



联合国  
粮食及  
农业组织

Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

Organisation des Nations  
Unies pour l'alimentation  
et l'agriculture

Продовольственная и  
сельскохозяйственная организация  
Объединенных Наций

Organización de las  
Naciones Unidas para la  
Alimentación y la Agricultura

منظمة  
الأغذية والزراعة  
للأمم المتحدة

# COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

## **Fifteenth Session**

**Virtual Meeting, 16, 18 March and 1 April 2021**

**Report from Implementation and Capacity Development Committee -  
Speech by the Chairperson of the Capacity Development Committee**

**Agenda items 11.1**

**Prepared by Dominique Pelletier, IC Chairperson**

Dear Mr. Chair, IPPC Secretariat, CPM members & observers,

It has been repeated many times already, but these are no ordinary times! The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted the way we live, how we interact with each other, and the way that we conduct our day to day work activities. The Implementation & Capacity Development Committee is not immune to this: the 2020 May & November meetings could not take place in person this year, & the IC decided to instead resort to punctual virtual meetings to work on specific items of its work programme.

This means that the IC met once every month, to sometimes once every week, to deliver its program. While we made sure to rotate the meeting schedule to share the load, we nevertheless had to wake up in the wee hours of the morning to participate to those meetings. In my home organization, we started to call this “experiencing the joy of jet-lag in the comfort of your own house”... By this, I want to underscore the dedication of my fellow team members which, like myself, had to wear many hats during this pandemic: the worker’s hat, but also the parent, the IT specialist, the school teacher, & sometimes the psychologist’s hats. I would like to salute the dedication of the IC & thank them personally for showing up at meetings in spite of the multiple constraints they were facing.

I would now like to speak to the work of the IC over the past two years & would like to refer you to CPM paper 26 for the details.

In the past 2 years, the IC held 2 face-to-face meetings, in May & November 2019, & resorted to several Virtual Meetings in 2020 and 2021. We are at 11 meetings to date. The purpose of the meetings ranged from workplanning to more focused meetings about the work of the IC sub-groups & teams. Again, you can find information about the specific topics that were discussed during those meetings in paper 26.///

I would first like to turn your attention to the work related to the **Global plant health surveillance programme**.

As a result of the pilot evaluation conducted in 2018, the CPM made a recommendation on the development of future initiatives related to the implementation of surveillance activities. The IC & SC then worked together & developed an international implementation project for surveillance, which was presented to the Bureau and SPG. The following activities were agreed to by the Bureau & noted by the SPG & form the work plan for the global plant health surveillance programme. Activities under this programme include: 1) the Revision of the Plant Pest Surveillance Guide, 2) the Development of a Surveillance component page on the IPP, 3) The establishment of a global plant health surveillance projects register, and 4) The delivery of an International Pest Free Area & Surveillance Symposium which was completed in 2019 in Japan.

In addition, the IC & SC were invited by the Bureau to jointly facilitate, with the support from the Australian NPPO, the development & delivery of an online e-learning surveillance training course, as well as the establishment of a global plant health surveillance experts registry.

The work of the **Sea containers task force** is still progressing, although COVID restrictions prevented many activities to take place. For that reason the Bureau agreed to extend the mandate of the SCTF for another year, in order to allow for the completion of key activities and the development of recommendations for the next CPM. The IC just approved the 2021 work plan of the SCTF and I will not delve into the details, as a specific agenda item is dedicated to the work of the SCTF during this CPM.///

Now let's talk about **e-Commerce**. As you may recall, the management of e-Commerce has been identified as one of the 8 development agenda items in the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020–2030. The IPPC Secretariat's work plan for e-commerce, which is established for 3 years, was approved by the IC during their November 2019 meeting. The activities of the work plan, include:

