

**COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES****NINETEENTH SESSION****REPORT FROM THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE****AGENDA ITEM 9.1***(Prepared by the IPPC Secretariat and the SC Chairperson)***Introduction**

- [1] This report provides a record of the activities of the Standards Committee (SC) in 2024 as well as an insight into the work that is on the horizon for the SC and, consequently, for contracting parties. This year, the SC held its usual two meetings in May and November. There was also the usual Standards Committee Working Group (SC-7) meeting, in May. The detailed SC and SC-7 meeting reports<sup>1</sup> and additional supporting information<sup>2</sup> are available on the International Phytosanitary Portal.
- [2] The productive work of the SC in recent years resulted in the adoption of three (3) International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs) (including annexes) and one (1) phytosanitary treatment (PT) by the Eighteenth Session of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM-18) in 2024. Contracting parties may recall these standards but, for ease of reference, they were:
- Annex 1 (Criteria for evaluation of available information for determining host status of fruit to fruit flies (Tephritidae)) to ISPM 37 (*Determination of host status of fruit to fruit flies (Tephritidae)*);
  - revision of ISPM 5 (*Glossary of phytosanitary terms*); and
  - revision of ISPM 4 (*Requirements for the establishment of pest free areas*).
- [3] In addition, the SC also adopted three (3) diagnostic protocols (DPs) in 2024 on behalf of the CPM (listed below at [9]).<sup>3</sup>
- [4] The SC has also been engaged in various other work, including:
- (a) drafting substantive adjustments to, and revision of, the standard setting process ;<sup>4</sup>
  - (b) supporting the delivery of the 2024 IPPC regional workshops;
  - (c) continuing to collaborate with the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC), including as members of the Task Force on Topics and reciprocal representatives to each other's committee meetings;
  - (d) developing a paper to explore mechanisms to address technical issues that are raised about draft ISPMs submitted for adoption but that are not objections (as an action from CPM-18);

<sup>1</sup> Standards Committee web page: <https://www.ippc.int/en/commission/standards-committee/>

<sup>2</sup> Standard setting web page: <https://www.ippc.int/core-activities/standards-setting>

<sup>3</sup> Adopted standards (ISPMs): <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/standards-setting/ispms/>

<sup>4</sup> Note that there were no changes to the Standard Setting Procedure itself.

- (e) making nine decisions through the electronic decision-making process; and
- (f) providing oversight for all four IPPC technical panels – the Technical Panel on Diagnostic Protocols (TPDP), the Technical Panel on Phytosanitary Treatments (TPPT), the Technical Panel on Commodity Standard (TPCS) and the Technical Panel for the Glossary (TPG), which together comprise over 45 experts.

- [5] The work of the SC contributes to the fulfilment of the mission of the IPPC as the sole international standard setting framework for plant health recognized by the World Trade Organization. In addition to the valuable comments received from contracting parties, regional plant protection organizations (RPPOs), and other international organizations, the SC has also relied on the support of these bodies in organizing a number of meetings and other activities.
- [6] The SC has 25 members with multiple members from each of the seven FAO regions. The membership and contact details can be found [here](#). Alphonsine LOUHOARI TOKOZABA (Congo), Álvaro SEPÚLVEDA LUQUE (Chile), Hernando Morera GONZÁLEZ (Costa Rica), Xiaodong FENG (China) and Harry ARIJS (European Union) all completed their terms or resigned from the SC over the period since CPM-18 (2024). Through this paper, the SC, on behalf of the IPPC community thanks these members for their contributions to standard setting over the course of their membership.
- [7] This report highlights the significant input provided by the SC, the SC stewards and members of technical panels. Over 42 of the 80 topics on the *List of topics for IPPC standards*<sup>5</sup> have progressed, and this has required considerable input from all involved: the SC, technical panels, experts, contracting parties, RPPOs, other international organizations, and the IPPC Secretariat (hereafter referred to as “the secretariat”). Hence, the SC and the Standard Setting Unit of the secretariat would like to recognize the support from contracting parties, RPPOs and other international organizations in providing SC members and experts to participate in and promote the standard setting process.
- [8] The collaborative work of the SC and the Standard Setting Unit staff within the secretariat has allowed for the continued development of international standards through a meaningful, transparent and inclusive process, meeting the expectations of the IPPC community.

