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Virtual Meeting

IPPC Secretariat

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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. She highlighted the main focus of the meeting, which was to review proposals for new commodity standards received in response to the 2023 Calls for Topics: Standards and Implementation.¹ She also informed the panel that Samuel BISHOP (United Kingdom) was no longer a member of the Standards Committee (SC) and so was no longer TPCS Steward. The SC would be considering the steward vacancy at their meeting in November 2023; in the meantime, the Assistant TPCS Steward, Joanne WILSON (New Zealand), would fulfil the steward's duties.

2. Meeting arrangements

2.1 Selection of chairperson

[2] As agreed at their meeting in June 2023,² the TPCS selected Lihong ZHU (New Zealand) as chairperson.

[3] The IPPC Secretariat (hereafter referred to as "the secretariat") suggested that this agenda item could be omitted for future virtual meetings, given the panel's decision that the standing default arrangement would be for Ms ZHU to be chairperson. Ms ZHU commented that she was more than happy for another panel member to chair a meeting, should they wish to do so.

2.2 Election of the rapporteur

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

2.3 Adoption of the agenda

[5] The TPCS adopted the agenda (Appendix 1), agreeing to consider feedback from the 2023 call for topics under agenda item 5 (Any other business).

3. Administrative matters

[6] The panel noted the absence of Martin DAMUS (Canada) and Joanne WILSON (New Zealand).

4. TPCS work programme

4.1 Updates on IPPC call for topics: review of the topics submitted during the call for topics

[7] The secretariat confirmed that eight topic submissions for commodity standards had been received in response to the call for topics, two of which (on *Citrus*), overlapped in scope. The secretariat explained that the Task Force on Topics (TFT) was in the process of reviewing the submissions.

[8] The TPCS chairperson introduced the topic submissions:

- Seeds of *Phaseolus vulgaris* (2023-008), submitted by the Kingdom of the Netherlands;
- International movement of *Vitus vinifera* fruit (2023-018), submitted by New Zealand;
- International movement of *Citrus* fruit (2023-019), submitted by New Zealand;
- Commodities of lower pest risk (2023-021), submitted by Australia;
- International movement of fresh taro (*Colocasia esculenta*) corm for consumption (2023-023), submitted by the Pacific Plant Protection Organisation);

¹ Calls for Topics: Standards and Implementation: <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/standards-and-implementation/call-for-topics-standards-and-implementation/>

² TPCS 2023-06, agenda item 2.1.

- International movement of *Malus domestica* fruit for consumption (2023-024), submitted by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;
 - International movement of fresh orange (*Citrus sinensis*) fruit (2023-027), submitted by Comité de Sanidad Vegetal del Cono Sur (COSAVE); and
 - International movement of fresh banana (*Musa paradisiaca*) fruit (2023-028, COSAVE).
- [9] One TPCS member noted that one topic submission from China on banana was not included in the list, and the secretariat agreed to investigate this further.
- [10] The TPCS shared their initial comments on the topic submissions. They noted that the proposals related to commodities that are widely traded internationally, so having international standards on them would be very helpful. They expressed general support for including all the proposed topics in the *List of topics for IPPC standards*, although not necessarily with the same prioritization. Comments specific to particular topic submissions were as follows.
- [11] **Seeds of *Phaseolus vulgaris* (2023-008)**. The TPCS noted that development of any commodity standard on seeds may be challenging, because of the complex nature of global trade in seeds. One TPCS member suggested that, if added to the list of topics, the topic on seeds of *Phaseolus vulgaris* could be the last of the new draft commodity standards to be developed. The TPCS chairperson also raised the question of whether a commodity standard on seeds should be an annex to ISPM 46 (*Commodity-specific standards for phytosanitary measures*) or an annex to ISPM 38 (*International movement of seeds*).
- [12] ***Vitis vinifera* fruit (2023-018)**. No views were expressed that specifically related to this topic submission.
- [13] ***Citrus* fruit (2023-019) and fresh orange (*Citrus sinensis*) fruit (2023-027)**. Some TPCS members expressed support for the multi-species standard on *Citrus*, noting that although it would entail a lot of work, there are many species of *Citrus*, these fruits are internationally traded by a wide range of countries, there are commonalities between the pests associated with the different species, and the treatments applied are similar. One TPCS member suggested that the multi-species *Citrus* standard should therefore be the next commodity standard to be developed.
- [14] Some other TPCS members, however, favoured the development of the standard on *C. sinensis*. They noted that it is an economically important commodity for some regions. They expressed reservations about the feasibility of developing a multi-species *Citrus* standard, given the large number of species and hybrids, the different pests associated with the different species, and the difficulty in determining pest associations for even a single species, let alone multiple ones. The TPCS chairperson recognized that, for the standard development to be feasible, there would need to be a realistic expectation that the pest associations could be determined within a single week during a face-to-face TPCS meeting.
- [15] Some TPCS members commented that the development of commodity standards was still at an early stage, with just one draft standard developed to date and some countries remaining cautious about the concept of commodity standards. They suggested that it may therefore be beneficial for the next commodity standard to be developed to be for one species rather than for multiple species. This would serve to strengthen the development process and build confidence in commodity standards.
- [16] One TPCS member suggested that, to make the standard development easier, *Citrus* species could be divided into two, with the next commodity standard to be developed being on *C. sinensis*, followed by one on the other *Citrus* species.
- [17] Recalling that the standard setting process can take seven years, the TPCS chairperson commented on how long it would take to accumulate commodity standards if the panel only worked on one species at a time, one per year. The secretariat informed the TPCS, however, that it was envisaged that two draft commodity standards would be developed at the next face-to-face meeting. If necessary, the focus could be on one of the draft standards, with preparative work done on the other. This could be supplemented

