



## COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

### EIGHTEENTH SESSION

## REPORT ON THE INTERNATIONAL PLANT PROTECTION CONVENTION OBSERVATORY

### AGENDA ITEM 14.3

*(Prepared by the IPPC Secretariat)*

#### Background

- [1] The IPPC Observatory<sup>1</sup> is a system that monitors the implementation of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), International Standards on Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs), and Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) Recommendations.
- [2] This evaluation system identifies common implementation challenges faced by IPPC contracting parties through surveys and studies, gathers best practices and provides an overview to the IPPC community on the state of implementation of the IPPC, ISPMs and CPM Recommendations at a global level.
- [3] In 2022, the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC) discussed IPPC Observatory activities and recommended the following priorities:
- (a) monitoring the progress in achieving the objectives of the Development Agenda Items (DAIs) of the **IPPC Strategic Framework (2020–2030)**,
  - (b) conducting the **IPPC third General Survey**,
  - (c) launching the **study on e-commerce**,
  - (d) launch of a **call for topics for studies and surveys**.
- [4] Further to reporting on these priority activities, an update is provided in this paper on the Three Sisters work on monitoring the implementation of standards and the issues related to low survey response rates.

#### Monitoring the progress in achieving the objectives of the development agenda items of the IPPC Strategic Framework (2020–2030)

- [5] CPM-16 (2022)<sup>2</sup> approved the transition from the Implementation Review and Support System (IRSS) to the IPPC Observatory and agreed that the IPPC Observatory would contribute to monitoring the progress in achieving the objectives outlined in the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020–2030.
- [6] The CPM Focus Group on Implementation of the IPPC Strategic Framework developed a detailed IPPC Strategic Framework 2020-2030 Development Agenda Items Implementation Plan.<sup>3</sup> The implementation plan includes the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) with key milestones and deliverables for each DAI to

<sup>1</sup> IPPC Observatory webpage: <https://www.ippc.int/en/ippc-observatory/>

<sup>2</sup> CPM-16 report: [https://assets.ippc.int/static/media/files/publication/en/2022/07/CPM-16\\_FINAL\\_REPORT-2022-07-20\\_\\_Syh4mHt.pdf](https://assets.ippc.int/static/media/files/publication/en/2022/07/CPM-16_FINAL_REPORT-2022-07-20__Syh4mHt.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> SF Implementation plan: <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/91889/>

monitor the progress in implementation. The implementation plan was subsequently endorsed by CPM-17 (2023).

- [7] In April 2023, the IC Subgroup on the IPPC Observatory recommended to conduct the monitoring of the implementation of the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020-2030 through a mid-term evaluation in 2025 and to conduct a final evaluation in 2030, upon hiring a dedicated staff, the project coordinator to coordinate the overall implementation of the strategic framework, as per CPM-17 decision.
- [8] The IC supported the recommendation that the IPPC Strategic Framework project coordinator should be hired first and then the IPPC Observatory would provide support by monitoring of Development Agenda achievements. For this purpose, the IC Subgroup suggested that the IPPC Secretariat could develop a spreadsheet for mapping the DAI achievements based on the Strategic Framework Implementation Plan and through which each DAI lead could provide data and oversee implementation progress.

### IPPC third general survey

- [9] In preparation for the third IPPC general survey, a critical assessment and comparative analysis of the first two IPPC general surveys,<sup>4</sup> held in 2012 and 2016, was commissioned in 2019. The analysis concluded that a straightforward repetition of the previously used survey instruments in the third general survey would unlikely provide a better, more in depth assessment of implementation of the IPPC, ISPMs, and CPM Recommendations by contracting parties.
- [10] In addition, the report noted that it was not possible to reach any conclusions about the potential presence of smaller changes or trends and advised that examining the analysis outcomes, considering possible changes to content and procedure should take place before conducting further general surveys.
- [11] In April 2023, the IC reviewed and agreed on the criteria to improve the IPPC general survey such as a better coordination at secretariat level, involvement of RPPOs, provision of translations into UN official languages, brevity of the questionnaire, compatibility of the questionnaire with mobile devices and inclusion of a search function to consult the data compiled; among other suggestions.
- [12] In November 2023, the IC also suggested to measure in the IPPC general survey the level of updating the National Reporting Obligations (NROs) on the IPP, the World Trade Organization notifications and the status of national phytosanitary legislation.
- [13] Consistent with the IC-agreed criteria to improve the IPPC general survey, the questionnaire for the IPPC general survey was drafted and circulated for review within the IPPC Secretariat team and units. The draft survey was then reviewed by the IPPC Subgroup on IPPC Observatory. The survey is now ready to be reviewed by a survey specialist and the operational phase of the survey is expected for 2024.

### New study on e-commerce

- [14] In November 2021, the IC added the *IRSS study on e-Commerce (2021-01)* to the IRSS workplan with a priority 1. The objectives of the study are to:
- describe how the phytosanitary risks associated with e-commerce have changed since the 2012 IRSS study;
  - evaluate the extent to which CPM Recommendation R-05 on: Internet trade in plants and other regulated articles has been implemented by NPPOs and RPPOs;
  - provide baseline data that could be used to monitor and evaluate whether the e-commerce programme has achieved the desired outcomes described in the SF.