### **Diagnostics protocols adopted by the Standards Committee on behalf of the CPM**

- [9] On behalf of the CPM, the SC adopted the following three DPs as annexes to ISPM 27 (*Diagnostic protocols for regulated pests*) in August 2024 and the CPM is invited to note them (addressed separately in agenda item 10):
- revision of DP 9 (Genus *Anastrepha*) (2021-002);
  - revision of DP 25 (*Xylella fastidiosa*) (2021-003); and
  - revision of DP 27 (*Ips* spp.) (2021-004).

### **IPPC consultations**

- [10] Prior to agreement by the SC to release draft ISPMs (including annexes) for first consultation, they have been developed and reviewed by the relevant technical panel and have further been considered and revised by the SC. The SC-7 reviews and further revises draft ISPMs (including annexes) that have been through one round of consultation and decides if they are to be released for their second round of consultation.
- [11] Participating in the standard setting process and reviewing and commenting on draft ISPMs during the consultation period is important for all contracting parties. The ISPM development process is very consultative, with two rounds of consultation being the usual practice (unless specified otherwise, as with phytosanitary treatments). Receiving comments early in the process is critical to ensure that the draft develops in a direction and format that contracting parties are comfortable with. Support for

<sup>5</sup> List of topics for IPPC standards: <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/standards-setting/list-topics-ippc-standards/list>

reviewing and developing comments can be obtained through a number of means, including regional SC members, IPPC regional workshops and the secretariat.

[12] The drafts listed below went through the corresponding consultations during the 2024 consultation period:<sup>6</sup>

#### **2024 First consultation**

[13] Draft specifications:

- draft specification on *Revision of the draft reorganized pest risk analysis ISPM (2023-037)*; and
- draft specification on *Safe provision of food and other humanitarian aid (2021-020)*.

[14] Draft ISPMs:

- draft revision of ISPM 26 (*Establishment and maintenance of pest free areas for fruit flies (Tephritidae)*) (2021-010);
- draft annex *Field inspection (2021-018)* to ISPM 23 (*Guidelines for inspection*); and
- draft annex *Design and use of systems approaches for the phytosanitary certification of seeds (2018-009)* to ISPM 38 (*International movement of seeds*).

[15] Draft annexes to ISPM 27 (*Diagnostic protocols for regulated pests*):

- Genus *Pospiviroid* (2018-031);
- *Heterobasidion annosum sensu lato* (2021-015); and
- *Meloidogyne mali* (2018-019).

[16] Draft annexes to ISPM 28 (*Phytosanitary treatments for regulated pests*):

- Combination of irradiation and modified atmosphere treatment for *Trogoderma granarium* (2023-032);
- Irradiation treatment for *Pseudococcus baliteus* (2023-033);
- Irradiation treatment for *Paracoccus marginatus* (2023-034); and
- Irradiation treatment for *Planococcus lilacinus* (2023-35).

#### **2024 Second consultation**

[17] Draft ISPMs:

- draft annex *International movement of fresh Mangifera indica fruit (2021-011)* to ISPM 46 (*Commodity-specific standards for phytosanitary measures*); and
- draft annex *Use of systems approaches in managing the pest risks associated with the movement of wood (2015-004)* to ISPM 39 (*International movement of wood*).

#### **Recommendation of draft ISPMs to CPM-19 (2025) for adoption (addressed separately in agenda item 10)**

[18] Draft ISPMs:

- draft annex *International movement of fresh Mangifera indica fruit (2021-011)* to ISPM 46 (*Commodity-specific standards for phytosanitary measures*); and
- draft annex *Use of systems approaches in managing the pest risk associated with the movement of wood (2015-004)* to ISPM 39 (*International movement of wood*).

#### **Contracting parties' support for standard setting activities**

[19] As in previous years, contracting parties and international organizations have continued their support for the activities related to IPPC standard setting. Special thanks are extended to Argentina, Australia,

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<sup>6</sup> IPPC consultations: <https://www.ippc.int/en/commission/cpm/consultations/member-consultation-draft-ispm/>

Barbados and Japan for hosting meetings, the European Union, Australia and the Republic of Korea for financial contributions towards standard setting activities, and Australia for their continued in-kind contribution of a member of the Standard Setting Unit.

