



**COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES**  
**SEVENTEENTH SESSION**  
**UPDATE ON INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

**AGENDA ITEM 17.1**

*(Prepared by the IPPC Secretariat)*

- [1] The IPPC Secretariat reviewed and updated the External Cooperation web page on the IPP<sup>1</sup>, highlighting the organizations we are currently cooperating with and describing the areas of mutual interest that we are currently addressing jointly.
- [2] The following sections provides highlights of the main cooperative activities in 2022 with external organizations and regional plant protection organizations (RPPOs).

**International Organizations**

- [3] **Centre for Agriculture and Bioscience International (CABI):** CABI participated in the follow up activities of the CPM Focus Group on Pest Outbreak Alert and Response Systems and in the FAO/IPPC Technical Working Group on Quarantine and Phytosanitary Measures responsible for the coordination of all the technical activities related to the prevention of FAW spread to new areas.
- [4] **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD):** The IPPC Secretariat continued addressing the protection of the environment from the impacts of plant pests, as one of the IPPC strategic objectives for the new decade. Consequently, the IPPC framework is applied to address environmental concerns as they relate to plant biodiversity and emerging problems associated with invasive alien species that are plant pests. The IPPC and the CBD Secretariats have a Memorandum of Understanding, the IPPC leadership team is discussing a potential new joint work plan for the upcoming years to enhance even more the synergies, cooperation and actions. In 2022, the IPPC Secretariat actively participated and called upon the IPPC contracting parties in the meetings of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA-24) and the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI-3), paving the way for the 15<sup>th</sup> session of the CBD Conference of Parties (COP-15) part II in December 2022. Specific contributions were given to the topics on Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (the now adopted Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework), invasive alien species and communications. Specific written inputs were provided in the FAO paper to the COP-15 that was presented by the FAO Biodiversity delegation. The IPPC Secretariat regularly attended weekly meetings of the CBD's Biodiversity Communication Flotilla group as one of its members and the FAO Biodiversity group, enhancing the message on plant health. The IPPC Secretary, Osama EL-LISSY joined the COP-15 representing the IPPC Secretariat, as one of the biodiversity related conventions.
- [5] **Centre International de Hautes Etudes Agronomiques Méditerranéennes (CIHEAM):** CIHEAM was a member of the IYPH International Steering Committee and collaborated with the IPPC Secretariat on a number of initiatives to promote the IYPH 2020 legacies; especially promotional video shown in the International Plant Health Conference September 2022 in London.
- [6] **Comité de liaison Entrepreneuriat-Agriculture-Développement (COLEAD):** The fruitful collaboration with COLEAD translated in 2021 with the signing of a Memorandum of Collaboration in between FAO and COLEAD. COLEAD provided in-kind IT support to develop the e-learning courses

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<sup>1</sup> IPP web page on External Cooperation: <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/external-cooperation/>

on Pest Risk Analysis and Inspection and is planning to also translate them in French. Eight Guides were also translated in French;

- [7] **International Advisory Group for Pest Risk Analysis (IAGPRA):** The International Pest Risk Research Group (IPRRG) accepted IAGARPA former roles and responsibilities. The chair of IAGARPA informed the IPPC Secretariat that the IPRRG should replace IAGARPA as an external organization providing expert advice on pest risk analysis to the IPPC.
- [8] **International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA):** Cooperation with IAEA continued thought-out 2022, particularly for the development of international standards and with the Technical Panel on Phytosanitary Measures (TPPT) in which IAEA has a member as outlined in the TPPT's specification. IAEA also actively participated in the CPM Focus Group on Pest Outbreak Alert and Response Systems.
- [9] **International Maritime Organization (IMO):** The IPPC Secretariat continues collaboration with the IMO especially in the area of IMO CTU Inspection Programmes. The IMO Secretariat on the other hand takes part in CPM Focus group on Sea containers.
- [10] **International Forest Quarantine Research Group (IFQRG):** IFQRG, formed in 2003, is an independent science group that carries out analysis and scientific research in response to international forest phytosanitary issues. The IPPC Secretariat, the Technical Panel o Phytosanitary Treatments (TPPT) and the CPM Standards Committee utilizes the IFQRG in obtaining answers to key scientific questions and supports the work of this group within the IPPC community. The IPPC Secretariat participates in the yearly IFQRG symposiums, held virtually in the recent years.
- [11] **International Seed Federation (ISF):** The IPPC Secretariat collaborated with the ISF as a member of the IYPH International Steering Committee and contributed to ISF events with speakers. The ISF participated in celebration of the IYPH on the inaugural celebration of the International Day of Plant Health as well as the International Plant Health Conference in 2022.
- [12] **Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA):** The IICA is the specialized agency for agriculture of the Inter-American System that supports the efforts of Member States to achieve agricultural development and rural well-being. In 2022, contacts were established with the IICA representative to relaunch cooperation and identify areas of collaboration with the IPPC Secretariat.
- [13] **Ozone Secretariat:** Under the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, technical advice and assessment on issues related to the production and use of methyl bromide, a potent ozone-depleting substance, are dealt with by the Methyl Bromide Technical Options Committee (MBTOC), which is one of the Protocol's Technical Options Committees of the Technology and Economic Assessment Panel (TEAP). The work of the MBTOC has also involves cooperative efforts with the IPPC's TPPT since a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between the Ozone Secretariat of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, on behalf of the Secretariat of the IPPC in 2012. Parties collaborate by exchanging technical information between the MBTOC and the TPPT with a view to maximizing efficiency and effectiveness in advancing the mutual aims of the treaties minimizing duplication of effort;
- [14] **Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF):** The STDF is an organization housed in the WTO and composed of the following core members: Codex, FAO, IPPC Secretariat, OIE, WBG, WHO and WTO. The IPPC Secretariat participated virtually in all STDF Working Group (WG) meetings in 2022. The IPPC Secretariat conducted in depth reviews of several grant applications with a phytosanitary component, providing these comments to the WG, which reviews, approves and prioritizes STDF projects (including project preparation grants).

