tools, such as the POARS Communication strategy and an expert network.

[46] The presentation underscored that the IPPC is already piloting a global alert system based on agreed criteria, with the first IPPC Pest Alert disseminated in March 2025. The goal is to establish an international alert system and expert network focused on new, emerging pests that pose a global threat.

[47] The ongoing work of the Steering Group is focused on governance, including comparing POARS functions with the IC and APP, and securing resources to ensure long-term functionality for this critical phytosanitary security measure.

#### **4.6 Communication on the CPM Focus Group on Climate Change and Plant Health Issues**

[48] Mr. Ali El-Adawy presented an update on the vital work of the CPM Focus Group on Climate Change and Phytosanitary Issues (FG-CCPI), which operates under a mandate extended until March 2026. The Group's main task is to develop and support the implementation of the IPPC Action Plan on Climate Change Impacts on Plant Health. The presentation highlighted several key achievements:

- The publication of a technical resource, "Climate-change impacts on plant pests", to support National and Regional Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs/RPPOs).

- The development of an IPPC webpage dedicated to climate change impacts, featuring external technical resources.
- Providing technical inputs on the revisions of key ISPMs, specifically ISPM 2 and ISPM 11, to ensure they are climate aware.
- Actively promoting the integration of climate change considerations into the work of the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC).

[49] Remaining work for 2025–2026 includes developing training modules, further supporting the IC, and contributing to the global dialogue.

[50] The strategic value of the FG-CCPI was emphasized, noting its ability to elevate phytosanitary issues in climate change debates and strengthen global phytosanitary resilience, aligning directly with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The following steps include proposing a dedicated session on the topic at CPM-20 and considering a mandate extension to fully align with the IPPC Strategic Framework 2030.

#### **4.7 Communication on the CPM Focus Group on Sea Containers**

[51] Mr. Ahmed El-Gamal delivered a vital update on the work of the CPM Focus Group on Sea Containers (FGSC), whose mandate has been extended to 2027 by CPM-18 (2024). The FGSC's primary objective is to evaluate and mitigate the significant phytosanitary risk posed by sea containers in international trade.

[52] The Focus Group is exploring both regulatory and non-regulatory measures to address contamination. It is tasked with providing a final recommendation to CPM-21 (2027) on whether a new International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM) should be developed. Key activities and collaborations include:

- Assessing CPM Recommendation 06 (R-06) effectiveness, which encourages stakeholders to address pest contamination on containers.
- Reviewing the CTU Code revision and the concept of custodial responsibility for cleanliness, primarily led by the industry.
- Participating in the International Symposium on Optimizing Container Design in Rotterdam, which focused on practical design modifications to reduce contamination.

[53] CPs in the NENA region were strongly encouraged to collect and share interception data related to sea container contamination with the FGSC to inform its final recommendations. And actively participating in the upcoming activities, including the side session at CPM-20 and a possible International Workshop in 2026, to further assess the impact and uptake of R-06.

#### **4.8 Communication on the CPM Focus Group on the Safe Provision of Food and Other Humanitarian Aid**

- [54] Mr. Ramez Darwish provided an update on the critical work of the Focus Group on the Safe Provision of Food and Other Humanitarian Aid (FGSA), which was established in 2022 to address the unique phytosanitary risks associated with the expedited movement of food, seeds, and packaging during emergencies.
- [55] These risks are compounded when the NPPO capacity of the affected country is impaired. A major recent achievement was the approval of Specification 77 by CPM-19 (2025), which received Priority 1 status. This specification outlines the scope for a future International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM) that will guide efforts to ensure the rapid, safe, and transparent delivery of aid while preventing the spread of pests. This future ISPM is set to include practical guidance on risk mitigation for common aid items, clarify protocols for phytosanitary certificates in emergency contexts, and lay the foundation for coordinated responses involving aid agencies, donors, and the private sector.
- [56] The FGSA is also actively developing an action plan for cooperation with major partners such as WOA, CODEX, and WFP, and is encouraging NPPOs to share national examples of pest risks linked to humanitarian aid. Contracting parties are reminded to support the topic and implement the already adopted CPM Recommendation R-09 on the "safe provisions of humanitarian aid in the phytosanitary context." The final report of the Focus Group is anticipated to be submitted to CPM-20 in 2026.

#### **4.9 Communication on the CPM Focus Group on Global Coordination in Plant Health Research**

- [57] Mr. Rashid El-Shidi presented on the efforts of the CPM Focus Group on Global Phytosanitary Research Coordination (FG-GPRC), which was established by CPM-17 (2023). The foundational goal of the Focus Group is to conduct a study to explore existing international and regional research structures to identify gaps and determine if an improved, more coordinated global research mechanism is required. This mechanism aims to facilitate the regular identification of common plant health research priorities, eliminate duplication of effort, and ensure the efficient use of resources.
- [58] To date, the FG-GPRC has developed and distributed a questionnaire to various research networks across regions, using the responses to create a comprehensive inventory of relevant organizations. They have conducted bi-weekly meetings and scoping study interviews with selected phytosanitary research networks to assess the status of ongoing research and identify unaddressed gaps. The criteria for choosing these networks prioritize those with broad geographical reach, strong phytosanitary relevance, and the ability to influence policy decisions. Looking ahead, the Focus Group encourages all member countries, especially those from underrepresented regions like Latin America, the Caribbean, and Africa, to ensure their regional research organizations participate in the study to

prevent regional bias in the final findings. The group is finalizing its report, which will compile its recommendations for consideration by CPM-20 in March 2026.

#### **4.10 Communication on the CPM Focus Group on Global Diagnostic Laboratory Networks**

[59] Ms. Yosra Ahmed (FAO-RNE) provided a detailed update on the CPM Focus Group on Global Diagnostic Laboratory Networks (FG-DLN), highlighting its strategic importance as a Development Agenda Item of the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020–2030. The session underscored that accurate and rapid pest diagnosis is fundamental to effective phytosanitary measures, and delays in identification lead to pest spread, trade disruption, and ineffective responses.

[60] The Focus Group, established by CPM-17, aims to address the global imbalance in diagnostic capacity, where many National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs) lack access to reliable, harmonized protocols. The Group's mandate involves conducting a comprehensive assessment of the current global status of diagnostic networks and using this information to design a practical and scalable global network of diagnostic services and protocols. Initial foundational work has included a literature review, interviews with NPPOs and RPPOs, and case studies of successful networks, which will inform a gap analysis. A Call for Experts was launched in June 2025 to populate the Focus Group with dedicated specialists. The vision for the FG-DLN is to deliver recommendations and a phased implementation framework to the CPM by 2028, leading to a coordinated system that enhances global readiness and harmonizes diagnostic capabilities worldwide.

#### **4.11 Communication on the CPM Focus Group on Plant Health in the Context of the One Health Approach**

[61] Ms. Yousria Ahmed provided an update on the CPM Focus Group on Plant Health in the context of One Health, emphasizing the need to elevate plant health's role within this integrated framework. The One Health approach, which recognizes the interconnectedness of human, animal, plant, and environmental health, has historically given insufficient prominence to plant health despite its direct impact on food security and ecosystem stability. Following recommendations from FAO bodies, this Focus Group was established to ensure the IPPC's visibility and practical contribution to the global One Health agenda. The Group has developed a comprehensive study to clearly articulate the links between plant pests and key public health issues, such as antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and mycotoxin contamination.

[62] Key activities involve coordinating findings with other relevant IPPC bodies, including the POARS Steering Group and the Focus Group on Climate Change, to ensure a unified approach. The final delivery will be a study report and an action plan to enhance the IPPC's participation in the FAO One

Health Committee structure, with the findings set to be presented to the Strategic Planning Group (SPG) in 2025 and eventually informing CPM decisions.

## **5. Section 1: Discussion of Draft Standards and Recommendations**

### **5.1 IPPC Standard Setting Process in Brief**

[63] Mr. Nader El Badry, a member of the SC, introduced a video summarizing the process for developing ISPMs. Mr. El Badry provided a succinct overview of the IPPC Standard Setting Procedure, emphasizing its core mandate to harmonize phytosanitary measures globally to facilitate safe trade, protect the environment, and ensure food security. The presentation reiterated that phytosanitary measures must adhere to fundamental principles, including technical justification, minimal trade impact, and non-discrimination, as outlined in ISPM 1. The IPPC develops ISPMs, Diagnostic Protocols (DPs), Phytosanitary Treatments (PTs), and CPM Recommendations. The entire process follows a structured four-stage cycle: Topic Selection (Stage 1), which starts with the Call for Topics; Drafting Standards (Stage 2) by Expert Working Groups (EWGs) and Technical Panels (TPs); Consultation and Review (Stage 3), which includes the critical 90-day consultation period for draft ISPMs via the OCS; and finally, Adoption and Publication (Stage 4) by the CPM. The cycle ensures that all standards are technically sound, scientifically justified, and globally applicable, with an ongoing call for experts and treatments to keep the process efficient and responsive to emerging threats.

