



International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)

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

Development Committee (IC)

October, November and December 2024

Keep up to date on the latest IFU activities:

Visit the [IPP calendar](#), [Announcements](#) and [Calls](#)

Read the IPPC Newsletters [October 2024 \(#36\)](#) and [November 2024 \(#37\)](#)

Consult the [IFU Organigramme](#)

IC meetings

IC meeting

Contact: [Descartes Koumba](#)

11 - 15 Nov. At its November meeting, the IC reviewed IFU, IC Subgroup, and Team activities for 2024, approving their 2025 work plans. Concerns were raised about sustainable resourcing for IFU, with key IPPC functions underfunded and understaffed.

The meeting covered updates from the CPM Bureau and Strategic Planning Group (October 2024), the Africa Phytosanitary Programme (APP), 2024 IPPC regional workshops, and TC-RPPO activities.

The IC discussed strategies to boost NPPO awareness and access to IPPC capacity development resources, emphasized wider adoption of the ePhyto Solution, and encouraged more countries to conduct PCEs to strengthen plant health systems.

A demo of the upcoming IPPC Plant Health Campus, developed with the FAO eLearning Academy and set for release in 2025, was also presented.

The report of the November 2024 IC meeting is posted on the [JPP](#).

ePhyto and tools

ePhyto

Contact: [Dominique Menon](#)

1 Oct., 5 Nov. & 3 Dec. The **ePhyto Steering Group (ESG) meetings** made significant recommendations to enhance the ePhyto system and address funding concerns. The ESG approved Japan's proposal to integrate links to phytosanitary certificates validation tools into the NROs system and recommended including ePhyto focal point contact details. To optimize running costs of the IPPC ePhyto Solution, the ESG agreed to retain certificate-related records in the GeNS for a minimum of three months after issuance. Following a meeting of the Focus Group on ePhyto sustainable funding, the ESG reviewed funding challenges, recommending a focus on outgoing ePhytos (exports) to refine the funding model, and will explore technical solutions for mixed consignments in future meetings.

22-24 Oct. The **IPPC Secretariat presented the ePhyto Solution at a workshop** in Nairobi, Kenya, organized by TradeMark Africa. The event, attended by 25 NPPO representatives from Ethiopia, Kenya, Mozambique, Tanzania, and Zambia, outlined steps toward a digital framework for national plant export and import certification.

27 Nov. The **Secretariat showcased the ePhyto Solution at a virtual workshop** on "Customs issues along the TRACECA routes." The session included 60 representatives from 11 TRACECA member countries, WCO, UN/CEFACT, DG TAXUD, and the IPPC. Discussions focused on promoting ePhyto and linking it with customs declarations.

20 Nov. For supporting the ePhyto programme manager within the IFU, a call for an ePhyto programme assistant as in-kind contribution was posted on the [IPP](#). The deadline of the call is 31 December.

Pest outbreak alert and response system (POARS)

Contact: [Camilo Beltran Montoya](#)

The **POARS Steering Group (SG)** is actively preparing to pilot POARS activities until 2026. Criteria for identifying emerging pests of global concern have been developed and tested by the POARS SG and the SPG. In early 2025, call for pest nominations will be launched. Horizon scanning activities are being coordinated with the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) for comprehensive monitoring and early detection. To support these efforts, prevention, preparedness, and response activities for emerging pests have been systematically mapped out, providing a clear framework for guiding implementation during the pilot phase.

Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE)

Contact: [Camilo Beltran Montoya](#)

Within the framework of the GLO/949 project, **PCEs in Egypt and Uganda were successfully validated**, bringing the total to eleven completed PCEs. In collaboration with the Committee Linking Entrepreneurship, Agriculture, and Development (COLEAD), the IPPC Secretariat organized a Project Definition Workshop. This workshop equipped national coordinators and facilitators with the skills to draft project proposals for implementing National Phytosanitary Capacity Development Strategies (Read more [here](#)). Additionally, eight trained PCE facilitators completed the certification process, expanding the network of expertise and knowledge. Preparations for improving the PCE are ongoing.

IC Teams & Working Groups

Guides and Training Materials

Contact: [Barbara Peterson](#)

16 Oct. & 20 Nov. The third and fourth **PHOC Working Group** meetings reviewed updates on e-learning courses, the online platform, and the learning pathways tool. The group agreed on next steps for reviewing the NPPO onboarding and e-learning courses and shared information on publicly available resources.

National Reporting Obligations (NROs)

Contact: [Camilo Beltran Montoya](#)

2 Oct. The **IC Team on NROs** reviewed the 2024 work plan, proposing updates for 2025, with a primary focus on activating the IC Subgroup on NROs. Japan's proposal to link IPPC country pages to specific phytosanitary certificate details received positive feedback, with the team suggesting integration into the ePhyto contingency plan.

E-commerce

Contact: [Barbara Peterson](#)

4 Nov. The **Secretariat participated in the International Seed Federation E-commerce workshop** in Geneva, presenting the IPPC E-commerce video and guide while promoting other IPPC resources available on the International Phytosanitary Portal.

Fusarium Tropical Race 4 (TR4)

Contact: [Preet Parmar](#)

2 Oct. & 5 Dec. The **IC Team on Fusarium TR4** discussed next steps for global coordination and proposals for the November IC meeting (2024) and CPM-19 (2025). They also considered panel speakers for the CPM-19 side session, focusing on innovative technologies or projects managing Fusarium TR4 spread.

IFU Communications and External events

Communications

Contact: [Lisa Ferraro](#)

October started strongly for IFU, covering the side-event the 29th Session of the Committee on Agriculture (COAG) entitled [Healthy plants, healthy planet: The key to One Health success](#). October’s focus was also on the [Project Definition Workshop](#), a significant milestone, which took place as part of the PCE COMESA project. Communications efforts over the past few months have also covered a number of meetings and events including, a [bilateral meeting with EFSA](#), the [STDF working group meeting](#) and the [IC meeting](#), which both took place in November. IFU ended the year with two Spotlight interviews featuring our very own [Barbara Peterson](#) in November, sharing the benefits of working as an in-kind contribution within the IPPC Secretariat and incoming CPM Bureau member for the Southwest Pacific and One Health and Capacity Development champion, [Temarama Anguna- Kamana](#), in December.

External events

Contact: [Maki Iizuka](#)

3 Oct. The IPPC Secretariat and EFSA discussed joint efforts to protect plant health, prevent pest spread, and uphold global phytosanitary standards under One Health. They agreed on collaborative actions focused on knowledge exchange and capacity-building. Read more [here](#).

Contact: [Rokhila Madaminova](#)

4 Oct. The Secretariat hosted a successful side event, “Plant Health: Why is it crucial for the success of One Health?” at the 29th FAO COAG Session. The event showcased IPPC and FAO efforts in ISPM development, capacity building, pest outbreak responses, and synergies with One Health sectors. High-level speakers, including the FAO Deputy Director-General, and 390+ participants stressed integrating phytosanitary issues into One Health to enhance agriculture, food security, and sustainable development. Read more [here](#).

22 Nov. The Secretariat engaged the Rome Chapter of G77 & China, highlighting plant health's role in protecting human, animal, and environmental well-being. Members recognized its importance and encouraged collaboration with IPPC, urging outreach to regional groups like GRULAC and Asia to prioritize plant health within One Health. Read more [here](#).

Upcoming meetings and events

Date	Events
31 December 2024	Deadline to close the eCommerce survey
31 December 2024	Deadline for the call for in-kind for ePhyto
10 January 2025	Deadline of the AMU surveys
10-14 March 2025	CPM Bureau Meeting
17-21 March 2025	CPM-19