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Convention

# **REPORT**

## **Implementation and Capacity Development Committee Meeting**

**15–19 May 2023**

**IPPC Secretariat**

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## **1. OPENING OF THE MEETING**

### **1.1 Opening remarks by the IPPC Secretariat**

- [1] The IPPC Secretariat (hereafter referred to as the “secretariat”) welcomed all participants to the May 2023 meeting of the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC), expressing delight at seeing the IC members present in the room and joining virtually via video link.
- [2] In his welcoming remarks, Osama EL-LISSY, the IPPC Secretary, thanked IC members for their productive work and for dedicating their time and expertise. He acknowledged the outputs of various IC subgroups and teams, welcomed the new members to the IC, and thanked the outgoing members. The IPPC secretary noted the importance of the IC for the implementation of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs), and the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) Recommendations. He invited the IC to continue addressing plant-health issues, challenges and capacity needs to promote and better implement the IPPC.
- [3] The secretariat updated the IC on staffing changes within the Implementation and Facilitation Unit (IFU) of the secretariat.
- [4] One IC member asked the IPPC secretary to provide an update on the progress of the African Phytosanitary Programme (APP). The IPPC secretary noted that the programme was in the process of identifying the first ten pilot countries from subregions in Africa. The next step would be the selection of priority pests by the selected pilot countries. In the implementation phases, inputs from the IC would also be anticipated.

### **1.2 Opening remarks by the IC chairperson**

- [5] Thorwald GEUZE (the Kingdom of the Netherlands), who had been selected by the IC through e-decision as interim IC chairperson to chair this meeting, thanked the IPPC secretary for his opening remarks. He welcomed the IC and joined the secretary in welcoming the new IC members and thanking the outgoing ones.
- [6] With reference to the upcoming term of the IC chairperson and IC vice-chairperson, the chairperson explained that two candidates were having discussions about arrangements and roles. Introduction of the new IC members.

- [7] Each member of the IC and the secretariat was given the floor to introduce themselves.

## 2 MEETING ARRANGEMENTS

### 2.1 Election of the rapporteur

- [8] Kyu-Ock YIM (Republic of Korea), supported by Ringolds ARNITIS (Latvia), were elected as the rapporteurs to the meeting.

### 2.2 Adoption of the agenda

- [9] No additional agenda items were proposed for discussion under agenda item 17 (Any other business).  
[10] The agenda was adopted and is attached to this report as Appendix 1.

## 3 ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

### 3.1 Documents list

- [11] The list of documents is attached to this report as Appendix 2.

### 3.2 Participants list

- [12] Ezequiel FERRO (Argentina), Francisco Adrian GUTIERREZ (Belize) and Dominique PELLETIER (Canada) had informed the secretariat that they were not able to attend the IC May 2023 meeting. The replacement IC member for North America, Wendy BELTZ, attended the meeting.
- [13] Ahmed M. Abdellah ABDELMOTALLEB (Qatar), Chris DALE (Australia) and Fitzroy WHITE (IPPC Secretariat) attended the meeting remotely via video link.
- [14] Two observers attended the meeting.
- [15] The list of participants is attached to this report as Appendix 3.

### 3.3 Local information

- [16] The secretariat provided a link to the document with local information.<sup>1</sup>

### 3.4 Evaluation results of the 2022 IC November meeting

- [17] The secretariat presented the results of the evaluation of the 2022 IC November meeting.<sup>2</sup> The survey had been submitted to IC members using Microsoft Forms and six IC members had responded (a return rate of less than 50 percent).
- [18] The secretariat noted that the overall evaluation results were positive regarding the coordination of IC activities as well as the preparation, organization and support provided to IC members for the 2022 November meeting. The respondents had highlighted some issues for the secretariat to follow up related to access to the IC Microsoft Teams channel, the need to include on the agenda the technical topic presented

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<sup>1</sup> Local information: <https://www.ippc.int/en/work-area-publications/91985>

<sup>2</sup> 04\_IC\_2023\_May.

by experts, and the importance of clearing the decision points during IC meetings. The secretariat concluded by stating that necessary actions had been taken to address these issues.

- [19] The IC chairperson thanked the secretariat for the presentation and opened the floor to proposals for improving the organization of IC meetings.
- [20] One IC member asked if the secretariat had taken any action to improve the response rate to the survey. The secretariat responded that, for this meeting, the link to the evaluation survey would be shared in advance on Wednesday and again on Thursday, allowing IC members more time to respond to the survey.
- [21] One IC member complimented the secretariat on the improvements made to the organization of IC meetings, noting the well-structured agenda, working papers shared in a timely manner, and the fruitful communication between the secretariat and the IC. The IC chairperson reiterated this comment.
- [22] One IC member asked about the possibility of posting IC working papers on the International Phytosanitary Portal (IPP) restricted work area and the IC Microsoft Teams channel at least three weeks before the meeting, rather than two weeks, so that there is sufficient time to go through the papers and for potential national consultations.
- [23] The secretariat indicated that papers are published as soon as they are available, and often more than two weeks before the IC; however, in some situations, for some papers, there are unavoidable delays in the finalization of papers.
- [24] The IC chairperson invited all IC members to fill out the meeting evaluation survey.
- [25] The IC:
- (1) *noted* the results of the evaluation of the 2022 November IC meeting;
  - (2) *noted* the actions undertaken by the secretariat to address the observations resulting from the responses to the evaluation; and
  - (3) *invited* the secretariat to continue to post the working documents for IC meetings as soon as possible on the IPP restricted work area and the dedicated Microsoft Teams channel.

## 4 CPM-17 (2023) IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

### 4.1 Outcomes of CPM-17 (2023) key issues and decisions that affect the IC

- [26] The secretariat presented a paper summarizing the decisions of CPM-17 (2023) that affected the organization, the activities and the workplan of the IC, and reflecting on the discussions and decisions as presented in the CPM-17 report and the impacts of these decisions on the IC workplan.<sup>3</sup>

#### 4.1.1 NPPO orientation side-session

- [27] The secretariat noted that, following the national plant protection organization (NPPO) orientation side session held before the opening of CPM-17 (2023), there had been a strong request for future such sessions to be interpreted into FAO official languages to encourage contracting parties' involvement in CPM sessions.

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<sup>3</sup> 05\_IC\_2023\_May; CPM reports: <https://www.ippc.int/en/cpm-sessions>



- [28] The secretariat invited the IC to confirm the value of providing guidance to NPPOs that will enhance their engagement in the CPM and in the broader IPPC community.
- [29] Additionally, the secretariat invited the IC to consider revising the *Manual of good practices for participating in the International Plant Protection Convention Commission on Phytosanitary Measures meeting* and translating this guide into all official FAO languages, noting that this was to be discussed under agenda item 9.1.
- [30] The IC noted that CPM preparation should be a year-long exercise to increase the capacity of contracting parties to participate at the CPM session. Members of the IC suggested that a presentation on the topic could be prepared, with translation into UN official languages and a recorded voice-over, for delivery at various events such as IPPC regional workshops and to be available on the IPP. They suggested that the Technical Consultation among Regional Plant Protection Organizations (TC-RPPOs) could spread information, there could be pre-CPM preparatory workshops in regions, and a side session could be held just before the CPM session as was done this year. An IC lead would be selected for this activity and IC regional representatives would also play a role. This approach would allow a wide range of people in NPPOs to be reached and would provide a sustainable solution, keeping in mind the usual turnover of staff in NPPOs.
- [31] The IC also agreed on the need for, and importance of, interpretation of the CPM side sessions.
- [32] The IC:
- (4) *invited* the secretariat to analyse the overlap between the participants of the IPPC regional workshops and the participants of the CPM;
  - (5) *invited* the secretariat to develop a presentation or a video addressing CPM participation, to be translated into FAO official languages, which would be shared with regions for CPM preparation during IPPC regional workshops, the TC-RPPOs and pre-CPM workshops and would be posted on the IPP;
  - (6) *invited* the secretariat to reference this presentation in the CPM invitation letter to ensure that contracting parties go through the presentation before the CPM session;
  - (7) *encouraged* the secretariat to provide interpretation of the CPM-18 (2024) side sessions; and
  - (8) *encouraged* the secretariat to organize an NPPO orientation side session at CPM-18 (2024).

#### **4.1.2 CPM-17 (2023) agenda item on the Report from the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee for 2022**

- [33] The secretariat confirmed that, based on the outcomes of the CPM-17 (2023) agenda item on the Report from the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee for 2022, they had been discussing the restructuring of the IPP. The changes would include ensuring that an icon is included on the IPP home page to link to the Phytosanitary systems page, to facilitate accessibility and increase the use of the Phytosanitary systems resources by more members of the phytosanitary community.
- [34] The secretariat confirmed that they had removed the completed e-learning courses from the *List of implementation and capacity development topics*, following CPM-17.
- [35] The newly approved Terms of Reference (TOR) for the IC Subgroup on the IPPC Observatory had been finalized during the meeting of the subgroup on 26 April 2023, and had been posted on the IPP.
- [36] Lastly, the IC Subgroup on Dispute Avoidance and Settlement and the Sea Containers Task Force had been dissolved as agreed by CPM-17.

[37] One IC member reiterated the need to revamp the IPP and to make IPPC resources easily accessible, noting that the resources were very difficult to find. Additionally, the search function of the IPP was reported as being non-functional.

[38] The secretariat indicated that the restructured IPP would be presented and discussed at the June 2023 CPM Bureau meeting, noting that IC members may usefully liaise with their respective CPM Bureau representatives to express their suggestions to further improve the IPP.

[39] The IC:

- (9) *invited* the IC members to liaise with their respective CPM Bureau representatives to express needs and concerns regarding the improvement of the IPP.

#### **4.1.3 Implementation of IPPC Strategic Framework development agenda items**

[40] In view of the CPM-17 (2023) discussion on implementation of the IPPC Strategic Framework development agenda items (DAIs), the secretariat invited the IC to establish a new IC team to lead the DAI on authorizing entities to carry out phytosanitary actions, noting that there was a dedicated agenda item on this DAI later in this meeting (agenda item 12.4).

[41] The IC:

- (10) *noted* the detailed discussion planned under agenda item 12.4.

#### **4.1.4 Changes to the Standard Setting Procedure**

[42] Based on the CPM-17 (2023) decisions on changes to the Standard Setting Procedure, the secretariat invited the IC to align the consultation period for draft specifications for IPPC guides and training materials with that for draft ISPM specifications in the amended Standard Setting Procedure, extending the period from 60 to 90 days. It would mean that, starting in 2023, the consultation period for draft specifications for IPPC guides and training materials would be open from 1 July to 30 September.

[43] A few IC members noted the practicality of the adjustment.

[44] The IC:

- (11) *noted* that this topic would be discussed under agenda item 9.1.

#### **4.1.5 IPPC guides and training materials**

[45] The secretariat informed the IC that, following the discussion on IPPC guides and training materials, the CPM Bureau would discuss the secretariat communication plan during its June 2023 meeting, including how to further raise awareness and increase the use of IPPC guides and training materials that have been published under the auspices of the secretariat and the oversight of the IC.

[46] The secretariat noted the acknowledgement and gratitude from CPM-17 (2023), addressed to the IC, for developing the high-quality guides and training materials.

[47] One IC member expressed concern over translation of IPPC guides and training materials, given the large number of such resources. The secretariat indicated that priorities for translation had been determined with IC members from various regions. The secretariat noted the huge amount of work that the translation of guides and training materials entails, as well as the support needed from the secretariat to coordinate translation, proofreading and publishing of the resources.

#### 4.1.6 Projects managed by the IPPC Secretariat

- [48] Projects managed by the secretariat had also been discussed at CPM-17 (2023), and the CPM had noted the good project implementation and increased transparency. The IC noted that projects would be further discussed under agenda item 7.1 of this meeting.

#### 4.1.7 IPPC Observatory

- [49] The secretariat recalled that, during CPM-17 (2023), the secretariat had thanked the European Union (EU) for past funding and the Republic of Korea and Canada for current funding. The European Union had indicated the possibility of funding for IPPC Observatory activities through a project, and the secretariat had subsequently followed this proposal up with the European Union. The IC suggested that other funding sources should be identified.
- [50] The IC:
- (12) *requested* that the secretariat consider other sources of funding, in addition to EU financing of IPPC Observatory activities.

#### 4.1.8 One Health

- [51] The secretariat summarized the CPM-17 (2023) discussion on One Health.
- [52] The secretariat confirmed that they had launched the survey on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and would shortly be analysing the data collected as an additional 2023 priority for the IPPC Observatory.
- [53] One IC member suggested that the use and control of pesticides needed to be addressed in the survey on AMR. The member also indicated the need to promote best practices on the use of pesticides. Another IC member added that, based on the outcomes of the survey, the secretariat could decide what could be done within the framework of One Health.
- [54] Another IC member noted that plant health is not explicitly addressed in One Health, and expressed the view that it needed to be clearly addressed in the One Health definition.
- [55] One IC member expressed concern over the position of the IPPC community towards One Health, especially on AMR, considering that, in many countries, AMR issues are not handled by the NPPO. The member suggested that the CPM Bureau be asked to discuss at their June meeting the scope and role of the IPPC community in One Health and AMR.
- [56] Based on the outcome of the discussion on One Health and AMR, the secretariat confirmed that they would update the CPM Bureau during the June 2023 meeting on the latest developments.
- [57] The IC:
- (13) *noted* the secretariat update on One Health to the CPM Bureau; and
- (14) *invited* the CPM Bureau to discuss and define the role and position of the IPPC community in One Health and AMR issues.

#### 4.1.9 *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *cubense* Tropical Race 4

- [58] The secretariat summarized the CPM-17 (2023) discussion on *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *cubense* Tropical Race 4 (TR4), as well as the secretariat's preparatory meeting with FAO colleagues. The secretariat confirmed that they would further elaborate on activities to be undertaken for global coordination of action against TR4 at the

June 2023 CPM Bureau meeting, based on the conference room paper tabled at CPM-17 by the Latin America and the Caribbean Group.<sup>4</sup>

[59] The secretariat noted that TR4 would be discussed under agenda item 5.5 of this meeting.

#### **4.1.10 Membership and potential replacements for the IC**

[60] The secretariat explained that, further to the confirmation by CPM-17 (2023) of the membership and potential replacements for the IC, the secretariat would update the IC membership and post it on the IPP after this meeting. Additionally, the secretariat would issue a call for IC replacement members for the Pacific and Asia regions.

[61] The IC:  
(15) *noted* the CPM-17 discussions related to the IC.

## **5 UPDATES FROM THE IPPC SECRETARIAT**

### **5.1 Implementation and Facilitation Unit**

The secretariat presented the IFU activities, the IFU workplan for 2023,<sup>5</sup> the IFU organigramme,<sup>6</sup> and IFU support for the work of the IC subgroups and teams (IC Subgroup on the IPPC Observatory, IC Team on National Reporting Obligations (NROs), IC Team on Guides and Training Materials, IC Team on E-commerce, IC Team on Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluations, IC Team on Projects, IC Team on Contributed Resources, IC Team on Fusarium TR4). The secretariat highlighted the membership of the IC subgroups and teams, the scope of their work, completed activities, and anticipated activities for 2023.

