



REPORT

TECHNICAL PANEL ON COMMODITY STANDARDS

12 June 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 Douglas KERRUSH (Australia) as rapporteur.

2.3 Adoption of the agenda

- [4] The TPCS adopted the agenda (Appendix 1).

3. Administrative matters

- [5] The TPCS noted the absence of Eyad MOHAMMED (Syrian Arab Republic; assistant steward), Alfayo OMBUYA (Kenya), Moshe VAKNIN (Israel) and Joanne WILSON (New Zealand; steward).

4. Update from CPM-18 (2024)

- [6] The IPPC Secretariat (hereafter referred to as the “secretariat”) presented an update on outcomes from the Eighteenth Session of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM), which had been held on 15–19 April 2024.² The secretariat highlighted some key issues of relevance to the TPCS, including the following:

- The CPM had agreed that commodity standards developed as annexes to ISPM 46 (*Commodity-specific standards for phytosanitary measures*) would be considered subjects rather than topics but proposals to develop these annexes, along with their priorities, would still require approval from the CPM. The secretariat explained to the TPCS that this also implied that specifications would not be needed for new commodity standards, as subjects did not have specifications.
- Seven annexes to ISPM 46 had been added to the *List of topics for IPPC standards* – four priority 1 subjects and three priority 2 subjects. The subjects and priorities were as recommended by the Standards Committee (SC) at their meeting in November 2023.
- There had been a request from a contracting party for the first draft commodity standard submitted to the CPM for adoption to be presented in detail in a CPM side session or to a wider audience in a webinar to demonstrate its quality and its potential added value for international trade. The secretariat commented that they had been considering this since the CPM and were likely to recommend a webinar, to be held in early 2025, as this would reach a broader audience than a side session.

- [7] The TPCS noted that the seven new subjects added to the work programme by CPM-18 (2024) were as follows:

- Priority 1 subjects:
 - Seeds of *Phaseolus vulgaris* (2023-008),

¹ TPCS 2023-06, agenda item 2.1.

² 02_TPCS_Tel_2024_Jun; CPM reports: <https://www.ippc.int/en/commission/cpm/cpm-sessions/>

- International movement of *Citrus* fruit (2023-019),
- International movement of fresh taro (*Colocasia esculenta*) corm for consumption (2023-023), and
- International movement of fresh banana (*Musa paradisiaca*) fruit (2023-028);
- Priority 2 subjects:
 - International movement of *Vitis vinifera* fruit (2023-018),
 - International movement of *Malus domestica* fruit for consumption (2023-024), and
 - International movement of fresh orange (*Citrus sinensis*) fruit (2023-027).

[8] The chairperson noted that the seven new subjects brought the total number of subjects on the TPCS work programme to eight, including the draft annex *International movement of fresh Mangifera indica fruit* (2021-011), and that not having to submit a draft specification to consultation would save valuable time in the development of future commodity standards. Referring to the SC update to be considered under agenda item 4.2, she noted that the TPCS would need to decide, in advance of their face-to-face meeting in December, which of the four new priority 1 subjects to develop first. The secretariat confirmed that, as agreed by the SC,³ a call for information material would be opened for all four priority 1 subjects and the TPCS would then be able to discuss, based on the information received, which subjects to work on first.

[9] In answer to a query from a TPCS member, the secretariat confirmed that there was no guarantee that the priority 2 subjects would be started once the priority 1 subjects were completed, as they could be superseded by new priority 1 subjects added to the list of topics. The secretariat explained that this was not unusual in the development of standards and suggested that, after the next biennial call for topics, the TPCS review the priorities of existing topics and make recommendations on changes, if needed, to the SC.

[10] The chairperson asked whether the SC was likely to form any expert working groups to develop commodity standards. The secretariat explained that this was not known, as the development of commodity standards was still in its infancy, but the specification for the TPCS allowed for commodity standards to be drafted either by the TPCS or by expert drafting groups established by the SC. If the TPCS felt it was necessary to form a drafting group, then the TPCS would need to make a recommendation to the SC with a justification of why a drafting group was needed (e.g. to speed up the process or because the TPCS did not possess the necessary technical expertise).

[11] The TPCS:

- (1) noted the outcomes of CPM-18 (2024) and its key issues; and
- (2) noted the suggestion that they review the priorities of existing commodity-standard subjects after the 2025 Call for Topics: Standards and Implementation.

