



## COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

### EIGHTEENTH SESSION

#### REPORT FROM THE STRATEGIC PLANNING GROUP (SPG)

#### AGENDA ITEM 8

*(Prepared by the SPG Vice-Chairperson)*

- [1] The International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) Strategic Planning Group (SPG) meeting took place at FAO headquarters in Rome, Italy, the week of October 10-13, 2023. The SPG is responsible for providing strategic analysis, planning, and advice to the IPPC Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM). A total of 11 countries and 2 regional plant protection organizations participated in the SPG session. The meeting was chaired by SPG vice Chair Samuel Bishop (United Kingdom, European Representative).
- [2] The most significant issues discussed by the SPG were:
- (1) Strategic Review of the IPPC Internal and External Operating Environment (Environmental Scan/SWOT Analysis)
  - (2) One Health, plant health and the IPPC
  - (3) International Day of Plant Health (IDPH)
  - (4) Update from the Strategic Framework development agenda items (DAIs) and other CPM Focus Groups
  - (5) Technical Consultation among Regional Plant Protection Organizations (TC-RPPOs)
  - (6) Global coordination of *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *ubense* (table of activities)

#### **Strategic Review of the IPPC Internal and External Operating Environment (Environmental Scan/SWOT Analysis)**

- [3] The Chair of the CPM provided a detailed strategic review of strengths, weaknesses, threats and opportunities in the IPPC internal and external operating environment. This covered the need to protect the reputation of the IPPC, the benefits and drawbacks of the IPPC secretariat being based within FAO and changes resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, including the increase in leisure travel and international trade as lockdown restrictions were eased. Some key questions identified by the SPG included the role/impact of advances in Artificial intelligence, how IPPC can work more closely with the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) and the Codex Alimentarius Secretariat on overlapping issues such as SPS certification and food aid and how the plant health community can better leverage resources from both FAO and external organizations. The value and importance of the strategic framework in regarding to meeting the challenges resulting from the changes to the external operating environment was discussed.

#### **One Health, plant health and the IPPC**

- [4] The SPG considered the interaction between plant health, the IPPC and the Global One Health agenda. The SPG agreed that the IPPC focus should remain on its core activities but that contracting parties and the secretariat should consider highlighting how the activities of the IPPC complement the one health agenda when suitable opportunities arise. It was agreed that a strong message was needed to support

this. There was some support for developing a CPM Recommendation but no decision on this was made.

### **International Day of Plant Health**

- [5] The SPG discussed plans and ideas for the IDPH in 2024 and beyond, including potential sub-themes and as well as possibly reframe the 2024 theme to focus on the benefits plant health brings to the global one health agenda.

### **Update from Strategic Framework development agenda items and other CPM Focus Groups**

- [6] The SPG heard updates from the CPM Focus Groups on Sustainable funding of the ePhyto solution, Safe Provision of Food and Other Humanitarian Aid, Climate Change and Phytosanitary Issues and on the sea container initiative. The SPG supported a proposal for the draft specification on safe food aid be submitted to the CPM. The draft terms of reference for the CPM Focus Groups on Global Research Coordination and Diagnostic Laboratory Networking as well as the Dispute Settlement oversight body were discussed and recommendations made for amendments to them. Updates were provided on Pest outbreak alert and response systems, ecommerce, commodity standards and authorization of third-party entities.

### **Technical Consultation among Regional Plant Protection Organizations**

- [7] The Chair of the TC-RPPOs reported on the plans for the 35<sup>th</sup> TC-RPPO which was due to take place in Bogotá, Colombia in October (after the SPG). They emphasized that all RPPOs differ but are a key part of the global plant health community and are united by Article IX of the IPPC. The SPG recognized the importance of RPPOs and suggested actions the TC-RPPO could consider, and that the CPM bureau could explore with the IPPC secretariat opportunities for providing financial assistance for RPPO representatives to attend the annual technical consultation.

### **Global coordination of *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *cubense* (table of activities)**

- [8] The secretariat presented a paper summarizing IPPC activity on *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *cubense* Tropical Race 4 (TR4). The SPG suggested that the secretariat should consider engaging with relevant public-private partnerships and FAO regional offices when seeking financial resources. The Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC) was invited to consider how to resource the TR4 coordination activities without compromising its core activities.

### **Update on Africa Phytosanitary Programme**

- [9] The IPPC secretary gave an update on the ambitions and achievements to date of the Africa Phytosanitary Programme. The update was welcomed by the SPG.

### **Recommendations**

- [10] The CPM is invited to:  
(1) Note this report.