



## UPDATE ON THE 2023 IPPC REGIONAL WORKSHOPS

- [1] The IPPC Regional Workshops are recurring annual IPPC activities with objectives to analyze and prepare comments online for draft ISPMs; build phytosanitary capacity and raise awareness on various activities of the IPPC Community; and provide a forum to exchanging experiences and ideas at the regional level.
- [2] The seven 2023 IPPC regional workshops (RWs) were conducted in August and September and convened anywhere between three to five days, in-person or hybrid mode with an agenda that included the following:
1. IPPC Secretariat updates;
  2. Discussion and formulation on draft International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs) for first and second consultation in the Online Commenting System (OCS).
  3. Phytosanitary capacity building to raise awareness about phytosanitary resources available for NPPOs in the IPPC community.
  4. Regional topics of interest and experiences, and
  5. Perhaps an additional day for a field visit to laboratory and plant production facilities in the host country in some regions.
- [3] The Secretariat supported the regional organizing committees to convene the IPPC regional workshops while the Online Commenting System (OCS) was open during the consultation period from July – September. The seven 2023 IPPC Regional Workshops delivered in Africa, Asia, Caribbean, Europe and Central Asia, Latin America, Near East and North Africa, and Southwest-Pacific, had over 231 participants from 129 contracting parties attending the workshops.
- [4] Each IPPC Regional Workshop organizing committee collaborated with the Secretariat to find a balance between addressing global and regional issues and solving logistical and funding peculiarities. Reports of these IPPC regional workshops will be posted on the IPP when available.
- [5] The Secretariat held a debriefing meeting on 19 and 20 September 2023, and invited IPPC Secretariat leads and staff to give feedback on the results of the workshops. The preliminary responses in the RW survey indicated an overall satisfaction from participants on the 2023 IPPC regional workshops.
- [6] The success of the regional workshop was attributed to:
6. Active collaboration among regional organizing committees composed of the IPPC Secretariat, a representative from the Standards Committee (SC) and Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC), and co-organizers with representatives of RPPO(s), FAO regional and sub-regional offices, host country and any other relevant organizations supporting the workshop such as the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) among others;
  7. Organizing committee members and participants were encouraged to make their best efforts to secure funding for regional workshop activities.

8. This year the Secretariat provided \$165,000.00 to support the IPPC Regional workshops. The workshops comments on draft ISPMs were submitted through the Online Comment System and closed on 30 September 2023.

[7] This summary report is given on observations and recommendations that could be used to improve the organization of future IPPC regional workshops.

### **Financial support**

[8] The budget allocated in 2023 enabled the secretariat to support some costs for meeting facilities and supplies in the regional workshops. Regional organizing committees were encouraged to submit estimates for secretariat funding early, and as much as possible fund their own travel, interpretation, and report writers. Regions benefited by portioned expenses based on World Bank criteria for airfare, lodging and DSA for eligible workshop attendees. A suggestion was made to widen FAO communication channels early to establish RW project budgets and financial assistance needed, as some understood that funding comes only from the IPPC.

### **Level of comments discussed**

[9] The Regions reporting in-person and hybrid meetings had lively rounds of comments submitted in the OCS and survey. Substantive in-person and virtual discussions about standards addresses the objectives of the IPPC regional workshop.

### **Regional workshops and OCS training**

[10] In terms of general discussion, the dates of the regional workshops accommodated the open period of OCS. Refresher OCS training was held to improve the participation of new contracting parties' representatives in the consultation process. Perhaps there may be more comments if the draft standards were presented in other languages.

### **Knowledge sharing during the in person/hybrid workshop**

[11] With a general appreciation of the in-person or hybrid RWs, speakers were able to simultaneously share real-time screens with online viewers and in-person attendees.

### **The IPPC regional workshops agenda**

[12] The agenda was ambitious for a three-day meeting and could be consolidated to ensure improved discussion and debate of primary topics on standards, recommendations and allow further review of implementation subjects. Scheduling additional days dedicated to in-depth conversations for important draft standards and implementation issues is required.

[13] **The IPPC regional workshops excelled in terms of** deliverance, insight, and knowledge sharing related to International Day of Plant Health, draft standards and recommendations, and implementation subjects of interest such as eCommerce, ePhyto, and exercises for regional pest interests.

[14] The TC-RPPO is invited to:

1. *Note* the update.