IPPC in 20 Years

1. In preparation for the 2014 SPG, members were invited to reflect on the topic of the future of the IPPC, including changes occurring in technology, trade pathways, and new phytosanitary threats that might affect the relevance of the IPPC. To facilitate the discussion, members were invited to prepare a two page document highlighting their thoughts on the topic.
2. As a result of the discussion, the 2014 SPG came up with a list of seven themes summarizing the key items for consideration surrounding the potential roles of the IPPC, and participants volunteered to develop a narrative for each of these themes for presentation to CPM-10 (2015). The themes are:
3. Technology, innovation and data
4. Resource mobilization
5. Advocacy and awareness through strong communication
6. Implementation, participation and collaboration
7. The IPPC is a centre of excellence and innovation
8. The IPPC contribution to food security, environmental protection and economic prosperity
9. Simplify regulatory environment for the complexities of future global trade
10. The CPM-10 (2015) noted the narratives, understanding that these will serve as the basis for future SPG discussions on strategic directions that the IPPC should consider in the next 10-20 years. The CPM was invited to provide comments on the narratives for further discussion at the 2015 SPG. Of particular relevance is the fact that the CPM agreed to consider and discuss the themes in the context of the development of the new IPPC Framework (2020-2029).
11. At the June 2015 meeting of the CPM Bureau, the participants agreed that the narratives should be revised by the Secretariat for consistent wording and structure, and circulated to the SPG. The Bureau also agreed that the SPG focus its discussion on the themes 1, 4, 5, 6 and 7 over the next four years, concentrating on one theme each year to allow for a thorough discussion on each theme. The Secretariat will keep detailed records of the SPG discussion to facilitate the discussion and work done to develop the renewed IPPC Strategic Framework. The objective is to have a well-developed and strong basis for the next IPPC Strategic Framework. For the 2015 SPG, the Bureau agreed that the SPG should focus on theme 7 *Simplify regulatory environment for the complexities of future global trade*. The narrative on theme 7 is attached as Appendix 1 to this paper.
12. The 2015 SPG is invited to:

* *Review* the narrative on theme 7 *Simplify regulatory environment for the complexities of future global trade*;
* *Engage* in an unfettered discussion on theme 7 in the context of developing a solid basis for the next IPPC Strategic Framework, in particular as it relates to the characterization of the solutions and measures proposed to respond to the challenges linked to this theme and the identification of proposed changes to the current IPPC Strategic Framework 2012-2019;
* *Comment and make recommendations* on the proposed format for the narratives so that the Secretariat can make the necessary adjustments to the other narratives for future SPG discussion

*Provide guidance* to the Secretariat on the next steps, including a debrief to CPM-11 (2016).

