

**COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES****SEVENTEENTH SESSION****UPDATE FROM CPM FOCUS GROUP: SAFE PROVISION OF FOOD AND OTHER HUMANITARIAN AID****AGENDA ITEM 13.1**

(Prepared by the IPPC Secretariat and reviewed by the Focus Group Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson)

Introduction

- [1] The IPPC recognizes the necessity for international co-operation to prevent the global spread of plant pests. In emergency crisis situations, affected countries can be temporarily constrained in their ability to implement their phytosanitary responsibilities. Contracting parties that are donors of aid do have capacity at that time and thus their commitment to comply with Article IV of the IPPC becomes more critical.
- [2] It is to note that all donations are more than welcome, especially in emergencies situations and to vulnerable people. Saving lives are the utmost importance for all. However, it is known that disasters impacting agriculture threaten all three pillars of sustainable development: social, environmental, economic.
- [3] Countries have faced challenges to manage pest risk effectively during an emergency situation, for example receiving aid from other countries when natural disasters happened. It has been recognized that the provision of aid supplies could bring pests which causes long-term impacts on the economy, environment and communities.
- [4] The International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) has an adopted global recommendation¹ to tackle pests in food aid to strengthen long-term food security and to combat humanitarian crisis. The provision of food and other humanitarian aid assists regions or countries that are at risk of food and economic insecurity as a result of conflict, crop failures, and natural disasters. The recommendation applies the principle of phytosanitary preparedness and response to the provision of urgent disaster-relief assistance and encourages recipient and exporting countries to develop adequate response plans and use guidance available in adopted standards. However, further work is needed to help address this issue.
- [5] The Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) in its sixteenth session (CPM-16, 2022) agreed to establish a CPM Focus Group on the Safe Provision of Food and other Humanitarian Aid (FGFA) to discuss the issues and determine a way forward for this topic to be developed as a standard, or another option that meets the needs of contracting parties. It was highlighted that there is no currently international standard to guide countries on the safe movement of aid during the unique pressures and logistical constraints of emergency situations. Moreover, the CPM-16 also approved the Terms of Reference² for the CPM Focus Group on the Safe Provision of Food and other Humanitarian Aid³ and requested that the secretariat open a call for focus group members.

¹ CPM Recommendation R-09: <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/89786/>

² CPM FG Terms of Reference: <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/91313/>

³ CPM FG webpage: <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/governance/cpm/cpm-focus-group-reports/cpm-focus-group-on-safe-provision-of-food-and-other-humanitarian-aid/>

Call for experts

- [6] To form the CPM Focus Group (FG) for the topic, the IPPC secretariat launched the call for experts⁴ from 10 May to 08 July 2022, extended twice to get sufficient nominations from recipient and donor countries. The IPPC secretariat also contacted some individual RPPOs seeking for nominations.
- [7] Following the Terms of Reference, the secretariat obtained the following as representatives from the IPPC subsidiary bodies:
- CPM Bureau: Lucien Konan KOUAME (CPM Chairperson, Africa region)
 - Standards Committee (SC): Sophie PETERSON (SC Chairperson, Australia)
 - Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC): Christopher DALE (IC Vice-Chairperson, Australia)
 - Regional Plant Protection Organization (RPPO): Visoni TIMOTE (Pacific Plant Protection Organization (PPPO))
- [8] The IPPC secretariat contacted the World Food Program (WFP/UN) and it is awaiting a reply.
- [9] The purpose, functions and process of the CPM Focus Group are described in the approved Terms of Reference.
- [10] The CPM Bureau approved and endorsed all nominations received via e-decision and confirmed in its September 2022 virtual meeting (Table 1)

Table 1 lists the nominee's names, countries, current job positions.