### **5.2 Draft ISPM under First Consultation: Draft Annex on International Movement of Fresh Banana Fruit (*Musa spp.*) to ISPM 46**

[64] Ms. Amani Al-Awamleh, a member of the SC, presented an update on the Draft Annex to ISPM 46 concerning the international movement of fresh *Musa spp* fruit (bananas and plantains). The development of this commodity standard, identified as a Priority 1 topic, was executed by the Technical Panel for Commodity Standards (TPCS). The scope of the Annex was strategically broadened from solely bananas (*Musa paradisiaca*) to the genus *Musa spp.* to maximize its applicability to global trade. The Annex provides essential guidance for National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs) on managing pests associated with fresh *Musa* fruit moved in hands or clusters but explicitly excludes whole bunches or processed products. A key feature of the draft is Table 1, which lists pests regulated by at least one Contracting Party, ensuring that only pests with identified phytosanitary measures are included. The Annex outlines options for phytosanitary measures, categorized into general measures (e.g., Pest Free Areas, inspection) and specific measures, including established treatments such as irradiation and systems approaches for fruit flies. The Standards Committee approved the draft standard for First Consultation, which is scheduled to commence from 1 July to 30 September 2025, marking a critical period for Contracting Parties to submit technical comments and ensure the standard is robust and globally viable.



### **5.3 Draft ISPM under First Consultation: Proposed Annex on International Movement of Fresh Taro for Consumption to ISPM 46**

- [65] Ms. Amani Al-Awamleh presented on the Draft Annex to ISPM 46 concerning the international movement of fresh *Colocasia esculenta* corms (Taro). This was designated a Commodity Standard Subject and added to the Technical Panel for Commodity Standards (TPCS) work programme by CPM-18 (2024), with the draft completed in December 2024. The Annex's scope applies to fresh corms intended for consumption or processing, specifying that the corms must be without leaves or lateral buds and that the Annex does not cover already processed products.
- [66] The draft standard currently lists 17 pests, including certain viruses, all of which have associated phytosanitary measures used in trade. A critical challenge highlighted during the presentation is the inherent nature of the commodity: taro corms are typically dirty and rough-surfaced, making pest inspection inherently difficult. To address this, a new text has been included in the draft (paragraph [13]) to guide NPPOs on inspection practicalities. The draft standard was approved for its First Consultation, scheduled from 1 July to 30 September 2025, and Contracting Parties are strongly encouraged to provide technical feedback, especially on the inclusion of viruses and the proposed text on inspection difficulties, to ensure the Annex is practical and effective.

### **5.4 Draft ISPM under Second Consultation: Draft Revision of ISPM 26 on the Establishment of Pest-Free Areas for Fruit Flies (Tephritidae)**

- [67] Mr. Eyad Mohammed, a member of the SC, presented the update on the Draft Revision of ISPM 26 (Establishment of pest-free areas for fruit flies (Tephritidae)), which is now entering its Second Consultation period from 1 July to 30 September 2025. This revision aims to improve the standard's clarity and practical application following the first consultation, which yielded 822 comments.
- [68] Key changes include aligning terminology for consistency, such as replacing 'host material' with 'host fruit,' and replacing 'transient' with the more precise term 'breeding population.' Notably, the proposal to annex ISPM 26 to ISPM 4 was rejected, as it was neither a formally approved topic nor aligned with Specification 75. Significant revisions were made to remove specific timeframes (such as 48 hours for reporting or three generations for eradication), recognizing that these are not technically justifiable or universally achievable for all NPPOs. Furthermore, the revised draft streamlines Annex 3 by combining requirements for packing, storage, processing, and treatment facilities to remove duplication. In contrast, all previously removed appendices and annexes are temporarily retained at the back of the draft until suitable relocation can be determined.



## **5.5 Draft ISPM under Second Consultation: Draft Annex on Field Inspection to ISPM 23 Guidelines for inspection**

- [69] Mr. Eyad Mohammed provided an update on the Draft Annex to ISPM 23 (Guidelines for inspection) regarding Field Inspection, which is entering its Second Consultation period from 1 July to 30 September 2025.
- [70] The topic was added to the work program as a priority 2 in 2022, and the Annex was developed to provide specific guidance on this type of phytosanitary inspection. Following the First Consultation, the Annex underwent a substantial restructuring to improve logical flow and clarity. Key revisions included moving the Scope section to the beginning, redefining the old 'Concept of field inspection' section as 'Objectives of field inspection,' and moving specific terms and concepts for better organization. The revision also focused on converting passive voice to active voice for more precise language.
- [71] The draft now explicitly details the Responsibilities of NPPOs in relation to field inspection, including the design, implementation, and consistent evaluation of their inspection programs. Participants were encouraged to provide technical comments during the second consultation, particularly on the need for supplementary commodity-specific guides and case studies to help NPPOs effectively implement the general principles of field inspection.

## **5.6 Draft ISPM Specifications under Consultation: Annex on Remote Audit Procedures to ISPM 47 Auditing in the Phytosanitary Context**

- [72] Mr. Nader El Badry presented the update on the Draft Specification for an Annex on Remote Audits to ISPM 47 (Audit in the phytosanitary context). The topic, added by CPM-18 (2024), addresses new technological advancements that enable remote and hybrid audits when in-person audits are impractical due to constraints such as travel restrictions, emergencies, or budget limitations.
- [73] The primary purpose of this specification is to guide an Expert Working Group (EWG) in developing the Annex by describing remote audits, reviewing current best practices, and identifying the advantages, limitations, and risks associated with their use. The Annex aims to outline the specific requirements for conducting remote audits, while also considering potential impacts on biodiversity and the environment, and to identify implementation issues for Contracting Parties. The SC approved the draft specification in May 2025, and it is currently open for the 2025 Consultation Period, running from 1 July to 30 September 2025.

This consultation is crucial for gathering feedback that will shape the final standard, ensuring that remote audits can offer continuity of oversight and flexibility while maintaining an appropriate level of phytosanitary assurance.

### **5.7 Draft ISPM Specifications under Consultation: Revision of ISPM 12 Phytosanitary Certificates**

- [74] Ms. Amani Al-Awamleh (SC member) presented the update on the Draft Specification for the Revision of ISPM 12 (Phytosanitary certificates), a high-priority topic added by CPM-18 (2024). The necessity for this revision stems from the 2022 update, which focused narrowly on re-export and failed to address other critical operational issues, particularly those arising from the global transition from paper to electronic phytosanitary certificates (ePhyto). The core Purpose of the revision is to harmonize the requirements for both paper and electronic formats, clarify what additional phytosanitary information may be included, and enhance the overall implementation and ease of use of the standard.
- [75] The draft specification guides the Expert Working Group (EWG) to undertake several key tasks: reviewing the entire text of ISPM 12, updating requirements for both certificate forms, considering additional required phytosanitary information, and addressing operational challenges such as the re-export of stored products or consignments with multiple inspection dates. The Draft Specification was approved by the Standards Committee (SC) in May 2025 and is currently open for the 2025 Consultation Period, running from 1 July to 30 September 2025.

### **5.8 Draft ISPM Specifications under Consultation: Revision of ISPM 23 Inspection Guidelines**

- [76] Mr. Nader El Badry provided an update on the Draft Specification for the Revision of ISPM 23 (Guidelines for inspection), which was added to the IPPC work programme as a priority two topic by CPM-18 (2024). The necessity for this revision arises from a gap between ISPM 23 and the updated definitions in ISPM 5 (Glossary), specifically regarding the terms “inspection,” “compliance procedure,” and verification of identity and integrity.
- [77] Since its adoption in 2005, ISPM 23 has been widely used, including for compliance activities beyond strict visual inspection, necessitating an update to reflect current operational practices. The primary Purpose of the revision is to clarify and harmonize the requirements within ISPM 23, ensuring alignment with the revised ISPM 5 definitions. The future Expert Working Group (EWG) will be tasked with revising the standard to cover all aspects of phytosanitary compliance procedures (including, but not limited to, inspection) and ensuring a seamless connection with the new annex on Field inspection. The EWG will also determine which parts of ISPM 23 could be moved to implementation materials and identify necessary consequential changes in other ISPMs. The Draft Specification, approved by the Standards Committee in May 2025, is currently open for the 2025 Consultation Period.