- The successful establishment of an informal network of e-Commerce experts, by the creation of a discussion forum which was launched in February 2020. In addition, the WCO, the CBD, the Universal Postal Union, STDF, Codex & the OIE have all nominated representatives to participate in the network, as well as NPPOs, RPPOs & some industry stakeholders.
- Another deliverable is to increase the collaboration with other key international organizations. To that effect, the IPPC & WCO signed a joint work plan in March 2019, which includes a strong cooperation on e-Commerce. Other activities for that specific deliverable are listed in the IC report.
- Another deliverable under e-Commerce is the gathering & sharing of existing resources with the IPPC community. To that effect, a webpage on e-Commerce was created on the IPP in early 2020, & a call for resources was issued shortly thereafter. Those resources will be posted to the IPP upon review by the IC.
- Finally, the development of a new IPPC Guide on e-Commerce was initiated, with the NPPO & RPPO consultation on the outline of the guide taking place last year, which was followed by a call for experts shortly after.

So good progress on the e-commerce front. ///

I would now like to speak to the work done under the **National reporting obligations** Programme, which is currently under the direction of an IC Team.

NRO UPDATES continued to be posted in the past 2 years, along with regular automatic reminders which were sent out to Contracting parties.

An NRO Survey was launched to gather suggestions on how to improve the functionality & effectiveness of the Programme, & the results of the survey submitted to the IC in 2019.

One training workshop was held in the Near East & North African region in 2019, & two workshops took place in 2020 for the Caribbean & African regions.

The IPPC family continues to expand, with 184 Contracting Parties. That keeps the IPPC Secretariat busy, by providing assistance to all IPPC contact points who need it, notably to facilitate reporting through the IPP.

Finally, an NRO e-learning course was finalized & made available on the IPP in 2020. ///

Moving on to the **Dispute & avoidance settlement programme**. This programme is under the responsibility of an IC Sub-Group & has been on hold for 2020.

Indeed, A paper documenting how disputes have been handled by the CPM & the Secretariat in the past, have been presented to the SPG in 2019. The SPG then recommended that the work be put on hold until the Secretariat & the FAO Legal Office revise & clarify the procedures. This activity will depend on funding availability. ///

I would now like to report on the work conducted under the **Implementation Review and Support System or IRSS**. As you may know, the IRSS was established to monitor the implementation of the IPPC and its standards & to provide support where needed. It is led by another IC Sub-group. The EU provided funding

for three project cycles, which will end in January 2021. Because of the impact of the pandemic on a number of activities, an extension of the funding has, however, been requested.

One important achievement under IRRS was the adoption, in 2019, of a procedure for the submission of Topic Proposals which will help guide the submission of topics in a more uniform way.

Also under IRSS, 1) we reviewed the implementation proposals that were submitted during the call for topics in 2019, 2) we provided support to the SCTF on the design of surveys, and 3) we completed an evaluation of the Pilot on Pest Surveillance.

Another important achievement for IRSS in 2020 was the presentation of a desk study on NPPOs that are resorting to third-party authorization to deliver some of their activities. The study was presented during the webinar on authorization in October 2020.

The IRSS Sub-Group is also making progress on analyzing the two previous IPPC general surveys, which should be completed very soon & should indicate if there are trends between the two surveys & inform the development of the third General Survey.

We are also reviewing the results of the survey on the implementation of pest free areas, which should provide a baseline to evaluate the impact of the newly published guide on pest free areas, and the impact of the related International Symposium on Surveillance and pest free areas that was held in Japan in 2019.

A number of topics are also pending in the IRSS queue, and I again invite you to refer to paper 26 for more details. So this concludes the report on IRSS.///

The IC dedicated 3 of its virtual meetings last year to review and adjust the list of implementation and capacity development, or ICD, topics, as requested by CPM-14. The matter will be further discussed during the next point on the agenda so I will not elaborate on this at the moment.///

Now let's review the work on the development of **Guides and Training Material**. This work is under the coordination of the Secretariat, with input from an IC Team.

In the past 2 years, the following guides & training material were made available: 1) the guide on Pest Free Areas, 2) the guide on Pest Risk Communication, 3) as well as a video on fruit fly standards.

The work doesn't stop here, and more guides are currently under development: 1) the guide on Pest Status, 2) the guide on Pest Surveillance which is being revised to align with ISPM 6, 3) the development of a Guide to support the implementation of ISPM 15 which was initiated, and 4) a draft Outline for the guide on e-Commerce that was developed and underwent consultation last year.

