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# **REPORT**

## **IPPC Regional Workshop**

### **for the Near East and North Africa Region**

**Beirut, Lebanon**  
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**IPPC Secretariat**



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## Contents

1. Introduction .....	5
1.1. The objectives of the workshop were: .....	5
2. Opening Session.....	6
2.1. Opening statement by MoA of Lebanon.....	6
2.2. Opening statement by FAOR Lebanon.....	6
2.3. Opening statement by IPPC Secretary .....	6
2.4. Welcome remarks by co-organizer – FAO RNE .....	7
2.5. Welcome remarks by co-organizer - NEPPO .....	7
3. Implementation of the IPPC Global Project on Capacity Development under the Framework of FAO-China SSC Programme .....	7
4. Programme of the IPPC Regional Workshop and Logistical information .....	8
5. Meeting Arrangements.....	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>
5.1. Election of the Chairperson and Rapporteur.....	8
6. Updates on governance and strategic issues.....	8
6.1. Update on CPM-14 (2019).....	8
6.2. Update from SC and IC.....	8
6.3. IPPC Strategic Framework 2020-2030: what are your regional priorities? .....	8
7. SESSION 1: Reinforce the capacity of Contracting Parties to formulate productive comments on draft standards and recommendations .....	9
7.1. The IPPC Online Comment System (OCS): update .....	9
7.2. Standard setting activities updates .....	9
7.2.1. Revision of ISPM 8: “Determination of pest status in an area” (second round of consultation).....	9
7.2.2. Draft standard “Requirements for the use of modified atmosphere treatments as a phytosanitary measure.....	10
7.2.3. Amendments to ISPM 5 “Glossary of phytosanitary terms” .....	10
7.2.4. Draft standard “Requirements for NPPOs if authorizing entities to perform phytosanitary actions.....	10
7.2.5. Draft recommendation “Safe provision of food and other aid to prevent the international spread of plant pests” .....	11
8. SESSION 2: Implementing and raising awareness in the framework of FAO .....	11
8.1. FAO phytosanitary capacity development activities.....	11
8.2. NEPPO phytosanitary capacity development activities.....	11
9. SESSION 3: Moving together from ideas to action .....	11
9.1. International Year of Plant Health: moving forward .....	12
9.2. Plant Health and Capacity Development .....	12
9.3. IPPC call for topics: what it is needed? .....	12

9.4. Recent developments in ePhyto-the ePhyto Solution .....	13
10. SESSION 4: Facing Transboundary Pest and Disease in NENA Region .....	13
10.1. Improving surveillance, monitoring and early warning systems for transboundary pests and diseases.....	13
10.2. Harmonized regional programs for production of certified plant propagative materials.....	13
10.3. Appropriate quarantine measures to harmonize regional cooperation and coordinate the regional efforts .....	14
10.4. Multidisciplinary team model by establishing technical network of plant protection excellence for facing transboundary pest and disease in NENA region. ....	14
10.5. Conclusions of the session and follow up actions:.....	14
11. National Reporting Obligations (NROs) workshop .....	14
11.1. Conclusions and Recommendations of the workshop .....	15
11.2. Proposed date and venue for the IPPC workshop 2018 .....	18
Annex 1: Agenda .....	19
Annex 2: List of Participants .....	23
Annex 3: Photos.....	27

## 1. Introduction

- [1] As a part of FAO and IPPC activities in NENA region, regional workshop is annually organised to bring all representatives of the National Plant Protection Organisations (NPPOs) to discuss about the main challenges that face phytosanitary authorities in the NENA countries, and suggest ideas for managing such challenges. That is a part of IPPC mandate to serve as discussion forum for contracting parties. Meanwhile, the meeting is a unique opportunities to updates member states on the current activities and achievements of IPPC and gather opinions from contacting parties on the activities including the standard setting and implementation and capacity development activities. In addition, the annual meeting is used itself as a tool for capacity development to train contact points on specific tools like Online Comment System (OCS) and National Reporting Obligation (NRO). This annual workshop has praised the framework of FAO-China South-South Cooperation programme and the Chinese initiative “one belt and one road”.
- [2] The IPPC Regional Workshop for the Near East and North Africa region was held on 2-6 August 2019 in Beirut, Lebanon. Thirty-five representatives and observers from 16 IPPC contracting parties as well Representatives from Regional Office for the Near East and North Africa Region of FAO (FAO-RNE), Near East Plant Protection Organization (NEPPO), Plant Production and Protection Division (AGP) of FAO, Arab Society for Plant Protection (ASPP) West Bank and Gaza Strip and IPPC Secretariat, attended the Workshop.
- [3] The workshop was organized by the IPPC Secretariat, FAO Regional Office for the Near East and North Africa (FAO-RNE) with support of the Lebanese Ministry of Agriculture and the Near East Plant Protection Organization (NEPPO). The workshop was financially supported by IPPC Global Project on Capacity Development under the Framework of FAO-China South to South Cooperation. (*Annex 1, list of participants*).

### 1.1. The objectives of the workshop were:

1. Analyse and prepare comments on draft International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs) and recommendations
  - 1.1. Training session on the Online Commenting System
  - 1.2. Review of substantive comments on the standards in second consultation:
    - 1.2.1. Revision of ISPM 8: Determination of pest status in an area (2009-005)
    - 1.2.2. Requirements for the use of modified atmosphere treatments as phytosanitary measure (2014-006)
    - 1.2.3. Draft 2018 Amendments to ISPM 5 (1994-001)
    - 1.2.4. Requirements for NPPOs if authorizing entities to perform phytosanitary actions (2014-002)
  - 1.3. Discussion on draft CPM Recommendations sent for consultation “Safe provision of food and other aid to prevent the international spread of plant pests” (2018-026)
2. Build phytosanitary capacity and raise awareness on various activities of the IPPC Community
  - 2.1. Annual theme: Plant health and capacity development
  - 2.2. Update from Commission on Phytosanitary Measures CPM-14 (2019)

Standard Committee (SC) and Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC) updates

- 2.3. IPPC call for topics: how to develop submissions?
- 2.4. Recent developments in ePhyto - the ePhyto Solution
- 3. Provide a forum to exchanging experiences and ideas at the regional level
  - 3.1. IPPC Strategic Framework 2020-2030: how to implement it globally, regionally and nationally?
  - 3.2. How to promote IYPH globally, regionally and nationally?
  - 3.3. FAO and RPPO share phytosanitary capacity development activities
  - 3.4. National Reporting Obligations: what are the needs from the region?