[62] The IC chairperson thanked the IFU for the presentation and opened the floor for discussion.

[63] One IC member highlighted the important role of IPP editors with regard to NROs and suggested that their responsibilities be reactivated. The secretariat thanked the IC member for the excellent point raised and referred to agenda item 13.1 for detailed discussion.

[64] Another IC member commented on the plan to include monitoring and evaluation of the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020–2030, and asked if any actions had been taken on this. The secretariat stated that the IPPC Strategic Framework implementation plan had been approved by CPM-17 (2023). CPM-17 had also requested that the secretariat establish a project coordinator position to oversee the implementation of the IPPC Strategic Framework. Once the coordinator is in position, the IPPC Observatory would support the monitoring of the indicators of the implementation plan.

[65] The IC:  
(16) *noted* the IPPC Implementation and Facilitation Unit update.

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<sup>4</sup> CPM 2023/CRP/08.

<sup>5</sup> Implementation and Facilitation Unit Work Plan 2023: <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/85803>

<sup>6</sup> 06\_IC\_2023\_May.

## 5.2 Standard Setting Unit

- [66] The lead of the IPPC Standard Setting Unit (SSU) presented a summary of SSU work, planned activities for 2023,<sup>7</sup> cooperation with IPPC bodies, external cooperation, and the CPM-17 (2023) outcomes affecting SSU activities. The SSU lead listed the ISPMs adopted at CPM-17 (an annex to ISPM 20 (*Guidelines for a phytosanitary import regulatory system*), the revision of ISPM 18 (*Requirements for the use of irradiation as a phytosanitary measure*), amendments to ISPM 5 (*Glossary of phytosanitary terms*), Phytosanitary Treatment (PT) No. 45 (Irradiation treatment for *Pseudococcus jackbeardsleyi*), the diagnostic protocols (DPs) to be submitted for the 2023 notification period (5 January – 20 February or 1 July – 15 August), the draft ISPMs, PTs and DPs to be submitted for first consultation in 2023 (1 July – 30 September), and the draft ISPMs and PTs to be submitted for second consultation in 2023 (1 July – 30 September).
- [67] The IC chairperson thanked the secretariat for the presentation and opened the floor for discussion.
- [68] One IC member thanked the SSU lead for the presentation and asked for elaboration on any Standards Committee (SC) topics or conceptual issues that were particularly pertinent to the IC.
- [69] Another IC member noted the implementation issues highlighted by the SC, to be presented under agenda item 6.1 of this meeting, and noted that the collaboration between SC and IC should be reciprocal, consistent and clearly defined.
- [70] One IC member noted that the draft annex *Design and use of systems approaches for phytosanitary certification of seeds* (2018-009) to ISPM 38 (*International movement of seeds*) had not been approved for first consultation, and asked the reason why the annex had not been approved, so that the issue could be addressed, if possible, in both committees.
- [71] The SC representative to the IC explained that the ISPM 38 annex was not ready for consultation and there was a need for more clarification, noting that there was a concern that NPPOs could lose control over the process. The secretariat added that an SC working group would be drafting a paper on systems approaches for consideration by the Strategic Planning Group, with the aim of progressing the conceptual difficulties with this draft annex. One IC member commented on the importance of getting correct information on critical issues such as the status of the draft ISPM 38 annex, also in view of the recent SC meeting, so that the IC members could go back to their regions and provide the correct information, as well as during the IPPC regional workshops.
- [72] Another IC member suggested that, for the future, the IC representative to the SC should provide a clear report of SC discussions from the perspective of implementation.
- [73] The IC:  
(17) noted the IPPC Standard Setting Unit update.

## 5.3 Integration and Support Team

- [74] The representative from the IPPC Integration and Support Team (IST) presented a summary of IST activities undertaken since January 2023, including the successful organization of CPM-17 (2023), highlights from CPM-17, IPPC communication and advocacy activities, information management and works underway to revise and revamp the IPP, organization of IPPC regional workshops, the annual TC-

<sup>7</sup> SSU update and the workplan for 2023: <https://ippc.int/en/publications/91730>

RPPOs, and liaison and cooperation activities within the secretariat as well as with FAO and other external partners.

[75] The IC chairperson thanked the IST representative for the presentation and opened the floor for discussion.

[76] One IC member asked how the theme of International Plant Health Day is decided and suggested that a different and innovative theme to celebrate this day be proposed in the coming years. The IST representative thanked the IC member for the comment and confirmed that the comment would be conveyed to the IST Team Lead for consideration.

[77] The IC:

(18) *noted* the update by the IPPC Integration and Support Team.

## 5.4 ePhyto Group

[78] The lead for the secretariat's IPPC ePhyto Solution Group presented a paper giving an update on electronic phytosanitary certificate (ePhyto) activities.<sup>8</sup> The secretariat quoted statistics to highlight the success of the IPPC ePhyto Solution, with 125 countries using the system as of May 2023, and indicated the level of financial savings that contracting parties may make by exchanging ePhytos. The presenter attributed the success achieved to the collaborative efforts between the secretariat ePhyto team and the many partners who form an even larger "ePhyto Global Team" that includes the ePhyto Steering Group, the UN International Computing Centre, the Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation, the Industry Advisory Group and the World Bank.

[79] The lead for the secretariat's IPPC ePhyto Solution Group also provided an update on the efforts to find sustainable funding for the IPPC ePhyto Solution, noting the CPM-17 (2023) decision to extend the mandate of the CPM Focus Group on Sustainable Funding of the IPPC ePhyto Solution, which should submit funding options to the CPM in 2024.

[80] The lead for the IPPC ePhyto Solution Group also informed the IC of their plans to organize webinars specifically for Africa to promote the IPPC ePhyto Solution, in English on 21 June 2023 and in French on 22 June 2023.

[81] The lead for the IPPC ePhyto Solution Group invited the IC to encourage contracting parties to contact the secretariat if they are interested in using the ePhyto Solution.

[82] One IC member pointed out that some countries have problems with adopting the ePhyto Solution, such as difficulties with single-window systems for foreign trade, differences in the format of phytosanitary certificate used by different countries (with some using paper and some electronic), or a lack of internet access or electricity supply at border points. The lead for the secretariat's IPPC ePhyto Solution Group suggested that countries use the web-based Generic ePhyto National System (GeNS) until their single-window system is ready for use, and noted that the paper version of the phytosanitary certificate is exactly the same format as the digital certificate. The GeNS is also used as a backup in case a single-window system goes down. The lead noted, however, that the secretariat could not provide much to resolve problems with internet access and electricity cuts.

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<sup>8</sup> 09\_IC\_2023\_May.



- [83] Another IC member commented that developing countries may think that a lot of resources may be needed to implement the ePhyto Solution, which is not the case. The member suggested that the total cost of implementing the ePhyto Solution be presented in the webinars that were being organized in June 2023, sharing the experience of the countries that had already implemented the ePhyto Solution.
- [84] One IC member thanked the secretariat for the upcoming translation of the GeNS into Spanish. The IC member commented on the ePhyto regional workshop in Latin America, and noted some issues that had been identified as areas that could be improved in the IPPC ePhyto Solution. The lead for the secretariat's IPPC ePhyto Solution Group noted the comments and responded that the workshop demonstrated the enthusiasm for the ePhyto Solution in the Latin American region, and additionally noted that many of the suggestions proposed during the workshop would be implemented in due course.
- [85] The IC:
- (19) *noted* the successful implementation of the IPPC ePhyto Solution thus far; and
  - (20) *encouraged* IC members to support contracting parties that have not yet registered to the system to do so.

## 5.5 Fusarium TR4 emergency

- [86] The secretariat presented a paper summarizing the IPPC activities on TR4.<sup>9</sup> The secretariat outlined the outcomes and outputs of the IC Team on TR4, such as the contributed resources on TR4 that had been gathered, a series of webinars dedicated to *Fusarium TR4 diagnostic, surveillance, inspection and simulation exercises*, and the *Prevention, preparedness, and response guidelines for Fusarium TR4* that had recently been published.
- [87] The secretariat presented the activities related to TR4 and the “Pest Outbreak Alert and Response Systems (POARS)” DAI, as well as activities carried out under the framework of the projects “Strengthening Plant Health Emergency Management Capacities” (OSRO/GLO/208/USA) and “FAO Support to Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) Trade Facilitation Programme” (GCP/INT/387/COM).<sup>10</sup>
- [88] The secretariat updated the IC on the support provided to the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela following the report of the TR4 outbreak in January 2023. The secretariat had also participated in the regional simulation exercises in Nicaragua.
- [89] The secretariat summarized the outcomes of the meeting between the secretariat and FAO colleagues that had been organized during CPM-17 (2023) to obtain a clear picture of activities on TR4 conducted by the World Banana Forum, the Joint FAO/International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Centre of Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture, the FAO Office of Emergency and Resilience and the FAO Plant Production and Protection Division.

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<sup>9</sup> 10\_IC\_2023\_May.

<sup>10</sup> Strengthening Plant Health Emergency Management Capacities project: <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/capacity-development/projects-on-implementation-and-capacity-development/strengthening-plant-health-emergency-management-capacities-project>

COMESA Trade Facilitation Project: <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/capacity-development/projects-on-implementation-and-capacity-development/comesa-trade-facilitation-programme>

- [90] The secretariat referred to the CPM conference room paper tabled by the Latin American and Caribbean Group, which would form a basis to define next steps during the June 2023 CPM Bureau meeting.<sup>11</sup> Additionally, the secretariat listed the planned activities to be conducted under the framework of the project “FAO support to COMESA trade facilitation programme” (GCP/INT/387/COM). The secretariat noted that the global coordination requested by CPM-17 would be guided by the CPM Bureau. At the implementation level, the secretariat noted that the IC Team on TR4 needed to be reshuffled and remotivated to work on the development of implementation and capacity development (ICD) materials.
- [91] The IC chairperson thanked the secretariat for the presentations and opened the floor for discussion.
- [92] One IC member asked how effective the IPPC resources provided to the TR4-affected countries had been. The IC member highlighted the importance of understanding the needs of these countries to determine whether a different approach is needed to assist the affected countries. The secretariat confirmed that this question would be asked in the interviews with Nicaragua, as there was work underway by the secretariat to interview and publish Nicaragua’s story on the IPP regarding the regional simulation exercise on TR4.
- [93] Another IC member raised a question asking if the planned activities on TR4 may affect the workplan and the budget of the IFU. The secretariat noted that the activities would be fully covered by the project “FAO support to COMESA trade facilitation programme” (GCP/INT/387/COM).
- [94] One IC member asked whether there was an IPPC diagnostic protocol (ISPM) on TR4. It was noted that the *Prevention, preparedness, and response guidelines for Fusarium TR4* already included well-structured TR4 diagnostic information drafted by outstanding scientists. Another IC member also noted that there is a need for some flexibility in diagnostics, adding that in the case of TR4 there is a need to act quickly, and having a diagnostic protocol may have an adverse effect in this situation by causing delays. The IC noted that, if contracting parties are interested in developing a dedicated IPPC diagnostic protocol on TR4, they are free to submit a topic during the call for topics.
- [95] The IC chairperson thanked the secretariat. There were no further comments from the IC.
- [96] The IC:
- (21) *requested* that the secretariat issue a call to reinforce the membership of the IC Team on TR4;
  - (22) *requested* that the secretariat add the materials listed below as one topic, with priority 1, in the *List of implementation and capacity development topics* to be recommended to CPM-18(2024):
    - the setting of a face-to-face surveillance course on TR4,
    - the setting of a face-to-face diagnostic course on TR4,
    - the setting of a TR4 tabletop exercise, and
    - the setting of a face-to-face simulation exercise on TR4; and
  - (23) *agreed* that a TR4 tabletop exercise could be delivered during the 2023 IPPC regional workshops in interested regions.

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<sup>11</sup> CPM 2023/CRP/08.



## 6 IC-SC COLLABORATION

### 6.1 Implementation issues identified by the SC and recommendations to improve collaboration between the SC and the IC

- [97] The SC representative to the IC presented the paper on the implementation issues identified by the SC.<sup>12</sup> He outlined potential implementation issues related to the following items.

**Draft annex to ISPM 20 (*Guidelines for a phytosanitary import regulatory system*): Use of specific import authorizations (2008-006)**

- [98] The SC representative summarized suggestions regarding potential implementation issues, such as including a flow diagram to further clarify the use of specific import authorizations.
- [99] One IC member proposed that the flow diagram be included in ISPM 20 (*Guidelines for a phytosanitary import regulation system*) and noted that the development of the flow diagram should be under the SC, as ISPM annex development is an SC responsibility.
- [100] Another IC member suggested that a real example be included in the flow diagram so that it is better understood by the end users.
- [101] The secretariat suggested that the IC should provide support to the expert working group for the development of the flow diagram, as the IC is already involved in the expert working group.

- [102] The IC:

- (24) *noted* that the development of the flow diagram and the template should be done within the framework of ISPM 20 (*Guidelines for a phytosanitary import regulatory system*) under the responsibility of the SC; and
- (25) *expressed* willingness to provide support to the development of the flow diagram if requested.

**Revision of ISPM 18 (*Requirements for the use of irradiation as a phytosanitary measure*) (2014-007)**

- [103] The SC representative noted that the issues identified for ISPM 18 (*Requirements for the use of irradiation as a phytosanitary measure*) (2014-007) were related to technical implementation and to public opinion.
- [104] The IC chairperson invited the IC members to comment on the update on ISPM 18.
- [105] The secretariat noted that the public and technical issues were related and commented that a lack of awareness about irradiation as a phytosanitary method affects public opinion.
- [106] One IC member noted that the revised ISPM 18 requires inspectors to look at the documentation that confirms the application of the treatment and not to be worried about the presence of live insects after treatment. Another IC member added that this type of treatment requires quality assurance, noting that it is also a very expensive and specific procedure. The IC member called for awareness-raising among the public and for capacity development among plant-health officers on the ground so that they can apply this method with precision and with no mistakes. A guide explaining the process, precautions and method of application could be developed.

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<sup>12</sup> 11\_IC\_2023\_May.

[107] The secretariat noted that the IAEA had published a guide on irradiation as a phytosanitary treatment, and this addressed the misunderstandings of the method. One way to address the technical issues could be promotion of the IAEA guide or organization of a joint webinar to address the questions. Another IC member suggested that the IAEA guide on irradiation could be added as a contributed resource on the IPP.

[108] One IC member suggested that a quality management system be created for this phytosanitary method, which could improve confidence, as a quality management system is a prerequisite for applying irradiation.

