



Food and Agriculture
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United Nations



International
Plant Protection
Convention

REPORT

2021 International Plant Protection Convention Regional Workshop for Africa

21-24 September 2021



African Union



Inter-African
Phytosanitary Council

The Workshop Procedure

The IPPC regional workshop for Africa was held virtual due to Covid-19 pandemic. The workshop was organized in three sessions.

- Session 1: Draft Standards and CPM Recommendations
- Session 2: Regional Activities
- Session 3: Implementation issues and standard setting process

The Workshop was scheduled from 11: 00- 14:00 Rome Time daily for four days and conducted in French and English.

Dr Lucien KOUAMÉ KONAN (CPM- Bureau), Ms Luiza MUNYUA (AU-IASPC) and Mr Descartes KOUMBA (IPPC Secretariat) chaired the workshop.

Workshop Objective:

- To create awareness on the ongoing IPPC Regional programs and activities to Contracting Parties
- To review and discuss International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures
- To discuss the ways to move forward Plant Health in Africa

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1. Opening of the Session

1.1 Welcome remarks:

Introduction:

The IPPC Regional Workshop for Africa was held virtually from 21-24 September 2021. The meeting was organized by International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) Secretariat in collaboration with Africa Union-Inter African Phytosanitary Council (AU-IAPSC) under the theme **International Year of Plant Health (IYPH) legacy**. The workshop average attendance 46 participants from National Plant Protection Organization, AU-IAPSC, IPPC Secretariat and FAO- Regional and Sub-Regional offices in Africa.

Opening Session

The opening session of the four day IPPC Regional Workshop for Africa was chaired by the Dr Jean Gérard MEZUI M'ELLA, Director of the AU-IAPSC. In his opening remarks welcomed and thanked all the participants for getting time to attend this important Regional Workshop for Africa. He appreciated the cooperation and collaboration between AU-IASPC, IPPC FAO and National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs) in addressing Plant Health issues.

IPPC Secretariat

With a video message Dr. Avetik NERSISYAN, on behalf of the IPPC Secretariat, welcomed all the participants to the Regional International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) workshop for Africa 2021. In his remarks he recognized 2021 as a year of transition since over the past year the Covid-19 pandemic has destructed and changed people's life. He appreciated how people remained resilient and cooperated to break geographical barrier and worked together in this digital world. He appreciated the successful virtual meeting held for the first time in history of the Commission for Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) and how the pandemic could not stop activities that support food security and safe trade of plant and plant products at a global scale. He emphasized on the importance of the regional workshop as another opportunity to work together to share ideas and cooperate to strengthen the plant health in the African Region. He emphasized that reviewing of standards as a team is important as standards are a key to international trade.

ADG of Regional Office / FAOR

In his welcoming remarks, Assisted Director General FAO Regional office for Africa Dr. ABEBE HAILE Gabriel appreciated an invitation to the IPPC Regional Workshop for Africa and the collaboration between AU-IAPSC and FAO. He mentioned that plants are the pillars of life, plants are responsible for 80% of the food we eat and 98% of the oxygen we breathe but yet there are continuously under threat. It is estimated that 40% of food crops is lost due the plant pests and disease and it affects food and nutrition security, the

environment, trade and the food quality. He emphasized on the increasing occurrence of native and non-native transboundary plants pests and disease in Africa, which have an impact on the rural livelihood, economic development and biodiversity across the continent. He also mentioned examples of plants pests, which are current affecting crop production in Africa such as the fall armyworm, Fruit flies, Dessert locust and African Migratory Locusts among others. He remarked it is necessary to prevent the spread of plant pests and diseases and FAO is committed to collaborate with all development partners and Governments in the fight against plant pests and diseases.

AUC DARBE

In his welcoming, Dr Godfrey BAHIGWA, Director of AUC- DARBE commended on the work done by FAO and its IPPC which aim to ensure that International Standards for phytosanitary measures are developed to sustain plant health. He mentioned that an estimated population of 9.5 billion people depends on agriculture and by 2050 the population will be doubled. He emphasised that prevention is better than cure, by preventing the spread and introduction of pests into new area is a shared responsibility. He further emphasized the need to speak with one voice, therefore standard setting is everyone's responsibility and urged Member States to further engage and discuss issues pertaining to plant health. He informed the participants on the Strategy for Plant Health for Africa which will be presented to the Ministers responsible for Africa. He declared the IPPC Regional Workshop for Africa officially opened.

2 Meeting arrangements and administrative matters

2.1 Election of the Rapporteur

After consultation with workshop participants, Ms Luiza MUNYUA from AU-IASPC Confirmed the rapporteurs of IPPC Regional Workshop for was countries nominated as follows:

- **French Language:**
 - Senegal: Papa MASSAR FALL;
 - Ivory Cost: Angel YAO/ Rose KOUASSI

- **English Language:**
 - Botswana: Velleminah S. PELOKGALE;
 - Namibia: Margaret MATENGU

2.2 Adoption of the Agenda

Agenda for the workshop was Presented by Ms. Luiza MUNYUA and adopted by participants without modifications.

3. Administration Matters

3.1 Participants list

The participants list for the IPPC regional workshop for Africa is presented in the annex to this report.

4. Updates on Governance and Strategic issues

4.1 Governance and strategy (CPM, CPM Bureau)

The 2021 comprehensive update on the Governance and strategy was presented by Mr Lucien KOUAME KONAN; He gave a brief overview of the IPPC, taking into consideration all four stages from the year 1881 to 2018 and the process it went through from the original adoption to subsequent revisions. He presented the IPPC mission, vision and goals. A brief explanation on the core activities of the IPPC was given, which were the standard settings, implementation and capacity development, communication and international cooperation and trade facilitation and ePhyto. He went ahead with the presentation on the IPPC Secretariat structure, which is comprised of Standard setting Unit, Implementation and Facilitation Unit, Integration and Support team and the ePhyto Team.

On the 2021 achievements IPPC governance and Strategy, Mr Kouame presented the meetings held and the CPM decisions made. He highlighted the following:

- A first virtual CPM meeting was attended by three and fifty (350) participants, one hundred and twenty two (122) contracting parties and 40 partner organization
- The virtual IPPC Strategic Planning Group meeting were attended by sixty (60) participants from thirty (30) NPPOs, six (6) RPPOs and IPPC Secretariat.

He also presented the decisions which were made as follows:

- The adoption of the IPPC strategic framework 2020-2030 and eleven (11) standards (7 ISPMs and 7 PTs) and CPM recommendation on food aid.
- The establishment of three CPM focus groups under the auspices of implementation of IPPC strategic framework 2020-2030, Climate change and plant pests and communications.
- Operationalize the IYPH 2020 Technical Advisory Body to function as IPPC predatory body on the planning and organization of the first conference of IYPH conferences and webinars.
- To encourage the contracting parties to volunteer in hosting the first IYPH conference

- Support the process to establish the observance by United Nations system of an International Year of Plant Health on the 12 May every year.
- To encourage the IPPC Contracting Parties to support the proposal of observance by United Nations system and to liaise with counterparts in the FAO conference and at United Nations General Assembly to facilitates their endorsement.

Mr Lucien Kouame also presented the plans, which revolved on:

- Establishment of the three CPM focus groups and development of the new IPPC communication strategy;
- IYPH Legacy (Supporting Zambia in the proclamation process of IDPH).

No comments were made on the presentation.

4.2 Update from Standard Committee

The update from the Standard Committee was presented by Mr Ezequiel FERRO the chairperson of Standard Committee. He presented on major activities which took place from 2020 to 2021. He mentioned that in 2020, the Standard Committee held three virtual meetings and eight meetings in 2021. However, the SC is determined to hold two extra meetings in November 2021. He also indicated that during the meeting sessions the SC agreed to have additional representatives from NPPOs to observe the virtual SC meetings as silent observers and it was accepted by the CPM Bureau.

