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# COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

## Sixteenth Session

**Virtual Meeting, 5, 7 and 21 April 2022**

**Report from the IPPC Secretariat**

**Agenda item 7**

**Prepared by the IPPC Secretariat**

1. This paper focuses on activities carried out by the IPPC Secretariat in 2021. Activities carried out in 2020 are presented in the 2020 annual report of the IPPC Secretariat.<sup>1</sup>
2. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic continued throughout 2021 and all planned activities of the IPPC Secretariat remained in virtual format. This included the historical meeting of the CPM-15 (2021) virtually and the adoption of the new IPPC Strategic Framework for the decade. 2020 marked the International Year of Plant Health (IYPH) which was extended and officially closed in July 2021. Thanks to strong support from all relevant stakeholders, the IPPC Secretariat managed to deliver its services globally, regionally and nationally.
3. CPM and Subsidiary Bodies. The IPPC Secretariat continued to support the IPPC governance despite the pandemic continued to impact travels and the organization of in-presence meetings throughout 2021. The fifteenth session of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM-15) took place virtually for the first time, allowing the IPPC community to advance the IPPC work after CPM cancellation in 2020. IPPC contracting parties participated to this historical CPM session on 16, 18 March and 1 April 2021, approving eleven standards, establishing three focus groups and electing the new CPM Chairperson, amongst other achievements. The CPM Bureau met on a monthly basis during 2021, with the support of the IPPC Secretariat, which also facilitated two meetings of the IPPC Financial Committee, seven meetings of the Standards Committee (SC), eight meetings of the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC) meetings and the tenth session of the Strategic Planning Group, all by virtual means.
4. CPM Focus Groups. CPM-15 established three focus groups to advance the implementation of the IPPC work and, specifically, on the implementation of the Strategic Framework 2020 – 2030

<sup>1</sup> Ref. 2020 IPPC Annual Report: <https://www.fao.org/3/cb3842en/cb3842en.pdf>

Development Agenda Items, Climate Change and Phytosanitary Issues, and Communications. Each CPM Focus Group (FG) organised six meetings in 2021, for a total of eighteen meetings, and planned to meet every three weeks on average also during 2022 to advance their work in accordance with their respective Terms of Reference. The CPM Focus Group on Pest Outbreaks Alert and Response Systems met virtually monthly from January to September 2021. Additional ten presentation sessions on existing systems and up to 20 sub-groups meetings were organized. The outputs of this Focus Group were presented to the SPG and are also presented to this CPM as a separate paper, CPM 2022/36

5. Standard setting. In addition to the SC meetings mentioned above and keeping focus on great quality of the IPPC International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs), the SC used the Online Comment System (OCS) to revise and approve eight draft standards for first and second consultation. They also approved six draft Phytosanitary Treatments (PTs) and one draft Diagnostic Protocol (DP) for consultation via eDecision. Additionally, the SC approved the Specification 72 on the reorganization of Pest Risk Analysis standards with the aim to improve and facilitate the implementation of such important and fundamental topic for plant health. And on behalf of the CPM the SC adopted the DP 30 for *Striga* spp. The work of the Technical Panel on Phytosanitary Treatments (TPPT), Technical Panel on Diagnostic Protocols (TPDP) and the Technical Panel for the Glossary (TPG) progressed virtually throughout the year. Two expert working groups (EWGs) met to draft text on the Use of Specific Import Authorizations and an Annex to ISPM 38 (International movement of seeds). Further details can be found in the SC report to CPM 2022/30. The Standard Setting Unit (SSU) of the IPPC Secretariat provided close support to the work of the SC and its working groups via eDecisions, opening call for experts, call for discussion papers, coordinating Language Review Groups, Consultation periods on draft ISPMs and Specifications and publishing the ISPMs adopted.

6. Implementation and Capacity Development (ICD). Collaboration between the IC and the Implementation Facilitation (IFU) allowed to improve the planning and organization of eight IC virtual meetings to discuss and move forward on implementation issues and priority topics of the ICD list in Topics. The following IPPC guides (Pest status, guide (2017-048), Surveillance, revised guide (2017-049) and Fall armyworm prevention, guide (2020-010)) have been published this year and the modules of two eLearning courses (Pest Risk Analysis (PRA) and export certification) have been finalized. For the 2021 countries consultation, six specifications for implementation materials were developed, sent for countries consultation and approved by the IC. Further details on IC activities can be found in the IC report to CPM (paper CPM 2022/11).

7. Moreover, through the work of three IC Sub-groups and eight IC Teams, a lot of implementation issues such as modernization of the Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE), sea containers, sustainability of IRSS, international collaboration on e-Commerce, National Reporting Obligations, Fusarium wilt TR4 have made significant progress. Additional information is available on dedicated CPM papers related to the CPM agenda item 11.

8. Twenty-one phytosanitary component pages and the FAQ were finalized and posted on the IPP. This will contribute to improve the NPPOs understanding and access to information by bringing together all the relevant technical resources (ISPMs, guides, contributes resources, etc.) on components of a Phytosanitary System.

9. Furthermore, twelve ICD Calls were launched to identify experts or gather technical resources to support the development of IPPC guides and training materials, to build synergies with ICD projects implemented within the IPPC Community, as well as for the nomination of participants to the IPPC Workshop on Phytosanitary Measures for developing Contracting Parties.

10. During this year, in terms of rules and procedures, the IC Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure (TOR and ROP) as well as the CMP Disputes settlement procedures have been revised in accordance with the related procedures and will be presented to CMP-16 (2022) for adoption.

11. IPPC Networks. Seven IPPC Regional Workshops, were organized in 2021. Two virtual sessions of the 33rd TC-RPPO took place with a third virtual meeting scheduled for February 2022.

