

# REPORT

## 2023 International Plant Protection Convention Regional Workshop for Africa



4-8 September 2023, Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)

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## **1. Introduction**

The 2023 International Plant Protection Convention Regional Workshop for Africa was held at Ethiopian Skylight hotel on 4th to 8th September 2023 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The workshop was organized by the IPPC Secretariat, the AU-IAPSC, in collaboration with FAO-Ethiopia and was attended by 44 participants drawn from 27 National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs) and some regional organizations in Africa.

The theme of the workshop was Plant Health and Environment Protection whose key topics were the ISPMs sent for consultation (PRA, international movement of wood, international movement of mango), the activities and topics of interest at regional level and the tabletop exercise on Fusarium TR4.

## **2. Opening Ceremony**

### **Osama El Lissy- IPPC Secretary**

He thanked the members for creating time to attend the very important workshop which remains critical for the protection of natural resources. He outlined the importance of the - IPPC community in the contribution to food security in the through protection of plants from pests and the implementation of the international phytosanitary standards. He expressed his appreciation to the support that led to the successful CPM-17, 2023 and the International Day of Plant Health - 2023. He urged Contracting parties to establish mechanisms to implement the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020-2030 which serves as the global roadmap. He looked forward to a product and successful workshop.

### **Gabriel Abebe-Haile - ADG of Regional Office (RAF)**

He expressed his appreciation for an opportunity to address the regional workshop. He reiterated the impact of plant pests to the quality of plants and plant products therefore affecting livelihoods and trade with climate change complexing the situation. Resolving the pest related predicament in Africa demands holistic and sustainable strategies and investment. He added that response strategy must be ahead of the challenges being faced. He said that the workshop serves as an important platform for African members states to discuss important standards and an opportunity to strengthen capacity for Africa. He wished the workshop success.

### **Dr. Sandrine Bayendi L. on behalf of her Excellency Josepha Sako, the Commissioner of Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment of the African Union Commission**

Dr. Sandrine thanked all National Plant Protection Organisations and other stakeholders, for having responded positively to the invitation to the important in-person and virtual workshop. She reiterated that the protection of plants could not succeed unless coordinated and harmonized across the continent, especially in the context of the AfCFTA. She explained the importance of the IPPC Regional Workshops whose main role continues to help Contracting parties understand the phytosanitary

realities and challenges of each, to learn how to analyse draft ISPMs and to formulate productive comments using the available draft ISPMs for member consultation, to build phytosanitary capacity and raise awareness on all activities related to the IPPC and to exchange national experiences at the regional level. She added that production in accordance with international standards would improve access of our products to African as well international markets and strengthen the confidence of our trading partners for the good of our people. She wished the workshop a success.

**H.E Wondale Habtamu, Deputy Director General, Ethiopian Agricultural Authority and NPPO for Ethiopia, the Member of the Ethiopian house of Federation**

The speaker thanked FAO and AU for organizing a very important conference in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. He added that SPS capacity building efforts are ongoing towards improving the newly established regulatory authority, Ethiopia Agriculture Authority (EAA) focusing on policy and legal frameworks, institutional capabilities of EAA to provide effective SPS services, developing recognized control, inspection, and approval procedures, including digitization; and supporting private sector compliance with SPS requirements. He appreciated the attendance of all Contracting parties and looked forward to a successful meeting.

### **3. Meeting Arrangements**

#### **3.1. Election of the Chair and Rapporteurs:**

Damas MAMBA MAMBA, Director of NPPO DRC was elected as Chair of the Regional Workshop. Mellon KABOLE of Kenya and Augustin ADZE of Cameroon were elected as rapporteurs for English and French respectively.

#### **3.2. Adoption of the Agenda**

The meeting discussed the agenda and adopted it with the following minor amendments; -

- presentation on the draft Annex ISPM 38 was removed from the agenda as it did not have enough information on the topic.
- Presentation for Ms. Faith Ndunge was reassigned as she did not make it for the conference.
- a session for broad discussion on the regional workshop organization and possible ways of improving the implementation of future meetings for enhanced efficiency, cooperation and outcome.

