Proposal to structure CPM agendas around the IPPC Strategic Framework in order to support its implementation

Draft discussion paper prepared by Canada

9th September, 2022

This paper reflects and builds on previous Strategic Planning Group (SPG) discussions that took place at their meeting in 2019. The SPG had at that time recommended proceeding with an approach to structure CPM agendas around the IPPC Strategic Framework in order to support its implementation, as described further below. However, during the subsequent covid pandemic period, the cancellation of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) meeting in 2020 and the holding of virtual CPM meetings in 2021 and 2022 delayed proceeding further with this proposal. The proposal is therefore being reintroduced to the SPG in advance of the physical CPM-17 meeting planned for 2023.

1. Background

During the finalization of the draft IPPC Strategic Framework in 2019, the challenges and needs for its successful implementation were raised in the CPM Bureau and the SPG. As part of the related discussion, it was noted that the successful implementation of any given strategy is usually orders of magnitude more challenging than the process of writing one, and the difficulty of implementation increases with increasing complexity and ambition of intended objectives and outcomes.

Given that IPPC is made up of 184 contracting parties, and recognizing the diverse pressures and considerations facing the different FAO regions and individual contracting parties, having had the Strategic Framework adopted is in itself a seminal achievement, and is a clear signal of intent to bring about its implementation. This achievement should not be understated. However, despite the clear intent to attain the goals of the Strategic Framework, achieving this will require sustained, concentrated and coordinated efforts and actions, accompanied by review, adjustment and adaptation, and further implementation efforts. Without such efforts, many strategies may simply become passive documents and often unused references. To avoid this, the IPPC community, led by the CPM, must “throw everything at” implementation of the Strategic Framework.

One of the aspects that is evidently important in achieving implementation of strategies is to involve in the implementation activities at least some of the same people who led creation of the standard in its implementation. Given that key CPM members drafted the Strategic Framework, and that the CPM ultimately reviewed and adopted it, the CPM should ensure that there is an annual focus on its implementation during CPM meetings. Doing so will ensure that resources can be allocated accordingly, progress can be monitored, obstacles discussed along with proposals for their resolution and, as necessary, ongoing adaptation of the Strategic Framework to respond to a constantly changing operating (and physical) environment may be considered.

With this in mind, a related proposal was made in 2019 to structure future CPM agendas around the objectives of the Strategic Framework. This was presented to the 2019 SPG in a short paper (*21-SPG-2019-Oct*). As a result of that meeting, the SPG had recommended proceeding with this approach, but the subsequent covid pandemic period disruptions, including the cancellation of the CPM meeting in 2020 and then the holding of virtual CPM meetings in 2021 and 2022 delayed proceeding further with this approach. The proposal is therefore being reintroduced to the SPG in advance of the physical CPM meeting planned for 2023. It should be noted that, prior to re-introducing this proposal to the SPG, the Bureau was first reminded at its June 2022 meeting of the earlier proposal and this is captured in the report of that meeting.

Related excerpts from the 2019 SPG meeting and the June 2022 Bureau meeting are presented below.

2. Excerpt from the 2019 SPG report:

A proposal has been made to consider structuring future CPM agendas according to the elements of the Strategic Framework, oriented around the three strategic objectives and the eight development agenda themes. [the proponent] suggested that such an approach should facilitate organization, also involvement of potential donors and other agencies. He invited the SPG to consider options for future CPM agendas that would be linked to the Strategic Framework and, if appropriate, support continued efforts to further develop along the lines proposed or suggest an alternative approach to developing future CPM agendas.

SPG Members appreciated the idea whilst observing that the CPM agenda contains items currently not included in the current proposal. The Secretariat clarified that structuring CPM future agendas around the Strategic Framework shall not limit or hinder the flexibility to include other items, underlining that this is an improvement combining continuation with innovation about the future work of the CPM.

The SPG: Welcomed the proposal to structure future agendas of the CPM on the Strategic Framework, provided that there will be room for additions and inclusion of items as deemed necessary.