Name	Country /RPPO*	R/D**	Current position
Ms Olive Juliet JAY TO-ALESANA	Samoa (PPPO)	R	Principal Quarantine Officer
Mr Thomas Kimeli KOSIOM	Kenya	R	Principal Plant Health Inspector, Agricultural Regulator
Ms Leisongi MANSES	Vanuatu (PPPO)	R	Plant Health Officer
Mr Julian Andres Rodriguez QUIROZ	France (EPPO)	D	National import phytosanitary control expert
Ms Tanya STAFFEN	Canada	D	Senior Policy Analyst
Mr Lindon McEnroe TARI	Vanuatu (PPPO)	R	Senior Compliance Officer
Mr Ramez Ali DARWISH	Syria	R	Head of the Plant Quarantine Center (Jdayda Yabos land border)

*Nominated by the RPPO; **Recipient = R; Donor = D

What happened so far

- [11] The CPM Focus Group on the Safe Provision of Food and other Humanitarian Aid (FGFA) met twice in 2022 in virtual mode: Once in October and again in December⁵.
- [12] The FGFA selected its Chairperson, Ms Leisongi MANSES (Vanuatu), and its Vice-chairperson, Ms Sophie PETERSON (Australia and SC representative).
- [13] Being established just in April 2022 by the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM-16), the Focus Group centred its work programme on the review of its terms of reference (ToR) and examined

⁴ Call for CPM FG experts: <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/governance/cpm/cpm-focus-group-reports/calls-for-nominations-for-cpm-focus-groups/>

⁵ Meeting reports are available at: <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/governance/cpm/cpm-focus-group-reports/cpm-focus-group-on-safe-provision-of-food-and-other-humanitarian-aid/>

some case studies from personal experiences in order to build up the business case. In particular, the FGFA discussed an information material submitted regarding the imported consignments of humanitarian aids that have been intercepted and refused due to the high number of pest diagnosed that posed a high risk for the recipient country. Besides, other pests that exceeded acceptable limits for human consumption. It was noted that some shipments were channelled through a third country before its final destination. Therefore, something to also consider how the aid are being distributed and the length of the process from the primary donors to the final recipients.

- [14] It was agreed that all FG members will try to provide information for the face to face meeting in Fiji, preferably before year-end. The IPPC Secretariat opened a call to submit studies and papers and invited member of NPPOs and RPPOs to submit additional discussion papers for the agenda. The deadline is 25 January 2023, and more information can be found at <https://www.ippc.int/en/calls/announcement-we-need-to-hear-from-you-and-your-experiences-on-food-and-other-humanitarian-aid-in-the-phytosanitary-context/>.
- [15] The FGFA will meet face-to-face in February 2023 in Nadi, Fiji, hosted by Pacific Plant Protection Organization (PPPO) and Fiji National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO). The meeting will be structured to go into details of the tasks of the FGFA: the pros and cons in developing an ISPM (International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures) and any other material to help countries and plant health community to better tackle this topic. The group highlighted that developing an ISPM is also currently seen as a potential solution to the difficulties that countries face in disasters' times and an ISPM could help fill in the gap of the lack of a proper framework to tackle this topic. The IPPC Secretariat aims to have support from countries for the development of an ISPM, also through additional means such as communications and advocacy.
- [16] Virtual meetings are also planned to happen throughout 2023 to compile the feedbacks received from the various IPPC subsidiaries bodies, the SPG and the CPM Bureau.

Next steps

- [17] It is to again highlight that the work of this focus group is also to support the work of plant health officers to achieve the UN sustainable developmental goals (SDGs), especially SDG 2 on zero hunger. The functions and the work of the focus group are described in its terms of reference. The final outcomes of the focus group will be presented to the CPM-18 (2024), and in accordance with the duration of the group. Therefore, a preliminary report and recommendations will be presented to the SPG in October 2023, SC and IC in November 2023, and final report and recommendations to the CPM-18 (2024) for a decision on whether to proceed with a standard and the priority level to be assigned.

Recommendations to the CPM-17:

- [18] The CPM is invited to:
- (1) *note* the update of the CPM Focus Group on food and other humanitarian aid.
 - (2) *provide* comments, if any