Appendix 1

**Theme 7. Simplify regulatory environment for the complexities of future global trade**

**ISSUE/CONTEXT**

1. A key challenge for the 21st century will be to adapt the regulatory framework to accommodate the needs of commerce (i.e., harmonized and simplified commodity standards and a maximally efficient regulatory environment) while preventing the spread of economically significant pests that may threaten crop production, food security, the global economy and the environment.
2. The United Nations estimates that the world’s population will increase from 7 billion in 2011 to 10 billion by the end of the century. To feed this growing population, food production and its distribution must increase in quality and in efficiency. Furthermore, the ability to trade plants and plant products will remain fundamental to commerce and essential to many national economies. Advances in transportation, handling, and storage will continue, and should improve the efficiency in distribution, creating even greater trade and marketing opportunities at the regional and international levels. It is also expected that the type and origin of plants and plant products traded internationally will increase in diversity and complexity in terms of how and where they were produced, processed, handled, packaged, and shipped, resulting in new challenges and potential new phytosanitary threats.
3. A key and increasing challenge for NPPOs will be how to manage increasing pest risks associated with this increasingly complex trade environment. Commodities crossing borders multiple times before being finally marketed may pose challenges for both NPPOs and the IPPC and may require the development of innovative systems that allow for verification that phytosanitary import requirements are met. Increasing trade will also be reflected in the proliferation of traded commodities resulting in new pathways with previously unknown pest risks.
4. Besides the challenges posed by increased international trade in plants and plant products, agricultural production will experience considerable changes. Changing weather patterns may force the production of new plants or new varieties and translate into changing pest risk area configurations and pest pressures. NPPOs will clearly need to adapt their pest risk analysis and prediction capabilities, and their abilities to react swiftly to changing circumstances.
5. There has been a proliferation of bilateral and regional Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) in recent years. While regional trade agreements may result in certain economic benefits for the signatory parties, many FTAs contain phytosanitary provisions which may not be fully aligned with international obligations, such as those contained within the IPPC. This will result in greater complexity of phytosanitary rules which affect trade and may give rise to new trade impediments. The IPPC’s overall goal of harmonization could perhaps be challenged by this trend of preferential bilateral and regional agreements.
6. With respect to trade, commercial entities around the world will continue to seek government action to reduce the costs and impediments related to regulations, including providing a more predictable and transparent regulatory environment that allows for the smooth and efficient movement of their products.
7. NPPOs will need to work with these commercial entities and other stakeholders to ensure that phytosanitary import requirements are met, for example by ensuring that their plant production systems and handling, processing and storage processes provide sufficient safeguards for pest freedom or to meet required tolerances.
8. It must be recognized that, given the importance of trade and national plant resources to the global economy, the IPPC can be a key factor in ensuring that the conditions for improved, sustained economic growth in the plant-based sectors are present. The IPPC’s role in this important segment of the economy is vastly understated.

**PROPOSED SOLUTIONS/MEASURES**

1. The simplification of the regulatory environment in order to respond to the challenges of future international trade without compromising phytosanitary security will be a key area of work for the IPPC. A multitude of IPPC activities are directly or indirectly relevant to this objective. These activities could include elements, such as:

* *Continue to promote global harmonization of phytosanitary policies and measures through the development of practicable ISPMs*

Global harmonization of effective measures is one of the key aspects of facilitating international trade while ensuring a high degree of phytosanitary security. Global harmonization of phytosanitary policies and measures provides countries with internationally harmonized guidance that provides a more predictable, transparent, science and rule based trade environment, thus ensuring security while facilitating trade.

* *Enhance the effectiveness/credibility/capacity of NPPOs to implement ISPMs*

NPPOs stand at the centre of any international harmonized phytosanitary system. The capacity of an NPPO to carry out or certify certain measures efficiently translates directly into international credibility and consequently affects market access. Also improvements to capacity will decrease risks of pest movement by increasing the implementation of standards and measures (also increasing the level of confidence in a “global phytosanitary system”.

* *Maintain an open, collegial and effective forum for international dialogue among NPPOs on emerging phytosanitary issues*

The IPPC offers the sole fully international forum for its members to meet and exchange ideas on the global state of plant health, as well as share experiences and expertise that can benefit all members. By sharing information on emerging phytosanitary threats, countries generate plans and implement measures to restrict entry of a pest or to respond to introductions in their country or region. The Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM), and other IPPC venues, also allow for some countries that would not otherwise have the opportunity to meet bilaterally to meet and address potential trade issue with the intention of coming to a resolution.

* *Strengthen NPPOs’ national pest management and phytosanitary certification systems*

A strong national infrastructure supporting pest surveillance and pest management activities is essential for protection of domestic plant resources and for maintaining market access for traded plants and plant products. By helping build capacity in this area, the IPPC can ensure its objectives are met and contribute to global economic growth.

* *Promote mutual recognition of systems and other approaches which reduce costs, simplify, and streamline regulatory requirements between trading countries*

Mutual recognition of effective systems, based on an understanding of and confidence in trading partner’s phytosanitary systems reduces the regulatory burden for stakeholders and simplifies trade, without presenting increased pest risk. The IPPC plays an important role in providing guidance to its members as it relates to establishing the basis of mutual recognition of systems, and therefore contributing to the facilitation of trade.

