IPPC Secretariat update to the TC-RPPO 2019

Prepared by the IPPC Secretariat, covering activities since the last TC-RPPO, 2018

Highlights from the 14th Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM-14, 2019), April 2019

* The content of the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020-2030 was endorsed in advance of the formal adoption during CPM-15 (2020).
* The following two International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs) were adopted: ISPM 43 (Requirements for the use of Fumigation as a phytosanitary measure) and the 2017 amendments to ISPM 5 (Glossary of phytosanitary terms)
* The CPM-14 (2019) noted the adoption of six diagnostic protocols by the Standards Committee (SC) on behalf of the CPM.
* The CPM-14 also adopted the CPM recommendation R-8: Preparing to use high-throughput sequencing (HTS) technologies as a diagnostic tool for phytosanitary purposes.
* Some of the issues discussed at CPM-14 were: commodity and pathways standards, how to move forward on surveillance and the concept of pest outbreak alert and response systems.

1. CPM subsidiary bodies

* The outcome of two meetings of the Task Force on Topics (TFT), which reviewed the topic submissions from the first joint Call for Topics: Standards and Implementation was presented to CPM-14 (2019). The CPM reviewed the TFT and added several topics to the list of topics for both standards and implementation. The benefit of increased collaboration between standard setting and implementation activities within the IPPC Secretariat and governing bodies was noted. It was also agreed that training sessions for submitting topics be included in IPPC Regional Workshops.
* The approach proposed by the Focus Group on Commodity and Pathway standards will be discussed during CPM-14 (2019). In view of the draft Strategic Framework 2020-2030, it will be important that the IPPC community agrees on a way forward that addresses both needs and concerns about this important issue.

Standard setting

1. The Standards Committee (SC) meeting reports can be found at: <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/standards-setting/standards-committee/>
2. The CPM subsidiary body, the Standards Committee (SC) met in November 2018:

* two draft ISPMs were recommended to CPM-14 for adoption (Requirements for the use of fumigation as a phytosanitary measure and the 2017 amendments to ISPM 5 (Glossary of phytosanitary terms))
* one draft ISPM and one draft Specification were reviewed
* outcomes of the first Focus Group meeting on commodity and pathway standards were discussed
* recommendations of the Task Force on Topics were reviewed and several subjects, under the remit of the SC, were added to the List of Topics for IPPC standards.

1. The SC and the SC working group (SC-7) also met in May 2019.

* Work is continuing on the development of the draft ISPM on Pest risk management for quarantine pests. The SC is also discussing the possibility in reorganizing the existing pest risk analysis (PRA)-related standards.
* Discussions on key issues from the CPM-14, such as: commodity and pathways standards; authorization of entities to perform phytosanitary actions; the draft ISPM; the technical panels’ work and how they relate to the IPPC 2020-2030 Strategic Framework; and the development of standards.
* Discussions on the International Year of Plant Health (IYPH) and the SC’s collaboration with the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC).
* Discussions on the technical panels, their updates and links with the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020-2030.

1. The SC-7 discussed draft standards that had been commented upon by IPPC Official contact points during the first consultation. They considered the compiled comments, the stewards’ considerations and recommendations on the use of terms and consistency as provided by the Technical Panel for the Glossary. The SC-7 then approved the following four draft standards for submission to the second consultation period. The SC-7 also discussed collaboration with the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC). They focused on implementation issues raised while developing draft standards. They then looked at topics to be included in the 2020 SC-7 agenda - such as commodity and pathways standards – that will be put forth for decision-making at the 2020 Commission on Phytosanitary Measures session (CPM-15).

Other Standard setting activities:

1. Consultation periods. The consultation period began on 01 July 2019 for four draft ISPMs (second consultation), one diagnostic protocol and 13 phytosanitary treatments. Also, one CPM recommendation was opened for contracting parties, RPPOs and international organizations comments: “Safe provision of food and other aid to prevent the introduction of plant pests during an emergency situation”.

Technical Panels and Expert Working Groups (EWGs) meetings.

