



# **REPORT**

## **TECHNICAL PANEL ON COMMODITY STANDARDS**

**7 June 2023**

**Virtual Meeting**

**IPPC Secretariat**

## Required citation:

IPPC Secretariat. 2023. *Report of the meeting of the Technical Panel on Commodity Standards (TPCS), 7 June 2023*. Rome. Published by FAO on behalf of the Secretariat of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC).

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## 1. Opening of the meeting

### 1.1 Welcome by the IPPC Secretariat

- [1] Adriana MOREIRA, IPPC Standard Setting Officer and Deputy Lead of the Standard Setting Unit, opened the virtual meeting of the Technical Panel on Commodity Standards (TPCS) and welcomed all participants.

## 2. Meeting arrangements

### 2.1 Selection of chairperson

- [2] The TPCS selected Lihong ZHU (New Zealand) as chairperson and agreed that this should be a standing default arrangement for future meetings of the TPCS.

### 2.2 Election of the rapporteur

- [3] The TPCS selected Douglas KERRUSH (Australia) as rapporteur.

### 2.3 Adoption of the agenda

- [4] The TPCS adopted the agenda (Appendix 1).

## 3. Administrative matters

- [5] The IPPC Secretariat (hereafter referred to as “the secretariat”) introduced the TPCS membership list and invited participants to notify the secretariat of any information that required updating in the latter or was missing from it.

- [6] The panel noted the absence of Martin DAMUS (Canada) and Alfayo OMBUYA (Kenya).

## 4. TPCS work programme

### 4.1 Update from the Standards Committee May meeting

- [7] The TPCS Steward, Samuel BISHOP (United Kingdom), referred the panel to the TPCS update that had been presented to the May 2023 meeting of the Standards Committee (SC) and the subsequent update on the outcome of the SC meeting.<sup>1</sup>

- [8] The TPCS considered the decisions made by the SC.

- [9] **Draft mango standard.** The TPCS steward informed the panel that the SC had approved the draft annex *International movement of fresh Mangifera indica fruit (2021-011) to ISPM 46 (Commodity-specific standards for phytosanitary measures)* for submission to first consultation. Joanne WILSON (New Zealand), Steward for the draft annex, highlighted the changes that the SC had made to the draft annex, which were very few. The changes included the addition of a statement about the use of methyl bromide, the removal of information about traceability (because traceability does not, in itself manage pest risk), the correction of some errors in the tables of measures, and the addition of a vapour heat treatment. In the tables of measures, the SC had also agreed to give more prominence to phytosanitary treatments (PTs) adopted by the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) than to publications that had not been adopted by the CPM by listing PTs first and presenting them in bold.

- [10] **Changes to the Standard Setting Procedure.** The TPCS steward confirmed that the SC had recommended to the CPM that the Standard Setting Procedure be changed so that any new topics proposed for commodity standards during an IPPC call for topics are revised by the SC and the TPCS without the need for a consultation period for the draft specification and that commodity standards are considered “subjects” rather than “topics”.

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<sup>1</sup> 02\_TPCS\_Tel\_2023\_Jun; 03\_TPCS\_Tel\_2023\_Jun.

- [11] **Annotated template for a draft commodity standard.** The TPCS steward explained that the SC had invited the TPCS to develop an annotated template for draft commodity standards once the first commodity standard has been developed. The secretariat confirmed that they would bring this to the attention of the TPCS in due course.
- [12] **Form for submitting information on pests and measures.** The TPCS steward confirmed that the SC had approved the form developed by the TPCS, agreed the circumstances in which the form must be used, and encouraged contracting parties to use it when proposing topics for commodity standards in a call for topics. He explained that, as some countries may experience difficulties in providing the necessary information to complete the form, contracting parties and regional plant protection organizations (RPPOs) would only be expected to complete the form to the best of their ability.
- [13] **Calls for topics.** The secretariat confirmed that the form on pests and measures had been uploaded to the International Phytosanitary Portal so that it was available for use for the 2023 call for topics. The secretariat also drew the attention of the panel to a webinar to be held on 21 June 2023 regarding the call for topics, during which the use of the form would be highlighted.
- [14] In answer to a question about how submissions having inadequate information would be considered, the secretariat explained that the Task Force on Topics were experienced with dealing with such issues and would follow the usual process. The steward confirmed that, to help this process, the SC had agreed to share proposals for commodity standards forwarded to the SC by the Task Force on Topics, which would allow the TPCS to advise the SC on the feasibility of developing the commodity standards. The TPCS welcomed this news.
- [15] **Confidence in measures.** The TPCS steward informed the panel that the SC had noted the conclusions of the TPCS regarding the categorization of options for phytosanitary measures according to confidence.
- [16] Noting that one of these conclusions was to record the rationale for including or excluding pests and measures in order to provide transparency, the TPCS chairperson recalled the decision of the TPCS to create a spreadsheet (and ultimately, if approved, a database) and asked whether the SC's intention was for this to be in the public domain. The TPCS steward confirmed that the information needed to be available, but this did not necessarily mean that it had to be open access.
- [17] **TPCS working procedures.** The TPCS steward confirmed that the SC had approved the TPCS working procedures, with the exception of the subsidiary criteria for inclusion of pests in commodity standards.
- [18] **Subcriteria for inclusion of pests.** The TPCS steward confirmed that the SC had disagreed with the subsidiary criteria for inclusion of pests that had been developed by the TPCS, because the only criterion specified in ISPM 46 was that the pest is regulated by at least one contracting party based on technical justification and it was not the role of the TPCS to question the technical justifications made by individual countries. Highlighting the importance of transparency, one TPCS member expressed concern about this decision, as it would mean that more information would need to be given by the TPCS on the reasons for excluding some pests. The TPCS noted that the matter could be discussed at greater length in future.
- [19] **Technical footnotes to adopted commodity standards.** The TPCS steward confirmed that the SC had agreed that a footnote could be added to a published commodity standard if there is a phytosanitary measure that is no longer effective or there is a taxonomic change concerning a pest listed in the standard. This would be an interim solution until such time that the standard is revised.
- [20] **Database on commodity standards.** The TPCS steward explained that the SC had invited the secretariat and the TPCS to explore options on how to build a database on commodity standards and to present proposals on this to the SC at a future meeting. The TPCS welcomed this decision and agreed that it would be useful to have a "brainstorming" session about the database at a future meeting. They noted that there was no urgency for the creation of a database, as it would be some time before there were sufficient commodity standards adopted to populate the database, but they recognized that it would still be useful to start to consider what should be in it. The TPCS noted that there were potential synergies

