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Report on activities for IFU

Agenda item 10.1

Prepared by the IPPC Secretariat

1. 2016 was a challenging year for the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) Secretariat due to resource constraints. There were less contributions by contracting parties to the Special IPPC Multi-Donor Trust Fund (MTF), which impacts the Implementation Facilitation Unit (IFU) significantly, as the funding from this supports all staff of the unit.

2. The IFU continues to operate with a technical staff complement of three and one consultant under the Implementation Review and Support System (IRSS) programme. The team is supported by two administrative officers. There have been pledges for further support to the IFU through direct in-kind staff support through China and Japan. These negotiations are ongoing.

3. The phytosanitary.info website is being maintained as a key resource for implementation support. The technical resources produced under the auspices of the IPPC Secretariat are posted on the site. There has been considerable interest in the content of the page and in particular manuals. Some contracting parties and technical assistance providers have translated a few manuals into other languages. The Secretariat is always seeking support to translate technical resources, particularly those developed under the IPPC, to ensure their availability to all contracting parties in every FAO region.

I. IPPC meetings and events

4. The IFU organized a focus group meeting in Paris hosted by the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (EPPO) in July 2016 for the establishment of the new subsidiary body on implementation and capacity development. The focus group agreed on terms of reference (ToRs) and rules of procedure (RoP) for this new body which was circulated to the Bureau and the Strategic Planning

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Group (SPG). Following extensive consultations, the revised ToRs and RoP have been prepared for consideration at the twelfth session of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM-12).

5. The CDC met twice in the year. The May 2016 meeting was hosted by the Republic of Korea.
6. During CPM-11, the Pre-CPM training was held on the topic of ISPM32 – Categorisation of commodities.
7. The second IPPC photo-contest was conducted on the “Shocking Impacts of Pests”. The winner was announced, and an article with the pictures will be featured in the National Geographic magazine
8. Seven side sessions were held on:
 - Emerging issues in plant health: *Xylella fastidiosa* in the Euro-Mediterranean area
 - ePhyto
 - Diagnostic protocols and surveillance
 - Emerging issues in plant health - Invasive ants: implications for agriculture and control prospects
 - Plant Health in the 21st Century Use of drones, Apps, smart phones (Part 1 and 2)
 - The new IPPC Online Comment System
9. The Technical Consultation for Regional Plant Protection Organizations was held in Rabat, Morocco from 14-18 November, 2016. The RPPOs strengthened their collaboration and updated action items to be undertaken jointly, including on contingency planning for some pests. The report of the 28th TC-RPPO and all related documents are available on the IPP¹.
10. The IFU also organized a project formulation meeting at FAO Headquarters in Rome from 21-23 November, 2016 for potential project beneficiaries from five FAO regions (Africa, Asia, Central Asia, Near East and South-West Pacific), the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) countries and Pakistan. The project is being funded by the FAO/China South-South Cooperation programme, focusing on the China “One Belt, One Road” initiative.

II. IPPC Regional Workshops

11. Seven (7) IPPC Regional Workshops were successfully organized in Africa, Asia, Latin America, Near East and North Africa, Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia, Southwest Pacific, and the Caribbean. A total number of 212 persons from 114 countries have benefited from these workshops across the seven regions. The 2016 IPPC Regional Workshop were reorganized as a forum for exchange in between contracting parties, RPPOs, FAO offices, cooperation institutions and the IPPC. The new Online Commenting System (OCS) was launched, which resulted in a significant increase in the number of comments submitted, particularly from developing countries. Other training activities and material were provided to contracting parties and regional interests and issues were discussed. All presentations and reports are available on the IPP².

III. Projects

12. The IPPC ePhyto project was finalized and funding arrangements have been concluded with the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF). During the period the funding arrangement was being negotiated with the STDF, the government of Canada apportioned direct in-kind staff support to the project for a three year period. .

¹ <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/international-cooperation/partners/technical-consultation-among-rppos/2016-27th-tc-among-rppos-1/>

² <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/capacity-development/regional-ippc-workshops/>

13. The STDF project 401 to train Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE) facilitators has been implemented as a priority. Five intensive training workshops for PCE facilitators were conducted in English, French and Spanish. The final phase of the project (in-country PCE application) is under planning. This project, along with the products of the previous STDF 350 project that developed a series of manuals, have been recognized by the Bureau and SPG as a good basis for a long term capacity development strategy and training by the IPPC.

