Trade Facilitation Conference in 2021

1. Since the ratification of the Trade Facilitation Agreement of the World Trade Organization (TFA) on February 22, 2017, many NPPOs have been faced with meeting the requirements of the TFA that apply to their work processes. While ostensibly the focus of the TFA is on Customs operations and cross-border trade, as any NPPO official would recognize, this also implies participation by NPPOs in implementation.
2. Consequently, the CPM Bureau, the IPPC Secretary and a number of other members of the IPPC Community felt that an IPPC-sponsored Conference on Trade Facilitation, and the challenges for NPPOs would be a very valuable tool in assisting NPPOs in their TFA implementation process. While in many respects, such a conference could get the maximum amount of exposure during the International Year of Plant Health (IYPH) in 2020, there had been a general consensus that such an important event, would require significant enough amounts of Secretariat support time that it could take away the support necessary to ensure the success of the IYPH.
3. Given the preceding, the Secretariat is proposing holding a Trade Facilitation Conference in 2021 or perhaps even 2022 in order to ensure that the proper amount of support and attention is given to such an important event.
4. The SPG is invited to:

* *discuss* the merits of holding such an event,
* if such an event were to be held, *suggest* the timing for the conference, and
* *propose* ideas and topics for a trade facilitation conference.