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**Special Topics Session on Plant Health and Capacity Development -
Information Note**

Agenda item 17

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**CPM-14 Special Topics Session
Plant Health and Capacity Development
Thursday 04 April 2019 (15:00 – 17:00)
Plenary Hall**

1. Programme of the Session

No	Topic	Speaker
1.	Overview on Support of the Capacity Development to the Plant Health	Brent Larson The Lead of the Implementation-Facilitation Unit, IPPC Secretariat Brent.larson@fao.org
2.	Contribution of FAO South-South Cooperation to Capacity Development in Agriculture	Jingyuan Xia IPPC Secretary Jingyuan.Xia@fao.org
3.	Role of the Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE) in Strengthening the National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs)	Sarah Brunel (<i>moderator</i>) Implementation-Facilitation Officer, IPPC Secretariat Sarah.Brunel@fao.org
4.	Phytosanitary Risk-Based Sampling: Next Steps	Robert L. Griffin North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO) Robert.L.Griffin@aphis.usda.gov

2. Abstracts of the presentations

Overview on Support of the Capacity Development to the Plant Health *Brent Larson*

The IPPC Secretariat plays a fundamental role in helping to build the capacity of contracting parties to implement the Convention, International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures and CPM Recommendations.

There are several areas that the Implementation and Facilitation Unit (IFU) of the IPPC Secretariat is involved in:

- Facilitation of the oversight role of the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC), the various IC Sub-groups and teams to carry out their tasks.
- Maintenance of international networks and support for coordinating and promoting capacity development activities, that mainly include phytosanitary community internal collaboration through IPPC Regional Workshops, the Technical Consultation among RPPOs, the newly revitalized FAO Plant Health Team and educational institutions, as well external collaboration with a wide range of trade and environment related international organizations such as World Trade Organization (WTO) and Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).
- Project management and providing backstopping expertise directly or through external consultants to bulk of FAO projects.
- Facilitation of the application of Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluations (PCE)
- The development of IPPC Guides and training materials
- Management of technical web resources on the IPP including contributed resources

Contribution of FAO South-South Cooperation to Capacity Development in Agriculture

Jingyuan Xia

South-South Cooperation (SSC) is the mutual sharing and exchange of development solutions — knowledge, experiences and good practices, policies, technology and resources — between and among countries in the global South. The core objective of SSC is to help host developing countries build sustainable food systems and enhance their capacities to improve their own livelihoods at institutional, national and regional levels.

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) SSC Programme, established in 1996, includes four types of Projects: Trust Fund, Unilateral Trust Fund, Triangular Cooperation and Regular Funding Projects. From 1996 to 2017, FAO had implemented over 40 SSC Projects and covered approximately 90 recipient countries, with a total investment of USD 2,571 million which was supported by more than 30 donor countries. China was the first country to launch SSC project to support FAO SSC Programme in 1996, and also the country with the largest contribution to FAO SSC Programme, so far, with a total amount of USD 80 million.

One of the key function of the SSC Programme is to enhance the national agricultural capacity development at various level for the recipient countries, including personnel, institutional and systems capacity development.

The IPPC Secretariat is, currently, implementing a global project on phytosanitary capacity development under the framework of the FAO-China SSC Programme. The overall objective of this global project is to bring more innovative ways and means for strengthening capacity of IPPC developing Contracting Parties (CPs) to better implement the IPPC and its international standards on phytosanitary measures (ISPMs).

This IPPC global project is the first project for FAO SSC Programme to specially support the IPPC activities. It is a four-year project (2017-2020), and includes four work packages, with total investment of USD 2 million.

The expected outcomes of this global project are: 1) Strengthening capacity of over 300 representatives from over 100 IPPC CPs; 2) Enhancing bilateral and inter-regional cooperation on phytosanitary issues for over 40 NPPOs and RPPOs in the Chinese initiative “One Belt and One Road” regions; and 3) Increasing the IPPC visibility and impacts at national, regional and global levels.

The IPPC Community is encouraged to actively attend the activities and events supported by this IPPC global project, and to actively apply for the ongoing FAO-SSC projects to substantially strengthen the IPPC phytosanitary capacity development.

Role of the Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE) in Strengthening the National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs)

Sarah Brunel, Mamadouba Camara, Babacar Samb, Melvin Spreij

The Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE) is a process which brings together all relevant national stakeholders to help countries identify strengths and weaknesses in the phytosanitary system. A PCE may lead to revised phytosanitary legislation and regulations, as well as to the drafting of a phytosanitary capacity development strategy.

PCEs have been conducted in more than 60 countries since 2000 and are usually facilitated by IPPC Secretariat staff and are implemented by and for the NPPO. A PCE strategy is currently being developed to promote and improve PCEs and their implementation as well as their resulting impacts.

The PCE leads to huge improvements of the phytosanitary systems within countries and has even led to more funding for the NPPO. In 2017, the IPPC Secretariat conducted a PCE in Guinea. Representatives from the NPPO, government agencies and the private sector considered how to improve phytosanitary legislation, and the structure, surveillance and import systems of its NPPO. A national phytosanitary capacity development strategy (NPCDS) was developed as a result.

Based on this evaluation, Guinea applied for, and received funding from, the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF). The funds will be used for a project to strengthen the phytosanitary control and certification system and improve market access. The PCE in Guinea not only developed the technical capacities of individuals but also permitted the NPPO to implement the NPCDS.

Phytosanitary Risk-Based Sampling: Next Steps

Robert L. Griffin

Each day, thousands of decisions regarding the phytosanitary status of consignments in both domestic and international trade is determined based on inspection. Inspection is by far the most used phytosanitary measure, which makes it important to understand how it is best used for safe trade. The IPPC adopted ISPM 23 Guidelines for inspection in 2005. This was followed by the adoption of ISPM31 Methodologies for sampling of consignments in 2008. The guidance provided by the IPPC standards points to inspection as a procedure that is technically justified and fairly applied for risk management. Although it is widely accepted that inspection has a deterrent effect by simply being part of phytosanitary requirements and procedures, the standards also recognize that inspection is a form of sampling and therefore involves the associated statistical dimensions. It is important to understand the relevant statistical concepts and use them to advantage for inspection designs that are both fair to trade and informative to regulatory officials. The United States and Australia in particular have started shifting their inspection designs toward statistically-based sampling that is consistent with the ISPMs. Other countries have similar plans or are interested in strategies that move in the same direction. Sharing views and experiences in this regard will contribute to a better understanding of the conceptual foundation, the operational and regulatory challenges, and responding to stakeholder perceptions that are needed to facilitate international harmonization.