#### **3.3. Participants list**

The list of participants who attended the workshop is annexed to this report.

## **4. Updates on Governance and Strategic issues**

### **4.1. Governance and strategy (CPM, CPM Bureau) Jan Hendrik Venter**

He gave a presentation focusing on IPPC's vision, mission and objectives, its core activities and governance and secretariat structure. He also informed the meeting of the meetings undertaken by the governing and subsidiary bodies and Focus Groups and other meetings. He appreciated the decision by CPM to implement the IPPC Communication Strategy 2023-2030, IPPC Partnership Framework and 5 Standards during CPM 17. He urged members to read reports relating to activities undertaken by IPPC including the published 2022 Annual Report and the International Plant Health Conference (IPHC) Report.

### **4.2. Update from Standards Committee (SC) - David Kamangira**

The presenter gave an introduction on the role of the Standards Committee (SC) in the International Plant Protection Convention structure and thereafter and update on the Standards Committee for the year 2023 with specific activities undertaken by the SC May and SC working group. These were done in conjunction with the Expert Working Groups, Technical Panels, CPM focus Group and through webinars.

The meeting was also informed the meeting that the CPM and several CPM bodies including the Bureau, TC-RPPOs, SPG, SC and IC have continued to engage in the development of texts and concepts on emerging pests. Members were urged to provide comments when the definition for the word `emerging pest` would be circulated. He finalized by indicating that the SC agreed to undertake an additional consultation period for DPs only in January 2024 (From 30 January to 30 June 2024).

The links to the various documents for interaction by the members were provided.

### **4.3. Update from Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC) - Lucien Kouame**

The speaker gave an overview of the role of the IC detailing the main achievements by the IC and also reported the activities for 2023. Currently there were 71 topics on the ICD List of Topics with 3 topics under development while 3 new guides were available on the International Phytosanitary portal. He further outlined the progress made on the implementation plans for pest outbreak alert and response system, ecommerce and

### **4.4. Update on the African Phytosanitary Program (APP) - Osama El Lissy**

The speaker highlighted the challenge of increasing importance of new records of plant pests, emerging and invasive pests, impact of climate change that gravely affect food security and trade in plants and plant products. These challenges led to the development of the African Phytosanitary Programme geared towards safeguarding agriculture and the environment and promoting safe trade. The objective of the APP is to provide NPPOs the capacity to timely and effectively control pests of regulatory, economic and environmental significance.

The phased implementation strategy for the program was outlined that will work with the 54 African countries, divided into five regions, through seven key steps. Eleven countries were selected for the

pilot phase. Six participants for each of the countries in the five regions will in September 2023 attend the Trainers of Trainers in Egypt thereafter undertake further capacity building activities in the respective countries. He thanked the members for their cooperation in the activities already undertaken and looked forward to greater support for the upcoming ones. The members thanked the IPPC for the support towards the implementation of the APP programme and confirmed support for the upcoming events related to the project.

## **5. Drafts standards and CPM recommendation**

The session started by a brief training on the Online Comment System (OCS). The IPPC Secretariat provided basic information on how to submit comments for the documents in consultation. A brief practical demo was performed to show to the participants how to access and navigate in OCS.

The meeting thereafter discussed a number of standards to discuss the comments of the African region. The following standards were discussed in plenary;

Reorganization and revision of pest risk analysis standards (2020-001) Priority 1 by David Kamangira: The purpose of the reorganisation was to include all the requirements of the stages in PRA in one standard and to provide revised guidance on the pest risk management stage.

Draft Annex: International movement of mango (*Mangifera indica*) fruit to ISPM 46 (Commodity-specific standards for phytosanitary measures) (2021-011) by David Kamangira: The purpose of the standard is to provide clarity of the commodity for which a list of associated pests and related options for phytosanitary measures are identified.