[109] One IC member called for the need to share success stories on implementation of irradiation as a phytosanitary treatment. Another IC member suggested that the success stories could be from Mexico and the United States of America.

[110] The IC:

- (26) *recommended* that the IAEA guide on irradiation be submitted as a contributed resource;
- (27) *invited* the secretariat to promote the IAEA guide on irradiation;
- (28) *invited* the secretariat to explore options for organizing a joint webinar on irradiation with IAEA; and
- (29) *invited* the secretariat to explore success stories on implementation of irradiation as a phytosanitary treatment.

#### **Revision of ISPM 4 (*Requirements for the establishment of pest free areas*) (2009-002)**

[111] The SC representative stated that the adoption of this ISPM had been postponed to CPM-18 (2024); therefore, the SC had requested that the secretariat archive the implementation issues identified for this draft standard for later consideration by the SC.

[112] The secretariat noted that, in the *List of implementation and capacity development topics*, there is a topic on the development of an e-learning course for the pest free area guide, where the implementation issues identified could be taken into consideration.

#### **Task Force on Topics**

[113] The secretariat informed the IC that the IC Sub Group on the Observatory had agreed that the SC could submit topics directly for IPPC Observatory studies and surveys.

[114] The IC:

- (30) *noted* progress on the call for topics for 2023.

#### **Enhanced collaboration between the SC and IC**

[115] Members of the IC commented on the need to formally clarify and state the role of the IC representative to the SC, and vice versa. For the IC, the role of the SC representative to the IC is clearly stated; however, the role of the IC representative to the SC is not defined. The SC TOR state that an IC member may be invited to the SC meeting as an observer. Therefore, the IC recommended that the SC TOR be modified to clarify the role and involvement of the IC representative to the SC.

[116] The IC noted that the issues related to the IC–SC cooperation were already addressed but that there was a need for reciprocity between IC and SC representatives to ensure that the two committees were aligned.

[117] One IC member noted that NPPOs should be informed about the areas of IC–SC collaboration.

[118] The IC:

- (31) *noted* the update on collaboration between the IC and SC;
- (32) *invited* the secretariat to reword proposals on the enhancement of IC–SC cooperation in the IC paper 11\_IC\_2023\_May to make the roles of the IC and SC representatives equally balanced and ensure reciprocity, so that the paper:
  - a) highlights the need for IC and SC workplans to be aligned,
  - b) confirms the IC’s agreement to discuss during the May IC meeting the implementation issues identified by the SC,
  - c) proposes that, in the IC and SC meeting agendas for May and November, an update be included allowing the two committees to keep each other informed, and
  - d) recommends that the status of the IC representative to the SC be adjusted from observer to SC member and that the SC TOR be revised accordingly; and
- (33) *noted* that the SC can submit topics directly for IPPC Observatory studies and surveys.

## 7 IPPC IMPLEMENTATION AND CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

### 7.1 Projects managed by the IPPC Secretariat

[119] The secretariat presented a paper on the ten projects managed by the IFU in 2022.<sup>13</sup> Information on all projects is presented in Appendix 4 of this report.

[120] The IC:

- (34) *noted* the deliverables of projects managed by the IPPC secretariat, and their compliance with IPPC Secretariat and IC procedures.

### 7.2 Strengthening food control and phytosanitary capacities and governance – update on phytosanitary capacity evaluations

[121] The secretariat presented a paper summarizing phytosanitary capacity evaluation (PCE) activities since January 2023 and the upcoming activities for the rest of the year, including the progress made on the PCE desk study, the implementation of nine PCEs under the framework of the project “Strengthening Food Control and Phytosanitary Capacities and Governance” (GCP/GLO/949/EC), and the PCEs that were being implemented under other projects.<sup>14</sup> The secretariat also noted the PCE success stories that had been shared on the IPP with the objective of promoting the PCE.

[122] The IC chairperson thanked the secretariat and opened the floor for questions and comments.

[123] One IC member asked whether the countries in Africa that had successfully completed PCEs would be considered in the APP. The secretariat noted that the pilot countries would be selected by October 2023, and whether the PCE results would be utilized in the APP had not yet been decided.

[124] Another IC member thanked the secretariat for managing a project of this scale, noting its complexity. The member added that, as time progresses, the ongoing PCEs would definitely be an asset.

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<sup>13</sup> 12\_IC\_2023\_May.

<sup>14</sup> 13\_IC\_2023\_May.

- [125] One IC member asked whether the PCE tool could be made available for contracting parties, on request, to support biosecurity capacity-building project design and evaluation. This would support project donors in the monitoring and evaluation of phytosanitary programmes, particularly compliance with the Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures agreement and international plant-health standards.
- [126] The secretariat stated that, in order to initiate the PCE process and access the PCE tool, interested countries needed to reach out to the IPPC Secretary, sending an official letter from a high-level official representing the NPPO of the country, as explained on the PCE page of the IPP. The secretariat would then carefully evaluate the application before making a decision.
- [127] Another IC member added to a point made earlier that five PCEs had been undertaken in the Pacific islands using a previous version of the PCE. Additionally, the IC member called for a simplified PCE process so that more contracting parties could use it as a key tool to assess their phytosanitary system.
- [128] The secretariat stated that the PCE process was highly customizable to meet the specific requirements of the NPPO, making it a flexible and suitable option. The secretariat noted that the PCE tool was managed by the IPPC Secretariat under the guidance of the IC and of the IC Team on PCE, which had agreed to a PCE Strategy for 2020–2030 and on various procedures. The secretariat clarified that the PCE tool was accessible to contracting parties through a well-established procedure that guaranteed proper usage, safeguarded countries, prevented any conflicts of interest and maintained the confidentiality of information. The secretariat had previously alerted contracting parties to potential conflicts of interest when an importing country was a donor funding a PCE and to the dangers of providing a PCE facilitator who has not followed the PCE facilitator training course. The secretariat had proposed holding a PCE facilitators training course in the Pacific region. However, no answer had been received to this proposal and no official request had been received from Pacific countries to undertake a PCE. The secretariat invited the interested countries to look at the IPP page dedicated to PCE for more information,<sup>15</sup> and reiterated the procedure to access the PCE tool.
- [129] One IC member commented that there was a misunderstanding of common goals, as the current procedure to access the PCE tool was set to protect the tool. The IC member emphasized the importance of following proper procedures and maintaining the confidentiality of information shared by the country implementing the PCE. It was stressed that the PCE tool should be safeguarded to prevent it from falling into the wrong hands and being used for unintended purposes. To this end, the tool is exclusively intended for use by the NPPO of the recipient country, and not by private commercial entities or consultants. Donor countries providing funding are not privy to the PCE results, and it is up to each individual country to express interest in utilizing the tool.
- [130] Another IC member suggested that the ownership of the PCE tool should be clarified.
- [131] The IC:
- (35) *noted* the advances made towards realisation of the desk study on PCE;
  - (36) *noted* the steps taken to achieve the objectives of the project “Strengthening Food Control and Phytosanitary Capacities and Governance” (GCP/GLO/949/EC); and
  - (37) *noted* the successes in promoting PCE.

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<sup>15</sup> Phytosanitary capacity evaluation page on the IPP: <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/capacity-development/phytosanitary-capacity-evaluation>

### 7.3 COMESA trade facilitation project

[132] The secretariat presented an update on the implementation of the project “FAO Support to COMESA Trade Facilitation Programme”,<sup>16</sup> highlighting the outputs delivered from 2018–2022 and the outputs planned for the 2023–2024 as per the project no-cost extension. The workplan for the no-cost extension period is presented in Appendix 5 of this report.

[133] One IC member asked whether planning and coordination of the simulation exercises and delivery of the simulation exercises are dependent on each other. The secretariat confirmed that planning a simulation exercise can be time-consuming, which affects the workplan. As a result, the activities mentioned were reflected in the project workplan.

[134] One of the observers commented that the project takes place in Africa and asked whether the IPPC project outputs delivered in the African countries could be built upon and be used to strengthen the activities to be carried out under the APP. The secretariat noted that there would be more clarity as the work on APP implementation progressed.

[135] The IC:

(38) *noted* the activities carried out and delivered under the project “FAO Support to COMESA Trade Facilitation Programme” for the initial implementation period of 2018–2022; and

(39) *noted* the activities planned to be delivered throughout the period of no-cost extension, until May 2024 as presented in Appendix 5 of this report.

## 8 IMPLEMENTATION AND CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS SUBMITTED BY CONTRACTING PARTIES AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

[136] The IPPC Secretary welcomed participants to the IC open session on projects, which was being held as a webinar, and thanked the panellist organizations for submitting and presenting the projects, noting that the session served as a platform to share knowledge and best practices.

[137] The secretariat and the IC welcomed the participants of the IC open session on projects and opened the floor for individual presentations on the selected nine projects.

[138] Throughout the session, which was held in “hybrid” mode, attendees were encouraged by the secretariat to make the session as interactive as possible and to pose questions to the panellists using the dedicated Questions and Answers (Q&A) feature of the video-conference software. The secretariat and panellists addressed most questions from the Q&A during the dedicated slot in the agenda, also taking some more questions from both the webinar participants joining virtually and those present in the room.

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<sup>16</sup> 14\_IC\_2023\_May

[139] A summary of all questions and answers will be posted on the dedicated page of this open session,<sup>17</sup> along with all project descriptions and presentations, as soon as they are available.

### **8.1 Demonstrating the feasibility of the sterile insect technique in the control of the codling moth, *Cydia pomonella***

[140] The representative from the Joint FAO/IAEA Centre presented the project “Demonstrating Feasibility of the Sterile Insect Technique (SIT) in the Control of the Codling Moth, *Cydia pomonella*”.<sup>18</sup> The presenter explained that the project was being co-implemented by the Joint FAO/IAEA Centre, and the Institute of Plant Protection, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS) and the Shenyang Agricultural University with an objective of reducing pesticide use and improving fruit production by demonstrating the effectiveness of the SIT for codling moth control using area-wide integrated pest management programmes. The implementation period is 2022–2025 and the beneficiary country is China.

### **8.2 Beware &Note**

[141] The representative from the Federal public service Health, Food chain safety and Environment (FPS HFCSE) of Belgium presented the Beware & Note <https://observations.be/species/Q-organismen/> tool,<sup>19</sup> which is a notification system for quarantine pests harmful to plants in Belgium and aims to enable their early detection. The project is funded by FPS HFCSE.

### **8.3 Project on biodiversity and agriculture: addressing scale insect threats in Kenya**

[142] The representative from the Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service presented the project on “Biodiversity and Agriculture: Addressing Scale Insect Threats in Kenya”,<sup>20</sup> which had been implemented from 2018 to 2021 and funded by the UK Darwin Initiative. The project objectives had been to update the Kenya country scale insect checklist, document scale species endangering major crops and local biodiversity, develop scale insect identification aids, and disseminate information on scale insects to support integrated pest management, habitat protection and community awareness.

### **8.4 (1) Enhancing the capacity of the fruit and vegetable sector in Uganda to comply with phytosanitary requirements for export to the European Union, other high-end markets and regional markets, and (2) Strengthening phytosanitary compliance and public private partnerships to boost seed trade in the Asia Pacific region**

[143] The representative from the NPPO of Uganda presented the project “Enhancing the Capacity of the Fruit and Vegetable Sector in Uganda to Comply with Phytosanitary Requirements for Export to EU, other High-End Markets and Regional Markets”,<sup>21</sup> which had been funded by the Standards and Trade Development Facility and the Royal Netherlands Embassy in Kampala, Uganda. The project’s overall goal had been to improve market access to the European Union, and other high-end and regional markets for Ugandan fresh

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<sup>17</sup> IC meeting open session on ICD projects (May 2023): <https://www.ippc.int/en/news/workshops-events/webinars/ic-meeting-open-session-on-icd-projects-2023>

<sup>18</sup> 15\_IC\_2023\_May.

<sup>19</sup> 16\_IC\_2023\_May.

<sup>20</sup> 18\_IC\_2023\_May.

<sup>21</sup> 19.1\_IC\_2023\_May.



fruits and vegetables, by improving Uganda's compliance with international phytosanitary standards for production and export. The project had been implemented from 2019 to 2022.

- [144] The representative from the Asia Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions presented the second project, "Strengthening Phytosanitary Compliance and Public Private Partnerships to Boost Seed Trade in the Asia Pacific Region",<sup>22</sup> which was being funded by the Standards and Trade Development Facility, with an implementation period from 2022 to 2025. The presenter explained that the overall objective of the project was to assess the capabilities of selected countries to carry out effective phytosanitary processes specifically for seed, and the beneficiary countries are Bangladesh, Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Nepal, the Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam.

### **8.5 Biorational and biological control strategies for sustainable fall armyworm management in Africa**

- [145] The representative from the NPPO of Togo presented the project "Biorational and Biological Control Strategies for Sustainable Fall Armyworm Management in Africa (BIOFAWMA)",<sup>23</sup> which had been implemented from 2020 to 2022 and funded by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). The project beneficiaries were four African countries, two of which are in West Africa (Benin and Togo) and two others in East Africa (Malawi and Zambia). The project had aimed to develop and scale up biological and biorational solutions for sustainable management of fall armyworm in Africa.

### **8.6 Strengthening sanitary and phytosanitary systems of the African, Caribbean and Pacific horticultural sector**

- [146] The representative from the Comité de Liaison Entrepreneuriat Agriculture Développement (COLEAD) presented the project "Fit for Market: Strengthening Sanitary and Phytosanitary Systems of the ACP Horticultural Sector",<sup>24</sup> which was being implemented from 2019 to 2023 and funded by the European Union. The presenter explained that the project objective was to enable smallholders, farmer groups and organizations, and micro, small and medium-sized enterprises to access international and domestic horticultural markets by complying with sanitary and phytosanitary issues and market requirements in a sustainable framework. The project beneficiaries are African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) states.

### **8.7 Strengthening member state capacities to combat banana Fusarium wilt (TR4) through early detection, new resistant varieties, and integrated management**

- [147] The representative from the Joint FAO/IAEA Centre presented the project "Strengthening Member State Capacities to Combat Banana Fusarium Wilt (TR4) through Early Detection, New Resistant Varieties, and Integrated Management",<sup>25</sup> which was being implemented from 2022 to 2026 and funded by IAEA. The presenter explained that the purpose of the project was to strengthen the capacities of FAO Member Nations in the prevention and containment of TR4 in bananas through surveillance, early detection, genetic resistance and integrated management. There are 13 project beneficiary countries from Latin America, Africa and Asia.

- [148] The secretariat closed the webinar, thanking presenters for their presentations and the virtual and in-person participants for the time dedicated. The secretariat invited the participants to visit the IPP, where

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<sup>22</sup> 19.2\_IC\_2023\_May.

<sup>23</sup> 20\_IC\_2023\_May.

<sup>24</sup> 21\_IC\_2023\_May.

