



COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES
SEVENTEENTH SESSION
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 2022. Activities carried out in 2021 are presented in the 2021 annual report¹ of the IPPC Secretariat.
- [2] The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic continued throughout the first half of 2022 with some meetings and activities of the IPPC Secretariat remaining in virtual format. However, a return to a degree of normalcy did recommence in the latter part of 2022 as we resumed most in-person meetings and events since the initial breakout of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- [3] While virtual meetings proved useful to continue the essential work of the IPPC Secretariat, most would agree on the unparalleled value of face-to-face events, which allowed us to discuss, interact, and engage with one another once again.
- [4] **CPM and Subsidiary Bodies.** The IPPC Secretariat continued to support the IPPC governance despite the continued impact on travels and the organization of in-presence meetings through the first half of 2022. The sixteenth session of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM-16) took place virtually for a second time, allowing the IPPC community to advance the IPPC work. IPPC contracting parties participated to this CPM session on 5, 7 and 21 April 2022, adopting nine standards (including five PTs), ISPM 46 (*Commodity-specific standards for phytosanitary measures*) and ISPM 47 (*Audit in the Phytosanitary Context*) were adopted as new ISPMs while the focused revision of ISPM 12 and the 2019-2020 amendments to ISPM 5 were also adopted. One CPM Recommendation was adopted and CPM-16 also agreed on establishing two CPM focus groups and approving the 2022-2025 Action Plan for the 2020-2030 Strategic Framework implementation of the development agenda item “*Assessment and Management of Climate Change Impacts on Plant Health*”, amongst other achievements. The CPM Bureau met eleven times during 2022, with the support of the IPPC Secretariat, including their first face-to-face meeting since the pandemic in October 2022. The IPPC Secretariat also facilitated the eleventh session of the Strategic Planning Group (SPG) that also took place in person after the CPM bureau meeting in October 2022 in Rome, Italy. The Standards Committee (SC) met five times including the fully in person SC November on 14 – 18 November meeting and the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC) held four meetings: three virtual meetings (in February, March and May) and one face-to-face meeting on 21 - 25 November.
- [5] **CPM Focus Groups.** CPM-16 established two new CPM Focus Groups (FGs) to advance the implementation of the IPPC work, specifically on Sea Containers and the Safe Provision of Food and other Humanitarian Aid. The IPPC Secretariat supported the selection of members for each FG and work began in accordance with their respective Terms of Reference with several meeting organised in mid to late 2022, to advance the work. A full update from these two FGs is being presented to CPM as separate papers under agenda item 13. The other focus groups on the implementation of the Strategic Framework 2020 – 2030 Development Agenda Items (including POARs) were presented to the SPG and are being presented to this CPM under agenda item 12.
- [6] **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 significantly

¹ 2021 IPPC Annual Report: <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cb9334en>

progressed its work in 2022. They met in person at the FAO Headquarters in November with a rich agenda to cover including the recommendation of three ISPMs to CPM-17 for adoption and the approval of three specifications. The specifications approved were Specification 73 (Annex International movement of mango (*Mangifera indica*) fruit to ISPM 46), Specification 74 (Annex Field inspection (including growing season inspection) to ISPM 23) and Specification 75 (Revision of ISPM 26). The new SC Chairperson, Sophie Peterson (Australia), who was elected in May 2022, led the meeting. The Technical Panel on Commodity Standards (TPCS) started working in 2022 to draft commodity standards that will be annexed to the newly adopted ISPM 46 (*Commodity-specific standards for phytosanitary measures*). 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*). 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.

