



REPORT

Implementation and Capacity Development Meeting (Virtual Meeting N°14)

**Rome, Italy
May 2021**

IPPC Secretariat

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REPORT IC VIRTUAL MEETING NO. 19 MAY 2021

1. Opening of the Meeting

- [1] The IPPC Secretariat ("The Secretariat") and the Chairperson, Dominique PELLETIER, welcomed all participants to the fourteenth virtual meeting of the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC VM14).

2. Meeting Arrangements

2.1. Election of the Rapporteur

- [2] Ahmed ABDELMOTTALEB (Egypt) was elected as the Rapporteur to the meeting.

2.2. Adoption of the agenda

- [3] The IC agreed to consider two items under Any Other Business, the 2021 Call for Topics and Active items requiring IC decision or review. The agenda was adopted and is attached to this report (Appendix 1).

3. Administrative Matters

3.1. Review of meeting documents

- [4] The Secretariat introduced the meeting documents, which were posted on the IC restricted work area of the International Phytosanitary Portal (IPP) and shared with observers by email prior to the meeting. The list of meeting documents is attached to this report in Appendix 2.

3.2. Review of participants

- [5] All IC members and representatives were present except for: Francisco GUTTIEREZ (Belize) and Stephanie BLOEM (RPPO representative).
- [6] The participants list is attached to this report (Appendix 3).

4. Banana fusarium wilt (TR4)

4.1. Information on current situation of *Fusarium oxysporum* TR4

- [7] The Secretariat and Magda GONZALEZ ARROYO (Costa Rica) gave an oral update about the situation of *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *cubense* Tropical Race 4 (TR4) and the related call¹ for experts to take part in the new IC Team on TR4, which the IC had agreed to establish via e-Decision. Nominations for this IC Team are due 11 June 2021.
- [8] The pathogen originates in Asia, where it is considered widely distributed, but is considered a quarantine pest in Latin America, as well as in Africa, the Near-East and the Pacific. The potential for entry and spread of this pest is high and the potential economic impact is also considered very high. The impacted area in Peru is a region with small plantations (< 5 ha). There is a need to act quickly to prevent further spread at the global level.

¹ Call for experts : <https://www.ippc.int/en/calls/call-for-experts-ic-team-on-fusarium-oxysporum-f-sp-cubense-tropical-race-4-tr4/>

- [9] Magda GONZALEZ ARROYO (Costa Rica) had raised to the IC the need to act. After discussion with the IC Chair and with the support of some members, an e-Decision² to create an IC Team on TR4 was open, including a request to approve their Terms of Reference. The primary objective, as described in the Terms of Reference for the IC Team is to gather technical resources and provide global guidance to prevent further spread globally, based on existing expertise and materials. This work will be carried out under the IPPC Strategic Framework (2020-2030) development agenda to Strengthen Pest Outbreak Alert and Response Systems and will be modelled on the Fall armyworm technical Working Group.
- [10] The Secretariat confirmed that the CPM Bureau has been informed of the TR4 detection Peru and of the plan to establish an IC Team. Although this IC Team may be short-term, there may still be costs and a request to the CPM Bureau to approve the use of some of the surplus funds to hire a consultant and to develop communications materials is being prepared. Since the focus of this initiative is prevention, a fast and nimble response is required.
- [11] Magda GONZALEZ ARROYO (Costa Rica) volunteered to be the IC Lead for this team. The Secretariat reminded IC members wishing to participate in the IC TR4 Team, including the IC Lead, to submit their nomination in response to the call.
- [12] The IC:
- noted the Information on current situation of *Fusarium oxysporum* TR4 and the ongoing initiatives
 - selected Magda GONZALEZ (Costa Rica) as the IC Lead for the IC Team on TR4.