14. The online PCE tool has been migrated to a new platform, its functionalities were verified and its strategic planning tools were improved and updated. Steps are being taken to update it in different language versions.

15. National and regional phytosanitary capacity development projects aim at assisting countries. These projects are being implemented as follows:

National			
Project code	Title	Beneficiary country(s)	Status
TCP/SOM/3601	Institutional Capacity Development of the Ministry of Agriculture and Policy Support for the establishment of a National Phytosanitary Framework for Somalia	Somalia	Active
OSRO/GAZ/402/NET	Capacity building programme in support of the Palestinian National Authority – Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary (SPS) measures	Palestine	Active
TCP/GEO/3601/C1	Nationwide Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE) in Georgia	Georgia	Active
MTF /AZE/007/STF	Strengthening phytosanitary inspection and diagnostic services in Azerbaijan	Azerbaijan	Active
TCP/MOL/3502	Support for adaptation and implementation of Integrated Pest Management in Moldova	Moldova	Active
TCP/SSD/3502	Development of Phytosanitary legislation and capacity development strategy in South Sudan	South Sudan	Closed
Regional			
Project code	Title	Beneficiary country(s)	Status
GCP /SFS/001/MUL	Strengthening Controls of Food Safety, Plant and Animal Pests and Diseases for Agricultural Productivity and Trade in Southern Africa	Angola, Botswana, Madagascar, Mozambique, Namibia, Zambia, Zimbabwe	Active
TCP/RER/3503	Strengthening capacities of the national phytosanitary control services in 4 Eastern European countries	Armenia, Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine	Active

TCP/RAB/3601	Preventive measures for the introduction and spread of <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i> – Olive Quick Decline Syndrome in NENA countries	Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia, West Bank and Gaza Strip	Active
TCP/SNE/3601.C1	Strengthening measures against quarantine pests in the Maghreb countries, including the red palm weevil	Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Tunisia	Active
Global			
Project code	Title	Beneficiary country(s)	Status
GCP /GLO/551/SWI	Support to the IPPC Implementation Review and Support System (IRSS) programme of work	183 CPs	Active
GCP /GLO/391/EC	Funding support for the IPPC - Implementation Review and Support System (IRSS)	183 CPs	Active
MTF /GLO/527/STF; STDF/PG/401	Training of Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE) Facilitators	183 CPs	Active
MTF/GLO/688/STF	ePhyto - Global electronic trade facilitation: Enhancing safe trade in plants and plant products	183 CPs	Active
GCP/GLO/725/EC	European Commission support for implementation of the International Plant Protection Convention to facilitate safe trade and dispute avoidance - 2016-2019	183 CPs	Pipeline

IV. Implementation Review and Support System

16. The IFU has also initiated several key initiatives under the IRSS project, notably:
- a) Launch of a revised IRSS helpdesk, located in the International Phytosanitary Portal (IPP). The helpdesk is an online platform that includes three main features - the Question and Answer (Q&A) Forum, Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and the Phytosanitary Resources webpage.
 - b) The 2016 IPPC General Survey was undertaken from 9 September to 18 November and sent to all contracting parties and regional plant protection organizations (RPPOs). The survey is designed to capture information on contracting parties' implementation of the obligations and responsibilities of the IPPC and its standards.
 - c) The development of a Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) framework has been commenced in collaboration with the Centre of Development and Innovation (CDI) of Wageningen University. This work complements the IRSS function to review activities of contracting parties' implementation of the Convention.
 - d) Specific guidance for how contracting parties can access funding both within their countries and externally, based on IPPC resource mobilization analysis was used to develop Contracting party donor guidance, which is anticipated to be completed in March 2017.

17. A small group was convened in Washington DC to develop an outline for an IRSS study, “Analyzing the benefits of implementing the IPPC”. The study seeks to identify the benefits at the national, regional and global level, while also considering benefits to different stakeholders in the IPPC community. The different aspects to be considered are in relation to the Convention, international standards for phytosanitary measures (ISPMs) and achieving the IPPC strategic objectives.

V. Implementation pilot project on surveillance

18. An informal working group for the implementation pilot project on surveillance met in Thailand in June 2016 to discuss three example pests for which information can be collected and collated. A report³ of this meeting, outlines details of the example pests and which country/region is responsible for coordinating work. This sets the stage for further work on emerging pests of global concern.

19. The CPM is invited to:

- 1) *Note* the report.

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https://www.ippc.int/static/media/files/publication/en/2016/07/Report_IWG_Implementation_Pilot_on_Surveillance.pdf