## 2. Opening Session

### 2.1. Opening statement by MoA of Lebanon

- [4] The workshop was officially opened by Mrs. Sylvana Gerges - Head of Plant Protection Services - on behalf of his Excellency Minister of Agriculture in Lebanon, and in her speech she welcomed the participants and delivered her greeting for the Islamic new year (Hijri) and stressed the commitment of the Lebanese government to implement the International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM) and support IPPC activities. The speech also highlighted the Lebanese policies to enhance the coordination of efforts related to phytosanitary actions among the NENA countries, in order to strengthen the phytosanitary capacities and facilitate the safe trade of plant and plant products. The speech also emphasized the importance of cooperation among the national stakeholders including research and academic institutes and plant quarantine, in addition to national, regional and international organisations. Meanwhile, the speech pointed out the involvement of Lebanese ministry of agriculture in many of IPPC activities including setting and updating the standards, as well as the contribution of Mrs. Paulin – head of organic agriculture department – in the International Year of Plant Health IPPC committee.

### 2.2. Opening statement by FAOR Lebanon

- [5] In his opening speech, the FAO representative in Lebanon Mr. Maurice Saade has expressed his gratitude for the Lebanese Ministry of Agriculture for hosting that important event, and for FAO regional office and IPPC secretary for organising the workshop. During the speech, Mr Maurice Saade has drawn the attention to the importance of the International Plant Protection Convention IPPC as one of the oldest conventions hosted by FAO that aim to improve the phytosanitary capabilities of contracting parties to achieve more efficient management of plant pest risks. In addition to that, the convention is helping the countries to access the global market by their plant products through assistance given to comply with the phytosanitary requirements according to the standards set by the convention. He also underlined the particular importance of having dedicated day for promoting the FAO regional initiative to establish permanent programme to face transboundary plant pests and diseases.

### 2.3. Opening statement by IPPC Secretary

- [6] Mr. Jingyuan Xia - IPPC Secretary – in his opening speech has repeated the gratefulness for Ministry of Agriculture in Lebanon, and has explained the particular importance of the IPPC regional annual workshop for representing platform for discusses and experience exchanges, in addition to supporting cooperation initiatives like one-belt on-road and praising south-south cooperation SSC that has supported the workshop financially by China. One of the particular importance about this workshop is the training on National Reporting Obligations (NROs), that is forming one of the core activities of IPPC. The data collection and management in standardised way will help to combat the pest while enhance the trade among the contracting parties. Mr. Jingyuan Xia has expressed his expectations and hope that the workshop will help in finding better approaches for implementation of IPPC requirements

and ISPMs within the strategic framework 2020-2030. In addition, feedback from participants will help in planning for the activities for the International Year of Plant Health. The speech also has mentioned the importance of the special session on facing transboundary plant pests and diseases.

## **2.4. Welcome remarks by co-organizer – FAO RNE**

- [7] The FAO regional office represented by Mr. Thaer Yaseen – Plant Protection Officer – has welcomed the participants and delivered his gratitude to South-South Cooperation programme that has supported the workshop. He explained the importance of having coordinated efforts to face transboundary pest and disease that threaten the global food security status. He gave example of Fall Armyworm that has been reported in 3 countries in the NENA regions, and also he gave example for pests that are not yet present but have high risk of introduction with devastating consequences. He explained that the regional strategy for facing pest risk might contain the following fronts: (1) harmonisation of plant propagation material production scheme at the regional level; (2) Enhance the pest surveillance, monitoring and early warning system; (3) data exchange; (4) standardisation and improved implementation of plant quarantine measures. Finally, he gave special attention for importance of including countries' opinions regarding the IPPC activities in the region and the standards and materials developed by IPPC.

## **2.5. Welcome remarks by co-organizer - NEPPO**

- [8] The speech of Mr. Mekki Chouibani - Executive Director of Near East Plant Protection Organisation (NEPPO) – has pointed out the increasing risk of plant pests spread, and gave example for *Xylella fastidiosa* bacterium and Fall Armyworm. He emphasized the importance of having collaborative efforts as plant pest challenge cannot be addressed by national efforts only, but there is a need for regional strategic plan. He also explained the role of NEPPO as forum for exchanging opinions and experiences, which increase cooperation and coordination of phytosanitary actions. In his speech, he mentioned the NEPPO efforts to support the implementation of ISPM in the NENA countries, the establishment of regional Pest Risk Analysis unit and data offered by NEPPO website.
- [9] Mr. Shoki El-Dobai has welcomed the participant and thank the efforts of organisers, and he presented the objectives of the workshop; (1) Analyse and prepare comments on draft ISPMs and recommendations; (2) Build phytosanitary capacity and raise awareness on various activities of the IPPC Community; (3) Provide a forum to exchanging experiences and ideas at the regional level. He explained that the thematic topic for this year workshop is be the Plant Health and Capacity Development, in which three presentations will be delivered including FAO regional office activities, NEPPO activities and IPPC IC activities. He also gave some essential information about the mandates and the current structure of the Standard Committee (SC) Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC).

## **3. Implementation of the IPPC Global Project on Capacity Development under the Framework of FAO-China SSC Programme**

- [10] Mr. Jingyuan Xia - IPPC Secretary – has introduced the participants to the essential data regarding the need for robust capacity development programme due to the increasing risk of plant pest spread due to the global movement of trade and passengers, and due to climate change. That increased demand for technical assistance to improve phytosanitary capacity for developing countries to implement the IPPC and ISPMs as over 70% of IPPC contracting parties are developing countries. The other point that was explained in Mr. Jingyuan Xia presentation is the relevance of capacity development programme to FAO-China partnership in the framework of South-South Cooperation (SSC). He reviewed the different types of FAO-SSC project that are 80% supported by China including, trust fund project, unilateral trust fund projects, triangular cooperation projects and regular funding projects. The programme duration is 4 years and organized in four working packages with total fund of 2,000,000 USD. One of the main working packages that was allocated by 45% of the budget included the organization of four IPPC regional workshop, and four NROs workshop including the current workshops.

#### **4. Programme of the IPPC Regional Workshop and Logistical information**

- [11] Local and logistical information in addition to review of the participant list and other workshop arrangements were presented by Mr. Thaer Yaseen (Plant Protection Officer, FAO regional office). He also facilitated the election of workshop chairperson and rapporteur.

