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The IPPC Regional Workshops for 2017
Agenda item 13.1
Prepared by the IPPC Secretariat

I. Background

1. Regional technical consultations on draft ISPMs have been organized since 2002, initially in Near East and North Africa, and in the Asia regions. In 2003, the technical consultation of regional plant protection organizations (TC-RPPO) recommended that FAO regions, where there are developing countries, be given the opportunity to have capacity-building workshops on draft ISPMs with more participation of RPPOs in these workshops. From 2005, seven IPPC regional workshops are annually organized, involving a large number of countries. In 2013, the content of these regional workshops changed as they covered a wider range of issues than the review of draft ISPMs with a view to strengthening the competences of the Contracting Parties on IPPC issues. In 2014, the CPM noted that the concept of workshops had evolved towards capacity-building in a wider range of Convention activities.

2. In 2017, 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 206 participants from 117 countries benefited from the workshops.

II. Organization and content of the 2017 IPPC regional workshops

3. This year was the first year the IPPC Secretariat worked to establish organizing committees in each region. The Committee consisted of RPPOs, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) regional offices, cooperation institutions such as IICA and national hosts.
4. The agenda of the 2017 IPPC regional workshop was developed on the basis of suggestions from the TC-RPPO in 2016, the CDC during its December 2016 meeting and the units of the IPPC Secretariat. The draft was then circulated to co-organizers of the workshops and finally discussed during a side meeting at CPM-12 in 2017.
5. FAO regional offices, RPPOs and other co-organizer institutions had 2 opportunities to present on their activities during the workshop.
6. All presentations for the 2017 IPPC regional workshops were shared with the co-organizers and posted in English¹ on the IPP on the 12 July 2017, an announcement was published on the 1st of August and a general news on the 8 August 2017².
7. Other language versions were later made available on the IPP.
8. The updated version of the Online Commenting System (OCS) was used during each regional workshop, and a responsible person was in charge of checking comments and using the OCS live during regional workshops for each region. The IPPC Secretariat staff has also received training on how to use the OCS.
9. A Standard Committee (SC) member was present at each of the 7 workshops. The SC member presented on the draft ISPMs and standard setting related topics.
10. Headline news have been published on the IPP for each workshop: Asia, Latin America³, Near East and North Africa⁴, Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia⁵, Southwest Pacific⁶, Africa⁷ and the Caribbean⁸.
11. Three videos were projected during the 2017 IPPC regional workshops:

1 2017 IPPC regional workshops <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/capacity-development/regional-ippc-workshops/2017-ippc-regional-workshops/>

2 2017 IPPC Regional Workshops to kick off August 7th 2017 for South-West Pacific Region, in Nadi, Fiji <https://www.ippc.int/en/news/2017-ippc-regional-workshops-to-kick-off-august-7th-2017-for-south-west-pacific-region-in-nadi-fiji/>

3 The 2017 IPPC Regional Workshop for Latin America Successfully Held in Cusco, Peru <https://www.ippc.int/en/news/the-2017-ippc-regional-workshop-for-latin-america-successfully-held-in-cusco-peru/>

4 FAO and IPPC supporting NENA Countries to boost trade facilitation and enforce rigorous phytosanitary measures against invasive plant pests <https://www.ippc.int/en/news/fao-and-ippc-supporting-nena-countries-to-boost-trade-facilitation-and-enforce-rigorous-phytosanitary-measures-against-invasive-plant-pests/>

5 2017 IPPC/FAO Regional Workshop for Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia Successfully Held in Georgia <https://www.ippc.int/en/news/2017-ippc-regional-workshop-for-central-and-eastern-europe-and-central-asia-successfully-held-in-georgia/>

6 The 2017 IPPC Regional Workshop for the South-West Pacific held in Fiji <https://www.ippc.int/en/news/the-2017-ippc-regional-workshop-for-the-south-west-pacific-held-in-fiji/>