- [7] **Implementation and Capacity Development (ICD).** Collaboration between the IC and the Implementation Facilitation Unit (IFU) of the IPPC Secretariat allowed effective planning and organization of IC meetings to discuss and move forward on implementation issues and priority topics of the ICD list in Topics. In 2022, multiple Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluations (PCEs) that were undertaken in several countries, including a PCE facilitator-training course to develop a pool in Africa for sustainable capacity development over the continent. The following IPPC guides (Guide to Regulation of Wood Packaging Material, E-commerce and Contingency Planning) have been worked on in 2022 and will be published in 2023. The IPPC Secretariat published four e-learning courses in 2022. The topics covered by these e-learning courses are Pest Risk Analysis, Surveillance and Reporting Obligations (both published in May), Phytosanitary Export Certification System (published in September) and Phytosanitary Inspection (Published in October). The summary of activities from the three IC Sub-groups and nine IC Teams can be found in the IC report to CPM (paper CPM 2023/10).
- [8] **IPPC Networks.** Seven IPPC Regional Workshops were organized in 2022. All workshops took place in person or hybrid mode with the exception of the Caribbean workshop that took place virtually. The third and final virtual session of the 33rd Technical Consultation among RPPOs (TC-RPPOs) took place in February 2022. The 34th TC-RPPOs met four times throughout 2022, two in person sessions and two virtual meetings.
- [9] **The IPPC ePhyto Solution.** As of December 2022, nearly three million ePhytos have been successfully exchanged through the Hub by 74 active user countries (up from 62 active user countries at the end of 2021); the total number of countries registered increased from 103 at the end of 2021 to 114 at the end of 2022. An update from the CPM Focus Group on Sustainable funding of the IPPC ePhyto Solution will be presented to this CPM under agenda item 12.2 (paper CPM 2023/14)
- [10] **Communications and advocacy.** The IPPC Secretariat's visibility and impact were enhanced with the production of 18 IPPC publications, the posting of 68 IPPC news items, 67 announcements, and a number of videos and social media contents.
- [11] **International Day of Plant Health.** The International Day of Plant Health (IDPH) is a key legacy of the International Year of Plant Health (IYPH), which was marked in 2020-2021. The IDPH was celebrated on 12 May 2022 for the first time to continue to inform and engage the public, policymakers, academia, media, and the private sector about the key role of plant health in achieving the United Nations 2030 Agenda. A dedicated website² is maintained in all 6 UN languages.
- [12] **International Plant Health Conference.** The first International Plant Health Conference (IPHC) co-organized with the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) of the United

² IDPH website: <https://www.fao.org/plant-health-day/en>

Kingdom took place from 21-23 September 2022 in London, UK. The 3-day Conference brought together more than 500 policymakers, academics and experts from more than 74 countries to address plant health challenges, including food security, the impacts of climate change, environmental protection, and facilitating safe trade. More than 120 speakers across 20 sessions and delegates shared knowledge and discussed global phytosanitary issues. More than 1350 viewers followed the conference via webcast during different sessions.

- [13] **International cooperation.** External cooperation was maintained with 47 international and regional organizations. Full details can be found in the paper "Update on international cooperation" (CPM 2023/28)
- [14] **Resource mobilization.** In 2022, USA/NAPPO, Republic of Korea, Canada, Ireland and Finland, contributed the total of USD 680,000 to the IPPC Multi-Donor Trust Fund (MDTF). Four IPPC projects were funded by the European Union, one by the German cooperation agency – Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), one by World Bank 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 and project on Strengthening food control and phytosanitary capacities and governance. Further information on projects is available in the paper CPM 2023/20.
- [15] **Internal management.** In 2022, the new IPPC Secretary introduced a weekly Leadership Meeting with unit leads as well as weekly staff meetings, which will gradually replace the need for mid-year and annual meetings, if convenient. A number of staff left the IPPC Secretariat on promotional basis within the FAO, particularly the administrative staff. However, a replacement plan was quickly instituted and new staff were recruited to help close the gap in staff created by this turnover.
- [16] Additionally, this year, the IPPC Secretary presented a new vision of potential future initiatives of the Secretariat to the CPM Bureau and SPG at their respective meetings in October to gather feedback on these initiatives. The new IPPC initiatives include a global phytosanitary program (GPP) with special focus on Africa, a phytosanitary trade support team (TST) and a center of excellence (CoE), which are essentially aligned to the IPPC strategic framework 2020-2030. The initiatives were well received by the Bureau and SPG and were recommended for further discussion by the community in its upcoming meeting (CPM-17) in March 2023.
- [17] The IPPC Secretariat acknowledges with deep appreciation members of the CPM Bureau, the SC and the 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.
- [18] The CPM is invited to:
- (1) *note* the report presented by the IPPC Secretariat.