- [15] Full details on approved projects and their outcomes can be found on the STDF website<sup>2</sup>. The IPPC Secretariat is active in several small STDF groups working on a variety of initiatives including; monitoring, evaluation and learning, electronic certification and public-private partnerships.
- [16] **The Phytosanitary Measures Research Group (PMRG)**<sup>3</sup>: The PMRG, is an independent science group that provides a forum where critical phytosanitary treatment issues can be addressed through discussion and collaborative research. The mission of the PMRG is to harmonize research on phytosanitary treatments and other measures with application to international trade of horticultural commodities to support IPPC Technical Panels, plant protection organizations, and researchers. The TPPT utilizes the PMRG in to support the development of international phytosanitary treatments to be considered and approved by the Standards Committee (SC).
- [17] **UN Environment**: The IPPC Secretariat participated to the inter-agency communication coordination with the environment and biodiversity-related organizations throughout 2022 and plans to continue this collaboration. Participating to such meetings allows the IPPC Secretariat to take part to a cycle of interviews underlining IPPC contributions to biodiversity and the environment.
- [18] **The World Customs Organization (WCO)**: According to the WCO and the IPPC Secretariats Joint Work Plan both sides continue cooperation with the aim to strengthen linkages between customs and agriculture-food agencies at the national level and to raise awareness of the IPPC and WCO communities on the ways for potential collaboration. The IPPC Secretariat continues collaboration with WCO in the field of sea containers and working to explore the potential value in the use of Authorized Economic Operators (AEO) programmes and adding data elements to assist in tracking the cleanliness status of container units under the Data Model (DM) of WCO. The IPPC Secretariat continues to attend meetings of the WCO Working Group on e-Commerce (WGEC) as an observer, making submissions and interventions to raise awareness about phytosanitary issues among members of the WGEC.
- [19] **The World Trade Organization (WTO) and the SPS Committee**: The IPPC is an intergovernmental treaty<sup>4</sup> signed by 184 countries (as of December 2022), aiming to protect the world's plant resources from the spread and introduction of pests, and facilitate safe trade. The Convention introduced the development and implementation of International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs)<sup>5</sup> as its main tool to achieve its goals, making it the sole global standard setting organization for plant health. The IPPC is one of the "Three Sisters" recognized by the World Trade Organization's (WTO) Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) Agreement, along with the Codex Alimentarius Commission for food safety standards and the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH) for animal health standards.
- [20] The IPPC Secretariat presented updates at all WTO-SPS Committee meetings held in 2022, as usual and all documents are available at the WTO website<sup>6</sup>. In order to improve collaboration and experience sharing, the IPPC Secretariat is also fully involved in the work of a working group with CODEX and WOAH (World Organization for Animal Health). This working group meets every quarter to discuss the activities of their respective Observatories for monitoring the implementation of standards, share best practices and solutions to improve the efficiency of surveys and the response rate of contracting parties.
- [21] In September 2022, Mr Rolando ALCALÁ from the SPS Secretariat, moderated the session on "*Facilitating Safe Trade and Economic Development*" during the International Plant Health Conference, which demonstrated the continued commitment of the IPPC and SPS Secretariats to collaborate in an effort towards facilitating safe trade and protecting the world's plant resources from pests. The

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<sup>2</sup> STDF website: <https://standardsfacility.org/>

<sup>3</sup> PMRG webpage: <https://www.ippc.int/en/external-cooperation/organizations-page-in-ipp/phytosanitarymeasuresresearchgroup/>

<sup>4</sup> Convention text: <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/governance/convention-text/>

<sup>5</sup> Adopted ISPMs: <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/standards-setting/ispms/>

<sup>6</sup> [https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/events\\_e/events\\_by\\_year\\_e.htm?Year=2022](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/events_e/events_by_year_e.htm?Year=2022)

Conference also had the participation of the SPS Committee Chairperson Mr Tang-Kai Wang as one of the attendees.