## **Main highlights of the Standard Committee's work**

### ***Adjustments to the IPPC procedure manual for standard setting***

- [20] In 2024, the SC thoroughly examined and agreed to several proposed modifications to the *IPPC procedure manual for standard setting*, in particular regarding the efficacy calculation method for phytosanitary treatments and the TPCS working procedures.
- [21] The SC agreed with changes proposed by the TPDP, namely the introduction of an additional consultation period for DPs from January to May and the adjustment of the DP notification period from 30 January to 15 March, moving from the previous period of 5 January to 20 February. The changes are already reflected in the revised *IPPC procedure manual for standard setting*. Through **agenda item 9.1.2**, the SC invites CPM-19 (2025) to note the adjustments to the IPPC standard setting process.

### ***SC's support in delivery of the 2024 IPPC regional workshops<sup>7</sup>***

- [22] The 2024 IPPC regional workshops, themed "Plant Health, Safe Trade, and Digital Technology", featured active contribution and participation from SC members. The SC members played a key role in the success of these workshops as members of organizing committees, sourcing additional funds to support contracting-party participation, developing and delivering presentations on draft ISPMs and other issues, and facilitating and contributing to discussions on the draft ISPMs under consultation. The workshops were delivered successfully through the collaborative effort of the secretariat, the IC, the CPM Bureau, national plant protection organizations (NPPOs), RPPOs, and the IPPC community more broadly.
- [23] Seven 2024 IPPC regional workshops were held during August and September, over three to five days. These workshops were conducted either in person or in a hybrid format and featured an agenda that included the following:
- discussion and formulation of comments on draft ISPMs and other documents released for first and second consultation in the Online Comment System;
  - phytosanitary capacity building to raise awareness about phytosanitary resources available for NPPOs in the IPPC community;
  - regional plant-health topics of priority; and
  - field visits (e.g. laboratory and plant production facilities) or other regional governance meetings.

### ***The SC electronic decision-making process***

- [24] To expedite the development of draft ISPMs, specifications, DPs, PTs, and other matters, the SC utilizes electronic tools, such as fora and polls, between meetings, in alignment with its rules of procedure.
- [25] The types of discussions and decisions listed below may be submitted through the use of electronic communication:
- approval of selected nominations for expert drafting groups;
  - approval of subjects (DPs, PTs and terms) to be included in the work programme of technical panels;
  - comment on explanatory documents in the reviewing process;
  - clearance of draft ISPMs for the first consultation (Step 4);
  - consideration of comments (Step 5);

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<sup>7</sup> 2024 IPPC regional workshops: <https://www.ippc.int/en/events/regional-ippc-workshops/2024-ippc-regional-workshop/>

- determining how to proceed with draft ISPMs that are modified as a result of comments (Step 6);
- development and approval of draft specifications for consultation;
- adjustments to stewards (of specifications, draft ISPMs and technical panels);
- any other tasks decided by the CPM or the SC during a face-to-face meeting; and
- exceptional cases determined in consultation with the secretariat and the SC chairperson.

### ***Enhanced collaboration between the SC and the IC***

[26] In addition to collaborating through the Task Force on Topics, the SC continued to provide inputs to the IC, primarily on implementation issues identified in draft ISPMs. Members of the IC are also invited to participate in expert working group meetings as expert contributors. This established practice strengthens collaboration between the SC and IC, enhancing the effectiveness of IPPC activities. The partnership is further reinforced by reciprocal participation, with one SC member participating in IC meetings and one IC member attending SC meetings. The SC and IC continue to investigate how to strengthen collaboration between the two subsidiary bodies to strengthen support to contracting parties in implementing ISPMs and the convention.

### **Activities of the expert drafting groups**

[27] The SC oversees the work of expert working groups and technical panels. A summary of technical panel work is presented below.

#### ***Technical Panel for Diagnostic Protocols***

[28] The TPDP<sup>8</sup> is a group of experts from NPPOs, RPPOs and other international organizations, selected by the SC from nominations received in open calls, to develop international DPs to support the harmonization of pest detections and identification procedures worldwide. This contributes to greater transparency in diagnostics for regulated pests and to the resolution of disputes between trading partners. As outlined in the CPM recommendation on *The importance of pest diagnosis* (R-07),<sup>9</sup> accurate and rapid pest diagnosis underpins phytosanitary certification, import inspections, and the application of appropriate phytosanitary treatments.