Draft Annex: Use of systems approaches in managing the pest risks associated with the movement of wood to ISPM39 (International movement of wood) (2015-004) - Alphonsine Louhouari: The purpose of the annex is to provide guidance to NPPOs on the use, within the context of a wood-commodities systems approach, of specific integrated measures that, when applied together, reduce the pest risk posed by quarantine pests associated with the international movement of wood.

2022 Amendments to ISPM 5 (Glossary on phytosanitary terms) (1994-001) by David Kamangira. This presentation highlighted the two additions and six revisions terms proposed.

*Contracting parties expressed satisfaction on the proposed amendments and recommended for execution of the next steps in standard development.*

Draft Annex: Criteria for evaluation of available information for determining host status of fruit-to-fruit flies to ISPM 37 Determination of host status of fruit to fruit flies (Tephritidae) (2018-011) by David Kamangira: The standard aims to harmonize access of information by outlining the criteria that should be used when evaluating available information to determine the host status of fruit to fruit flies (*Tephritidae*).

The comments discussed and approved for each draft document were updated as African comments in the Regional workshop.

A presentation was made related to the international movement of sea containers and their cargoes which can potentially facilitate the introduction and spread of pests. This led to the formation of the CPM Focus Group on Sea Containers was formed in 2022, discussed in the CPM-17 2023 and approved for the first round of consultation. An International Sea Containers Workshop was held in Brisbane, Australia on 17-19 July 2023, where consultations on the draft revision by both industry and regulatory bodies were made to provide feedback to the CPM Focus Group on Sea Containers in preparation of its report with recommendations for a long-term IPPC guidance to CPM-18.

## **6. Regional activities**

### **6.1. FAO Update on regional phytosanitary capacity development activities by Jean Bahama**

The meeting was reminded that SSA faces several pest problems and outbreaks of new pests, limited resources and infrastructure, climate change and weak regulatory frameworks. FAO continues to implement its operations to support phytosanitary through a number of ways including establishing/strengthening phytosanitary services (quarantine, surveillance and monitoring), strengthening preparedness and response mechanisms, development of tools for data/information sharing and decision-making support, human capacity building in phytosanitary, pesticides, and pest management and facilitating coordination of Plant Protection at all levels.

The presenter mentioned a number of recent capacity development activities undertaken by FAO to address the aforementioned phytosanitary challenges. African countries were urged to have robust phytosanitary systems to protect their agriculture and environment, ensure food security and facilitate trade through investment in capacity building, infrastructure development, development of appropriate legislation and policy among others.

### **6.2. AU- IAPSC activities by Chiatoh Maryben**

The speaker appreciated the continued collaborative efforts with 55 National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPO) and eight Regional Economic Communities (REC) in the effort to support the Contracting parties in the phytosanitary capacity building process, prevent the introduction and spread of exotic and invasive plant pests and increase intra- and inter-continental market access.

The presenter mentioned a number of recent capacity development activities undertaken by AU-IAPSC in African Contracting parties to address various phytosanitary issues. She emphasized on the importance of synergies at national, regional and international levels as well as partnerships with other organizations like FAO, CABI, USDA/FAS.

She outlined the implemented activities have yielded several recommendations towards regional harmonization of phytosanitary regulations, strengthening national plant health systems, and improving risk assessment, surveillance, emergency response, prevention and management of pests in Africa. New partnerships and programs have been developed and with improved level of collaboration between IAPSC, Contracting parties, Regional Economic Communities and technical partners.

She sought support for seeking more funding and partnerships to continue implementing the activities, strengthening collaboration and commitment between stakeholders, implementation of the new Plant Health Strategy for Africa among others.

## **7. Topics of interest for the region**

### **7.1. Banana Bunchy Top by Brenda Kisingiri**

The presenter made a presentation outlining the biology and distribution of the disease in Africa with specific experience in Uganda. The meeting was informed that Uganda undertook a series of surveillance activities that led to the initial identification and further detection in other areas. Interventions through the National Government and collaboration partners have been undertaken which are not limited to training of the relevant stakeholders on the identification, detection, exclusion and management of the disease.