by virtual meetings. The TPCS chairperson suggested that consideration be given to extending the face-to-face meeting to two weeks.

- [18] The TPCS noted that, given the number of possible commodity standards that may be added to the panel's work programme, it was important to consider the volume of work and the associated timelines.
- [19] Regarding whether to take a single-species or a multi-species approach to *Citrus*, the secretariat suggested that one option would be to start with a multi-species approach, with a view to requesting an adjustment of the scope at a later date if needed.
- [20] **Commodities of lower pest risk (2023-021).** The TPCS noted the value of having an international standard on commodities of lower pest risk, such as coconut, as it would help bilateral negotiations. Such a standard may also be straightforward to develop. The secretariat advised, however, that more information on the scope of the standard may be needed, as previous experience of "horizontal" standards had proved to be challenging. The TPCS noted that care would need to be taken, when defining the scope of the standard, to ensure that only fresh commodities were included, to avoid overlap with ISPM 32 (*Categorization of commodities according to their pest risk*). The TPCS chairperson invited the panel members to think about commodities that could be within the scope of this standard, but commented that if there were insufficient examples, this topic could perhaps be put on hold until a later date. She also commented that it may be easier to explore this topic at a face-to-face meeting.
- [21] **Fresh taro (2023-023).** The TPCS noted that taro is a staple food in the Pacific region and in some Asian countries, and is also used during humanitarian crises. Some TPCS members raised the question of whether taro was of regional importance rather than global importance, and the TPCS noted that topics of global relevance would take priority over those of regional relevance.
- [22] **Apple (2023-024).** Some TPCS members anticipated that the development of a standard on *Malus domestica* (apple) would be challenging, as the apple is the subject of many, intensive bilateral negotiations across the world and so it may be difficult to achieve consensus on a standard. This may mean that the proposed topic is excluded from the list of topics on grounds of feasibility. However, one TPCS member suggested that, given the potential value of such a standard for developing countries, it would be better not to shy away from developing the standard, even if the development would be challenging. In this regard, the TPCS recalled that the *Criteria for justification and prioritization of proposed topics* included, as a strategic criterion, the relevance and utility of the standard to developing countries.³ The secretariat pointed out that countries wishing to support inclusion of the topic in the *List of topics for IPPC standards* could submit comments to the SC via their regional representatives on the SC and could express their views at the session of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) at which the topics would be decided.
- [23] **Fresh banana (2023-028).** The TPCS noted the importance of fresh banana as a commodity for some countries and regions.
- [24] **Criteria for justification and prioritization of proposed topics.** The TPCS chairperson referred the panel to the *Criteria for justification and prioritization of proposed topics*. In relation to the core criteria, she emphasized the feasibility of implementation at a global level and the availability of supporting information as being key for distinguishing between different proposals for commodity standards. The TPCS acknowledged, however, that for some topics it may not be possible to determine the availability of information until information is submitted in response to a specific call for information on that topic.
- [25] **Supporting information.** The TPCS noted that all the topic submissions had included the *Information materials for commodity standards* form,⁴ except for two. The secretariat commented that, given that this was the first time that proposals for commodity standards were being submitted, it was possible that

³ *Criteria for justification and prioritization of proposed topics*: <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/89854/>

⁴ Submission form *Information materials for commodity standards*: <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/92263/>

the TFT may still recommend proposals even without this form being completed; if so, it may be that such topics would be given a lower priority. A call for information on those topics may help.

