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Organization of the  
United Nations



International  
Plant Protection  
Convention

## **REPORT**

# **Focus Group on Safe Provision of Food and Other Humanitarian Aid**

**Virtual Meeting  
8 December 2022**

**IPPC Secretariat**

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## 1. Opening of the Meeting

### 1.1 Welcome by the IPPC Secretariat

- [1] The Standard Setting Officer, Adriana G. MOREIRA, from the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) Secretariat (hereafter referred to as “the secretariat”), welcomed the participants to the first virtual meeting of the CPM Focus Group on Safe Provision of Food and Other Humanitarian Aid (FGFA).
- [2] The secretariat informed the participants about the call for information material and case studies, which is open until 25 January 2023.<sup>1</sup> The group was also informed on the invitation letter sent out for the face to face meeting that will be held in Nadi, Fiji, from 6 to 10 February 2023 and that the focus group is expected to continue its work after this face to face meeting in a virtual setting.

### 1.2 Review of main points from previous meeting

- [3] Chris DALE, IC representative and chairperson of the first meeting, provided a briefing of the discussions carried out during the first virtual meeting of the FGFA on October 2022<sup>2</sup>.

## 2. Meeting Arrangements

### 2.1 Election of Chairperson of the Focus Group

- [4] The FGFA elected Leisongi MANSES (Vanuatu) as chairperson of the group.
- [5] The FGFA elected Sophie PETERSON (Australia) as vice-chair of the group.

### 2.2 Selection of the Rapporteur for the meeting

- [6] The FGFA selected Christopher DALE (IC representative, Australia) as rapporteur for this meeting.

### 2.3 Adoption of the Agenda

- [7] The FGFA agreed to include under item 4.3 of the agenda the sub-item 4.3.1 “Round table” of examples and case studies.
- [8] The FGFA members adopted the agenda (Appendix 1).

## 3. Administrative Matters

### 3.1 Participants/membership

- [9] **Participants.** The secretariat introduced the participants/membership list (Appendix 2) and invited the participants to notify the secretariat if any changes were needed to the information, as it is reflected in the [FGFA membership list](#) on the International Phytosanitary Portal (IPP – [www.ippc.int](http://www.ippc.int)).
- [10] The secretariat acknowledged that Lindon TARI (Vanuatu) was unable to attend this meeting.
- [11] **Membership.** One member queried about the representative vacant positions (donor agencies, such as World Food Program (WFP), and the RPPOs representative that is vacant). The secretariat explained that it is still waiting for the WFP’s reply. Regarding the Regional Plant Protection Organizations (RPPOs) representative, one member mentioned that there are some information for nomination, but it would need to go via the Technical Cooperation among RPPOs (TC-RPPOs) and CPM Bureau to select

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<sup>1</sup> [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/](http://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/)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/91817/>

the representative. The secretariat confirmed that the next meeting of the CPM Bureau is on 15 December 2022.

### **3.2 Connections to Zoom and virtual meetings**

- [12] The secretariat provided a link to the participants with short guidelines on Zoom connections and asked them to report to the secretariat if any issue on connection was faced during the virtual meeting.

## **4. Focus Group work programme**

### **4.1 Review of the terms of reference (ToR) of the Focus Group Link to the ToRs**

- [13] The secretariat reminded the participants that the ToR of the CPM Focus Group on Safe Provision of Food and Other Humanitarian Aid is available on IPP<sup>3</sup>. Questions about the FGFA membership, which is one item of the ToR, were posed and responded previously (item 3.1 of the agenda).