#### **5. Election of the Chairperson and Rapporteur**

- [12] Mrs. Sylvana Gerges - Head of Plant Protection Services, was elected as Chairperson of the workshop and Mr. Ahmed Eid – IPPC contact point in Bahrain - was elected as rapporteur of the workshop.
- [13] Participants adopted the agenda of the workshop presented by the Chair.

#### **6. Updates on governance and strategic issues**

##### **6.1. Update on CPM-14 (2019)**

- [14] The session was presented by Mr. Shoki El-Dobai about the recent updates from CPM-14 that has endorsed in advance the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020-2030 before the formal adoption by CPM-15 (2020).
- [15] One of the updates that was presented is the agreement of CPM-14 on the importance of development of commodity standards but their official status shall remain “pending” until the adoption of the concept. Also important updates on the adoption of 5-years implementation plan for ePhyto to move from being a project to “business-as-usual”. Also, the 5-year investment plan for the IPPC Secretariat 2020-2024 in relation to the implementation of the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020-2030 was adopted by CPM-14, in addition to the workplan and budget of the IPPC secretary for 2020.
- [16] The presentation also highlighted CPM-14 recommendations for adoption of “High-throughput sequencing (HTS) technologies as a diagnostic tool for phytosanitary purposes and the “Safe provision of food and other aid to prevent the introduction of plant pests during an emergency”. Also, it worth noting that CPM-14 has recommended that a guide on surveillance shall be set as priority for IPPC activities

##### **6.2. Update from SC and IC**

- [17] Mr. Mekki Chouibani and Mr Mamoun Al Bakri (IC) highlighted the updates from the SC and IC regarding the amendments in ISPM 5 circulated for first consultants and the SC discussion on commodity and pathway standards, in addition to the discussion on proposed draft for authorization of entities to perform phytosanitary actions.

##### **6.3. IPPC Strategic Framework 2020-2030: what are your regional priorities?**

- [18] The IPPC strategic framework 2020-2030 was discussed among participants to identify the regional priorities after Mr. Shoki and Mr. Thaer presented the IPPC development agenda, particularly the 8 points; harmonization of electronic data exchange, commodity and pathway specific ISPMs, management of e-commerce and postal and courier mail pathways, developing guidance on the use of third party entities, strengthening pest outbreak alert and response systems, assessment and management of climate change impacts on plant health, global phytosanitary research coordination, diagnostic laboratory networking. Discussions among participants have concluded that the following points represent the most important for their respective countries:

- Harmonization of Electronic Data Exchange
- Commodity and Pathway Specific ISPMs
- Strengthening Pest Outbreak Alert and Response Systems
- Diagnostic Laboratory Networking

- [19] Many other inputs from participants can be summarised as following:



- Mauritania has achieved a great success in eradication of Red Palm Weevil, which shall be marketed and promoted as example for other countries in the region.
- Tunisia has presented the success of implementation Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE) tool and request to promote the story as example for other countries
- Lebanon has express questioning point about the low contribution of NENA countries in pest reporting
- Algeria has express concern about the delay in development and adoption of Commodity and Pathway Specific ISPMs although of their extreme importance, which was answered by Mr. Mekki that putting new ISPM required modifications in other standards, and consequently may obligate contracting parties to introduce modifications in their national systems
- Mr. Mamon has explained that China, USA and Canada are among the top manufacturers and handlers of containers, and they provide different forms of support to the technical group working on commodities and pathways ISPMs.
- Mr. Jinngyan Xia has stressed that recent studies by IPPC showed that empty sea containers might represent probable pathway for plant pest introduction. Conclusion was drawn that cooperation with other international organisation working in field of maritime, logistics and trade of containers is essential to develop such ISPMs.
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## **7. SESSION 1: Reinforce the capacity of Contracting Parties to formulate productive comments on draft standards and recommendations**

[20] The session started with a brief presentation about the new updates in the Online Commenting System (OCS) highlighting the improvements made to the system and how to comment by using this new system. Then presentations on standard setting activities updates including; revision of ISPM 8 “Determination of pest status in an area; draft standard “Requirements for the use of modified atmosphere treatments as a phytosanitary measure; amendments to ISPM 5 “Glossary of phytosanitary terms; draft standard “Requirements for NPPOs if authorizing entities to perform phytosanitary actions”; and, draft recommendation “Safe provision of food and other aid to prevent the international spread of plant pests”.

### **7.1. The IPPC Online Comment System (OCS): update**

[21] Mr. Mekki presented the improvements introduced to the OCS noting that it is a faster and a more user-friendly system. It has a new simplified layout and new license scheme. It is compatible with all major browsers and mobile devices and provides direct access to documents under review. It is easier to use and provides the possibility to navigate through the document, add comments and proposed changes all on the same window, in addition to an improved search function for users and reviewers.

[22] He has highlighted the importance of using OCS for all contracting parties, and by asking the participants, it was concluded that only Egypt and Iran has used the system during the last year.

### **7.2. Standard setting activities updates**

#### **7.2.1. Revision of ISPM 8: “Determination of pest status in an area” (second round of consultation)**

[23] It was explained to the participant the importance of this particular standard for national reporting obligation, and a review was made to the previous outputs of the first consultation. Some general points were highlighted like the amendment of new distinct category “Unable to determine pest status” when NPPO is not able to determine the pest status. In addition, it was suggested to re-phrasing the sentences explaining NPPO responsibilities for determination and recognition of pest status, so the responsibilities are stated more clearly.

- [24] Meanwhile, the participants – as representing their respective NPPOs – were encourage to comment on the draft and suggest if the appendix that explain the different sources that may be used to determine the pest status and their reliability, shall be rather moved to implementation material instead.
- [25] Egypt contact point has expressed a concern regarding the part of the standard that allow for using “less reliable” resources to determine the pest status

### **7.2.2. Draft standard “Requirements for the use of modified atmosphere treatments as a phytosanitary measure**

- [26] The presentation gave a brief on the background for developing this standard, and that since CPM-9 (2014) it was added to the priority topics. In 2019, SC-7 has approved the draft standard the second consultation. The presentation highlight the importance of having standard for using such treatment, which has gained wide acceptance for controlling post-harvest moulds and pest infestations. The presentation clarified the basic technical concept and application of the technique. The main comments that were stressed in the presentation is the importance of having consistency in requirements and terminology used in the draft standard with other standards, particularly ISPM 42 (Requirements for the use of temperature treatments as phytosanitary measures) and ISPM 43 (Requirements for the use of fumigation as a phytosanitary measure). In addition, important implementation is issue was discussed as that of unavailability of recommended treatment schedules.
- [27] The feedback received from participants were two comments; one from Iran and one from Egypt. Iran contact point suggested adding “layer” to the word “ozone”; while the comment from Egypt contact point was to include atmospheric pressure as parameter for monitoring the process of “modified atmosphere”.