Mr FERRO presented the current SC membership which consist of twenty five (25) members and four members are from Africa , Mr David KAMANGIRA from Malawi , Ms Alphonsine LOUHOUARI TOKOZABA from Congo and also introduced the new SC members for Africa, Mr Theophilus MWENDWA MUTUI from Kenya and Mr Prudence ATTIPOE from Ghana. He thanked the former SC members Mr Moses ADEGBOYENGA ADEWUNI from Nigeria and M Antonio TAVARES from Guinea- Bissau for the excellent work they did during their term.

A 2020- 2021 standard setting, draft ISPMs and ongoing consultations were presented, where the first consultation consisted of seven (7) draft ISPMs and the second consultation is running from 1 July 2021-30 September consisted of nine (9) draft ISPMs. He urged Contacting Parties (CP) to review and make substantive and technical comments, He also presented the approved specifications which is specification TP6 (Technical Panel on commodity standards), specification 70(Annex design and use of system approaches for the phytosanitary certification of seeds to ISPM 38) and specification 71 (Annex criteria for determining host status of fruit to fruit flies based on the available information).

A presentation on the future SC work was made as follows:

- Continue with the oversight of the four IPPC Technical Panels

- Discussion and monitoring of the Strategic Framework 2020-2030
- Collaborations with the IC and its sub groups
- At its November meeting, the revision of the draft ISPMs and recommendations for adoption
- Continue revisions of the draft ISPMs via Online Comment System (OCS) to ensure high quality ISPMs
- Continue discussion's and decisions electronically
- Review the TFT recommendations from 2021 call for topics

Following this presentation, Dr JG Mezui M'Elia the Director of AU-IAPSC thanked Mr Ferro for the presentation, he wanted to know the performance of the nominated SC members from African Region and also raised a concern on the standards of Cassava which is a major issue, specifically on the movement of Cassava germplasm.

Mr Ferro responded by informing the meeting that the SC members from African Region are very active, although the other two are still new on the committee but Alphonsine and David are very active and the African Region should be very proud of them.

With regards to Cassava, he said it could be a commodity standard if the African Region seek help from the IPPC on commodity standard of that particular commodity.

He requested the Contracting Parties to submit a draft proposal. However, he urged the NPPOs to work in collaboration with researchers and Universities to develop specific standards for Cassava.

4.3 Updates from Implementation and Capacity Development Committee

A recorded presentation on Update of the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC) was presented by Mr Dominique PELLETIER, the IC chairperson. In his presentation explained that the IC is a subsidiary body of the CPM and it comprised of twelve (12) members (7 Regional representatives and 5 Experts) and two (2) representatives from the Standard Committee and Technical Committee of Regional Plant Protection Organization. He explained the main activities of the committee, which are mainly to monitor and support the implementation of the IPPC and strengthen the phytosanitary capacities of Contracting Parties.

He provided an update on the meetings which were held virtually due to the Covid-19 pandemic, nine (9) were held in 2020 and six meetings in 2021 and planned two meetings to be held in month of September and November 2021. He also presented the IC sub-groups and teams and provided a list of IPPC guides and training materials which were recently translated to French and new publications on the pest status guide and a video on fruit fly standards and also those still under development.

The update on the National Reporting Obligations Regions programme and Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE) was presented, where the IC approved the PCE strategy for

2020-2030. On the Sea Container Task Force (SCTF) the presenter informed the meeting that a separate presentation would be done Ms Faith NDUNGE. However, He mentioned that the CPM Bureau granted extension of one year to the SCTF mandate which will run until December 2021.

Other areas covered in the presentation were:

- Implementation, Review and Support system, which was established to monitor the implementation of the IPPC and its standards and to provide support where needed.
- Global Plant Health Surveillance Programme

On the PCE, the NPPOs were encouraged to consult the IC to assist them with PCE nonetheless; the NPPO's would need to find a Donor to finance the whole exercise.

No comments were provided after the presentation

5.0 Drafts Standards and CPM Recommendations

5.1 Draft ISPM Revision of ISPM 4: Requirement for the establishment of pest area (2009-002)

The Draft revision of ISPM4 was presented by Mr David Kamagira, a Member of the Standard Committee for African Region. He informed the meeting that the IPPC first draft consultation for period of 1 July 2021 to 30 September 2021 is still running, however most of the countries had not provided their comments at the time of the meeting and he urged NPPOs to do so. In his presentation he provided the background of the draft ISPM 4 the work done by the Standard Committee since the adoption of the ISPM, new information and guidance over the years which led to the approval of the draft for the first consultation and the reasons for revisions. He averred that the standard requirements for the establishment and use of pest free areas is a phytosanitary measure and thus the standard does not cover pest free areas of production or pest free production sites, whose a requirement can be found in ISPM 10.

He highlighted on the revision taking into consideration the new guidance which was added to connect the draft to Article IV.2 (e) of the IPPC and ISPM:

- The Pest Free Area (PFA) is a phytosanitary measure that can be used to facilitate trade and protect plant resources.
- NPPOs should consider a PFA to be sufficient phytosanitary measures used to establish or maintain the PFA and should be based on the assessed pest risk.
- The phytosanitary measures used to establish or maintain the PFA should be based on the assessed pest risk.
- The PFA may be applied to an entire county of part of it.

He elaborated on the Major drafting issues such as: Risk based, Surveillance requirements, Buffer Zones and Environmental Issues. He concluded his presentation by providing relevant information and potential implementation issues and invited Contracting Parties to provide substantive and technical comments and not editorial comments to the draft and use Online Comment System. He Urged the Contracting Parties to be part and parcel of the development of Standards. He further informed the meeting that a reminder was sent for Contracting Parties to make comments and what was received so far were editorial comments and his call was anchored by the chairman who emphasized on the importance of the comments when ISPMs is under review.

Comments /Questions/Recommendations: comments received were editorial not substantial and Technical.

5.2 Draft ISPM: Draft Annex to ISPM 20: Use of Specification Import Authorization (2008-006)

Mr David KAMANGIRA presented the draft Annex to ISPM 20. He gave a background on the revision and process the draft went through it was approved by the Standard Committee in May 2021. He explained that the Specific Import Authorization (SIA) provide official consent for the import of specific regulated articles. He emphasized that the SIA does not replace the obligation of the NPPOs of the importing country to communicate on the phytosanitary requirement for the country. However, SIA can be used when the official consent is necessary and where phytosanitary requirements have not been established and also when the import would be prohibited.

He outlined the major section of revision for SIA which were:

- Elements of SIA on the minimum information requirements
- Possible uses of SIA
- Responsibilities(The NPPO of the importing country, the NPPO of the exporting country, importers and exporters)
- General import authorization.

He concluded the presentation by providing the link of the on-going consultations and for the report from Expert Working Group meeting. Contracting Parties were invited to provide substantive and technical comments, and also indicate specific areas which Contracting Parties have identified the gaps on. He further advised the contracting parties that have submitted comments, to still raise them for discussion.

A comment on section 4,2 was presented Ms Alphonsine LOUHOUARI TOKOZARA from Congo and also a SC member, she explained that the NPPO for Congo Brazzaville removed the “when it is required” and should be recorded as a comment from the African Region. She also indicated that they deleted 4.3.

5.3 Draft ISPM: Revision of the ISPM 8: Requirement for the use of radiation as a phytosanitary measure.

Mr David KAMANGIRA made a presentation on the developmental process for the revision of ISPM 8: He gave a background and indicated that the IPPC Secretariat in 2014 with the support from the Technical Panel generic specification 62 for the standard on the requirements to use different phytosanitary treatments as phytosanitary measures was developed. In the same year, it was recommended by the SC and CPM added it to the work programme as requirements for the use of radiations as measures to be added to ISPM 18. Since then different types of treatment were added:

- Temperatures
- Fumigation
- Modified temperatures
- Chemicals
- Irradiation

He further explained that the topic was added with priority Number 2 and subsequently it was changed to priority 3 by CPM 10 in 2015 and moved to priority 1 by the SC in 2020. He elaborated on the rationale behind the revision of ISPM 18:

- To update and incorporate recent developments in the irradiation technology
- To align with the already adopted standards

Mr David KAMANGIRA repeatedly informed the meeting that the IPPC first draft for consultation was still available for comments up to the 30th September 2021 and thus the Contracting Parties were encouraged to add their substantive and technical comments.