12. NROs: The IPPC Secretariat completed successfully the 2021 NROs work plan[1] with the support of the IC Team on NROs[2]. The IPPC Secretariat initiated the establishment of the IC Sub-group on NROs. A NROs presentation was delivered virtually during the IPPC Regional workshops for seven regions.

13. The IPPC ePhyto Solution. As of December 2021 a total of 104 countries are registered to the IPPC ePhyto Solution, out of which more than 60 countries are exchanging ePhytos as a regular business activity and many are also exchanging completely paperless certificates. The remaining countries are in various stages of implementation and testing. In May 2021, the ePhyto Hub had exchanged more than 1 million ePhytos and on average, 100 000 ePhytos per month were exchanged in 2021, compared to 46 000 in 2020.

14. 2021 Call for Topics: Standards and Implementation. The 2021 Call for Topics was open 4 May – 15 September 2021. In June 2021, the Secretariat organized a webinar on the Call to help contracting parties and RPPOs enhance the quality of new proposals to be included in the IPPC work programme. In addition, the Secretariat also developed the automatic online submission forms for the Call to simplify and accelerate the submission process, increase the quality of the topic proposals, ensure there are no omissions in mandatory sections, establish the database with all submissions, and reduce the workload on the relevant stakeholders. By the end of the Call, the Secretariat received 17 topic submissions (7 standards, 3 implementation resources, and 7 diagnostic protocols) from 8 contracting parties and 2 RPPOs. Furthermore, three Task Force on Topics virtual meetings were undertaken in 2021 to streamline the Call process and evaluate the topic submissions. Further details and references can be found in paper CPM 2022/27 “Task Force on Topics and 2021 Call for Topics: Standards and Implementation – TFT recommendations to CPM-16 for the 2021 Call for Topics submissions”.

15. The International Year Plant Health (IYPH) 2020 legacy. The IYPH came to a closure on 1 July 2021, with a high-level event that saw the participation of the FAO DG, video messages from Ministries from Finland and Ireland, amongst others. The IYPH International Steering Committee<sup>2</sup> met for the last time on 2 July 2021, underlining the many IYPH achievements and suggesting a way forward to continue promoting plant health globally through its legacies. The IPPC Secretariat coordinated and followed up on the publication of the Scientific Review of Climate Change on Plant Pests, the proclamation of the International Day of Plant Health by the United Nations General Assembly and the first International Plant Health Conference, originally scheduled on 28 June to 1 July 2020 and now expected to take place in 2022. The IPPC Secretariat proposed, organised and supported two events paving the way to the International Plant Health Conference: a side event to the World Food Forum and a webinar on Remote Sensing in Plant Health, with the support of EPPO, Euphresco, European Space Agency (ESA) and Eurisy.

16. Communications and advocacy. The IPPC Secretariat’s visibility and impact were enhanced with the production of 80 IPPC publications, the posting of 96 IPPC news items, 103 announcements, and a number of videos and social media contents.

17. International cooperation. External cooperation was maintained with 42 international and regional organizations. Full details can be found in the paper "Update on international cooperation" (CPM 2022/29)

18. Resource mobilization. Despite the pandemic, donors were still able to contribute to the IPPC Multi-Donor Trust Fund (MDTF) as in 2021 approximately USD 650 000 was received. Three IPPC projects were funded by the European Union, one by the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) and one by China. The IPPC Secretariat implemented the phytosanitary components of other FAO projects, such as the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) trade facilitation programme. A new project by a new donor (World Bank) was funded in 2021. The IPPC

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<sup>2</sup> Ref. IYPH ISC page: <https://www.ippc.int/en/ph/iypmisc/>

Secretariat has also signed a new project with another new donor (the German cooperation agency – Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)) that will start in 2022. Further information on projects is available in the paper CPM 2022/07

19. Internal management. In August 2020, Mr Jingyuan Xia, IPPC Secretary, was promoted to the position of Director of the FAO Plant Production and Protection Division (NSP). Mr Xia remained Officer-in-Charge of the IPPC Secretariat throughout 2021, while Mr Avetik Nersisyan, Senior Standard Setting Officer, became Officer-in-Charge for daily matters until the new Secretary is selected. Adjustments were also made in the Standard Setting Unit (SSU) due to this new arrangement and staffing resources. The IPPC Secretariat Management Team started implementing recommendations from a staff survey carried out in the previous year to enhance the workplace teamwork, effectiveness, and efficiency. Some implemented action was the establishment of an IPPC Secretariat gender group, expansion of the IPPC Secretariat Management Team to ensure more staff representation and the continued staff annual meetings.

20. The year 2021, despite all the challenges, was a successful one for the IPPC Secretariat and IPPC community. It marked the historic hosting of virtual CPM-15 session with more than 340 participants, the closing ceremony of the International Year of Plant Health (IYPH), while ensuring that standard setting and implementation activities continued in the best possible manner. By the end of 2021, FAO, with the participation of CPM Bureau members and Chairperson, completed the IPPC Secretary selection process and the Director-General notified the selected candidate. The year 2022 is also expected to bear various challenges in the implementation of the Convention, which can be overcome with the IPPC community's continued support and dedication to the IPPC mission.

21. The IPPC Secretariat acknowledges with deep appreciation members of the CPM Bureau, the SC and IC, for their valuable guidance and oversight; all contracting parties (NPPOs) and the regional plant protection organizations (RPPOs) for their strong support and positive contributions, including SPG participants; and all partners and collaborators for their close cooperation.

22. The CPM is invited to:

- 1) *note* the report presented by the IPPC Secretariat.