



COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

Fifteenth Session

Virtual Meeting, 16, 18 March and 1 April 2021

Report from the IPPC Secretariat

Agenda item 7

Prepared by the IPPC Secretariat

This paper focuses on activities carried out by the IPPC Secretariat in 2020. Activities carried out in 2019 are presented in the 2019 annual report of the IPPC Secretariat.¹

1. The year 2020 was challenging for the whole world. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic did not spare planned activities of the IPPC Secretariat and the IPPC community and the IPPC Secretariat responded by moving all meetings from March on to a virtual format. CPM-15 was postponed to 2021 and will take place virtually for the first time in the IPPC history. 2020 also marked the International Year of Plant Health (IYPH) and thanks to strong support from all relevant stakeholders, the IPPC Secretariat managed to deliver its services in the highest professional manner and serve its stakeholders globally, regionally and nationally. Despite the challenges, the IPPC Secretariat managed to make important progress in many areas of work. This report includes details on ten achievements by the IPPC Secretariat in 2020.

2. **CPM and Subsidiary Bodies.** The pandemic had major effects on several meetings organized by the IPPC Secretariat. CPM-15 was postponed to 2021, but the IPPC Secretariat successfully facilitated ten meetings of the CPM Bureau, two meetings of the IPPC Financial Committee, four meetings of the Standards Committee (SC), nine meetings and three training sessions for the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC) meetings and two sessions of Strategic Planning Group, all by virtual means. The IPPC strategic framework and its development agendas for 2020-2030 have been successfully integrated in the IPPC Secretariat Work Plan and Budget for 2021.

3. **Standard setting.** In addition to the SC meetings mentioned above, the IPPC Secretariat organized a webinar on 20 October 2020 to raise awareness on the concept of authorization of entities and address some concerns with regards to the draft standard on the “Requirements for NPPOs if

¹ Ref. 2019 IPPC Annual Report: <http://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/ca9193en>

authorizing entities to perform phytosanitary actions (2014-002)” which is being presented to the CPM for adoption. The SC used the Online Comment System (OSC) to review and approve for consultation: three draft standards, namely Amendments to ISPM 5 (2020), focused revision of ISPM 12 (“re-export”), Audits in the phytosanitary context, and Commodity-based standards for phytosanitary measures. Additionally, the SC approved three specifications, including the specification for the Technical Panel on Commodity Standards (TPCS) (2019-009), in which marks a milestone for the implementation of the new IPPC Strategic Framework 2020-2030. The work of the Technical Panel on Phytosanitary Treatments (TPPT), Technical Panel on Diagnostic Protocols (TPDP) and the Technical Panel for the Glossary (TPG) progressed virtually throughout the year, and one expert working group (EWG) met to revise the ISPM 4 (*Requirements for the establishment of pest free areas*). Further details can be found in the SC report to CPM 2021/17.

4. **Implementation and Capacity Development (ICD).** In addition to the IC meetings mentioned above the IC Sub-groups on Sea Container Task Force and Implementation, Review and Support System were also organized as well as several working groups to develop technical resources. Guides and training materials were developed and published and information on the ICD pages of the IPP were maintained. Several phytosanitary capacity development projects were managed. Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluations (PCE) were conducted virtually in the Bahamas, Dominica, Sri Lanka, St. Lucia, and Trinidad and Tobago. Further details can be found in the IC report to CPM 2021/26 and the Sea Containers CPM 2021/27.

5. **IPPC Networks.** Seven IPPC Regional Workshops , as well as two National Reporting Obligations (NRO) workshops were organized in both 2019 and 2020, full details are provided in Annex 1... Meetings of the TC-RPPO also took place, regular updates were held during the start of the pandemic, followed by more formal meetings.

6. **ePhyto solution.** A total of 94 countries are registered to the IPPC ePhyto Solution (they were only 77 in December 2019), out of which 48 countries are now exchanging ePhytos as a regular business activity (they were only 12 in December 2019). An additional 46 countries in the testing phase, and Argentina, Chile, Sri Lanka and the USA are now exchanging completely paperless certificates. On average, 46 000 ePhytos per month were exchanged in 2020, compared to 14 000 in 2019.

7. **The International Year Plant Health (IYPH) in 2020.** The IYPH 2020 was officially launched by the FAO Director-General QU Dongyu on Monday 2 December 2019 at FAO headquarters. Following the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, FAO with input from the IYPH International Steering Committee agreed to postpone some of the IYPH key global events into 2021. These include the first International Plant Health Conference (scheduled on 28 June to 1 July 2021), and the IYPH closing ceremony (now scheduled for 1 July 2021). As of December 2020, the IYPH International Steering Committee² met 13 times either face-to-face or virtually to advance the implementation of the IYPH action plan with the support of the IYPH Secretariat, with more meetings scheduled in 2021. A separate report is presented to CPM-15 on IYPH.

8. **Communications and advocacy.** The IPPC Secretariat’s visibility and impact were enhanced with the production of 100 IPPC publications, the posting of 112 IPPC news items, 92 announcements, and a number of videos and social media contents. The migration of the IPP to a new cloud-based server was also completed. A separate report is presented to CPM-15 on IPPC communications and advocacy (CPM 2021/20).