After the presentation, Kenya reported that they managed to go through the documents. No comments were made however, they suggested addition of reference to CODEX Alimentarius (1993), General Standards on food-revised (2003).

5.4 Draft 2021 Amendments to ISPM 5: Glossary of Phytosanitary terms (1994-001)

The draft 2021 amendments to ISPM 5: Glossary of Phytosanitary terms was presented by Mr David KAMANGIRA. He advised Contracting Parties that the Glossary is constantly updated and the process involves additions, revisions and deletions. He presented the list of proposed amendments which were made with 3 additions, 10 revisions and 1 deletion.

The three additions were:

- Identity(of the consignments)
- General Surveillance
- Specific Surveillance

The ten revisions were:

- Surveillance
- Integrity (of consignment)
- Phytosanitary Security (of a consignment)
- Germplasm
- Emergence measures
- Provisional Measure
- Inspections
- Test
- Compliance procedure(of a consignment)
- Release (of a consignment)

One deletion

- Clearance (of a consignment)

Mr David Kamagira elaborated in detail each proposed amendments and urged Contracting Parties to provide substantive and technical comments.

During the question and answer, Ivory Coast wanted to know if pests are present or not one need to check for conformity.

Ms Alphonsine LOUHOUARI TOKOZARA advised the colleague to involve the contact point for Ivory Coast to submit the comments through the OCS system.

Dr Jean Gerard MEZUI M'ELLA commented on the term inspection which is visual examination, he mentioned that inspection is based on what you can see, the modification is a technical requirement, and investigation is applied in case you don't know or you suspect, and said needs to be added to the amendments.

Mr David KAMANGIRA agreed with the Director, and he responded by saying in the English version it is clear and does not need changes, however, the Director emphasized that the amendments must be made and comment must be submitted as African Region discussed the issue as visual examination.

The AU-IAPSC Director encouraged the meeting that the ISPM is very important; therefore, Contacting Parties should submit online comment before the end of the workshop, as the first consultation is available up to the 30th September 2021.

The AU-IAPSC Director also informed the meeting that the IPPC letter was sent from China in 2019 on the project on health initiative. He urged Contacting Parties to attend the workshop, which is scheduled to take place in October 2021 for English speaking countries.

5.5 CPM recommendation: Reduce the incidence of contaminating pests associated with regulated and unregulated goods to protect plant health and facilitate trade (2019-002)

Mr David KAMANGIRA made a presentation on the CPM recommendation on the contaminating pests. In his presentation gave brief background of IPPC in supporting the actions by Contracting Parties to significantly reduce the international movement of plant pests associated with plants and plant products. He further indicated that the scope of the Convention provides for management the contaminating pests associated with goods and places capable of harboring or spreading contaminating pests, which pose a risk to global plant health.

He also mentioned the adopted IPPC Strategic Framework 2020-2030 and the associated five-year investment plan approved by the CPM that identifies the management of contaminating pests directly and indirectly to protect global plant resources and facilitate safe trade.

The presenter indicated that CPM recommendations looked into three areas:

- addressing important issues related to plant health, either to promote action on specific phytosanitary issues or to address a more generalized issue
- Covering issues or actions that CPs/NPPOs/RPPOs have influence, authority or competence to address,
- And providing practical guidance and support for improving the implementation of the convention, a specific ISPM or set of ISPMs.

He mentioned that the recommendation provides a platform for more effectively managing contaminating pests to enhance food security and protect the world's biodiversity

He also emphasized that the purpose of the recommendations is to reduce the occurrence of contaminating pests specifically occurring in regulated and unregulated articles, goods and places, to protect plant health, biodiversity, food security and facilitate trade. The CPM recommendations is aligned to the adopted IPPC Strategic Framework 2020-2030 and associated with investment plan.

The presenter encouraged Contracting Parties to make use of OCS to provide substantive and technical comments, there were no comments made.

5.6 Commodity Standards for Phytosanitary measures (2019-008) Priority

The presenter gave background of draft ISPM on Commodity based standards for Phytosanitary measures of which he indicated that recommendation was made in 2018 and being added to the working programme, and the CPM Bureau 2018-12 recommended adding to the work.

He mentioned that the draft standard had 2 key elements; facilitation of free trade and safeguarding of agriculture, forests and the environment and that the Strategic Framework 2020-2030 proposes the development of ISPMs for specific commodities to simplify trade and expedite market- access negotiations.

He touched on the main concerns raised and revision made by the standard committee (SC) -7.

He also presented the outline requirements of the draft ISPM as follows:

- Commodity standards should be considered by CPs when developing phytosanitary import requirements
- Such standards contain lists of pests and corresponding options for phytosanitary measures
- The lists of pests include those known to be associated with the specified commodity and intended use
- The measures listed are those that satisfy minimum criteria for inclusion in the standard
- The lists of pests and options for phytosanitary measures are not intended to be exhaustive and are subject to review and amendment.

He further highlighted on the Information of the Technical Panel on commodity standards (TPCS) and indicated that the specific number TP06 was approved by the SC in November 2020 and thus a Call for experts is planned to be open on the 4th quarter of 2021, the selection of experts by the SC to be early 2022 and the new TPCS to operate before or right after CPM-16.

He mentioned that the Pending issues were:

- adoption of the “overarching commodity standard”, foreseen for CPM-16 (2022)
- the results from the call for topics (this year)
- CPM’s approval to include new topics on “commodities” into the work programme (foreseen for CPM-16, 2022)

He outline the 6 principles of commodity standards which are:

- Sovereign rights are not affected by commodity standards
- Existing international obligations of contracting parties remain unaffected (i.e. under the IPPC and WTO-SPS)
- Commodity standards do not impose additional obligations on importing countries
- The scope of commodity standards does not include diversion from intended use
- Lists of pests are presented in commodity standards. However, the regulation of any pest remains subject to technical justification

- Commodity standards provide CPs with options for phytosanitary measures to prevent the entry and establishment of regulated pests. These options are not intended to be exhaustive

He further indicated that the draft ISPM on Commodity based standards for Phytosanitary measures (20019-008) priority has seven requirements as follows:

- Purpose and use of the commodity standards
- Content of Commodity Standards
- Verification of Compliance.
- Criteria for inclusion of Measures in Commodity
- Confidence in measures
- Publications of Annexures
- Review and Re-evaluations

There were no comments raised by this presentation.

5.7 Draft ISPM: Audits in the Phytosanitary context (2015-104)

The draft ISPM was presented by Mr. David KAMANGIRA, in his presentation gave a background of the Draft ISPM, that after a call of topics in 2015: The topic "Audit in the phytosanitary context" was submitted and the SC in November 2015 recommended that the topic be added to the work programme. In April 2016 CPM-11 added the topic to be priority 2. In 2017 November the SC approved specification 66 (Audit in the Phytosanitary context) and recommended to change to priority 1 and approved by the CPM 13 in April 2018.

He mentioned that the EWG made the first draft in 2019 and in April 2020 the Standard committee presented a draft on the OCS draft revision for approval on first consultation. The first consultation was done in 2020 and the SC in May 2021 revised the draft ISPM and approved for a second consultation, which is currently on going and closing end of September 2021.