<sup>25</sup> 22\_IC\_2023\_May.

information on IPPC-implemented projects and activities, IPPC guides and training materials is available. The secretariat noted the upcoming IPPC webinar to promote and raise awareness of the IPPC guides and training materials, which was scheduled for October.

## 9 GUIDE AND TRAINING MATERIALS

### 9.1 Update on the development of IPPC guides and training materials

[149] The secretariat presented a paper providing an update on the development of IPPC guides and training materials.<sup>26</sup> The presenter highlighted the publication of three guides during the first quarter of 2023 and provided an update on the status of the guides and training materials that were under development. The secretariat proposed that the consultation period for draft specifications for ICD resources be extended to align with the change to the consultation period for draft specifications for ISPMs that had been adopted at CPM-17 (2023). Finally, the secretariat noted that the *Manual of good practices for participating in the International Plant Protection Convention Commission on Phytosanitary Measures* was outdated and suggested that this resource be revised.

[150] The IC chairperson thanked the secretariat for the presentations and opened the floor for discussion.

[151] One IC member viewed the revision of the *Manual of good practices for participating in the International Plant Protection Convention Commission on Phytosanitary Measures meeting* as a priority, to make sure that CPM participants can effectively participate in the CPM. The member suggested that a small group of IC members be established to review and revise the manual, working remotely. Another IC member supported the suggestion that the manual be updated and suggested that one person could be invited to do an initial review of the document and propose revisions for further consideration of the potential group of IC members. This revision could be completed by a new IC team that would review the proposed changes and finalize the content of the manual. The outgoing IC member Magda GONZALEZ ARROYO (Costa Rica) expressed interest in participating in the review of the CPM manual. The RPPO representative to the IC offered the support of the North American Plant Protection Organization in translating the manual into Spanish once the English content is finalized. The IC noted that the revision of the CPM manual was particularly important in view of the request from contracting parties for more capacity-development activities to support CPM preparation. The IC agreed under agenda item 4.1 to develop a presentation or video to develop contracting parties' capacity to participate in CPM meetings and guide their preparations.

[152] Several IC members voiced the need to understand the impact, extent of use and added value of the IPPC guides and training materials and suggested that the secretariat consider how to carry out such an evaluation. One IC member suggested that the IPPC Observatory could be asked to carry out a survey to evaluate the impact and use of IPPC guides and training materials among NPPOs. Another member suggested that the IPPC regional workshop evaluation could be used for evaluation of the impact of IPPC guides and training materials. Another suggestion was to include the evaluation of the impact of the IPPC guides and training materials as part of the IPPC general survey, as was done for the evaluation of the impact of ISPMs.

[153] The secretariat added that such surveys had been carried out periodically in the past and that the results had been shared with the IC. One of the key factors inhibiting the use of guides was the structure of the IPP, where the IPPC guides and training materials were not highly visible and were difficult to locate. The secretariat noted that, once the IPP is revamped and restructured, the accessibility of the guides and training

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<sup>26</sup> 23\_IC\_2023\_May.



materials would be improved, and it would be possible to use existing tools to monitor the use of these products.

[154] The secretariat also noted that there was a plan to carry out a survey regarding the use of the guides and training materials at the October IPPC webinar, using the same questions as were used during previous webinars. The secretariat highlighted that a communications plan was in place for each IPPC guide or training material. These communication plans included several elements to promote the new products, including: announcements, news items, social media cards, regional workshop presentations, webinars, case studies, and so on. When there are sufficient resources, fact sheets, videos and other awareness-raising products are developed. The secretariat invited all IC members to promote the IPPC guides and training materials in their respective regions.

[155] The IC agreed that both proposed guides, the guide on *National reporting obligations* and the *Manual of good practices for participating in the International Plant Protection Convention Commission on Phytosanitary Measures meeting* required revision.

[156] The IC agreed that the revision of the CPM manual did not require extensive revision and there was a strong basis already, so a small IC team could be tasked with updating it.

[157] The IC members agreed that, although the NROs guide required substantial revision, the most efficient way of achieving this would be for the IC NROs Team (IC NROs Subgroup, once activated) to do the revision.

[158] The secretariat commented that the *Manual of good practices for participating in the International Plant Protection Convention Commission on Phytosanitary Measures meeting* was not on the 2023 workplan; if revision of these two guides was a priority, then some other work may be delayed. The IFU lead agreed to consider whether sufficient human and financial resources were available within the secretariat to work on these two guides and to propose options during agenda item 13.1.

[159] One IC member who was part of the CPM Focus Group on Climate Change and Phytosanitary Issues, informed the IC that this focus group was preparing a *Guide for the assessment and management of the climate-change impacts on plant pests* and asked whether IC members would review the guide, noting that it would be distributed for country level consultation in July.

[160] The IC:

- (40) *noted* the update on IPPC guides and training materials;
- (41) *requested* that the secretariat revise the *Process for the development of IPPC guides and training materials* to extend the consultation period for draft specifications for IPPC guides and training materials by 30 days to 1 July to 30 September;
- (42) *recommended* to CPM-18 (2024) that the revision of the *Manual of good practices for participating in the International Plant Protection Convention Commission on Phytosanitary Measures meeting* be provisionally added to the *List of implementation and capacity development topics* with a priority of 1;
- (43) *agreed* to revise the *Manual of good practices for participating in the International Plant Protection Convention Commission on Phytosanitary Measures meeting*, under a new IC team to include Thorwald GEUZE (the Kingdom of the Netherlands) Magda GONZALEZ ARROYO (Costa Rica), Melisa Graciela NEDILSKYJ (RPPOs representative), and Stephanie BLOEM (NAPPO); and
- (44) *agreed* that revision of the NROs guide should be initiated in 2023 and that the work to revise the guide should be carried out by the IC Team on NROs, noting that additional IC members would be needed to complete this task in addition to the other responsibilities of the IC Team on NROs.

## 9.2 Draft specification for the guide: *Audits in the phytosanitary context* (2021-009)

- [161] The secretariat presented the draft specification for the guide *Audits in the phytosanitary context*.<sup>27</sup> The secretariat highlighted that this was the main opportunity for the IC to discuss the scope, purpose and content of the proposed guide as a group, in order to improve the draft specification before consultation. Members of the IC would, however, also be able to submit comments via their NPPO or RPPO during the consultation period. One IC member suggested that the title of the guide be revised and shortened and suggested *Phytosanitary audits guide* or the *Guide on phytosanitary audits*. One IC member commented that it was not clear whether the scope of the guide included audits conducted by third-party entities. The IC noted that there are two types of audits in ISPM 47 (*Audit in the phytosanitary context*): a systems audit and a focused audit. Another member shared their concern over a third party conducting an audit and suggested that the working group should consider these concerns when developing the guide.
- [162] The secretariat clarified that the scope of the guide was broad and included all types of phytosanitary audit, including audits of NPPO procedures and systems, audits of third-party entities, and audits in other countries. The secretariat suggested that the draft specification be revised to make sure that this was clear.
- [163] The TC-RPPOs representative informed the IC that the North American Plant Protection Organization had recently revised their Regional Standard for Phytosanitary Measures No. 9 (*Authorization of laboratories for phytosanitary testing*), which included an audit checklist, and this should be included in the draft specification as a reference.
- [164] One IC member noted that the content of the specification was very similar to ISPM 47 itself, but the content of the guide would need to be differentiated from that of ISPM 47 to avoid unnecessary overlap.
- [165] The secretariat suggested that remote auditing be added to the draft specification, including its use for activities such as document checks, interviews or live on-line audits with video camera.
- [166] The secretariat noted the suggested revisions to the draft specification for the guide on *Performing audits in the phytosanitary context* (2021-009). The revisions were made in the draft specification. The secretariat explained that the amended specification would be sent for consultation in July 2023, and the revised specification would be presented to the IC during its November meeting for approval.
- [167] The IC:
- (45) *approved* the draft specification for the guide on *Performing audits in the phytosanitary context* (2021-009) as modified in this meeting (Appendix 6), for consultation in 2023; and
  - (46) *requested* that the revised specification following consultation be presented to the IC for approval at the November 2023 meeting of the IC.

## 9.3 Knowing and understanding the IPPC, training curricula for plant health and protection officers

- [168] The secretariat referred the IC to the topic *Knowing and understanding the IPPC – plant health or protection officer training curricula* (2017-054),<sup>28</sup> which was included in the 2023 workplan. The secretariat requested that IC members assist with identifying potential working group members who meet

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<sup>27</sup> 24\_IC\_2023\_May.

<sup>28</sup> 24\_IC\_2023\_May.

the selection criteria listed in the approved specification. The secretariat explained that the call for experts was expected to open in June 2023 and the face-to-face meeting of the working group had been tentatively scheduled for the week following the November IC meeting.

[169] One IC member noted that candidate experts needed for the working group should have experience in plant health as well as in designing curricula for training plant-health officers. Members of the IC also suggested sending special invitations to countries with strong training programmes, curricula and education systems, inviting them to nominate candidates to participate in the working group. Examples of such countries mentioned by IC members included Australia, Chile, China, and countries within Europe (including the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), India, Kenya, New Zealand and the United States of America.

[170] The secretariat invited IC members to also suggest universities or training institutions with a training programme in plant health or related subjects. The Australian Biosecurity Training Centre – Charles Sturt University, the Kenyan Centre of Phytosanitary Excellence, the University of the West Indies at St. Augustine, and the COSAVE/IICA programme Escuela Regional Virtual de Inspección Fitosanitaria (ERVIF) (in Spanish), were mentioned by some IC members. The IC members agreed to provide contact details of the aforementioned institutions to the secretariat.

[171] The IC:

- (47) *noted* the planned activities for developing the plant-health officer training curricula;
- (48) *agreed* to assist with identifying potential working group members that meet the selection criteria listed in the specification, and *suggested* that experts be considered from countries with well-developed training curricula;
- (49) *agreed* to provide contact details of universities and training centres, and *encouraged* the individual IC members to check with their organizations and regions for more suggestions regarding the potential working-group member profiles; and
- (50) *decided* to delay work on the *Knowing and understanding the IPPC – plant health or protection officer training curricula (2017-054)* topic until 2024, after consideration of the IPPC Secretariat workplan and priorities for 2023 as discussed under agenda item 17.

## 10 CALL FOR TOPICS

### 10.1 2023 call for topics

[172] The secretariat presented a paper summarizing the steps for the 2023 IPPC call for topics for standards and implementation resources.<sup>29</sup> The secretariat invited IC members to coordinate the submission of ICD topic proposals at the regional level and suggested that this should be accomplished by providing information on how to submit topic proposals and by prioritizing the topics relevant to the regions and securing letters of support.

[173] The IC was also asked to confirm the IC members on the Task Force on Topics (TFT) and identify a replacement member.

[174] The IC chairperson thanked the secretariat for the presentations. There was no further discussion.

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<sup>29</sup> 26\_IC\_2023\_May.

[175] The IC:

- (51) *noted* the update and the proposed time frame for the 2023 call for topics;
- (52) *reminded* the IC regional representatives to coordinate the submission of ICD topic proposals within their regions;
- (53) *noted* that the membership of the TFT will remain unchanged as the current IC chairperson was re-elected (agenda item 14.1);
- (54) *noted that* Lalith Bandula KUMARASINGHE (New Zealand) and Faith NDUNGE (Kenya) agreed to remain members of the TFT; and
- (55) *identified* both Thorwald GEUZE (the Kingdom of the Netherlands) and Ringolds ARNITIS (Latvia) as IC replacement members for the TFT.

## 10.2 Identifying gaps in implementation and capacity development resources

[176] The secretariat introduced this interactive activity, which had the dual objectives of identifying gaps in the resources available for implementation and capacity building within the framework of the IPPC and ISPMs and of suggesting topics that might be proposed during the 2023 call for topics by NPPOs or RPPOs to fill any key gaps. For this activity, the IC referred to the Framework for Standards and Implementation.<sup>30</sup>

[177] **The participants were divided into 3 groups**, each focusing on one of the IPPC strategic objectives.<sup>31</sup> Following the group discussions, each group presented a brief summary of their discussions.

**Group A: Strategic objective A – Enhance global food security and increase sustainable agricultural productivity.**

[178] The group suggested:

- simulation exercises (e.g. Tuta, lantern fly);
- case studies and database (e.g. irradiation treatment, emergency response structure);
- a revision of the IPPC guide on diagnostics;
- systems approaches and consignments in transit (seeds);
- addressing non-compliance – e-learning (compliance investigation); and
- “PCE light” - proposed by one member of the group just before the presentation.

[179] Commenting on PCE light, one IC member noted that there was no gap in the ICD resources. The member suggested that it may need more conceptual discussion for further elaboration, and suggested that this discussion take place after the PCE desk study. Another IC member expressed support for the PCE desk study, which would inform the subsequent modernization and revision of the PCE tool.

[180] With regard to the suggestion to revise the guide on diagnostics, one IC member referred to the IPPC Strategic Framework DAI on diagnostic laboratory networking and suggested that, if there was a need for a global diagnostic network, then revision of the guide on diagnostics would be of strategic benefit.

**Group B: Strategic objective B – Protect the environment from the impacts of plant pests.**

<sup>30</sup> Framework for Standards and Implementation: <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/capacity-development/framework/list>

<sup>31</sup> IPPC Strategic Framework 2020–2030: <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cb3995en>

[181] The group considered the five key result areas identified in the Strategic Framework (B1–B5).

[182] For B1 (contracting parties recognize the management of environmental plant pests as part of their responsibilities and work with national environmental sector agencies to support pest management programmes aimed at environmental protection), the group suggested:

- an overarching study on plant health and protection of the environment;
- case studies demonstrating the connection between plant health and environmental protection;
- a fact sheet on the replacement or reduction of the use of methyl bromide;
- a webinar on irradiation treatment; and
- instituting plant pest horizon scanning.

[183] For B2 (contracting parties have mechanisms in place to control the spread of environmental contaminating pests on non-plant trade pathways (e.g. invasive ants on vehicles and machinery, or gypsy moth egg masses on sea containers and vessels)), the group suggested:

- a guide to implementation of ISPM 41 (International movement of used vehicles, machinery and equipment).

[184] For B3 (mechanisms are in place to share adaptation strategies for responding to the impacts of climate change), the group suggested:

- a fact sheet on the replacement or reduction of the use of methyl bromide; and
- a webinar on irradiation treatment.

[185] For B4 (agencies with environmental and forest biodiversity stewardship responsibilities regularly access information and other resources managed by the IPPC Secretariat), the group suggested:

- a fact sheet on One Health and Plant Health (from an IPPC perspective).

[186] For B5 (contracting parties continue to improve their capacity to implement key IPPC standards which directly address the spread of forest and environmental pests, such as ISPM 15 (*Regulation of wood packaging material for international trade*) and other such standards, to contain the global spread of pests which threaten forests, biodiversity and non-cultivated flora), the group made no suggestions.