## 5.9 Discussion on the Reconsideration of International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures

- [78] Mr. Nader El Badry (SC member) delivered a presentation titled "Rethinking ISPMs," which addressed critical issues identified during consultations on the accessibility and effectiveness of International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures. Feedback, particularly regarding the 2023 reorganization of Pest Risk Analysis (PRA) ISPMs, highlighted that many standards are long and complex and lack clarity on core requirements. The assessment identified three main concerns: Low Readability, characterized by long, repetitive sentences and specialized jargon; Low Translatability, where the highly technical language is difficult to render into non-FAO languages, leading to potential misinterpretation accurately; and Unclear Core Requirements, often due to the excessive use of the term 'should' and the entanglement of mandatory requirements with detailed guidance material.
- [79] To resolve these challenges, options presented included separating core requirements from guidance, adopting a new structure (summary followed by detail), or drafting ISPMs with requirements only.
- [80] Participants at the workshop strongly emphasized a critical issue for the standard-setting process: translated drafts during the consultation period must be provided in all FAO languages to ensure greater engagement from all Contracting Parties and to facilitate and streamline the global review process. These concerns and regional perspectives are being compiled for discussion by the IPPC Strategic Planning Group (SPG) to recommend a way forward to CPM-20.

## 6. SECTION 2: Implementing and raising awareness in the framework of FAO/ RPPOs

### 6.1 Regional FAO Phytosanitary Capacity Development Activities.

#### *Activities of the FAO Regional Office for the Near East and North Africa for Capacity Development in Plant Health*

- [81] Mr. Thaer Yaseen delivered a comprehensive update on the organization's phytosanitary activities within the NENA region. The presentation, framed by the overarching theme of Plant Health within the One Health Approach, provided a strategic overview of achievements and ongoing work across various operational areas.
- [82] The regional work is structured around several critical components, including a detailed review of Completed and Ongoing Projects, High-Level Meetings, Capacity Building initiatives, and the development of Publications and Awareness Materials. Key ongoing projects focus on enhancing regional phytosanitary compliance and risk management, particularly through the promotion of ePhyto systems to facilitate secure and efficient trade across borders.
- [83] A significant portion of the focus is on Capacity Development for NPPOs, ensuring personnel are equipped to implement ISPMs effectively. This includes technical assistance in pest surveillance, diagnostics, and response systems.

[84] Specific regional priorities were highlighted, notably the development of accreditation systems for the propagation material of high-value regional crops such as Citrus, Olive, and Date Palm, aimed at mitigating pest spread and bolstering regional food security. Furthermore, the regional office actively supports engagement in key technical areas of international concern, including participation in forums such as the Arab Conference for Plant Protection (ACPP) and contributions to global discussions on Mycotoxins and Food Safety.

[85] The overall objective of these activities is to strengthen the phytosanitary infrastructure and collective resilience of the NENA region, fostering alignment with the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020–2030 and ensuring that plant health remains an integral component of the global One Health agenda.

#### ***Activities of the FAO Sub-Regional Office for the Near East and North Africa***

[86] Mr. Mohamed El Hady Sidatt, Plant Production and Protection Officer for the FAO North Africa Sub-regional Office (FAO-SNE), provided a focused update on the phytosanitary activities within the sub-region, emphasizing practical project implementation and capacity development. The presentation was contextualized within the regional priorities of strengthening NPPOs against transboundary threats and ensuring safe regional trade.

[87] The presentation opened by highlighting several high-priority pests currently demanding immediate attention across North Africa, including the devastating Red Palm Weevil, the invasive Fall Armyworm, and the highly destructive Cochineal Scale on Cactus (*Dactylopius opuntiae*). The spread of these pests dictates the urgency of strengthening surveillance and rapid response mechanisms.

[88] The core of the presentation outlined operational projects to modernize phytosanitary services. A primary example is the European Commission (EC) funded project in Tunisia (GCP/TUN042/EC), which is dedicated to supporting and enhancing the official inspection services for both plant and animal products. This intervention is crucial to bolster border controls and compliance.

[89] Key project deliverables include substantial capacity development efforts, such as the organization of 50 specialized technical training courses for plant health inspectors conducted in early 2025. These courses are essential for harmonizing field inspection techniques and improving the accuracy of pest detection. Furthermore, the project is facilitating the acquisition of inspection and computer equipment. It is committed to upgrading the official laboratory for organic farming to enhance diagnostic capabilities and support the high-value organic sector.

[90] Strategic technical alignment was also demonstrated through the planned validation workshop for an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) guide for citrus pests and diseases in June 2025, addressing threats to a vital regional commodity.

- [91] In conclusion, the activities outlined by Mr. Sidatt reflect a concerted and pragmatic effort by the FAO North Africa Office to reinforce national phytosanitary systems, boost technical capacity, and apply modern tools to effectively manage the region's most pressing plant health risks, thereby contributing to food security and safe trade.

## **6.2 Activities of the Near East and North Africa Plant Protection Organization (NEPPO)**

- [92] Mr. Mohamed Habib Ben Jamaa, Executive Director (ED) of NEPPO, delivered a comprehensive update on the organization's recent activities and strategic priorities. The ED announced a name change for the organization from the Near East Plant Protection Organization to the Near East and North Africa Plant Protection Organization, while retaining the acronym NEPPO.
- [93] The ED stressed NEPPO's pivotal role in advancing regional plant protection efforts by developing standards and organizing workshops aligning with the IPPC goals.
- [94] NEPPO's primary operational focus is enhancing the phytosanitary capacity of its member states and ensuring greater compliance with good practices in pesticides, pest management, and ISPMs. This effort is largely driven by its three Specialized Working Groups with experts from the NENA region (Management of Pesticides and their alternatives; Management of quarantine and transboundary Pests; and Standards).
- [95] Specific regional priorities were highlighted, notably the development of accreditation systems for the propagation material of high-value regional crops. For 2025, NEPPO focused on Citrus, Olive, and Date Palm to mitigate pest spread and bolster regional food security.
- [96] The ED also emphasized the depth of NEPPO's international cooperation, which is essential for resource mobilization and harmonization. Key international and regional partners include the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (EPPO), the FAO Regional Offices, the European Union (EU), and the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA). By strengthening these partnerships and focusing on core obligations like ISPM implementation and emergency management, NEPPO continues to reinforce its commitment to protecting regional agriculture, facilitating safe trade, and contributing to the global food security mandate.

### 6.3 Activities of the National Plant Protection Organization of Oman

- [97] Mr. Abdul Hamid Al-Riyami, presented a comprehensive overview of the vital activities undertaken by the Sultanate of Oman's National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO). The NPPO serves as the country's main regulatory body, safeguarding national agriculture, supporting food security, and facilitating safe international trade. As a member of the IPPC since 2004, Oman ensures that its operations fully align with international phytosanitary standards, including the WTO SPS Agreement. The NPPO's core mission is to prevent the entry and spread of new agricultural pests while enhancing the reputation of Omani exports through robust phytosanitary certification. This commitment is underpinned by a strong legislative foundation, notably the Unified Agricultural Quarantine Law for GCC Countries (Royal Decree No. 47/2004), built upon a 50-year history of national quarantine efforts.
- [98] A key focus was the substantial enhancement of the NPPO's national capacity and infrastructure. The network of active agricultural quarantine border points has significantly expanded from 5 to 20 today, covering air, sea, and land entry points, all managed by a national cadre of over 80 trained inspectors. Complementing this expansion is the establishment of the Central Laboratory for Plant Health and Food Safety. This facility is envisioned as a world-class, Omani-managed accreditation hub that provides essential scientific backing. The laboratory's critical functions include testing agricultural products for biotic pests, analyzing chemical residues, and conducting comprehensive food safety tests for plant, animal, and fish products, thus forming the scientific backbone of the NPPO's strategy.
- [99] The NPPO is actively engaged in targeted operational programs to manage and mitigate agricultural threats. These include national Integrated Pest Management (IPM) efforts against high-impact threats like the Red Palm Weevil and the Dubas Bug. Furthermore, the organization enforces strict Regulatory Actions, issuing Ministerial decisions to ban or restrict the import of high-risk materials, notably against quarantine pests such as the devastating *Xylella fastidiosa* bacteria and diseases like Citrus Greening. Looking ahead, the NPPO is also demonstrating its readiness for digital transformation, confirming its ability to implement the ePhyto system for the electronic exchange of phytosanitary certificates, underscoring Oman's steadfast commitment to securing its agricultural future and supporting safe global trade.

### 6.4 Topics of interest for the NENA Region

#### 6.4.1 Updates on the NENA Plant Health Strategy

- [100] Mr. Thaer Yaseen provided a comprehensive update on the development and implementation status of the Plant Health Strategy for the Near East and North Africa (NENA) region. The strategy is crucial for regional food security, supporting sustainable agriculture, and facilitating safe trade among member countries. The presentation highlighted the strategic shift towards integrating plant health into broader economic and developmental policies across the region. A core component emphasized the

importance of high-level political commitment and collective action to effectively manage transboundary pest threats, aligning national priorities with regional objectives to fortify agricultural systems against biological hazards.

[101] A significant portion of the update focused on the necessary governance structure and the path to official ratification. The key strategic output involves activating a robust, multi-tiered governance framework, which includes the establishment of a dedicated Steering Committee, a Scientific Committee, and various Operational Units. This structure is intended to oversee and coordinate the strategy's execution across the diverse NENA region. Furthermore, the presentation outlined the process for official endorsement, which involves the FAO sending formal letters to member states to formally adopt the strategy and define their respective national contributions, thereby ensuring broad regional buy-in and accountability.