The presenter indicated that general considerations for the standard draft second consultations were:

- That CPs commented on first consultation of 1st July to 30th September 2020
- The steward addressed the CPs comments and 578 comments were received on the draft ISPM (174 technical, 241 substantive, 142 editorial and 21 translation)
- SC-7 approved the draft ISPM for the second consultation 1 July–30 September 2021

He further indicated that the general points for consultations were:

- The definition of the ISPM

- The structure of the draft which is proposed to give an order from the most general issues to the particular
- Circumstances that may determine the performance of audits and the criteria and procedures for planning, preparing for and performing audits.
- ISPM 45 (Requirements for NPPOs if authorizing entities to perform phytosanitary actions) was adopted during the CPM-15, 2021

He also presented on the possible implementations considerations made as follows:

- Auditor training will be needed
- Auditor selection to ensure transparency and impartiality
- Development of Templates to conduct audits, such as a checklist
- Legal or regulatory framework necessary to support authorization of entities other than the NPPO to perform audits
- The key factors of the audit framework should be listed and described.
- Financial constraints in conducting the audit. Audits are usually costly. Conducting audit processes "remotely or virtually".
- Conduct an audit in a language as agreed. Guidance on language would be useful.

Lastly the presenter provided the following links for reference:

- Consultation page (full text of the ISPM):
<https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/standards-setting/member-consultation-draft-ispms>
- Report of the EWG meeting drafting the ISPM and the SC meetings:
<https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/87497/>
<https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/standards-setting/standards-committee>

In regard to reviews there was no comment.

5.8 Focused Revision of ISPM 12 in relation to re-export (2015 -001)

The presentation was done by Mr David Kamagira, he gave the background of the draft ISPM Focused revision of ISPM 12 (Phytosanitary certificates) in relation to re-export (2015-011) that the SC met in November 2015 recommended to add the topic to the work programme. CPM 11 in 2016 added the topic to the work programme with priority 2 and in February 2018, the SC approved specification 67 focused revision of ISPM 12(Phytosanitary Certificates) in relation to re- export. In May 2020 the SC approved the draft for the first consultation which was done in 1st July to 30th September 2020 and 217

comments were received. Second consultation call was made on the 1st July to 30th September 2021.

Three major comments and changes were noted as follows:

- **Commodity not processed to change its nature**
The phrase “processed to change its nature” has been used in the two earlier versions of ISPM 12 (2001 and 2011) without further guidance provided, and the word “nature” is included in the definition of plant products and also briefly used about commodities in ISPM 32 (*Categorization of commodities according to their pest risk*). However, as 9 comments from 6 countries were received asking for more guidance on this issue, a footnote was added in Section 6.1 (*Considerations for issuing a phytosanitary certificate for re-export*) of the draft revised ISPM 12. Addition of a footnote to Section 6.1: “The decisive criterion for judging whether a plant, plant product or other article has been processed to change its nature is the categorization used in the phytosanitary import requirements of the country of destination. If the phytosanitary import requirements for the unprocessed commodity and the processed commodity are the same, then a phytosanitary certificate for re-export may be issued.”
- **Electronic Phytosanitary Certificates**
Four technical comments from one country related to perceived difficulties of implementing the current wording of ISPM 12 in an ePhyto system. The SC-7 confirmed this was outside the scope of the focused revision of ISPM 12 in relation to re-export. It was suggested that such issues be resolved by the ePhyto Steering Committee developing appropriate equivalent features ensuring that electronic phytosanitary certificates are the electronic equivalents of phytosanitary certificates in paper form (as stated in Section 1.2 and Appendix 1 of ISPM 12). And no changes to the draft revised ISPM 12 in relation to electronic phytosanitary certificates
- **Considerations for issuing a phytosanitary certificate for export in certain re-export cases**
The proposed new paragraph added at the end of Section 6.2 received 14 comments from 12 countries or groups of countries. The change of the order of the sentences of the paragraph, as well as the more precise wording suggested by some of the comments, were incorporated.

Reworded last paragraph of Section 6.2: “Documents such as the original phytosanitary certificate or a certified copy may be attached to the phytosanitary certificate for export if they contain information that was used to complete the phytosanitary certificate for export. In this case, the relevant additional

declarations on the original phytosanitary certificate or the certified copy, and the number of that certificate, may be referred to in the additional declaration section of the phytosanitary certificate for export to attest compliance with the phytosanitary import requirements of the country of destination (e.g. growing season inspection, soil testing) that cannot be met by the country of re-export.”

He further indicated that minor changes have been incorporated in response to first consultation comments to clarify the text parts of ISPM 12 dealing with re-export and make them more consistent.

Lastly the presenter provided the following links for reference:

Compiled comments from the first consultation on this draft ISPM are accessible on the list below:

<https://www.ippc.int/fr/core-activities/standards-setting/member-consultation-draft-ispms/>.

No comments were provided, however Contracting Parties were encouraged to look at the standard recommendations and comment on the OCS as the draft standard is very critical for countries as Africa is an exporting continent.

[5.9 Draft 2020 Amendments to ISPM 5 \(Glossary on Phytosanitary terms\) \(1994 - 001\)](#)

Mr David Kamangira made a presentation on the ISPM 5, he gave a background of the draft 2020 ISPM and mentioned that the glossary is constantly being updated as revisions, editions and deletions and as such contracting parties are advised to always use the latest version of the glossary available on www.ippc.int.

He indicated that in the Draft 2020 Amendments to ISPM 5, the first consultation that was done from 1st July to 30th September 2020 the proposals were; 0 additions, 1 deletion, 3 revisions. The TPG was in December 2020, the SC-7 in May 2021 and lastly the second consultation call was from 1st July 2021 to 30th September 2021.

On the deletion the word “incidence” was deleted as it fits well with epidemiological word “prevalence” in human and animal health and can be used in plant health, therefore the word incidence was removed from the glossary. On the revision, there replacement of the word “phytosanitary” with the word “official” and also “action” with operation

Lastly he reminded contacting parties that further readings can be found under the following:

- [The reports for the 2018 December and 2019 November TPG meetings](#)

- [The report for the 2019 May meeting and the 2020 April-May OCS review of SC](#)
- [The report for the 2020 December TPG meeting](#)
- [The report for the 2021 May SC-7 meeting](#)

The presenter encouraged the Contracting Parties of the African region to identify gaps in the draft and use OCS to provide comments. There were no comments under this section.

6.0 Regional activities and raising awareness

6.1 Regional FAO Phytosanitary capacity development activities in RAF region

The presenter Prof. Jean Baptiste Bahama started by indicating that Plant pests spread farther and faster than ever before, causing heavy losses due to:

- Increased and rapid movement of people and plants and their products in a globalized world,
- Degrading biodiversity and changing agro-ecological conditions,
- Inappropriate management practices
- vulnerable sanitary and phytosanitary systems

He elaborated Focus of FAO's interventions which are:

- **Plant health support programmes:** prevention and management of major pests more specifically transboundary ones eg FAW, FF, Tuta
- **Regulatory and capacity development support:** Pest diagnostic (identification materials, trainings for lab staff, etc), pest monitoring, surveillance, early warning and response (tools), Knowledge/information development and sharing
- **Strengthening cooperation/coordination** with AUC, RECs and other stakeholders

He indicated that FAO provided Plant health support programmes in management of pest and capacity building in the following areas:

- FAW GA support: development of IPM packages for the demonstration and pilot countries (all sub regions);
- FAW programme for West Africa (SFW)

- Development of a proposal to assess the presence/absence and impact of PCN on potato being done for SFE and SFS.
- Management of mango mealybug (Rwanda, Uganda and Burundi) (SFE ongoing)
- Support to projects and programmes for desert locust control (SFE, Horn of Africa)
- Development of Strategies for Management of priority pests in Southern Africa: Fall Armyworm, Tomato Leaf Miner and Fruit Fly, Banana Fusarium Wilt Tr4, Maize Lethal Necrosis Disease
- Strategy document: "Towards the Adoption of Alternative Integrated Pest Management Options for Pests and Diseases in the SADC Region"
- African Migratory and Red Locust control (SFS)
- Support to surveillance and early warning of Desert Locust in the Western Region (SFW)