### **7.2.3. Amendments to ISPM 5 “Glossary of phytosanitary terms”**

- [28] Mr. Mekki has given an overview on the last updates in the glossary, explaining the glossary standard is a particular case of standards because of continues updates, which are usually either additions, revisions, deletions.
- [29] He pointed out the last amendments that were deletions and revision of many terms related to commodity class, which was either not having any specific meaning in the phytosanitary context or inconsistent with other terminologies or standards.
- [30] No comments were received from participant, and all of them showed their agreement on the suggested amendments to the glossary.

### **7.2.4. Draft standard “Requirements for NPPOs if authorizing entities to perform phytosanitary actions**

- [31] The presentation briefed the participants on the background of the standard and that it was in CPM-9 (2014) when it was assigned priority 3, and upgraded to priority 2 in CPM-10, then finally it was approved for second consultation in 2019 by SC-7.
- [32] The previous comments received through the first consultation were explained to the participants. Among the most important comments was the concern regarding the conflict of interests that may compromise phytosanitary security, and also the weak position that NPPO will be in if the authority was given to other parties. The same concern was expressed by the workshop participants, and it was explained during the presentation and during the discussion that authorisation of third-party entities are not obligatory, and it is up to the NPPO to decide to use it or no. Meanwhile, the delegation of performing phytosanitary activity will not delegate authority or responsibility, and issuance of phytosanitary certificates will retain the responsibility of NPPO.

- [33] The presentation reviewed all previous amendments and modifications that were introduction to the text as response to contracting parties concerns, including the voluntary nature of that standard, stress on the authority of NPPO, criteria for selection of private-sector entity and transparency obligations.
- [34] During the discussions, the participants expressed the following: concern from Algeria about the limits of the authorisation; Algeria express concern on the unclear meaning of the word “entities”; Iran suggested to publish lists of all authorised entities as an obligation of national reporting; criteria used to select the authorised entities shall be accessible to clients (trade partners, exporters/importers) as transparency obligation; delegation of actions has been used for long time for cases like fumigation as phytosanitary treatment, and also in many countries in laboratory diagnosis

### **7.2.5. Draft recommendation “Safe provision of food and other aid to prevent the international spread of plant pests”**

- [35] Mr. Thaer Yaseen has presented the background on this CPM recommendation that was submitted for consultation in 2019. He gave example for the risk imposed by infected/infested aid materials including food, planting materials and construction materials. The recommendation include raise awareness to aid agencies and other stakeholders on the phytosanitary risk and the need to manage this risk, and recommend some measures that mitigate the risk.
- [36] The participant discussed the draft recommendation: importance of this recommendation particularly for NENA countries with current crises; discussions on adding mycotoxin producing fungi, but no agreement was reached; wording change to “crop production pest” to use only “pest”; exclude “animal pests” from the column of phytosanitary risks.

## **8.SESSION 2: Implementing and raising awareness in the framework of FAO**

- [37] The session was dedicated to brief the participants on the recent activities of FAO regional office, RPPO (NEPPO) on capacity development.

### **8.1.FAO phytosanitary capacity development activities**

- [38] The presentation carried out by Mr. Ahmed Elsayed – Plant Protection consultant, RNE – on the capacity development activities performed or planned to be executed during 2019. The presentation contained information on the training on Pest Risk Analysis (PRA) conducted in Egypt, Sudan, and planned in Iraq and Syria during 2019. In addition to the planed training on ISPM#23 on inspection, ISPM#12 on phytosanitary certificate and ISPM#6 on surveillance in Iraq and Sudan in October/November.
- [39] The recommendations of the presentation were on the importance of having more resources in Arabic language and preferably to conduct the training in the native language of the trainees.

### **8.2.NEPPO phytosanitary capacity development activities**

- [40] The presentation of Mr. Mekki has highlighted the activities of NEPPO as participating in the RPPOs regional meetings in Andean region, in addition to facilitating the exchange of phytosanitary data between member countries. Also, NEPPO has assisted Tunisia in project “Beyond Compliance” to follow system approach in reducing risk of importing commodities infected by *Xylella fastidiosa*.
- [41] Mr. Mekki has concluded his presentation by recommending to improve the engagement of member countries in data exchange and encourage member countries to share their data with NEPPO.

## **9.SESSION 3: Moving together from ideas to action**

- [42] This session highlighted the planned activities for the International Year of Plant Health IYPH 2020, the activities of IC in capacity develop in the region and the recent advances regarding ePhyto. By the

end of this session, participants were invited to brainstorm about their countries' priorities for new standards or implementation and awareness materials developed by IPPC.

### **9.1. International Year of Plant Health: moving forward**

- [43] The presentation delivered by Mrs. Paulin Eid has updated the participants by the planned activities for the IYPH at the global level, regional and national levels too. The presentation also included the historical background of the UN decision to celebrate 2020 as international year of plant health. The presentation covered the financial resources available and required for implementation of then planned activities. Among the worth noted information is the IYPH will be launched simultaneously in different place of the world on 2<sup>nd</sup> December. Furthermore, the presentation showed the institutional framework established to plan, supervise, monitor and support the implementation of IYPH activities.
- [44] The participants have actively contributed in enriched discussion about the planned or proposed activities at the regional and the national level. That included the Arab Society for Plant Protection (ASPP) activities to contribute in raising awareness to the IYPH.
- [45] A part of the discussion was addressed as enquires on different aspects related to IYPH, included the use the visual identity of the IYPH and how to receive authorisation for that. In addition, comment from Jordan contact point on the sustainability in achieving the goals of IYPH. While, Lebanon and Bahrain contact points have presented some of the planned activities related to IYPH.
- [46] Mr. Thaer Yaseen has updated the participants on the activities related to IYPH planned to be performed during the NERC meeting, including funding master scholarships in plant health issues.
- [47] The presentation concluded by the following recommendations; the select ambassador for the IYPH from the region; good planning for the activities; provide funds and mobilise resources; plan for sustainability of the activities by section one day every year for the plant health; produce a short movie and other communication materials to be used during FAO activities; cooperate with the current projects; launching the IYPH festivities in the region on December 2<sup>nd</sup>; projection of the IYPH logo on monumental sites of the region