### **7.2. Cassava brown streak virus disease by Attipoe Prudence**

The presenter made a presentation outlining the biology and distribution of the disease in Africa with specific experience in Ghana. He informed the meeting that significant outbreaks had been reported in Malawi, Kenya, Burundi, Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo. He proposed the development of overall IPM programs for the whole range of cassava pests and diseases.

### **7.3. *Achaea catocaloides* by Attipoe Prudence**

The presenter made a presentation outlining the biology and distribution of the disease in Africa with specific experience in Ghana. He indicated the growing concern in the ECOWAS region as the pest was threatening agricultural productivity and livelihood. He gave a chronology of outbreaks in the African region due to the pest as well as the economic impact thereof. He closed by emphasizing that a robust surveillance system, early detection, awareness creation and development of sound IPM practices would reduce the impact of the pest.

## **8. Fusarium TR4**

### **8.1. Fusarium TR4 Biology and Distribution Altus Viljoen**

The speaker made a presentation on the biology of Fusarium TR4, underlining the difficulties to manage it when it is introduced in a country and different mode of spreading, detailing its global status in terms of countries affected. He further informed the meeting on the various training and awareness activities on Foc TR4 undertaken in Africa targeting different stakeholders.

### **8.2. Fusarium in Mozambique TR4 contingency plan lessons learned - Afonso Sitole**

He reiterated the importance of banana to Mozambique and the negative impact the Foc TR4 continued to cause in the country. He enumerated the steps that Mozambique took that led to the detection of Foc TR4 and actions undertaken after its confirmation including the official reporting to IPPC. A multi-disciplinary team was created to develop an action plan towards delimiting the Foc TR4



affected areas and application of measures for the reduction of spread of the pathogen in Mozambique through various interventions. Training of NPPO technicians, extension officers, quarantine officials, research institutions and private sector technicians in detection, identification and control of Fusarium wilt disease continued to be undertaken.

### **8.3. Fusarium TR4 tabletop exercise**

A series of activities in group work were undertaken to simulate the various actionable areas to prevent the introduction and spread of Banana Fusarium TR4. The purpose of the exercise was to provide a simulation of Fusarium TR4 unconfirmed presence in a country and facilitate determination of action plan towards protection of introduction and spread of the pathogen within the country of interest. From the exercise, the participants were divided in five working groups and noted that it was pertinent to;

- undertake Pest Risk Analysis (PRA) and establish possible risk management measures to protect against introduction of the pathogen cross border and spread from infected to uninfected farms
- develop a communication strategy by identifying the essential stakeholders in Bananaland that need communication identifying the topic of communication, channel of communication and risk communication message.
- Consider the various levels of farmers i.e. subsistence, small-scale and large-scale, so as to develop tailored preventive measures
- Develop early warning and preparedness plan that encompasses surveillance relevant to the situation.

## **9. Implementation topics**

### **9.1. The IPPC ePhyto Solution by Josiah Syanda**

He made a presentation on what is ePhyto solution and its operation indicating the purpose of ePhyto is to reduce the challenges of the paper certification and for facilitating trade. He indicated the status of ePhyto implementation in Africa where 75% have initiated the process of implementing ePhyto solution, 29% are already doing live ePhyto exchange, 46% are registered and testing while 25% have not initiated implementation process. He demonstrated a demo of ePhyto exchange between Kenya and Uganda. The participants have been reminded the IPPC Secretary and others partners remain available to support their transition to ePhyto. They were further urged to initiate the process of ePhyto in their respective countries and advised to forward their concerns and needs to IPPC secretariat for discussion in the scheduled Steering Committee meetings.

### **9.2. New IPPC Guides and e-learning courses by Lucien Kouame:**

He gave a presentation outlining the available resources by IPPC which includes guides and training materials. He implored the members to access the material when needed for use in their respective countries. Four e-courses are now available and accessible through the IPP website.