Prof. Bahama indicated that regulatory and capacity development support provided by FAO include:

- Refresher course on PRA and horizon scanning for SFE countries with CABI (done – a report is ready and currently being published)
- A series of consultations at technical and political levels being conducted for supporting a sub-regional early warning and pest response programme (SFE).
- Market access training to support Ethiopia to establish a PRA unit (SFE).
- Regional workshop for border officials (customs, SPS etc) at ports of entry (SFS)
- Strengthening plant pest/disease diagnostic services and surveillance (SFC, SFS);
- Harmonized Guide to Phytosanitary Procedures for the SADC Region
- Regional Workshop for Review of National Pest Management Strategies (SFS)
- Virtual Regional Training Workshop on Pest Risk Analysis (SFS)
- Webinars: "Application of integrated phytosanitary measures to enhance export market compliance"
- "Feasibility of establishment & maintenance of pest-free areas for market access: Practical application of ISPM 4 on pest-free areas, and ISPM 10 on pest-free places of production and pest free production sites
- Fall Armyworm virtual Conference on the theme "Developing smallholder-oriented integrated pest management (IPM) strategies for Fall Armyworm (*Spodoptera frugiperda* Smith) management,"

- Development of a regional roadmap on biological risks in West Africa

A comment was raised that it was not clear on how FAO will support countries.

Prof. Bahama indicated that there were still planning for biannual conference or meetings and that countries submitted projects through their ministries of Agriculture in relation to problems faced by NPPO and there are currently going through requests submitted and more emphasis is seen to be on early warning and surveillance.

He also indicated that the 2022/2023 consultations will be made with some NPPO for planning on how FAO can support them through their Governments.

Dr Jean Gerard MEZUI M'ELLA indicated that the annual review of performance exercise is ongoing and will be concluded by October, 2021 he urged FAO to continue supporting IAPSC especially with the developing of the Africa Pest Strategy and capacity building in relation to Plant Protection activities.

6.2 RPP0 activities

Ms Maryben CHIATOH from AU-IAPSC made a presentation on the Regional Plant Protection Organization (RPP0) activities. She elaborated on the vision, mission and the goals of IAPSC.

The presenter indicated that Core Coordination activities of IAPSC as RPP0 for Africa are focused on:

- Quarantine pests; Regulated non-quarantine pests;
- Laboratory Assessments; phytosanitary treatments
- Transboundary, Migratory pests; Invasive alien species
- IPM
- Phytosanitary Inspections(import, export inspection and certification)
- PRA
- ISPMs implementation and compliance
- SPS agreement provisions
- Harmonization of pesticide legislation, registration, regulation

She further said that the core coordination of IAPSC activities as RPP0 for Africa were:

Workshops and meetings organized

- Capacity building and implementation of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategies and migratory/transboundary pests management workshops (12 – 16 October 2020);

- Workshops on strengthening Member States capacities on invasive alien plants risks assessment and management, Pest Biological control and biological control agents (23-27 November 2020);
- Preparatory meeting for the fifteenth session of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures, CPM (23-25 February 2021);
- Thirteenth session of Inter-African Phytosanitary Council Steering Committee (12-13 April 2021);
- Strengthening Member States, RECs and National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs) capacity in inspection services, quarantine pest detection methods and management of trans-boundary pests (21 – 23 July 2021).

Other meetings and workshops organized with partners

- Participation at the virtual meeting on Phytosanitary awareness (9 – 13 November 2020);
- Participation at the AU-STRC virtual 3rd Congress of the African Scientific Research and Innovation Council – ASRIC (15 – 17 December 2020);
- Thirty-third Technical Consultation meeting among RPPOs (28 Feb 2021);

Plant health related activities in collaboration with USAID- APHIS and other development partners

- Consultative Meeting on Africa Food Safety Agency, Food Safety Laboratory, Food Safety Strategy, and Plant Health Strategy (28 – 30 October 2020);
- Consultative meeting on the progress of implementation of Continental SPS Committee Policy Framework held on October 19 – 21, 2020;
- Advisory Group Meeting on the development of a Plant Health Strategy for Africa (18 May 2021);
- Continental consultative meeting for the development of a Plant Health Strategy for Africa (1 – 4 June 2021)
- Technical Validation meeting for the Plant Health Strategy (16 Sept 2021)

She further outlined on outcomes of implemented activities:

- Several recommendations towards strengthening national plant health systems and improving surveillance, emergency response, prevention and management of pests in Africa;
- Draft Plant Health Strategy for Africa to be presented to AUC Policy organs for adoption during the Specialized Technical Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment, 13 – 17 December 2021;

- New partnerships developed with research and development institutions within and out of the region;
- Increased access to effective phytosanitary information among stakeholders;

She mentioned that outcomes of implemented activities were that:

- Efforts made towards maintaining safe trade at national, regional and continental levels during the continued phase of the Covid-19 pandemic
- Increased knowledge of good pest management practices
- Improve public participation in pest control efforts.
- Improved standards setting and implementation by MS and enhanced public and private awareness of IPM.

The presenter concluded by saying that as a way forward:

- Continued implementation of RPPO related activities despite social distancing measures imposed by COVID-19;
- Develop post – COVID-19 contingency plan to handle Plant Health related challenges exacerbated by the pandemic;
- Source for funding and partnerships to continue handling pest outbreaks in the region such as desert locusts and other emerging pests;
- Strengthening collaboration and commitment of both member states and RECs to build a strong plant health system in the region
- Implementation of the Plant Health Strategy for Africa

Dr Jean Gerard MEZUI M'ELLA, Director of the AU-IAPSC commented that a lot has been done by IAPSC and could not be reported all the activities and interventions done and the little provided should be appreciated. He further said he was happy that almost all planned activities and objectives were done or plans underway for their completion.

6.3 Topics of interest to the region

6.3.1 Locust outbreak in eastern and in Eastern and Southern Africa; capacity development of DL in West Africa

Mr. Shoki AL-DOBAI showed a map that indicated areas affected by different species of locust and mentioned that moderate breeding sites of Desert locust were observed in Somalia between Semera and Koboicha in Somalia.

He mentioned that in January 2020 2.2 million hectares of were under threat of being destroyed by locust.

He indicated that African Migratory Locust affected Southern Africa namely Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia, Zimbabwe and that other Areas of Botswana, Namibia and Zambia were affected by the Red Locust. The Brown Locust affected Namibia and Parts of South Africa.

He further said that FAO support (collaboration and Funding and SADC managed to provide support of 21 million USD.

He further indicated Malagasy Migratory Locust affected 8 countries including Madagascar

A participant from Madagascar commented on the use of products used for controlling locust and FAW and that there are detrimental to export market especially the European Union. And she wanted to know if FAO is aware of restrictions imposed on the use of pesticides by EU.

The response was that in controlling locust ULV formulations used have been evaluated and also mostly spraying is done on vegetation and monitoring of usage is in place.

Participant from Botswana wanted to know what is being done to empty containers of pesticides used for controlling locust as this was also raised at the CPM-15.

The response was that countries use the crushers and drum cleaners in order to cab the problem of empty containers.

6.3.2. Preparedness in effectively handling pests outbreak (including Fusarium wilt TR4, FAW guidelines)

Ms. Sara Brunel presented the following:

a) FAW

Ms. Sarah Brunel briefly presented recent activities in pest control through the group on pest outbreaks, alert and response systems.

She recalled that the Fall armyworm (*Spodoptera frugiperda*) is a pest that appears among the ten most devastating pests. She said that FAW can fly up to 100 km per night, with a potential threat of 17.7 billion tons for the maize crop.

FAO has set up a control program in 21 countries where it has been relatively weak since July 2020. It has also posted an online guide in English containing control guidelines for NPPOs. The French and Arabic version is not yet available and is scheduled for October.