9. **International cooperation.** External cooperation was entertained with 41 international and regional organizations. Full details can be found in the paper "Update on international cooperation" (CPM 2021/28)

² Ref. IYPH ISC page: <https://www.ippc.int/en/ph/iyphisc/>

10. **Resource mobilization.** Despite the pandemic, donors were still able to contribute to the IPPC Multi-Donor Trust Fund (MDTF), in 2020 approximately USD 700 000 was received). Three IPPC projects were funded by the European Union and one by the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF), respectively. Projects funded by China and Japan were also successfully implemented. The IPPC Secretariat also implemented the phytosanitary component of a FAO project: Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) trade facilitation programme.

11. **Internal management.** In view of the change of FAO leadership in 2020 and its commitment for improvement at all levels, the IPPC Secretary established a Task Force for improvement of the IPPC Secretariat with its first task was to launch a survey among Secretariat staff to assess underlying challenges, opportunities and potential solutions. The IPPC Secretariat Management Team was expanded to also include additional Deputy to Team leads.

12. In August 2020, Mr Jingyuan Xia, IPPC Secretary, was promoted to the position of Director of the FAO Plant Production and Protection Division (NSP). Mr Xia remained Officer-in-Charge of the IPPC Secretariat, while Mr Avetik Nersisyan, Senior Standard Setting Officer, became Officer-in-Charge for daily matters until the new Secretary is selected.

13. The year 2020, despite all the challenges, was a successful one for the IPPC Secretariat and IPPC community. It marked the historic International Year of Plant Health (IYPH), while ensuring that standard setting and implementation activities continued in the best possible manner. The year 2021 is also expected to bear various challenges in the implementation of the Convention, which can be overcome with the IPPC community's continued support and dedication to the IPPC mission.

14. The IPPC Secretariat acknowledges with deep appreciation members of the CPM Bureau and subsidiary bodies, as well as SPG participants for their valuable guidance and oversight; all contracting parties (NPPOs) and the regional plant protection organizations (RPPOs) for their strong support and positive contribution; and all partners and collaborators for their close cooperation.

15. The CPM is invited to:

- 1) *note* the report presented by the IPPC Secretariat.

Annex 1

2019 IPPC Regional Workshops

1. Seven IPPC Regional Workshops (RW) were coordinated in 2019 in Africa, Asia, Caribbean, Europe & Central Asia, Latin America, Near East and North Africa and the Pacific. Two hundred and thirty two (232) participants from 128 countries attended these workshops, as well as nine RPPOs, FAO regional/sub-regional officers and members of the Implementation and Capacity Development and Standards Committees. A summary of information for IPPC Regional Workshops for 2019 are provided in Table 1 below. Workshop presentations are posted on the IPP³.
2. Following Guidelines⁴ Organizing Committees were established in each region to coordinate activities and make decisions. In June 2019, the Bureau discussed the contribution of other organizations and how this should be reflected in the title. As the IPPC Secretariat is hosted by FAO, it was not deemed relevant to include FAO in the title. Furthermore, any institution providing support would be given appropriate recognition by including their logo on the cover page of the report and thanked in the report.
3. During the SC and IC meetings, the importance of the attendance of members from these two committees in the IPPC Regional Workshops was emphasized. Both the SC and the IC agreed that their representatives attending each IPPC Regional Workshop should liaise prior to the workshop to help ensure better coordination. In addition, the Stewards for draft ISPMs should collaborate with designated IC members on the development of the presentations in order to include questions/topics for the discussion on potential implementation issues.
4. Special seminars on Banana fusarium wilt (TR4) were held in conjunction with these workshops in Africa, the Caribbean and Latin America.
5. In 2019, a total of 1688 comments were received on the four draft ISPMs sent for second consultation and on the CPM recommendation sent for first consultation. A total of 83 users (NPPOs and RPPOs) logged into the OCS to submit their comments.

2020 IPPC Regional Workshops

6. Due to COVID-19 global crisis, the 2020 IPPC RW⁵ were held virtually between August and September under the banner of the International Year of Plant Health (IYPH). The seven RWs (Africa, Asia, Caribbean, Europe and Centrale Asia, Near East and North Africa, Latin America, Southwest Pacific) were rolled out smoothly. Three hundred and seventy (370) participants (+ 59% compared to 2019) from 151 contracting parties (+ 18% compared to 2019). A summary of information for IPPC Regional Workshops for 2019 are provided in Table 2 below.
7. The regional organizing committees, the IPPC Secretariat and partners worked closely together to adapt to the challenges posed by virtual workshops and to achieve the intended goals. In fact, compared to face-to-face workshops, it was necessary to deal with the variable quality of internet connections, the different time zones and the short duration of the virtual sessions. However, due to the lower costs of organization and travel restrictions, the number of participants who attend the IPPC RW virtually was higher.
8. For this year 2020, four draft standards were presented for review by the participants during the workshops. These included: Audit in the phytosanitary context (2015-014); Focused revision of ISPM

³ Presentations of the 2019 IPPC Regional Workshops <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/capacity-development/regional-ippc-workshops/2019-ippc-regional-workshops/>

⁴ Guidelines for IPPC Regional Workshops: <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/87113/>

⁵ 2020 IPPC Regional workshops: <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/capacity-development/regional-ippc-workshops/2020-ippc-regional-workshop/>

12 in relation to re-export (2015-011); Draft 2020 Amendments to ISPM 5 (Glossary on phytosanitary terms) (1994-001); and Commodity-based standards for phytosanitary measures (2019-008) as well as the CPM recommendation on Safe provision of food and other to prevent the introduction of plant pests during an emergency situation (2018-026).