* **Technical Panel on Phytosanitary Treatments (TPPT).** The IPPC [TPPT](https://www.ippc.int/fr/core-activities/standards-setting/expert-drafting-groups/technical-panels/technical-panel-phytosanitary-treatments/) met from 8 to 12 July 2019 in Vienna, Austria to discuss various PT related issues. The meeting was organized by the IPPC Secretariat and hosted by the Joint FAO/IAEA Division.
  + The panel reviewed the submissions sent by national and regional plant protection organizations (NPPOs and RPPOs) in response to a [call for](https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/standards-setting/calls-treatments/) treatments from the IPPC Secretariat. Indeed, the call for PTs is still open and interested parties can [click here](https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/standards-setting/calls-treatments/) for more information.
  + The TPPT then discussed the links between the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020-2030 and the TPPT’s work and how they can contribute to help implement the framework. They reviewed liaison activities with the Ozone Secretariat and the Phytosanitary Measures Research Group (PMRG) and looked at ways to improve collaboration.
  + Based on results of a research conducted by the joint FAO/IAEA Division, participants agreed to recommend to the SC to lift the restriction from irradiating fruit flies on commodities stored in modified atmosphere. Indeed, the research shows that there is no difference in the efficacy of treatments using phytosanitary irradiation doses.
* **Technical Panel on Diagnostic Protocols (TPDP).** The [TPDP](https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/standards-setting/expert-drafting-groups/technical-panels/technical-panel-diagnostic-protocols/) met in Melbourne, Australia, from 5 to 9 August 2019. The meeting was organised by the IPPC Secretariat and hosted by AgriBio – Centre for Agri Bioscience.
  + Currently, while there are [29 DPs adopted](https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/standards-setting/ispms/), the TPDP has in its work programme the [development of 18 DPs](https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/standards-setting/list-topics-ippc-standards/list), either under process or just added as new topics. The TPDP discussed its work plan noting that new TPDP members are expected, as well as the establishment of new DP drafting groups to help with the development of the DPs.
  + The TPDP noted the updates from relevant IPPC meetings and the request from the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM-14, 2019) to the [Standards Committee (SC)](https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/standards-setting/standards-committee/) and [Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC)](https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/capacity-development/capacity-development-committee/) to conduct surveys on the utility of existing DPs using IRSS and to analyze means of developing DPs to identify areas of improvement to have greater amounts of DPs quicker and more flexible. For this, suggestions were made by the TPDP to a specific draft questionnaire that may support this activity.
  + In a longer term, the TPDP discussed the potential impact of the newly endorsed IPPC Strategic Framework 2020-2030 on its activities, especially in relation to the development agendas which mention DPs: Commodities and Pathways Standards, Strengthening Pest Outbreaks Alert and Response Systems, and Diagnostic Laboratory Network. The TPDP reflected also on the ways to shorten the duration of development of DPs and made proposals to the SC in that prospect, noting the need to ensure IPPC Secretariat resources.
* **Technical Panel for the Glossary (TPG).** The next [TPG](https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/standards-setting/expert-drafting-groups/technical-panels/technical-panel-glossary-phytosanitary-terms-ispm-5/) meeting is scheduled to be held from 18 to 20 November at FAO HQ, Rome, Italy.
* **An EWG for Audit in the phytosanitary context.** The EWG (2015-014) met in Toronto, Canada from 3 to 7 June 2019. The meeting was co-organised by the IPPC Secretariat and Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA). The IPPC Secretariat wishes to thank the NPPO of Canada for co-organizing and hosting the EWG meeting, as well as for its financial contribution.
  + Once adopted, this new ISPM will guide national plant protection organizations (NPPOs) conducting audits in the phytosanitary context. It will cover audits conducted by NPPOs in both exporting and importing countries; and by “third party” entities authorized by NPPOs to perform audits on their behalf.
  + The standard will ensure all parties have a common understanding of the term “audit”; and the responsibilities of NPPOs, auditors and those being audited. It also includes procedures for planning and conducting audits.
  + Harmonized guidance on conducting audits will help reduce the risk of quarantine pests being introduced and spreading. This will benefit biodiversity by protecting plant health.
  + The EWG also talked about how to implement the draft standard; and agreed on the final version of the draft ISPM. The results of these discussions will be presented to the Standards Committee along with draft standard.

Calls

1. - A call for experts for an EWG on the Focused revision of ISPM 12 (Phytosanitary certificates) in relation to re-export (2015-011) was made. The meeting is planned to be held from 09 to 12 December 2019 in Rome, Italy. The EWG will follow the approved [Specification 67](https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/85589/).
2. - A call for experts for Technical Panels is still open!

* Technical Panel on Phytosanitary Treatments (TPPT): all expertises
* Technical Panel on Diagnostic Protocols (TPDP): experts in Botany, Mycology and Virology

1. Experts will be appointed for five-year terms beginning in 2020 and should be available to attend all annual face-to-face meetings as well as potential virtual meetings of the respective Technical Panel. More information at: <https://www.ippc.int/en/calls/2019-08-call-for-experts-technical-panels/>
2. - A call for diagnostic protocols authors is still open for various topics!