She further indicated that this was a global action against the fall armyworm with the main objective of reducing crop losses to 5-10%. And that FAO / IPPC has prevention and preparedness guidelines for FAW. She also mentioned that webinars were scheduled

for October, November and December and urged contracting parties to review the models.

b) Fusarium oxysporum

The presenter indicated that TR4 is a soil borne fungus origination in Asia, a quarantine pest in many countries and a call for experts was open until 11th June 2021 and the group is to meet by end of the year. She indicated that experts are from Africa, and Latin America.

6.3.4 Emerging pest issues in Africa

Under the topic the following presentations were made:

a) Wheat blast (Triticum aestivum L)

NPPO Zambia Dr. Kenn M'SISKA introduced Dr. Batiseba TEMBO from Zambia Agricultural Research institute ZARI- plant breeder.

Dr. Tembo indicated that wheat is a second important crop after maize, produced under rain fed and irrigation by small farmers and commercial farmers.

Dr. Tembo continued to present wheat production Biotic constraints such as Powdery Mildew, Leaf rust, Fusarium head blast, aphids, Pink stalk borer with major one being wheat blast and Abiotic constraints being high temperatures.

She indicated that the disease was first observed in Zambia in 2017/18 rainy season and high severity in 2018/19 and in 2019/20 the disease was observed on experimental trials. In 2020/21 no farmers grew wheat on rain fed conditions to eliminate the disease occurrence as the disease causes losses of up to 100%.

Dr. Tembo indicated that wheat blast is often confused with Fusarium Head Blight (FHB), both diseases infected spikes have a bleached appearance and green canopy. Wheat blast most visible spikes symptoms are partially or fully bleached depending on the point of infection on the rachis, and spikelet's at the point of infection shriveled grain or no grain at all.

She further said that conditions favorable for blast especially if they coincide with heading are:

- Temperatures 25 to 30 °C
- Continuous rainfall
- High relative humidity of 90%
- Long and frequent leaf wetness for 25- 40hrs

She highlighted that the conditions are common during rainy season in Zambia.

She presented mitigation strategies such as rain fed wheat production being discouraged and that wheat blast was not observed under irrigated wheat production as the conditions are not favorable to wheat blast, and awareness creation to wheat growers.

She concluded by saying that wheat blast was observed during the rainy season and there are no varieties resistant to wheat blast in Zambia.

b) Fusarium wilt in Mozambique

The presenter Mr. Afonso Sitole from Mozambique NPPO indicated that the disease was first detected in Mozambique in 2013 and affected two farms were declared and quarantined. He also indicated that notifications were done Locally, IPPC/FAO, IAPSC and SADC and measures were taken to decontaminate Foc TR4 in Mozambique.

Management Strategies were put in place such as:

- Training of NPPO staff and small holder farmers
- Regular monitoring to avoid spread
- Destruction of plants in affected farms
- Conducting targeted surveillance in Namupula and Jacaranda region and on small farmers groups
- Awareness was created through radios, television
- Awareness materials and posters were made

He further indicated that the diseases is still contained in the diseased areas.

A question was raised if there were symptoms suggesting the presence of the disease and how they carried out mass production of *Trogordema* as a biological control.

The response was that Banana plantations showed symptoms such as yellowing of leaves from older leaves to younger leaves and discoloration of the vascular tissue observed when the stem was cut. Samples were sent to the local university lab but diagnosed as a fungus, samples sent to Stellenbosch University in the Republic of South Africa and was confirmed to be TR4.

c) Mango mealybug (*Ratrococcus invandens Williams*) in Rwanda

Mr Abera HAILE indicated that the pest originate in South East Asia and is associated with sooty mould subtract and it causes 53- 100% reduction in yield. She further indicated that disease was detected in Rwanda in 2019 followed by Burundi then Ghana and now distributed in 13 East African Countries.

He also mentioned that pest has been the most important polyphagous pest of horticultural crops since 1982 in West African countries Togo, Benin, Ghana, Côte d'voire, Nigeria and Senegal and probably introduced to West Africa on infested plant material.

He indicated that mitigation measures were put in place to curb the spread of the disease such as:

- Biological control program was developed
- Rwanda technical cooperation programme TCP/SFg/3801 covering 3 countries: Rwanda, Uganda and Burundi
- A task force was established
- Preparation of a dossier for 2 parasitoids was done
- Conducting biweekly meetings as a way forward

d) Golden Apple Snail (GAS) (*Pomacea canaliculata*)

The presenter Dr. Alexander MUVEA indicated that the pest is native Southern America spread to other parts of the world including Asia, the Caribbean and reported in the continent of Africa in Kenya in 2020 on a rice crop. Dr MUVEA indicated that crop losses and increased costs of production occasioned by replanting of damaged crops and application of management practices continue to be reported by farmers.

He also indicated that even though not reported in other African countries, many countries in Africa are at potential risk they have favorable conditions for GAS.

He discussed the biology of the pest as follows:

- Adults have muddy brown shells and golden pinkish or orange-yellow flesh.
- They are bigger and lighter compared to native snails.
- *Pomacea* eggs are spherical, calcareous and deep pink-red when newly hatched
- The eggs become paler as the calcium hardens and eventually turning whitish pink before hatching.
- They are laid in a mass just above the water

He further said that current options of management includes;

- changes to the cropping system by avoiding rotation crops to limit host
- desilting of canals to minimize the habitable areas
- strict quarantine enforcement to prevent introduction and spread
- clean certification scheme for traded plants from infested areas
- Contingency and rapid response plans for new incursions to mitigate impact
- Physical/ mechanical control through hand picking of snails and crushing of eggs

- Training and awareness creation on management of the pests

The presenter highlighted as follows on the challenges faced with management of

Pomacea:

- Differentiation of *Pomacea* species on a morphological basis is difficult;
- Expansion of rice production - increase in rice irrigation has implication on the survival and spread of the snail;
- Multiple cropping per year bolster snail populations;
- Lack of tolerant varieties
- Planting systems - direct vs seeding

A question was raised of if biological control was used as one of the control measures for controlling snail

In response Dr. MUVEA indicated that no biological control agents were identified for controlling snails and currently Neem extracts and squashing of eggs was done, in addition other countries use ducks released in high numbers and flooding of fields resulting in snails coming out of the water and ducks will feed on exposed snails.

Another question raised was if pest risk analysis was done for the biological control used in Rwanda.

A response was that a dossier was prepared with all the reports in line with IPPC protocols and a task force evaluated all the necessary documents and all documents passed. She further indicated that local identified natural enemies which were shipped to the United Kingdom for identification and precautions are taken to adhere to IPPC regulations.

7 Moving together from ideas to action

7.1 IYPH Legacy

IYPH Legacy was presented by Mr. Martin SIAZEMO from Zambia.

Mr Martin started by presenting the objectives of IYPH which were:

- Raising Public awareness of the importance of plant health to achieve SDG's and for daily life
- Increase resources dedicated to plant health
- Promote good practices, Knowledge, research and partnerships

He indicated that as a country Zambia there found very important to extend the International Year of Plant Health to 2021. He further said that IYPH key initiatives, IYPH

launch event, Plant health and rights to food, CPM -15 of 16 March to 1st April 2020, Ph and climate change, IYPH webinars and IYPH closing ceremony.

The presenter highlighted the IYPH communication on social media and websites.

Mr Martin also mentioned that in December 2020 the FAO council endorsed Zambia's proposal to proclaim 12th May as the International day of Plant Health and the first International Plant Health conference is scheduled for the week of May 2022 and the host country to be identified. He added that Scientific reviews of Impact of climate change on plant pests publications and summary was planned for policy makers 1st June, subsequent webinar on 30 June, 2021. The Final report for IYPH is to be published in all FAO languages planned for August/September 2021 to include IYPH youth declaration. Contracting parties were urged to contribute either by sharing the IYPH logo and materials that can be found on the website: www.fao.org/iypH or by attending IYPH and webinars, being active on social media.

Mr. Descartes KOUMBA from IPPC wanted to know if Zambia has specific events planned for IDPH next year.