[26] **Next steps.** The secretariat confirmed that the TFT were scheduled to meet on 25 and 27 October 2023 to agree their initial recommendations. Those relating to the development of standards would then be considered by the SC in November. The TFT would then consider the feedback from the SC when making their recommendations to CPM-18 (2024), and the CPM would decide which topics to add to the list of topics.

[27] The secretariat referred to the decision made by the SC, at their meeting in May 2023,⁵ that the TFT's initial recommendations relating to commodity standards would be shared with the TPCS to allow the TPCS to advise the SC on the feasibility of developing the proposed commodity standards. The secretariat clarified, therefore, that the feedback required from the TPCS was to the SC and not the TFT, after the TFT's initial recommendations.

[28] As there was nothing more to discuss on the proposed submissions at this stage, the TPCS therefore agreed to cancel the second part of this meeting, scheduled for 5 October, and to reschedule a further meeting after the TFT meeting (see agenda item 6). The secretariat confirmed that the input from the TPCS to the SC November could be submitted as a conference room paper, as it would only be available shortly before the meeting.

[29] The TPCS:

- (1) *requested* that the secretariat follow up with the IPPC contact point for China regarding the topic submission prepared for fresh banana.

4.2 General updates on mango (*Mangifera indica*) from the IPPC regional workshops

[30] The secretariat confirmed that the intention of this agenda item was to share general feedback on the draft annex *International movement of fresh Mangifera indica fruit* (2021-011) to ISPM 46 arising from the 2023 IPPC regional workshops. Review of the actual comments submitted during consultation would be considered first by the steward for this topic, Joanne WILSON (New Zealand), after which the key comments would be considered by the panel at a virtual meeting specifically focused on the draft annex.

[31] The TPCS shared feedback from the workshops they had attended. The general feedback was positive and supportive. Some improvements had been suggested, including additions of pests and changes to measures, but there had been no negative comments about the draft. There had also been positive feedback about making the call for commodity standards an ongoing call, rather than every two years (see agenda item 5) and about streamlining the standard setting process to speed up the development of commodity standards.

5. Any other business

[32] The TPCS discussed two issues relating to the call for topics.

[33] The TPCS noted that the online form for submitting proposals had not been adjusted to accommodate the *Information materials for commodity standards* form, making it difficult for contracting parties or regional plant protection organizations to know how best to upload it. One TPCS member suggested that an extra field could be added to the end of the online form, providing an option to attach a file.

[34] The TPCS noted that one country had experienced delays in developing proposals for commodity standards and so had not been able to make a submission during the 2023 call for topics. The secretariat recalled the request by the TPCS to make an ongoing call for topics for commodity standards,⁶ and noted that, if agreed by the CPM, this would allow for submission of further proposals.

⁵ SC 2023/05, agenda item 6.4.

⁶ TPCS 2023/04, agenda item 5; 21_SC_2023_May.

[35] The TPCS:

- (2) *requested* that the secretariat consider updating the online form for submitting proposals for new topics, to allow additional files to be uploaded.

6. Next TPCS meeting

[36] The TPCS:

- (3) *agreed* to cancel the second part of this meeting, scheduled for 5 October 2023; and
- (4) *agreed* that the next meeting would be held in virtual mode on 7 November 2023 at 10.00 CET.

7. Close of the meeting

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

Appendix 1: Agenda

Agenda Item	Document No.	Presenter
1.	Opening of the Meeting	
1.1	Welcome by the IPPC Secretariat	--
		IPPC Secretariat (MOREIRA)
2.	Meeting Arrangements	
2.1	Selection of Chairperson	--
		MOREIRA
2.2	Selection of the Rapporteur	--
		Chairperson
2.3	Adoption of the Agenda	01_TPCS_Tel_2023_Oct
		Chairperson
3.	Administrative Matters	
3.1	TPCS membership list	TPCS membership list
		MONTEROSA
3.2	Connections to Zoom and virtual meetings	
4.	TPCS work programme	
4.1	Updates on IPPC call for topics: review of the topics submitted during the Call for Topics	Link 2023 Call for Topics Submissions (zip drive to be downloaded)
		Steward (WILSON) / Chair / Secretariat
4.2	General updates from the Regional Workshops on mango (<i>Mangifera indica</i>)	--
		ZHU / Secretariat /ALL
5.	Any other business	
		--
		Chairperson
6.	Next TPCS meeting	
		--
		IPPC Secretariat / Chairperson
7.	Closing of the meeting	
		--
		IPPC Secretariat / Chairperson