[102] Looking ahead, the presentation detailed the critical steps required for successful implementation and measurement. A major recommendation is the development of specific, clear, annual National Action Plans tailored to each country's unique national and regional priorities. These plans must include regular follow-up and evaluation mechanisms to track progress and ensure effective resource allocation. The strategy's success also relies on supporting activities, such as holding Ministerial and high-level meetings, establishing technical committees, and strengthening communication and awareness campaigns among stakeholders. Ultimately, the strategy aims to build resilient, sustainable plant protection capacity across the NENA region, contributing directly to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

#### **6.4.2 Draft Regional Standards to Produce Certified Propagation Materials for Fruit Trees in the NENA Region: Date Palm, Olive, and Citrus**

[103] Mr. Mohamed Habib Ben Jamaa, the Executive Director of NEPPO, delivered a presentation focusing on the development and importance of Regional Standards for Phytosanitary Measures within the Near East and North Africa region. The presentation established that these regional standards are critical instruments that complement the International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs) developed by the IPPC. Their primary function is to harmonize phytosanitary measures across NENA member states, thereby safeguarding the region's agricultural heritage and facilitating safe trade. These standards directly contribute to the broader goals of promoting sustainable agriculture, mitigating the entry and spread of transboundary pests, and enhancing global food security by ensuring the quality and health of exported and traded plant materials.

[104] The presentation highlighted the critical need for regional standards focusing on high-value, high-risk crops. Specifically, the development of regional standards for the Accreditation Certification System for Date Palm Propagation Materials and the standard for general Nursery Stock and Planting Materials (such as Citrus/Olive seedlings) was detailed. These standards mandate a stringent quality



control process to ensure materials are pest-free before being marketed or exported. For date palms, the RSPM includes strict requirements for record-keeping by authorized producers, covering all critical information such as variety names, production lot numbers, sale dates, and final destinations, ensuring complete traceability and accountability throughout the supply chain.

[105] Effective implementation of these regional standards requires a comprehensive organizational and legislative framework. Mr. Ben Jamaa outlined the essential components needed for a successful national accreditation system. These include establishing robust national laws and legislative frameworks, defining the roles of all intervening stakeholders in the production and certification stages, and utilizing accredited Reference Laboratories for verification and testing. Furthermore, the standards mandate strict conditions for the protection and isolation of propagation materials, alongside continuous monitoring and control mechanisms to verify compliance. By establishing and adhering to these RSPMs, the NENA region strengthens its collective phytosanitary capacity, providing a safer environment for agricultural growth and regional economic stability.

[106] At the end of his speech, the ED of NEPPO announced that the Certification Citrus propagative material and the Certification Olive propagative material in the NENA Region are approved and will be delivered. While the Certification date palm propagative material will be revised.

## **6.5 IPPC call for topics: lessons learned and future topic submissions**

[107] Mr. Ahmed Abdelmottaleb (IC member) delivered a presentation detailing the crucial process for the International Plant Protection Convention's (IPPC) Call for Topics, a strategic mechanism for determining future work on international phytosanitary standards and implementation resources. The primary purpose of this annual call is to identify global plant health problems and address existing gaps in phytosanitary systems by developing new International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs) or relevant resources. This process is essential for aligning the IPPC's standard-setting work with the strategic goals outlined in the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020–2030, ensuring that the work plan remains globally relevant and responsive to emerging threats.

[108] The presentation provided a detailed breakdown of the selection process and the criteria used to evaluate submissions. Proposals for new topics, whether for standards or implementation resources, must demonstrate a clear global or regional priority and provide sufficient supporting documentation, including references and evidence of necessity. The IPPC Secretariat first reviews the submissions and then undergoes thorough consideration by two key bodies: the Standards Committee (SC) for standards topics and the Implementation Committee (IC) for resource topics. This dual-committee review ensures that topics are technically sound, meet global priorities, and are feasible for implementation by contracting parties worldwide.



[109] Furthermore, Mr. Abdelmottaleb outlined the call's timeline and emphasized the critical role of the contracting parties in actively contributing to the process. Following the committee reviews in November, final recommendations are approved via electronic voting in December. The final work program is then presented to the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) for adoption. The presentation concluded with a clear call to action for participants, urging them to submit proposals related to both global and regional priorities and to disseminate the open call to encourage wider stakeholder engagement broadly. This participation ensures that future IPPC standards effectively shape the next generation of international plant health measures.

## **6.6 Identification of regional IPPC implementation issues to be shared with the IC**

[110] Mr. Ahmed Abdelmottaleb (IC member) delivered a presentation on the crucial role of contracting parties in identifying practical challenges in implementing ISPMs.

[111] He defined the critical role of IPPC Regional Workshops in bridging the gap between standard development and field implementation. These workshops serve as an essential forum for participants to highlight specific challenges encountered by their NPPOs in day-to-day activities. By focusing on concrete, practical cases, the discussions aim to gather actionable feedback that can be channeled back to the IPPC Implementation Committee (IC). The objective is to convert these identified implementation issues into formal topic submissions for the development of new or updated IPPC guides, training resources, or other technical assistance materials.

[112] To ensure the feedback is effective, Mr. Abdelmottaleb outlined a four-step process for participants to follow during the Call for Topics. First, participants should identify the ISPMs that pose the greatest implementation difficulties. Second, they must thoroughly document the concrete obstacles faced during attempted implementation, providing detailed information on the practical challenges. Third, participants are encouraged to propose specific solutions or resources to overcome these issues. The final step involves formally submitting these well-documented implementation issues to the Implementation Committee for consideration, ensuring that future IPPC guidance directly addresses the needs of contracting parties on the ground.

## **7. Section 3: Moving together from ideas to action (facilitated session).**

This section consisted of presentations followed by discussion and questions from the participants, and it included the following:

### **7.1 The IPPC ePhyto Solution**

[113] Mr. Islam Aboul-Ela (Egypt) provided a comprehensive overview of the IPPC ePhyto Solution, an electronic certification system designed to facilitate the secure and global exchange of phytosanitary certificates. The core objective of ePhyto is to fully digitalize the traditional paper certificate process, which is often slow and vulnerable to fraud. The solution adheres strictly to International Standards

for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM 12) for phytosanitary certificates, ensuring a harmonized message format and content across all participating countries. This digitalization offers substantial benefits, including faster border clearances, enhanced security, reduced costs, and support for countries lacking the necessary IT infrastructure to build their own national electronic systems.

[114] The presentation detailed the three main components of the IPPC ePhyto Solution. The Hub serves as the central messaging platform, facilitating standardized connections and exchanges of digital certificates between national systems. For countries that already have a sophisticated national phytosanitary system, the Hub enables ready connection and communication. For countries without an existing system, the Generic ePhyto National System (GeNS) provides a complete, immediate, and standardized national system for creating, sending, and receiving ePhytos. Together, the Hub and GeNS ensure that all 185 IPPC contracting parties have an accessible pathway to adopting electronic certification, significantly boosting global trade efficiency.

[115] Finally, Mr. Aboul-Ela highlighted the ongoing evolution and roadmap for the ePhyto Solution. The IPPC is committed to continuous technical updates to ensure system stability and security. Key planned enhancements include efforts to support the structured inclusion of mixed commodity definitions within the ePhyto message to close current digitalization gaps. Other crucial developments involve improving the non-compliance notification process using the country response acknowledgment mechanism and revamping learning tools via the IPPC Plant Health Campus. These initiatives reflect the commitment to expanding the solution's utility and promoting interoperability to ensure its long-term efficiency and sustainability.

## 7.2 IPPC Plant Health Campus

[116] Mr. Ahmed Abdelmottaleb (IC member) introduced the IPPC Plant Health Campus as a key milestone in global capacity development, serving as a free, convenient, and centralized learning hub. The Campus provides a one-stop portal to all IPPC e-learning courses, guides, and various training materials, developed with technical support from global plant health experts. Its main goal is to strengthen phytosanitary capacity worldwide, fostering better knowledge which, in turn, leads to improved compliance with International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs) and stronger national biosecurity systems. The resources are designed to be accessible anytime and anywhere, catering to self-paced learning.

[117] The presentation highlighted the critical features and benefits of the Campus for various stakeholders. For plant health professionals, it offers flexible learning to complete certified courses at their own pace. National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs) can easily integrate these courses into their staff training and capacity development programs, ensuring a consistent level of technical competence. Furthermore, universities and academic institutions can incorporate high-quality IPPC content into

existing plant health and phytosanitary curricula. The Campus currently offers materials in English and French, with Spanish coming soon, expanding its reach across different language regions.

