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Food and Agriculture
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Продовольственная и
сельскохозяйственная организация
Объединенных Наций

Organización de las
Naciones Unidas para la
Alimentación y la Agricultura

منظمة
الغذية والزراعة
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COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

Twelfth Session

Incheon, Republic of Korea , 5-11 April 2017

Report on the IPPC Regional Workshops for 2016

Agenda item 12.1

Prepared by the IPPC Secretariat

I. Background

1. Seven IPPC Regional Workshops were 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 seven regions.

2. This year, the IPPC Regional Workshops were reorganized as a forum for strengthened exchange in between contracting parties, regional plant protection organizations (RPPOs), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) regional offices, cooperation institutions and the IPPC Secretariat. The strengthened alliances with the organizers allowed more interactive activities. This new way of operating allowed the IPPC Secretariat to get a better understanding of contracting parties concerns, and to promote synergies and collaboration between interested parties.

3. This year, the new Online Commenting System (OCS) was launched and training activities were provided to contracting parties in attendance, resulting in a significant increase in the number of comments, particularly from developing countries.

II. Major activities: content of the regional workshops

Reinforce the capacity of contracting parties to formulate productive comments on draft standards

- Online Comment System (OCS) and Revised standard setting procedures for 2016

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- Overview of the 2016 consultation on ISPMs
- Draft amendments to ISPM 5 (2016) Glossary of phytosanitary terms (1994-001)
- Draft revision of ISPM 6: National surveillance systems (2009-004)
- Requirements for the Use of Temperature Treatments as Phytosanitary Measures (2014 – 005)

Implementation and awareness raising in the framework of the IPPC/FAO

- Facilitated exercise on the IRSS Helpdesk, the IRSS studies, the Phytosanitary Resources Page and IPPC technical resources
- Import verification – the IPPC manual (facilitated exercise)
- FAO projects or any other capacity development activities (as determined by the FAO regional offices)
- Delivering Phytosanitary Diagnostic Services (IPPC guide, CPM 11 recommendation, available diagnostic/detection tools, diagnostic protocols)

Moving together from ideas to action (facilitated sessions)

- FAO/IPPC Foresight and the questionnaire on emerging issues in plant health: discussion and conclusions for the region
- 2020 International Year of Plant Health: setting a work plan for the region
- IPPC implementation pilot project on surveillance: toward concrete actions

III. Regional issues

4. Regions hold specific presentations and discussions on the basis of their specific concerns. The presentations specific to a region are summarized in the below table.

Region	Specific presentations
Latin America	Mesoamérica, Una región prioritaria para la cooperación técnica de FAO Temas para analizar con la Secretaria de la CIPF
Near East and North Africa	FAO projects and other plant protection capacity development activities in NENA Region Activities of the Technical consultation of the RPPOs Biological Control of the Invasive Weed Parthenium hysterophorus in East Africa Multiple Uses of cactus Pear (<i>Opuntia ficus-indica</i>) and threat of recent cochineal (<i>Dactylopius opuntiae</i>) outbreaks in the Mediterranean basin
Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia	e-Phyto recent development, progress and IPPC Hub concept pilot programme Emerging issues Forest Invasive Species Network for Europe and Central Asia – introduction Emerging pests in the region, gaps and problems of phytosanitary services of the countries National, Regional and Cross-regional priorities on plant protection in REU region Discussion on future steps at national, regional and cross regional levels in REU region
Caribbean	Discussion topics from the Caribbean region Update: FAO Regional and Capacity Development Activities - 2016

IV. Major achievements

Analysis of the workshop feedback survey

5. Sixty-three persons answered the survey, mainly from Africa, Latin America, Caribbean and Central Asia and Eastern Europe workshops, out of a total of 212 participants. Participants generally found the content of the workshop relevant, thorough and easy to understand, and considered they were well informed on the objectives of the workshop. Most participants reported that they were well prepared for the workshop, having analyzed the draft standards and other documents before the workshop, but some admitted they were not. Presentations allowed participants to increase their knowledge on the topics presented. Although the pace of the workshops was generally considered appropriate, a few participants found it too fast, and suggested further time could be dedicated to the workshops.