7 The 2017 IPPC Regional Workshop for Africa successfully Held in Lomé, Togo <https://www.ippc.int/en/news/the-2017-ippc-regional-workshop-for-africa-successfully-held-in-lome-togo/>

8 The 2017 IPPC Regional Workshop for the Caribbean Successfully Held in Bridgetown, Barbados <https://www.ippc.int/en/news/the-2017-ippc-regional-workshop-for-the-caribbean-successfully-held-in-bridgetown-barbados/>

- the opening speech from the IPPC Secretary “Plant Health and Trade Facilitation”⁹
- the IPPC Phytosanitary capacity Evaluation STDF 401 Project video¹⁰
- the International Year of Plant Health 2020 Promotional video¹¹

12. The content of the 2017 IPPC regional workshops and regional topics are available in Annex 1.

13. A table summarizing the IPPC Regional Workshops held in 2017 per region with the date, venue, number of participants and of contracting parties and details on organizers and funding agencies is available in Annex 2.

III. Findings from the post-workshops survey

14. Participants to the 2017 IPPC regional workshops were asked to fill in the post-workshop survey. One hundred and ten (110) participants completed the survey (Pacific, 23; Near East and North Africa 11; Caribbean 16; Latin America, 27; Africa, 4; Asia, 13; Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia, 16).

15. In all workshops, the pace was considered as appropriate, except in Central Asia and Eastern Europe where 6 respondents rated the pace as too fast. In all the workshops, the respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the workshop content was relevant, thorough and easy to understand and that the objectives were clear.

16. Spanish and French speakers repeated their wish to have the ISPMs and information on the IPP in their language.

17. Participants repeated the need for an early organization for sending letters, and to host the meeting in a safe place with a fast internet connection, particularly in Africa.

18. Participants considered the following elements as the most valuable from the 2017 IPPC regional workshops:

- Information shared (Caribbean, Latin America, Africa, Asia, Near East and North Africa), particularly on the activities of the IPPC (Latin America), on the FAO projects (Near East and North Africa)
- Networking (Pacific, Latin America, Africa, Asia, Near East and North Africa, Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia) and knowing contacts at the regional level (Pacific)
- Exchange of ideas and discussions (Caribbean, Latin America, Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia)
- Having representatives from the SC and the IPPC Secretariat (Caribbean, Latin America)
- OCS and commenting on draft ISPMs (Pacific, Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia)
- Having information on emerging pests for the region (Latin America, Asia)

19. Participants highlighted areas for improvement:

- Additional time for the IPPC regional workshops to discuss draft ISPMs and other topics (Africa, Near East and North Africa, Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia)

9 IPPC 2017 Regional Workshops video - Plant Health and Trade Facilitation <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ppg6mBluUKI>

10 IPPC Phytosanitary capacity Evaluation STDF 401 Project video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AMHWwULr0t&t=14s>

11 International Year of Plant Health 2020 Promotional video https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_v0UXcmxYXI&t=15s

- More time dedicated to sharing of information, particularly topics of regional importance (Latin America, Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia), and to discuss ISPMs (Latin America, Near East and North Africa)
- Explanations on drafts sent for second consultations (Latin America, Near East and North Africa)
- Interactive sessions with more examples (Caribbean, Latin America)
- Practical exercises (Latin America, Near East and North Africa)
- More group work (Pacific)
- Having videoconferences during the workshop to complement the presentations (Latin America)
- Have a technical visit related to the topic discussed (Latin America)
- Need to create opportunities for networking (e.g. cocktail) (Pacific)
- Up-dated information to be provided in advance (Asia)
- Grouping neighbouring countries for discussion (Asia)

IV. Funding and participation to the 2017 IPPC regional workshops

20. Seven IPPC regional workshops could be organized thanks to the kind support of various organizations for which the IPPC Secretariat is very grateful. In each region, different co-organizers participate up to a different extent and according to different mechanisms.

