



COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

EIGHTEENTH SESSION

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK DEVELOPMENT AGENDA ITEM

DEVELOPING GUIDANCE ON THE USE OF THIRD-PARTY ENTITIES

AGENDA ITEM 12.4

(Prepared by the IPPC Secretariat with input from the IC Team leads)

Background

- [1] The IPPC Strategic Framework 2020-2030 includes eight development agenda items (DAIs), or work programmes, including developing guidance on the use of third-party entities.
- [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] This paper provides an update on the status of activities related to authorizing third-party entities and highlights changes to the implementation plan for this DAI.

Value proposition / benefits

- [4] The IPPC work programme on third-party entities is expected to result in the following key outcomes²:
 - Countries wanting to authorize third parties to perform various phytosanitary actions, such as treatments, inspections and pest diagnosis will have access to harmonized resources to support them to do this in an effective manner, with the necessary management processes and controls.
 - Phytosanitary actions performed by authorized entities will be carried out to the same standard and level of phytosanitary security as those done by the national plant protection organization (NPPO).

Update on status of implementation

- [5] The work programme on authorization of third-party entities was transferred from the Standard Setting Unit to the Implementation and Facilitation Unit (IFU) during CPM-17 (2023). The Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC) established an IC Team³ in May 2023 to guide the work of the secretariat on authorization of third parties and on phytosanitary audits.
- [6] The Focus Group for the Strategic Frameworks DAIs identified two phases of activities, as described in Figure 1. Phase 1 of the work programme on authorization of third-party entities is currently at the

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

² Strategic Framework for the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) 2020–2030: <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cb3995en>

³ IC Team on Authorization of third-party entities: <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/92982/>

delivery stage. The following two IPPC Guides are included in the List of Implementation and Capacity Development Topics⁴ and will be developed during Phase 1 to provide guidance to support this DAI:

- *Authorization of entities to perform phytosanitary actions*⁵ (2018-040)
- *Phytosanitary audits* (2021-009)

- [7] The IC recognized that both topics were high priorities and that guidance on authorization was a DAI in the IPPC Strategic Framework. They also recognized the close linkage between these two topics and recommended that development of these two guides should be coordinated to ensure the content is complementary without unnecessary overlap. They considered that guidance on carrying out phytosanitary audits is fundamental to authorizing third-party entities and that development of the guide on audits should be initiated before the guide on authorization. The IC agreed that the work to develop this guide should be initiated in 2024, if secretariat resources allow⁶.
- [8] The IC recommended that the IPPC guide, *Authorization of entities to perform phytosanitary actions* (2018-040), should be initiated after the work to develop the guide on audits⁷ and when financial and secretariat resources are available to undertake this work. This means that the work to develop the authorization guide is unlikely to be initiated until 2025 and depends on secretariat resources. Consequently, this could result in a delay in scoping and planning for Phase 2 of the work programme.
- [9] Figure 1 shows the revised timeline for the development of the guides and other activities related to this DAI. After the two guides are published the IC Team would review the work carried out during Phase 1 and begin scoping and planning Phase 2. The results of this review and the IC Team's recommendations for a Phase 2 work programme would be presented to CPM-21 (2027), rather than to CPM-20 (2026). CPM would be asked to decide whether further project-based work is required (Phase 2), or whether the DAI should be paused or stopped.

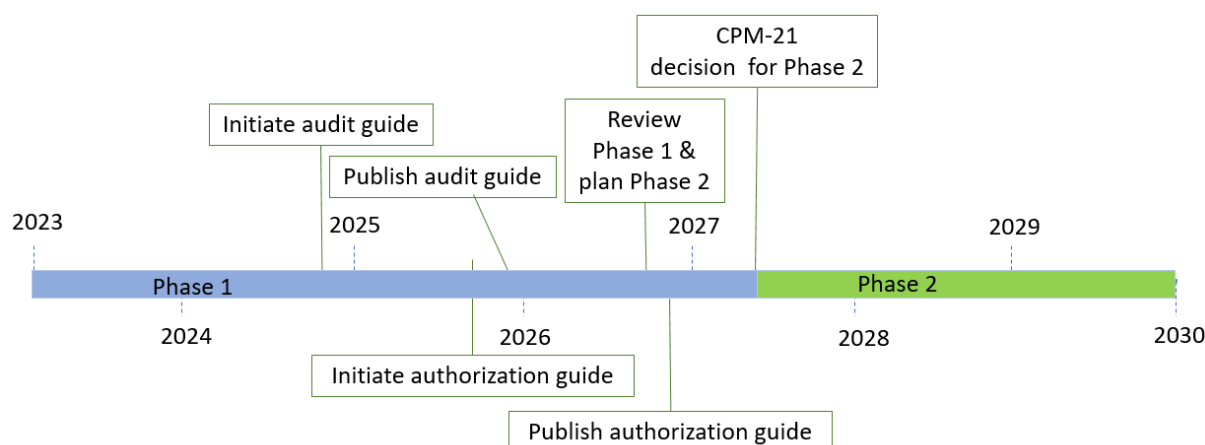


Figure 1. Revised timeline of activities for the third-party entity work programme (2023-2030)

Canada has provided financial resources to support the development of the *Guide to phytosanitary audits* (2021-009). However, financial resources are required to support the development of the IPPC Guide on *Authorization of entities to perform phytosanitary actions* (2018-040). Funding would also be

⁴ List of Implementation and Capacity Development Topics: <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/capacity-development/list-topics-ippc-implementation/list>

⁵ Approved specification: <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/91844/>

⁶ 2023-11 IC Meeting Report: <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/92981/>

⁷ 2023-11 IC Meeting Report: <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/92981/>

required to carry out additional necessary activities during Phase 2, such as developing additional capacity development, communication, and advocacy materials.

[10] The CPM is invited to:

- (1) *note* the update on implementation of the DAI, *Developing guidance on the use of third-party entities*; and
- (2) *note* the revision to the timeline of activities for the IPPC work programme, *Developing guidance on the use of third-party entities*.