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REPORT

TECHNICAL PANEL ON COMMODITY STANDARDS

13 March 2024

Virtual Meeting

IPPC Secretariat

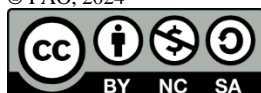
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1. Opening of the meeting

1.1 Welcome by the IPPC Secretariat

- [1] Adriana MOREIRA, IPPC Standard Setting Officer and Deputy Lead of the Standard Setting Unit, opened the virtual meeting of the Technical Panel on Commodity Standards (TPCS) and welcomed all participants.

2. Meeting arrangements

2.1 Selection of chairperson

- [2] As agreed at their meeting in June 2023,¹ the TPCS selected Lihong ZHU (New Zealand) as chairperson.

2.2 Selection of the rapporteur

- [3] The TPCS selected Alfayo OMBUYA (Kenya) as rapporteur.

2.3 Adoption of the agenda

- [4] The TPCS adopted the agenda (Appendix 1).
- [5] In response to a question from the chairperson, the secretariat clarified that no decisions were needed yet about which of the new commodity standards being proposed to the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) in 2024 should be worked on first. The secretariat advised that this discussion wait until after the May meeting of the Standards Committee (SC).

3. Administrative matters

- [6] The TPCS noted the absence of Adriana CERIANI CAMDESSUS (Argentina) and Douglas KERRUISH (Australia). The panel also noted that Hideki TANIGUCHI (Japan) was unable to join the meeting, despite several attempts to do so, because of a connection problem.

4. TPCS work programme and procedures

4.1 TPCS working procedures – from the Standards Committee

- [7] The secretariat referred the TPCS to the panel's working procedures.² The procedures had been developed by the TPCS at its face-to-face meeting in January 2023 and subsequently approved by the SC in May 2023 except for one section that the SC had removed, which referred to subcriteria for the inclusion or exclusion of a pest in a commodity standard.³ The procedures had then been presented to the SC in November 2023 as part of proposed revisions to the *IPPC procedure manual for standard setting*, but instead of incorporating the procedures into the manual the SC had invited the TPCS and TPCS stewards to review the text for presentation to the SC meeting in May 2024.⁴ The secretariat explained that the TPCS steward and Lihong ZHU (New Zealand) had therefore revised the text.⁵ The TPCS Steward, Joanne WILSON (New Zealand), explained that in revising the text she had tried to follow a logical order, fill gaps and add further detail.
- [8] The TPCS considered the revised working procedure, paragraph by paragraph.

¹ TPCS 2023-06, agenda item 2.1.

² 02_TPCS_Tel_2024_Mar.

³ SC 2023-05, agenda item 6.4: <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/92494/>

⁴ SC 2023-11, agenda item 8.2.

⁵ 03_TPCS_Tel_2024_Mar.

- [9] **Membership.** The TPCS adjusted the wording of the working procedures to recognize the importance of securing the agreement of the respective national plant protection organization (NPPO) before renewing a person's membership on a technical panel.
- [10] **Call for topics.** The secretariat noted that there was currently no ongoing call for commodity standards. The TPCS therefore agreed to refer only to the annual call for topics but noted that reference to an ongoing call could be added in future if such a call was approved. The secretariat confirmed that it was the SC who would need to approve these adjustments to the working procedure, rather than the CPM.
- [11] **Submission form for amended commodity standards.** The secretariat clarified the difference between revisions of a standard (which could be full revisions or focused revisions) and ink amendments, with the latter not requiring consultation and being noted rather than adopted by the CPM. They referred to section 7.4.1 of the TPCS working procedures, which explained that footnotes could be added to a commodity standard as an ink amendment if there was evidence that a phytosanitary measure listed in a commodity standard was no longer effective or if there was a change in pest taxonomy that did not affect the options for phytosanitary measures.
- [12] The TPCS agreed that a submission form was not needed for ink amendments and amended the working procedures accordingly. The TPCS noted that contracting parties could propose ink amendments by contacting the secretariat, which would be consistent with the existing practice of contracting parties writing to the secretariat when they wished to propose a technical amendment to an adopted standard and the secretariat archiving these issues until the standard was next opened for revision.
- [13] The secretariat explained the difference between “topics” and “subjects” in the hierarchy of ISPMs, with subjects not requiring a specification and being added or removed from the SC work programme by the SC rather than the CPM (but noted by the CPM). Annexes to ISPM 27 (*Diagnostic protocols for regulated pests*), annexes to ISPM 28 (*Phytosanitary treatments for regulated pests*) and terms being considered for addition to, revision in or deletion from ISPM 5 (*Glossary of phytosanitary terms*) were subjects.
- [14] **Modification of tasks.** The TPCS noted that, pending approval by CPM-18 (2024), a specification would not be required for new commodity standards, as the tasks for the TPCS and the format of the standard were generally common to all commodity standards. However, the secretariat clarified that the tasks for the TPCS were specified in Specification TP 6 (*Technical Panel on Commodity Standards*) and could not be modified by the panel, as the specification was a document approved by the SC after a consultation period. The TPCS therefore deleted a sentence that had been added, which referred to the ability of the TPCS to modify tasks.
- [15] **Evaluation of commodity standard proposals.** The TPCS considered a list that described how the TPCS would evaluate commodity standard proposals, including some criteria for evaluating proposals with equal priority ranking. The TPCS agreed that, in the context of assessing the scope of a new commodity standard, the term “scope” could refer to the commodity (including the number of species), its intended use or the complexity of the standard.
- [16] **Prioritization of commodity standards in the work programme.** The TPCS recognized that the draft criteria for evaluating proposals with equal priority ranking were criteria by which to prioritize commodity standards, whereas the other bullet points related to evaluating proposals for inclusion in the work programme. They adjusted the text accordingly.
- [17] **Timelines for drafting new commodity standards.** The TPCS considered whether to include some guidance on the anticipated timeline for development of a commodity standard. The secretariat commented that a graphic could be included to represent the broad timeline, which would be at least four years if CPM-18 (2024) agreed that specifications were not required, but it might be premature to set timelines as the process of drafting a commodity standard was still in its infancy. The secretariat suggested that the TPCS conduct a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) analysis at their next face-to-face meeting, as performed for other IPPC technical panels, and that timelines could be considered at that point.