### **4.2 Review of main points from previous meeting: October 2022 virtual meeting**

- [14] A summary of the main points discussed at the previous meeting was provided previously (item 1.2 of the agenda). The secretariat informed the participants that the meeting report was posted on IPP.<sup>4</sup>

### **4.3 Examples and case studies: building up the business case**

- [15] A paper with the information material from Syria was introduced by Ramez DARWISH. He reported on some cases of pest interceptions in products received from donor countries as humanitarian aid, mainly nematodes. One member queried if Syria received any response from the agencies or donor countries after refusing those shipments. Mr DARWISH mentioned that although the situation had improved, there are still some difficulties. They do not have responses from the donors when the consignments are refused and stressed the need of Syrian people rely on humanitarian aid, and the fact that they could not apply phytosanitary treatments in these cases. He also mentioned that Syria is trying to expedite the process of food aid, however there is still the political issue in relation to the sanctions imposed thus it affects the communications between the parties.
- [16] It was also noted in the data provided by Syria that there is the need to consider the time between the shipment by the donor country and the time that it is received by the recipient country. Furthermore, it was pointed out that the some of the donations go through another country. This is a point to be considered by the group when making further analysis. It was also stressed the need to have the participation of someone from WFP, as it is the bigger agency on providing humanitarian aid.

#### **4.3.1 “Round table” of examples and case studies**

- [17] Chris DALE provided the Australian perspective as a donor country. He emphasized the importance of the prevention and preparedness by the NPPOs and RPPOs to face the problem of pests intercepted via food aid and provided some examples as the response too disasters such as the tsunami in Tonga and the Khapra beetle new program, which would be a good case study on the work performed in warehouses. He also stressed that the guides and other resources developed by the IC could also be a way to advocate for this focus group.
- [18] One member queried if there is already regional standard, as noted that there is a willness from the Southwest Pacific region to develop it. It was explained that there is no regional standard yet, and highlighted that this topic is high priority for the region. There is an in kind contribution from Australia working at the PPPO's Secretariat to support standard setting and the regional standard could be

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<sup>3</sup> <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/>

<sup>4</sup> Report of the Focus Group on Safe Provision of Food and Other Humanitarian Aid virtual meeting 12 October 2022: [www.ippc.int/en/publications/91817/](http://www.ippc.int/en/publications/91817/)

developed in the future. It was further clarified that, this focus group is not specifically tasked to develop an international standard, but to tackle this topic internationally. And for this, one potential component would be the development of an International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM).

- [19] Tanya STAFFEN commented that Canada is having talks with the USA to develop a case study or an outline on how the food aid is done there. She said that a lot is done through the WFP and reinforced the need to have a representative from that agency in the focus group.
- [20] Thomas KOSIOM informed the group that a report on the experiences from Kenya and other countries of the region will be shared with them at the upcoming face to face meeting. He mentioned about the conflicts and droughts that the region faced and the gratitude for donor countries and the FAO program. He commented that Kenya faces similar problems reported by the member from Syria. One example shared with the group was about maize transported from Mozambique to Kenya infested by flat grain beetle that had to be fumigated. The shipment had also food safety problems. He also commented that a period of heavy rains contributed to increase the risk of pest introduction and the NPPOs of Africa region have low capacity leading to low level of pests' detection at the points of entry. He finalized his report mentioning about countries that have difficulties with domestic quarantine such as Tanzania and Uganda. The chairperson commented that this is also a problem in the Pacific region.
- [21] Olive JAY TO-ALESANA commented on the situation in Samoa, even though the case studies are still being compiled. She highlighted that this topic has extreme importance for the country and the region and raised attention to the need to strengthen the preparedness and ability to respond to disasters. It was also informed that communications and advocacy about this topic have increased in the region, and the need to continue spreading the message out in all meetings of governmental, NGOs and other organizations related to food and other humanitarian aid. There is a need to stress about the potential risk to introduce exotic pests through food aid, including political awareness.
- [22] One member agreed with was related in the previous intervention from Samoa and highlighted the need to be mindful about the work of the IPPC on transboundary pests and the mitigation of pest risks, not only via traditional methods such as pest risk analysis (PRAs) but also via bilateral negotiations, which is crucial in the case of food aid. Therefore, the political will, along with the departments of foreign affairs, advocacy and sensitizing countries and donors on this issue is of extreme importance. He reinforced the idea on reaching out WFP and the good connections between donors and recipients countries at national level.