21. In 2017, the IPPC Secretariat invitation letter was for most of the workshops attached to the co-organizers invitation letter.

22. In Africa, unfortunately, not all countries could be invited to the workshop due to resource limitations but it should be noted that this year, a record budget of 44.000 USD was made available to support the workshop. As for previous years, IAPSC, the African RPPO selected which countries would attend the 2017 IPPC regional workshop using the resources provided by the IPPC Secretariat. It is necessary in the future to consider how to ensure inclusiveness, self-funding and financial input from the RPPOs and other partners.

23. Co-organizers of the 2017 IPPC regional workshops agreed to accept observers from organizations and other countries. The observers were requested to maintain their status to avoid influencing regional discussions.

24. The IPPC regional workshop for Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia and EPPO CPM Affairs Panel is a good example of collaboration between 2 entities. The meetings facilitated good professional exchange between developing and developed countries of the region.

25. The IPPC Project on Capacity Development under the Framework of FAO-China South-South Cooperation Programme supporting IPPC regional workshops was officially launched during the regional workshop held in Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia¹².

¹² An Official Launch of the Inception for the IPPC Project on Capacity Development under the Framework of FAO-China South-South Cooperation Programme <https://www.ippc.int/en/news/an-official-launch-of-the-inception-for-the-ippc-project-on-capacity-development-under-the-framework-of-fao-china-south-south-cooperation-programme/>

V. Title of the IPPC regional workshops

26. The IPPC regional workshops have been systematically organized in the 7 regions since 2013 including a capacity development component, while consultations on draft standards were organized since 2005. The IPPC Secretariat is dedicating considerable efforts to organize these workshops and to constantly improve them to respond to the need of the Contracting Parties.

27. To ensure consistency and visibility of these workshops, in all regions, the IPPC Secretariat would like these workshops to be referred to as “IPPC regional workshops”. Co-organizers are instrumental in the organization and in the financing of these workshops. The Secretariat acknowledges their contribution during the workshop and at CPM.

VI. 2017 TC-RPPO inputs

28. During its 29th meeting, the TC-RPPOs discussed the organization of the IPPC regional workshops and concluded:

- The organization of 2017 IPPC regional workshops was globally positive but that further improvements could be made particularly for the Africa regional workshop.
- Constitution and arrangements for the steering committees for each workshop should be made clearer.
- Additional days may be necessary in some regions to cover standards and other agenda points but resource implications are recognised.
- RPPOs will make efforts to mobilize resources again for the 2018 IPPC Regional Workshops.
- The IAPSC was requested to strengthen its efforts to mobilize resources to ensure the maximum number of countries could participate.
- That all contracting parties should be invited to their corresponding regional workshop irrespective of whether external funding was available for their participation.
- Efforts should be made to identify formal objections ahead of time and seek resolution where and when possible.

29. The TC-RPPO made the following suggestions for the 2018 IPPC regional workshops:

- Ensure a balance between commenting on draft ISPMs and information sharing.
- Share regional information and data on emerging pests.

VII. 2017 November Standards Committee (SC) meeting

30. During its 30th meeting, the Standard Committee (SC) made the following suggestions: including: merging the Latin American and Caribbean workshops; scheduling meetings to maximize SC participation and not changing meeting dates without consultation; involving SSU staff at the IPPC regional workshops; ensuring there are follow up actions when regional pest issues are identified e.g. at the TC-RPPOs.

31. The SC tentatively assigned SC members to participate to each 2018 IPPC Regional Workshop.

VIII. 2017 Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC) inputs

32. During its 1st meeting, the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC) suggested the following for the organization of the 2018 IPPC Regional Workshops:

33. To keep a good balance of SC and IC related topics, specifically draft ISPMs, National Reporting Obligations (NROs), capacity development initiatives and other relevant presentations.