[118] A significant feature emphasized was the certified learning component. Upon successful completion of a course, learners receive a digital badge or certificate that officially recognizes their achievement and acquired expertise. Learners are actively encouraged to share these digital badges on professional platforms like LinkedIn. This sharing mechanism helps in building a visible, global community of certified plant health professionals, thereby validating the quality of the IPPC training and encouraging wider adoption of the Campus as the primary resource for phytosanitary education. The Campus has already seen rapid uptake, demonstrating its immediate value to the international plant health community.

### 7.3 Update on Fusarium TR4 Global Coordination

[119] Ms. Yosra Ahmed presented an update on the Global Coordination of Fusarium Tropical Race 4 (TR4) activities, which focus on the severe fungal disease affecting banana plants worldwide. The presentation highlighted that the IPPC Secretariat was formally requested by the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM-17 in 2023) to coordinate the global response to TR4, based on an initial framework proposed by the Latin American and Caribbean group (GRULAC). This mandate established the IPPC's central role in fostering international collaboration and standardizing technical approaches against this economically devastating disease. Initial capacity development activities, leveraging support from FAO Mesoamerica and the Joint FAO/IAEA Centre, were subsequently delivered in the COMESA region in 2024.

[120] The presentation underscored the outcomes and reiterated the need for sustained action. The CPM-19 (2025) explicitly recognized the urgent need for increased financial and in-kind resources from both contracting parties and the private sector to ensure the sustainability of all TR4-related programs. This renewal of focus reflects the persistent, serious threat posed by the disease. Furthermore, the CPM renewed its request for the IPPC Secretariat to continue its coordination role within the broader FAO framework to maximize efficiency and alignment across regional and global initiatives. A dedicated side-session was also delivered to showcase innovative research, new tools for prevention, and response to outbreak containment.

[121] Looking ahead, Ms. Yosra outlined the critical next steps for FAO's coordination efforts on Fusarium TR4. These steps involve establishing a comprehensive roadmap that ensures continuity in technical assistance, research dissemination, and capacity development tailored to high-risk areas. The focus remains on promoting the effective use of International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs) for disease detection and containment, fostering public-private partnerships, and facilitating the

exchange of best practices among affected countries. The goal is to build long-term resilience and minimize the international spread of this highly destructive pathogen.

#### **7.4. IPPC Observatory Study on E-commerce and Phytosanitary Risks**

[122] Mr. Ahmed Abdelmottaleb (IC member) initiated his presentation by thanking all the NPPOs that responded to the E-commerce survey from the region. Then, it provided information about the IPPC's focus on managing phytosanitary risks posed by the growing e-commerce, postal, and courier pathways. The presentation established the need for intervention due to the high volume of small parcel consignments containing plants and regulated articles that often bypass traditional inspection checkpoints. The primary objective of the IPPC Observatory Study on E-commerce is to establish a baseline for key indicators, evaluate the implementation of existing CPM recommendations, and characterize the current gaps and challenges. This study is crucial for guiding future work to safeguard global plant health from pests introduced through these trade pathways.

[123] The presentation outlined the comprehensive methodology used for the Observatory Study, which included a five-phase assessment and analysis process that is currently in the final report-writing phase. The global survey collected data structured across three primary areas: national legislative and non-legislative frameworks, the implementation of existing phytosanitary measures, and the nature of the challenges NPPOs face in managing this trade. The high response rate from contracting parties emphasizes the widespread recognition of e-commerce as a significant and complex phytosanitary threat that requires coordinated international action and specialized technical resources.

[124] Finally, the presentation highlighted the key recommendations arising from the study, many of which are tailored to the specific needs of different regions. Common priority areas across most regions include enhancing border risk management capabilities, conducting widespread public awareness campaigns, and providing capacity-building for key e-commerce stakeholders. The presentation concluded by outlining the next steps, which involve finalizing and publishing the report, developing a promotional e-commerce flyer, and formally presenting comprehensive study recommendations to CPM-20 in 2026 for action and implementation planning.

#### **7.5 Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluations (PCE) and latest developments**

[125] Ms. Shaza Omar (IPPC Secretariat) provided a comprehensive update on the Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE), defining it as a multi-phased, NPPO-led, and IPPC Secretariat-supported process designed to help countries assess and improve their phytosanitary systems. The presentation highlighted that the PCE is not a single task but involves multiple consensus workshops with active participation from a wide range of stakeholders, ensuring national ownership and buy-in. Three modalities are available for conducting a PCE: a fully facilitated option with IPPC and certified

facilitator support; a facilitated option without Secretariat involvement; and an independent modality where the NPPO manages the entire process internally.

[126] A key focus of the update was the recent progress in enhancing the PCE tool, driven by a 2023 Desk Study that assessed first-hand user insights. Significant improvements are being implemented through a dedicated roadmap to modernize the tool's modules, user interface, and overall user experience, ensuring it remains relevant and efficient for national plant protection efforts. The presentation also provided a snapshot of ongoing and recently completed PCEs across various regions, demonstrating the tool's practical success in identifying gaps and defining priority actions that lead to tangible improvements in national phytosanitary systems and compliance with ISPMs.

[127] Finally, Ms. Shaza introduced the concept of integrating gender and youth considerations into future PCEs, emphasizing that SPS measures must be inclusive, equitable, and socially responsive for long-term legitimacy and impact. The presentation concluded by highlighting a spotlight PCE Publication that addresses the interconnections between phytosanitary measures, plant health, human health, and economic outcomes, especially in African contexts. This study provides crucial evidence-based policy recommendations, illustrating how PCEs can be leveraged beyond technical assessment to support broader agricultural development, trade efficiency, and socio-economic goals.

## **7.6. IPPC Observatory – the IPPC Third General Survey**

[128] Mr. Ahmed Abdelmottaleb presented the objectives and scope of the redesign of the Third IPPC General Survey, a key tool within the IPPC Observatory system. The Observatory monitors and evaluates the alignment of contracting parties with their obligations under the IPPC, the implementation of International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs), and progress on the Strategic Framework. The primary goal of the new survey is to move beyond previous limitations and provide a more robust assessment of how contracting parties are adopting and operationalizing core IPPC elements, which includes identifying best practices and implementation challenges to inform the development of future resources.

[129] The presentation detailed the careful process used in the survey's design, which involved extensive review and discussion by the IC Sub-group and the IPPC Observatory team. The survey is strategically focused on three key areas: legal and regulatory frameworks, operational systems, implementation processes, and data management capabilities. Of the 46 active ISPMs, 18 have been explicitly factored into the survey design to assess core implementation levels. This targeted approach ensures that the data collected is relevant and actionable and provides the necessary depth of analysis for strategic decision-making by the Secretariat and the CPM.

[130] The questionnaire structure was also highlighted, combining quantitative and qualitative questions, including multiple-choice, frequency-based, and narrative fields, to ensure comprehensive data

capture. To optimize data collection, the survey will be deployed on the SurveyMonkey platform for global accessibility, with a downloadable Word version available for preparation. Crucially, the plan includes strong quality safeguards such as pilot testing and dedicated data quality focal points. Success will rely on active communication, engagement with national contact points, and providing multilingual support materials to encourage widespread and timely participation before the results are analyzed and used for strategic planning.

## 7.7. IPPC Workshop on Systematic Approaches

[131] Mr. Ahmed Abdelmottaleb's presentation announced the IPPC Global Workshop on Systems Approaches, highlighting the shift towards integrated and adaptive solutions for complex trade pathways. The core principle of System Approaches (SA), rooted in ISPM 14, is to manage phytosanitary risk using a combination of integrated measures rather than relying on a single measure. This risk-based, least trade-restrictive approach supports modern agricultural practices, facilitates safe trade, and leverages new technologies to ensure high compliance with phytosanitary requirements. The presentation underscored that SA is crucial for ensuring effective biosecurity while minimizing disruptions to international commerce.

[132] The major announcement was the "Save the Date" for the Global Workshop, scheduled for 1 to 5 December 2025 in Santiago, Chile. This event, confirmed by the CPM Bureau, is being organized by the IPPC Secretariat with extensive support from the Chilean National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO) and regional partners, including COSAVE and IICA. The workshop aims to gather up to 100 participants from NPPOs and RPPOs to engage in technical sessions, learn about the use of IPPC standards in SA, and contribute to global program discussions, including a planned field visit to observe practical implementation.

[133] The presentation finalized the call for participants, which is expected to be officially launched. The call will detail application procedures, selection criteria, and logistics, encouraging NPPOs to prepare and submit their successful case studies on systems approaches.

[134] Mr. Abdelmottaleb mentioned that it's an opportunity for countries to showcase innovations, contribute to the global dialogue on phytosanitary risk management, and strengthen international collaboration. He stressed that a system approach is essential for both export and import NPPOs.

## 7.8 National Reporting Obligations

[135] Mr. Ahmed Abdelmottaleb provided a detailed overview of the National Reporting Obligations (NROs), emphasizing their foundational importance under the IPPC. The presentation clarified the responsibilities of contracting parties, particularly the IPPC Contact Points, which include ensuring timely information exchange, facilitating appropriate communication between relevant national and international bodies, and monitoring and managing responses to inquiries. The NROs cover crucial

information, such as organizational arrangements of plant protection, the rationale for phytosanitary restrictions, significant instances of non-compliance, and technical data necessary for Pest Risk Analysis (PRA).

