



# COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

## Fifteenth Session

Rome, 30 March - 3 April 2020

### Report on international cooperation of the IPPC Secretariat

#### Agenda item 15.1

Prepared by the IPPC Secretariat

1. The IPPC Secretariat reviewed and updated the External Cooperation web page on the IPP<sup>1</sup>, highlighting the organizations we are currently cooperating with and describing the areas of mutual interest that it is currently addressing jointly.
2. The following sections provides highlights of the main cooperative activities in 2019 and 2020 with external organizations and regional plant protection organizations.

### I. Section - 1. International Organizations

3. **Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA):** Over the past two years the IPPC Secretariat attended and contributed to the Meetings of Experts on Assistance, Response and Preparedness of the BWC States Parties in August 2019 and provided a presentation on IPPC standards on eradication of pest and surveillance. In addition, the Secretariat attended the side event that focused on the role of relevant international organizations in case of (deliberate) use of pathogens against livestock, agriculture and the environment. The Secretariat also participated in the inter-agency table-top exercises that were held in November 2019 and October 2020 via VTC as an activity with the UNODA project on “Strengthening global mechanisms and capacities for responding to deliberate use of biological agents. In December 2019 the IPPC Secretariat attended the Stakeholder Meeting: Progress on the Draft International Bio-Emergency Framework for Deliberate Events (“BEMF”) and the Meeting of States Parties of Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) in Geneva. BWC parties welcomed the presentations provided by the IPPC Secretariat and asked to organize a side event at the margins of the Meetings of Experts on Assistance, Response and Preparedness in August 2020. However, the session was not organized due to COVID-19 restrictions.

<sup>1</sup> IPP web page on External Cooperation: <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/external-cooperation/>

The IPPC Secretariat continues providing input to the development of the International Bio-emergency Management Framework for Deliberate Events (BEMF). The general purpose of the BEMF is to describe the roles and responsibilities of participating international organizations with mandates that are relevant for a response to a disease outbreak of a deliberate nature. It also aims to describe the existing frameworks and arrangements to enhance cooperation among them, including in the context of a request for assistance.

4. **CABI:** In 2019, CABI organized an inception workshop on the Global Burden of Crop Loss, an initiative to transform evidence-based decision making in plant health, and the IPPC Secretariat is following the developments of this initiative. In 2020, CABI was represented in the FAO/IPPC Fall Armyworm Technical Workshop Group on "Quarantine and Phytosanitary Measures", as well as in the CPM Focus Group on "Strengthening Pest Outbreak Alert and Response Systems".

5. **Codex Alimentarius:** The Codex and IPPC Secretariats have coordinated positions along with OIE with regard to several issues raised by the SPS Committee on specific trade concerns and regionalization (pest free areas). Coordinated comments from the three sisters were submitted to the IMO about the modernization of their FAL Convention to help align it with the WTO-SPS Agreement. The Secretariats continue to cooperate in the fields of communication and information management, by supporting each other's news and social media activities and sharing the management and costs of the Online Commenting System (OCS).

6. **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD):** The IPPC and CBD Secretariats signed a joint work plan for 2019-2020 at the margins of the Consultation Workshop of Biodiversity-Related Conventions on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) held in June 2019. The work plan covered nine major activities related to information exchange, mutual awareness raising activities and actions, promotion of the International Year of Plant Health (IYPH), support to contracting parties in capacity development activities, and provision of input into the development of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. The CBD Secretariat participated in the 14th Session of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM-14) held in April 2019 in Rome. The IPPC Secretariat participated in a meeting of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) on Invasive Alien Species in Montreal, Canada from 2 to 4 December 2019, and in the open online discussion forum that was established by the CBD from May through September 2019 to support the technical deliberations of the expert group. The AHTEG provided advice and developed elements of technical guidance and management measures for invasive alien species to facilitate achieving Aichi Biodiversity Target 9 and beyond. During the AHTEG meeting in Montreal, the IPPC Secretariat also led a side session which provided an introduction to the application of the WTO SPS Agreement and a discussion on the use of the IPPC, Standards and CPM Recommendations to prevent the introduction of those invasive alien species that are harmful to plants. Subsequently, the IPPC Secretariat participated in a series of face-to-face and online consultations, culminating in the Bern II workshop, where both secretariats and parties to the biodiversity-related conventions had the opportunity to provide their input in the development of the Post-2020 GBF. The IPPC Secretariat's contribution was submitted to the CBD Secretariat and shared with the CPM Bureau, and focused on reviewing the new target and indicators on invasive alien species.