* *Partner with its sister organizations (WTO SPS Committee, Codex and the OIE) with respect to advocating for the benefits of single multilateral sanitary/phytosanitary framework and for the needed resources to support a broad vision and goal of global harmonization*

Partnerships and liaison activities are an efficient way to work collaboratively and use each other’s resources and networks to attain common goals. The IPPC will benefit from an increased partnership with its sister organizations, even though mandates may only overlap slightly. The three sisters would benefit from an increased coordination communication and recognition of the value of their work and resources; their needs are often similar and an enhanced collaboration can save each other’s resources by avoiding the duplication of efforts. The joint Codex-IPPC work on the Online Commenting System is a prime example of the benefits of enhanced cooperation; both organizations will benefit from the joint efforts put in this system.

* *Work more actively with the private sector in a concerted and coordinated approach when it comes to plant protection, trade, and preventing the spread and introduction of pests*

The IPPC could benefit from an enhanced collaboration with the private sector. Efficiencies may be realized based on existing or planned private sector systems which could support attainment of the goals of the IPPC . A more concerted and coherent approach with the private sector could bring knowledge and expertise to the IPPC in areas in which it is not traditionally involved. Partnerships may help build global support and recognition for the IPPC, helping stimulate both government funding sources and perhaps creative solutions to funding. If alternative service delivery becomes more widely used by NPPOs, this partnership approach may become even more important

* *Embrace emerging phytosanitary paradigms and technologies (diagnostic technologies (e.g.,, molecular diagnostics), emerging IT technologies (ePhyto), emerging trade paradigms (such as harmonised standards for globally traded commodities)) and ensure that these technologies and paradigms are accessible to all member countries.*

It is primordial that the IPPC keeps pace with emerging technologies and develops tools and guidance material to encourage their use by its members. With the increasing and changing trade patterns, pest threats will be increasingly diverse and frequent and in order to continue to maintain an appropriate level of protection, and even increase this level of protection, countries must have access to state of the art technologies and tools. The IPPC plays an essential role in ensuring that these tools are adopted in a practicable manner and meet the needs of IPPC members. The challenge for the IPPC is to be able to ensure that all members have opportunities to maximize their use of such tools and technologies.

**CHARACTERIZATION OF PROPOSED SOLUTIONS/MEASURES [TO BE DISCUSSED FURTHER BY THE SPG]**

1. The above points describe a variety of areas of potentially increased activity for the IPPC which may require different degrees of political will and resources for their implementation. The SPG is invited to consider their potential merits and to assess their practicality and any potential impacts to the IPPC of these approaches.

**IDENTIFICATION OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE IPPC STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK**

1. The four Strategic Objectives (SOs) of the IPPC Strategic Framework 2012-2019 are:
2. Protect sustainable agriculture and enhance global food security through the prevention of pest spread;
3. Protect the environment, forests and biodiversity from plant pests;
4. Facilitate economic and trade development through the promotion of harmonized scientifically based phytosanitary measures; and
5. Develop phytosanitary capacity for members to accomplish A, B and C.
6. To a large extent, all areas of increased activity identified are covered within the scope of the existing SOs . However, the SPG may wish to consider what aspects of the Strategic Framework would require modification to promote the above. These changes potentially include:

* Development of recognition and early warning systems for increased pest risks through new pathways, increased pest pressure due to climate change,
* Effective collaboration with members and stakeholders – this is currently a functional objective, should it become part of the strategic objectives? It should be adjusted to include the private sector, and
* Access to state of the art technologies and tools – currently partly involved in SO C, but emphasis should be put on this important element, consider adding it to SO D? Or developing a specific SO.

1. In addition, the FAO Council in December 2012, endorsed five Strategic Objectives (SOs) under the FAO Strategic Framework, which form the basis of the FAO Medium Term Plan 2014-17:
2. **Contribute to the eradication of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition**
3. **Increase and improve provision of goods and services from agriculture, forestry and fisheries in a sustainable manner**
4. **Reduce rural poverty**
5. **Enable more inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems at local, national and international levels**
6. **Increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises**
7. Furthermore, consistent with the methodology of managing for results, a sixth Objective will cover the provision of technical quality, knowledge and services for the work of the Organization, encompassing core normative work.
8. In the revision of the IPPC Strategic Framework and related SOs, the revised text should be in line with the FAO SOs. For the current theme, focus should be put on FAO SOs 2 and 4.