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**International Cooperation - IPPC Secretariat cooperation with
relevant organizations**

Agenda item 14

Prepared by the IPPC Secretariat

1. The Secretariat has cooperated with several organizations in 2016. The following provides highlights of the main cooperative activities. Presented in alphabetical order.
2. **Codex Alimentarius**- has continued to liaise with the IPPC Secretariat on the implementation of the Online Comment System, an online tool providing a standardized platform for contact points to submit comments on draft standards, thus enhancing the transparency and inclusivity of the respective standard setting processes.
3. In addition, the Senior Standards Officer of the IPPC Secretariat has participated to the Physical Working Group on Codex Alimentarius Work on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), held in London from 29 November to 2 December 2016, to provide guidance for a Codex task force on AMR. He highlighted the possible contribution of NPPOs to this global effort in working with other relevant national government organizations in the development of national action plans on AMR.
4. Finally, a regular exchange of best practices, feedback and user experience is made with the Codex secretariat on IT platforms, social media and communication tools and procedures, resulting in increased efficiency and mutual benefit.
5. **CBD- Convention on Biological Diversity** continues to liaise with the IPPC Secretariat. The Secretariat attended the UN Biodiversity Conference, held in Cancun, Mexico. This meeting not only covers the governance of the CBD (COP-13) but also the governance of the Nagoya Protocol (Access and Benefit sharing, COP-MOP2) and the Cartagena Protocol (LMOs, COP-MOP8). It was noted that the Secretariat of the CBD cooperates considerably with the IPPC community, in particular for helping

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addressing issues regarding the management and control of Invasive Alien Species (IAS), which the IPPC community generally refers to as pests and guidance provide for risk assessments of LMOs. At this meeting, Parties to the CBD considered further measures to be taken to help manage invasive alien species to facilitate achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Target 9, as well as the Sustainable Development Goal target 15.8 on IAS. Of particular interest to Contracting Parties to the IPPC, discussions focused on managing e-commerce of live species and the use of biological control agents against invasive alien species. Ongoing discussions continue on whether guidance should be consistent with ISPMs or that they are simply available for use.

6. CBD Parties are progressively using the WTO SPS framework, including the IPPC, by designating IAS as regulated articles/pests. The measures developed for agricultural pest regulation is not simple and easy for CBD clients to apply directly and the Secretary of the CBD continues to search for resources to develop an explanatory guide for environmentalists on how they might better utilize ISPMs.

7. Parties to the CBD are calling for greater action by countries in addressing global biodiversity issues and have inviting Contracting Parties to the IPPC to cooperate in addressing this important issue. Several decisions¹ are requesting the Secretariats of the CBD and IPPC to collaborate as well as making direct requests to the CPM, these will be outlined in the written report from the CBD (under agenda point 14.2).

8. The Secretariats of the IPPC and CBD are in the process of updating the joint work plan.

9. Global Taxonomy Initiative (GTI) of the CBD to establish stronger links. A representative of the Technical Panel on Diagnostic Protocols (TPDP) and the GTI continued discussions on the mutual interest expressed by IPPC and GTI in DNA barcoding, especially on the matter of validation and verification of data. Experts contributing to the GTI through the Expertise Centre for Taxonomic Identification (ETI) were again invited to provide comments on the IPPC draft Diagnostic Protocols (DPs) during the expert consultation period. More information may be found on the GTI webpage².

10. The Secretariat continues to participate in the Biodiversity Liaison Group, which was set up by the CBD to help facilitate the cooperation between several bodies with a common mandate. Secretariat staff have attended several meetings where the IYPH (2020) is promoted and some linkages to other organizations has resulted in further collaboration in the development of ePhytos. Full reports of previous meetings may be found on the BLG website³.

11. The Secretariat also continues to participate in the Inter-Agency Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species⁴ which was originally requested by the CBD. The 7th meeting of the inter-agency liaison group on invasive alien species was held by conference call prior to the COP13 in Cancun, Mexico, hosted by the Secretariat of the CBD. The Group recognized more collaborative approach is needed in capacity development. In this context, the IPPC Secretariat was encouraged to continue exploring capacity development initiatives that would impact both environment and agricultural sectors within the phytosanitary mandate to help contribute to mainstreaming biodiversity.