5. ICD Projects

5.1. Introduction on ICD projects

- [13] The IC Lead on Projects, Lalith KUMARASINGHE (New Zealand) presented the paper³, highlighting the key steps leading up to this meeting.
- [14] The call for projects, which closed on 25 March 2021, resulted in more than Fifty Implementation and Capacity Development (ICD) projects relevant to phytosanitary issues submitted by seven different partners. The IC Team on Projects met to consider the submissions and selected one project from each of the seven submitters for presentation during IC VM14 and assigned an IC Lead to each of the projects to contribute to the development of the templates and the presentations for this meeting. He highlighted that a spreadsheet listing all the project submissions will be posted on the project webpage⁴ on the IPP. He thanked all the organizations who submitted their projects, the IC Team on Projects and the Secretariat for their work in preparing for this meeting.

5.2. Update on projects managed by the IPPC Secretariat

- [15] The Secretariat presented the paper⁵, identifying projects that are managed by the Secretariat and highlighting the steps that have been put in place since November 2019 to enhance project transparency. A dedicated webpage has been created for each project, an IC Lead has been assigned to each one and an IC Sub-group was created for the Implementation Review and Support System (IRSS) project. In addition, any training materials to be developed within the framework of a project are now included on the List of Topics and follow the IC procedures.

² eDecision IC Team TR4 : https://www.ippc.int/en/forum/2021_eic_08-discussion-on-the-setting-of-an-ic-team-on-fusarium-wilt-tr4-fusarium-oxysporum-f-sp-cubense-tropical-race-4/

³ VM14_10_IC_2021_May

⁴ <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/capacity-development/projects-on-implementation-and-capacity-development/>

⁵ VM14_03_IC_2021_May

[16] The Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) observer highlighted that his organization would be hosting a webinar on systems approaches on 14 July 2021. He mentioned the recently completed evaluation of the STDF 401 project (Training of Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE) Facilitators), which resulted in a number of recommendations for improving the PCE. He also mentioned work undertaken to develop a guide on good regulatory practices. He indicated that additional information on the plant health related projects being carried out by his organization could be found in the STDF paper prepared for CPM-15 (2021) and on the STDF website⁶.

[17] The IC:

- - *noted* the progress in improving transparency and compliance with IC procedures for projects managed by IFU.
- - had no further *suggestions* for enhancing transparency.

6. Projects from partners

6.1. Practical Plant Quarantine Techniques for Export of Agricultural Products (Thermal Treatment for Disinfestation of Fruit Flies)

[18] Teppei SHIGEMI of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan presented the paper⁷, which is an annual training program that is offered to participants from developing countries to support exports of agricultural products. The training is focussed on developing, applying and evaluating temperature treatments against fruit flies in fresh fruits; 168 trainees from 42 countries have benefited from this training over the last 32 years. Each year, six participants from six different countries have been invited to attend the four months training in Okinawa, Japan. The participants learn how to rear fruit flies, conduct tests, identify vulnerable life stages, and how to carry out the experiments required to develop phytosanitary treatments. He highlighted that participants in the training course developed temperature treatments used to support successful exports of dragon fruit from Vietnam, mango from Peru and Pakistan and pomelo from Thailand.

[19] There was a question about the possibility of Japan collating the data from all these different temperature treatment experiments and making the treatment information available to the phytosanitary community. The presenter responded that the experiments are being carried out in the different exporting countries and that Japan does not have the ability to gather this data or to develop global temperature treatments. One IC member suggested that the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) consider following up with countries after the training course to see if they are willing to make the results of their temperature experiments available to other countries.

[20] Another IC member shared that he participated in this training course in Japan 32 years ago and that it was a very positive experience. He confirmed that the aim of the program was to train technical plant health officers to do their own experiments and that sharing data would be up to the individual countries. He agreed that collating this information would be interesting, but that it depends on the other countries' willingness.