**Group C: Strategic objective C – Facilitate safe trade, development and economic growth.**

[187] The group considered the seven key result areas identified in the Strategic Framework (C1–C7).

[188] For C1 (standards with harmonized phytosanitary measures have facilitated and accelerated trade negotiations and simplified safe trade in plant products), the group suggested:

- an update to the market access guide;
- an e-learning course on export and import (to be added to the Framework for Standards and Implementation);
- workshops on commodity standards; and
- workshops on treatments and

[189] For C2 (detection of pests in trade pathways are declining as exporting countries take more responsibility for managing the pest risk associated with exports, and importing countries report detection more quickly and more consistently), the group suggested:

- diagnostic tools for trade, workshops; and
- an e-learning course on notification of non-compliance.

[190] For C3 (NPPOs have built capacity and been supported to establish phytosanitary export assurance and phytosanitary certification systems that are robust and are trusted by trading partners), the group suggested:

- use of the PCE tool.

[191] For C4 (the efficiency of administering phytosanitary certification systems has improved and the circulation of fraudulent certificates has been eliminated through electronic phytosanitary certification systems including the generic ePhyto national system and the global ePhyto hub), the group suggested:

- an ePhyto guide or video.

[192] For C5 (NPPOs have access to expert advice to enable resolution and bilateral trade concerns of a phytosanitary nature), the group suggested:

- a guide on dispute avoidance and settlement.

[193] For C6 (NPPOs are able to meet regularly to deliberate on phytosanitary research and emerging issues and other matters of common interest), the group suggested:

- a revision of the guide to Managing relationships with stakeholders; and
- regional workshops on emerging issues.

[194] For C7 (contracting parties have legislation in place to enable implementation of ePhyto), the group suggested:

- a guide and an e-learning course on ePhyto.

[195] The IC members agreed that they may raise some of these identified topic proposals during the IPPC regional workshops in their respective regions or to their NPPO or RPPO. The IC noted that, if NPPOs recognized a need, they could submit a proposal in response to the call for topics.

## 11 IPPC REGIONAL WORKSHOPS

### 11.1 Preparation for the 2023 IPPC regional workshops

[196] The secretariat presented a paper summarizing preparatory work for the 2023 IPPC regional workshops,<sup>32</sup> and explained that they had held four coordination meetings to organize resources and the provisional agenda. The secretariat listed the IC and SC representatives who were on the regional organizing committee for their respective region, and invited them to be involved in the IPPC regional workshop preparatory meetings and to present the assigned agenda items.

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<sup>32</sup> 27\_IC\_2023\_May.



[197] The IC:

- (56) *noted* the update on the 2023 IPPC regional workshop preparations; and
- (57) *encouraged* the IC regional representatives to be fully involved in the organizing committee for the 2023 IPPC regional workshop in their region.

## 11.2 IC recommendations to improve the regional workshop guidelines

[198] The IC lead presented a paper with updates to the document *Guidelines for IPPC regional workshops*.<sup>33</sup> Based on the recent IPPC regional workshops and the accelerated pace of phytosanitary activities, the IC lead provided proposals to enhance the organization of the workshops, such as ensuring the participation of relevant participants from NPPOs, ensuring proficiency in the Online Comment System among participants, defining clearly the roles for NPPOs and for the IPPC official contact points, securing translation and interpretation, reinforcing regional ownership, and reinforcing the importance of implementation items.

[199] The IC chairperson thanked the IC lead for the presentation and invited IC members to discuss the suggestions provided in the document on possible updates to the *Guidelines for IPPC regional workshops*.

[200] The secretariat thanked the IC lead for taking ownership and proposing innovative suggestions for improving the guidelines.

[201] One IC member added that the main role of the NPPO is to come ready to make comments and bring ideas to the regional workshops. One of the observers suggested that it was also important to ensure that NPPOs have sufficient capacity to make comments, and to encourage them to read and implement the guidelines. Additionally, regional differences, such as availability of resources, needed to be taken into consideration in the organization of the IPPC regional workshops.

[202] The IC discussed the importance of regional workshops and how the IC could use them strategically. It was suggested that implementation topics could be better promoted and that a slot in the agenda should be dedicated to discussing implementation issues.

[203] Another suggestion was to choose a guide or a course and to detail its content through interactive exercises to catch the attention of the countries and demonstrate the usefulness of the material.

[204] One IC member suggested that the proposed suggestions be implemented in the monthly regional meetings held in the region, noting that they could be difficult to include in the regional workshops.

[205] One IC member suggested initiating a short, informative communication similar to the IFU update to the IC to update the regions on implementation issues.

[206] The IC:

- (58) *recommended* that the document *Guidelines for IPPC regional workshops* be revised to include the following suggestions:
  - a. that NPPOs be requested to ensure that participants attending the regional workshops are qualified and knowledgeable,
  - b. that the IPPC Secretariat include in the invitation letter to the IPPC regional workshops information relating to the IPPC, ISPMs and IPPC governance of which participants attending the IPPC regional workshops should be aware,

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<sup>33</sup> 28\_IC\_2023\_May (including *Guidelines for IPPC regional workshops* as Annex 1).

- c. that a training course on the use of the Online Comment System is made available,
  - d. that a participant attending an IPPC regional workshop, either the contact point or other NPPO staff, should be entitled to have access to the Online Comment System (and that the participant should submit the comments before the IPPC regional workshop),
  - e. that FAO regional offices be encouraged to support the funding of the IPPC regional workshops, as the agenda of the regional workshops includes many common topics of interest to the IPPC community and FAO, and
  - f. that the role of contracting parties be highlighted, along with the role of the regions for the regional ownership of the regional workshops; and
- (59) *requested* that the secretariat and the IC lead, with a group of volunteers including the IC members Lucien KOUAME KONAN (Côte d'Ivoire), Thorwald GEUZE (the Kingdom of the Netherlands), Ngatoko TA NGATOKO (Cook Islands) and Melisa Graciela NEDILSKYJ (Argentina), present the revised document *Guidelines for IPPC regional workshops* in tracked changes at the November 2023 meeting of the IC.

## 12 IPPC STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

### 12.1 Implementation of the IPPC Strategic Framework (2020–2030)

[207] The IC lead presented a paper summarizing the *Overarching implementation plan for the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020–2030 Development Agenda Items* that had been prepared by the CPM Focus Group on Implementation of the IPPC Strategic Framework Development 2020–2030 Agenda Items and approved by CPM-17 (2023).<sup>34</sup> The implementation plans proposed sequencing and budgets for each of the eight DAIs.<sup>35</sup> The plan also summarized the workplan for each DAI and suggested a time frame, indicators, and a budget for monitoring and reviewing the implementation of each DAI. The focus group had also suggested that each DAI should be led by a dedicated implementation group supported by one or more members of the secretariat.

[208] The IC chairperson thanked the IC lead and opened the floor for discussion.

[209] One IC member thanked the focus group for their outstanding work and achievements.

[210] One of the observers thanked the presenter and expressed support for transition of DAI 5 (POARS) to a core IPPC activity, after delivery and review.

[211] The IC:

- (60) *noted* the overarching implementation plan for the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020–2030.

### 12.2 Development agenda item on management of e-commerce and postal and courier pathways

[212] The secretariat presented a paper comprised largely of excerpts from the *Overarching implementation plan for the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020–2030 development agenda items* (CPM 2023/13\_01) that were

<sup>34</sup> 29\_IC\_2023\_May.

<sup>35</sup> IPPC Strategic Framework 2020–2030 Development Agenda Items Implementation Plan: <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/91889>



relevant to the e-commerce DAI.<sup>36</sup> The secretariat also provided an update on several ongoing activities, including the progress with publication of the *IPPC e-commerce guide for plant products, and other regulated articles* (2017-039), preparations and planning for the IPPC Observatory e-commerce survey, monitoring and evaluation activities, development of an e-commerce communications strategy and plans for promotional activities for the guide. The secretariat noted that the CPM Focus Group on Implementation of the IPPC Strategic Framework Development 2020–2030 Agenda Items had recommended that work on the e-commerce DAI should continue until 2024, at which time Phase I of the IPPC Observatory study should be completed. The CPM would then be able to decide whether to scope and plan a second phase for the work based on recommendations from the study.

[213] The IC chairperson thanked the secretariat for the presentation and noted that the membership of the IC Team on E-commerce would be discussed in more detail under agenda item 13.1.

[214] One IC member thanked the IC Team on E-commerce for their great work and for the production of the guide.

[215] The IC:

- (61) *discussed* e-commerce within the context of the overarching implementation plan for the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020–2030;
- (62) *considered* the membership of the IC Team on E-commerce, noting that although Stephanie BLOEM (NAPPO) would no longer be a member of the IC, she would continue her involvement in this IC team; and
- (63) *invited* other interested IC members to indicate their willingness to join this IC team during agenda item 13.1.

### **12.3 Development agenda item on strengthening pest outbreak alert and response systems**

[216] The secretariat presented a paper providing a summarized update on the POARS DAI.<sup>37</sup> The paper outlined progress made on DAI implementation with the timeline of activities, listed the members of the POARS Steering Group, and mentioned the CPM Bureau representative, the work planning, and the finance and budget plan. The secretariat noted that the effective work of the steering group was pending the recruitment of a staff member to work specifically on this topic, reminding the IC of the difficulties faced by the secretariat in stabilizing the staff.

[217] The IC chairperson thanked the secretariat for the presentation and opened the floor for discussion.

[218] The outgoing RPPOs representative to the IC indicated that she was interested in staying as a member of the POARS Steering Group.

[219] The observer from the European Union noted that EU financial support to POARS activities was not possible in 2023 but that financial support could be made available for the upcoming year (2024). The observer asked if there were other channels through which the activities in 2023 could be funded. The secretariat confirmed that there were no known funding sources available for this year.

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<sup>36</sup> 30\_IC\_2023\_May.

<sup>37</sup> 31\_IC\_2023\_May.

[220] One IC member asked how POARS activities aligned and complied with other activities on emerging pests such as the global action on fall armyworm. The secretariat stated that the POARS Steering Group had not started their work yet, and the work would not commence before 2024. The secretariat indicated that activities on emerging pests such as fall armyworm and Fusarium TR4, and activities on simulation exercises, were fully compliant with the POARS Focus Group recommendations.

[221] One IC member noted the need for the development of a definition of what constitutes an emerging pest.

[222] Another IC member asked if there was a possibility that an operational network of organizations and stakeholders could be created at global, regional and national levels for POARS. The secretariat noted that, in the framework of the POARS Steering Group, there was a plan to create a network of stakeholders including donors and international organizations. However, creating such a high-level group was a medium-term goal, while at this stage it was more important to set a good basis of work on emerging pests to demonstrate the plant-health competencies in this matter.

[223] The IC:

- (64) *noted* the POARS activities within the context of the overarching implementation plan for the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020–2030.

#### **12.4 Development agenda item on developing guidance on the use of third-party entities**

[224] The secretariat presented a paper on the DAI on developing guidance on the use of third-party entities.<sup>38</sup> The paper included excerpts from the overarching implementation plan for Strategic Framework DAIs and summarized the progress made for the delivery of the DAI along with the timeline of activities, work planning, the finance and budget plan, and potential issues and risks.

[225] The IC noted that ISPM 45 (*Requirements for national plant protection organizations if authorizing entities to perform phytosanitary actions*) had been adopted by CPM-15 (2021), ISPM 47 (*Audit in the phytosanitary context*) had been adopted by CPM-16 (2022), and the IPPC *Guide to the regulation of wood packaging material* had been published in April 2023. They noted that Chapter 6 of the latter guide was highly relevant to the DAI on developing guidance on the use of third-party entities, as it focused on authorizing entities to perform phytosanitary actions related to ISPM 15 implementation. In addition, they recalled that, in November 2022, the IC had approved the specification for the IPPC guide *Authorization of entities to perform phytosanitary actions* (2018-040) and work to develop the guide *Performing audits in the phytosanitary context* (2021-009) could be initiated as early as 2024.

[226] The IC members noted that the timeline for completing the two guides as outlined in the Strategic Framework DAI implementation plan was not realistic and should be revised, noting that the earliest the two guides could possibly be published was 2026. The secretariat agreed and indicated that the IFU had not been consulted when these timelines were developed.

[227] The secretariat suggested that the new IC Team on Use of Third-Party Entities should be tasked with developing a workplan and presenting it to the November 2023 IC meeting. The IC could then decide the best way forward for updating the CPM Bureau.

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<sup>38</sup> 32\_IC\_2023\_May.

[228] The IC agreed to discuss the composition of the working group for the new guide during agenda item 13.1.

[229] The IC:

- (65) *noted* that CPM-17 (2023) transferred the oversight of the DAI on developing guidance on the use of third-party entities from the SC to the IC;
- (66) *discussed* the current status of this DAI and the workplan within the context of the overarching implementation plan for the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020–2030;
- (67) *established* a new IC Team to lead the work to develop guidance on the use of third-party entities and agreed that the membership would be discussed in more detail under agenda item 13.1; and
- (68) *requested* that the IC Team on Use of Third-Party Entities prepare a workplan for the November 2023 IC meeting.

## 13 IC LEADS

### 13.1 Selection of the IC leads of topics, subgroups and teams

[230] The secretariat presented a paper on the selection of IC leads for topics, subgroups and teams,<sup>39</sup> noting that the tasks of the outgoing members needed to be reallocated while ensuring a balance in the volume of tasks assigned to IC members.

[231] The IC considered the list of roles requiring IC leads.

[232] The IC:

- (69) *selected* the IC members to be in charge of the assignments as listed in Appendix 7; and
- (70) *requested* that the secretariat update the *List of implementation and capacity development topics* to include the changes to the IC leads.

## 14 CHAIRPERSON ELECTION

### 14.1 Election of the IC chairperson and vice-chairperson

[233] The secretariat presented a paper for this agenda item,<sup>40</sup> outlining the main functions of the IC chairperson and the main functions of the IC vice-chairperson. The secretariat noted that the IC rules of procedure and TOR did not offer a concrete procedure for election.<sup>41</sup> The secretariat had therefore consulted with the FAO Legal Office regarding the election of the IC chairperson and vice-chairperson, who had confirmed that Rule XII of the General Rules of the Organization provides for “Quorum and Voting Arrangements at Meetings of Conference and Council”, which applies *mutatis mutandis* to all elections taking place within the Organization. There was no need for specific rules of procedure for the different FAO bodies.

[234] The call for these two positions had been opened from 18 to 25 April 2023, and the secretariat listed the names of the nominations received for the position of IC chairperson. No nomination had been received for the position of the IC vice-chairperson.

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<sup>39</sup> 33\_IC\_2023\_May.

<sup>40</sup> 34\_IC\_2023\_May.

<sup>41</sup> IC terms of reference and rules of procedure: <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/85672>

[235] The two IC members who had expressed interest in the position of IC chairperson had discussed and agreed on a compromise.