3. Excerpt from the June 2022 Bureau report:

One CPM Bureau member recalled the SPG 2019 recommendation to structure future CPM agendas around the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020 – 2030, provided that there would remain room on the CPM agenda for additions and inclusion of additional items as deemed necessary. He reminded CPM Bureau members of the discussion at the 2019 SPG, as captured in its report, that the IPPC community must maintain a constant focus throughout all its engagements for the IPPC Strategic framework to be implemented effectively. ensuring that CPM agendas reflect the themes of the strategic framework will be important in achieving its implementation. SPG 2019 agreed to this proposal and a draft CPM agenda had also been prepared to reflect this. However, the virtual nature of the two ensuing CPM meetings prevented this approach from being pursued until now. As CPM-17 is being planned as a full, physical meeting, this approach should now be revisited. In addition to focusing on implementation of the strategic framework, this approach may also encourage involvement in strategic framework activities by potential donors and other agencies.

The CPM Bureau:

(3) *Agreed* that the 2019 SPG recommendation to structure CPM agendas around the eight development agenda themes of the strategic framework would be included in discussion by the SPG (to be included in SPG agenda under “CPM-17 Preparation and Review of Agenda)

(4) *Asked* that a draft CPM agenda structured around the development agenda themes of the strategic framework be prepared to support related discussion at the SPG meetings

4. PROPOSAL

The core activities of the IPPC are focused on standard-setting, implementation of standards and related capacity development, and communication and international cooperation. The IPPC Strategic Framework is intended to improve the effectiveness of all of these activities and, therefore, its effective implementation must be a key focus of the IPPC community and its governing body, the CPM.

The SPG had in 2019 supported this recommendation. However, the disruption to CPM meetings from 2020-22 caused by the covid pandemic prevented this from being taken up during this period. The SPG is therefore asked to reconfirm their 2019 recommendation to focus future CPM agendas around the Strategic Framework.

It is proposed to include each of the eight development agenda themes to ensure that plans and activities related to each of them receives attention during CPM meetings. However the author feels that they would best be grouped relating the activities to the strategic objectives. This would allow the CPM agenda to remain rational and manageable, would reflect that the various development agenda themes may not all have equally high priority or levels of activity in any given year, and ensure that the CPM agenda remains open to the inclusion of other agenda items. On this last point, however, the author feels strongly that implementation of the Strategic Framework should be the most prominent aspect of the CPM agenda due to the broad advantages that its successful implementation will bring to all goals and activities of the IPPC

As an example, a CPM agenda format structured in this way could appear as follows, based around the development agenda themes. It should be noted that some development agenda themes, e.g., “Assessment and management of climate change impacts on plant health” relate to more than one strategic objective and so presenting them as individual CPM agenda items will be important:

1. Welcome
2. Keynote Speech
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Election of the Rapporteur
5. Report from the CPM Bureau on Credentials
6. Report from the CPM Chairperson
7. Report from the IPPC Secretariat
8. Report from the Strategic Planning Group
9. Report from the CPM Subsidiary bodies

9.1 SC

9.2 IC

1. Adoption of international standards for phytosanitary measures
2. CPM Recommendations
3. Implementation of IPPC Strategic Framework – Development Agenda themes

 (12.1) Harmonization of electronic data exchange

 (12.2) Commodity- and Pathway- Specific ISPMs

(12.3) Management of e-commerce and postal and courier pathways Harmonization of electronic data exchange

(12.4) Enabling the use of third-party entities

(12.5) Strengthening pest outbreak alert and response systems

(12.6) Assessment and management of climate change impacts on plant health

(12.7) Global Phytosanitary Research Coordination

(12.8) Diagnostic Laboratory Networking

1. Adoption of the IPPC work programme [as this may need adjustment after review of implementation of the strategic framework it is suggested to have this afterwards]
2. Update from Focus Groups
3. [Other CPM agenda items as appropriate]
4. Approve membership of subsidiary bodies

The SPG is invited to:

1. *Confirm support* for future CPM agendas to be oriented around implementation of the Strategic Framework, and for this to be communicate to the CPM Bureau in order that the agenda for CPM-17 in 2023 can be developed accordingly.