6.2. Fit for Market: Strengthening sanitary and phytosanitary systems of the ACP horticultural sector

[21] Marie-Hélène KESTEMONT from the Comité de Liaison Europe - Afrique - Caraïbes - Pacifique (COLEACP) presented the programme Fit for Market⁸, highlighting that the main objective is to enhance the capacities of competent authorities in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries to manage and enforce SPS standards and implement official controls for food safety and plant health regulations in the horticulture sector. The presentation described some of the capacity development

⁶ <https://www.standardsfacility.org/>

⁷ VM14_04_IC_2021_May

⁸ VM14_05_IC_2021_May

projects that were undertaken in 2021 and highlighted successes and challenges. In particular the presentation described how the Rapid SPS Assessment Tool is used to develop an action plan, resulting in training and technical assistance facilitate communication between ACP countries.

- [22] One of the main action points is addressing EUROPHYT/TRACES⁹ interceptions for key ACP-EU export value chains. Interceptions are monitored and COLEACP works with the exporting NPPO to find solutions and decrease interceptions.
- [23] One IC member asked whether there are linkages between TRACES and reporting non-compliances, as laid out in ISPM 13 *Guidelines for the notification of non-compliance and emergency action*. The presenter clarified that COLEACP receives the notifications, analyses them and communicates with ACP countries, but does not interact with the importing country.
- [24] The Secretariat clarified that there is a connection between TRACES and the IPPC ePhyto Hub. The ePhyto system informs the country of export when a phytosanitary certificate is rejected, but does not provide the reason for the rejection, at this time.
- [25] One IC member asked about the availability of the Rapid COLEACP SPS assessment tools. The presenter explained that the tool is still under development. It will likely be an on-line questionnaire and the plan is to run a pilot in six countries. The observer from STDF highlighted that a STDF-COLEACP webinar was held recently on the new Rapid Assessment Tool for the STDF Working Group and that the COLEACP's presentation to STDF would be shared with the Secretariat and other meeting participants.
- [26] The Secretariat highlighted and thanked COLEACP for contributions to developing e-learning courses and for their efforts to provide the translations of eight IPPC guides in French.

6.3. Pest List Database

- [27] Carol QUASHIE-WILLIAMS of the Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and Ana TUNABUNA-BULI (Fiji) presented the project¹⁰ to review the regional plant pest and biosecurity status database: the Pacific Islands Pest List Database (PLD). They highlighted that the PLD supports and promotes Pacific region trade and market access opportunities and regional preparedness and response activities by promoting the reporting and management of regional plant pests. Phase 2 of the project will include development of a user guide and training.
- [28] The upgraded PLD will be housed on a cloud server and will have apps to allow countries to directly upload and pest lists, host lists, commodity lists, as well as comparative lists (between countries). The PLD is expected to be a helpful tool for pest risk analysis, market access and emergency preparedness. The open-source pest surveillance app, will allow GPS data, pest images, pest distribution maps and other information to be recorded. Data will be uploaded to the PLD by the NPPOs and there will be different levels of access for different individuals, based on authority and verification of pest identify.
- [29] One IC member asked whether the PLD will be linked to other pest databases in order to share information on pest distribution. The presenters responded that the primary goal is to assist the PPPO members in documenting and recording their own pest data. However, they agreed that it would be beneficial to build links to other databases, such as the one maintained by the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (EPPO).

⁹ European Union Notification System for Plant Health Interceptions

¹⁰ VM14_06_IC_2021_May

6.4. Strengthening Food Security through Efficient Pest Management Schemes Implementing the Sterile Insect Technique as a Control Method

- [30] Walther ENKERLIN of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) presented the project¹¹, which aims to increase fruit and vegetable production in the Latin American and Caribbean region through effective fruit fly control and facilitate access to internal and external markets. The project supports the use of the Sterile Insect Technique (SIT), pest free areas, and pest free places and sites of production as well as fruit fly low prevalence areas and builds the capacity to respond to the incursion of other pests in the region.
- [31] He highlighted that one of the main obstacles to food security and safety and poverty reduction in the Latin American and Caribbean region is the presence of native and invasive fruit fly pests and that this is one of 20 active projects. The projects have a number of positive impacts, including (1) establishing surveillance systems; (2) opening export markets through the establishment of risk mitigation schemes; (3) supporting eradication of Mediterranean fruit fly from Dominican Republic using SIT and reopen export market; (4) supporting the eradication of *Bactrocera scutellata* from Colima, Mexico using male annihilation technique.
- [32] One IC member asked for an update on the current status of SIT for *Lobesia botrana*. The presenter responded that the outlook for the SIT program is very positive but it is still at the pilot stage and needs to be validated. However, mass-rearing is available, the irradiation dose has been established, and surveillance and other field parameters have been developed.