12. **CFS- the Committee on World Food Security (CFS)** held a side event entitled “*Stop those pests! - Plant health’s essential role in eradicating hunger and eliminating poverty*” during the 43rd session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS)⁵. This side event was hosted by the IPPC Secretariat together with the Australian Department of Agriculture and Water Resources. The Secretariat

¹ CBD COP 13 Decisions (Particularly Decisions: XIII/3 (mainstreaming biodiversity), XIII/13 (IAS), XIII/24 (Cooperation), XIII/21 (GEF) and XIII/27 (National Reporting) : <https://www.cbd.int/conferences/2016/cop-13/documents>.

² GTI webpage: <https://www.cbd.int/gti/>

³ BLG webpage: <https://www.cbd.int/2011-2020/actors/blg>

⁴ IALG-IAS webpage: <https://www.cbd.int/ias/lg/>.

⁵ Links to CFS side event presentations can be found at this link: <https://www.ippc.int/en/themes/food-security/>

collaborated with speakers from CABI, the Italian National Research Council - Institute for Sustainable Plant Protection (IPSP) and the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM), and the Joint FAO/International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) division.

13. **CIHEAM - International Center for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies**—cooperated with the IPPC Secretariat on several projects. The international workshop on *Xylella fastidiosa* was co-organized in April 2016 at CIHEAM in Bari, Italy with CIHEAM, IPPC and FAO with support from NEPP0 and EPP0. Over 140 participants from 36 countries as well as eight international and regional organizations attended the Workshop. CIHEAM has also provided its expertise in the development of the IPPC pilot programme on surveillance. An intensive training on the IPPC on phytosanitary issues is also being developed under the framework of the “*Sustainable Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Technologies for Mediterranean Fruit and Vegetable Crops*” programme.

14. **EPP0- European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization** continues to liaise with the IPPC Secretariat regarding n the development of diagnostic protocols (DPs) for regulated pests. EPP0 had an invited expert at the Technical Panel on Diagnostic Protocols (TPDP) meeting in July 2016, has a member at the panel and also provides experts for various DP drafting groups.

15. **Grain Organizations.** The IPPC Secretariat cooperated with the International Grain Trade Coalition (IGTC), Pulses Canada and the Australian Grain Trade in connection with the drafting of the standard on the international movement of grain. In addition to the input provided in the development of the draft standard on the international movement of grain, the IGTC has also been an active partner in the ePhyto project. The IGTC has taken a leading role in establishing the informal Industry Advisory Group (IAG) to the ePhyto project, and has been a leading advocate for the development of the hub and generic system.

16. **IAEA/ FAO - International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)/ FAO joint division** cooperated with the IPPC Secretariat to support the reorganization of the suite of IPPC fruit fly standards. Work is ongoing to finalize a joint working arrangement between the IPPC Secretariat and the IAEA/FAO joint division. The IAEA/ FAO joint division will present further information under agenda item 14.2).

17. **IMO-International Maritime Organization** cooperated with the IPPC Secretariat and gave a presentation at the CPM-11 (2016) Special topics session on Sea Containers along with several other presenters (Container Owners Association, ETS Consulting (coordinated the development of the Code), Statisticians and representatives from two NPPOs). The CPM recognized that the implementation of the IMO/ILO/UNECE CTU Code, and of the Recommendation CPM 10/2015_01 on Sea Containers would both help address the risks of sea containers being contaminated. The CPM also requested the Bureau (at its June 2016 meeting) to consider the development of a "set of complimentary actions" (see CPM paper prepared by the IPPC Secretariat under agenda item 8.6).

18. The ninety-sixth session of the Maritime Safety Committee, met in May 2016 at IMO Headquarters, London, UK. The IPPC Secretariat developed a paper, which was presented at this meeting. This paper provided an update on activities related to minimizing pest movement by sea containers that have been undertaken under the framework of the IPPC.

19. **IFQRG – International Forest Quarantine Research Group**⁶ held a Steering Committee in Victoria, Canada which was attended by the IPPC Secretariat. The future of IFQRG was discussed and a short-term plan was mapped out which would place more efforts to engage with the CPM, all subsidiary bodies and all work areas of the Secretariat. IFQRG terms of reference and rules of procedure were developed, a succession plan for new leadership was agreed, and a letter to the CPM Bureau requesting a written partnership agreement was submitted to the CPM Chair.

