



COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

Sixteenth Session

Virtual Meeting, 5, 7 and 21 April 2022

Update on international cooperation

Agenda item 16.1

Prepared by the IPPC Secretariat

1. The IPPC Secretariat reviewed and updated the External Cooperation web page on the IPP1, highlighting the organizations we are currently cooperating with and describing the areas of mutual interest that we are currently addressing jointly.
2. The following sections provides highlights of the main cooperative activities in 2021 with external organizations and regional plant protection organizations.

I. Section 1. International Organizations

3. **Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA):** IPPC Secretariat continues collaboration with BWC and taking part in the established (in August 2020 by the Executive Committee, endorsed by the UN Secretary-General), Biorisk Working Group (BWG), co-led by the Office for Disarmament Affairs and WHO, with secretarial support from the Executive Office of the Secretary-General (EOSG). The BWG will bring together policy/normative and technical expertise to harmonize and further develop a clear understanding of capacities, mechanisms, and roles and responsibilities within the UN system to strengthen the international community's response to bio risk and improve on the prevention of and preparedness for the deliberate use of biological pathogens.
4. Its function is to facilitate implementing of the five activities recommended by the Executive Committee In particular:
5. Map existing bio risk-related activities of and expertise within UN entities;

- 1) Develop the current draft “bio-emergency management framework for deliberate biological events” (being prepared under the Secretary-General’s Disarmament Agenda) into an overarching guidance framework for the UN system;
- 2) Explore the establishment of a staff exchange programme to foster collaboration and build internal expertise;
- 3) Convene a UN table-top bio risk assessment and mitigation exercise at Principal or Deputy level and at the country level; and
- 4) Develop a strategy for greater multi-stakeholder engagement.

6. Namely, Activity 4 is concerned with convening a UN table-top exercise (TTX) at the Principal (or Deputy level). Consequences of bio risk can affect human (or public) health, but also animal or plant health, which could impact food safety, food security, the economy and overall stability. Disease can exacerbate conflicts and vice versa. Disease can be weaponized, or disease can be caused by accidents. Moreover, bio risks can affect the UN’s ability to work on all levels. Therefore, it is important to roles, mandates, capacities and capabilities of UN agencies to provide effective joint responses. The TTX aims to bring together the Principals of all relevant UN entities for a two-hour guided exercise, which will be used as a stepping stone to develop a cross-UN exercises programme in the future;

7. **CABI** actively participated in the CPM Focus Group on Pest Outbreak Alert and Response Systems and in the FAO/IPPC Technical Working Group on Quarantine and Phytosanitary Measures responsible for the coordination of all the technical activities related to the prevention of FAW spread to new areas;

8. **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD):** The IPPC Secretariat continues addressing the protection of the environment from the impacts of plant pests, as one of the IPPC strategic objectives for the new decade. Consequently, the IPPC framework is applied to address environmental concerns as they relate to plant biodiversity and emerging problems associated with invasive alien species that are plant pests. The IPPC and the CBD Secretariats has a Memorandum of Understanding and it is in the process to get a new work plan for 2022-2024 to enhance even more the synergies, cooperation and actions. During 2021 the IPPC Secretariat actively participated and called upon the IPPC contracting parties on the meetings of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA-24) and the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI-3), paving the way to the fifteenth session of the CBD Conference of Parties (COP-15). Specific contributions were given to the topics on Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, invasive alien species and communications. Moreover, the creation of a Biodiversity-group with members of the IPPC Secretariat was done to ensure that a work plan with the CBD and that on biodiversity related topics are well thought and followed;

9. **Centre International de Hautes Etudes Agronomiques Méditerranéennes (CIHEAM):** CIHEAM was a member of the IYPH International Steering Committee and collaborated with the IPPC Secretariat on a number of initiatives to promote the IYPH 2020 and its legacies;