### **9.2. Plant Health and Capacity Development**

- [48] Mr. Mamoun Al-Bakri has presented some of the activities carried out by IC in relation to capacity development in the region. The presentation explored the advantage of using the Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation tool that was developed by IPPC to standardise the evaluation of NPPO capabilities and commitment to IPPC obligations. Mr. Mamoun has reported that Tunisia is the only country in NENA region, which has conducted PCE since 2010. In addition, the presentation highlighted the available training material resources that give more guidance that is detailed on implementations of ISPM. Moreover, the presentation updated the participant on the recent events organised by the IC including the international symposium on Pest Free Areas and Surveillance in Tokyo, Japan on 28 October.
- [49] The discussion of participants on the presentation was concluded by the following recommendations; improve the selection process by developing specific ToRs and qualifications; ensuring the sustainability of capacity development programmes through knowledge and expertise transfer.

### **9.3. IPPC call for topics: what it is needed?**

- [50] This session was organised more as a training on how to understand the criteria for what may be called "good topic" and therefore apply them on some proposed topics. The session started by presentation by Mr. Shoki on the process of standard setting, different parts of the standard including the text, supplement, annex and appendix. Also, the presentation clarified the characteristic of successful proposal, including the alignment with IPPC strategic priorities, addressing a substantial challenge to plant health, well structure, and good submission through the IPPC system.\

[51] The participants were divided into groups based on sub-regional locations; Near East including Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, Palestine and Jordan; Gulf countries included Bahrain, Qatar, Oman; and Maghreb countries included Morocco, Tunisia, Libya, Algeria and Mauritania. The participants has discussed the main issues facing plant health in their countries, and formulate that in proposal for topics.

[52] The following were the proposed topics:

- Diagnostic protocol for *Bactrocera zonata* (Near East)
- Implementation of system approach on *Bactrocera zonata* (Near East)
- Review and simplify the implementation of ISPM#31 (Near East and Maghreb)
- Diagnostic protocol of the causal agent of citrus greening (Maghreb)
- Protocol for early detection, inspection of commodities and eradication of red palm weevil (Gulf countries and Maghreb)

#### **9.4.Recent developments in ePhyto-the ePhyto Solution**

[53] Mr. Ahmed Elsayed has presented the fundamental concepts of the ePhyto, in addition to clarifying the benefits. The different approaches for using ePhyto system were explained as either using HUB or GeNs, in addition to future plans for improvement and upscaling.

[54] The NPPO contact points have expressed their interests to contribute to the project, particularly from Algeria. While some recommendations for use unified code for commodities (example HS code) to facilitate exchanging information with customs were received. Mr. Thaer has highlighted the organization of a regional workshop on e-Phyto by IPPC Secretariat, NEPPO and RNE, and that IT staff must be involved in this workshop in order to clarify the data security concerns.

### **10. SESSION 4: Facing Transboundary Pest and Disease in NENA Region**

[55] This session was planned and devoted to explain the importance of having strategic plan to face the risk of plant pests and disease. Experts from IPPC, CIHEAM and RNE have presented important technical requirement for successful strategy.

#### **10.1.Improving surveillance, monitoring and early warning systems for transboundary pests and diseases**

[56] Mrs. Anna Maria Peralta has presented the importance of having efficient surveillance programme in place. She explained the main component of successful system, and the stakeholder who may be involved in the programme including the farmers/growers. She highlighted that surveillance if one of the most important obligation for the contracting parties in IPPC, ad require legislative framework, as well as institutional and operations structure. Also, she discussed the successful implementation of surveillance programme in Chile, and how the NPPO has encourage the individuals particularly farmers in participating vin the surveillance programme. One interesting example was that banks are not grating any loans for agriculture project unless authorised surveillance results is presented. She also clarified the economic aspects of surveillance programme by explaining the necessity to have cost-benefit study for the surveillance programme before the implementation.

#### **10.2.Harmonized regional programs for production of certified plant propagative materials**

[57] Mrs. Anna Maria D'Onghia has presented historical background on many regional attempts to establish planting material certification system. She also explained in details the current system in Italy and the EU, including all phases, the responsibilities and labelling issues. The presentation reviewed previous cooperative projects with NENA countries on production of certified propagation materials and the implied requirements related to list of regulated pests and development of reliable diagnostic protocols.



### **10.3. Appropriate quarantine measures to harmonize regional cooperation and coordinate the regional efforts**

- [58] This presentation was delivered by Mrs. Anna Maria Peralta and explained the regional coordination of phytosanitary measures applied in South America through COSAVE including the development of unified pest list, guidelines for quarantine measures and requirements for phytosanitary treatments.

### **10.4. Multidisciplinary team model by establishing technical network of plant protection excellence for facing transboundary pest and disease in NENA region.**

- [59] Mr. Thaer Yaseen has explored the challenge imposed by transboundary pests and disease to the agriculture production, food security and economic development in NENA region. His presentation has reviewed some of the recent introductions of plant pests and diseases in the region like *Spodoptera frugiperda* and *Thrips palmi*, and pests that has not been reported yet in the region but was detected in neighbouring countries like *Xylella fastidiosa*. The speech explored the main components of any of the FAO emergency projects to combat transboundary pests, and his express his conclusion that elements are common, and can be generalised as proactive tools. Significant advantage for prophylactic actions in terms of cost-benefit was detailed giving example Red Palm Weevil (RPW) which require hundreds of millions of dollars every year to control in the region.

### **10.5. Conclusions of the session and follow up actions:**

- Recommendation from Tunisia to establish trust fund for that programme with set financial contribution from each country.
- Suggestion from Thaer (RNE) to develop a concept note and share it with NENA countries on establishing a regional programme to face transboundary pests.
- Participants agreed on the importance of establishing a regional programme on strategic plan for facing transboundary pests and diseases, to share the proposal with the countries for their endorsement and expression of interest for financial contribution to support the programme through a trust fund to be established for this purpose.
- Tunisia contact point suggested to have a regional workshop for the assessment of certification of plant propagation material system gaps in the region and recommendations.
- Support the role of NEPPPO through strengthening information and expertise sharing and networking with the regional experts and plant protection organizations to strengthen the measures to control transboundary pests.
- Cooperation of the region with IPPC and AGP for strengthening the countries capacities in developing contingency planning and emergency response.