The presenter responded that there are many activities planned especially on awareness and awareness information.

The chairperson Mr. KOUAME KONAN applauded Zambia to have managed to continue with the legacy for IYPH and to contact IPPC to help with organizing for the event.

7.2 The IPPC ePhyto Solution

The presenter Mr Josiah SYANDA introduced the ePhyto solution, the electronic phytosanitary certification system of the IPPC. The presenter indicated that ePhyto Solution allows countries to exchange electronically ePhytos (electronic phytosanitary certificates) with each other through a central hub, quickly, accurately and at no purchase cost. He emphasized that Countries can join the system free once they meet the necessary requirements. He also indicated that the risk of loss, damage or fraud to the certificate is greatly reduced, as is the administrative burden on both border agencies and business.

Mr SYANDA further mentioned that the system was initially set up to exchange electronic phytosanitary certificates, but any certificate (animal health, food safety, etc.), once coded in XML, can be exchanged.

The presenter mentioned that the benefits of ePhyto are as follows:

- Reduces non-compliant certificates; More paper work rejections than pest finds.
- Eliminates inefficient paper processes which is labor intensive.

- Efficiency gets food faster where it is needed
- Reduces the re-issuance of paper phytosanitary certificates that have tremendous cost in terms of time and money with paper.

He also indicated that the Solution consists of the ePhyto Hub (with direct connections for countries with their own national systems) and the web-based Generic ePhyto National System (GeNS – for countries without their own infrastructure) exchanging harmonized messages in a uniform format and structure. He added that the system is effortlessly handling approximately 95,000 certificates per month, with the capacity to handle (in the current configuration) up to 100,000 certificates per day.

He further said that the IPPC Secretariat is working with a number of international organizations and groups to make the ePhyto Solution a trade facilitation tool for any country (or organization) wishing to use it. These include:

- The Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation of the World Economic Forum
- The ePhyto Industry Advisory Group
- The Standards and Trade Development Facility
- The World Bank and International Finance Corporation
- The World Customs Organization

He emphasized that for a country to participate in the Hub with a national system it is mandatory to have the capacity to produce electronic phytosanitary certificates (ePhytos) and the national system needs to have at least the following functionality: enter phytosanitary certificate data electronically, produce phytosanitary certificates (ePhytos and/or paper), send ePhytos, store of electronic phytosanitary certificate data, receive ePhytos, decrypt ePhytos, validate the structure of the ePhyto message and read/view/print/produce pdf of ePhytos.

A Participant from Namibia raised a question on the cost associated with the system.

The presenter indicated that there are two approaches to the system:

- i. A cost cannot be attached because national phytosanitary systems vary and a wide range of costs are associated with the national systems. The national system is higher than Generic.
- ii. With the generic system, contracting parties are not required to procure hardware's as there are already procured by IPPC. Cost to be incurred are for users staff as a change of management and procurement of tools such as computers, laptops and tablets.

Dr. MEZUI M'ELLA acknowledged Mr SYANDA for the effort in supporting the African continent on ePhyto matters and wanted to know on efforts made especially on capacity building.

Mr SYANDA indicated that there was a workshop hosted by Kenya – APHIS and countries were invited to attend for the ePhyto presentation beginning of September 2021.

He further mentioned that Global alliances to trade requested countries to submit request that they need support on, he highlighted that countries which put in request their needs evaluation are on-going. He encouraged countries to submit their request.

Mr SYANDA appealed to NPPO to join ePhyto as a solution and appreciated the request that was made to include ePhyto on the Plant Health Strategy for Africa.

Ms. Luiza wanted to know what it is that contracting parties are not taking part on ePhyto and if there is a link between ePhyto and Afcta.

Mr. SYANDA indicated that ePhyto is only limited for the exchange of certificates.

A participant from Senegal wanted to know what will happen with countries that have already joined ePhyto and how the mechanism will work if other certificates are absorbed.

The response from Mr. SYANDA was that the scheme is made in such a way that it can accept other certificates.

A Participant from Ivory Coast wanted to know if a country move from a national single window to ePhyto? And what kind of assistance does IPPC provide to Contracting parties?

A response given was that the structure is in a way that you can move from the single window to ePhyto, and the country single window should be in a position to produce an XML. IPPC provide support to contracting parties if requested to do so more especially on capacity building.

Mr. Antonia VAZ wanted to know of what will happen if countries have a problem of internet ?

Mr SYANDA responded by saying that single window countries get information and it is advisable for NPPOs to make efforts and enhance their internet efficiencies to harness the benefit of the ePhyto.

7.3 National Reporting Obligation

Mr Qingpo YANG made a presentation on the National Reporting Obligation (NRO) focused on the pest reporting and the NPPOs experience on the NRO. He informed the meeting that last year, 2020, he organized the workshop for reporting obligations for

African Region. He gave a general review of National Reporting Obligation and focused on the purpose, the reasons and obligations. He alluded that NPPOs are obliged to report in order to control pests of plant and plant products and prevent the international spread, this is by ensuring that available official phytosanitary information for ensuring safe trade and environment from pests, therefore all the Contracting Parties are obliged to the implementation of reporting requirements.

He outlined the general reviews of public National Reporting Obligations and Bilateral National Reporting Obligations. He also explained the role of the IPPC contact point which was adopted by CPM in 2006, and National Reporting Obligation provide the guidance to Contracting Parties to access IPCC and able to edit the information.

He presented a summary of pest report which was submitted by Contracting Parties from 2017-2021 which shows the updated pest reports and number of reporting by Contracting Parties, and for 2021, Africa submitted one pest report by one Contracting Party. He encouraged Member States to register on e-learning course for NRO and provided the link.

He presented the NROs work plan in 2021, which is mainly:

- To activate the IC Subgroup on NRO
- To explore ways to visualize the pest report on the global mapping. For example where the color is deeper, it shows that the country report.

The North American Phytosanitary Alert System (PAS)

A recorded presentation by Stephanie Bloem (NAPPO) was presented on the North American Phytosanitary Alert System (PAS). The NAPPO is made up of three (3) countries: Canada, Mexico and the United States.

She presented the structure of the PAS and how the members countries benefits from this system. She indicated that the website is available for any information and the list of the five (5) countries that visit their portal the most.

At the end of his presentation, comments were made including Mathew Abang, who made a remark that African countries would benefit from putting in place an alert system.

7.4 Coordinating the global effort to reduce the introduction of pest through the sea containers pathway

Ms Faith NDUNGE, the IC member for Africa gave an overview of the risks associated with the movement of sea containers and their cargoes. She reported that in 2019, there were 25 Cargo Transport Unit in the world with 217 million trips which a high risk of pest contamination.

She presented the CPM recommendation on sea containers and establishment of the Sea Containers Task Force(SCTF) an IC Sub-group established with a a purpose of supervising and directing the implementation of the sea containers complementary action plan and the operation by December 2021. She also made a brief presentation on the SCTF achievements in the past 5 years.

In concluding she outlined on the outlined expectations from CPM-16 in 2022 on the sea containers as follows:

- Create a CPM focus group on the sea containers
- Consider value of an international workshop that could be held late in 2022
- To make a decision on the revision of the CPM recommendation No.6 on the sea containers and potential ISPM on sea containers.

7.5 Standard setting process for International standards for phytosanitary measures

The Standards Setting Unit (SSU) of the IPPC presented a video on Standard setting process. The presentation highlighted the importance of phytosanitary principles of plants and the application of phytosanitary measures in international trade and contributions of the International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs) to UN 2030 Agenda and UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in three areas:

- To protect sustainable agriculture and enhance global food security
- To protect the environment, forest and biodiversity
- To facilitate economic and trade developments

This presentation also indicated that as from July, there were:

- 45 Adopted ISPMs
- 29 Diagnostics Protocols
- 39 Phytosanitary Treatments
- CPM Recommendations

The SSU explained the standard setting process in detail and this was important for African Region to have a clear understanding of the process. She indicated that a standard it takes 6-8 years 6-8 years to be adopted, the process is segregated into four stages, which are done in a transparent manner, and all the CP can participate in all the steps.