### **9.3. Regulation of wood packaging material in international trade (new IPPC Guide to support implementation of ISPM 15) by Lucien Kouame**

The presenter outlined the phytosanitary requirements as provided in the ISPM 15 (*Regulation of wood packaging material in international trade*). He highlighted the key challenges that your NPPO faces in implementing ISPM 15. He further informed the members about the Guide to regulation of wood packaging material (published in 2023) that improves understanding of the phytosanitary requirements for the movement of wood packaging material in international trade, provides practical guidance to help NPPOs apply the phytosanitary measures approved in ISPM 15 and provides guidance on authorizing entities to perform phytosanitary actions related to ISPM 15.

### **9.4. e-Commerce reducing the spread of pests distributed through mail and courier pathways by Descartes Koumba**

He indicated key challenges for national plant protection organizations towards regulating ecommerce which possess phytosanitary risk where plant materials are traded. He mentioned the interventions by the IPPC towards managing the phytosanitary risks associated with e-Commerce and the postal and express carrier pathways and the relation with the implementation of the IPPC strategic framework (2020-2030). The presentation highlighted the outcomes expected from IPPC contracting parties to manage efficiently the risks associated with e-Commerce. The presenter presented the outcoming deliverables such as the IPPC guide on e-Commerce.

### **9.5. Draft Specification for new IPPC Guide to phytosanitary audits (2021-009) Lucien Kouame**

The presenter gave an overview of the draft IPPC guide whose main purpose was to provide NPPOs with practical guidance and best practices for carrying out audits while supporting the harmonized implementation of ISPM 47 (*Audit in the Phytosanitary Context*).

### **9.6. Benefits of conducting Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluations (PCE) and latest developments - Descartes Koumba**

The purpose of the PCE is to help a contracting party to evaluate their phytosanitary capacities and identify the main weaknesses in the phytosanitary system in a highly confidential manner. It empowers NPPOs to implement a sovereign plan for how they wish to address any gaps identified to enhance their food security and international trade.

Members were advised on how to request for a PCE to be undertaken for their country for consideration by the IPPC. It was also indicated a survey was planned to improve the implementation of PCE tool thus the members were urged to participate and raise the concern on the internet connectivity and propose an offline tool.

### **9.7. National Reporting Obligations by Lucien Kouame**

He mentioned the main reason for having NROs was to ensure that a minimum amount of official phytosanitary information was available for ensuring safe trade, safeguarding food security and protecting the environment from plant pests. He explained the difference between public and bilateral

NROs adding that Official IPPC Contacts Points were the key channels for information exchange under the IPPC between CPs, CPs & IPPC Secretariat and CPs and RPPOs.

On pest reporting, he emphasized the implementation of Art. IV 2(b) & VIII 1(a): surveillance and pest reporting under NPPOs responsibility and ISPM 17 - Pest reporting where pests can be reported under three situations namely (1) immediate or potential danger, (2) changed status, absence or correction of earlier reports and (3) pests in imported consignments. He mentioned the NROs work plan in 2023 and urged contracting parties to ensure that their contact details of the respective IPPC Official Contact Point on the International Phytosanitary Portal were up to date.

#### **9.8. 2023 IPPC Call for Topics: Standards and Implementation by Descartes Koumba**

The presenter made a presentation calling upon all contracting parties to respond to the call for topics, which is made every two years, with the current one ending on 30th September 15th, 2023. This will help identify phytosanitary problems of global relevance, address gaps in phytosanitary systems with the development of international standards or implementation resources and shape the Standards and Implementation work of the CPM in alignment with the Strategic Objectives outlined in the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020-20. He advised the members on the process of preparing a standard submission as well as the IPPC Standards and Implementation resources development process. He mentioned the challenges that hamper successful submission of the topics.

#### **9.9. IDPH 2023 and look ahead to 2024 IPPC Secretariat**

He encouraged members to raise awareness and undertake advocacy on plant health at country level and thanked those who undertook the event in the 2023 IDPH. The event, where collective action for each member state is recognized, raises global awareness on how protecting plant health can help end hunger, reduce poverty, protect biodiversity and the environment, and boost economic development.