## 5. Next steps

### 5.1 Discussions on next steps

- [23] It was agreed by the FGFA members to submit case studies prior the face to face meeting. The secretariat asked the participants to confirm their participation to the face to face meeting in Nadi, Fiji, by 16 December 2022.
- [24] The SC representative, Sophie PETERSON, commented about a question raised during the meeting on the food aid topic addressed via an ISPM. She recalled that, in 2018, a CPM recommendation was preferred instead of an ISPM; the CPM recommendation was then developed and adopted. In 2021, the Southwest Pacific region submitted the topic through the call for topics to be an ISPM. Although the topic was not included in the SC working programme as an ISPM to be drafted, it was strongly supported by the Pacific, Caribbean, Asia and Africa regions. At that time, the Task Force on Topics (TFT) suggested that this matter could be addressed by implementation materials and other resources. One issue raised was that ISPMs are only applied to NPPOs, not applying to NGOs and other agencies that deal with food aid.
- [25] The secretariat clarified that for the face to face meeting the agenda will be structured in a way to go to details of the tasks of the FGFA. Noted that one of the biggest task for the creation of the FGFA was to discuss and analyze the pros and cons and any challenges in developing an ISPM. Also, it was said how

the IPPC can tackle this topic through other means, such as communications, advocacy. As it was pointed out by one FGFA member during the meeting, there is also the work of the IC that can develop guides and other materials on the IPPC topics.

[26] One member reinforced that there is a need to support the work of countries that do not have political framework to tackle this topic, especially in disaster time. He said that there are some regional material prepared by the Pacific region, but there is the need to engage the CPM Bureau and the whole IPPC community in this. During the meeting, some FGFA members stressed the importance to have some kind of regulation and, therefore, guides and communications could not be enough to address the matter, but the development of an ISPM could be the solution.

[27] The secretariat mentioned about the call for studies and papers and that any member, NPPOs or RPPOs are also invited to submit discussion papers for the agenda of the next meeting.

## **6. Any Other Business**

[28] There was no other business.

## **7. Close of the Meeting**

[29] The members agreed that the following meeting will be face to face in Fiji 6 to 10 February 2023.<sup>5</sup>

[30] The secretariat and the chairperson thanked the participants for their contributions and closed the meeting.

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<sup>5</sup> [www.ippc.int/en/events/event/1257/](http://www.ippc.int/en/events/event/1257/)

**Appendix 1: Agenda**

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Document No.</b>	<b>Presenter(s)</b>
<b>1. Opening of the Meeting</b>		
1.1 Welcome by the IPPC Secretariat	--	IPPC Secretariat
1.2 Review of main points from previous meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>October 2022 virtual meeting</li> </ul>	--	IPPC Secretariat / IPPC subsidiary bodies reps
<b>2. Meeting Arrangements</b>		
2.1 Election of Chairperson of the Focus Group	--	MOREIRA
2.2 Selection of the Rapporteur for the meeting	--	Chairperson
2.3 Adoption of the Agenda	01_FGFA_Tel_2022_Dec	Chairperson
<b>3. Administrative Matters</b>		
3.1 Participants / membership	<a href="#">FGFA membership list</a>	MANGILI
3.2 Connections to Zoom and virtual meetings	<a href="#">Short guideline for participants (work area page)</a>	
<b>4. Focus Group work programme</b>		
4.1 Review of the terms of reference (ToR) of the Focus Group	<a href="#">Link to the ToRs (Link to the Focus Group on Safe Provision of Food and Other Humanitarian Aid Webpage)</a>	IPPC Secretariat, IPPC subsidiary bodies reps
4.2 Review of main points from previous meeting: October 2022 virtual meeting	--	IPPC Secretariat / IPPC subsidiary bodies reps
4.3 Examples and case studies: building up the business case	02_FGFA_Tel_2022_Dec (Information material from Syria) ...	DARWISH
<b>5. Next steps</b>		
5.1 Discussions on next steps	-	Chairperson / IPPC Secretariat / all
<b>6. Any other business</b>		
	-	Chairperson
<b>7. Closing of the meeting</b>		
	-	Chairperson