6.5. Overview of competitiveness and trade facilitation projects in some countries

- [33] Shane SELA from the World Bank Group (WBG), presented the paper¹² and provided an overview of several projects supporting Afghanistan, North Macedonia, Nepal, Papua New Guinea and Zambia to meet their WTO obligations. The projects included a wide range of issues including implementing electronic certification, developing risk-based border inspection regimes, improving laboratory capacities and revising and developing a legislative framework for biosecurity.
- [34] He highlighted that the projects focus on the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement, to ensure that procedures at the border facilitate trade. SPS agencies are encouraged to be part of risk management at the border. The WBG provides support through financial lending programmes and technical advice to support the use of tools such as ePhyto and Single window on a country-by-country basis and is currently supporting the conduct of a PCE in Nepal.

6.6. Risk-Based Sampling Manuals Project

- [35] Stephanie BLOEM's pre-recorded presentation described the North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO) project¹³ to develop manuals and tools to enhance risk-based sampling (RBS) of consignments for inspection. The objective of the project is to assist the NPPOs of all Contracting Parties in reframing their inspection designs in order to generate statistically valid and technically justified data that supports a risk-based approach to inspection.
- [36] One IC member shared that her NPPO has been working with NAPPO on RBS and is in the process of developing a tree map, which requires good interception data. She highlighted that this is a powerful tool that provides better justification for sampling and inspection.

¹¹ VM14_07_IC_2021_May

¹² VM14_08_IC_2021_May

¹³ VM14_09_IC_2021_May

- [37] The observer from the World Bank Group informed the IC that they have developed a short guide¹⁴ on risk-based inspection. He reiterated that the collection of interception data is critical and highlighted the importance of automation of these processes. For example, the importance of linking inspection and sampling data through the ePhyto solution to support better risk management policy.

6.7. General discussion on ICD project reporting

- [38] The chair invited participants of the meeting to comment on the project reporting process and offer suggestions to improve it for next year. Several observers commented that they found the initial template to be filled complicated. One observer indicated it would be preferable to provide the title and a one paragraph summary of the projects for the initial submission and only develop the template and a presentation for projects selected for presentation.
- [39] The IC Lead for projects highlighted the importance of developing the spreadsheet that summarizes all the project submissions and that this is a good tool to raise awareness about the different phytosanitary projects that are underway and to provide contacts and links to additional information. He thanked all the presenters and observers for attending this session.
- [40] The Secretariat noted that the IC is the only international group that looks at phytosanitary projects from a global perspective. He highlighted that this session on projects is intended to provide the IC with an overview of ongoing work and it is also an opportunity to find synergies, encourage coordination and avoid duplication between projects. There were no objections to the Secretariat's request for permission to post the presentations on the IPP.
- [41] The IC:
- - *agreed* that templates, presentations and the spreadsheet be posted on the IPP.

7. COMESA project: eLearning development

7.1. Proposed plans to progress of the development of two eLearning courses (Surveillance and reporting obligations, Inspection) funded through COMESA