[236] The IC members supported the proposed nominations for the position of the IC chairperson and the IC vice-chairperson.

[237] The IC:

- (71) *elected* Dominique PELLETIER (Canada) as the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee Chairperson for 2023–2026; and
- (72) *elected* Thorwald GEUZE (the Kingdom of the Netherlands) as the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee Vice-Chairperson for 2023–2026.

## 15 REVIEW OF IC ACTION LIST

[238] The secretariat presented the IC action list and emphasized that it is a rolling list where actions are removed once completed. The secretariat invited the IC to review the action list and provide clear guidance for advancing the *ongoing* and *to be completed* actions. The action list was reviewed and updated during the meeting.

[239] The secretariat asked the IC to ensure that assigned actions are completed and to update progress of actions implemented accordingly.

[240] Action 57 was *completed* as per paper 28\_IC\_2023\_May. Actions 77, 80, 84, 86, 89, 90, 92, 94, 97, 98, 100, 105, 106, 107, 109, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 118 and 119 were *completed*. For Action 78, the IC agreed that the wording needed to be revised in view of the updates in paper 26\_IC\_2023\_May. The status of Actions 99 and 102 was changed from *to be completed* to *ongoing*.

[241] One IC member commented on the action regarding the interpretation of IC meetings as is done for SC meetings, noting the importance of interpretation into UN official languages for some members. The IC decided to keep the action as *ongoing*.

[242] The IC:

- (73) *noted* the completed action items on the IC Actions list, which would be removed from the list;
- (74) *provided* clear guidance to the secretariat for advancing the ongoing and to be completed actions;
- (75) *requested* that the secretariat update the IC Actions list to remove completed topics and update the status of the remaining action items following the May 2023 IC meeting; and
- (76) *requested* that the secretariat add any new action items identified during the May 2023 IC meeting to the IC Actions list.

## 16 AGENDA ITEMS DEFERRED TO FUTURE IC MEETINGS

[243] No agenda items were deferred.

## 17 ANY OTHER BUSINESS FOR OBSERVERS

### Observations from the external observers – European Union, COLEAD

[244] The observer from COLEAD noted that the COLEAD would be available for support with translation of some IPPC guides and training materials that are of relevance to the COLEAD work into French.

- [245] The observer noted that COLEAD works in developing countries and, in case of need, the technical assistance team can support the organization of events or presentations during CPM sessions.
- [246] Based on her participation, the observer commented on her plans to draft a paper on plant health for inclusion in the COLEAD newsletter to disseminate information on plant health gathered in the IC.
- [247] The observer also noted that, as a result of her participation, she had discovered relevant new IPPC documents on plant health. She noted the need for the IPP to be restructured to make it more user friendly so that the relevant materials for plant-health personnel were easily accessible.
- [248] The observer thanked the IC Team on Projects for organizing the open session on projects. She expressed how impressed she had been with the presentation by the Belgian NPPO on the Beware & Note database, and invited the IPPC to develop a global database of pictures of pests that could help people, including inspectors, to identify pests.
- [249] The IC chairperson thanked the observer from COELAD for her comments and observations.
- [250] One IC member directed the observer from COLEAD to the Phytosanitary systems page on the IPP, which contained all the relevant links to IPPC guides and training materials. The IC member also mentioned the database developed by the United States of America's NPPO for remote identification of pests as being another useful tool. The secretariat noted there was a vision at the secretariat level to create a database to include useful and free information, including pictures of pests.
- [251] One IC member asked about the conditions for translation of training materials. The secretariat provided the focal points at the secretariat for more information on in-kind translation and FAO translation.
- [252] The observer from the European Union shared his impressions of the IC meeting and noted the shifting balance between the effort and work on IPPC ISPMs and those on implementation. He noted the continued need for these efforts to be pursued together for healthy plants and safe trade.
- [253] The observer from the European Union noted the importance of side events during the CPM meeting and during IPPC regional workshops, to spotlight the most valid and important guide, training material or implementation issue that would benefit all contracting parties. The observer also commented on the importance of having a systematic approach and of keeping track of all ongoing development activities.
- [254] The observer noted that the European Union intended to continue supporting the IPPC in the area of implementation, and noted that funds could be made available from next year (2024).
- [255] The secretariat thanked the observers for their participation, noting that this was a valuable opportunity to learn more about each other's work.

### **IFU 2023 workplan in view of the activities to be taken as a priority**

- [256] The secretariat presented the IFU workplan, which had to be revised in view of the invitation at the CPM to coordinate the global coordination of the TR4 activities and the decisions taken in this meeting.
- [257] The secretariat asked the IC to select the highest priority between the revision of the guide on NROs, the revision of the *Manual of good practices for participating in the International Plant Protection Convention Commission on Phytosanitary Measures meeting* and the initiation of the development of the plant-health officers' curriculum.

[258] One IC member noted that the revisions of the guide on NROs and the *Manual of good practices for participating in the International Plant Protection Convention Commission on Phytosanitary Measures meeting* were more urgent and may take less time than developing new material such as the plant-health officers' curriculum. The IC agreed that, as soon as the revision work for the two guides was finished, the development of the plant-health officers' curriculum would start. The IC therefore agreed to remove the development of the plant-health officers' curriculum from the workplan until the revision of the two guides was completed.

[259] The workplan was revised in tracked changes as per the discussions in the IC meeting.

[260] The IC:

(77) *agreed* with the 2023 IFU workplan as modified in this meeting and presented in Appendix 8.

## **18 DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

[261] The next IC meeting will be held from 20 to 24 November 2023 at FAO headquarters, Rome, Italy.

## **19 EVALUATION OF THE MEETING PROCESS**

[262] The secretariat asked IC members to fill in the evaluation survey for the meeting.

## **20 REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF THE REPORT**

[263] The IC reviewed and adopted the report.

## **21 CLOSE OF THE MEETING**

[264] The IC chairperson and the IFU lead thanked everyone and closed the meeting.

**Appendix 1: Agenda****IMPLEMENTATION AND CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (IC)****15-19 May 2023****Rome, Italy****Start:** 15 May at 10:00 (coffee at 09:30)**Monday** 10:00-12:00 13:30-17:00 (coffee breaks at 15:00)**Tuesday to Friday** 9:00-12:00 13:30-17:00 (coffee breaks at 10:30 and 15:00)**AGENDA***(Updated 2023-04-25)*

	<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Document No.</b>	<b>Presenter</b>	<b>Time (Min)</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b>Opening of the Meeting</b>		BRUNEL	5
1.1	Opening by the IPPC Secretariat		EL LISSY	10
1.2	Opening Remarks		GEUZE	10
1.3	Introduction of the new IC members		All	50
<b>2.</b>	<b>Meeting Arrangements</b>			
2.1	Election of the Rapporteur		GEUZE	5
2.2	Adoption of the Agenda	01_IC_2023_May	GEUZE	10
<b>3.</b>	<b>Administrative Matters</b>			
3.1	Documents list	02_IC_2023_May	KOUMBA	2
3.2	Participants list	03_IC_2023_May	KOUMBA	2
3.3	Local information	<a href="#">Link to local information</a>	MADAMINOVA	2
3.4	Evaluation results of the 2022 IC November meeting	04_IC_2023_May	KOUMBA	15
<b>4.</b>	<b>CPM-17 (2023) implementation issues</b>			
4.1	Outcomes of CPM-17 (2023) key issues and decisions that affect the IC	05_IC_2023_May	GEUZE/ BRUNEL	120
<b>5.</b>	<b>Updates from the IPPC Secretariat (open to observers)</b>			
5.1	Implementation and Facilitation Unit (IFU)	06_IC_2023_May	BRUNEL	20
5.2	Standard Setting Unit (SSU)	07_IC_2023_May	NERSISYAN	20
5.3	Integration and Support Team (IST)	08_IC_2023_May	DENG	20



	Agenda Item	Document No.	Presenter	Time (Min)
5.4	ePhyto Group	09_IC_2023_May	FEDCHOCK	20
5.5	Fusarium TR4 emergency	10_IC_2023_May	BRUNEL	20
<b>6.</b>	<b>IC-SC Collaboration</b>			
6.1	Implementation issues identified by the SC and recommendations to improve the SC–IC collaboration	11_IC_2023_May	ABDELMOTTALEB/ SEPÚLVEDA / KOU MBA	30
<b>7.</b>	<b>IPPC Implementation and Capacity Development Projects (open to observers)</b>			
7.1	Projects managed by the IPPC Secretariat	12_IC_2023_May	BRUNEL/BELTRAN	30
7.2	Strengthening food control and phytosanitary capacities and governance - Update on PCEs	13_IC_2023_May	BELTRAN/WHITE	40
7.3	COMESA Trade facilitation project	14_IC_2023_May	MADAMINOVA	20
<b>8.</b>	<b>Implementation and Capacity Development projects submitted by contracting parties and international organizations (open to observers)</b>	36.1_IC_2023_May 36.2_IC_2023_May		
8.1	Demonstrating Feasibility of the Sterile Insect Technique in the Control of the Codling Moth, <i>Cydia pomonella</i>	15_IC_2023_May	Insect Pest Control Section, FAO/IAEA	10
8.2	Beware &Note (notification system for quarantine organisms harmful to plants)	16_IC_2023_May	Federal public service Health, Food chain safety and Environment (NPPO of Belgium)	10
8.3	Establishment of a Database on Important Quarantine plant pests and diseases in Arab Countries	17_IC_2023_May	The Arab Center For Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Lands (ACSAD)	10
8.4	Project on Biodiversity and Agriculture: addressing scale insect threats in Kenya	18_IC_2023_May	Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (NPPO of Kenya)	10
8.5	1. Enhancing the capacity of the Fruit and Vegetable Sector in Uganda to comply with Phytosanitary requirements for export to EU, other high-end markets and regional markets 2. Strengthening phytosanitary compliance and public private partnerships to boost seed trade in the Asia Pacific region	19.1_IC_2023_May  19.2_IC_2023_May	The Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF)	20



	Agenda Item	Document No.	Presenter	Time (Min)
8.6	Biorational and Biological Control Strategies for sustainable Fall Armyworm Management in Africa (BIOFAWMA)	20_IC_2023_May	NPPO of Togo	10
8.7	Strengthening sanitary and phytosanitary systems of the ACP horticultural sector	21_IC_2023_May	COLEAD	10
8.8	Strengthening Member State Capacities to Combat Banana Fusarium Wilt (TR4) through Early Detection, New Resistant Varieties, and Integrated Management	22_IC_2023_May	Plant Breeding and Genetics Section, FAO/IAEA	10
<b>9.</b>	<b>Guide and training materials (open to observers)</b>			
9.1	Update on the development of IPPC guides and training materials	23_IC_2023_May	PETERSON	30
9.2	Draft specification for the guide: Audits in the phytosanitary context (2021-009)	24_IC_2023_May	RULL	20
9.3	Knowing and understanding the IPPC for plant health and protection officers (2017-054)	<a href="#">Specification</a> 25_IC_2023_May	RULL	20
<b>10.</b>	<b>2023 Call for Topics (open to observers)</b>			
10.1	2023 Call for Topics	26_IC_2023_May	KOUMBA / PETERSON	20
10.2	Identifying gaps in ICD resources	Interactive activity	KOUMBA/ PETERSON/ / YAMADA	40
<b>11.</b>	<b>IPPC Regional Workshops (open to observers)</b>			
11.1	Preparation to the 2023 IPPC Regional Workshops	27_IC_2023_May	GILMORE	20
11.2	IC recommendations to improve the regional workshop guidelines	28_IC_2023_May	ABDELMOTTALEB	30
<b>12.</b>	<b>IPPC Strategic Framework</b>			
12.1	Implementation of the IPPC Strategic Framework (2020-2030)	29_IC_2023_May	YIM	20
12.2	DAI Management of e-commerce and postal and courier pathways	30_IC_2023_May	PETERSON	20
12.3	DAI Strengthening pest outbreak alert and response systems	31_IC_2023_May	BRUNEL	20
12.4	DAI Developing guidance on the use of third-party entities	32_IC_2023_May	PETERSON / KOUMBA	20
<b>13.</b>	<b>IC Leads</b>			

	Agenda Item	Document No.	Presenter	Time (Min)
13.1	Selection of the IC Leads of topics, Subgroups and Teams	33_IC_2023_May	BRUNEL/ KOUMBA	60
14.	<b>Chairperson election</b>			
14.1	Election of the IC Chairperson and Vice Chairperson	34_IC_2023_May	BRUNEL/ KOUMBA	30
15.	<b>Review of IC Action list</b>	<a href="#">Link to Nov 2022 IC meeting report</a>  <a href="#">Link to the IC Actions list</a> 35_IC_2023_May	KOUMBA	40
16.	<b>Agenda items deferred to future IC meetings</b>		CHAIR	5
17.	<b>Any Other Business</b>		CHAIR	30
18.	<b>Date and Venue of the Next Meeting</b>	15–19 May 2023, FAO HQ, Rome, Italy	KOUMBA	5
19.	<b>Evaluation of the meeting process</b>	<a href="#">Link to the survey</a>	MADAMINOVA	10
20.	<b>Review and Adoption of the Report</b>		CHAIR/ BRUNEL	120
21.	<b>Close of the Meeting</b>		CHAIR/ BRUNEL	10

**Appendix 2: Documents List****IMPLEMENTATION AND CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE****May 2023 - Rome, Italy****DOCUMENTS LIST***(Updated 2023-05-01)*

DOCUMENT NO.	AGENDA ITEM	DOCUMENT TITLE (PREPARED BY)	DATE POSTED / DISTRIBUTED
01_IC_2023_May	2.2	Agenda	2023-04-26 2023-05-01
02_IC_2023_May	3.1	Documents list	2023-05-01
03_IC_2023_May	3.2	Participants list	2023-05-01
04_IC_2023_May	3.4	Evaluation results of the 2022 IC November meeting	2023-04-26
05_IC_2023_May	4.1	Outcomes of CPM-17 (2023) key issues and decisions that affect the IC	2023-05-01
06_IC_2023_May	5.1	Implementation and Facilitation Unit (IFU)	2023-05-02
07_IC_2023_May	5.2	Standard Setting Unit (SSU)	2023-04-27
08_IC_2023_May	5.3	Integration and Support Team (IST)	2023-04-27
09_IC_2023_May	5.4	ePhyto Group	2023-04-27
10_IC_2023_May	5.5	Fusarium TR4 emergency	2023-05-03
11_IC_2023_May	6.1	IC priority activities for 2023 and implementation issues identified by the SC and recommendations to improve the SC–IC collaboration	2023-05-02
12_IC_2023_May	7.1	Projects managed by the IPPC Secretariat	2023-05-01
13_IC_2023_May	7.2	Strengthening food control and phytosanitary capacities and governance - Update on PCEs	2023-05-01
14_IC_2023_May	7.3	COMESA Trade facilitation project	2023-05-02
15_IC_2023_May	8.1	Demonstrating Feasibility of the Sterile Insect Technique in the Control of the Codling Moth, <i>Cydia pomonella</i>	2023-04-27
16_IC_2023_May	8.2	Beware &Note (notification system for quarantine organisms harmful to plants)	2023-04-27
17_IC_2023_May	8.3	Establishment of a Database on Important Quarantine plant pests and diseases in Arab Countries	2023-05-01
18_IC_2023_May	8.4	Project on Biodiversity and Agriculture: addressing scale insect threats in Kenya	2023-05-02

