

From Assessment to Systemic Reform: Mali's Experience with the IPPC Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE) Tool

Issues/challenges

Agriculture is central to Mali's economy, food security and exports, yet, national phytosanitary system has faced increasing pressure from climate change, transboundary pests and expanding trade. Prior to this initiative, Mali encountered several structural challenges in implementing its international and regional phytosanitary obligations.

The national phytosanitary **legal framework was outdated** and only partially aligned with international standards, and regional obligations, limiting effective enforcement. **Surveillance, early warning and diagnostic capacities** were insufficient to ensure timely detection and reliable identification of regulated pests. Capacity for **phytosanitary risk analysis (PRA)** remained limited, constraining science-based decision-making.

In addition, **low levels of digitalization**, including the absence of the ePhyto system, affected the efficiency, transparency and credibility of import and export certification processes.

Coordination among phytosanitary stakeholders was fragmented, and the National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO) **fac**ed **human, technical and financial resource constraints**, creating challenges for sustained implementation.

These constraints limited Mali's ability to fully comply with international standards, secure agricultural exports and effectively protect its territory against the introduction and spread of regulated pests.

Actions taken

In 2025, the Office of Plant Protection (OPV), Mali's National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO), formally requested technical support from the IPPC Secretariat to assess and strengthen its phytosanitary system using the **IPPC Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE)** tool.

The PCE process was conducted under strong national leadership through a participatory and inclusive approach, ensuring broad ownership of both the findings and the proposed reforms. Mali carried out a **country-led PCE** covering ten priority modules, including legislation, NPPO organization, surveillance, diagnostics, PRA, import regulation and export certification.

Three national multi-stakeholder workshops were organized in 2025, bringing together public authorities, research institutions, private sector operators and development partners. With the support of a **certified IPPC PCE facilitator and international legal expertise**, stakeholders jointly analyzed gaps, identified priorities and agreed on corrective measures.

The process resulted in the **development and validation of a National Phytosanitary Capacity Development Strategy (2026–2030)**, structured around four strategic axes and supported by a fully costed action plan. The strategy is being shared as an information paper to this CPM. The active involvement of decision-makers ensured that phytosanitary reform was elevated within the national agricultural and trade policy agenda.

Key results

- First **comprehensive IPPC-aligned diagnosis** of Mali's phytosanitary system using the PCE tool
- Strong **national ownership and sustained stakeholder engagement** throughout the process
- **National Phytosanitary Strategy (2026–2030)** officially validated at ministerial level (December 2025)
- Clear prioritization of reforms aligned with **IPPC obligations and ISPM implementation**
- A fully **costed action plan** estimated budget at FCFA 3.2 billion (EUR 4.88 million), providing a structured basis for resource mobilization and partner support
- Formal engagement of partners to support **digitalization (ePhyto), surveillance, diagnostics and capacity development**
- Enhanced institutional credibility of Mali's NPPO in regional and international phytosanitary fora

Conclusions

Mali's experience demonstrates that the **IPPC Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation is not merely an assessment tool, but a catalyst for systemic reform**. Beyond identifying gaps, the PCE process strengthened institutional understanding, improved coordination among stakeholders and elevated phytosanitary issues to the political level. In a Sahelian context marked by climate vulnerability and resource constraints, the PCE enabled Mali to structure a coherent, prioritized and nationally owned reform roadmap.

While implementation will require sustained financing and continued technical support, Mali has established a **clear and partially funded pathway** to improve compliance with the IPPC, facilitate safe trade and protect plant health, food security and the environment.

Mali's experience illustrates the transformative potential of the PCE as a strategic instrument for operationalizing the IPPC in developing and fragile contexts and offers **valuable lessons for other countries**.

