



International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)

Implementation and Facilitation Unit (IFU) update to the Implementation and Capacity

Development Committee (IC)

July, August and September 2024

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- Read the latest [IPPC Newsletter](#)
- Consult the [IFU Organigramme](#)

IC Subgroup

IC Subgroup for IPPC Observatory

Contact: [Rokhila Madaminova](#)

17 September. At the second virtual meeting, the IC subgroup was briefed on the implementation of the IPPC Observatory 2022-2024 workplan and reviewed the priority activities for 2025. The IC subgroup requested the secretariat to present the IPPC Observatory list of topics at the November 2024 IC meeting, to rearrange the priority levels for each topic.

IC Teams

IC Team on Fusarium TR4

Contact: [Preet Parmar](#)

29 July. At the fifth virtual meeting of the IC Team for Fusarium TR4, the secretariat updated on the completion of the three activities: hands-on diagnostic training course, virtual surveillance training course, and hands-on simulation exercise. The IC Team for Fusarium TR4 will discuss next steps in future meetings.

IC Team on Contributed Resources

Contact: [Maki Iizuka](#)

27 August and 19 September. The team agreed to post three contributed resources on the [IPP](#): E-learning platform developed by COLEAD, Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for Gafchromic™ Film Dosimetry System for Gamma Radiation, and SOP for Gafchromic™ Film Dosimetry System for Low Energy X Radiation developed by IAEA.

IC Team on PCE

Contact: [Camilo Beltran Montoya](#)

The IC team on PCE has met to discuss relevant matters of the PCE roadmap approved by the IC in May. Under the GLO/949 project targeting COMESA countries, the secretariat has given access to the national coordinators and PCE facilitators to the course on Risk-Based Management. Partnering with COLEAD, the Secretariat has delivered a virtual course on the Rapid SPS Assessment Tool (R-Sat) and a project definition workshop. Two board meetings for certificate facilitators have been organized, and the Secretariat plans to finalize the assessment of the remaining candidates by December.

29 July-28 August. IPPC-COLEAD "Training on the implementation of COLEAD R-SAT for PCE purposes". PCE facilitators, NPPO coordinators from 11 countries and secretariat staff have started the one-month virtual [R-SAT course](#). The training aimed to help participants understand R-SAT and PCE tools for strategic application, implement the COLEAD R-SAT approach for PCE purposes, and develop skills for workplan and project formulation.

25 September. IPPC meeting on gender mainstreaming in the framework of PCEs. The FAO Gender Team delivered a 3-hour online training to representatives of NPPOs, facilitators of PCE and IPPC Secretariat staff on how to better integrate the gender dimension into the daily activities of the NPPOs and PCE missions.

IC Team on Projects

Contact: [Rokhila Madaminova](#)

10 September. The IC team discussed the format and theme of the session on ICD Projects, which will be organized during the IC May 2025 meeting. Further discussions on the topic will take place at the IC November 2024 meeting.

IC Team on E-commerce

Contact: [Barbara Peterson](#)

11 September. The secretariat provided an update on the IPPC Observatory E-commerce survey that was launched in August and discussed actions to enhance survey response. The IC Team also reviewed the draft paper that was prepared for the IC meeting in November.

10 September. Universal Postal Union (UPU). The secretariat gave a presentation, *Managing plant pest risks posed by e-commerce*, to the UPU's postal security group during their Postal Security Group meeting. The presentation, which included the new IPPC e-commerce video, discussed the plant health challenges posed by e-commerce and highlighted the importance of collaboration between NPPOs and national postal operators and among all stakeholders in the e-commerce supply chain.

IC Team on Guides and training materials

Contact: [Barbara Peterson](#)

24 September. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss proposed revisions to the process of developing IPPC Guides and training materials, review data about registration in IPPC e-learning courses, discuss enhancing the readability of IPPC Guides, and prepare for the November 2024 IC meeting.

IFU Core Work

Guides and Training Materials

Contact: [Barbara Peterson](#)

July-August. The secretariat worked with FAO eLearning Academy instructional designers to develop content for the new NPPO on-boarding course and learning paths tool. Draft NPPO profiles were shared with the Plant Health Officer Curricula (PHOC) working group (WG) for review. The draft storyboard for the PCE course was peer reviewed by members of the IC Team on PCE and the PHOC WG.

16 September. The second Plant Health Officer Curricula (PHOC) WG meeting was held to provide an update on the e-learning courses, online platform, and learning pathways tool being developed under this topic. The WG discussed the NPPO profiles document, agreed on next steps for finalizing this document and set the next meeting for mid-October.

ePhyto

Contact: [Dominique Menon](#)

30 July. The Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Programme organized a webinar to support the digitalization of the export/import process in Azerbaijan and Georgia. The attendees had discussions with the IPPC, the UNICC and the private sector, and gained lessons learnt from Uzbekistan and from the Pakistan Single Window.

2 July, 6 August and 10 September. The ePhyto Steering Group (ESG) noted the SC decision namely the existing ISPM 5 definition of "phytosanitary certificate" already covered electronic certificates, so no further action on adding the ePhyto definition to ISPM 5 is needed. Additionally, the ESG welcomed a potential collaboration with the World Customs Organization (WCO). The Inter-American Coordinating Group in Plant Protection (GICSV - *Grupo Interamericano de Coordinación en Sanidad Vegetal*) has finalized a contingency plan for electronic phytosanitary

certification; the ESG noted the added value of this contingency plan and even if it will not be able to respond to all country-specific legislation it was a good starting point with a view to adapting it worldwide.

IFU Communications

Contact: [Lisa Ferraro](#)

In July, a [spotlight news article on simulation exercises](#) was published which was also made into a [FAO feature story](#) for the 29th COAG session in September. August's focus included the start of [regional workshops](#) and the launch of the IPPC Observatory survey on e-commerce, with [news items](#), a [spotlight interview with Thorwald Geuze](#), and a targeted email campaign. IPPC e-learning courses were also highlighted, featuring [a personal account from the NPPO of Zambia](#).

IPPC Regional Workshops

Contact: [Descartes Koumba](#)

Seven IPPC Regional Workshops were held successfully in August and September, and IFU members attended and represented the IPPC secretariat at three of them (Africa, Caribbean and Latin America). Further information and reports are available [here](#).

Pest outbreak alert and response system (POARS)

Contact: [Camilo Beltran Montoya](#)

Since its establishment in March 2024, the POARS Steering Group (SG) has held one week of hybrid, six virtual, and 11 sub-team meetings. Key areas of progress include the review of governance structures and the criteria for identifying emerging pests, and the roles and functions of other IPPC bodies.

Other

Contact: [Maki Iizuka](#)

2 July. National Symposium of Agricultural Parasitology. Sarah Brunel, IFU Team Lead, was a guest speaker at the 50th National Symposium on Agricultural Parasitology in Mexico from 1 to 5 July. She made a virtual presentation on the IPPC implementation of SPS under ISPMs.

4 July. Knowledge Sharing Workshop on South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC). Sarah Brunel was a panelist at the Knowledge Sharing Workshop on SSTC held at FAO HQ. She contributed to two sessions: "Quality assurance and technical support for SSTC projects" and "Monitoring and evaluation, knowledge management, communication and visibility".

Events from October onwards

Date	Events
1-4 October 2024	36th Session of the TC-RPPO
23-25, 31 October 2024	CPM Bureau
28-30 October 2024	CPM Strategic Planning Group
11-15 November 2024	IC November Meeting
18-22 November 2024	SC November Meeting
10, 12 December 2024	CPM Bureau