**IC PCE TEAM MINUTE**

**Brainstorming Session on way forward after reviewing the Ex-post evaluation of the STDF project ‘Training of Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation facilitators’ (STDF/PG/401)**

**April 23, 2021**

The Session was attended by:

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1. A meeting was called upon by the IPPC Secretariat to brainstorm on concrete activities to be undertaken to improve the PCE tool. The STDF ex-post evaluation of project 401 “Developing a network of PCE facilitators” performed by Ms Lois Ransom provided interesting proposals. The IPPC Secretariat made savings in 2020 on travels due to the pandemics. The IPPC Secretariat proposed activities to use these savings in 2021. The Implementation Facilitation Unit proposed that 110.000 USD be used to improve the PCE Tool. This session was therefore organized to gather ideas on activities to be implemented with these funds.

The activities proposed were the following:

1. Improve/Modernize the IT PCE tool

The IC PCE Teams members reported having constantly encountered IT issues and limitations when facilitating a PCE. This IT modernization should improve IT functionalities and user friendliness.

Business user requirements should be developed using the example of the United Nations International Computing Center (UNICC). The first step would be to understand the target audience’s need through the performance of interviews with PCE Facilitators and County Coordinators. Costing to (a) build the tool and (b) do the translations into other FAO languages would then be undertaken.

1. Revise the technical content of the modules and methodological tools

This activity will include revising the existing PCE modules to consider whether they are aligned with the current reality and if modules can be modified taking into consideration emerging business operations or issues such as:

* e-commerce
* e-phyto
* value chain developments
* sea containers and pest status.

This activity would also consider if other modules should be added, such as an explanatory module on strategic framework and strategic planning, or on pest outbreaks. The use of other methodological tools is also to be considered.

This would necessitate a call for experts with PCE experience including from various regions, including Asia and the Pacific if possible. Subject matter specialists could also provide targeted expertise in areas of e-commerce, business plan, value chain, single window and methyl bromide.

1. Seek donor support
2. The STDF Ex-post evaluation of project 401 “Developing a network of PCE facilitators”, indicated a lack of donors’ knowledge in the application and benefits of the PCE when considering funding of projects. The meeting decided that the resulting actions should be:
3. Develop an awareness raising package for donors to include a webinar with video content from countries who completed the PCE.
4. Information to share will include:

- what is the value of the PCE to countries

- how it can be incorporated in donor workplan

1. Follow up activities
2. If the Bureau would be agreeing to the provision of 110.000 USD to improve the PCE tool, the next steps would be:
3. To draft Terms of Reference for experts to take part in the group described above for the revision of the PCE, to be agreed upon during the June IC virtual meeting.
4. Aggregate example to advocate the need to have PCE facilitators involved in implementing PCEs:
	1. Getting countries to state the benefits they derived from having a PCE facilitator.
	2. Having PCE facilitators clearly indicate how their participation benefited the process.