[29] The TPDP continued to deliver its work programme in hybrid modality, managing more than 50 DP authors from various countries. In 2024, three draft DPs were submitted to the consultation period, and three draft DPs were submitted for the DP notification period and subsequently adopted by the SC in August 2024.

[30] **TPDP meetings.** The TPDP had one virtual meeting in 2024 and one face-to-face meeting from 21–25 October 2024 in Yokohama, Japan. With two new members, a new steward and a new assistant steward, the TPDP discussed and revised eight draft DPs on their work programme. The TPDP expects to recommend three to the SC for adoption and recommend five for consultation in 2025. The TPDP also requested that the SC adjust the start date of the DP notification<sup>10</sup> period from 5 January to 30 January (DP notification period: 30 January – 15 March), to align with the January consultation period for draft DPs (addressed in separate agenda item 9.1.2).

[31] **TPDP workshop.** Alongside the meeting in Japan, there was a successful workshop on *Boosting agricultural resilience: novel plant pest diagnostic techniques*,<sup>11</sup> involving the secretariat, the TPDP and staff from the NPPO of Japan and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, to brainstorm,

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<sup>8</sup> TPDP webpage: <https://www.ippc.int/en/commission/standards-committee/technical-panels/technical-panel-diagnostic-protocols/>

<sup>9</sup> The importance of pest diagnosis: <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/84234/>

<sup>10</sup> Current notification period for DP: <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/standards-setting/notification-period-dps/>

<sup>11</sup> Workshop on *Boosting agricultural resilience: novel plant pests diagnostic techniques*: <https://www.ippc.int/en/events/webinars/workshop/>



collaborate and exchange innovative ideas to improve plant pest diagnostics. The full report of the TPDP activities will be presented to the SC in May 2025.

- [32] **TPDP membership.** [TPDP membership and contact information](#) can be found on the International Phytosanitary Portal. Julie PATTEMORE (Australia) resigned from the panel in October 2024.

#### ***Technical Panel for Phytosanitary Treatments***

- [33] The TPPT<sup>12</sup> evaluates data submissions from NPPOs and RPPOs and reviews, revises and develops PTs based on this submitted information.
- [34] The TPPT evaluates treatment submissions against the requirements in ISPM 28 (*Phytosanitary treatments for regulated pests*), working under the guidance of, and reporting to, the SC. The TPPT also provides guidance to the SC on specific phytosanitary treatment issues if requested.
- [35] Currently, the TPPT is composed of ten members<sup>13</sup> and an SC steward (also a member). The collective expertise of the members covers irradiation, fumigation, temperature, modified atmosphere and chemical treatments and members are drawn from Australia, Argentina, Canada, China, New Zealand, Japan, the United States of America, and one delegated by the Joint FAO/International Atomic Energy Agency Centre of Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture.
- [36] The TPPT oversees the information on the phytosanitary treatments online search tool<sup>14</sup> – a resource that enables searching of phytosanitary treatments used in international trade (IPPC adopted treatments and others), enhancing contracting parties' access to information and treatment options to support safe trade.
- [37] The TPPT met face-to-face in Tucuman, Argentina, from 24 to 28 June 2024 and also met virtually in February and October. David OPATOWSKI (Israel) resigned from the position of steward in November 2024. The TPPT, on behalf of the IPPC community, thanks David for his longstanding support to the panel as steward. Matias GONZALEZ BUTTERA (Argentina) was assigned by the SC to be the new steward for this panel.
- [38] In 2024, the TPPT received one new treatment submission: Vapour heat (hot steam) treatment of coniferous bark for the elimination of *Bursaphelenchus xylophilus*. This PT was discussed at the SC's meeting in November 2024, where the SC agreed to add it to the TPPT work programme with priority 3, referred to in **agenda item 9.1.1**. Four draft PTs were submitted to the 2024 consultation period and comments will be discussed and addressed by the TPPT in early 2025.
- [39] During the face-to-face meeting, the TPPT recommended that the SC approve the draft PT Irradiation treatment for *Epiphyas postvittana* (2017-018) for consultation during the 2025 consultation period.