7. **Centre International de Hautes Etudes Agronomiques Méditerranéennes (CIHEAM):** CIHEAM is a member of the IYPH International Steering Committee and collaborates with the IPPC Secretariat on a number of initiatives to promote the IYPH, including the IYPH video competition and support to IYPH communication efforts.

8. **Comité de liaison Europe-Afrique-Caraïbes-Pacifique (COLEACP):** As the IPPC Secretariat won a call to deliver a training course to francophone African countries on Pest Risk Analysis and market access, cooperation was enhanced with COLEACP. COLEACP has supported CPM-14 (2019) by providing funds to cover the participation of representatives from 18 developing countries. COLEACP has also translated in-kind eight IPPC guides into French, which were published on the IPPC website. In 2020, COLEACP was represented in the Working Groups to develop e-learning courses on Pest Risk Analysis and Export Certification Systems. In addition to providing in-kind pedagogical

expertise to these groups, COLEACP also provided in-kind IT support to develop these e-learning materials and is planning to also translate them in French. A Memorandum of Understanding is under preparation between the IPPC Secretariat and COLEACP.

9. **ePhyto Industry Advisory Group (IAG):** Comprised of the following members: International Grain Trade Coalition, International Seed Federation, Freshfel, Union Fleurs, Global Express Association, CIOPORA, EuroSeeds, Europatat, Federation of Cocoa Commerce, the National Alfalfa and Forage Association. The IAG has been and continues to be an invaluable partner with the ePhyto Steering Group. A number of consultations and information sessions have been held in the past year, and future plans for 2021 call for a series of workshops in selected countries with the included participation of both government and industry.

10. **European Food Safety Authority (EFSA):** The IPPC Secretariat also gave an update on IYPH and the development of implementation activities in November 2020 during the 5th International Risk Communication Liaison Group (IRCLG) and in December 2020 during the 16th Meeting of the EFSA Network Risk Assessment in Plant Health.

11. **The Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation of the World Economic Forum (the Alliance):** The Global Alliance has been a valuable partner in advocating for and assisting in implementation of the IPPC ePhyto Solution. Following their valuable collaboration with the IPPC Secretariat and UNICC in implementing ePhyto in Morocco, the Alliance, in cooperation with the Secretariat, formed a number of working groups to facilitate the implementation of the IPPC ePhyto Solution in a number of countries including Colombia, Thailand, Madagascar and India. The Alliance is also interested in enhancing the relationship with the IPPC Community beyond ePhyto to engage in other capacity development activities.

12. **International Advisory Group for Pest Risk Analysis (IAGPRA):** The IPPC Guide “Stakeholder Engagement and Pest Risk Communication for Plant Health” was published thanks to contributions from several IAGPRA members.

13. **International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA):** The IPPC Secretariat continued its long-lasting collaboration with IAEA through Joint FAO/IAEA Division of Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture. In 2019, the IAEA hosted the meeting of the Technical Panel on Phytosanitary Treatments (TPPT) that was held from 8 to 12 July 2019 in Vienna, Austria. The work of the IPPC Technical Panel on Phytosanitary Treatments (TPPT) was supported by a recent study carried out by the Joint FAO/IAEA Division of Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture in order to understand how low oxygen influences the efficacy of irradiation treatments in Tephritid fruit flies. The IAEA is continuing to provide one expert to the TPPT. The joint division has also worked closely with the IPPC Secretariat and the IC to develop a short infographic video on how to use the suite of fruit fly standards to gain market access. The video was launched in early 2021.