6. Participants considered particularly valuable:

- Better understanding of the IPPC, OCS, IYPH, IPP website, etc.
- Information and experience exchange
- Interactions with other contracting parties
- Group work
- Availability of documents
- Understanding the regional issues
- The revision of standards

Information available and news on the IPP

7. The presentations in English, Spanish, Russian and Arabic and presentations specific to workshops as well as reports are available on the IPP¹.

8. Headline news have been published on the IPP for each workshop: Asia², Latin America³, Near East and North Africa⁴, Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia⁵, Southwest Pacific⁶, Africa⁷ and the Caribbean⁸.

9. A filmed opening speech from the IPPC Secretary “Enhancing Global Food Security through Strengthening Plant Health” is available on the IPP⁹.

¹Presentations and reports on 2016 Regional Workshops: <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/capacity-development/regional-ippc-workshops/>

² News for the 2016 Regional Workshop in Asia: <https://www.ippc.int/en/news/the-ippc-ippc-regional-workshop-for-asia-held-in-republic-of-korea/>

³ News for the 2016 Regional Workshop in Latin America: <https://www.ippc.int/en/news/the-2016-ippc-regional-workshop-for-latin-america-held-in-panama/>

⁴ News for the 2016 Regional Workshop in Near East and North Africa: <https://www.ippc.int/en/news/the-2016-ippc-regional-workshop-for-the-near-east-and-north-africa-held-in-algeria/>

⁵ News for the 2016 Regional Workshop in Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia: <https://www.ippc.int/en/news/the-2016-ippc-regional-workshop-for-the-central-and-eastern-europe-and-central-asia-held-in-republic-of-belarus/>

⁶ News for the 2016 Regional Workshop in Southwestern Pacific: <https://www.ippc.int/en/news/the-2016-ippc-regional-workshop-for-the-south-west-pacific-held-in-fiji/>

⁷ News for the 2016 Regional Workshop in Africa: <https://www.ippc.int/en/news/the-2016-ippc-regional-workshop-for-africa-held-in-ethiopia/>

⁸ News for the 2016 Regional Workshop in the Caribbean: <https://www.ippc.int/en/news/the-2016-ippc-regional-workshop-for-the-caribbean-held-in-barbados/>

⁹ Opening speech from the IPPC Secretary opening speech from the IPPC Secretary “Enhancing Global Food Security through Strengthening Plant Health” <https://www.ippc.int/en/news/enhancing-global-food-security-through-strengthening-plant-health/>

Comments on draft standards through the OCS

10. In 2016, 5327 comments were provided on draft standards during the consultation period. This included 84 contracting parties and international organizations commenting on draft standards (the EU is counted as 1, even though it provides comments on behalf of 28 member states)

11. A highlight news on the OCS is also available on the IPP¹⁰.

V. Recommendations: IPPC Regional Workshops for 2017

12. Participants of the 2016 IPPC Regional Workshops made suggestions for improvement, as to have one more day for the workshop and more time for discussions and exercises (Africa), to have more discussions on standards (Africa and Caribbean), to split the work in groups (Africa), to have presentations, documents or standards in French (Africa) or Spanish (Latin America).

13. In 2017, IPPC Regional Workshops will be organized from the 1 August-10 September, to give two to three weeks for contracting parties to submit their comments on draft standards after the workshops. Workshop venues are to be determined or confirmed. The agenda of the 2017 IPPC Regional Workshop was discussed at the 28th session of Technical Consultation among RPPOs (TC-RPPO) in November 2016. A draft agenda is expected to be available by March 2017.

14. Since all regions have different needs, it was proposed a list of topics could be provided to contracting parties for them to select and compose their agenda prior to the workshops. The workshops should last three to four days.

15. The Technical Consultation among regional plant protection organizations (TC-RPPO) noted the positive impact of the events and thanked the Secretariat for the support provided to the 2016 IPPC Regional Workshops. A number of suggestions were made by the TC-RPPO to improve the workshops organization for 2017:

- Improve the Online Commenting System (OCS) to regain RPPO functionality to share comments;
- Strengthen relationship between FAO regional and sub-regional offices, the IPPC and RPPOs;
- Establish a regional organizing committee including the IPPC Secretariat, the RPPO, FAO office, and other collaborators in a region, to enhance the delivery of the workshop.
- The Inter-African Phytosanitary (IAPSC) requested to increase the number of contracting parties attending the regional workshops.
- Need to share the financial burden of the workshops in light of limited funding to support participation.