- [18] **Inclusion of pests when drafting new commodity standards.** The TPCS recognized that, when a genus or family of pests is listed in a draft commodity standard, this did not necessarily mean that all species in the genus or family were regulated. They therefore reinserted text, which had been in the earlier version of the working procedure, specifying that a note to this effect would be included in commodity standards when referring to family or genus level.
- [19] **Subcriteria for inclusion of pests.** One TPCS member recalled the subcriteria agreed by the TPCS in January 2023 and proposed that these be adopted. The secretariat explained that the SC had removed these subcriteria from the working procedures because they did not agree with having criteria other than the single criterion specified in ISPM 46 (*Commodity-specific standards for phytosanitary measures*) – regulation by at least one contracting party. The TPCS steward explained that it was not the role of the TPCS to conduct pest risk analysis and it was not appropriate for the TPCS to question the technical justification made by countries in regulating pests, as circumstances differed between countries and it was a country's sovereign right to decide which pests to regulate. The steward also recalled that the TPCS had omitted some pests from the draft annex *International movement of fresh Mangifera indica fruit* (2021-011) to ISPM 46, because of insufficient information or there not being a corresponding measure that was good enough to include in the standard. The chairperson suggested that there may be more merit in considering criteria for excluding pests rather than including pests. She suggested, however, that the panel discuss this at their next face-to-face meeting, with a view to including it in the working procedures in future rather than in this version of the procedures.
- [20] **Revising or amending adopted commodity standards.** The TPCS confirmed their previous position that a change in a species name could be addressed through ink amendment only if it did not affect the options for phytosanitary measures and that if a new pest or measure was proposed then that would constitute a revision and the TPCS would need the full information.
- [21] The secretariat commented that the Technical Panel on Diagnostic Protocols (TPDP), after several years of drafting diagnostic protocols (DPs), had drafted a procedure to guide their decisions about when a technical change needed to go to consultation and when it could be implemented by the panel as an “ink amendment” type change, when submitting a DP for the DP notification period. The secretariat suggested that, in time, the TPCS could do the same. The TPCS welcomed this suggestion and acknowledged the need to analyse gaps in the working procedures of the TPCS. They then requested that the secretariat make the working procedures of the Technical Panel on Phytosanitary Treatments and the TPDP available for the next in-person TPCS meeting as references to improve the TPCS working procedures.
- [22] **Stewards for commodity standards.** The TPCS agreed with the text that had been added to the working procedures, which specified that after the first two commodity standards, the stewards for individual commodity standards would be drawn from the membership of the TPCS, with a lead and an assistant lead for each new standard, revision or amendment. The TPCS recognized the need to share the burden of stewardship in this way, given the heavy workload involved in addressing consultation comments.
- [23] **Consultation on draft commodity standards.** The TPCS agreed that there was no need to refer to the amendment of standards in relation to specifications, as amendments would not need a specification anyway.
- [24] The TPCS reviewed the circumstances under which the TPCS may recommend to the SC that a draft commodity standard is adopted by the CPM without a second consultation. The existing text said that this could happen if no substantive comments had been received or no additional pests and measures had been proposed for inclusion. However, the TPCS amended the latter criterion to “no *changes* to pests and measures”, as they considered a second consultation would be needed in the case of removal of pests or measures.
- [25] The TPCS considered whether it would be appropriate to add pests or measures in response to second consultation comments, as this may result in contracting parties then objecting to the adoption of the standard at the CPM meeting if they did not agree with the addition. The TPCS noted that contracting