#### **9.10. IPPC Strategic Framework 2023-2030 Development Agenda Items by Jan Hendrik Venter**

He gave the background of the Strategic Framework 2020-2030 Development Agenda Items (SFDAIs) whose three core activities of the IPPC community are standards setting, standards implementation & capacity development and communication and international cooperation. He summarised the sequence of events developed by the CPM FG SFDAIs and urged the contribution and participation of all members.

### **10. AOB: Sustainable funding of the IPPC Regional Workshop for Africa**

The meeting discussed the most suitable way to progress on funding the IPPC regional workshop for Africa and improve the implementation of the workshop outcomes. The IPPC and AU requested for specific interventions in providing a budget for the regional workshop as well as provide feedback during organization of the workshop when called upon i.e. during development of agenda. African

countries indicated the challenge of lack of national country budgets with a specific a line for supporting phytosanitary workshops.

- A proposal to make a request to the CPM to **consider a standing budget** to facilitate the phytosanitary activities. Additionally, there was a proposal to provide the request to the Regional Economic Community meeting so as to seek their prioritization and funding.
- Members were asked to inform AU-IAPSC on the best way to be supported for successful submission of topics to IPPC. Direct communication to IAPSC to be provided for consideration.
- There is need to consider organizing the meetings in subregions in Africa to enhance efficiency of the meetings.
- There is need for the IPPC to write to high level leaders of the CPs to remind them on their obligation as members of the IPPC thereby needing them to facilitate activities related to IPPC.
- It is important for the AU to brainstorm on how best to mobilize resources to support these important phytosanitary activities from the contracting parties.
- An agenda for funding should be provided in the ministerial meeting of the IPPC where the importance of providing a budget for phytosanitary activities for each contracting party will be emphasized.
- Africa needs to consider participation in the Strategic Planning Group meeting of the IPPC which is self-sponsored. Their participation will help front agenda of core interest to Africa.
- Need to consider having the AU-IAPSC to spearhead the organization of the RW group to improve ownership and commitment of the CPs.
- Come up with a resource mobilization team to brainstorm means of raising fund for the Regional Workshop. This is in consideration of donor funding and NPPO contributions.
- NPPOs to lobby for political leaders to appreciate issues of plant health so as to influence increase in funding of plant health matters.

## 11. 2023 Regional Workshop Recommendations

### 11.1. Contracting parties

1. **Consultation 2023:** After the Regional Workshop to continue the review and provide comments on the documents (drafts ISPMs and specifications for guide on audit) in OCS and submit their comments by 30 September.
2. Contracting parties who did not have login details were advised to seek the **OCS credentials** from the IPPC secretariat through the official NPPO contact point.

3. Members were urged to participate on the **IPPC call for topics** which opened in May 2023 and closes on 15 September 2023 and work as a team and develop topics in the ongoing **call for topics** to enable it to respond to African challenges.
4. **AMR survey**: To submit their responses to the IPPC Observatory survey on antimicrobial products use in plant protection by 15 September.
5. **RW follow up**: Take the appropriate measures and actions to prepare in advance the participation to the Regional Workshop and to inform their hierarchy on the outcomes of the workshop and the country commitment to participate to IPPC meetings.
6. **Raise awareness on APP**: For the pilots countries of the APP, to use all the IPPC communications and letter as an opportunity to raise awareness to their hierarchy on the program for a better ownership of the decision makers.
7. There is need for every contracting party to find **mechanisms of domesticating** the adopted phytosanitary standards taking cognizance of all relevant stakeholders and their role in implementing that standard.
8. NPPO contact points to make use of the ability for the OCS to allow **multiple users** on the system so that review can be undertaken effectively.
9. There is need to enhance **proactivity of African countries** in the participation of workshops. Deliberate preparation through reading of documents shared prior to meetings or conferences is paramount for productive participation as a region.
10. **Engage other stakeholders** like NARS, CGIARS to support in the development of topics for development of standards.
11. Engage policy decision makers to accelerate adoption and **implementation of ePhyto**.
12. Contracting parties are invited to invest in **the survey related to sea containers** so as to support the generation of data on the potential risk.
13. Enhance the engagement with stakeholders towards **implementation of the proposed interventions related to the phytosanitary risk of sea containers**.
14. Urge NPPOs to **develop regulations to support the implementation of the measures** related to phytosanitary risk related to sea containers.
15. Contracting parties submitting IPPC topics were advised to discuss with other Contracting Parties (CPs) and RPPOs and together with letters of support from these CPs for the topic.
16. Build ePhyto capacities for both phytosanitary and IT staff at NPPO levels.
17. Members were urged to participate in the IPPC activities as well as the CPM preparation activities **working group, CPM Focus group, IC team, IPPC webinars**, responding to observatory surveys, submitting case studies among others.
18. Establish **mechanisms to prevent the spread of the pests** in the non-affected areas
19. consider undertaking **Regional Pest Risk Analysis** as compared to national PRA. This will support identify specific interventions to be undertaken from the African position.