4.2 Update from the Standards Committee's May meeting

[12] The secretariat presented an update from the SC meeting held on 6–10 May 2024.⁴ The secretariat highlighted some key issues of relevance to the TPCS, including the following:

- The SC had recommended that the secretariat open a call for information material for all four priority 1 commodity-standard subjects and had invited the TPCS to then decide in which order to work on these subjects, based on the information received.
- The SC had invited the TPCS to consider the suggestion made by the Technical Panel on Phytosanitary Treatments (TPPT) at their meeting in October 2023 (agenda item 5.1) about how the TPPT could input its advice to the TPCS on treatments.

³ SC 2024-05, agenda item 7.4.

⁴ 03_TPCS_Tel_2024_Jun; 04_TPCS_Tel_2024_Jun; SC reports: <https://www.ippc.int/en/commission/standards-committee/>

- The SC had approved the TPCS working procedures with modifications, which would be included in the *IPPC procedure manual for standard setting*.
- The SC had agreed to develop guidance for lead stewards and assistant stewards in relation to technical panels to fill gaps in the current guidance.
- The SC had assigned stewards for the four priority 1 commodity-standard subjects, drawing from the SC membership.

[13] **SC modifications to the TPCS working procedures.** The secretariat presented the modifications that had been made by the SC to the TPCS working procedures.⁵ The SC had made one minor editorial amendment and had also deleted a paragraph:

- The editorial amendment had been to reverse the order of the words “revise” and “amend” in the introductory stem of a bulleted list to match the order of the bulleted list. The first two bullet points related to amendment (footnotes that would be added as a variation of the ink amendment process when evidence suggested that a phytosanitary measure was no longer effective or when there was a change in pest taxonomy) while the third bullet point related to revision (when new pests and measures were proposed by a national plant protection organization or a regional plant protection organization for inclusion in an adopted commodity standard).
- The deletion of the paragraph related to the proposal from the TPCS that there be an option to omit a second consultation on draft commodity standards if no substantive comments were received or no changes to pests and measures were proposed.⁶ The SC had deleted this because they felt it was premature to make this change to the Standard Setting Procedure.

[14] **Figure of tentative TPCS workplan.** The TPCS noted that one of the new subjects – *Citrus* fruit (2023-019) – was missing from the figure in the TPCS update to the SC,⁷ illustrating the tentative workplan for April 2024–April 2025. The secretariat confirmed that this was an accidental omission and referred to earlier in the same paper where all eight subjects were listed as being on the work programme. The chairperson requested that the secretariat correct the figure if used in another paper in future.

[15] **Inclusion of pests.** One TPCS member queried a sentence in the approved TPCS working procedures, in the section on Inclusion of pests, which did not appear to make sense. The text said that, when listing a pest at family or genus level in a commodity standard, a note would be included to indicate that not necessarily all the species in the family or genus level were regulated. The queried sentence explained that this was “because of grouping the phytosanitary measures”. The TPCS noted that this allowed for situations where a genus or family of pests may be listed in a commodity standard, rather than species within that genus or family, because the corresponding measure or measures were targeted at the genus or family rather than at individual species. The secretariat clarified that the text had been approved by the SC so the TPCS did not have the authority to amend it, but the TPCS could propose amendments to the SC for consideration. The secretariat suggested that it could simply be deleted but one TPCS member preferred to keep it as an explanation of the preceding sentence. The chairperson agreed to consult the TPCS steward about either amending the wording or deleting it, for subsequent consideration by the TPCS.

[16] **Timeline of TPCS actions.** The chairperson requested that the secretariat provide a timeline of TPCS actions in the coming months, from the call for information materials to the face-to-face meeting in December. The secretariat informed the TPCS that, after the call for information materials, it was expected that a two-day virtual meeting would be held at the end of September, so that the TPCS could review the material received and decide which commodities to start to work on and to include in the agenda of the face-to-face meeting. These drafts annexes to ISPM 46 are foreseen to be approved for consultation period in July 2025.

⁵ 04_TPCS_Tel_2024_Jun.

⁶ TPCS 2024-03, agenda item 4.1.

⁷ 04_TPCS_Tel_2024_Jun.