10. **Comité de liaison Europe-Afrique-Caraïbes-Pacifique (COLEACP):** The fruitful collaboration with COLEACP translated in 2021 with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding -in between FAO and COLEACP. A launch webinar was organized on the occasion of the signing of the MoU, opened by Beth Bechdol, Deputy Director General of FAO. In 2021, COLEACP was represented in the Working Groups to develop e-learning courses on Pest Risk Analysis, Export Certification Systems, Surveillance and Reporting, and Inspection. In addition to providing in-kind pedagogical expertise to these groups, COLEACP is also providing in-kind IT support to develop three of these e-learning materials and is planning to also translate them in French. A Guide was also translated in French;

11. **International Advisory Group for Pest Risk Analysis (IAGPRA):** The International Pest Risk Research Group (IPRRG) accepted IAGARPA former roles and responsibilities. The chair of IAGARPA informed the IPPC that the IPRRG should replace IAGARPA as an external organization providing expert advice on pest risk analysis to the IPPC.

12. **International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA):** Cooperation with IAEA continued throughout 2021, particular for the development of international standards and with the Technical Panel on Phytosanitary Measures (TPPT) in which IAEA has a member as outlined in the panel's Specification. IAEA also actively participated in the CPM Focus Group on Pest Outbreak Alert and Response Systems.
13. **International Maritime Organization (IMO):** In addition, the IPPC Secretariat on behalf of SCTF contributed extensively to the revision of the IMO Guidelines on CTU Inspection Programmes. The IPPC Secretariat have been working to include sea container cleanliness criteria into the IMO inspection programmes through the participation of the IPPC Secretariat in the Correspondence Group (CG) and through advice provided by several NPPOs through their representatives to the CG.
14. In 2021, after long negotiations and considerable contribution from IPPC Secretariat, the CCC 7 approved proposals from the Correspondence Group (CG) and included pest contamination in the revised draft IMO inspection guidelines, subject for adoption by MSC 105 (April 2022). The IPPC may also make a statement on this matter during MSC 105. This marks an important development and confirms a willingness by the maritime community and stakeholders to actively participate in reducing pest contamination of containers and their cargoes;
15. **International Forest Quarantine Research Group (IFQRG):** The International Forestry Quarantine Research Group (IFQRG), formed in 2003, is an independent science group that carries out analysis and scientific research in response to international forest phytosanitary issues. The Technical Panel on Forest Quarantine (TPFQ), the Technical Panel on Phytosanitary Treatments (TPPT) and the CPM Standards Committee utilizes the IFQRG in obtaining answers to key science questions;
16. **International Seed Federation (ISF):** The IPPC Secretariat collaborated with ISF as member of the IYPH International Steering Committee and contributed to ISF events with speakers. A representative from the ISF also delivered a presentation about their work related to e-Commerce to the WG that is tasked with developing the IPPC Guide on e-Commerce. The ISF suggested the possibility to organise an event on Plant Health and the Agenda 2030 among the IYPH webinars paving the way to the first International Plant Health Conference;
17. **Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA):** The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) is the specialized agency for agriculture of the Inter-American System that supports the efforts of Member States to achieve agricultural development and rural well-being. In 2021, contacts were established with the IICA representative to relaunch cooperation and identify areas of collaboration with the IPPC Secretariat;
18. **Ozone Secretariat:** Under the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, technical advice and assessment on issues related to the production and use of methyl bromide, a potent ozone-depleting substance, are dealt with by the Methyl Bromide Technical Options Committee (MBTOC), which is one of the Protocol's Technical Options Committees of the Technology and Economic Assessment Panel (TEAP). The work of the MBTOC has also involves cooperative efforts with the Technical Panel on Phytosanitary Treatments (TPPT) of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) since a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between the Ozone Secretariat of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, on behalf of the Secretariat of the IPPC in 2012. Parties collaborate by exchanging technical information between the MBTOC and the TPPT with a view to maximizing efficiency and effectiveness in advancing the mutual aims of the treaties minimizing duplication of effort;
19. **Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF):** The STDF is an organization housed in the WTO and composed of the following core members: Codex, FAO, IPPC Secretariat, OIE, WBG, WHO and WTO. The Secretariat participated in all STDF Working Group (WG) meetings, which were held virtually in 2021. The IPPC Secretariat conducted in depth reviews of several grant applications with a phytosanitary component, providing these comments to the WG, which reviews, approves and prioritizes STDF projects (including project preparation grants). Full details on approved projects and