* Mononychelus tanajoa (2018-006)
* Citrus leprosis virus (2018-025)
* Psyllid vectors of Candidatus Liberibacter solanacearum (2018-030)
* Pyricularia oryzae (syn. Magnaporthe oryzae) on Triticum spp. (2019-002)
* Microcyclus ulei (2019-003)
* Puccinia graminis f. sp. tritici UG 99 (2019-004)

1. Diagnostic Protocols are developed to allow general use by competent diagnosticians in a laboratory performing pest diagnosis as part of phytosanitary measures. The methods described in diagnostic protocols provide the minimum requirements for reliable diagnosis of the specified regulated pests and include information on the specificity, sensitivity and reproducibility of these methods, where available. Methods providing other levels of specificity, sensitivity and reproducibility are also included where appropriate.
2. Authors work in liaison with the member of the Technical Panel on Diagnostic Protocols (TPDP) in charge of the respective topic to develop draft diagnostic protocols (DPs) as annexes to ISPM 27 (Diagnostic Protocols for Regulated Pests). More information at: <https://www.ippc.int/en/calls/2019-08-call-for-authors-of-diagnostic-protocols/>
3. Commodity and Pathway Standards. An important element of the [IPPC](https://www.ippc.int/en/)’s work is to safeguard agriculture and facilitate safe trade. As part of this effort, the new IPPC Strategic Framework 2002-2030 includes developing develop commodity and pathway specific standards. Much progress on this topic was made during the second meeting of the IPPC focus group on commodity standards.
4. The meeting took place in Rome from 7 to 21 June 2019 and was attended by eight international experts and representatives from various IPPC subsidiary bodies. The Focus Group drafted an over-arching concept standard for commodity and pathway standards, a specification on the creation of a new technical panel on commodity standards, and provided a series of other recommendations. The meeting report is available at: <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/governance/cpm/cpm-focus-group-reports/> (see also agenda item on “commodity and pathways standards”).

Implementation and Capacity Development

1. The CPM subsidiary body “Implementation and Capacity Development Committee” (IC) met in November 2018

* work of the Sea Containers Task Force and the Sub-group on Implementation, Review and Support System were reviewed
* work on Dispute Avoidance and Settlement was discussed
* A PCE strategy was agreed upon to help improve the PCE tool and its implementation and to further promote it
* Several observers attended and capacity development projects were reviewed.

The IC also met in May 2019

* A workshop for training facilitators on the Beyond Compliance Tools has been completed in June 2019 as part of the Standard Trade and Development Facility funded project “Rolling out Systems Approach Globally”.
* A High-Level Symposium for One Belt countries was held in May 2019 as part of the China IPPC South-South Cooperation project.
* Calls were made for experts for: an IC Sub-group on Dispute Avoidance and Settlement, the development of an IPPC Guides on Pest Status and ISPM 15 (Regulation of wood packaging material in international trade). Calls were also made for: resources for the development of ISPM 15 implementation material and for participation in a NRO survey and a Sea Container questionnaire.
* A Steering Committee and a Technical Committee have been formed to organize and coordinate a global symposium on Pest Free Areas and Surveillance, which is planned to be held in October 2019 in Japan.
* The Sea Containers Task Force (SCTF) developed a questionnaire on sea containers, addressed to IPPC contracting parties. Data collected was aggregated to assist the SCTF in monitoring the uptake and help assess the efficiency of the Code of Practice for Packing of Cargo Transport Units (CTU Code). The SCTF met at the end of September and the results of their meeting will be coming.

Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluations

1. The IPPC Secretariat facilitated or is initiating the application of Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation PCE) in several countries (Cambodia, Nicaragua, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Uzbekistan). In some cases all or only one of the PCE modules are applied. These PCE are supported through different projects with the intention to develop national capacity development strategies and action plans and review phytosanitary legislation, in accordance with the project goals. The availability of the national capacity development strategy and action plan to address gaps in the phytosanitary system of a country positions countries well for taking advantage of funding opportunities at the national and/or international level and helps international organizations and donors to understand countries needs and to focus resources on the identified priorities.