[136] The presentation highlighted the current challenges faced by contracting parties in fulfilling NROs, which often result in incomplete or outdated information on the International Phytosanitary Portal (IPP). Key areas requiring attention include improving the accuracy of pest status reporting and ensuring the rationales for phytosanitary requirements are consistently documented. To address these issues, the IPPC Secretariat has proposed a comprehensive 2025 work plan that focuses on activating the IC Subgroup on NROs, enhancing the existing Pest Reporting System, and revising the official NROs Guide to reflect the latest changes in ISPMs.

[137] To support NPPOs and Contact Points, the IPPC plans to develop new capacity development materials, including an updated NROs Guide and a dedicated e-learning course. This support is vital as NROs are crucial for effective global plant health management, ensuring a shared understanding of pest risks and facilitating timely, evidence-based decisions. The presentation concluded with an invitation to all contracting parties to proactively provide and update their NRO information, underscoring that their compliance directly contributes to global biosecurity and safe international trade.

## 7.9 Africa Phytosanitary Program (APP)

[138] Mr. Mohamed Habib Ben Jamaa provided a presentation about the Africa Phytosanitary Program (APP), a significant initiative designed to enhance the capacity of NPPOs across Africa. The core objective of the APP is to leverage science and digital technology to achieve better, timely, and effective pest surveillance and control, which carry significant regulatory, economic, and environmental importance. The program focuses on three key pillars: proactive surveillance, accurate pest identification and diagnostics, and effective pest data collection, storage, and analytics—all critical steps for modernizing African phytosanitary systems.

[139] The APP is being implemented in a phased approach across 12 pilot countries, strategically selected from five sub-regions: North, West, Central, East, and Southern Africa. Each pilot country designated a list of its top five priority pests and nominated six experts to serve as APP trainers. Key technical support provided during this phase included plant pest survey protocols, field supplies, GIS HUB, and mobile applications for data collection, and the distribution of approximately 46 tablets per pilot country, pre-loaded with essential APP tools and resources.

[140] Significant achievements of the first phase were also highlighted, demonstrating tangible progress. These include the submission of detailed operational plans by all pilot countries, the successful training of over 500 national field surveyors, and the distribution of the essential surveillance equipment. Furthermore, the program has excelled in communications, producing an APP brochure in four



languages and over 100 social media messages, significantly raising awareness. Future steps include assessing the first phase and organizing a Train-the-Trainer workshop for Phase 2 countries in June 2025.

## **8. IPPC In-kind contributions translation process: a collaborative approach**

[141] Ms. Shaza Omar's presentation outlined the IPPC's In-Kind Translation Process, highlighting its collaborative nature and critical role in ensuring that essential phytosanitary guides and materials are accessible across all member countries. The IPPC relies heavily on Contracting Parties to provide in-kind contributions, primarily by donating language reviewers and technical translators. This mechanism is vital because the IPPC Secretariat cannot cover the entire workload for all required languages through its core budget. This collaborative effort helps to democratize information, fostering better global compliance with International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs) and enhancing phytosanitary capacity.

[142] The presentation detailed the structured, four-phase process for in-kind translation. This process begins with the call for volunteers—seeking experts from National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs) who possess both technical expertise and language skills. This is followed by the translation phase, where volunteers translate materials such as e-learning courses, standards, and guides. The crucial third phase involves a second set of experts reviewing the language and technical quality assurance to ensure accuracy. The final phase involves the IPPC Secretariat's final layout, design, and publication of the translated materials on the International Phytosanitary Portal (IPP).

[143] Finally, the presentation emphasized the significant benefits and opportunities available to contributing countries and experts. Nations are encouraged to provide both in-kind translation services and financial contributions to cover layout and design costs. In return, contributing countries receive formal recognition at CPM meetings and their country's logo is included on the translated guides and e-learning pages, scaled according to their contribution level. Experts also receive formal certificates of appreciation and opportunities for professional development, reinforcing the global effort to strengthen plant protection worldwide.

[144] Following the presentation, discussions focused on participants' previous experiences and their contributions to translation and proofreading. NEPPO highlighted its role as a coordinator in reviewing the translated ISPMs and the importance of countries' contributions to this procedure.

[145] The IC representative emphasized the importance of distinguishing between the translation of standards, which follows an existing mechanism but does not include translation of drafts during the consultation period (a different track), and the translation of implementation materials, which was the subject of the presentation. He also clarified that this role is not limited to the NPPOs or RPPOs. Instead, other organizations and entities from the region can contribute to this support, providing



examples of organizations that engage in translation activities in neighboring areas, such as COLEAD and the European Union.

[146] The FAO Regional Office recalled the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's initiative to translate IPPC implementation materials. Despite multiple meetings and discussions, no agreement was reached due to the high estimated costs presented by the IPPC Secretariat. FAORNE therefore requested a clear mechanism and defined criteria for calculating translation costs.

[147] In response, the IPPC Secretariat representative clarified that translation activities follow FAO's standardized procedures and fixed rates, emphasizing that a well-established mechanism is already in place

[148] The IC representative, involved in earlier communications, noted that the high cost estimate likely stemmed from KSA's request to translate all IPPC materials. He added that the issue was revisited during the IC meeting, where alternative approaches—such as financial contributions or in-kind support—were proposed to facilitate the initiative and strengthen regional engagement

## **9. Sustainable Financing Mechanisms for IPPC RW NENA region:**

### **Challenges & Recommendations**

[149] The session addressed one of the most pressing challenges in organizing regional workshops—ensuring predictable, transparent, and equitable financial support for CPs. Participants noted that the 2025 IPPC Regional Workshop (RW) faced an unprecedented funding shortfall. The total financial allocation from the IPPC Secretariat amounted to USD 26,000, which was used to support participants from Iran, Jordan, Lebanon, Mauritania, Morocco, Sudan, and Tunisia, in accordance with the eligibility criteria established for 2025. This allocation also covered the participation of IC and SC members.

[150] However, this limited budget was insufficient to support all nominated and eligible countries. Official nominations were received from additional CPs —Egypt, Iraq, Yemen, Syria, and Libya — after the initial allocation had been made. While Libya confirmed national support to cover its participants' daily subsistence allowance (DSA), the remaining countries could not be funded. This created a sensitive situation because the funding constraints were not clearly communicated in the initial invitation letters, leading to unmet expectations following ministerial nominations.

[151] To address this issue and ensure full participation, the FAO-RNE temporarily allocated resources from the budget of one of its Technical Cooperation Projects (TCPs) to fund the participation of the remaining eligible countries. While this solution enabled the workshop's successful implementation,

it was recognized that such an approach is not sustainable in the long term, as it diverts limited project resources and cannot substitute for a dedicated, predictable funding mechanism for future workshops.

[152] Participants emphasized that this situation reflects a broader structural challenge affecting the sustainability of IPPC Regional Workshops in the NENA region. The absence of a dedicated and predictable financing mechanism continues to place recurring pressure on FAO-RNE, the IPPC Secretariat, and regional partners to mobilize ad-hoc resources each year. Such uncertainty threatens both inclusiveness and continuity, which are essential for practical regional cooperation under the IPPC framework.

[153] The CPS requested the IPPC Secretariat to review and improve the current funding mechanism for the NENA regional workshop. The mechanism should adopt clear, fair, and transparent eligibility criteria, ensure equitable participation of all CPs, and promote the long-term sustainability of the regional workshop model.

[154] The CPs suggested that future IPPC invitations to regional workshops include explicit information on available funding, eligibility conditions, and self-financing options to manage expectations and ensure complete transparency from the outset.

## 10. Conclusion of the Workshop/ Date and Venue of the Next Meeting

### ❖ Proposed date for the IPPC workshop 2026:

*Tentative: August- September*

### ❖ Proposed venue for the IPPC workshop 2026:

[155] Several NENA countries have expressed interest in hosting the upcoming 2026 IPPC Regional Workshop. Mauritania and Jordan have indicated their willingness, but internal discussions need to be done within their respective ministries. Egypt and Iraq have also expressed readiness to host the workshop again, reaffirming their continued commitment to supporting regional IPPC activities. Notably, Iraq hosted the regional workshop in 2021, Egypt in 2020, and Jordan in 2015.

[156] The United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Qatar have likewise expressed interest and are currently conducting internal consultations pending formal approval from the relevant national authorities. In line with the principles of equitable rotation and inclusiveness, priority will be given to countries that have not previously hosted the workshop or have not done so for a considerable period.

## 11. Online Survey

[157] Participants in the IPPC RW actively contributed to the online survey, which was made available in Arabic and French to ensure inclusivity and accessibility.

The survey can be accessed through the following link: <https://forms.office.com/e/kP3MUtbXwY>

## 12. Adoption of the Report

[158] The participants agreed on the comments mentioned in **Annex 3**.