their outcomes can be found on the STDF website. The IPPC Secretariat was audited for their implementation of a STDF project for the development of a network of Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE) facilitators, and results of this audit were presented to the WG in October 2021 and during a dedicated webinar co-organized with the IPPC Secretariat. The audit highlighted the good management of the project and the usefulness of the PCE for the IPPC Community. The IPPC Secretariat is active in several small STDF groups working on a variety of initiatives including: Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning, electronic certification and public-private partnerships;

20. **The Phytosanitary Measures Research Group (PMRG)**²: The International Phytosanitary Measures Research Group (PMRG), is an independent science group, that provides a forum where critical phytosanitary treatment issues can be addressed through discussion and collaborative research. The mission of the PMRG is to harmonize research on phytosanitary treatments and other measures with application to international trade of horticultural commodities to support IPPC Technical Panels, plant protection organizations, and researchers. The Technical Panel on Phytosanitary Treatments (TPPT) utilizes the PMRG in to support the development of international phytosanitary treatments to be considered and approved by the Standards Committee;

21. **UN Environment**: The IPPC Secretariat participated to the inter-agency communication coordination with the environment and biodiversity-related organizations throughout 2021 and plans to continue this collaboration. Participating to such meetings allows the IPPC Secretariat to take part to a cycle of interviews underlining IPPC contributions to biodiversity and the environment;

22. **The World Customs Organization (WCO)**: According to the WCO and the IPPC Secretariats Joint Work Plan action 1.4 both sides continue cooperation with the aim to strengthen linkages between customs and agriculture-food agencies at the national level and to raise awareness of the IPPC and WCO communities on the ways for potential collaboration. The IPPC Secretariat delivered a presentation during the 5th WCO Global AEO conference that took place in May 2021. The IPPC Secretariat continues to attend meetings of the WCO Working Group on e-Commerce (WGEC) as an observer, making submissions and interventions to raise awareness about phytosanitary issues among members of the WGEC. The WCO submitted e-Commerce materials in response to an IPPC Secretariat call for contributed resources in 2021 and continues to participate in the development of the IPPC Guide on e-Commerce;

23. **The World Trade Organization (WTO) and the SPS Committee**: The IPPC Secretariat presented updates at all WTO-SPS Committee meetings held in 2021. The Secretariat also provided training at the SPS In-depth Virtual Course: Session 5 (The SPS Agreement and the ISSBs) in October 2021. In addition, the IPPC Secretariat participated in the virtual SPS Committee Thematic Session on Procedure to Monitor the Process of International Harmonization in November 2021 and presented an overview of the monitoring mechanism of the IPPC, highlighting that it is one objective with the new IPPC Strategic Framework, the IRSS (Implementation Review and Support System) general survey results and the intention of making it a sustainable system, and the idea of having a monitoring and evaluation framework for the IPPC community. It was noted by the SPS members participants that the process of international harmonization is dependent of the contracting parties and that implementation may be different from as one standard may be applicable or not to one contracting party. A report from the WTO-SPS Secretariat is being presented to the CPM-16.

24. **The World Animal Health Organization (OIE)** participated in the CPM Focus Group on Pest Outbreak Alert and Response Systems.

