



COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

NINETEENTH SESSION

UPDATE ON IMPLEMENTATION AND CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS MANAGED BY THE IPPC SECRETARIAT

AGENDA ITEM 14.2

(Prepared by the IPPC Secretariat)

1. Introduction

- [1] This paper provides an update on the implementation and capacity development (ICD) projects managed or supported through backstopping by the Implementation and Facilitation Unit (IFU) of the IPPC Secretariat (hereafter referred to as “the secretariat”) in 2024, along with efforts to support countries in project development. The objective of this paper is to enhance transparency on these projects, their technical implementation and their impact.

2. Gratitude to donors

- [2] The secretariat managed eight (8) projects in 2023 with a total value of over USD 8.5 million; in 2024, the secretariat managed four (4) projects with a total value of USD 5.5 million. Three (3) of these projects will remain active in 2025, while one (1) project concluded in 2024. Details are provided in Appendix 1.
- [3] The secretariat’s IFU staff heavily rely on extrabudgetary funds – for up to 70 percent.¹ The secretariat deeply appreciates the generous contributions from donors through various projects, particularly the European Union and Japan. These funds have been pivotal in advancing the IPPC’s strategic goals.
- [4] In-kind contributions and financial support from Canada, France and the Republic of Korea have been invaluable for other ICD activities, as detailed in the IPPC financial and annual reports.

2.1 A strong project management team

- [5] Effective project management is a core activity for the IFU of the secretariat. This encompasses planning, monitoring, reporting, staffing, the issuance of purchase orders, staff management and the development of resources in coordination with the IC (Implementation and Capacity Development Committee), IC subgroups and IC teams. The IFU staff list is regularly updated and posted on the International Phytosanitary Portal. The IFU annual workplan is also available on the International Phytosanitary Portal and reflects the important synergies between projects and the *IPPC Implementation and Capacity Development List of Topics* under the IC guidance.

¹ The percentage calculation is based on the number of IFU staff positions funded through IPPC regular programme funds, and the number of positions funded through other resources (projects, multi-donor trust fund contributions).

3. Implementation and Capacity Development projects managed by the IPPC Secretariat in 2024

3.1 Projects implemented and managed in full compliance with existing frameworks and strategies ensuring transparency

[6] The secretariat primarily focuses on implementing projects with regional and global impact, with the exception of phytosanitary capacity evaluations (PCEs), which are predominantly carried out at the national level. The implementation of these projects is aligned with the following IPPC and FAO strategic documents:

- *FAO Strategic Framework 2022–31*;
- The IPPC Strategic Framework 2020–2030, in particular for the implementation of the development agenda items (DAIs) and the PCEs;
- The *Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation Strategy for 2020–2030*, agreed upon by the IC and noted by the Sixteenth Session of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM-16) in 2022; and
- The *IPPC Implementation and Capacity Development List of Topics*.

[7] The IFU of the secretariat manages these projects under the oversight of the IC and seeks endorsement from the IC for any new projects, as detailed in the IC terms of reference.² The IC provides technical input, when necessary, as requested by the CPM Bureau in 2018, and in accordance with the strategy and process agreed by the IC in May 2019.³

[8] As it has been reported in previous CPM papers on ICD projects, since 2021 the secretariat ensures transparency through developing dedicated web pages for individual ICD projects. These pages detail project scope, budget, timelines and deliverables, ensuring accountability to the broader IPPC community. Separate webpages are established for all projects over USD 500 000.

[9] As defined in the IC procedure manual, the IC hosts an open session (webinar) during its May meeting, presenting phytosanitary projects dealing with implementation and capacity development, submitted by IPPC contracting parties, regional plant protection organizations, FAO offices, donors and implementing organizations through a global call.⁴ The IC Team on Projects supports the secretariat in the organization of this open session by reviewing the submitted phytosanitary projects, as per the strategy and process agreed by the IC in May 2019.⁵ As agreed by the IC, the 2025 session on ICD projects will be framed in an informative pitch-like session, featuring the use of innovative technologies in plant health with potential donors in attendance. This would be both an informative session for the whole phytosanitary community and an opportunity for contracting parties to increase donor outreach.

3.2 Innovative approaches to support implementation and capacity development in contracting parties

[10] The secretariat administers and coordinates the delivery of PCEs, usually funded through FAO or other donors' projects. The IFU provides backstopping support to FAO projects with a phytosanitary component (i.e. being reimbursed for several days of support) listed below:

- **“Technical Support for Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation and Establishment of Plant Health Clinics to Improve Agricultural Production and Productivity” (TCP/NAM/3903) – USD 232**

² *IC Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure*:

https://assets.ippc.int/static/media/files/publication/en/2022/04/IC_2022_IC_ToR_and_RoP.pdf

³ *IPPC Procedure Manual for Implementation and Capacity Development*, see 1.4: <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/dcc8f780-e185-4657-9146-ba151576938c/content>

⁴ *IPPC Procedure Manual for Implementation and Capacity Development*.

⁵ *IPPC Procedure Manual for Implementation and Capacity Development*, see 1.4.1.

000, November 2022–April 2025, implemented by the FAO national office in Namibia. The secretariat supported the selection of the certified PCE facilitator;

- **“Strengthening Cambodia Phytosanitary Capacity for Risk Free Agricultural Exports Promoting the Export of Banana, Mango and Durian to China and International Markets” (GCP /CMB/058/CPR)** – USD 2 million, Nov 2024–October 2026, implemented by the FAO national office in Cambodia, following the priorities identified through the PCE. The secretariat will ensure compliance with all materials and activities; and
- **“Strengthening Trade Through Enhanced SPS Measures in Lao PDR, Pakistan and Viet Nam” (TCP/RAS/4002)** – USD 500 000, October 2024–September 2026, implemented by the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific. Lao People's Democratic Republic, Pakistan and Viet Nam are supported with the conduct of PCEs. The secretariat will ensure the PCE procedures are followed.

