



COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

EIGHTEENTH SESSION

GLOBAL PHYTOSANITARY RESEARCH COORDINATION TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE CPM FOCUS GROUP

AGENDA ITEM 12.7

(Prepared by the IPPC Secretariat)

Background

- [1] The IPPC Strategic Framework (SF) 2020-2030 was adopted by the fifteenth session of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM-15) in 2021. The framework provides a new operating environment and supports national plant protection organizations (NPPOs) to address the expected structural and operational changes that NPPOs are expected to encounter during 2020–2030. The framework comprises three core activities, three strategic objectives and a development agenda items with eight key programmes of new work areas aligned to the IPPC’s vision, mission, and strategic objectives.
- [2] While the Strategic Framework 2020-2030 presents great opportunities to advance the mission of the IPPC, progressing it is dependent on securing adequate resources and addressing other challenges. This will have implications on CPM operations and delivery of the IPPC mission. The eight development agenda items in the SF are complex topics, which require further elaboration and funding, as well as coordination and collaboration with organizations and initiatives outside of the IPPC community to leverage existing systems and expertise. Global Phytosanitary Research Coordination is one of the development items in the Strategic Framework.
- [3] The Strategic Planning Group (SPG) in its October 2022 meeting identified the need to develop a clear sequencing and staging of the implementation of the IPPC SF 2020-2030 development agenda items. This will require an assessment of available and needed resources to be secured, partners and collaborators identified, as well as opportunities to define potential resource mobilization strategies to implement all the strategic framework development agenda items.
- [4] Although substantial work is underway on some development agenda items, the SPG highlighted the need to address all of them in a carefully planned manner to avoid simultaneous implementation of some items that may result in inefficient use of available resources and poor delivery of results.
- [5] In this regard, the SPG recommended to CPM Bureau a need for staged establishment of Focus Groups by the CPM to continue sequencing the implementation of IPPC Strategic Framework 2020–2030 development agenda items.
- [6] The seventeenth session of the CPM-17 in March 2023 agreed to establish a Focus Group on Global Phytosanitary Research Coordination.

Recommendations

[7] The CPM is invited to:

- (1) *Discuss* the draft terms of reference of the CPM Focus Group on Global Research Coordination as outlined in appendix 1 below.
- (2) *Approve* the terms of reference of the CPM Focus Group on Global Research Coordination.

Appendix 1: Terms of Reference – CPM Focus Group on Global Phytosanitary Research Coordination

Purpose

International research collaboration across nations, institutions and disciplines leads to higher quality science, efficiencies of resource use, better outcomes, and wider adoption of results. However, these benefits of collaboration only occur when there is mutual vision in alignment of research goals and collaboration.

The need to develop a balanced portfolio of research work, ranging from strategic to applied research, is essential in creating synergistic collaboration.

Thus, the purpose of this Focus Group is to develop an implementation plan for this IPPC Strategic Framework 2020 – 2030 development agenda item (Global Phytosanitary Research Coordination). The implementation plan is expected to contain clear start dates, milestones, a feasible timeline, a monitoring and evaluation framework, and adequate estimation of required budget and staff, which may be used for resource mobilization purposes. The CPM decided to form a Focus Group on Global Phytosanitary Research Coordination ahead of the recommended start of this development agenda item at the earliest in 2025. During the Scope and Plan phase, a study is to be conducted to build an understanding of the coordination mechanisms that already exist, such as Euphresco, what gaps the IPPC could fill (or whether existing mechanisms are sufficient), and how they will contribute to and support them. The continuation of the DAI would be subject to a CPM decision based on this work.

Process

The IPPC Secretariat will release a call for experts on the IPPC website to allow contracting parties and regional plant protection organizations to nominate their representatives to be part of the focus group. Each region, the RPPOs, the CPM Bureau, SC and IC will submit one nomination and all nominations will be presented to the CPM Bureau for their review and endorsement.

Meetings of the focus group may be held virtually with at least one in-person meeting. Attendance of meetings by focus group members is mandatory, but if a member is not able to participate, they may with approval of the Focus Group Chairperson, nominate a substitute with the requisite skill set to engage and participate actively. The meetings will be held in English.

Membership

The CPM Bureau will decide the membership of the focus group. The membership should have collective experience and expertise in a broader, global perspective of global phytosanitary research, as well as multilateral research cooperative and coordination arrangements and policies, as well as knowledge of the IPPC and its activities.

The focus group will be composed of up to fourteen members with knowledge of the IPPC's mandate and activities, taking account of geographical representation and gender balance as follows:

- (1) Seven members representing national plant protection organizations in each of seven FAO regions
- (2) One representative of the ten regional plant protection organizations (RPPOs)
- (3) One representative of the CPM Bureau
- (4) One representative of the Standards Committee (SC)
- (5) One representative of the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC)
- (6) (Optional) up to three observers representing academia, industry or civil society

Functions

The focus group may decide to add tasks or amend the tasks listed below according to the information they gather during the active period.

The focus group may also provide any further observations or recommendations to the CPM as deemed appropriate.

The key tasks of the focus group will be:

- (1) undertake a scoping study to build an understanding of the research coordination mechanisms that are necessary for the IPPC to accelerate development of science to support all regulatory phytosanitary activities;
- (2) as part of the scoping study, assess whether existing international research coordination mechanisms are sufficient and identify what gaps the IPPC could fill;
- (3) explore the benefits of developing an IPPC policy and structure for international phytosanitary research coordination, especially with regard to determining the role of RPPOs in such coordination;
- (4) consult with, explore, and analyze existing international research organizations' policies and perspectives to draft an IPPC international research coordination policy;
- (5) analyze existing international research coordination structures and mechanisms and explore options for enhancing regional and global research coordination;
- (6) provide advice for CPM consideration on the possible mechanisms for implementing the IPPC Global Phytosanitary Research Coordination SF 2020-2030 development agenda item, on both the research coordination policy the CPM may adopt and the identified coordination mechanisms and/or structures;
- (7) as part of this advice, develop a draft implementation and monitoring plan for IPPC Global Phytosanitary Research Coordination including proposed milestones to be reached within a seven-year period;
- (8) Perform other related functions as required.

Expected start date and Duration

The focus group will be established by the Bureau by June 2024 to draft a new policy, structure, and plan for the global phytosanitary research coordination. The focus group will remain effective until the CPM approves the implementation plan and mechanism of the Global Phytosanitary Research Coordination that could be considered by CPM-20 (in 2026).

Expected Outputs

- (1) A report of scoping study to be conducted by the focus group to explore the current international and regional phytosanitary research structures and policies to identify gaps to be filled in policy and structure coordination mechanisms and structure.
- (2) A proposal on policy and structure of a coordination mechanism to be established.

Reports to: CPM Bureau

Funding

The organization that employs an IPPC meeting participant is responsible for funding the travel and daily subsistence allowance for that person to attend. If the employer is unable to allocate sufficient funds, participants are first encouraged to seek assistance from sources other than the IPPC Secretariat. Where such demonstrated efforts to secure assistance have been unsuccessful, requests for assistance (i.e., travel

and subsistence costs) from the IPPC Secretariat may be made. However, any support is subject to available funds. The IPPC Secretariat will consider funding assistance for participants following IPPC criteria for funding. Full details on these criteria can be found on the IPP (<https://www.ippc.int/publications/criteria-used-prioritizing-participants-receive-travel-assistance-attend-meetings>).