25. **Universal Postal Union (UPU)**: A representative of the Universal Postal Union UPU participated in the third meeting of the Working Group to develop the IPPC e-Commerce Guide for plants, plant products and other regulated articles to provide background information on the UPU and their work on e-Commerce and to identify potential areas for collaboration. The UPU also responded to

2 PMRG webpage: <https://www.ippc.int/en/external-cooperation/organizations-page-in-ipp/phytosanitarymeasuresresearchgroup/>.

the IPPC Secretariat call for contributed resources related to e-Commerce and the materials they submitted were posted on the IPP, following review by the IC;

26. **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC):** The Secretariat has been in contact with an IPCC representative to seek their collaboration by appointing a specialist in climate change to compose the CPM Focus Group on Climate Change and Phytosanitary Issues. Among the goals of the focus group are to enhance the recognition of phytosanitary matters in the international climate change debate, strengthen collaboration, and exchange information with relevant organizations such as the IPCC.

II. Section 1. Research and academia

27. The IPPC Secretariat has also increased its liaison activities with research and academia, in line with the new development agenda on phytosanitary research coordination foreseen by the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020-2030.

28. Liaison activities were carried out with the following organizations:

- 1) **Eupresco:** (for the paper on phytosanitary research coordination) as well as some initial joint activities on remote sensing and plant health; University of Cyprus, CIHEAM and University of Florence (for the 16th Congress of the Mediterranean Phytopathological Union and other joint activities);
- 2) **CABI and University of York:** (for the study on the global burden of crop loss); the Universities of Basilicata and Perugia, for the 14th International Conference on Plant Pathogenic Bacteria; the Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degree in Plant Health (for their support towards IYPH 2020 and a presentation made by the IPPC Secretary);
- 3) **Imperial College London:** ICL provided technical support to the IPPC Secretariat for the implementation of the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) funded global project entitled Rolling out a Systems Approach Globally- sharing tools for enhanced application of systems approach and market negotiation on plant pest risk (MTF/INT/336/STF), which ended in June 2021. The tools that support the use of Systems Approach by the National Plant Protection Organizations are refined under the project with inputs from trained and validated facilitators, and instruction manuals were developed as well. The tools and manuals were translated in six FAO official languages and can be downloaded from Systems Approach online tools on the IPP. The phytosanitary systems page on Systems Approach was updated for posting tools and manuals. As dissemination activity of the tools, introductory video and infographic video were developed in cooperation with a communication specialist;
- 4) **University of Turin / Agroinnova:** (for their annual programme on the IYPH 2020); contacts were also established with the Entomological Society of America, the International Association for the Plant Protection Sciences, the International Society for Plant Pathology and La Sapienza University of Rome;
- 5) **University of Florence:** the IPPC Secretariat lectured the class of plant pathology at the University of Florence, Department of Agricultural, Food, Environmental and Forestry Science and Technology (DAGRI), Plant pathology and Entomology section. Hosted by Prof. Laura Mugnai, Professor in Plant Pathology and Co-Editor-in-Chief of *Phytopathologia Mediterranea*, IPPC Secretariat addressed the students of the master's class in Natural Resources Management for Tropical Rural Development in a three-hour lecture that took place virtually while trying to engage the students. The lecture introduced the IPPC to the students as well as its activities and then stimulated the students in a real-life simulation with a hypothetical scenario of pest detection.

III. Section 2 Regional Plant Protection Organizations

29. The IPPC Secretariat provided continuous support to Regional Plant Protection Organizations taking part to the work of some CPM Focus Groups as well as for the delivery of webinars and other events. The IPPC Secretariat supported the 33rd Technical Collaboration among RPPOs, whom met

virtually during the last quarter of 2021. Participating RPPOs received an update by the IPPC Secretariat on the work of the CPM Focus Group on Pest Outbreak Alert and Response System and on the Laboratory Diagnostic Networking as it relates to the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020 - 2030 Development Agenda, discussed ideas for the Terms of Reference for a potential consultant to be hired by the IPPC. The 33 TC RPPO examined the request of ECOWAS to be recognised as an RPPO under the IPPC and deliberated with a recommendation for a final decision to be made by the Convention on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) 16.

30. The CPM is invited to:

- 1) *Note* the Report on the 2021 International Cooperation Activities.