Guides and training material

1. The IPPC Secretariat finalizes the development of two IPPC Guides: (i) IPPC Guide on Pest Free Areas and (ii) IPPC Guide to Pest Risk Communication in collaboration with experts from all over the world. The Guides are meant to assist countries and NPPOs in the better and more efficient implementation of the provisions of the Convention and relevant ISPMs.
2. An expert meeting for the development of the Pest status guide took place in September. No resources were identified in the call for the guide for the implementation of ISPM 15 Regulation of wood packaging material in international trade, so work has stopped on this guide.

Projects

1. The IC November meetings provides an opportunity for donors and project managers to report on their phytosanitary project and seek synergies to best implement activities and find synergies to promote their outputs. The IPPC Secretariat is currently in the process of setting a procedure to best develop, coordinate and share experiences on phytosanitary projects. Five main ICD projects are managed by the IPPC Secretariat under the oversight of the IC.
2. Implementation and Capacity Development web based resources
3. The Secretariat is currently working on reorganization of the IPP ([www.ippc.int](https://www.ippc.int/en/)) to help ensure easy access to the implementation and capacity development resources. The new landing page for those web based resources will have several categories of phytosanitary activities and each category will bring all together relevant ISPMs, CPM recommendations, Guide and training materials and other materials. This new structure will help users reach those materials comprehensively.

Implementation, Review and Support System (IRSS)

1. Work is this area was slow but a staff member was hired in August 2019 and surveys and studies identified by the IC are now being worked on in order of priority. Efforts are being made to change the thinking of on IRSS from an EU funded project to a full IRSS system that supports the work of the CPM and the entire IPPC Secretariat and it is hoped to have a governance structure and work plan in place for 2021, with resources being mobilized to deliver the identified activities.
2. Under the current IRSS work plan, a survey on the use of pest free areas will be launched during the IPPC Symposium on Pest Free Areas and surveillance. A study on third party accreditation will be initiated in October 2019 and an in-depth comparison analysis is being conducted on the findings of the first and second general survey.
3. The EU IRSS project also funded work to help develop a Theory of Change for the IPPC Community and a monitoring and evaluation system for the IPPC Secretariat as well as one that would help the IPPC Community track the implementation of the IPPC Strategic Framework (2020-2030)

IPPC Regional Workshops

1. Seven IPPC regional workshops (RW) were coordinated and took place in August and September 2019. Special seminars on Banana fusarium wilt (TR4) were held in conjunction with the RW in Africa, the Caribbean and in the Latin America region. Workshops were well attended and RPPOs played an active role in all regions. Reports from these RW will be posted on the IPP once available (<https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/capacity-development/regional-ippc-workshops/>)

ePhyto

1. The IPPC Secretariat’s ePhyto Hub is fully operational. Forty-threecountries are currently registered to the Hub, and a number of others will be joining this year, including EC Member States. The Generic ePhyto National System (GeNS) has been deployed to the three pilot countries of Sri Lanka, Samoa and Ghana, and initial results of the pilot indicate that the system is working as intended; Sri Lanka has already transmitted ePhytos to the US, Ghana is fully operational and exchanging through the Hub via the GeNS system and Samoa should be exchanging ePhytos in October. CPM approved a five year strategic plan for ePhyto in April. The Secretariat will be conducting a regional workshop on ePhyto for Africa in cooperation with the USA in November and is working on plans for additional workshops in both the Eurasian Economic Community and the Near East this year. Plans are also in the works for an ePhyto Global Symposium for 2020 with a location to be determined.
2. The implementation plan of the five year Strategic Plan for ePhyto to transition from a project to “business-as-usual” operations was agreed by CPM-14 (2019).

e-Commerce:

1. CPM-14 (2019) endorsed the draft project work plan and budget that were presented to the CPM in a discussion paper on e-Commerce. It was noted that the IPPC Secretariat will not implement the e-Commerce action plan, with the exception of liaison with international organizations, until it is fully resourced. One Contracting Party (CP) committed to support to the Secretariat in the form of an in-kind contribution of a staff member to support e-Commerce activities and called on other CPs to make additional resource contributions. A work plan for e-Commerce activities is being developed.

Strengthening Communication and Advocacy

Scaling up IPPC communications

1. The IPPC Secretariat worked closely with FAO’s Office for Corporate Communication to increase the quality and outreach of its communications. These efforts resulted in an increased media outreach and increased user’s interactions on social media, particularly in relation to CPM, for which an ad-hoc communications plan is being developed by the IPPC Secretariat.
2. Various new resources were published and old ones re-organized on the IPP publications page: <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/>.
3. It should also be noted that, as the new IPPC Strategic Framework includes Communication and Partnerships as one of the IPPC core activities, a new IPPC communication strategy is being envisaged, and key concepts to develop it will be discussed by the Strategic Planning Group (SPG) and CPM Bureau meetings in October 2019.