14. **International Maritime Organization (IMO):** The IPPC Secretary has actively engaged in collaboration with the IMO in 2019, and an IMO representative is on the Sea Container Task Force (SCTF). Details of this collaboration is provided in the separate paper (CPM 2021/27) on the SCTF. The IPPC Secretariat and IMO continue their active collaboration especially in the area updating of CTU inspection programmes to include sea container cleanliness through the participation of the IPPC Secretariat in the Correspondence Group (CG) on revision of the inspection programmes for cargo transport units. Currently, CG opened their last round of technical discussions on the possible inclusion of cleanliness criteria into the IMO CTU inspection programmes. The CCC 7 meeting is expected to discuss the inclusion of ‘contamination’ and make relevant decisions. The IPPC contracting parties are invited to work with their IMO national contact points explain the importance of this work and to help ensure that decision is favourable for the phytosanitary community. In addition, the IPPC Secretariat provided input to the IMO regarding the modernization of their FAL Convention to help align it with WTO SPS Agreement.

15. **International Forest Quarantine Research Group (IFQRG):** The IPPC Secretariat attended both the 2019 and 2020 IFQRG Symposiums, virtually. IFQRG welcomed the IPPC Secretariat's news that the working group tasked with developing an IPPC Guide to support the implementation of ISPM 15 would hold their first virtual meeting in November 2020.
16. **International Olive Council (IOC):** A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between FAO and IOC. Areas of work related to the IPPC Secretariat include the development and implementation of capacity development initiatives and knowledge exchange on plant protection, particularly on *Xylella fastidiosa*.
17. **International Seed Federation (ISF):** The ISF is a member of the IYPH International Steering Committee, and its Secretary-General was invited as a speaker of the launch event of IYPH in December 2019 in Rome. The ISF and IPPC Secretariat have also worked together in the communications field to enhance each other's presence on social media, including on two joint webinars to promote the IYPH in 2020 and early 2021.
18. **Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA):** The Secretariat continued collaborating with IICA for the organization of the 2019 IPPC Regional Workshops in the Caribbean, and has recently engaged with cooperation with a new contact point.
19. **Ozone Secretariat:** The IPPC Secretariat is actively engaged with the Ozone Secretariat on issues related to Methyl Bromide alternatives. The Ozone Secretariat and the Methyl Bromide Technical Options Committee (MBTOC) with the facilitation of the IPPC Secretariat liaises with the Technical Panel on Phytosanitary Treatments (TPPT) on technical issues and with the permission of the Standards Committee, the TPPT provided input on a list of specific phytosanitary treatments that could serve as alternatives for methyl bromide.
20. **Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF):** The STDF is an organization housed in the WTO and composed of the following core members: Codex, FAO, IPPC Secretariat, OIE, WBG, WHO and WTO. The Secretariat participated in all STDF Working Group (WG) meetings, which were held virtually in 2020. In addition, the IPPC Secretariat attended the special June 2019 meeting, aimed at revising the STDF strategy, which was later approved by the Policy Committee. In addition, a new monitoring and evaluation framework for the STDF was revised and approved in 2020. The IPPC Secretariat conducted in depth reviews of several grant applications with a phytosanitary component, providing these comments to the WG, which reviews, approves and prioritizes STDF projects (including project preparation grants). Full details on approved projects and their outcomes can be found on the STDF website. The IPPC Secretariat was audited for their implementation of a STDF project for the development of IPPC Guides and Training Materials, and results of this audit were presented to the WG in March 2019. The audit highlighted the production of a very useful set of guides. However, the awareness by stakeholders and uptake by the phytosanitary community is still lacking. In 2020, the Secretariat was again audited for the STDF project on PCE Facilitators, whose results have not yet been released. The IPPC Secretariat is active in several small STDF groups working on a variety of initiatives including: Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning, electronic certification and public-private partnerships.
21. **The Phytosanitary Measures Research Group (PMRG)<sup>2</sup>:** The PMRG is an independent group of phytosanitary treatment researchers who have created a forum where critical phytosanitary treatment issues can be addressed through discussion and collaborative research. The Technical Panel on Phytosanitary Treatments (TPPT) and IPPC Secretariat liaise with the PMRG to resolve technical issues during the development of phytosanitary treatments, as well as collect additional data on treatments. The IPPC Secretariat supports the PMRG's continuing work to develop guidelines aiding the work of researchers developing and testing the efficacy of phytosanitary treatments. The IPPC