## **11. National Reporting Obligations (NROs) workshop**

- [60] A special workshop was organised as a hands-on training on using the IPPC tools for national reporting obligations, particularly pest reporting. Nine different presentations were delivered by IPPC secretary – Mr Qingpo Yang and Ms. Paola Sentinelli – who also has facilitated discussions and the practical sessions. The presentations were organised in such a way to start by presenting the objectives of the NROs workshop followed by the obligations of NPPO to report certain information related to phytosanitary legislations, institutional structure, measures and specific data like pest status and entry points. The presentation also highlighted the related ISPMs and guidelines developed by IPPC secretary.
- [61] The third presentation has introduced the participant to the NRO webpage on IPPC website, the different fields and procedures to login and feeding the data. Also, another two presentations were devoted to present the recent pest reports and the statistics collected and analysed by IPPC secretary as related to NRO. Some of the participants has suggested having more simplified way to access the statistical data and to map the page as to be easily accessed from the home page.

[62] The participant was then grouped and asked to perform practical session to enter new data into the NRO page. They were asked to mimic a scenario of reporting a new pest, to what extent the level of information are required in the database. In addition, using any other reporting field, like reporting new entry points, was promoted to the groups

[63] After the working groups have presented their results. A presentation was performed including the updates on the webpage and simplifications introduced to the online tools. Also a presentation was delivered on the challenges for NROs including the national procedures and regulations. Another presentation was performed as Q&A session on the most common difficulty and enquires of users.

[64] The last part of this session was committed to discuss participant opinions and received their feedback on the system, and challenges at the national level in their respective countries. The recommendations can be summarised in the following:

- Recommendations from Mr. Thaer to provide more user-friendly interface and make data easily accessible.
- Real time notifications on reports through SMS, Mobile App, etc...
- Add a notification to country editors every time a change is introduced in the data
- Develop a movie tutorial about NRO to facilitate the use of the webpage.
- Suggestion from Mr. Mekki to include word version of all standards to facilitate coping text.

### 11.1.Conclusions and Recommendations of the workshop

[65] The following conclusions and recommendations were mentioned by the countries of the region:

Agenda item	Conclusions/Recommendations
IPPC Strategic Framework 2020-2030: what are your regional priorities?	<p>Priorities of Development Agenda programmes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Harmonization of Electronic Data Exchange</li> <li>2. Strengthening Pest Outbreak Alert and Response Systems</li> <li>3. Diagnostic Laboratory Networking</li> <li>4. Commodity &amp; Pathway Specific ISPMs</li> </ol>
The IPPC Online Comment System (OCS)	<p>Mekki (NEPPO) has explained that the system was significantly improved since the last year and became more user-friendly.</p> <p>General comment from Thaer (RNE) that no enough contribution from NENA region on the comment system, so he recommended to dedicate more time and efforts for commenting on the ISPM.</p> <p>The representatives of the NPPOs of NENA countries have concluded the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1- No comment on ISPM#5 suggested text and the new amendments are accepted</li> <li>2- Comment about allowing the use of low reliable resources for pest reporting as per ISPM#8, shall be avoided</li> </ol>

Discussion on draft ISPMs	<p>The representatives of the NPPOs of NENA countries have concluded the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1- Draft ISPM on “modified atmosphere”; technical comment from Iran to add “layer” to the word “ozone”; comment from Egypt to include atmospheric pressure as parameter for monitoring the process of “modified atmosphere”</li> <li>2- Draft ISPM on “authorising entities”; concern from Algeria about the limits of the authorisation; Algeria express concern on the unclear meaning of the word “entities”; Iran suggested to publish lists of all authorised entities as a obligation of national reporting; criteria used to select the authorised entities shall be accessible to clients (trade partners, exporters/importers) as transparency obligation</li> </ol>
<p>Discussion on draft CPM Recommendations sent for consultation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- “Safe provision of food and other aid to prevent the international spread of plant pests” (2018-026)</li> </ul>	<p>Draft ISPM “safe food aid”; discussions on adding mycotoxin producing fungi, but no agreement was reached; wording change to “crop production pest” to use only “pest”; exclude “animal pests” from the column of phytosanitary risks.</p>
FAO Regional phytosanitary capacity development activities	<p>Training on PRA conducted in Egypt, Sudan, and planned in Iraq and Syria. Planning to conduct training on inspection, phytosanitary certificate and surveillance in Iraq and Sudan in October/November.</p> <p>The recommendations were to provide more resources in Arabic language and preferably to conduct the training in the native language of the trainees.</p>
NEPPO activities	<p>Participate in RPPOs regional meetings in Andean region</p> <p>Facilitate the exchange of phytosanitary data between member countries (experts,</p> <p>Assist Tunisia in project “Beyond Compliance” to follow system approach in reducing risk of importing commodities infected by <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i>.</p> <p>Recommendation to improve the engagement of member countries in data exchange and encourage member countries to share their data with NEPPO.</p>
Facilitated discussions on the authorization of entities to perform phytosanitary actions	<p>Concerns about the transparency of criteria for selection of entities and the list of authorised entities</p> <p>Concerns about conflict of interests for the private sector entities</p>
International Year of Plant Health: moving forward	<p>Updates on planned activities worldwide. Updates from the Arab Society for Plant Protection about their contributions in raising awareness to the IYPH.</p> <p>Enquires from NPPOs about using the logo of the IYPH and how to receive authorisation for that.</p> <p>Updates from the RNE about the activities related to IYPH during the NERC meeting, funding master scholarships in plant health</p> <p>Comment from Jordan on the suitability of achieving the goals of IYPH. Comment from Lebanon and Bahrain about some planned activities related to IYPH.</p> <p>Recommendation to select ambassador for the IYPH from the region; good planning for the activities; provide funds and mobilise resources. Plan for sustainability of the activities; produce a short movie and other communication materials to be used during FAO activities; cooperate with the current projects. Launching the IYPH festivities in the region on December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Projection of the IYPH logo on monumental sites of the region (Activity to be coordinated by Mr. Thaer and Mr. Mekki)</p>



