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REPORT

Focus Group on Sustainable Funding of the IPPC ePhyto Solution

**Virtual Meeting
25 May 2022**

IPPC Secretariat

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1. Opening of the meeting

- [1] The IPPC Senior Advisor Craig FEDCHOCK opened the meeting and wished participants the best of success for the session.

2. Meeting arrangements

- [1] The IPPC Secretariat (hereafter “the Secretariat”) provided the necessary operational and administrative updates prior to the start of the meeting.

2.1 Adoption of the agenda

- [2] The FG members adopted the agenda as presented in Appendix 1 to this report.

3. General presentations

3.1 Review of terms of references (ToRs)

- [3] In a review of the ToRs for the group there was concern expressed that the timelines were no longer appropriate. In addition, there was some question as to the deadline of September for a paper to be prepared for the October Strategic Planning Group (SPG). After some discussion there was a consensus reached that some form of update or paper should and will be ready for the October SPG meeting.

3.2 Review of Strategic Framework 2020-2030 Developmental Agenda Item for ePhyto

- [4] The Secretariat presented information on the electronic certification component of the Focus Group for the [IPPC Strategic Framework](#) Development Agenda items. The Secretariat noted that some work had been done that sets about establishing a forward-looking effort for funding of the ePhyto Solution in terms of costs and possible future activities. The group agreed that these documents should be shared for review.

3.3 Discussion (including proposed action plan / next steps)

- [5] The Chair provided a presentation (titled: “ePhyto cost recovery – structuring our next steps”) to help focus the discussion. One member noted that it was important to discuss the principles of what is trying to be achieved, and another noted with some support from others that there needs to be a global outreach and information strategy as a component of the sustainable funding effort. The industry representative noted that there is a continuing effort to talk up the benefits of the ePhyto Solution and the Global Alliance member also noted that a strong communication effort is a big part of their activities in individual countries.
- [6] There was also a decision to avoid using cost recovery as a term for the effort being undertaken and that sustainable funding is a more acceptable term for resource mobilization purposes. In that context, sustainable funding was determined to include the concept of “scalability” which means leaving room for continued growth and enhancements in the system within the funding effort; a clear recognition that the system will continue to evolve over time and sustainable funding must include estimates of those evolutionary costs. As an action point, two members agreed to draft a paper for the next meeting on the scope of what is expected to be covered in the funding.
- [7] Additional discussion among the group established that accessibility is an additional principle for sustainable funding, as well as impartiality. There was also a clear consensus that the system is well beyond piloting and is a tool being implemented for use in individual countries. In addition, it was discussed that when looking at benefits of the system to help determine funding, it should not be on the basis of exporters versus importers, but rather on the basis of the use of and access to the system.
- [8] For the next meeting there was an agreement to look at updating the 2018 paper on funding as well as the options presented by the Europe region representative for the purposes of formatting a thorough discussion against the principles, legal issues, etc. and as a basis for the foundation of the SPG paper.

The Global Alliance also agreed to share some of their cost-benefit figures with the group for the next meeting, while the Secretariat will present the current cost base of the ePhyto system.

4. Any other business

[9] No other business.

5. Date and arrangements of the next meeting

[10] The next meeting will be held on 29 June 2022.

7. Close of the meeting

[11] The Chairperson thanked the participants for their contributions and the Secretariat closed the meeting.

Appendix 1: Agenda

**COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES
FOCUS GROUP ON SUSTAINABLE FUNDING OF THE IPPC EPHYTO SOLUTION
VIRTUAL MEETING**

	AGENDA ITEM	DOCUMENT NO.	PRESENTER
1.	Opening of the Meeting	--	Osama EL LISSY <i>IPPC Secretary</i>
2.	Meeting Arrangements		Marko BENOVIC
2.1.	Document list	02_ePhyto SF FG_2022_May_Tel	
2.2.	Participant list	Link to Membership List	
3.	Adoption of the Agenda	01_ePhyto SF FG_2022_May_Tel	Chairperson
4.	General Presentations		
4.1	Review of Terms of Reference (ToRs)	In SharePoint folder (link)	Chairperson/All
4.2	Review of strategic framework 2020-2030 Developmental Agenda Item for ePhyto	Link to IPPC Strategic Framework	Craig FEDCHOCK
4.3	Discussion: - scope of work (what's in, what's out) - goals and principles for long-term funding mechanism - proposed next steps	Presentation	Chairperson/All
5.	Any Other Business		Chairperson
6.	Next Meeting	--	Chairperson
7.	Closing of the Meeting	--	Chairperson

Appendix 2: Membership list

FAO Region	Name, Organization, Country	e-mail account
Africa	VACANT	
Asia	Mr Shigemi TEPPEI Deputy Director Plant Protection Division, Food Safety and Consumer Affairs Bureau Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) Japan	teppe_i_shigemi780@maff.go.jp
Europe	Mr Samuel BISHOP Head of International plant health policy and risk co-ordination York, UK	sam.bishop@defra.gsi.gov.uk
Latin America and the Caribbean	VACANT	
Near East and North Africa	VACANT	
North America	Mr Ibrahim SHAQIR Associate Deputy Administrator, Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) USA	ibrahim.shaqir@usda.gov
Southwest Pacific <i>Chairperson</i>	Ms Lisa WINTHROP Group Manager, Plant Health Group, MPI, New Zealand	lisa.winthrop@mpi.govt.nz
Southwest Pacific / ESG Rep	Mr Peter NEIMANIS EL2, Director Business Systems Program Plant Export Operations Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment Australia	Peter.Neimanis@awe.gov.au
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CPM Bureau Rep	Mr Peter THOMSON Director Plants & Pathways Biosecurity New Zealand	Peter.Thomson@mpi.govt.nz
UNICC Rep	Mr Venkat VENKATESWARAN Head - Applications Delivery United Nations International Computing Centre (UNICC)	venkat@unicc.org
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