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<sup>2</sup> PMRG webpage: <https://www.ippc.int/en/external-cooperation/organizations-page-in-ipp/phytosanitarymeasuresresearchgroup/>.

Secretariat continued collaborating with the PMRG, which is supporting the work of the TPPT. The IPPC Secretariat participated at the meeting of PMRG held in Cairns, Australia, on 23-27 September 2019. The IPPC Secretariat provided presentations on the IPPC, the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020-2030, IPPC tools for phytosanitary treatments, and the procedures of the TPPT, including the TPPT's specific points to the PMRG as well as supported the discussions on further collaboration between the PMRG and the TPPT.

22. **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP):** The IPPC Secretariat has been participating in the project "Enhancing synergies among biodiversity-related conventions", led by UNEP, over the past three years. The project is designed to support the implementation of biodiversity-related Multilateral Environmental Agencies (MEAs) and contribute to the improvement of Biodiversity Governance. The project consists of five outputs, including contributing to capacity development for the post-2020 GBF; cooperation among public information officers; development of tools related to synergies; data and reporting tool; and national level support. The IPPC Secretariat has been engaged particularly in sharing good practices in the communications field and maximizing awareness raising in the field of environmental protection, while also contributing to participate in the post-2020 discussion and to review the developed tools.

23. **The World Bank/International Finance Corporation:** The IPPC Secretariat and the World Bank have been active in identifying selected countries where the implementation of the IPPC ePhyto Solution could be a component of the broader implementation of a national single windows system. At the present time, this collaboration is taking in Zambia, and investigations are ongoing in Senegal and Cote d'Ivoire.

24. **The World Customs Organization (WCO):** In October 2019, The IPPC Secretariat participated in the Coordinated Border Management (CBM) panel discussion in the meeting of the Permanent Technical Committee (PTC) together with Codex, the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and OIE. The IPPC and WCO Secretariats collaborated for the implementation of the IPPC -WCO joint work plan including areas such as exploring the feasibility of enhancing the use Authorised Economic Operators (AEO) programme with phytosanitary criteria and using WCO Data Model for tracing sea containers cleanliness. A representative of the WCO is on the SCTF. In November 2020 the IPPC and WCO Secretariats held a conference call to discuss WCO-IPPC Secretariat Joint Work Plan, namely regarding the work area 5. "Sea Containers: The goal of the collaboration on sea containers related issues is to implement the Complementary Action Plan for Assessing and Managing the Pest Threats Associated with Sea Containers as endorsed by the CPM 12". The WCO shared information on a proposal made by one of their member states regarding "Cooperation between Customs and agriculture-food agencies", which will go to the 25th meeting of the SAFE Working Group on 14 - 16 April 2020. To help encourage this type of cooperation, IPPC CPs could contact their national custom counterparts with the aim to explore what ongoing activities and experience are available on national level so that a consolidate approach could be proposed to the WCO Secretariat. This information would also be used to raise awareness of the IPPC with the WCO community and help support ways for potential collaboration between the WCO and IPPC communities. It was agreed that there is a need for information on the collection of information for tracking sea containers cleanliness through Customs procedures such as Import Declaration or Cargo reports. The aim of this work is to have workable proposals for the inclusion of new data elements (additional data fields) in the WCO Data Model. Finally, the IPPC Secretariat will attend the 5th WCO Global Authorised Economic Operators (AEO) conference which will be held (virtually) on 25-27 May 2021 in order to explore the possibility of using AEOs for phytosanitary purposes. The IPPC Secretariat is also collaborating with WCO regarding e-Commerce and representatives of each organization will participate in relevant meetings when possible. The WCO is the lead international organization for e-Commerce and two representatives of the WCO joined the IPPC informal network on e-Commerce in 2020.