- [17] **Stewards.** The secretariat highlighted the new stewards for commodity standards that had been assigned by the SC,⁸ and commented that it would be preferable if the stewards for those subjects being drafted at the face-to-face meeting would attend the meeting. This therefore affected the timeline, as the earlier the TPCS could decide about which subjects to work on first, the sooner the stewards could be notified and the more likely it would be that they could attend.
- [18] The secretariat commented that, in the absence of the steward for a particular subject at the face-to-face meeting, the expectation would be that the TPCS stewards would fill the specific-subject steward's role at the meeting. The chairperson expressed some unease about the risk of stewards not being able to attend, and the secretariat confirmed that they would make their best efforts to facilitate the attendance of the specific-subject stewards.
- [19] The TPCS noted that, according to the TPCS working procedures approved by the SC, a lead and an assistant lead would be selected from the TPCS for each new draft, revision or amendment of an adopted commodity standard, except for the first two annexes to ISPM 46, which would be stewarded by SC members.
- [20] The chairperson emphasized the importance of ensuring that the specific-subject stewards assigned by the SC were able to fulfil their role.
- [21] **Evaluation of information material.** The TPCS noted that the focus of their next virtual meeting would be to consider the outcome of the call for information material and decide which two subjects to start work on first. The chairperson suggested that submitted information material be posted on the TPCS work area of the International Phytosanitary Portal as and when received.
- [22] The TPCS:
- (3) *noted* the update from the SC May meeting and its key issues;
 - (4) *requested* that the secretariat include an item in the agenda of the next virtual TPCS meeting to review the wording of the Inclusion of pests section of the TPCS working procedures;
 - (5) *requested* that the secretariat seek assurances from the stewards assigned to the new priority 1 subjects for commodity standards that they are able to fulfil their role, including attending those TPCS meetings at which the standard for which they are steward is being drafted or reviewed;
 - (6) *agreed* that the call for information material would be open from early July to 10 September 2024, to encompass the IPPC regional workshops dates; and
 - (7) *agreed* that their next virtual meeting would be held over two days in September and *noted* that any TPCS member not able to attend could submit comments via the secretariat.

4.3 Draft annexes to ISPM 46 for approval for second consultation: International movement of fresh *Mangifera indica* fruit (2021-011), priority 1

- [23] The secretariat confirmed that the draft annex *International movement of fresh Mangifera indica fruit* (2021-011) to ISPM 46 had been considered by the Standards Committee Working Group (SC-7), who had made some changes to it and had approved it for second consultation. The secretariat then shared a presentation that had been prepared by the steward for the draft annex, Joanne WILSON (New Zealand), for the 2024 IPPC regional workshops. This summarized the main comments made during the first consultation, outlined the main changes made to the annex in response to the comments, and listed the potential implementation issues raised during consultation.
- [24] The secretariat reported that the SC-7 had retained the original codes for measures developed by the TPCS, rather than using the alternative codes based on the IPPC phytosanitary treatments search tool. The SC-7 had also deleted the general text about integrated measures and some text added by the TPCS in response to consultation comments.

⁸ 03_TPCS_Tel_2024_Jun.

- [25] The secretariat explained that the presentation would be made available to the regional organizing committees of the workshops and each committee could make minor amendments. The secretariat highlighted, however, that the committees would need to consider any implications for translation if they amended the presentation. Moreover, suggestions made during this meeting were incorporated by the secretariat.
- [26] The chairperson commented that suggestions about amendments could also be sent to the secretariat and the steward.
- [27] The TPCS:
- (8) *noted* the update on the draft annex *International movement of fresh Mangifera indica fruit* (2021-011) to ISPM 46.

5. TPCS face-face meeting arrangements

- [28] The secretariat informed that the venue for the next face-to-face meeting, Canberra, had been confirmed. The dates would almost certainly be 2–6 December 2024. The secretariat highlighted a possible conflict with the dates of the Technical Panel for the Glossary (TPG) meeting, as one of the new commodity-standard stewards was also now the TPG steward. However, the secretariat assured to the TPCS that they would find a solution to this.

6. Any other business

- [29] There was no other business.

7. Next TPCS meeting

- [30] The next meeting will be held in virtual mode on two days in late September 2024 (dates and times to be confirmed via electronic poll).

8. Close of the meeting

- [31] 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_Jun	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 – draft ISPMs		
4.1 Update from CPM-18 (2024)	02_TPCS_Tel_2024_Jun	MOREIRA/ ZHU/
4.2 Update from the Standards Committee (SC) May meeting: Discussions and decisions by the SC. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> TPCS working procedures. TPCS update to SC May 2024 	03_TPCS_Tel_2024_Jun 04_TPCS_Tel_2024_Jun	CIAMPITTI / KRAH
4.3 Draft ISPMs for approval for second consultation: Draft annex to ISPM 46 (Commodity-specific standards for phytosanitary measures): International Movement of Mango (<i>Mangifera indica</i>) Fruit (2021-011), priority 1	Verbal update (From SC-7)	MOREIRA
5 TPCS face-face meeting arrangement - Next commodities for development		MOREIRA
6. Any other business	--	Chairperson
7. Next TPCS meeting	Tentative: 24-26 September 2024	KRAH / Chairperson
8. Closing of the meeting	--	IPPC Secretariat / Chairperson