16. The TC-RPPO also proposed topics for the 2017 IPPC Regional Workshops:

- Topics should be aligned with the theme of the year “Trade facilitation and Plant Health” and the IYPH should be promoted.
- The 2017 workshops could provide further explanations on the standard setting process and on the establishment of pest free areas.
- Presentations on draft standards should include information on the background of the issues discussed for each standard.
- Demonstrate navigation of the phytosanitary.info website at the 2017 IPPC Regional Workshops.

¹⁰ News on the OCS: <https://www.ippc.int/en/news/the-ippc-continues-to-strengthen-stakeholders-engagement-in-setting-international-standards-for-phytosanitary-measures/>

17. The Capacity Development Committee (CDC) brainstormed on the possible topics for the 2017 IPPC Regional Workshops. Suggested agenda items include:

- The Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE) tool and benefits of its application. Trainees of the STDF 401 can present their experience on the PCE workshops.
- Follow up on the emerging issues information provided by contracting parties through the foresight questionnaire which was sent to participants of the 2016 IPPC Regional Workshops.
- Update on the IPPC Implementation pilot project on surveillance.
- ISPM 14 and Beyond Compliance tool.
- Success stories of pests control from contracting parties.
- The situation on *Xylella fastidiosa*.

18. The IPPC Secretariat is implementing the recommendations from the TC-RPPO and the CDC through the consultation of RPPOs, FAO Regional Offices, other relevant institutions and contracting parties to set the agenda of the 2017 IPPC Regional Workshops.

19. Financial resources available for the organization of 2017 IPPC Regional Workshops will be significantly decreased which represents a challenge.

20. The CPM is requested to:

- 1) *Note* the organization and the new developments of the 2016 IPPC Regional Workshops.
- 2) *Note* the improvements suggested for the organization of the 2017 IPPC Regional Workshops.
- 3) *Encourage* contracting parties to actively participate in the 2017 IPPC Regional Workshops.
- 4) *Encourage* contracting parties and other institutions to provide financial resources to increase attendance to 2017 IPPC Regional Workshops.

Annex 1: table of IPPC Regional Workshops held in 2016 per region with the date, venue, number of participants and of contracting parties and details on organizers and funding agencies.

Region	Date and venue	Nb participants	Nb contracting parties	Organizers and Funding Agencies for 2016	Discussions on next date and venue
Asia	July	30	18	Financed by the Republic of Korea and organized by the APPPC. The IPPC Secretariat will contribute on Standard Setting components.	04-08 September, in Busan, South Korea
Latin America	23-26 August Panama	41	19	Financed by the IPPC Trust Fund, OIRSA, COSAVE and IICA, and organized by IICA under a letter of agreement with the help of the National Agricultural Health Service of Panama.	04-08 September. Peru proposed to host the next RW, which proposals were accepted by the participants
Near East and North Africa	5-9 September Algiers/Algeria	38	15	Financed by the IPPC Trust Fund and the FAO Regional Office for the Near East (FAO-RNE) and organized by IPPC Secretariat, FAO-RNE and NEPPO.	21-24th of August in Cairo, unless a country proposes otherwise.
Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia	5-9 September Minsk/Belarus	32	17	Financed by the IPPC Trust Fund and FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia (FAO REU) and FAO Subregional office for the Central Asia (SEC) and organized by the IPPC Secretariat, FAOREU and the Main State Inspectorate for Seed Production, Quarantine and Plant Protection of the Republic of Belarus and EPPO. The All-Russian Plant Quarantine Centre provided translation of training materials.	04-08 September, tentatively in Georgia. Proposals for hosting the meeting will officially be submitted by April 2017.
Southwest Pacific	12-16 September Nadi/Fiji	32	17	Financed by the Australian Government's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade with assistance from the Pacific Horticultural and Market Access project (PHAMA). Organized by the Pacific Plant Protection Organization (PPPO).	09-11 August, Nadi, Fiji.
Africa	14-16 September Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)	26	16	Financed by the IPPC Trust Fund, the ASTF project, with the help of FAO-RAF and IAPSC	04-08 September, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.
Caribbean	13-16 September Trinidad and Tobago	13	12	Financed by the European Union 10th European Development Fund (EDF) SPS project, the IPPC Trust Fund and the IPPC Secretariat. The meeting was organized by IICA under a letter of agreement.	06-08 September, Trinidad and Tobago, (tentative)