In addition, the process of developing the Diagnostic Protocols for Regulated Pests was explained; which takes 4-5 years from the development to adoption.

Mr David KAMANGIRA, appreciated the presentation as it helped Member States to understand the process involved in the standard setting and diagnostic protocols and requested the CP to submit their topics for consideration and also substantive /technical comments on the of going consultations.

The AU-IAPSC Director, Dr JG Mezui M'Ella commended the presentation and suggested it could be more helpful to all CPs if the presentation were in both languages, French and English and the presentation could be put side by side. He felt it will be tedious to go back and look at the document in French.

AU-IAPSC Director also echoed on Mr KAMANGIRA's comment that the CPs must submit their topics and urged them that commodity standards were launched for you to consider and be part of the Experts in the mentioned fields.

8 Closing session

Conclusion of the workshop/ Date and Venue of the Next Meeting

The chairperson indicated that the next meeting if possible will not be a virtual meeting and countries should volunteer to host the event which will be held in September 2021.

Contracting parties did not volunteer and were given chance to go and consult their countries and give feedback and NPPOs were given time to decide up to January 2022.

Online survey of the workshop

Online survey was done to have the feedback of participants.

Adoption of the Report

Participants were invited to comment on the draft workshop report which will be prepared by the rapporteurs. The drafting of the report which should be finalized from October 1 to 8, 2021. Final report will be shared on October 15 and will be available in French and English.

Close of the Remarks

The president Mr. KOUAME KONAN thanked all the participants for their presence and their active participation in the workshop, noting that the workshop gave the opportunity to learn despite the fact that the meeting is virtual and the problems of internet connectivity encountered.

He reminded Contracting Parties that the Strategic Planning Group (SPG) meeting will take place in October 2021 and that it will be an opportunity to express views and comments from the Africa region on the need for a Subsidiary Body to consider problems related to effective management of outbreaks of pests.

He urged members to attend and submit further comments on the draft ISPM to be submitted on the OCS.

The Director of the IAP-AU, Dr MEZUI M'ELLA, delivered the closing speech thanking all participants; he appreciated all the presentations that were made during the workshop. He thanked the FAO Regional Office and the IPPC Secretariat for their valuable collaborations. He also urged countries to align with the ePhyto solution. He also mentioned that the phytosanitary strategy for Africa will be presented to the ministers responsible for agriculture at the AU meeting for approval.

He finally declared the work of the IPPC regional workshop for Africa closed.

Appendix 1: AGENDA - 2021 IPPC REGIONAL WORKSHOP FOR AFRICA

THEME: IYPH LEGACY

Virtual Meeting
21-24 September, 11.00 am to 02.00 pm (Rome time)

Registration link for this meeting:

https://fao.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJlpfuqvqT4uG9aJ6izMkrdA3xmQ7VFjPF_o

No	Item	Time (min.)	Document	Presenter / Facilitator
Day 1,				
Opening session and Updates: (70 minutes)				
Chair of the opening Session:				
1	Opening of the Session	20		Director AU-IAPSC
1.1	Welcome remarks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - IPPC Secretariat - CPM Bureau Chair - ADG of Regional Office / FAOR - AUC DARBE (Director) 		Video Live Live Live	Avetik NERSISYAN Lucien KOUAME Gabriel ABEBE HAILE Godfrey BAHIGWA
2	Meeting Arrangements and	5		Chair
2.1	Election of the Rapporteur			
2.2	Adoption of the Agenda		Doc	
3	Administrative Matters	5		Organizer
3.1	Participants list		Doc	
4.	Updates on Governance and Strategic issues			
4.1	Governance and strategy (CPM, CPM Bureau)	10	Doc	Lucien KOUAME
4.3	Update from IC	10	Recorded presentation	Faith NDUNGE

4.4	Comments and discussions	10		All
Day 1,				
Session 1: Drafts standards and CPM recommendations (110 minutes)				
5	Section 1: Discuss substantive comments on draft standards and recommendations (this will involve presentations, discussion and questions from workshop's participants)			
5.1	Revision of ISPM 4 (Requirements for the establishment of pest free areas) (2009-002)	40	Doc	SC Member
5.2	Use of specific import authorizations (Annex to ISPM 20: Guidelines for a phytosanitary import regulatory system) (2008-006)	40	Doc	SC Member
5.3	Revision of ISPM 18 (Guidelines for the use of irradiation as a phytosanitary measure) (2014-007)	30	Doc	SC Member
Day 2,				
Session 1: Drafts standards and CPM recommendations: (180 minutes)				
4.2	Update from SC	10	Live	Ezequiel FERRO
5.4	2021 Amendments to ISPM 5	30	Doc	David KAMANGIRA
5.5	CPM recommendation on Contaminating pest"	30	Doc	David KAMANGIRA
5.6	Commodity-based standards for phytosanitary measures (2019-008)	30	Doc	David KAMANGIRA
5.7	Audits in the Phytosanitary context (2015-014)	30	DC	David KAMANGIRA
5.8	Focused Revision of ISPM 12 in relation to re-export (2015-011)	30	Doc	David KAMANGIRA
5.9	Draft 2020 Amendments to ISPM 5 (Glossary on phytosanitary terms) (1994-001)	30	DC	David KAMANGIRA
Day 3,				
Session 3: Regional activities: (160 minutes)				
6	Section 2: Implementing and raising awareness in the framework of FAO/ RPPOs			
	This section will consist of presentations followed by discussion and questions from the participants			
6.1	Regional FAO phytosanitary capacity development activities	20	Doc	Jean BAHAMA
6.2	RPPO activities	20	Doc	Luiza MUNYUA
6.3	Topics of interest for the region		Doc	

	1. Locust outbreak in Eastern and Southern Africa; Capacity development of DL in West Africa.	20		Shoki AI DOBAI
	2. Preparedness in effectively handling pests outbreak (including Fusarium wilt TR4, FAW guidelines)	20		Sarah BRUNEL
	3. Guidelines for the impact assessment of covid-19 on plant health implementation in contracting parties.	20		Mamba Damas (DRC)
	4 "Emerging pest issues in Africa"	20		
	- Wheat blast in Zambia			
	- Fusarium wilt in Mozambique			
	- Mango mealybug (<i>Rastrococcus invadens</i> Williams) in Rwanda	10		Kenn M'SISKA
	- Discussions on Emerging pest issues	10		Antonia VAZ
		10		Abera HAILE
		20		All
Day 3,				
Session 4 Implementation issues: (110 minutes)				
7	Section 3: Moving together from ideas to action (facilitated session)			
	This section will consist of presentations followed by discussion and questions from the participants			
7.1	IYPH Legacy	20	Doc	Kenn M'SISKA
Day 4,				
Session 4 : Implementation issues and standards setting process (120 minutes)				
7.2	ePhyto Solutions	20	Doc	Josiah SYANDA
7.3	National Reporting Obligation – Focused session on pest reporting	20	Doc	Qingpo YANG
	NAPPO experience on NROs			NAPPO

		20		
7.4	Coordinating the global effort to reduce the introduction of pests through the Sea Container Pathway	30	Doc	Faith NDUNGE
7.5	Standard setting process including DPs and PTs	30	Doc	Erika MANGILI Adriana MOREIRA
Day 4,				
Session 5 : Closing session (70 minutes)				
8	Conclusion of the workshop/ Date and Venue of the Next Meeting	10		Chair of Workshop
9	Online survey of the workshop	20		IPPC Secretariat
10	Adoption of the Report (Procedure to be decided)	20		
11	Close of the meeting	10		Bureau Member IAPSC

Appendix 2: PARTICIPANTS LIST - 2021 IPPC REGIONAL WORKSHOP FOR AFRICA

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