Plant Health and Capacity Development	<p>Application of PCE in many countries in NENA and present the usefulness of that tool.</p> <p>Recommendations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Improve the selection process by developing specific ToRs and qualifications</li> <li>2. Ensuring the sustainability of capacity development programmes through knowledge and expertise transfer</li> </ol>
IPPC call for topics: what it is needed?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Diagnostic protocol for <i>Bactrocera zonata</i> (Egypt)</li> <li>- Implementation of system approach on <i>Bactrocera zonata</i> (Egypt)</li> <li>- Review and simplify the implementation of ISPM#31 (Algeria)</li> <li>- Diagnostic protocol of the causal agent of citrus greening (Morocco)</li> <li>- Protocol for early detection, inspection of commodities and eradication of red palm weevil (Sultanate of Oman and Tunisia)</li> </ul>
Demonstration of the Generic ePhyto National System (GeNS)	<p>The concept was clarified and the benefits were explained. The NPPOs have expressed their interests to contribute to the project, particularly from Algeria.</p> <p>Recommendation for use unified code for commodities (example HS code) to facilitate exchanging information with customs.</p> <p>Organize a regional workshop on e-Phyto by IPPC Secretariat, NEPPO and RNE, IT staff must be involved in this workshop in order to clarify the data security concerns.</p>
Region specific issues: Facing the transboundary pests	<p>Importance of having regional collaborated efforts to face transboundary pests.</p> <p>Recommendation from Tunisia to establish trust fund for that programme with set financial contribution from each country.</p> <p>Suggestion from Thaer (RNE) to develop a concept note and share it with NENA countries on establishing a regional programme to face transboundary pests.</p> <p>Participants agreed on the importance of establishing a regional programme on transboundary pests and disease and to share the proposal with the countries for their endorsement and expression of interest for financial contribution to support the programme through a trust fund to be established for this purpose.</p> <p>Workshop for the assessment of certification of plant propagation material system gaps in the region and recommendations.</p> <p>Support the role of NEPPO through strengthening information and expertise sharing and networking with the regional experts and plant protection organizations to strengthen the measures to control transboundary pests.</p> <p>Cooperation of the region with IPPC and AGP for strengthening the countries capacities in developing contingency planning and emergency response.</p>

NRO workshop	<p>Detailed explanation for using the NRO tool on IPPC website. Hands-on training and exercise were particularly useful for countries that have never use the system before.</p> <p>Recommendations from Thaer (RNE) to provide more user-friendly interface and make data easily accessible.</p> <p>Real time notifications on reports through SMS, app, etc...</p> <p>Add a notification to country editors.</p> <p>Develop a movie tutorial about NRO.</p> <p>Suggestion from Mekki (NEPPO) to include word version of all standards to facilitate coping text.</p>
Date and Venue of the Next Meeting	Egypt and alternatively Tunisia. 7-10 September 2020

### 11.2. Proposed date and venue for the IPPC workshop 2018

- Proposed date 7-10 September, 2020
- Proposed venue is Egypt and Tunisia as alternative venue

**Annex 1: Agenda**

**2019 IPPC WORKSHOP FOR THE NEAR EAST AND NORTH AFRICA  
AND  
SPECIAL SESSION ON FACING TRANSBOUNDARY PEST AND DISEASE IN NENA  
REGION**

**2019 THEME: PLANT HEALTH AND CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT**

9:00 – 17:00, 2-6 September 2019

Beirut, Lebanon

**PROVISIONAL Agenda**

Agenda Item			Docu ment No.	Presenter / facilitator
<b>First Day – General Information and Meeting Logistics</b>				
<b>1.</b>	8:00-9:00	<b>Participants registration</b>		
<b>2.</b>	9:00-9:40	<b>Opening of the Meeting</b>		
2.1		Opening statement by FAOR Lebanon		Mr M. Maurice Saade
2.2		Opening statement by MoA of Lebanon		MoA
2.3		Opening statement by IPPC Secretary		Mr Jingyuan Xia
2.4		Welcome remarks by co-organizer – FAO RNE		Mr Thaer Yaseen
2.5		Welcome remarks by co-organizer - NEPPO		Mr Mekki Chouibani
2.6		Objectives of the workshop		Mr Shoki Al-Dobai
<b>3.</b>	9:40-10:40	<b>Implementation of the IPPC Global Project on Capacity Development under the Framework of FAO-China SSC Programme</b>		
3.1		Introduction on the IPPC Global Project on Capacity Development under the Framework of FAO-China SSC		Mr Jingyuan Xia
3.2		Chinese initiative “One Belt and One Road” in relation to plant health		Mr Jingyuan Xia
3.3		FAO-China South-South Cooperation Programme and its Role in Promoting Plant Health		Mr Jingyuan Xia
3.4		Q&A		
	10:40-11:00	<b>Coffee break</b>		
<b>4.</b>	11:00-11:10	<b>Meeting Arrangements</b>		
4.1		Election of the Chairperson		Mr Thaer Yaseen
4.2		Election of the Rapporteur		Mr Thaer Yaseen
4.3		Review of the Agenda		Chairperson
<b>5.</b>	11:10-12:20	<b>Administrative Matters</b>		
5.1		Participants lists		Mr Thaer Yaseen
5.2		Local information		Mr Thaer Yaseen
<b>6.</b>	11:20-13:00	<b>Updates on governance and strategic issues</b>		
6.1	11:20-11:15	Update from CPM-14 (2019)		Mr Shoki Al-Dobai
6.2	11:15-12:00	SC and IC updates		Mr Mekki Chouibani (SC) and Mr Mamoun Al Bakri (IC)
6.3	12:00-12:40	IPPC Strategic Framework 2020-2030: what are your regional priorities?		Mr Shoki Al-Dobai/ Mr Thaer Yaseen
6.4	12:40-13:00	Q&A		
	13:00-14:00	<b>Lunch break</b>		
<b>7.</b>	<b>Section 1: Reinforce the capacity of Contracting Parties to formulate productive comments on draft standards and recommendations</b> <i>This session includes time for discussion, questions and answers on draft standards and recommendations</i>			