⁶ IFQRG web page: <https://www.ippc.int/en/liason/organizations/internationalforestryquarantineresearchgroup/>

20. **ISO- International Organization for Standardization** cooperates with the IPPC Secretariat through the working group (WG4) that is drafting the ISO standard called ISO/TC 34/SC 16/ 13484: Molecular Biomarker Analysis: General requirements for molecular biology analysis for detection and identification of plant pests. The Secretariat has an observer status in this group and is helping ensure this ISO standard is compatible with IPPC standards. This ISO standard is currently under voting process and is open for comments by ISO member countries until 23 February 2017. Interested stakeholders may wish to follow the development of this ISO standard and submit comments through their national ISO contact point. It is important to note that CPM-8 (2013) agreed that ISO standards are not mandatory for implementation of ISPMs and that in the phytosanitary area ISPMs take precedence over ISO standards.
21. **NAPPO - North American Plant Protection Organization** has cooperated with the IPPC Secretariat for the preparation of advocacy material on phytosanitary terminology.
22. **Ozone Secretariat** -The IPPC Secretariat has strengthened its liaison with the Ozone Secretariat (Montreal Protocol) for which the IPPC has a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with. The MOU is to “promote and facilitate collaboration between the Montreal Protocol and the IPPC through joint participation of technical experts in the technical panels and committees of both treaties, such as the Methyl Bromide Technical Options Committee, the Technical Panel on Phytosanitary Treatments (TPPT) and the Expert Working Group on Alternatives to Methyl Bromide, to enhance communication and advice consistent with the aims of both agreements.” The TPPT member also integrant of the Methyl Bromide Technical Options Committee (MBTOC) supports this cooperation. The MBTOC has the objective to advise the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on alternatives to methyl bromide for all uses including quarantine pre-shipment, research and developments related to them, and their adoption. MBTOC also evaluates Critical Use Nominations on a yearly basis. MBTOC members are independent experts, from various countries around the world. The 11 IPPC draft phytosanitary treatments annexes to ISPM 28 (*Phytosanitary treatments for regulated pests*) being presented to the CPM-12 for adoption will add to the suite of phytosanitary treatments as alternatives to methyl bromide.
23. **PMRG -The Phytosanitary Measures Research Group**, previously named Phytosanitary Temperature Treatment Expert Group (PTTEG) interacts with the Secretariat. This group was formed as a result of an Expert Consultation on Cold Treatments (ECCT) which was organized by the SSU in 2013. The PMRG is an independent group of phytosanitary treatment researchers who have created a forum where critical phytosanitary treatment issues can be addressed through discussion and collaborative research. 17. The Technical Panel on Phytosanitary Treatments (TPPT) liaises with the PMRG to help resolve technical issues, facilitate the sharing of data among treatment submitters and to help collaborate research, which is needed to support phytosanitary treatments. The next meeting of the PMRG is planned to be held from 10 – 13 July 2017 in Wageningen, The Netherlands. More information about the PMRG can be found on the IPP⁷.
24. **WCO – The World Customs Organization** and the IPPC Secretariat have taken steps to initiate a deeper relationship based on three specific issues that have applicability to both organizations: the soon to be ratified Trade Facilitation Agreement, the ongoing implementation of a single windows system at the border in many countries and the development of the IPPC’s ePhyto system. The IPP Secretariat has participated in meetings of the WCO’s Trade Facilitation Agreement Working Group (including providing a presentation) and the WCO is represented on the ePhyto Project Advisory Committee.
25. **WTO- World Trade Organization** and the IPPC Secretariat has continued its role as one of the “three sisters” of SPOS under the SPS Agreement and regularly participates in meetings of the SPS Committee in that capacity. In addition, the Secretariat has provided expertise and instruction in a number of WTO SPS training programs at WTO headquarters and around the world. As a member of the FAO, an original partner of the Standards and Trade Development Facility, the Secretariat also

⁷ PMRG webpage: <https://www.ippc.int/en/liason/organizations/phytosanitarymeasuresresearchgroup/>.

serves as a full participant in the working group of the STDF which reviews and considers for funding STDF project proposals.