- [42] The Secretariat provided an oral report describing the scope of this project and summarizing the timeline and key outputs of the Common Market for Southern and Eastern Africa (COMESA) Trade Facilitation Project¹⁵. He reminded the IC that, as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic, the project is being delivered as a series of four e-learning courses that will be available to the entire IPPC community. COLEACP is providing in-kind pedagogical and IT technical support to the project.
- [43] Two of the e-learning courses are on track to be finalized in 2021 and it is hoped to find a way to share the course content with the IC. However, the COMESA work to develop the e-learning course on inspection (2020-011) and the e-learning course on surveillance and reporting obligations (2020-012) as well as the development of a Contingency planning, Guide (2019-012) has not yet been initiated. The draft Specifications for these two e-learning courses and one guide are scheduled to go for the 2021 consultation (01 July –31 August).
- [44] The Secretariat has recently been informed that the deadline for the completion of the COMESA project has been advanced from December 2022 to May 2022. This means that the timeline for completing the final two e-learning courses and one guide needs to be compressed. The Secretariat asked the IC to consider whether the call for experts for these three working groups could be launched using the draft

¹⁴ <https://pubdocs.worldbank.org/en/186841605045083824/WBG-Risk-Prioritization-in-Phytosanitary-Management-FINAL-web.pdf>

¹⁵ COMESA Project : <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/capacity-development/projects-on-implementation-and-capacity-development/comesa-trade-facilitation-programme/>

Specifications approved for consultation by the IC, noting that the final IC approved Specification would likely be ready for when they started their drafting.

[45] The IC:

- *noted* the update on e-learning courses and guide being developed as part of the COMESA project and the need to compress the timelines to complete the work by May 2022;
- *agreed* that the Secretariat may launch the call for experts for the e-learning courses on inspection (2020-011) and on surveillance and reporting obligations (2020-012) and the Contingency planning, Guide (2019-012) using the draft Specifications approved by the IC for consultation.

8. Any Other Business

8.1.2021 Call for Topics: Standards and Implementation

[46] The Secretariat confirmed that the 2021 Call for topics¹⁶ (CFT) was launched on the 04 May and will remain open until the 15 September 2021. The Task Force for Topics (TFT) met the 22 April and had a demonstration of the new electronic forms that have been developed and discussed how to ensure that the CFT roles out smoothly. The TFT considered that one of the challenges of the 2018 Call for topics was that there were several incomplete submissions. The TFT noted that some countries may benefit from assistance in completing the submission forms and suggested that RPPOs, IC and SC members engage in helping to develop topic submissions in their regions and soliciting regional support for proposals.

[47] The Secretariat also highlighted that a webinar to support the CFT is tentatively planned for June 2021.

[48] The IC:

- *noted* the update on the 2021 Call for Topics.
- *agreed* that the Secretariat may refer incomplete submissions to IC members in their region and that they will provide assistance in preparing their submission.

8.2.Active e-forums requiring action/decision

[49] The Secretariat highlighted that there were two e-forums and one OCS review requiring action by the IC members. The chair highlighted the importance of all IC members responding to e-forums and completing the assigned tasks.

[50] The Secretariat noted that the IC Team on Contributed Resources is still looking for an additional member, none of the IC members expressed interest during the recent e-forum (2021_eIC_07).

[51] The IC:

- *agreed* to the selection of Kyu-Ock YIM (Republic of Korea) to be the IC representative to the CPM Focus Group on Implementation of the IPPC Strategic Framework's 2020-2030 and *requested* that she submit her Statement of Commitment to the Secretariat.
- Requested that the Secretariat open another e-forum to identify an additional member for the IC Team on Contributed Resources.

9. Date and Arrangement of the Next Meeting

[52] The next virtual IC meeting (IC VM15) will be 9 June 2021 at 22:00 Rome time.

¹⁶ <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/standards-and-implementation/call-for-topics-standards-and-implementation/>

[53] The IC representative to the SC noted that the IC-SC update is on the agenda for IC-VM15 in June and asked how to proceed with preparing the paper. Following discussion, the IC agreed to postpone the IC-SC update to IC VM16 in September. The previous IC representative to the SC offered help to prepare the paper. The Secretariat reminded the IC that the joint IC-SC paper would replace the individual IFU and SSU papers.