### 11.2. IPPC Secretariat

1. **Meeting interpretation:** To consider the **language challenges** when international technical and strategic meetings are organized for the overall IPPC community as language is key limitation to contribute and insure the intrusiveness (Ref Sea Containers Workshop).
2. All the **presentations** should be prepared for participants in their **spoken languages**.
3. There is need for capacity building of contracting parties on **ISPM 15 implementation** to enhance compliance to the phytosanitary standard.

### 11.3. African Union IAPSC

1. **APP in the regional strategy:** To use the APP as a key program in the Regional phytosanitary strategy of African Union and clearly raise the profile of the APP in the revised action plan of the regional strategy.
2. IAPSC should proactively initiate a process to identify the pests of significant economic importance that are likely to be introduced in the continent establish a continental PRA and recommend phytosanitary measures to all contracting parties.
3. Consider harmonization of plant health regulations in the African region
4. Create a technical OCS working group under the NPPO heads that will be responsible for coordinating reviews and submission of comments.
5. The Contracting parties expressed concern on the potential havoc that these pests can cause in the individual countries thereby seeking concerted effort from AU-IAPSC and development partners in strategizing on the best way to combat the pests.
6. Coordinate with the University of Stellenbosch the **organization of trainings on TR4 identifications** for West and Central Africa

### 11.4. IPPC Governing bodies representatives (Bureau, SC, IC)

1. **Governing bodies and NPPOs communication:** To invite the Bureau, SC, IC representatives to be fully involve in the regional workshop preparation and ensure a continuous communication to the NPPOs on the main activities and issues related to their respective bodies.
2. **Regional comments:** To ensure the access and operation of the OCS Regional workgroup at least on month before the beginning of the consultation and to raise awareness on the need for contracting to submit the comment in the regional review group before the Regional Workshop.

## 12. Closing session

Dates of the next workshop were proposed as 20-23 August 2024 while the host country proposed to be Mali (option A) and DRC (option B). The members agreed that preparations should start early to effectively plan for the workshop.

**Evaluation:** The members undertook the evaluation of the workshop through the survey link provided.

**Adoption of Recommendations:** The members were advised to review the report and approve the recommendations in the course of the week.

### Closing remarks

Chairperson appreciated all participants and noted that the program was well executed.

Mr. Descartes on behalf of IPPC appreciated NPPO of Ethiopia and FAO for organizing the training the program. For all presenters for doing presentations and facilitating the program. For all members for attending the workshop.

Ms. Maryben on behalf of AU-IAPSC appreciated the participants for attending the meeting and implementing the program/agenda for the workshop. She reiterated the mandate of AUIAPSC in promoting trade.

The Director of Plant Quarantine Regulator from Ethiopian NPPO thanked the delegates and looked forward to more interaction in the future.

**2023 IPPC Regional Workshop for Africa Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) , 4-8 Sept 2023**

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