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<sup>4</sup> Comparative analysis 2012 and 2016 general surveys: <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/CB9681EN>

- [15] A questionnaire was developed and shared with the IC Subgroup on IPPC Observatory for review and comments. The draft questionnaire was discussed by the IC Team on e-Commerce. The survey is ready to be reviewed by a survey specialist, to be identified by the IPPC Secretariat. The operational phase of the survey is expected for 2024.
- [16] More information on e-commerce activities is provided in the paper CPM 2024/17.

### **Call for IPPC Observatory topics for studies and surveys**

- [17] The list of IPPC Observatory topics, redesigned and converted into a searchable database<sup>5</sup>, is available on the International Phytosanitary Portal (IPP).
- [18] In November 2023, the IC also established an IC Team for Submission of Implementation Topics to review and simplify the submission form for implementation materials and to develop the form for the IPPC Observatory topics. The IC recommended that the form for IPPC Observatory topics should highlight the objective and mission of the observatory and the type of topics that can be submitted by contracting parties.
- [19] The proposal for 2025, will be to merge the call for IPPC Observatory topics for studies and surveys with the IPPC call for Standards and Implementation. The recommendation for a joint call was discussed and supported in October 2023 by the Task Force on Topics (TFT) and also in November 2023 by the IC.
- [20] Meanwhile, a call for IPPC Observatory topics for studies and surveys will be issued in 2024 and will be directly open to contracting parties. To keep flexibility, the CPM Bureau, SC and IC will still be able to submit topics any time if needed.

### **Survey on Antimicrobial resistance**

- [21] CPM-17 (2023) requested the IPPC Secretariat to consider undertaking an IPPC Observatory study to better understand the nature and scope of the risks associated with antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in the phytosanitary context, including resistance to fungicides.
- [22] The first phase of the AMR survey was launched from May to July and then extended until December 2023, and aimed to collect data on antibiotic products used in plant protection. The results of the AMR survey were discussed during the CPM Bureau and the Strategic Planning Group meetings in October 2023. The second phase of the AMR survey launched from October to December 2023 focused on the use of fungicides in plant protection.
- [23] Further details on the IPPC AMR survey are provided in the CPM 2024/43.

### **Three sisters working on monitoring the implementation of standards**

- [24] The IPPC Observatory is fully involved in the work of a working group with *Codex Alimentarius* and the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH) representatives on monitoring implementation of standards. The working group meets every quarter to discuss the activities of their respective observatories for monitoring the implementation of standards, share best practices and improve the quality of surveys and the response rates from contracting parties.
- [25] In April 2023, *Codex Alimentarius* and the WOAHO Observatory were invited to the virtual meeting of the IC Subgroup on the IPPC Observatory to share their experiences in monitoring the implementation of their respective standards.

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<sup>5</sup> IPPC Observatory list of topics: <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/capacity-development/list-topics-ippc-irss/list>

[26] In addition, on 3 October 2023, the IPPC Secretariat took part virtually in the side event “Efforts of the Three Sisters to monitor the use and impact of their standards” held on the sidelines of the 33rd session of the Codex Committee on General Principles in Bordeaux, France. This event was attended by more than 100 delegates, representing 49 countries in the room and about the same online.

### Issues related to low survey response rates

[27] In November 2023, The IC agreed that the issue of low response rate from contacting parties to the IPPC Observatory surveys needed to be raised at CPM-18 (2024).

[28] The Price Waterhouse Coopers (PWC) study on the IPPC Observatory operationalization had identified that the low response rate from the contracting parties of the IPPC was already a key issue to be addressed. Recommendations were formulated and approved by the IC on how to improve IPPC survey efficiency and response rates from contracting parties. These recommendations included, but were not limited to, reduction of questionnaire size, translation of surveys in all UN official languages, increase of the response period, improvement of survey communication, and ensuring surveys’ compatibility with mobile devices.

[29] The low response rate to surveys appears to remain a problem even though most of the recommendations from the PWC study were implemented. Given that the IPPC Observatory’s successful delivery relies in great part on surveys, the IC recommended CPM-18 (2024) to discuss this point in order to receive feedback and identify additional ideas to improve response rate to IPPC surveys.

[30] The CPM is invited to:

- (1) *note* the update the 2023 IPPC Observatory activities;
- (2) *note* that the IPPC Strategic Framework project coordinator should be hired before other activities commence following which, the IPPC Observatory will provide support by monitoring of Development Agenda Items achievements;
- (3) *request* the IPPC Secretariat to launch the third IPPC general survey including a search function allowing to consult freely the data compiled and add in the general survey criteria the update of the National Reporting Obligations on the IPP, World Trade Organization notifications, phytosanitary legislation, and pest report to monitor the IPPC implementation;
- (4) *invite* contracting parties to respond to the third IPPC general survey;
- (5) *request* the IPPC Secretariat to launch the survey for the Observatory study on e-commerce;
- (6) *consider* that from 2025, the call for IPPC Observatory topics for studies and surveys will be included in the IPPC call for Standards and Implementation with a dedicate submission form;
- (7) *encourage* the IPPC secretariat to maintain collaboration of the Three sisters working group on monitoring the implementation of their standards; and
- (8) *discuss* how to address the overall low response rate to IPPC surveys and recommend options to improve it.