## Appendix 2: Participants list

✓	Participant role	Name, mailing address, telephone	Email address
✓	CPM Bureau representative - (currently CPM Chairperson)	<b>Mr Lucien KOUAMÉ KONAN</b> Inspecteur Direction de la Protection des Végétaux, du Contrôle et de la Qualité Ministère de l'Agriculture B.P. V7 Abidjan, <b>COTE D'IVOIRE</b> Mob.: +22507903754 Fax: (+225) 20 212032	<a href="mailto:l_kouame@yahoo.fr">l_kouame@yahoo.fr</a>
✓	Standards Committee (SC) representative - (currently SC Chairperson)	<b>Ms Sophie Alexia PETERSON</b> Director, Pacific Engagement and International Plant Health   Australian Chief Plant Protection Office Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment <b>AUSTRALIA</b> Tel: +61 2 6272 3769 Mob: +61 466 867 519	<a href="mailto:sophie.peterson@agriculture.gov.au">sophie.peterson@agriculture.gov.au</a>
✓	Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC) representative – (currently IC vice-chairperson)	<b>Mr Christopher John DALE</b> Assistant Director Plant Health Surveillance and Diagnostics Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment 7 London Circuit, Canberra ACT 2601 <b>AUSTRALIA</b> Tel: +61 262725192 / +61 466459129	<a href="mailto:christopher.dale3@dfat.gov.au">christopher.dale3@dfat.gov.au</a>
	Regional Plant Protection Organization (RPPO) representative	TBD	--
✓	Member (Recipient)	<b>Mr Olive Juliet JAY TO-ALESANA</b> Principal Quarantine Officer <b>SAMOA</b>	<a href="mailto:olive.alesana@maf.gov.ws">olive.alesana@maf.gov.ws</a>
✓	Member (Recipient)	<b>Mr Thomas Kimeli KOSIOM</b> Principal Plant Health Inspector, Agricultural Regulator <b>KENYA</b>	<a href="mailto:tkosiom@kephis.org">tkosiom@kephis.org</a>
✓	Member (Recipient)	<b>Ms Leisongi MANSES</b> Plant Health Officer <b>VANUATU</b>	<a href="mailto:lbulesulu@vanuatu.gov.vu">lbulesulu@vanuatu.gov.vu</a>
✓	Member (Donor)	<b>Mr Julian Andres Rodriguez QUIROZ</b> National import phytosanitary control expert <b>FRANCE</b>	<a href="mailto:Julian.rodriguez@agriculture.gouv.fr">Julian.rodriguez@agriculture.gouv.fr</a>
✓	Member (Donor)	<b>Ms Tanya STAFFEN</b> Senior Policy Analyst <b>CANADA</b>	<a href="mailto:Tanya.staffen@inspection.gc.ca">Tanya.staffen@inspection.gc.ca</a>
	Member (Recipient)	<b>Mr Lindon McEnroe TARI</b> Senior Compliance Officer <b>VANUATU</b>	<a href="mailto:ltari@vanuatu.gov.vu">ltari@vanuatu.gov.vu</a>
✓	Member (Recipient)	<b>Mr Ramez Ali DARWISH</b> Head of the Plant Quarantine Center (Jdayda Yabos land border) <b>SYRIA</b>	<a href="mailto:ramezali79@gmail.com">ramezali79@gmail.com</a>
	Invited experts – <b>World Food Program</b>	TBD	--
	Invited experts – <b>Other donor agencies</b>	TBD	--

**IPPC Secretariat:**

✓	IPPC Secretariat Lead	<b>Ms Adriana G. MOREIRA</b> Standards Officer / Deputy Assistant to Unit Leader IPPC Secretariat / FAO Viale delle Terme di Caracalla 00153 Rome, Italy Tel: (+39) 06 570 55809	<a href="mailto:Adriana.Moreira@fao.org">Adriana.Moreira@fao.org</a>
✓	IPPC Secretariat Support	<b>Ms Erika MANGILI ANDRÉ</b> Standard Setting Specialist IPPC Secretariat / FAO Viale delle Terme di Caracalla 00153 Rome, Italy	<a href="mailto:Erika.MangiliAndre@fao.org">Erika.MangiliAndre@fao.org</a>