



COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

EIGHTEENTH SESSION

UPDATE FROM IPPC REGIONAL WORKSHOPS (2023)

AGENDA ITEM 21.1

(Prepared by the IPPC Secretariat)

- [1] The IPPC Regional Workshops (RWs) are recurring annual IPPC activities with objectives to analyse 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 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) An option for 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 2023 IPPC Regional Workshops delivered in Africa, Asia, Caribbean, Europe and Central Asia, Latin America, Near East and North Africa, and Southwest-Pacific, had 302 participants from 133 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 are available on the [IPP](#).
- [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 2023 IPPC RWs' survey indicated an overall satisfaction from participants.
- [6] The success of the regional workshop was attributed to:
- (1) 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;

- (2) The workshops comments on draft ISPMs and implementation and capacity development were submitted through the Online Comment System and closed on 30 September 2023.
- (3) Organizing committee members and participants were encouraged to make their best efforts for funding the regional workshop activities.
- (4) Recognition for organization and contributions by host countries and partners supporting the IPPC regional workshops is given to the respective countries namely, the Republic of Korea (Asia), Ethiopia (Africa), Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (Near East and North Africa), Costa Rica (Latin America), Antigua & Barbuda (Caribbean), Montenegro (Europe and Central Asia), and Cook Islands (Southwest Pacific).

[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] In 2023, the Secretariat provided \$165,000.00 to support the IPPC regional workshops with allocations enabling 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 addressed 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, and it was suggested 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 workshop 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 extra days dedicated to in-depth conversations for important draft standards and implementation issues is required to cover all topics thoroughly. The Bureau recommended considering an extra day to the current three days for IPPC RWs and to place presentations on the IPP before the RWs.

[13] **The IPPC regional workshops excelled in terms of** delivery, insight, and knowledge sharing related to International Day of Plant Health, draft standards and recommendations, and implementation subjects of interest such as eCommerce, ePhyto, exercises for regional pest interests. The Bureau also recommended considering adding commodity standards as a topic of regional interest to the agenda.

Recommendations

[14] The CPM is invited to:

- (1) *Note* the update from the 2023 IPPC Regional Workshops
- (2) *Note* the CPM Bureau's recommendation of a fourth day in the Regional Workshops agenda and the inclusion of commodity standards as a future agenda topic of interest.