#### ***Technical Panel for the Glossary***

- [40] In addition to continuous updating and improvement of ISPM 5 (*Glossary of phytosanitary terms*), the TPG<sup>15</sup> also provides contributions to the SC and other expert drafting group activities. In particular, in 2024 the TPG:
- provided more than 170 proposals on phytosanitary terminology and consistency to the stewards of the draft ISPMs that were submitted for first consultation, and more than 70 recommendations on the translation of terms;
  - reviewed adopted ISPMs for consistency; and

<sup>12</sup> TPPT webpage: <https://www.ippc.int/en/commission/standards-committee/technical-panels/technical-panel-phytosanitary-treatments/>

<sup>13</sup> TPPT membership list: <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/81655/>

<sup>14</sup> IPPC phytosanitary treatments search tool: <https://www.ippc.int/en/centre-of-excellence/phytosanitary-treatments-tool/>

<sup>15</sup> TPG web page: <https://www.ippc.int/en/commission/standards-committee/technical-panels/technical-panel-glossary-phytosanitary-terms-ispms-5/>

- updated the *Explanatory document on ISPM 5* (also known as “Annotated Glossary”), which was published on the International Phytosanitary Portal.<sup>16</sup>

[41] **TPG membership.** The TPG is composed of ten experts<sup>17</sup> – including the steward, who is an SC member – with knowledge of phytosanitary systems and who together represent all FAO languages.

[42] **TPG meeting.** The TPG met for its annual face-to-face meeting in Rome, Italy, from 25 to 28 November 2024.

[43] **TPG work programme.** There are currently two subjects – Amendments to ISPM 5 (*Glossary of phytosanitary terms*) (1994-001) and Review of the use of *and/or* in adopted ISPMs (2010-030) – which are both ongoing.

### **Technical Panel on Commodity Standards**

[44] The TPCS was established by CPM-14 (2019)<sup>13</sup> to support the development of commodity standards and ensure that sufficient rigour, resources and focus can be provided.

[45] Currently, there are eight subjects under the work programme of the TPCS, seven of which were added as a result of the 2023 IPPC call for topics. The first annex to ISPM 46, which is related to the International movement of *Mangifera indica* fruit (2021-011), priority 1, was presented to the July 2024 second consultation period. This is being presented for adoption by CPM-19 (2025) (**agenda item 10**).

[46] The TPCS held four virtual meetings in 2024 and one face-to-face meeting from 2 to 6 December 2024, in Canberra, Australia. The specific commodity standards that have been drafted to date are listed below. It is anticipated that two of these will be submitted to the SC for review for potential consultation during the 2025 consultation period:

- International movement of *Citrus* fruit (2023-019), priority 1;
- International movement of fresh banana (*Musa paradisiaca*) fruit (2023-028), priority 1; and
- International movement of fresh taro (*Colocasia esculenta*) for consumption (2023-023), priority 1.

[47] **Number of face-to-face meetings in 2025.** As the time period for the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020–2030 is halfway through, the secretariat is planning to have two face-to-face meetings of the TPCS in 2025. This is with the intention of maintaining momentum and expediting the development of specific commodity standard annexes to ISPM 46. The first 2025 meeting is planned for June and the second one in December 2025.

[48] **IPPC standard setting process – addressing consultation comments by the steward.** It is important to mention that, in order to expedite the development of specific commodity annexes to ISPM 46, the final revised version of the draft commodity standard and the final complete set of the steward’s responses to consultation comments may not be presented in full to the TPCS. This is because of the time of the consultation period and the deadlines to be presented to the SC. However, major and substantial comments are, and will always be, presented to the TPCS by the steward of the draft, with the support of the secretariat (in virtual meetings or e-fora). The nomination of assistant stewards for each commodity-specific standard from the membership of the TPCS will also support this continued communication between the SC, SC stewards and TPCS.

[49] Martin DAMUS (Canada) and Hideki TANIGUCHI (Japan) resigned from the TPCS in 2024.

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<sup>16</sup> Explanatory document on ISPM 5 (Annotated Glossary): <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/87049/>

<sup>17</sup> TPG membership: <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/8069/>

## Recommendations

[50] The CPM is invited to:

- (1) *note* the report on the activities of the Standards Committee in 2024; and
- (2) *thank* contracting parties and members of the SC, both past and present, for their support of the standard setting process.