DOCUMENT NO.	AGENDA ITEM	DOCUMENT TITLE (PREPARED BY)	DATE POSTED / DISTRIBUTED
19_IC_2023_May	8.5	1. Enhancing the capacity of the Fruit and Vegetable Sector in Uganda to comply with Phytosanitary requirements for export to EU, other high-end markets and regional markets 2. Strengthening phytosanitary compliance and public private partnerships to boost seed trade in the Asia Pacific region	2023-04-27
20_IC_2023_May	8.6	Biorational and Biological Control Strategies for sustainable Fall Armyworm Management in Africa (BIOFAWMA)	2023-05-02
21_IC_2023_May	8.7	Strengthening sanitary and phytosanitary systems of the ACP horticultural sector	2023-05-01
22_IC_2023_May	8.8	Strengthening Member State Capacities to Combat Banana Fusarium Wilt (TR4) through Early Detection, New Resistant Varieties, and Integrated Management	2023-05-01
23_IC_2023_May	9.1	Update on the development of IPPC guides and training materials	2023-04-27
24_IC_2023_May	9.2	Draft specification for the guide: Audits in the phytosanitary context (2021-009)	2023-04-27
25_IC_2023_May	9.3	Knowing and understanding the IPPC for plant health and protection officers (2017-054)	2023-04-27
26_IC_2023_May	10.1	2023 Call for Topics	2023-04-27
27_IC_2023_May	11.1	Preparation to the 2023 IPPC Regional Workshops	2023-04-27
28_IC_2023_May	11.2	IC recommendations to improve the regional workshop guidelines	2023-05-02
29_IC_2023_May	12.1	Implementation of the IPPC Strategic Framework (2020-2030)	2023-04-27
30_IC_2023_May	12.2	DAI Management of e-commerce and postal and courier pathways	2023-04-27
31_IC_2023_May	12.3	DAI Strengthening pest outbreak alert and response systems	2023-05-02
32_IC_2023_May	12.4	DAI Developing guidance on the use of third-party entities	2023-04-27
33_IC_2023_May	13.1	Selection of the IC Leads of topics, Subgroups and Teams	2023-05-01
34_IC_2023_May	14.1	Election of the IC Chairperson and Vice Chairperson	2023-05-01
35_IC_2023_May	15.	Review of IC Actions list	2023-05-01
36.1_IC_2023_May	8.	Implementation and Capacity Development projects submitted by contracting parties and international organizations	2023-04-27
36.2_IC_2023_May	8.	Implementation and Capacity Development projects submitted by contracting parties and international organizations (Table)	2023-04-27

IPP LINKS:		Agenda item
<a href="#">Link to May 2023 IC Meeting Documents</a>		3.1
<a href="#">IC Membership list</a>		3.2

IPP LINKS:	Agenda item
<a href="#">IFU Staff overview</a>	3.2
<a href="#">Local Information</a>	3.3
<a href="#">List of ICD topics database</a>	9.1
<a href="#">Procedure Manual for Implementation and Capacity Development</a>	9.1
<a href="#">Link to November 2022 IC Meeting Report</a>	15
<a href="#">Link to online IC Action List</a>	15

### Appendix 3: Participants List

#### IMPLEMENTATION AND CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (IC) MAY MEETING

**15-19 May 2023**  
**PARTICIPANTS LIST**  
*(Updated 25-04-2023)*

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*Observers*

Organization	Name, mailing, address, telephone	Email address
European Commission (EC)	<b>Mr Roman VAGNER</b> <b>Plant Health Administrator</b> European Commission, DG Health & Food Safety Unit G.1: Plant Health Rue Froissart 101 / • 1000 • (postal office Box: 1049) • Brussel • Belgium	<a href="mailto:Roman.VAGNER@ec.europa.eu">Roman.VAGNER@ec.europa.eu</a>
Comité de Liaison Entrepreneuriat Agriculture Développement (COLEAD)	<b>Ms Marie-Hélène KESTEMONT</b> <b>Lead Expert SPS</b> Regulations & Standards COLEAD Avenue Arnaud Fraiteur 15/23 I B-1050 Brussels, Belgium	<a href="mailto:marie-helene.kestemont@colead.link">marie-helene.kestemont@colead.link</a>

**Appendix 4: Project name, with start and end date, budget, compliance with existing frameworks and strategies and main concrete deliverables for projects managed by the IPPC Secretariat through the Implementation and Facilitation Unit in 2022**

Project name	Start and end dates	Budget	Project compliant with	Main concrete deliverables
Support for Implementation and Capacity Development Activities of the IPPC Secretariat (GCPT/GLO/102/JPN)	Start: October 2020 End: September 2025	USD 1,006,180	IPPC Strategic Framework 2020-2030	Operational support of the IPPC Secretariat in relation to implementation and capacity development activities.
Support to the IPPC Strategic Framework: Commodity and pathways standards, Pest Outbreak Alert and Response Systems and e-Phyto (GCP/GLO/040/EC)	Start: June 2020 End: June 2023	USD 1,029,989	IPPC Strategic Framework 2020-2030	Activities of the POARS Focus Group concluding in recommendations.
Supporting the implementation of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) (GCP/GLO/025/EC)	Start: January 2020 End: December 2023	USD 1,055,556	Text of the International Plant Protection Convention	Participation to IPPC Governing bodies by developing countries.  Publications of guides.
EC Implementation Review and Support System 3rd cycle	Start: January 2018 End: May 2022 (Completed)  <b>Another cycle may be financed by the EU as indicated during CPM-17</b>	USD 734,716		Various studies and surveys.
Strengthening the capacity of developing contracting parties to implement the International Plant Protection Convention and its standards under FAO-China South-South Cooperation (SSC) programme (GCP/INT/291/CPR)	Start: September 2017 End: December 2023	USD 2,007,541	FAO South South and Triangular cooperation in action FAO South-South and Triangular Cooperation Guidelines for action (2022-2025)	Organization of virtual courses on Phytosanitary issues PCE completed in Sri Lanka Courses on fruit flies' technologies in Sri Lanka PCE in progress in Cambodia

			Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation Strategy 2020-2030	Course on Fusarium wilt (R1 and TR4) in Cambodia
FAO support to COMESA trade facilitation programme (GCP/INT/387/COM)	Start: 2018-12-01 End: 2022-05-31 (extended until Mai 2024)	USD 2,803,069 (total), USD 800,000 (phytosanitary matters)	List of topics	Four e-Learning courses One guide on contingency planning and one guideline on prevention, preparedness and response to Fusarium wilt (TR4) Five capacity development webinars Translations of six guides
Strengthening Plant Health Emergency Management Capacities project (OSRO/GLO/208/USA)	Start: June 2022 End: June 2023  The Secretariat ended its contributions to this project due to diverging views in its implementation	USD 600.000 (total) (100.000 for the Phytosanitary component)	IPPC Strategic Framework 2020-2030, 5 <sup>th</sup> Development Agenda on Pest Outbreak Alert and Response Systems	Call for contributed resources on pest outbreak alert and response systems tools and guidelines.
Strengthening Food Control and Phytosanitary Capacities and Governance (GCP/GLO/949/EC)	Start: January 2022 End: December 2023	USD 5,000,000 (total), USD 2,000,000 approximately (phytosanitary matters)	Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation Strategy 2020-2030	PCE Facilitators training course organized.
IPPC ePhyto and Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (GCP /GLO/1034/GER-F)	Start: January 2022 End: December 2022 (to be extended until June 2023)	USD 224,000	IPPC Development agenda 2020-2030: Harmonization of Electronic Data Exchange Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation Strategy 2020-2030	The Generic ePhyto National System (GeNS) has new capabilities: eSignature, ePayments/eBilling, interchanges of ePhytos with other platforms and translation in Arabic PCE initiated in Senegal.
Implementation of a Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE) in Nepal(GCP /GLO/478/WBK-F)	Start: January 2021 End: June 2022	USD 65,000	Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation Strategy 2020-2030	PCE conducted in Nepal.

### Appendix 5: FAO support to COMESA trade facilitation programme workplan for 2023–2024 (GCP/INT/387/COM)

Activity	2023				2024			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Completing the guide on contingency planning for outbreaks of quarantine pests*								
Completing the prevention, preparedness, and response guidelines for Fusarium TR4								
Completing the inspection e-Learning course								
Deliver the study on risk-based border control workflow including technical IT and infrastructural requirements in COMESA countries								
Delivering an online tutored course for export certification								
Planning and coordinating a desktop simulation exercise for Fusarium TR4 in one selected COMESA country (virtual)								
Conduct desktop simulation exercises for Fusarium TR4 in one selected COMESA countries								
Ordering and supplying lab materials (reagents) to conduct face-to-face training on diagnostics and simulation exercises								
Face-to-face hands-on training on diagnostics for target pests *								
Planning and coordination of simulation exercises for Fusarium TR4 in one selected COMESA country **								
Execution of face-to-face simulation exercises for Fusarium TR4 in one selected COMESA country **								

	Done
	On track

#### Notes

\* Face-to-face hands-on training on diagnostic and use of laboratory material for Fusarium TR4.

\*\*Considering that Fusarium TR4 is a threatening emerging pest for the whole African continent, one COMESA country will be selected for simulation exercises. The exercise includes a desktop module that can be conducted virtually and a hand module to be conducted face-to-face.

## Appendix 6: Draft Specification: Guide to phytosanitary audits (2021-009)

May 2023 IC and IFU reviewed and noted

### Status box

This status box is not an official part of the Guide and will be modified by the IPPC Secretariat.	
<b>Topic number</b>	2021-009
<b>Title</b>	Guide to phytosanitary audits
<b>Document category</b>	IPPC Guide
<b>Date of this document</b>	2023-04-23
<b>Current document stage</b>	Draft Specification to go for consultation in 2023 (IC_2022_Nov)
<b>Major completed stages</b>	<p><b>2022-03:</b> CPM-16 (2022) added this topic to the List of Implementation and Capacity Development Topics; priority 1</p> <p><b>2022-11:</b> IC agreed that the draft specification should be prepared for consultation in 2023</p> <p><b>2023-05:</b> IC reviewed the draft specification, and approved it for consultation in 2023 with minor revisions, including changing the title</p>
<b>Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC) lead</b>	<b>2022-04:</b> Dominique PELLETIER, Canada
<b>IPPC Secretariat lead</b>	<b>2022-11:</b> Juan RULL
<b>Working Group experts</b>	
<b>Notes</b>	Development to be coordinated with the Guide on <i>Authorization of entities to perform phytosanitary actions</i> (2018-040) (IC_2022_Nov) to ensure complementarity of both guides and reduce overlap of contents.



## **Draft Specification: Guide to phytosanitary audits (2021-009)**

### **1. Title**

Guide to phytosanitary audits (2021-009)

### **2. Type of implementation resource**

New implementation resource, Guide

### **3. Convention articles, ISPMs and CPM recommendations to be addressed by the proposed implementation resource**

International Plant Protection Convention (Article IV.2)

ISPM 47: *Audit in the Phytosanitary Context*

### **4. Scope**

This IPPC guide will provide information to assist national plant protection organizations (NPPOs) wishing to establish or enhance their national procedures for phytosanitary audit activities. It will provide practical guidance to assist NPPOs in conducting audits in their own territory, or in the territory of another NPPO. The guide will focus on the phytosanitary aspects of audits, as laid out in ISPM 47 (*Audit in the Phytosanitary Context*) and will include practical tools, examples and case studies that NPPOs may adapt for use in their particular context.

### **5. Purpose**

National plant protection organizations have a number of responsibilities under the IPPC for activities in their territory such as surveillance, inspection, the conduct of pest risk analyses, the establishment of phytosanitary import requirements, phytosanitary certification, the conduct or supervision of treatments as phytosanitary measures, and the training of staff. To help them fulfil these responsibilities effectively, NPPOs are increasingly using audits to provide confidence that phytosanitary systems and procedures achieve their objectives.

An audit in the phytosanitary context is a documented, systematic review of a phytosanitary system or procedure to evaluate whether it conforms with the requirements set by the NPPO, and whether the system or procedure is achieving the expected phytosanitary objectives. Unlike supervision, an audit does not involve continuous observation and direction of activities but instead provides an evaluation of a specific phytosanitary system, procedure, or particular elements of a system or procedure, at the time of the audit. Objective evidence is collected on whether the outcomes of the phytosanitary system or procedure conform with the relevant requirements of the auditing NPPO and whether these requirements are implemented effectively to achieve the phytosanitary objectives.

The purpose of this guide is to provide National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs) with practical guidance and best practices for carrying out systems audits and focused audits in their own territory, or in the territory of another NPPO and to support the harmonized implementation of ISPM 47 (*Audit in the Phytosanitary Context*) and other ISPMs that reference audits, including ISPM 14 (*Use of integrated measures in a systems approach for pest risk management*) and ISPM 45 (*Requirements for national plant protection organizations if authorizing entities to perform phytosanitary actions*).

## 6. Content of the proposed implementation resource

The working group should develop content for the guide based on the outcomes of the following tasks:

1. Explain the purpose of audits, their benefits and their use within the context of national phytosanitary systems.
2. Describe the circumstances that may trigger a phytosanitary audit and the differences and similarities between audits carried out within the NPPO's territory and audits carried out by the NPPO of an importing country in the territory of an exporting country.
3. Consider the scope, purpose and methods used for internal audits, audits of authorized entities, and remote audits, describing similarities and differences.
4. Discuss the similarities and differences between system audits and focused audits and their purpose and use; Discuss the roles and responsibilities of the NPPO, the auditor and the auditee.
5. Discuss the roles and responsibilities of the NPPO in providing oversight of entities that are authorized carry out phytosanitary audits on behalf of the NPPO. Consider the information provided in chapter 6 of the *Guide to regulation of wood packaging material* (IPPC, 2023).
6. Discuss the steps and procedures for planning, preparing, undertaking and reporting the outcome of an audit.
7. Provide guidance on selecting auditors when assembling an audit team, establishing the audit frequency, settling disputes over audit findings, and agreeing financial arrangements between the parties involved.
8. Describe the roles and responsibilities of the different members of an audit team and describe the minimum skills, expertise and training required by each.
9. Describe the essential elements of an audit checklist and provide an example that may be used as a template.
10. Describe different types of non-conformities and suggest appropriate follow-up activities depending on the type of non-conformity.
11. Discuss auditing best practices, including the importance of independence, objectivity and the benefits of rotating auditors.
12. Review the documents listed in the references section related to phytosanitary audits.
13. Recommend supplemental national or regional resources that might be shared with the IPPC community to enhance the implementation of ISPM 47.
14. Review the implementation issues identified by the EWG that was tasked with developing ISPM 47 (*Audit in the phytosanitary context*), as described in its report (June 2019).
15. Consider the content of ISPM 47 and avoid unnecessary repetition of information that is included in the standard.
16. Consider the scope of the guide, *Authorization of entities to perform phytosanitary actions* (2018-040), as described in the Specification and ensure the two guides are complementary without unnecessary overlap.