9. During these workshops, other topics were discussed such such as IPPC Pest Free Areas Guide (as an example on how to support the implementation of the Convention and ISPMs), the National Reporting Obligations, the preparation for the 2021 Call for Topics, the electronic phytosanitary certification (ePhyto) as well as topics of interest to the regions.

10. Furthermore, special virtual workshops on National Reporting Obligations (NROs) were held in conjunction with these workshops in Africa and Caribbean.

11. Following each workshop, news and reports⁶ were posted on the IPP.

⁶ 2019 IPPC Regional Workshops reports available at: <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/capacity-development/regional-ippc-workshops/>

Table 1 summarizing the dates, venues, and indicates the lead SC and IC members, the number of participants and number of countries and the co-organizers for the 2019 IPPC Regional Workshops.

Region	Dates and venue	Lead SC member	Lead IC member	Number of participants from number of countries	Co-organizers
Africa	Kenya, 2-6 September 2019	David KAMANGIRA (Alphonsine LOUHOUARI TOKOZABA)	Faith NDUNGE (Philip NJOROGE)	32 participants from 27 countries	IAPSC, FAO RAF, FAO SFS, NPPO of Kenya (KEPHIS)
Asia	Republic of Korea, 2-6 September 2019	Masahiro SAI (Joanne WILSON)	Christopher DALE (Dilli SHARMA)	37 participants from 20 countries	APPPC (FAO RAP), NPPO of Republic of Korea
Caribbean	Antigua and Barbuda, 9-11 September 2019	Ezequiel FERRO	Magda GONZALES	23 participants from 12 countries	CAHFSA, FAO SLC, FAO AGP, IICA, NPPO of Trinidad and Tobago
Europe & Central Asia (ECA)	Republic of Moldova, 2-6 September 2019	Laurence BOUHOT-DELDUC	Olga LAVRENTJEVA	42 participants from 17 countries	FAO REU, EPPO, NPPO of Moldova
Latin America	Medellin, Colombia, 3-6 September 2019	Ezequiel FERRO (Alvaro SEPULVEDA)	Francisco GUTIERREZ	35 participants from 18 countries	CAN, COSAVE, OIRSA, IICA, NPPO of Colombia (ICA)
Near East & North Africa	Beirut, Lebanon, 2-6 September 2019	Abdulqader Khudhair ABBAS	Mamoun AL BAKRI	35 participants from 16 countries	NEPPO, FAO RNE (Funding IPPC China Project), NPPO of Lebanon

Region	Dates and venue	Lead SC member	Lead IC member	Number of participants from number of countries	Co-organizers
Pacific	Nadi, Fiji, 26-28 August 2019	Sophie PETERSON	Ngatoko NGATOKO (Sally JENNINGS)	28 participants from 18 countries	PPPO, SPC, NPPO of Fiji

Table 2 summarizing the dates and indicates the lead SC and IC members, the number of participants and number of countries and the co-organizers for the 2020 IPPC Regional Workshops.

Region	Dates and venue	Lead SC member	Lead IC member	Number of participants from number of countries	Co-organizers
Africa	8 -10 September 2020	David KAMANGIRA (Alphonsine LOUHOARI TOKOZABA)	Faith NDUNGE	60 participants from 47 countries	IAPSC, FAO RAF, FAO SFS,
Asia	7-10 September 2020	Masahiro SAI (Joanne WILSON)	Christopher DALE (Dilli SHARMA)	60 participants from 18 countries	APPPC (FAO RAP)
Caribbean	1-3 September 2020	Hernando MORERA	Francisco GUTIERREZ	55 participants from 17 countries	CAHFSA, FAO SLC, FAO AGP, IICA
Europe & Central Asia (ECA)	31 August and 1 September 2020	Laurence BOUHOT-DELDUC	Olga LAVRENTJEVA	39 participants from 16 countries	FAO REU, EPPO
Latin America	2-3 September 2020	Ezequiel FERRO (Alvaro SEPULVEDA, André PERALTA)	Magda GONZALES	66 participants from 20 countries	CAN, COSAVE, OIRSA, IICA, NPPO of Mexico (SENASICA)
Near East & North Africa	7,8, 14 and 15 September 2020	Nicholas EID Nader ELBADRY	Mamoun AL BAKRI (Ahmed ABDELMOTTALEB)	53 participants from 15 countries	NEPPO, FAO RNE
Pacific	21, 25, 26, 27 & 28 August 2020	Sophie PETERSON	Chris DALE	37 participants from 18 countries	PPPO, SPC, FAO-SAP