



COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

EIGHTEENTH SESSION

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK DEVELOPMENT AGENDA ITEM MANAGEMENT OF E-COMMERCE AND POSTAL AND COURIER PATHWAYS

AGENDA ITEM 12.3

(Prepared by the IPPC Secretariat in consultation with the IC Team Lead)

Background

- [1] The IPPC Strategic Framework 2020-2030 includes eight development agenda items (DAIs), including the management of e-commerce and the postal and courier pathways.
- [2] CPM-17 (2023) agreed to the overarching implementation plan for the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020–2030 development agenda items, including the proposed sequencing and budgets (CPM 2023/13-01¹).
- [3] The key pillars of the e-commerce work programme are to raise awareness about the phytosanitary risks associated with e-commerce among all stakeholders in the e-commerce supply chain and to support national plant protection organizations in taking an integrated approach to address the associated phytosanitary risks. This paper provides an update on the status of the IPPC work programme for e-commerce and highlights changes to the implementation plan for this DAI².

Value proposition / benefits

- [4] Effective management of e-commerce and postal and courier pathways will result in the following key outcomes³:
 - High-risk plants and plant products that are sold through e-commerce and shipped via postal or courier services will meet the phytosanitary import requirements of the destination country.
 - National plant protection organizations will be aware of the pest risks associated with e-commerce trade, particularly by business-to-consumer and person-to-person transactions.
 - Contracting parties will update their legislation and authorities to address e-commerce challenges, considering digital innovations, available technologies, and new business models.
 - National plant protection organizations will prepare and maintain lists of regulated articles and make these lists available to all relevant e-commerce stakeholders, including other government departments and stakeholders in other countries.

¹ CPM23/13-01: <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/91889/>

² IPPC Strategic Framework 2020-2030 Development Agenda Items Overarching Implementation Plan (pages 17-19): <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/91889/>

³ IPPC Strategic Framework 2020-2030 Development Agenda Items Overarching Implementation Plan (pages 17-19): <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/91889/>

- National plant protection organizations will identify key stakeholders and establish communication, education, and outreach programmes to make online buyers, sellers, e-commerce platforms and marketplaces, and others involved in the e-commerce supply chain aware of the regulatory requirements, risks and responsibilities associated with transactions involving regulated articles.
- Contracting parties will apply risk-management measures to identify and intercept e-commerce consignments that have an unacceptable risk of non-compliance, while facilitating legitimate e-commerce trade (e.g. by use of electronic advance data, screening methods and non-intrusive inspection methods).
- National plant protection organizations will share information, cooperate, and collaborate with their national customs administration, postal operators, and courier services to address pest risk associated with e-commerce trade.
- National plant protection organizations will gather data and monitor non-compliances, inspections, and regulatory activities in collaboration with their national customs administration and will be able to demonstrate a measurable reduction in non-compliance associated with postal and courier pathways.

Update on status of implementation

[5] The e-commerce DAI is led by the Implementation and Facilitation Unit (IFU) within the IPPC Secretariat and is being delivered by the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee Team on e-commerce⁴ includes IC members, a representative of the Standards Committee, and an expert.

[6] The Focus Group for the Strategic Frameworks DAI identified two phases of e-commerce activities, as illustrated in Figure 1. Delivery of Phase 1 of the e-commerce work programme is expected to continue until December 2025 by which time the IPPC Observatory e-commerce study will have been completed (see Figure 1). The results of the e-commerce study will be used to scope and plan a second phase of work, which will be presented to CPM-20 (2026) for decision. A second IPPC Observatory study is tentatively planned for 2029 to measure key e-commerce outcomes, as specified in the Strategic Framework.