parties would have two opportunities to propose the addition of pests and measures before a draft reached the second consultation stage: the call for information materials at the start of the standard's development and the first consultation. So, there should be no need to propose additions at the second consultation. The TPCS considered whether to amend the working procedures to encourage such proposals to be submitted as future revisions instead of during second consultation. However, the secretariat suggested that it was premature to agree a rule about this and that it was not a new problem: the SC and the SC Working Group (SC-7) were used to addressing questions about what changes were acceptable after second consultation. The TPCS heeded this advice and did not modify the working procedure.

[26] **Searchable online database.** The TPCS amended the section on the online database of pests and measures to avoid any impression that the role of the TPCS was to proactively seek out information on pests and measures from the literature: updates to the database would, instead, be based on communications from NPPOs and regional plant protection organizations.

The TPCS:

- (1) *recommended* to the SC that the IPPC Standard Setting Procedure be adjusted to include the option of omitting a second consultation on draft commodity standards if no substantive comments are received, or no changes to pests and measures are proposed, in response to the first consultation (following the same procedure as phytosanitary treatments, although it is anticipated that this would be a rare occurrence);
- (2) *recommended* the draft TPCS working procedures as modified in this meeting to the SC for approval and subsequent inclusion in the *IPPC procedure manual for standard setting*;
- (3) *agreed* to defer to their next face-to-face meeting discussion about the anticipated timeline for development of a commodity standard, a SWOT analysis, and criteria for excluding pests from commodity standards;

requested that, at a future meeting, the secretariat guide the TPCS through the process of conducting a gap analysis on TPCS working procedures, using the working procedures of the other technical panels as a guide.

4.2 Proposed adjustments to the submission form for information materials for commodity standards

[27] The TPCS considered a draft adjustment to the submission form used to gather information for the development of commodity standards.⁶ The TPCS steward explained that the adjustment was the inclusion of a section to indicate whether the form related to a new annex to ISPM 46, a new annex to another ISPM, a revision to an existing commodity standard, an amendment to an existing commodity standard, or information materials to support a commodity standard proposal.

[28] The TPCS removed the reference to annexes of another ISPM, as Specification TP 6 restricted the scope of the panel to annexes to ISPM 46. The chairperson clarified that if a commodity standard were to be developed as an annex to another ISPM, then this would be drafted by an expert working group not the TPCS.

The TPCS:

approved the submission form for information materials for commodity standards (Appendix 2) and *invited* the SC to note it.

4.3 Preparation for the next TPCS face-to-face meeting

[29] The secretariat informed the TPCS that the next TPCS face-to-face meeting was tentatively scheduled for 2–6 December 2024, probably in Canberra, Australia. The secretariat suggested that the TPCS defer

⁶ 04_TPCS_Tel_2024_Mar.

discussion of the agenda to a future meeting. However, members were encouraged to block their calendars and to initiate any necessary travel clearance with their organizations.

5. Any other business

[30] There was no other business.

6. Next TPCS meeting

[31] The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for 11, 12 or 13 June 2024 in virtual mode (to be confirmed by the secretariat after this meeting).

[32] The chairperson asked the secretariat about the timing of the call for information materials, noting that the TPCS would need this information to help it prioritize which standards to work on first. The secretariat advised that the call be opened after the May 2024 meeting of the SC, but before the end of May, to allow for any further discussion about prioritization that may happen at the SC. The secretariat commented that they could also seek advice from the SC as to whether to open the call for all the priority 1 commodity standards and, if not, which ones.

7. Close of the meeting

[33] The chairperson thanked the participants and closed the meeting.

Appendix 1: Agenda

Agenda Item		Document No.	Presenter
1.	Opening of the Meeting		
1.1	Welcome by the IPPC Secretariat	--	IPPC Secretariat (MOREIRA)
2.	Meeting Arrangements		
2.1	Selection of Chairperson	--	MOREIRA
2.2	Selection of the Rapporteur	--	Chairperson
2.3	Adoption of the Agenda	01_TPCS_Tel_2024_Mar	Chairperson
3.	Administrative Matters		
3.1	TPCS membership list	TPCS membership list	KRAH
3.2	Connections to Zoom and virtual meetings	Short guidelines for participants	
4.	TPCS work programme and procedures		
4.1	TPCS Working Procedures - from the Standards Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of TPCS working procedures as approved by the SC in May 2023 – for information Proposed TPCS working procedures: further points (paper by LIHONG and WILSON) 	02_TPCS_Tel_2024_Mar 03_TPCS_Tel_2024_Mar	IPPC Secretariat / WILSON (Steward)
4.2	Proposed adjustments to the submission form: Information Materials for Commodity Standards	04_TPCS_Tel_2024_Mar	LIHONG / WILSON
4.3	Preparation for the next TPCS face to face meeting (tentative: 3 rd or 4 th quarter of 2024)	--	IPPC Secretariat / Chairperson / Stewards
5.	Any other business	--	Chairperson
6.	Next TPCS meeting	--	IPPC Secretariat / Chairperson
7.	Closing of the meeting	--	IPPC Secretariat / Chairperson

