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Report from the IPPC Secretariat - Report for 2016

Agenda item 7

Prepared by the IPPC Secretariat

1. The year 2016 has been a milestone for the IPPC, as it was the first year for the Convention to implement the IPPC annual themes towards 2020. This year has been extraordinary for the IPPC community, as we collectively made remarkable achievements even with a substantial reduction in human resources. There are ten major achievements highlighted in this report:

- the IPPC 2016 annual theme,
- IPPC governance and strategic activities,
- coordination of standards,
- implementation of standards,
- enhancing communications and advocacy,
- developing the International Year of Plant Health,
- strengthening the IPPC network,
- strengthening the IPPC network,
- enhancing international cooperation,
- improving resource mobilization, and,
- strengthening the internal management of the Secretariat.

2. The first achievement was to disseminate the IPPC annual theme for 2016 — Plant Health and Food Security. The IPPC Secretariat organized a keynote address at CPM 11 on the IPPC annual theme for the first time in its history, which was delivered by Professor Rudy Rabbinge from Wageningen University of the Netherlands. We also organized a series of activities to showcase this IPPC annual theme, including two IPPC seminars, one Committee on Food Security (CFS) side-event, and one video message from the IPPC Secretary to the 2016 IPPC Regional Workshops.

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3. The second achievement was to organize IPPC governance and strategic activities. The IPPC Secretariat provided strong support in the organization of all meetings of the IPPC governing bodies. We also made a close follow-up with implementation of all important CPM decisions, such as setting-up a Focus Group on the establishment of an oversight body for implementation, working on a sustainable funding mechanism for IPPC Secretariat work programmes, and initializing IPPC strategic planning for 2020-2030.
4. The third achievement was to coordinate a record numbers of standards. Over 40 standards were progressed, with 12 Standards adopted (2 Regular Standards, 2 Phytosanitary Treatments, and 8 Diagnostic Protocols) and 28 Standards presented for adoption (5 Regular Standards, 11 PTs, and 12 DPs). This was the highest number of standards covered for a single year in the IPPC's history.
5. The fourth achievement was to promote the implementation of standards. Five Training Workshops on PCE were organized with the participation of 40 phytosanitary experts from 36 countries, and 21 lawyers from 13 countries plus FAO staff. Sixteen projects were implemented with six completed and an additional ten were active, covering over 15 CPs. One focus group was established on a surveillance pilot project, dealing with three potential pests.
6. The fifth achievement was to enhance communication and advocacy. The new IPP home page and new OCS were released. Over 170 items of headline and brief news were issued, an increase of 70% in comparison with 2015. The 2015 IPPC Annual Report was published, with distribution of 1,000 copies.
7. The sixth achievement was to promote the development of the International Year of Plant Health (IYPH) 2020. The Steering Committee for IYPH 2020 was established, and its first meeting was organized in FAO-HQ in Rome, Italy. One side-event on IYPH 2020 was held during the 25th session of COAG of FAO. The resolution for IYPH 2020 was endorsed at the 25th session of COAG of FAO, and then endorsed at the 150th FAO Council.
8. The seventh achievement was to strengthen the IPPC network. An IPPC Workshop on National Reporting Obligations (NROs) in Asia was organized for the first time in the several years. Seven IPPC Regional Workshops were held, with 212 participants from 144 CPs. The annual TC-RPPOs was conducted in Rabat, Morocco, with the participation of all nine RPPOs and one region (Caribbean) for the first time in many years.
9. The eighth achievement was promoting international cooperation. In particular, cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Administration (IAEA) was deepened on standard setting. Cooperation with the World Customs Organization (WCO) was initiated on ePhyto. Cooperation with UNEP was also started on biodiversity-related issues.
10. The ninth achievement was to strengthen resource mobilization. The initiative of sustainable funding for the IPPC work programme was proposed, and strongly supported by the CPM Finance Committee, CPM Bureau, and SPG. The IPPC Multi-donor trust fund reached USD 6.65 million (a 42% increase compared to 2015), mainly from Australia, France, Korea, New Zealand and the USA. New IPPC Projects amounted to USD 4.07 million (highest in the history of the Convention), mainly from China (USD 2 million), STDF (USD 1.12 million) and EU (Euro 0.9 million). IPPC In-kind contributions were valued at over USD 0.7 million, mainly from Canada, China, Costa Rica, France, Republic of Korea, New Zealand and USA, as well as the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM), FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia (FAO-REA) and Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA). The complete list of IPPC in-kind contributions is presented in the Finance Report of the IPPC Secretariat for 2016.
11. The tenth achievement was strengthening internal management. The action plan for the Enhancement Evaluation of the IPPC Secretariat was implemented, mainly for reshaping the IPPC Secretariat's structure with establishment two professional Units (Standard Setting and Implementation Facilitation) and one supporting Team (Integration Support). Quality management as well as standardization of documents and information materials were strengthened by setting up several relevant

Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). Team and culture building were promoted by organizing a Retreat Workshop, and the Monitoring & Evaluation Training Workshop, as well as by enhancing the work of task forces for Resource Mobilization (TFRM), and for Communication and Advocacy (TFCA).

12. While summarizing the main activities and outcomes of the IPPC Secretariat for 2016, we feel that there are four important experiences for learning and continuation:

- First, more attention should be paid to Innovation, such as innovative thinking for strategic planning of the IPPC towards the 2030 UN Sustainable Development Goals, and innovative management for renewing the IPPC Secretariat on the basis of the Enhancement Evaluation.
- Second, we should insist on Prioritization by emphasizing three pillars, standard setting, implementation facilitation, and communication and partnerships.
- Third, we should make better Coordination among the IPPC governing bodies, the IPPC community, and FAO Senior Management.
- Last, we should promote Teamwork by shared learning through workshops/training, and by team performance through task forces.

13. 2017 will be another important year for the IPPC, as it will be the year for implementation of the next IPPC annual theme — ‘Plant Health and Trade Facilitation’, as well as a year for celebrating the 65th Anniversary of the IPPC. We are confident that 2017 will be an even better year for the IPPC with your continued support and dedication in strengthening delivery of the IPPC work programme.

14. Among many the tasks and activities for 2017, five are key:

- a) *advocate* the IPPC annual theme “Plant health and trade facilitation” for 2017, and promote IYPH 2020 to be endorsed in FAO conference;
- b) *organize* the CPM 12 in Republic of Korea, and establish a new oversight body for implementation;
- c) *complete* the projects on STDF-401 and EC-IRSS, and implement the new projects on IPPC Implementation from EC, ePhyto from STDF, and Capacity Development from the FAO-China SSC Programme;
- d) *strengthen* the IPPC network at regional and national levels, and enhance international cooperation with relevant technical, trade, environment and industry organizations; and
- e) *continue* efforts to mobilize additional resources and restructure the IPPC Secretariat, and celebrate the 65th Anniversary of the IPPC.

15. The IPPC Secretariat would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to all IPPC Bodies for their excellent governance, to all NPPOs and RPPOs for their strong support, and to all partners and collaborators for their usual cooperation.

16. The CPM is invited to:

- 1) *note* the highlights presented in this report.