25. **The World Trade Organization (WTO):** The IPPC Secretariat presented updates at all WTO-SPS Committee meetings held in 2019 and 2020. During the fifth review of the SPS agreement, some

members expressed a desire to have the "three sisters" more involved in resolving specific trade concerns and in the work on regionalization (Pest Free Areas), however the three sisters, in a consolidated position agreed that this was outside their remit. The Secretariat also provided training at the SPS advance training course in November 2019. The SPS Secretariat gave a virtual presentation at the IPPC Symposium on PFA and Surveillance on PFAs (2019) from a WTO-SPS standpoint. In addition, the IPPC Secretariat participated in the virtual SPS Committee Thematic Session on Voluntary Third-Party Assurance as part of national SPS control systems in November 2020, and presented on Requirements for NPPOs if authorizing entities to perform phytosanitary actions: Current Status in the Standard-setting Process and the IRSS report on the Authorizing entities to perform phytosanitary actions. In addition, in 2020 the IPPC Secretariat provided technical input into a WTO dispute.

## II. Section - 2. Research and Academia

26. **Imperial College London (ICL):** ICL is providing technical support to the IPPC Secretariat for the implementation of the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) funded global project entitled Rolling out a Systems Approach Globally- sharing tools for enhanced application of systems approach and market negotiation on plant pest risk (MTF/INT/336/STF). The project has completed the initial training of 13 candidates for facilitation of the Beyond Compliance Tools in June 2019. Before being validated as Facilitators, each candidate also is evaluated on work on a specific trade case submitted under the project. Once validated, Facilitators may be called upon by other countries in their region or language group to support application of the Beyond Compliance tools for Systems Approach. Together with the IPPC Secretariat, the options to move these tools on line were discussed with the United Nations International Computing Centre. This project work with ICL will end in June 2021.

27. The IPPC Secretariat has also increased its liaison activities with research and academia, in line with the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020-2030, particularly with the following organizations: Euphresco (joint commentary on phytosanitary research coordination and other joint activities, which led to the IPPC Secretariat's joining the Euphresco board as advisor); University of Turin (providing a remarkable contribution to the IYPH, including organizing various activities targeting students, providing the draft for the IYPH activity book and the lead author for the global study on the impacts of plant health); University of Cyprus, CIHEAM and University of Florence (for the 16th Congress of the Mediterranean Phytopathological Union and for the organization of presentations on the IPPC and IYPH); CABI, University of York, and University of Oxford (for the study on the Global Burden of Crop Loss); the Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degree in Plant Health (for their support to the IYPH and a presentation made by the IPPC Secretary); contacts were also established with the Entomological Society of America, the International Association for the Plant Protection Sciences, the International Society for Plant Pathology and La Sapienza University of Rome.

## III. Section - 3. Regional Plant Protection Organizations

28. The following **Regional Plant Protection Organizations** were instrumental in the organization of IPPC Regional Workshops: APPPC, CAHFSA, CAN, COSAVE, EPPO, IAPSC, NEPPO, OIRSA and PPPO.

29. Details of the outcomes of the Technical Cooperation among regional plant protection organizations (TC-RPPO) are provided in the paper CPM 2021/10.

30. All RPPOs contributed to the implementation of the IYPH 2020.

31. **NAPPO - The North American Plant Protection Organization** along with the USA, hosted the SCTF meeting in Baltimore in September 2019.

32. **NEPPO –The Near East Plant Protection Organization** has provided the Language Review Group coordinator for the review of Arabic standards. The NEPPO representative, certified as a PCE

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facilitator, provided an in kind contribution to facilitate the PCE in Tunisia, which has been completed.

33. The CPM is invited to:

- 1) *note* the Report on international cooperation of the IPPC Secretariat in 2019 and 2020.