[54] The Secretariat also reminded the IC that they had agreed to have a joint IC-SC session and that the Secretariat was prepared to help organize this but were awaiting directions from the IC and SC Chairpersons. The IC chairperson confirmed that he has not yet spoken to the SC chairperson about the joint session but would follow up and get back to the Secretariat.

[55] The IC:

- *requested* that the Secretariat work with the Chair to develop the agenda for IC VM-16 in September.

10. Evaluation of the Meeting Process

[56] A Zoom poll was used to seek feedback to assist the Secretariat in evaluating the meeting.

11. Close of the Meeting

[57] The IC Chairperson and the IFU lead thanked everyone and the meeting was closed.

APPENDIX 1

VIRTUAL MEETING N° 14 AGENDA

(Updated 2021-05-20)

**COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES
IMPLEMENTATION AND CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (IC)****Start:** 2021-05-19 at 14:00 (Rome, time)**Zoom link:** <https://fao.zoom.us/j/93120178880>**Meeting ID:** 931 2017 8880**Meeting Password:** 48479813

	Agenda Item	Document No.	Presenter
1.	Opening of the Meeting		
1.1	Opening by the IFU Team lead and welcome by the IC Chairperson		LARSON PELLETIER
2.	Meeting Arrangements		
2.1	Election of the Rapporteur		PELLETIER
2.2	Adoption of the Agenda	VM14_01_IC_2021_May	PELLETIER
3.	Administrative Matters		
3.1	Review of meeting documents	Link	KOUMBA
3.2	Participants list	VM14_02_IC_2021_May	KOUMBA
4.	Banana fusarium wilt (TR4)		
4.1	Information on current situation of <i>Fusarium oxysporum</i> TR4	Oral report	BRUNEL GONZALEZ
5.	ICD Projects		
5.1	Introduction on ICD projects	VM14_10_IC_2021_May	KUMARASINGHE
5.2	Update on projects managed by the IPPC Secretariat	VM14_03_IC_2021_May	BRUNEL
6.	Projects from partners (5 min presentation followed by 10 min questions)		
6.1	Practical Plant Quarantine Techniques for Export of Agricultural Products (Thermal Treatment for Disinfestation of Fruit Flies)	VM14_04_IC_2021_May	JICA
6.2	Fit for Market: Strengthening sanitary and phytosanitary systems of the ACP horticultural sector	VM14_05_IC_2021_May	COLEACP
6.3	Pest List Database	VM14_06_IC_2021_May	AUSTRALIAN DFAT
6.4	Strengthening Food Security through Efficient Pest Management Schemes Implementing the Sterile Insect Technique as a Control Method	VM14_07_IC_2021_May	IAEA
6.5	Overview of competitiveness and trade facilitation projects in some countries	VM14_08_IC_2021_May	WORLD BANK
6.6	Risk-Based Sampling Manuals Project	VM14_09_IC_2021_May	NAPPO

	Agenda Item	Document No.	Presenter
6.7	General discussion on ICD project reporting		ALL
7	COMESA project: eLearning development		
7.1	Proposed plans to progress of the development of two eLearning courses (Surveillance and reporting obligations, Inspection) funded through COMESA	Oral report	ALLEX
8.	Any other business		PELLETIER
8.1	2021 Call for Topics: Standards and Implementation		PETERSON/ MUSHEGYAN
8.2	Active e-forums requiring action/decision		KOUMBA
9.	Date and arrangement of the Next Meeting		KOUMBA
10.	Evaluation of the meeting process		KOUMBA
11.	Close of the Meeting		PELLETIER / LARSON