34. To make very clear that these workshop are not only aiming at commenting on draft ISPMs but are a unique opportunity for CP's to receive information directly from the IPPC Secretariat, and for the IPPC Secretariat to seek feedback directly from the countries and regions.

35. The IC members attending the regional workshop should be part of the organizing committee and it is also recommended that SC members attend.

36. It was also suggested that for future IPPC Regional Workshops, one standard could be selected and discussed in terms of implementation gaps, challenges and the outcomes of these discussions reported back to the IPPC Secretariat.

37. The IC suggested the following topics for the 2018 Regional Workshops:

- Key points coming out of the CPM
- Explaining how the IC is working
- The new call for topics (that would also be useful for CPM attendants)
- The work being conducted on sea containers
- The benefits of complying with NROs
- Aquatic plants and related CPM recommendation

38. As a training package will be developed on ISPM 38 International movement of seeds using the NAPPO and International Seed Federation (ISF) material, the IC will review the training package to have it ready by May 2018.

39. The CPM is invited to:

- 1) *Note* the report and the new organizational arrangements of the 2017 IPPC Regional Workshops.
- 2) *Note* the title "IPPC Regional Workshop" for consistency of visibility globally.
- 3) *Note* that IPPC Regional Workshops are not only aimed at commenting on draft ISPMs but represent a unique opportunity for CPs to receive information directly from the IPPC Secretariat, and for the IPPC Secretariat to seek feedback directly from the countries and regions.
- 4) *Encourage* contracting parties to actively participate in the 2018 IPPC Regional Workshops.
- 5) *Encourage* contracting parties and other institutions to provide financial resources to increase attendance to 2018 IPPC Regional Workshops.
- 6) *Request* the Bureau to develop a process for formalizing the objectives, structure and funding of IPPC regional workshops as forums convened jointly by the IPPC Secretariat, RPPOs and FAO Offices to progress the outcomes of the Convention, including consultation on standards setting, capacity building and emerging risks, within the regional context and with regard to regional needs and priorities.

Annex 1: content of the 2017 IPPC regional workshops and regional topics

A. Content of the 2017 IPPC regional workshops

40. The content of the three days regional workshops was the following:

General presentations:

- Objectives of the workshop
- Updates from CPM-12 (2017) and Secretariat activities
- Sustainable funding
- Update on FAO regional activities
- Update on RPPO activities

41. Section 1: Reinforce the capacity of Contracting Parties to formulate comments on draft standards for consultation in 2017

- Online Comment System (OCS) and the latest developments
- Overview of the Standard Setting process
- Discussion on draft ISPMs:
 - 2017 Amendments to ISPM 5 (Glossary of phytosanitary terms) (1994-001)
 - Requirements for the use of fumigation as a phytosanitary measure (2014-004)
 - International movement of cut flowers and foliage (2008-005)

42. Section 2: Implementation and awareness raising in the framework of the IPPC/FAO/RPPOs

- ISPM 14 The use of integrated measures in a systems approach for pest risk management, and the beyond compliance tool
- Emerging issues in plant health
- The Secretariat Call for Phytosanitary Treatments
- FAO phytosanitary capacity development activities
- RPPO phytosanitary capacity development activities

43. Section 3: Moving together from ideas to action (Facilitated sessions)

- Understanding what is the Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE)
- 2020 International Year of Plant Health: updates and latest achievements and follow up from last year regional workshop from countries
- Demonstration of the IPP and of the phytosanitary.info webpage and surveys on IPPC Contact Points
- IPPC implementation pilot programme on surveillance

44. Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) were elaborated within the IPPC Secretariat to ensure a transparent and efficient process for the preparation of the IPPC regional workshops as an IPPC Secretariat wide activity.

B. Regional topics

45. 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 and are available on the IPP.

