



## COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

### NINETEENTH SESSION

#### STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK DEVELOPMENT AGENDA ITEM MANAGEMENT OF E-COMMERCE AND POSTAL AND COURIER PATHWAYS

#### AGENDA ITEM 12.3

*(Prepared by the IPPC Secretariat)*

#### 1. Governance and financial considerations

- [1] The management of e-commerce and the postal and courier pathways is one of eight development agenda items (DAIs) in the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020–2030. Work on e-commerce is under the oversight of the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC), with input from the Standards Committee (SC), and coordinated by the Implementation and Facilitation Unit. An IC Team<sup>1</sup> was established in 2021 to guide the work on e-commerce.
- [2] This paper provides an update on the activities related to the e-commerce development agenda that took place in 2024.
- [3] E-commerce activities were carried out thanks to in-kind and financial contributions provided by Canada. Deep gratitude is expressed to Canada for their strong support of the activities related to the implementation of the e-commerce development agenda.

#### 2. E-commerce video and guide

- [4] The e-commerce infographic video, *Managing the Pest Risk posed by E-commerce*, was launched in January 2024. The video highlights the importance of NPPOs, Customs, e-commerce platforms, postal and courier services, buyers and sellers working together to manage the pest risk associated with e-commerce trade. This video has been viewed 1400 times as of 3 December 2024.
- [5] *E-commerce: A guide to managing the pest risk posed by goods ordered online and distributed through postal and courier pathways* was published in October 2023. It is one of the most popular IPPC guides, having been downloaded nearly 700 times in its first year.
- [6] The Spanish version of the E-commerce guide was published in November 2024, thanks to COSAVE, who provided an in-kind translation of the guide.

#### 3. IPPC events

- [7] **E-commerce side session:** The CPM-18 (2024) side session on e-commerce was organized with support from NAPPO, COSAVE and EPPO. Speakers included a representative from the Universal Postal Union and five NPPOs (Argentina, Canada, New Zealand, The Netherlands, and the United States). The recording and presentations from the side-session are available on the IPP<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> IC Team on E-commerce membership list: <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/92398/>

<sup>2</sup> E-commerce side session recording and presentations: <https://www.ippc.int/en/commission/cpm/cpm-sessions/cpm-18/cpm-18-side-sessions-and-side-meetings/cpm-18-side-session-on-e-commerce/>

- [8] **International Day of Plant Health (IDPH):** E-commerce was a key focus of IDPH 2024, under the theme *Plant health, safe trade, and digital technology*. A high-level event was held at FAO Headquarters with opening remarks by Director-General Qu Dongyu and a presentation by Poste Italiane about e-commerce and the postal pathway<sup>3</sup>. A display in the FAO atrium highlighted the importance of e-commerce trade as a pathway for pests.

#### 4. External events

- [1] **Universal Postal Union (UPU):** The IPPC Secretariat continues to participate as an observer in the UPU postal security group (PSG) meetings and as a member of their Illicit Goods Mitigation Expert Team (IGMET). The Secretariat made presentations about plant health and e-commerce to both groups in 2024.
- [9] **World Customs Organization (WCO):** The IPPC Secretariat continues to participate as an observer in the WCO e-commerce working group and in their permanent technical committee (PTC). The IFU Team Lead attended the WCO-PTC in April 2024 and made a presentation highlighting collaboration on e-commerce, ePhyto and sea containers<sup>4</sup>.
- [2] **International Seed Federation (ISF):** The IPPC Secretariat was invited to participate in the ISF e-commerce workshop in Geneva in early November 2024 and delivered a presentation titled, *Overview of E-commerce: Trends and Implications*.

#### 5. IPPC Observatory study on e-commerce

- [3] Members of the IC Team on E-commerce contributed to the development of the e-commerce survey and attended a joint meeting with the IPPC Observatory Subgroup and the survey specialist that was hired to design the survey. IC Team members had the opportunity to review the questions and to test the survey before it was launched. IC Team members also assisted with proof-reading the Arabic and Spanish language versions of the survey.
- [10] The rollout of the e-commerce survey and preliminary results will be discussed under agenda item 12.

#### 6. Investment prospectus

- [11] One element of the overarching implementation plan for the Strategic Framework is an investment prospectus. The prospectus is intended to raise awareness of the implementation plan and to support resource mobilization.
- [12] During their June 2024 meeting CPM Bureau reviewed the progress made on e-commerce and noted that the prospectus flyer for e-commerce included outdated information (CPM 2024/13\_01). They agreed that the flyer should be reviewed by the IC Team on E-commerce and presented to the CPM Bureau for approval through an e-decision once it has been finalized by the IC Team.
- [13] During their meeting in November 2024 the IC considered that most activities in the workplan for this DAI had either been completed or were well underway. They recommended that completion of the flyer should be delayed until the results of the e-commerce study are available, so that recommendations arising from the study can be considered and presented to CPM.

#### Recommendations

- [14] The CPM is invited to:
- (1) *note* the update on the IPPC development agenda on e-commerce.

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<sup>3</sup> 2024 International Day of Plant Health: <https://www.ippc.int/en/news/director-general-sets-out-several-reasons-for-enhanced-and-coordinated-work-to-protect-plant-health-at-international-day-of-plant-health-idph-event/>

<sup>4</sup> WCO roundtable: <https://www.ippc.int/en/news/strengthening-global-partnerships-ippc-participates-in-world-customs-organization-round-table/>

- (2) *thank* Canada for their in-kind staff contribution and financial support of the e-commerce development agenda.