APPENDIX 2**IC VM14 - IST OF DOCUMENTS**

Agenda Item	Document No.
Agenda	VM14_01_IC_2021_May
Participants list	VM14_02_IC_2021_May
Introduction on ICD projects	VM14_10_IC_2021_May
Update on projects managed by the IPPC Secretariat	VM14_03_IC_2021_May
Practical Plant Quarantine Techniques for Export of Agricultural Products (Thermal Treatment for Disinfestation of Fruit Flies) JAPAN	VM14_04_IC_2021_May
Fit for Market: Strengthening sanitary and phytosanitary systems of the ACP horticultural sector- COLEACP	VM14_05_IC_2021_May
Pest List Database – AUSTRALIA DFAT	VM14_06_IC_2021_May
Strengthening Food Security through Efficient Pest Management Schemes Implementing the Sterile Insect Technique as a Control Method - IAEA	VM14_07_IC_2021_May
Overview of competitiveness and trade facilitation projects in some countries- WORLD BANK	VM14_08_IC_2021_May
Risk-Based Sampling Manuals Project -NAPPO	VM14_09_IC_2021_May

APPENDIX 3

IC VIRTUAL MEETING N° 14 - PARTICIPANTS LIST

Role/Organization	Name	Email address
Chair	Mr Dominique PELLETIER	dominique.pelletier2@canada.ca
Vice - Chair	Mr Chris DALE	chris.dale@agriculture.gov.au
Member	Mr Thorwald GEUZE	t.geuze@nvwa.nl
Member	Mr Lalith Bandula KUMARASINGHE	Lalith.kumarasinghe@mpi.govt.nz
Member	Ms Olga LAVRENTJEVA	Olga.Lavrentjeva@agri.ee
Member	Ms Kyu-Ock YIM	koyim@korea.kr
Member	Mr Ahmed M. Abdellah ABDELMOTTALEB	bidoeng@yahoo.com bidoeng@gmail.com
Member	Ms Faith NDUNGE	ndungeq@yahoo.com ; fndunge@kephis.org
Member	Mr Nilesh Ami CHAND	pranavrchand@hotmail.com nachand@baf.com.fj
Member	Ms Magda GONZALEZ ARROYO	mgonzalez@sfe.go.cr
Member	Ms Ruth AREVALO MACIAS	ruth.arevalo@sag.gob.cl
SC Representative	Mr Álvaro SEPÚLVEDA LUQUE	alvaro.sepulveda@sag.gob.cl

Others

Role/Organization	Name	Email address
STDF	Mr Melvin SPREIJ	melvin.spreij@wto.org
IICA	Ms. Ana Marisa CORDERO	ana.cordero@iica.int
Imperial College London	Ms Megan QUINLAN	m.quinlan@imperial.ac.uk
WTO	Mr Rolando ALCALA	Rolando.Alcala@wto.org
COLEACP	Mr. Morag WEBB	morag.webb@coleacp.org
COLEACP	Ms Marie-Hélène KESTEMONT	marie-helene.kestemont@coleacp.org
NPPO Australia	Ms Jenny DUNN	jenny.dunn@agriculture.gov.au
NPPO Australia	Ms Carol QUASHIE-WILLIAMS	Carol.Quashie-Williams@awe.gov.au
SPC	Ms Ana TUNABUNA-BULI	anat@spc.int
JICA	Mr Teppei SHIGEMI	teppe_i_shigemi780@maff.go.jp
IAEA	Mr. Rui CARDOSO PEREIRA	r.cardoso-pereira@iaea.org
World Bank	Mr Shane SELA	ssela@worldbank.org
IPPC Secretariat	Mr Brent LARSON	Brent.Larson@fao.org ;
IPPC Secretariat	Ms Sarah BRUNEL	Sarah.Brunel@fao.org
IPPC Secretariat	Ms Natsumi YAMADA	Natsumi.Yamada@fao.org
IPPC Secretariat	Mr Descartes KOUMBA MOUENDOU	Descartes.Koumba@fao.org
IPPC Secretariat	Ms Barbara PETERSON	Barbara.Peterson@fao.org
IPPC Secretariat	Ms Denis ALLEX	Denis.Allex@fao.org
IPPC Secretariat	Mr Fitzroy WHITE	hodijah1@gmail.com
IPPC Secretariat	Mr Edgar MUSHEGYAN	Edgar.Mushegyan@fao.org
IPPC Secretariat	Mr Qingpo YANG	Qingpo.Yang@fao.org