## 13. Closing of the meeting

[159] The host country collaborated with the co-organizers to conduct the workshop wrap-up.

## 14. Technical Visit

[160] On Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> September 2025, the host country arranged field visits to various sites:

- The participants explored Oman's plant health practices through site visits to the Razat Royal Farm and a coconut model farm.
- The coconut model farm provided insights into crop-specific surveillance and nursery management. Both sites demonstrated practical conservation approaches and reinforced the workshop's technical discussions with practical examples of phytosanitary implementation and innovation.
- At Razat Royal Farm, delegates observed advanced pest monitoring systems, integrated pest management strategies, and the application of good agricultural practices, including water-efficient irrigation, organic inputs, and digital farm management tools.

## 15. The workshop Materials

All the documents related to the meeting were made available to the participants through this link:

- [https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1BONca9lLc6zu48QeQP1SxzeUcPVjT8xi?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1BONca9lLc6zu48QeQP1SxzeUcPVjT8xi?usp=drive_link)

[161] Photos:

- <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1W9db7ZMkJFbkPN8q9QlziRpd68lyFLT5>

## Recommendations of the 2026 IPPC RW – NENA region

- ✓ **Enhance Regional Participation in IPPC Strategic Planning**  
Strengthen the involvement of NENA countries in IPPC's Strategic Planning Group (SPG) and related strategic forums. This includes nominating regional experts and ensuring consistent participation to represent regional priorities effectively.
- ✓ **Develop a Joint Annual Regional Action Plan**  
Establish a collaborative annual action plan, facilitated by FAO and NEPPO, to identify and review regional plant health priorities. This plan will guide coordinated inputs into the IPPC work programme and address shared challenges. The process includes collecting proposals for tabling and adoption during the annual Strategic Planning Group (SPG) meeting.
- ✓ **Ensure Transparent Funding for IPPC regional workshop for NENA**  
Request that the IPPC Secretariat review and improve the funding mechanisms for the IPPC regional workshop in NENA. Adopt clear, fair, and transparent financing criteria to promote sustainability and equitable participation. A working paper will be developed to review the current financing mechanism from the NENA region's perspective and will be submitted to the IPPC Secretariat for consideration.
- ✓ **Clarify Exclusion from IPPC Funding Mechanism**  
A request was made for affected countries—those excluded from the IPPC funding mechanism for the current year—to contact the IPPC Secretariat directly to seek clarification on the reasons for their exclusion. This step aims to ensure transparency and foster mutual understanding of the funding criteria and decisions.
- ✓ **Improve Language Accessibility of IPPC Materials**  
Request that the IPPC Secretariat clarify the mechanisms and criteria used for translating IPPC materials into other languages, also to expedite the translation of IPPC documents, training materials, and digital tools into Arabic and other relevant regional languages. This will help in understanding how to support this from the regional level to improve the implementation of standards.
- ✓ **Support NEPPO in Standards Development**  
Reaffirm support for NEPPO's role in developing regional and international standards. Encourage active engagement by NENA countries in NEPPO's standard-setting processes and use NEPPO as a platform to propose new or improved standards tailored to regional needs.
- ✓ **Establish a Regional NENA Laboratory Network**  
Work towards creating a network of accredited national laboratories for plant health diagnostics in NENA. This network will enable resource sharing, harmonize diagnostic protocols, and enhance pest detection and identification capabilities across the region.
- ✓ **Expand Participation in the ePhyto System**  
Urge all NENA countries to adopt the IPPC ePhyto system for electronic phytosanitary certification. Countries that have not yet participated should initiate the onboarding process with the support of FAO/IPPC and request the necessary financial and technical support from the IPPC.

- ✓ **Implement the Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation Tool**  
Promote national implementation of the PCE tool to identify capacity gaps and develop targeted improvement plans. PCE results can be used to seek technical and financial support from FAO's Technical Cooperation Programme and other donors.
- ✓ **Mobilize Funding and Technical Resources**  
Call on FAO, regional organizations, and international donors to mobilize resources in support of national and regional plant health priorities. Focus areas include training, infrastructure upgrades (e.g., laboratories and equipment), and the implementation of pilot projects.
- ✓ **Promote Positive Participation in the Open Call for Topics**  
Encourage countries to actively and positively participate in the open call for topics related to Standards and Implementation. This engagement is essential to ensure that regional priorities and perspectives are well-represented in the IPPC standard-setting process.
- ✓ **Facilitate Participation in the International Day of Plant Health 2026**  
Encourage countries in the region to actively participate in organizing events to celebrate the IDPH 2026. Countries are also urged to register their planned activities on the designated platform available on the FAO website, ensuring visibility and coordination at the global level.
- ✓ **Promote Public Awareness and Celebrate the IDPH**  
Strengthen public awareness campaigns on plant health, particularly around the International Day of Plant Health (May 12). Engage farmers, traders, and the public to promote compliance with phytosanitary measures and encourage the reporting of pests.
- ✓ **Proposal for an International Standard on Phytosanitary Risks in Postal and Courier Channels**  
Countries are encouraged to consider submitting a proposal for the development of an international standard focused explicitly on managing phytosanitary risks associated with postal and courier channels. This would address an increasingly relevant pathway for pest introduction and support global efforts to strengthen plant health safeguards.
- ✓ **Proposal for a Guide on Fruit Fly Pest-Free Areas of Production**  
Countries are encouraged to consider submitting a proposal for developing a technical guide focused on establishing and maintaining fruit fly pest-free areas of production. This guide would support harmonized approaches to pest management and facilitate safe trade in agricultural commodities.
- ✓ **Promote the Establishment of National Certified Propagation Material Systems**  
Encourage countries to develop national systems for certified propagation material, ensuring the production and distribution of high-quality, pest-free planting material. This contributes to improved plant health, enhanced agricultural productivity, and the support of regional harmonization of phytosanitary standards.
- ✓ **Organize a Regional Workshop on Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE)**  
Support the organization of a regional workshop focused on Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE) to strengthen national capacities, promote self-assessment, and identify priority areas for improvement in plant health systems across the region.

✓ **Request to Postpone Adoption of Draft Annex on Field Inspection (Standard 23)**

A request was made to the IPPC Secretariat to postpone the adoption of the draft annex on Field Inspection under Standard 23 until the draft of the leading standard is finalized. This approach ensures coherence and alignment between the annex and the overarching standard.

**Annexes:**

- **Annex 1: Agenda (Arabic and English)**
- **Annex 2: List of Participants**
- **Annex 3: Comments on Draft ISPMs**

10/9/2025



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

## **IPPC Regional Workshop in the Near East and North Africa Region**

**8-11 September, 2025  
Salalah, Sultanate of Oman**

### **LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

#### **ALGERIA (pending)**

Sofia Touadi  
Director  
Ministry of Agriculture  
Algeria, Algiers  
Email: [djamsoftou@yahoo.fr](mailto:djamsoftou@yahoo.fr)

#### **EGYPT**

Mohamed El-Mansy  
Head of Central Administration of Plant  
Quarantine (NPPO),  
Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation,  
Egypt  
Official IPPC Contact Point of Egypt.  
Cairo, Egypt  
Email: [ippc@capq.gov.eg](mailto:ippc@capq.gov.eg) ,

#### **IRAN**

Maryam Jalili Moghaddam  
Head of Plant Protection Organization of Iran  
Plant Protection Organization of Iran  
Tehran, Iran  
E-mail: [marypaya@yahoo.com](mailto:marypaya@yahoo.com)

#### **IRAQ (pending)**

Nazar Rashid Merzah  
Assistant Chief Agricultural Engineer  
Ministry of Agriculture/ Plant Protection  
Directorate  
Baghdad, Iraq  
Email: [nazar.rashid2013@gmail.com](mailto:nazar.rashid2013@gmail.com)

#### **JORDAN**

Maram Al Masadeh  
IPPC Official Contact Point of Jordan  
Director of Plant Protection & Phytosanitary  
Directorate (NPPO Jordan)  
Jordan -Ministry of Agriculture  
Amman, Jordan  
E-mail: [maram.almasadeh@moa.gov.jo](mailto:maram.almasadeh@moa.gov.jo)

#### **KUWAIT**

Bashayer Alotaibi  
Senior Agricultural Development Specialist  
Public Authority of Agricultural Affairs &  
Fish Resources  
Kuwait, State of Kuwait  
Email: [bashfalo@gmail.com](mailto:bashfalo@gmail.com)

#### **LEBANON**

Rania Elhayek  
Head of import export and plant quarantine  
service/ IPPC focal point  
Ministry of Agriculture  
Beirut, Lebanon  
Email: [raniahayek77@gmail.com](mailto:raniahayek77@gmail.com)

**LIBYA**

Ali ElBadri  
 Director of the Agricultural Quarantine  
 Department  
 National Center for Prevention and Agricultural  
 Quarantine  
 Tripoli, Libya  
 Email : [elbadrincppq.ly@gmail.com](mailto:elbadrincppq.ly@gmail.com)