The International Year of Plant Health (IYPH)

1. Communications and advocacy activities also helped pave the path towards the proclamation of the International Year of Plant Health (IYPH) 2020 by the United Nations General Assembly in December 2018.
2. After the IYPH proclamation, the IYPH visual identity, the IYPH get started and the call for human-interest stories related to plant health were launched and were made available on the IYPH website: [www.fao.org/plant-health-2020](http://www.fao.org/plant-health-2020).. Additional awareness raising materials will be developed in view of the IYPH launch events and throughout 2020 to reach various audiences.
3. The Universal Postal Union submitted a circular letter to its member states encouraging them to create a commemorative postage stamp. A two-euro coin with the IYPH logo will be issued thanks to the effort of the national plant protection organization of Belgium, and the Royal Belgian Mint house as responsible emitter/issuer. The coins will be struck in 2020 in collaboration with the Royal Dutch Mint house.
4. In order to coordinate the IYPH implementation, FAO has established an IYPH International Steering Committee (ISC), composed of seven representatives and seven alternates from all FAO regions, two representatives of the IPPC IYPH Technical Advisory Board (chair and vice-chair), and seven representatives of partner organizations.
5. The IYPH ISC is supported by an IYPH Secretariat, composed of representatives of the IPPC Secretariat, the FAO Plant Production and Protection Division (AGP), and the FAO Partnerships Division (PSP), with support of the FAO Office of Corporate Communication (OCC).
6. The IYPH ISC is holding regular meetings to oversee the IYPH programme implementation and action plan. As of today, it has met twice (14 June and 16 September). Reports of the IYPH can be found at <https://www.ippc.int/en/iyph/iyph-international-steering-committee/>
7. The IPPC Secretariat has also developed an IYPH calendar[[1]](#footnote-1), linked to the IPP calendar, where all IYPH-related events are recorded, highlighting the key global IYPH events as approved by CPM. The IYPH launch event is currently planned at FAO headquarters in Rome on 2 December 2019. Invitations will be sent out to the IPPC community and relevant partners as clearance is received by the Office of the FAO Director-General.

Liaison

* The IPPC Secretariat continues to work with the WTO-SPS Secretariat and both Secretariats attend relevant meetings.
* The IPPC Secretariat is also involved with the Standards Trade and Development Facility (STDF). This year there were several meeting to revise the STDF strategy, of which the IPPC Secretariat participates as one of the seven core partners.
* A delegation was formed by representatives of the IPPC Secretariat, contracting parties and the SC and IC to participate in the Consultation Workshop of Biodiversity-Related Conventions held in June 2019 in Bern, Switzerland to help develop a Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.
* The IPPC Secretariat participated in the Inter-Agency Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species, which met in June 2019.
* The IPPC Secretariat signed joint work plans with both the Convention on Biological Diversity Secretariat (2019-2020) and with the World Customs Organization (2019-2021).
* The IPPC Secretariat is cooperating with UN Environment and other biodiversity-related conventions on a project aimed at realizing synergies among biodiversity-related conventions. The project consists of five outputs, and relevance for IPPC is placed on providing input on the post-2020 biodiversity framework, and on cooperation of public information officers to enhance respective communications.
* The IPPC Secretariat also cooperates with the [Phytosanitary Measures Research Group (PMRG)](https://www.ippc.int/en/external-cooperation/organizations-page-in-ipp/phytosanitarymeasuresresearchgroup/). The PMRG is a forum where critical phytosanitary treatment issues can be addressed through discussion and collaborative research. Its mission is to “harmonize research on phytosanitary treatments and other measures with application to international trade of horticultural commodities to support IPPC Technical Panels, plant protection organizations, and researchers.” The PMRG met on 23-27 September 2019 in Cairns, Australia.
* The IPPC Secretariat cooperates with a number of non-state actors in view of the International Year of Plant Health and ePhyto. These include the International Seed Federation (a member of the IYPH ISC, and also supporting ISPM 38 implementation), the International Society of Plant Pathology (cooperating on various IYPH-related initiatives), and CIHEAM (also an IYPH ISC member). A full list of partners can be found at <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/external-cooperation/>

1. Ref. <https://www.ippc.int/en/iyph/chronology/list/> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)