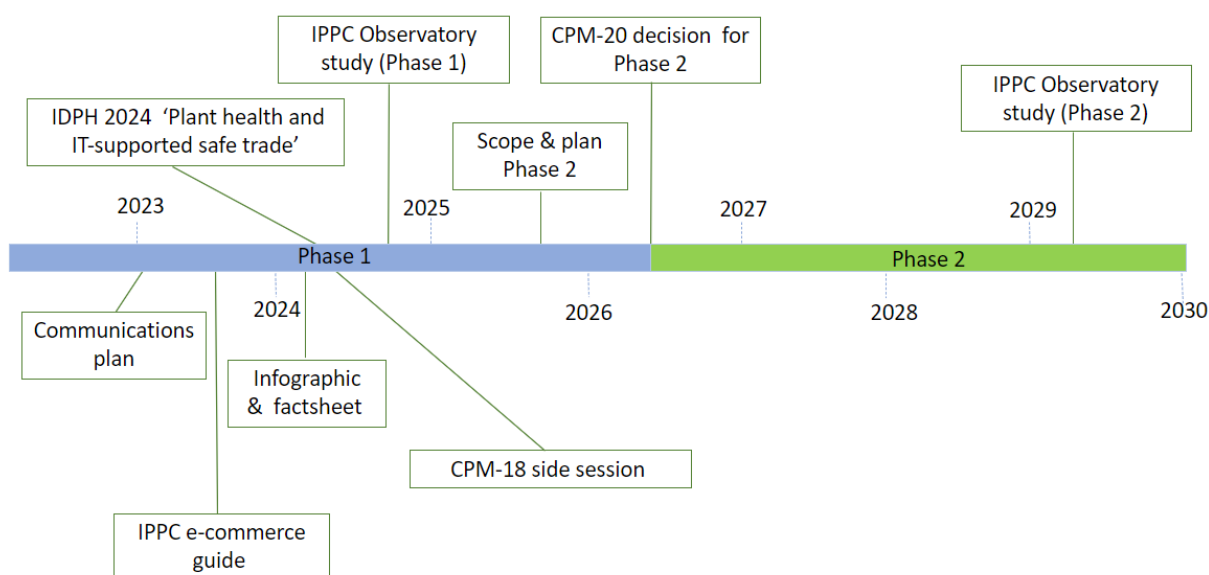


Figure 1. Revised timeline of activities for the e-commerce work programme (2023-2030).

⁴ IC Team on E-commerce membership list: <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/92398/>

[7] The following list provides an update on key e-commerce activities undertaken by the IPPC Secretariat in 2023:

- **Capacity development:** *E-commerce - A guide to managing the pest risk posed by goods ordered online and distributed through postal and courier pathways*⁵ was published in October 2023, as planned. The focus in 2024 is to seek partners to support its translation to all FAO languages.
- **Awareness-raising tools:** An infographic video and an e-commerce factsheet have been developed to raise the global visibility of this issue and to provide harmonized materials and messages that NPPOs may use at a national level.
- **CPM side-session:** A CPM side session on e-commerce will be held during CPM-18 (2024).
- **Strengthened collaboration with key international organizations to create synergy in developing a joint policy and recommendations regarding e-commerce and courier/postal pathways:** The IPPC Secretariat is exploring opportunities to collaborate with partners that share a common interest in e-commerce, such as the World Customs Organization (WCO) and Universal Postal Union (UPU), now that the guide and other awareness-raising materials have been developed. However, additional funding is needed to support these activities.
- **Monitoring and evaluation:** An IPPC Observatory study on e-commerce will be carried out in 2024. The primary intent of the study is to establish a baseline for measuring key e-commerce outcomes, as specified in the Strategic Framework; and to guide further work on e-commerce. The study will also characterize the current phytosanitary risks associated with e-commerce trade and evaluate the extent to which national and regional plant protection organizations have implemented the CPM Recommendation on *Internet trade in plants and other regulated articles* (2014).⁶
- **Communications:** A 2024 communications plan for e-commerce has been developed to support the key elements in the e-commerce work programme, including:
 - promoting the IPPC guide, infographic video, factsheet case studies using news features and IPPC social media channels;
 - promoting IPPC e-commerce events (e.g., CPM side session, webinars, and workshops);
 - highlighting e-commerce case studies (e.g., news features, spotlight interviews);
 - raising awareness about the IPPC Observatory study on e-commerce;
 - revising the e-commerce webpage on the International Phytosanitary Portal
 - developing materials to support the IDPH 2024 theme ‘Plant health and IT-supported safe trade’; and
 - developing a prospectus on the e-commerce DAI.

[8] Canada provided financial resources to support the development of the IPPC guide, infographic factsheet, communications plan, and IPPC Observatory study (Phase 1). Canada also provided an in-kind staff contribution to support the work on e-commerce from April 2019 to April 2024.

[9] Additional financial support would allow an enhanced level of collaboration with other international organizations with shared interests on this topic during Phase 1. Additional financial support would also

⁵ IPPC E-commerce Guide: <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc8209en>

⁶ CPM R-05, adopted by CPM-9 (2014): <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/84232/>

be needed to complete a second IPPC Observatory study and any other activities identified to take place in Phase 2.

[10] The CPM is invited to:

- (1) *note* the update on activities for the IPPC e-commerce work programme.
- (2) *note* the revision to the timeline of activities for DAI, *Management of e-commerce and the postal and courier pathways*.