- [22] The IPPC Secretariat contributed to the SPS 2022 edition of the Transparency Champions Course in Switzerland on 3-7 October 2022<sup>7</sup>. In addition, the IPPC Secretariat actively participated in the hybrid SPS Committee Thematic Session on Thematic Session on International Standards and Best Practices in Pest Risk Identification, Assessment, and Management in November 2022<sup>8</sup> and presented an overview of the IPPC, its ISPMs and the implementation of the ISPMs, related to pest risk analysis (PRA). The SPS delegates and community were informed that a revision and reorganization of all IPPC PRA ISPMs is being undertaken by the SC. The thematic session had the participation of the SC Chairperson, Sophie PETERSON, and the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC) Chairperson, Dominique PELLETIER. Moreover, it had the participation of FAO representative highlighting the importance of trade and food security and a final Q&A session moderated by the IPPC Secretary, Osama EL-LISSY.
- [23] With the WTO-SPS Ministerial Declaration in 2022 (“Responding to Modern SPS Challenges”)<sup>9</sup> several working groups were created, and the IPPC Secretariat is following up and collaborating as much as possible. A report from the WTO-SPS Secretariat will be presented to the CPM-17.
- [24] **The World Animal Health Organization (WOAH):** participated in the CPM Focus Group on Pest Outbreak Alert and Response Systems.
- [25] **Universal Postal Union (UPU):** The IPPC Secretariat participated as an observer in the Universal Postal Union (UPU) postal security group virtual meeting in 2022.
- [26] **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC):** The Secretariat has been in contact with an IPCC representative to seek their collaboration by appointing a specialist in climate change to compose the CPM Focus Group on Climate Change and Phytosanitary Issues. Among the goals of the focus group are to enhance the recognition of phytosanitary matters in the international climate change debate, strengthen collaboration, and exchange information with relevant organizations such as the IPCC.
- [27] **European Food Safety Authority (EFSA):** EFSA had invited the IPPC Secretariat to deliver a speech during the EFSA ONE - Health, Environment, Society - Conference in the session “Protection plants in the era of climate change”.

## Research and academia

- [28] The IPPC Secretariat has also increased its liaison activities with research and academia, in line with the new development agenda on phytosanitary research coordination foreseen by the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020-2030.
- [29] Liaison activities were carried out with the following organizations:
- (1) **Euphresco:** For phytosanitary research coordination collaborative work within the Focus Group on implementation of the IPPC SF DAIs as well as participation in the international plant health conference along with CIHEAM in September 2022 in London.
  - (2) **CABI:** In 2022 CABI collaborated with IPPC Secretariat in the implementation of prevention pillar of the Global Action for Control of Fall armyworm (FAW).
  - (3) **University of Florence:** the IPPC Secretariat lectured the class of plant pathology at the University of Florence, Department of Agricultural, Food, Environmental and Forestry Science and Technology (DAGRI), Plant pathology and Entomology section. Hosted by Prof. Laura Mugnai, Professor in Plant Pathology and Co-Editor-in-Chief of *Phytopathologia Mediterranea*, IPPC Secretariat addressed the students of the master’s class in Natural Resources Management for Tropical Rural Development in a three-hour lecture that took place virtually while trying to

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.ippc.int/en/news/ippc-joins-wto-launch-of-sps-transparency-champions-course/>

<sup>8</sup> [https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/sps\\_e/thematic\\_session\\_nov22\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/sps_e/thematic_session_nov22_e.htm)

<sup>9</sup> [https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news22\\_e/sps\\_22jun22\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news22_e/sps_22jun22_e.htm)

engage the students. The lecture introduced the IPPC Secretariat to the students as well as its activities and then stimulated the students in a real-life simulation with a hypothetical scenario of pest detection.

### **Regional Plant Protection Organizations**

[30] The IPPC Secretariat provided continuous support to RPPOs taking part to the work of some CPM Focus Groups as well as for the delivery of webinars and other events. The IPPC Secretariat supported the 34<sup>th</sup> Technical Consultation among RPPOs, who met virtually and also in-presence during the last quarter of 2022. Participating RPPOs received an update by the IPPC Secretariat on the work of the CPM Focus Group on Pest Outbreak Alert and Response System and on the Laboratory Diagnostic Networking as it relates to the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020 - 2030 Development Agenda. The 34 TC RPPO received update on the request of ECOWAS to be recognised as an RPPO and the IPPC engagement with African counterparts and reporting to the CPM-17.

[31] The CPM is invited to:

- (1) *Note* the Report on the 2022 international cooperation activities.