17. Identify case studies that highlight how countries have approached some of the challenges associated with performing audits in the phytosanitary context.

## 7. Financial and in-kind contributions

The development of this guide will be supported through a contribution to the IPPC Multi-donor Trust Fund by Canada.

## 8. Selection criteria for working group experts

The IPPC Secretariat and the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee support equity, diversity, and inclusiveness and encourage all interested experts to submit their candidature to participate in the working group that will be tasked with developing this IPPC Guide or training material. The members of the working group will be selected based on their technical and practical expertise in the subject matter. Geographical representation from both developing and developed countries will also be considered to ensure that the material developed is globally applicable and reflects best practices from all over the world.

The following criteria should be used for selecting working group members:

Practical expertise and knowledge in one or more of the following areas:

- (1) audits in the phytosanitary context, including audits of entities in the exporting country conducted by the NPPO of the exporting country, audits of the phytosanitary certification system carried out by the NPPO of the importing country in the exporting country, and audits of entities other than NPPOs who are authorized to perform phytosanitary actions.
- (2) development of training materials, delivery of training, workshops, or courses on auditing principles, participating in phytosanitary audits or leading phytosanitary audit teams.
- (3) strong working knowledge of English and ability to formulate ideas and write clearly in English.

## 9. References and supporting materials

**ISPM 5.** *Glossary of phytosanitary terms*. Rome, IPPC Secretariat, FAO [online].  
<https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/622/>

**ISPM 14. 2021.** *The use of integrated measures in a systems approach for pest risk management*. Rome, IPPC Secretariat, FAO. <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/607/>

**ISPM 45. 2022.** *Requirements for national plant protection organizations if authorizing entities to perform phytosanitary actions*. Rome, IPPC Secretariat, FAO.  
<https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/89734/>

**ISPM 47. 2023.** *Audit in the phytosanitary context*. Rome, IPPC Secretariat, FAO.  
<https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/91185/>

**IPPC Secretariat. 2015.** *Operation of a national plant protection organization: A guide to understanding the principal requirements for operating an organization to protect national plant resources from pests*. Rome, IPPC Secretariat, FAO. <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/90633/>

**IPPC Secretariat. 2019.** Report of the Expert Working Group on Audit in the phytosanitary context (2015-014) <https://www.ippc.int/es/publications/87497/>

**IPPC Secretariat. 2023.** *Guide to regulation of wood packaging material – Understanding the phytosanitary requirements for the movement of wood packaging material in international trade*. Rome, FAO on behalf of the Secretariat of the International Plant Protection Convention. <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cc5059en>

**NAPPO 2021.** Regional Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (RSPM) 9: *Authorization of Laboratories for Phytosanitary Testing*. [https://nappo.org/application/files/9216/1676/6222/20210319\\_RSPM9-e.pdf](https://nappo.org/application/files/9216/1676/6222/20210319_RSPM9-e.pdf)

## Appendix 7: Overall table of IC members current assignments as agreed during the IC May 2023 Meeting

IC roles	IC leads /Lead	Members
IC Chair	Dominique PELLETIER	
IC Vice Chair	Thorwald GEUZE	
IC representative to SC	Ahmed M. Abdellah ABDELMOTTALEB	
SC representative to IC	Alvaro SEPÚLVEDA LUQUE	
CPM Focus Groups		
Task Force on Topics	Dominique PELLETIER	Lalith Bandula KUMARASINGHE Faith NDUNGE
Task Force on Topics (replacement)		Ringolds ARNITIS Thorwald GEUZE
FG on Climate change	Ngatoko TA NGATOKO	
FG on Sea Containers	Dominique PELLETIER	
FG on Safe Provision of Aid	Lucien KOUAMÉ KONAN	Lalith Bandula KUMARASINGHE
Steering Group		
POARS	Ringolds ARNITIS	
IC Subgroups		
IC Subgroup on the IPPC Observatory	Dominique PELLETIER	Ezequiel FERRO Francisco Adrian GUTIERREZ Faith NDUNGE Alvaro SEPÚLVEDA LUQUE (SC Rep.)
IC Teams		
IC Team on NROs	Ahmed M. Abdellah ABDELMOTTALEB	Xiaoliang WANG Ezequiel FERRO Lucien KOUAMÉ KONAN Magda GONZALEZ ARROYO
IC Team on PCE	Ringolds ARNITIS	Francisco Adrian GUTIERREZ Magda GONZALEZ ARROYO Lucien KOUAMÉ KONAN Lalith Bandula KUMARASINGHE
IC Team on Fusarium TR4	Xiaoliang WANG	Melisa Graciela NEDILSKYJ Lucien KOUAMÉ KONAN
IC Team on Projects	Lalith Bandula KUMARASINGHE	Dominique PELLETIER Kyu-Ock YIM Xiaoliang WANG
IC Team on e-Commerce	Thorwald GEUZE	Stephanie BLOEM Melisa Graciela NEDILSKYJ Ngatoko TA NGATOKO Ahmed M. Abdellah ABDELMOTTALEB
IC Team on Guides and training materials	Francisco Adrian GUTIERREZ	Ahmed M. Abdellah ABDELMOTTALEB Faith NDUNGE

		Lucien KOUAMÉ KONAN Lalith Bandula KUMARASINGHE
IC Team on Contributed resources	Lalith Bandula KUMARASINGHE	Alvaro SEPÚLVEDA LUQUE Faith NDUNGE Magda GONZALEZ ARROYO Ngatoko TA NGATOKO
IC Team on IPPC Regional Workshop guidelines	Ahmed M. Abdellah ABDELMOTTALEB	Lucien KOUAMÉ KONAN Melisa Graciela NEDILSKYJ Thorwald GEUZE Ngatoko TA NGATOKO
IC Team on developing guidance for the use of third party entities	Lalith Bandula KUMARASINGHE	Dominique PELLETIER Ringolds ARNITIS Ruth Lucien KOUAMÉ KONAN
IC Team on CPM preparation guide	Thorwald GEUZE	Magda GONZALEZ ARROYO Stephanie BLOEM Melisa Graciela NEDILSKYJ
Guides and training materials (ICD LOT priority 1-2)		
Regulation of wood packaging material (2017-043) and ISPM 15 treatment manuals	Faith NDUNGE	Ahmed M. Abdellah ABDELMOTTALEB
Emergency preparedness (2019-012)	Francisco Adrian GUTIERREZ	
Fusarium TR4 training courses and exercises	Xiaoliang WANG	Melisa Graciela NEDILSKYJ Lucien KOUAMÉ KONAN
e-Commerce for plants, plant products and other regulated articles (2017-039)	Thorwald GEUZE	
Risk-based inspection of imported consignments (2018-022)	Kyu-Ock YIM	Stephanie BLOEM
Participating in CPM meetings, revision (2023-000)	Thorwald GEUZE	Melisa Graciela NEDILSKYJ Magda GONZALEZ ARROYO Stephanie- BLOEM
Knowing and Understanding the IPPC - plant health officer training curricula (2017-054)	Lalith Bandula KUMARASINGHE	Ahmed M. Abdellah ABDELMOTTALEB Francisco Adrian GUTIERREZ
National Reporting Obligations (NRO), revision to the guide (2021-026)	Ahmed M. Abdellah ABDELMOTTALEB	Xiaoliang WANG Ezequiel FERRO Lucien KOUAMÉ KONAN Magda GONZALEZ ARROYO
Authorization of entities to perform phytosanitary actions (2018-040)	Dominique PELLETIER	Lalith Bandula KUMARASINGHE
Guide to Phytosanitary Audits (2021-009)	Dominique PELLETIER	Lalith Bandula KUMARASINGHE
Developing phytosanitary procedures to maintain phytosanitary security of consignments for export (2018-028)	Kyu-Ock YIM	
ICD LOT (priority 3-4)		
PCE Facilitators training (2014-008)	Ringolds ARNITIS	
Pest free areas (2017-044)	Dominique PELLETIER	
Surveillance of Xylella fastidiosa (2018-037)	Ahmed M. Abdellah ABDELMOTTALEB	
Inspection of consignments for Xylella fastidiosa at points of entry (2018-038)	Ahmed M. Abdellah ABDELMOTTALEB	

Managing non-compliant treated consignments (2018-027)	Ahmed M. Abdellah ABDELMOTTALEB	
Development and implementation of regulations and legislation to manage phytosanitary risks on regulated articles for NPPOs (2018-008)		
Pest risk management Guide (2017-047)	Alvaro SEPÚLVEDA LUQUE	
Assessing the risk of introduction of pests with seeds (2018-036)	Thorwald GEUZE	
Components pages		
EWGs		
EWG Audit (2015-014)	Dominique PELLETIER	
Criteria for the determination of host status for fruit flies based on available information (Annex to ISPM 37: determination fruit fly host status) (2018-011), priority 3		
ISPM 4 (Pest Free Area), Revision (2009-002)	Dominique PELLETIER	Ruth Chris DALE
Design and use of systems approaches for phytosanitary certification of seeds (Annex to ISPM 38 International movement of seeds) (2018-009), priority 1	Thorwald GEUZE	
Annex: Use of systems approaches in managing the pest risks associated with the movement of wood (2015-004) to ISPM 39 (International movement of wood).	Dominique PELLETIER	
EWG on Reorganization and revision of pest risk analysis standards (2020-001).		
Projects		
FAO support to COMESA trade facilitation programme (GCP /INT/387/COM)	Faith NDUNGE	
Strengthening the capacity of developing contracting parties to implement the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) (GCP /INT/291/CPR) China	Francisco Adrian GUTIERREZ	
Support to the IPPC Strategic Framework: Commodity and pathways standards, emergency response and e-Phyto (GCP/GLO/040/EC)	Ringolds ARNITIS	
Support for Implementation and Capacity Development Activities of the IPPC Secretariat (GCPT/GLO/102/JPN) Japan	Thorwald GEUZE	
Supporting the implementation of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) 2020-2022 (GCP/GLO/025/EC)	Thorwald GEUZE	
Others		
Phytosanitary system pages	Kyu-Ock YIM	
Designing of plant quarantine laboratories, Contributed resources	Lalith Bandula KUMARASINGHE	
Factsheet <a href="#">Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation Tool (PCE)</a>	Ringolds ARNITIS	
Factsheet <a href="#">The Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC)</a>	Dominique PELLETIER	



## Appendix 8: 2023 work plan of the IPPC implementation and facilitation unit

May 2023 IFU and IC reviewed and noted

**Strategies: the 2023 IFU work plan is fully consistent with the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020-2030.**

**The Implementation and Capacity Development (ICD) objectives will be achieved by:**

- Focusing on global impact in order of priority: international, regional and national.
- Continuing building strong, quality-oriented team that supports and implements innovative ideas.
- Strengthening cooperation with relevant stakeholders to maximize resources to deliver ICD activities.
- Plan work according to allocated resources and mobilize resources as needed.

**Main activities and outputs:<sup>42</sup>**

- **Governance:** CPM-17 (2023), Bureau, SPG, CPM FG SFDAI and POARS SG are supported.
- **IPPC Secretariat initiatives** are supported: FAO-One Health (including AMR), TFRM, MTM, TR4 global coordination.
- **IC is supported** including face to face/virtual meetings, IC Sub-group: IPPC Observatory, IC Teams: NROs, Cont. Res, e-Commerce, F S&I, G&TM, PCE, Projects, TFT, TR4 and Web, guidelines for regional workshops, revision of NROs Guide and revision of Manual on CPM preparation.
- **List of ICD** topics is managed, and IC recommendations are submitted to CPM.
- **IFU communications** work plan is developed and implemented through IST and the FAO PWS (including publications, webinars, news, calls and announcements).
- **ICD web based information** is updated once a year. Contribute to the redesign of the IPP through IST. Contributed resources managed.
- **Guides and training material:** Guides published: Emergency preparedness, e-Commerce, ISPM 15 treatment manuals and Prevention guidelines for TR4 and desktop simulation on TR4. Guides and training materials initiated: Risk-based inspection, NROs guide revision and manual for CPM preparation revision, simulation exercise for TR4, training courses on TR4 surveillance and diagnostic. Draft specification developed: Audit in the phytosanitary context.
- **Projects managed** (or phytosanitary input provided): China, EU: Implementation, EU: 9 PCEs (COMESA countries), EU: SF, USAID: EMC; GIZ project (PCE Senegal) and Japan. Support 6 PCEs in PRASAC-CEMAC countries (STDF). Backstopping for FAO projects.
- **IPPC Observatory** E-Commerce study is initiated and AMR study is completed.
- **PCEs** are managed and conducted in nine COMESA countries (\$EU), Cambodia (\$China) and Senegal (\$GIZ), Sri Lanka (legal \$China), Mali and CEMAC countries (\$STDF). PCE desk study is conducted.

<sup>42</sup> Subject to the following staff resources. Regular Programme: P4, P2, G4. In-kind: P4 Canada, P4 France, e-learning support COLEAD. Projects: P3 (\$ EU & MDTF), P3 (\$ EC for 9 PCEs in COMESA), P2 (\$ Japan), 1 Consultant (\$ China), 1 Consultant (\$ Korea), 1 Consultant (MDTF), 1 Consultant (TR project) PCE facilitators (\$ China, \$ EC), 1 Consultant (\$ MDTF-PCE, & EC). Operation costs from RP and Projects.

- **Emerging pests** participate in FAO FAW Secretariat activities: FAO/IPPC Technical Working Group.
- **STDF Project:** PPGs and PGs reviewed and supported.
- **ICD Procedures that are updated are included in the ICD Manual** annually and the 2022 version is published in March.
- **Dispute avoidance** assistance is provided to Contracting Parties as requested.
- **IPPC Regional workshops:** participate in preparatory meetings to develop the agenda and presentations and at least two RW are co-organized and co-delivered by IFU.
- **Advanced training** One Road-face-to-face (or virtual) workshop is organized and delivered. Field demos are set up in Sri Lanka (Fruit fly) and Cambodia (R1 & TR4). Co-organize an implementation activity on e-commerce (dependent on funding).
- **External Cooperation** is maintained or developed with various organizations: EC, CABI, COLEAD, EFSA, IICA, GEA, STDF, UPU and WCO (for e-Commerce).