The IC and Secretariat are trying to disseminate this training material as widely as possible and we crucially depend on in-kind contributions from many organizations, in particular when it comes to translating them. I would like to extend my gratitude to both the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), and the Comité de Liaison Europe-Afrique-Caraïbes-Pacifique (COLEACP) for their translation of guides in Spanish and French respectively.

Speaking of disseminating the guides, the IC is also in the process of piloting the use of implementation plans for guides, to ensure a maximum impact and awareness raising in the IPPC community and beyond.///

Along the same vein, an IC Team is overseeing the publication of contributed resources on the IPP, and has revised criteria that allow for their publication.

The IC also discussed the structure of a Phytosanitary System page, which presents relevant ICD technical material for each component of a phytosanitary system. 8 component pages were developed last year and more is scheduled to be released in 2021.///

In addition to overseeing IPPC projects, the IC is also considering ICD projects led by other entities and international organizations. This initiative helps promoting global best practices, maximize investment in research and development, help build synergies, minimize duplication among other things. The projects are regrouped in a central repository managed by an IC Team and the link can be found in paper 26.///

On the **Monitoring and Evaluation** front or **M&E**, a draft M&E Framework for the IPPC Community has been developed to help monitor the implementation of the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020-2030, thanks in part to the IRSS project. The Framework is pending the adoption of the strategic framework and the finalization of the implementation plans for the items of the development agenda. A Theory of Change was developed to monitor the contributions of the IPPC Community towards the implementation of the IPPC, as well as an M&E Matrix to register the contribution of the Secretariat which, in turn, will inform some of the work to be done under IRSS. ///

One last area of work I would like to report on, is the **Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation** or PCE. The IC reviewed and approved a PCE Strategy for 2020-2030 & the Secretariat set up a dedicated IPP webpage to provide information on that tool. In the past 2 years, PCEs were completed in Nicaragua, and were initiated in Sri Lanka, Sierra Leone, the Bahamas, Dominica, St Lucia, & Trinidad and Tobago. Those PCEs are currently being conducted virtually, given the sanitary restrictions that are in place.

Belarus, Cambodia and Nepal are also embarking on the PCE train, and arrangements are being made accordingly.///

In closing, would like to thank the first group of IC members who have left the committee at the conclusion of their first term: Sally, Yuji, Mamoun, Philip, Ngatoko, & Dili: the IC thanks you all for your work & we will miss your presence. I also thank you for accepting to extend your term by a few months, & to allow for a smooth transition with the new members. By the same token, I would like to welcome our new members: Kyu-Ock, Lalith, Ruth, Thorwald, Ahmed, & Nilesh. I am confident that the IC has an excellent wealth of expertise that will allow for the continuation of our work. I am also grateful that a good number of members decided to continue on with the IC, which will help with our collective memory & expertise.

I am also grateful to have Mr. Christopher Dale as a Vice-Chairperson. Chris has experience with the IC as well as experience in the field, and I believe we are forming a nice team!

The end of the first term also marked the end of the chairmanship of Olga Lavrentjeva whom I would like to personally thank for her dedication during the past three years. Olga: as you recall, the IC inherited the work of five different IPPC bodies at its inception, & we spent a good proportion of our time working to understand most of it, to make sense of it, in order to be able to prioritize all the different topics, merge those that could be merged, etc. The IC is in a much better place today & that's, in great part, thanks to you & your leadership.

Finally, a big & heartfelt thank you, on behalf of the IC and myself, to the Secretariat &, in particular, to the Implementation & Facilitation Unit led by Mr. Brent Larson. We appreciate the dedication & the coordination work to ensure that all the pieces fit together. The work that you do is often underappreciated & we, the IC, do have our moments of exasperation, but we all aim at the same goals & should continue to work as a team together. I am looking forward to continuing to work with you, IFU, in the coming months and years.

Mr. chair: this concludes my overview of the activities of the IC over the past two years. I would like to thank you for your attention. Over to you!