TC-RPPO

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OPPORTUNITIES FOR HOSTING IPPC STANDARD SETTING MEETINGS

(Prepared by the IPPC Secretariat)

Introduction

In an attempt to enhance collaboration between the IPPC Secretariat and regional plant protection organizations (RPPOs), the IPPC Secretariat wishes to present opportunities for hosting meetings related to standard setting. The area or topic of these meetings would be determined using topics and priorities set by the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) and presented in *the List of topics for IPPC standards*[[1]](#footnote-1). Further considerations are also used, such as stage of development, when developing the IPPC Standard Setting Unit’s work plan.

Most standard setting meetings are normally held outside of Rome, except for the Standards Committee (SC) meetings which are almost exclusively hosted by FAO, in Rome.

Possible hosts for standard setting meetings are currently identified as follows:

* A country, RPPO or international organization makes a proposal to the IPPC Secretariat for hosting a specific meeting. In some cases, they also offer to provide financial support for the technical work underpinning the meetings.
* For topics for which no proposal for hosting has been made, the Standard Setting Unit (SSU) will normally try to approach specific countries or RPPOs, hereby engaging them to host a meeting. In this respect, the SSU will approach regions that have not recently hosted a standard setting meeting to seek equal geographic representation as much as possible.

Currently, there is no procedure or specific criteria to help select a host, as there are not such a number of requests to warrant an actual procedure or criteria.

The mutual benefits of hosting a meeting are numerous

First, RPPOs that host IPPC meetings would be directly involved in the IPPC standard setting process and thus help to meet the objectives of the Convention.

Second, the enhanced engagement in the IPPC work areas also provides an occasion for RPPO staff to deepen their knowledge on the IPPC standard setting process and be exposed to other methods of organization and facilitation of international meetings. Hosts would be given two observer seats in the meeting and could participate fully in discussions.

Third, by hosting meetings, the RPPO helps the IPPC Secretariat by providing administrative support as well as resources for the meeting arrangements, which directly supports the IPPC Secretariat, freeing up resources in the Secretariat for other tasks. Currently planned standard setting meetings can only be carried out with extra-budgetary contributions. RPPOs that host or support meetings are recognized for their contribution in the following CPM session.

Four, field trips are usually organized during expert drafting group meetings hosted outside of Rome and are normally related to the topic of the meeting. The field trips provides for an opportunity to showcase to experts coming from other regions of the world some key activities or issues for the region where the meeting is taking place.

In conclusion, supporting the IPPC work programme by hosting meetings provides for an excellent occasion to strengthen the collaboration with the IPPC Secretariat, to become more directly involved in and impact the IPPC Secretariat work and to help the IPPC Secretariat advance its mandate to protect the world’s plant resources from pests.

Requirements in relation to hosting of standard setting meetings

RPPOs that wish to host a standard setting meeting should be advised that there are a number of requirements to be met, such as:

* The host should be available to organize all the local arrangements and support participants in applying for visa, reserving hotel, etc.
* Besides arranging for a meeting room and hotel rooms for all participants, the host should arrange for coffee breaks, an opening reception, an official dinner and possibly a field trip. These all provide for a smooth running of the meeting as well as occasions for the participants to socialize, which helps advance their work as a group.
* The meeting venue should be well connected to an international airport and have stable electricity, and possibly internet.

*When a host is not able to meet the above requirements, but is still eager to support standard setting, a meeting can be co-hosted together with the IPPC Secretariat or with another external donor.*

Meetings tentatively scheduled for 2019-2020

The following is a list of topics (including technical areas) that could tentatively be worked on in 2019 or 2020, depending on regular programme budget allocation, extra-budgetary funds and human resources available in the IPPC Secretariat.

The possible topics for future EWG meetings presented, should give RPPOs an overview of the topics that are on the *List of topics for IPPC standards* and for which work could be planned for 2019-2020 (i.e. it would be expected to have an approved Specification and experts selected in time), together with their priority as set by CPM. The IPPC Secretariat usually plans for one to two EWG meeting per year (depending on the factors mentioned above).

Should an RPPO wish to host an EWG or technical panel meeting, they may express their preference from this list, noting that the CPM priorities should be taken into consideration when doing so. RPPOs are also welcome to encourage their member countries to host meetings. Based on aspects such as geographical distribution and the amount of support offered, the IPPC Secretariat will be able to determine which organization should host a specific meeting and where it should be held.

Date and place can be freely suggested:

1. EWG meeting on *Audit in the phytosanitary context* (2015-014), priority 2 (pending approval of the draft specification by the Standards Committee)
2. EWG meeting on Revision of ISPM 12 (Phytosanitary certificates) (2015-011), priority 2 (pending approval of the draft specification by the Standards Committee; possibly to be drafted before or after the yearly face-to-face meeting of the Technical Panel for the Glossary.)
3. EWG meeting on Safe handling and disposal of waste with potential pest risk generated during international voyages (2008-004), priority 2
4. EWG meeting on Use of specific import authorization (Annex to ISPM 20: Guidelines for a phytosanitary import regulatory system) (2008-006), priority 4
5. EWG meeting on Supplement on Guidance on the concept of the likelihood of establishment component of a pest risk analysis for quarantine pests (2015-010) to ISPM 11, priority 4 (pending approval of the draft specification by the Standards Committee)
6. Technical Panel for Phytosanitary Treatments yearly face-to-face meeting
7. Technical Panel for Diagnostic Protocols yearly face-to-face meeting
8. Technical Panel for Forest Quarantine yearly face-to-face meeting
9. Technical Panel for the Glossary yearly face-to-face meeting (see also 2. above)

The TC-RPPOs is invited to:

* *Consider* possibilities for hosting or co-hosting standard setting meetings in 2019 and 2020.
* *Encourage* their member countries to consider hosting meetings.
1. Link to LOT: <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/standards-setting/list-topics-ippc-standards/> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)