Appendix 2: Submission form for information materials for commodity standards

Submission Form Information Materials for Commodity Standards (Agreed by the Standards Committee in May 2022)

Name of Country/RPPO: _____

[Click here](#) to find the IPPC Procedure Manual for Standard Setting on the IPP (www.ippc.int), where you can download this form.

Submission number (Secretariat Use Only):

Complete the following form, preferably in electronic format, and submit by e-mail to the IPPC Secretariat (ippc@fao.org).

Please use one form per commodity. An electronic version of this form is available on the International Phytosanitary Portal (IPP) at <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/standards-and-implementation/call-for-topics-standards-and-implementation/> and <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/standards-setting/member-consultation-draft-ispms/>. Incomplete submissions will be returned. Please save the completed submission form with the following file name: COUNTRY or RPPO NAME –Title of commodity.doc, prior to submitting to the IPPC Secretariat via e-mail.

(Text in brackets given for explanatory purposes)

Name and description of Commodity	<i>(Provide enough detail to identify the commodity including the botanical name, authority, part of the plant for trade and its intended use)</i>
--	--

Scope of proposed commodity standard

- ☐ New Annex to ISPM 46
- ☐ A revision to a commodity standard annex (to include new pests and measures)
- ☐ An amendment to a commodity standard (to change a pest name or details of a measure)
- ☐ Information materials to support a commodity standard proposal

Submitted by: *(Name of national or regional plant protection organization)*

Contact: *(Contact information of an individual able to clarify issues relating to this submission, including pest risk assessment, phytosanitary measures, interception data related to measure etc.)*

Name:

Position and organization:

Mailing address:

.....

Phone:..... Fax:.....

E-mail:.....

List of regulated pests associated with the commodity for trade

(Only include pests that are regulated by your national and are associated with the plant or plant part traded (e.g. if only fruit is traded then do not include pests that are only associated with leaves)). Also

consider including pests regulated by other countries, especially for those instances in which your NPPO export the commodity.)

Pest type	Family	Species (include authority)	Link to pest risk assessment (if available)
e.g. fruit flies, moths, thrips, fungi, bacteria, fungi, virus			

List of Measures (*Please repeat this part for each measure proposed*)

Name and Description of Measure	
Name of Measure	<i>e.g. vapour heat treatment, cold treatment, irradiation, systems approach, PFA, PFPP, PFPS, pesticide</i>
Measure Type	<i>e.g. physical, chemical, biological</i>
Active Ingredient	<i>For chemical treatments only</i>
Schedule	<p><i>For treatments, the schedule should include details such as dose, concentration, time, temperature, relative humidity, where applicable, efficacy and confidence if known.</i></p> <p><i>For systems approaches, please include a description of the independent measures.</i></p>
Target Pest	<i>Include the regulated pests and life stages that the measure manages. Pests should be included in the list of pests (above)</i>
Reference	<i>Include any available reference or website link</i>

Other information <i>(Please complete as many fields as possible)</i>
Is there quantitative or qualitative evidence to indicate the measure is effective?
<i>Where possible, provide published references or experimental data to support the measure.</i>
Does experience from use in international trade indicate that the measure is effective?
<i>Describe the countries that use the measure in trade (e.g. importing country – exporting country) and the number of years the measure has been used (e.g. year regulations were set). Include information on volume of trade and relevant pest interception data where possible.</i>
Has the measure been successfully used to manage non-compliant consignments?
<i>Describe the circumstances for use and how often the measure is used to manage non-compliant consignments.</i>
Has the measure been successfully used to effectively manage pest risk domestically?
<i>Describe the circumstances for domestic use of the measure e.g. the measure has been used extensively in relation to domestic movement of commodities; the measure has been used successfully in outbreak management and eradication programmes; information from domestic plant certification schemes indicates that the measure is effective; best management practices for the measure are available.</i>
Has the measure been used successfully by the private sector or authorized entities?
Has the measure has been identified as an effective pest risk management option based on a PRA or comparable technical evaluation?
<i>Please provide PRAs or comparable evaluations that identify the measure as being effective.</i>
Is the measure, relevant to the pest, adopted in an ISPM or regional standard?
<i>Please provide reference to ISPM or a regional standard</i>

Send submissions to:

E-mail: ippc@fao.org
(preferred)

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