with other databases already in existence or at the planning stage, including the IPPC database of phytosanitary treatments and an initiative of the IPPC Secretary to create a “centre of excellence”.

- [21] **Revision to TPCS specification.** The TPCS steward confirmed that the SC had deferred any revision of Specification TP 6 (*Technical Panel on Commodity Standards*) until the outcome of potential adjustments to the Standards Setting Procedure is known.

#### **4.2 Presentation to the 2023 IPPC regional workshops: Draft annex to ISPM 46: International movement of fresh *Mangifera indica* fruit (2021-011)**

- [22] The steward for the draft annex *International movement of fresh Mangifera indica fruit* (2021-011) to ISPM 46 introduced a presentation that had been prepared for use at the 2023 IPPC regional workshops.<sup>2</sup>
- [23] The TPCS and secretariat suggested some amendments to the presentation. These included adding some notes for presenters on systems approaches, making it clear that references other than ISPMs or PTs would be listed in the normal way, and clarifying that technical justification for regulating a pest may be based on a comparable examination and evaluation of available scientific information as an alternative to a pest risk analysis. The steward for the draft annex agreed to make the relevant changes.

The TPCS:

- *thanked* Joanne WILSON (New Zealand) for preparing the presentation and *noted* that she would modify it according to the comments made at this meeting.

#### **4.3 The TPCS work programme: discussion on potential proposals for commodity standards for the IPPC 2023 call for topics**

- [24] The TPCS shared information on which commodity standards their respective countries or regions were considering proposing during the IPPC 2023 call for topics.<sup>3</sup> The possible commodities being considered included fresh apples, pears, banana, citrus fruits, fresh longan fruit, table grapes, fresh coconut, a vegetable seed, solanaceous seeds, rice, milled rice, cut flowers (or one species of cut flower), and a commodity that may be provided as food aid. One TPCS member mentioned they would consider avocado and was open to working with other members to develop a proposal.
- [25] The TPCS noted the potential challenges with developing a commodity standard for seeds and the need to be realistic about what could be achieved.
- [26] The secretariat recalled the discussion at CPM-17 (2023) about the threat to bananas from *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *cubense* Tropical Race 4 and noted that one RPPO (Organismo Internacional Regional de Sanidad Agropecuaria) was working on simulation exercises in relation to this pest.<sup>4</sup>
- [27] The secretariat and the TPCS chairperson encouraged contracting parties and RPPOs to collaborate in the development of proposals to avoid duplication, and to share information with other regions in advance to ensure collaboration and enhance support for the topic proposals.

### **5. Any other business**

- [28] The secretariat suggested that dates be scheduled for a virtual TPCS meeting at the end of July (to brainstorm ideas about the commodity standards database and for updates about proposals being developed for the 2023 call for topics), a virtual meeting in late September or early October (to consider proposals forwarded by the SC from the Task Force on Topics), and a face-to-face meeting after CPM-18 (2024) to consider the new subjects added to the work programme by the CPM. The secretariat

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<sup>2</sup> 04\_TPCS\_Tel\_2023\_Jun.

<sup>3</sup> Call for topics: <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/standards-and-implementation/call-for-topics-standards-and-implementation>

<sup>4</sup> CPM 17(2023), agenda item 15.5.

informed the TPCS that at least one country had expressed a tentative interest in hosting the latter meeting.

The TPCS:

- *noted* that the secretariat would circulate a poll to agree suitable dates for the next two virtual meetings and *requested* that, for future TPCS meetings, the secretariat include a standing agenda item to consider the date of the next meeting.

## **6. Close of the meeting**

[29] The chairperson thanked the participants and closed the meeting.