Region	Specific presentations
Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia	<p>IPPC Project on Capacity Development with support from FAO-China SSC Programme</p> <p>Overview of FAO's strategy on South-South Cooperation (SSC) and FAO-China SSC Programme</p> <p>One Belt One Road (OBOR) initiative and plant health</p>
Caribbean	<p>CAHFSA Capacity Building Activities</p> <p>FAO Capacity Development Activities 2017-2018</p> <p>Update on activities – Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)</p> <p>Biological Control of Pink Hibiscus Mealybug (PHM) <i>Maconellicoccus hirsutus</i> (green)</p> <p>Import Permit Applications – Plant Protection and Quarantine Trinidad and Tobago</p>
Latin America	<p>Reporte de actividades Comunidad Andina (CAN)</p> <p>Informe actividades de COSAVE</p> <p>Actualización sobre actividades del OIRSA</p> <p>Actualización sobre el Proyecto ePhyto</p> <p>Emergencia Fitosanitaria Langosta Voladora en Bolivia</p> <p>Situación de langosta en Argentina</p> <p>Manejo y Control de la Langosta Voladora (<i>Schistocerca gregaria</i>) Paraguay</p> <p>Estrategia Regional de Prevención de Brotes de Langosta en la Región de OIRSA</p> <p>Medidas fitosanitarias de prevención para plagas emergentes en Ecuador - <i>Fusarium oxysporum</i> f.sp. <i>cubense</i> Raza 4 Tropical (Foc R4T)</p> <p>Como se esta preparando la region ante la amenaza de Foc R4T : la experiencia de OIRSA</p> <p>Intercepciones de <i>Trogoderma</i> spp y <i>T. granarium</i></p> <p>Medidas sanitarias y fitosanitarias Unión Aduanera Guatemala – Honduras</p> <p>Proyecto STDF-502/ COSAVE</p>

Annex 2: table of IPPC Regional Workshops held in 2017 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 persons	Nb contracting parties	Co-organizers	Funding ¹	Tentative next date and venue
Southwest Pacific	Nadi, Fidji, 7-9/08	29	21	PPPO, the NPPO of Australia	PPPO, Australia, IPPC China South-South cooperation programme	TBD
Near East and North Africa	Tunis, Tunisia, 21-24/08	40	15	FAO Near East and North Africa Office, NEPPO	FAO regional office 30.000 USD, IPPC China South-South cooperation programme 20.000 USD, Tunisia	10-13/09, Lebanon or Sudan
Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia	Tbilisi, Georgia, 5-8/09	24	18	FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia (REU), FAO Subregional Office for Central Asia (SEC), European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (EPPO) and National Food Agency of Georgia	FOA regional and sub-regional offices supported 11 participants, IPPC China South-South cooperation project 25.000 USD, Georgia	3-7/09, Moscow, Russia
Asia	Busan, Republic of Korea, 4-8/09	37	21	Asia and Pacific Plant Protection Commission (APPPC), Republic of Korea	FAO Bangkok, Republic of Korea	10-14/09, Seoul Republic of Korea
Latin America	Cusco, Peru, 5-8/09	35	17	Comunidad Andina (CAN), Comité Regional de Sanidad Vegetal del Cono Sur (COSAVE) and Organismo Internacional Regional de Sanidad Agropecuaria (OIRSA), Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), Peru National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO), SENASA Peru	CAN, OIRSA, COSAVE, IICA, Peru	27-31/08, Brazil

¹ In-kind contributions are not tabulated, detailed will be provided for CPM.

Caribbean	Bridgetown, Barbados, 13-15/09	19	11	FAO Sub-regional Office for the Caribbean, Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency (CAHFSA), Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)	FAO Barbados 15.000 USD, USDA 10.000 USD, IPPC/EU funds 8.000 USD, Barbados, IICA	5-7/09, place TBD
Africa	Lomé, Togo, 11-13/09	22	14	Inter-African Phytosanitary Council, and the National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO) of Togo	IPPC/EU funds up to 44.000 USD, Togo	11-13/08, Tananarive (Madagascar)