**MAURITANIA**

Ould Dhehbi Sidi Mohamed  
 Point de Contact, Directeur de L'ONPV  
 Ministry of Agriculture  
 Nouakchott, Mauritania  
 E-mail : [ouldelghassemsidi@yahoo.fr](mailto:ouldelghassemsidi@yahoo.fr)

**MOROCCO**

Dris Barik  
 IPPC Contact Point  
 The National Office for Food Safety in Morocco  
 (ONSSA)  
 Rabat, Morocco  
 E-mail : [barikdris@gmail.com](mailto:barikdris@gmail.com)

**OMAN**

Abdulhamid Al Riyami  
 Head of Phytosanitary Measures Section  
 Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water  
 Resources  
 Muscat, Oman  
 E-mail: [Abdulhamid.AlRiyami@mafwr.gov.om](mailto:Abdulhamid.AlRiyami@mafwr.gov.om)

Said Al Hashmi  
 Head of Plant Pest Risk Analysis and Permits  
 Section  
 Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water  
 Resources  
 Muscat, Oman  
 E-mail : [Said.AlHashmi@mafwr.gov.om](mailto:Said.AlHashmi@mafwr.gov.om)

Alghalia Al Rabkhi  
 Plant Quarantine Specialist  
 Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water  
 Resources  
 Muscat, Oman  
 E-mail: [AlGhalia.AlRabkhi@mafwr.gov.om](mailto:AlGhalia.AlRabkhi@mafwr.gov.om)

**FAO OMAN**

Fatma AlArimi  
 Communications Specialist  
 FAO OMAN  
 Muscat, Oman  
 Email: [fatma.alarimi@fao.org](mailto:fatma.alarimi@fao.org)

Badr AlHinai  
 Administration Division  
 FAO OMAN  
 Muscat, Oman  
 Email : [badr.alhinai@fao.org](mailto:badr.alhinai@fao.org)

**QATAR**

Jawaher AlAjji  
 Qatar National contact point for the IPPC  
 Agricultural Affairs Department- Ministry of  
 Municipality  
 Doha, Qatar  
 E-mail: [jaalajji@mm.gov.qa](mailto:jaalajji@mm.gov.qa)

**SAUDI ARABIA**

Mousa Hassan Asiri  
 Director General of the General Directorate of  
 Plant Health Regulation  
 WEQAA Center  
 Riyadh, Saudi Arabia  
 E-mail: [mhasiri@weqaa.gov.sa](mailto:mhasiri@weqaa.gov.sa)

Ibrahim Ahmed Jaafari  
 Director  
 Plant Health Department  
 Jazan region  
 WEQAA Center  
 Riyadh, Saudi Arabia  
 E-mail: [e13675@weqaa.gov.sa](mailto:e13675@weqaa.gov.sa)

Abdulaziz Ibrahim Almubrriz  
 Plant Protection Specialist  
 WEQAA Center  
 Riyadh, Saudi Arabia  
 E-mail: [mhasiri@weqaa.gov.sa](mailto:mhasiri@weqaa.gov.sa)

**SYRIA**

Bassem Alkhiat  
 Head of Pesticides Section  
 Ministry of Agriculture/ Agricultural Affaires and  
 Plant Protection Directorate  
 Damascus, Syria  
 E-mail: [bassemkhyat76@gmail.com](mailto:bassemkhyat76@gmail.com)

**SUDAN**

Mubarak Hamdan  
 Director General of Plant Protection  
 Directorate  
 Ministers of Agriculture and Forests/ General  
 Plant Protection Directorate  
 Port Sudan, Sudan  
 E-mail: [\\_moaf.ppd@gmail.com/](mailto:_moaf.ppd@gmail.com/)  
[Mubarak\\_osman@yahoo.com](mailto:Mubarak_osman@yahoo.com)



**TUNISIA**

Naima Mahfoudhi  
General Director  
General Directorate of Plant Health and Control  
of Agricultural Inputs  
Tunisia, Tunis  
E-mail: medhioublassaad

**UNITED ARAB EMIRATES**

Abdulla AlKaabi  
Agricultural Engineer  
ADAFSA  
Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates  
Abdulla.m.alkaabi@adafsa.gov.ae

**YEMEN**

Ali Saif AlShaibani  
General Director of Plant Protection Department  
Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Fish  
Wealth  
Aden, Yemen  
E-mail: binsaif2009@hotmail.com

**NEAR EAST PLANT PROTECTION  
ORGANIZATION**

Mohamed Habib Ben Jamaa  
Executive Director  
NEPPO  
Rabat, Morocco  
E-mail : [hq.neppo@gmail.com](mailto:hq.neppo@gmail.com)  
[benjamaaml@gmail.com](mailto:benjamaaml@gmail.com)

Olfa Ezzine  
Scientific Coordinator  
NEPPO  
Rabat, Morocco  
Email : [ezzineolfa@neppo.org](mailto:ezzineolfa@neppo.org)

**IC MEMBER**

Ahmed Abdelmottaleb  
Phytosanitary Expert  
QAPQ-Egypt  
MME, Qatar  
E-mail: [bidoeng@yahoo.com](mailto:bidoeng@yahoo.com)

**SC MEMBER**

Nader ElBadry  
Phytosanitary specialist  
Central Administration of Plant Quarantines  
Cairo, Egypt  
E-mail: [nader.badry@gmail.com](mailto:nader.badry@gmail.com)

**USDA/APHIS**

Ahmed ElSayed  
Agricultural Specialist  
USDA/ APHIS International Services  
Regional office for Middle East and North  
Africa  
US Embassy  
Cairo, Egypt  
E-mail: [Ahmed.ElSayed@usda.gov](mailto:Ahmed.ElSayed@usda.gov)

Erin Beasley  
Agriculture Attache  
USDA/ APHIS International Services  
Regional office for Middle East and North  
Africa  
US Embassy  
E-mail: [Erin.Beasley@usda.gov](mailto:Erin.Beasley@usda.gov)

**FAO**

Thaer Yaseen  
Regional Plant Protection Officer  
Regional Office for the Near East and North  
Africa Region FAO/RNE  
Food and Agriculture Organization of the  
United Nations (FAO)  
Cairo, Egypt  
Email: [Thaer.Yaseen@fao.org](mailto:Thaer.Yaseen@fao.org)

MohamedelHady Sidatt  
Agricultural Officer  
FAO Sub-Regional Office for North Africa  
FAO/SNE  
Tunis, Tunisia  
E-mail: [MohamedelHady.Sidatt@fao.org](mailto:MohamedelHady.Sidatt@fao.org)

Shaza R.Omar  
Phytosanitary Specialist and PCE Facilitator  
International Plant Protection Convention  
Secretariat  
Food and Agriculture Organization of the  
United Nations  
Rome, Italy  
Email: [shaza.omar@fao.org](mailto:shaza.omar@fao.org)

Yosra Ahmed  
Plant protection Consultant  
Regional Office for the Near East and North  
Africa Region FAO/RNE  
Food and Agriculture Organization of the  
United Nations (FAO)  
Cairo, Egypt  
Email: [Yosra.ahmed@fao.org](mailto:Yosra.ahmed@fao.org)

Heba Tokali  
Technical Programme Associate  
Regional Office for the Near East and North  
Africa Region FAO/RNE  
Food and Agriculture Organization of the  
United Nations (FAO)  
Cairo, Egypt  
Email: [heba.tokali@fao.org](mailto:heba.tokali@fao.org)

## **SPEAKERS (VIRTUAL)**

**Mr. Ahmed El-Gamal**  
Egypt NPPO  
*CPM FG on Sea Containers*  
Email: [ahmedelgamalphytosanitary@gmail.com](mailto:ahmedelgamalphytosanitary@gmail.com)

Dr. Ali Al Adawi  
Oman NPPO  
CPM FG-CCPI  
E-mail: [aliadawi74@gmail.com](mailto:aliadawi74@gmail.com)

Amani Al-Awamleh  
Jordan NPPO  
SC Member  
E-mail: [amaniawamleh@yahoo.com](mailto:amaniawamleh@yahoo.com)

Islam Aboul-Ela  
Egypt NPPO  
ePhyto expert  
E-mail: [islam.gene@gmail.com](mailto:islam.gene@gmail.com)

Dr. Ramez Ali Darwish  
Syria, NPPO  
FG on Safe Provision of Humanitarian Aid  
E-mail: [ramezali79@gmail.com](mailto:ramezali79@gmail.com)

Rashid Al-Shidi  
Oman, NPPO  
FG on Global Phytosanitary Research  
Coordination  
E-mail: [aliadawi74@gmail.com](mailto:aliadawi74@gmail.com)

Dr. Yousria Ahmed  
IPPC Secretariat / FAO  
E-mail: [yousria.ahmed@fao.org](mailto:yousria.ahmed@fao.org)