Agenda Item			Docu ment No.	Presenter / facilitator
7.1	14:00-14:30	The IPPC Online Comment System (OCS): update		Mr Mekki Chouibani
7.2	14:30-15:30	Review of general and substantive comments on the standards in second consultation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Revision of ISPM 8: Determination of pest status in an area (2009-005)</li> <li>- Requirements for the use of modified atmosphere treatments as a phytosanitary measure (2014-006)</li> <li>- Draft 2018 Amendments to ISPM 5 (1994-001)</li> <li>- Requirements for NPPOs if authorizing entities to perform phytosanitary actions (2014-002)</li> </ul>		IPPC Secretariat/Regional Organizers
	15:30-15:50	<b>Coffee break</b>		
	15:50-17:00	Continued: Discussion on draft ISPMs sent for 2nd consultation (with presentation of the standard and focus on substantive and technical comments gathered prior to the workshop)		IPPC Secretariat/Regional Organizers
<b>Second Day – Continuation of Section 1</b>				
	9:00-10:40	Continued: Discussion on draft ISPMs sent for 2nd consultation (with presentation of the standard and focus on substantive and technical comments gathered prior to the workshop)		IPPC Secretariat/Regional Organizers
	10:40-11:00	<b>Coffee break</b>		
	11:00-13:00	Facilitated discussion on requirements for NPPOs if authorizing entities to perform phytosanitary actions		IPPC Secretariat/ SC member/IC member/ /NEPPO
	13:00-14:00	<b>Lunch break</b>		
7.3	14:00-15:30	Discussion on draft CPM Recommendations sent for consultation (review of general and substantive comments): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- “Safe provision of food and other aid to prevent the international spread of plant pests” (2018-026)</li> </ul>		Mr Thaer Yaseen
	15:30-15:50	<b>Coffee break</b>		
8.	<b>Section 2: Implementing and raising awareness in the framework of FAO</b> <i>This section will consist of presentations followed by discussion and questions from the workshop participants</i>			
8.1	15:50-16:30	FAO phytosanitary capacity development activities		Mr Ahmed Hussein
8.2	16:30-17:00	NEPPO phytosanitary capacity development activities		Mr Mekki Chouibani
<b>Third Day – Section 3</b>				
9.	<b>Section 3: Moving together from ideas to action (Facilitated sessions)</b> <i>This section will consist of presentations followed by discussion and questions from the workshop participants</i>			
9.1	9:00-10:00	International Year of Plant Health: moving forward		IPPC Secretariat/FAO/RPPO /Participants/
9.2	10:00-10:40	Plant Health and Capacity Development		Mr Mamoun Al Bakri
	10:40- 11:00	<b>Coffee break</b>		
9.3	11:00-12:00	IPPC call for topics: what it is needed?		Mr Mamoun Al Bakri/ Mr Mekki Chouibani
9.4	12:00-13:00	Recent developments in ePhyto-the ePhyto Solution		Mr Thaer Yaseen/ Mr Ahmed Hussein
	13:00-14:00	<b>Lunch break</b>		
10.	14:00-15:30	<b>Review and Adoption of the Report on draft standards</b>		
	15:30-15:50	<b>Coffee break</b>		
	15:50-16:30	<b>Continue: Review and Adoption of the Report on draft standards</b>		
<b>Fourth Day</b>				

Agenda Item			Docu ment No.	Presenter / facilitator
11	Section 4: FACING TRANSBOUNDARY PEST AND DISEASE IN NENA REGION			
11.1	9:00-9:45	Multidisciplinary team model by establishing technical network of plant protection excellence for facing transboundary pest and disease in NENA region.		Mr Thaer Yaseen
11.2	9:45-10:30	Improving surveillance, monitoring and early warning systems for transboundary pest and diseases		Mr Tito Caffi, Università Catoloca del Sacro Cuore
	10:30- 10:50	Coffee break		
	10:50-11:45	Appropriate quarantine measures to harmonize regional cooperation and coordinate the regional efforts		TBD
	11:45-12:30	Harmonized regional programms for production of certified plant propagation materials		Ms Anna Maria D'Onghia, CIHEM Bari
	12:30-13:00	Conclusions and discussion		
	13:00-14:00	Lunch break		
	14:00-17:00	National Reporting Obligations workshop (Separate agenda)		
Fifth Day: National Reporting Obligations workshop (Separate agenda)				

## 2019 IPPC National Obligations Workshop For the Near East & North Africa

5 September 2019, 14:00 – 17:00

6 September 2019, 9:00 – 17:00

Beirut Lebanon

### PROVISIONAL Agenda

Updated 2019-07-30

5 September, 2019		
Time	Topics	Presenter
14:00 -14:10	<b>Opening of the session</b> - Opening remarks of the IPPC Secretariat	IPPC Secretariat
14:10-14:20	Introductions (round table of all participants)	
14:20-14:30	Objectives of the workshop	IPPC Secretariat
14:30-15:00	<b>Overview on NROs</b> - Reference of NROs in the Convention - ISPM17 - Public and Bilateral NROs - General and specific NROs rules and procedures	IPPC Secretariat
15:00-15:15	Presentation of the NROs Webpage	IPPC Secretariat
15:15-15:30	- IPPC Contact Points on the IPP (check of data on the IPP by participants of their national contact points)	Participants
15:30-15:40	Presentation of Statistics of NROs reports	IPPC Secretariat
15:40–16:00	<b>Group photo &amp; Coffee break</b>	
16:00-16:15	Presentation of Pest reports	IPPC Secretariat
16:15-17:00	National reports brought by participants (round table of all participants)	Participants
6 September, 2019		
09:00-10:00	Hands-on training: IPP data entry (uploading of national reports by participants)	Participants
10:00-10:30	<b>Latest developments in NROs:</b> NROs Survey, NROs Update, NRO oversight body, e-learning, NROs automatic reminders, NROs educational materials and statistics	Participants
11:30-11:00	<b>Coffee break</b>	
11:00-12:40	Hands-on training: IPP data entry continued (uploading of national reports by participants)	Participants
12:40-13:00	In session inputs to the NROs online survey	
13:00-14:00	<b>Lunch</b>	
14:00-15:30	Presentation of the Challenges about NROs: Obstacles in reporting, established good practices at the national level, experience and problem solution sharing (round table of all participants)	Participants
15:30-15:45	<b>Coffee break</b>	
15:45-16:15	FAQs and guidance on NROs reporting process	IPPC Secretariat
16:15-16:30	Recommendations from 2018 NROs Workshop in Moscow	IPPC Secretariat
16:30-16:40	<b>Wrap-up of the workshop / Date and Venue of the Next Meeting</b>	Chair
16:40-17:00	<b>Online survey of the workshop</b>	All participants
17:00	<b>Close of the Meeting</b>	Chair

**Annex 2: List of Participants****LIST OF PARTICIPANTS****ALGERIA**

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**Annex 3: Photos**