[11] The secretariat employs innovative approaches to ensure project funds are utilized efficiently and deliver sustainable impacts. This includes efforts to create synergies across various ICD projects, also involving relevant secretariat partners, such as the Committee Linking Entrepreneurship, Agriculture, Development (COLEAD). A good illustration are the activities carried out under the “Strengthening Food Control and Phytosanitary Capacities and Governance” (GCP/GLO/949/EC) project. The IFU of the secretariat collaborates with the FAO’s Agrifood Systems and Food Safety Division (ESF) to implement integrated assessment tools across African Union countries. This partnership highlights the power of cross-sectoral collaboration within the **One Health** framework, ensuring a holistic and coordinated approach to addressing phytosanitary challenges. A detailed update on activities related to PCEs is provided under **agenda item 14.3**.

[12] As another example, the IFU organized a **Project definition workshop** in Rome on 7–11 October 2024, within the framework of the same project,⁶ leveraging its partnership and collaboration with COLEAD. This workshop convened national PCE coordinators from African Union countries – Djibouti, Egypt, Eswatini, Kenya, Malawi, Mauritius, Rwanda, Seychelles, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe – to enhance their capacities to refine the outcomes of national strategic plans into actionable project ideas and proposals. Participants were also trained in gender and youth mainstreaming, ensuring inclusivity in project design. The secretariat continues to assist these countries in developing robust proposals to secure funding for implementation.

4. New Implementation and Capacity Development Projects under development

[13] The secretariat is developing a new project, the IPPC ePhyto Africa Initiative, involving 32 countries from Africa. With an estimated global budget of approximately USD 20 million, this initiative aims to accelerate the IPPC ePhyto Solution implementation across Africa. More details on the IPPC ePhyto Africa Initiative and the list of stakeholders involved is provided under agenda item 12.1.

[14] The secretariat is developing another project within the framework of the FAO-China South-South Cooperation Programme, with a budget of USD 2 million under the oversight of the IC. This project will aim to support the implementation of PCE in five (5) to six (6) countries in Asia, with an objective to strengthen the phytosanitary capacity of these countries.

[15] The secretariat is in touch with the European Union for the development of the new project to support the activities of the IPPC Observatory, as was done previously with the Implementation Review and Support System projects.

⁶ Critical milestone achieved in strengthening phytosanitary capacities across COMESA countries: <https://www.ippc.int/en/news/critical-milestone-achieved-in-strengthening-phytosanitary-capacities-across-comesa-countries/>

Recommendations

[16] The CPM is invited to:

- (1) *note* the deliverables of implementation and capacity development projects managed by the secretariat in 2024;
- (2) *note* the implementation and capacity development projects are compliant with secretariat and IC procedures, and the increased transparency as presented in Appendix 1;
- (3) *note* the efforts to support countries in mobilizing resources to implement their priority activities;
- (4) *note* the efforts to develop three new implementation and capacity development projects:
 - a. the IPPC ePhyto Africa Initiative,
 - b. the project on strengthening phytosanitary capacities in selected Asian countries under the FAO-China South-South Cooperation Programme,
 - c. the project to support the IPPC Observatory activities, to be potentially funded by the European Union; and
- (5) *note* that the theme of the IC 2025 open session (webinar) on implementation and capacity development projects will focus on the use of new and innovative technologies in plant health.

Appendix 1: Projects managed by the IPPC Secretariat through the Implementation and Facilitation Unit in 2024

Project name/details	Donor	Start and end dates	Budget	Project compliant with	Main concrete deliverables
"Support to the IPPC Strategic Framework and Work Plan" (GCP/GLO/1238/EC)	European Commission	Start: November 2024 End: October 2027	USD 1 666 665	IPPC Strategic Framework 2020–2030 2nd and 5th development agenda items ("Commodity and Pathway Specific International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures" and "Strengthening Pest Outbreak and Response Systems") work plans.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strengthening pest outbreak and response systems activities (including One Health) (30%). - Commodity- and pathway-specific international standards for phytosanitary measures (30%). - African Phytosanitary Programme (APP) (40%).
"Support for Implementation and Capacity Development Activities of the IPPC Secretariat" (GCPT/GLO/102/JPN)	Japan	Start: June 2024 End: December 2025	USD 1 006 180	IPPC Strategic Framework 2020–2030	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provision of a staff member within IFU. - Operational support of the secretariat in relation to supervision of the staff recruited under the project and implementation and capacity development activities.
"Strengthening Food Control and Phytosanitary Capacities and Governance" (GCP/GLO/949/EC) Project co-implemented with the FAO Food Safety Division (ESF)	European Commission	Start: January 2022 End: June 2025	USD 7 075 947 (total), USD 2 400 000 approximately (phytosanitary matters)	<i>IPPC Strategic Framework 2020–2030</i> <i>Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation Strategy 2020–2030</i> <i>Implementation and Capacity Development List of topics</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PCEs in 11 countries. PCE facilitators training course organized. - Project Definition Workshop to support eight countries in mobilizing resources. - IPPC Plant Health Campus and over six

					<p>new e-learning courses.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Translation of the IPPC Plant Health Campus along with the six e-learning courses into French.
<p>“FAO support to COMESA trade facilitation programme” (GCP/INT/387/COM)</p> <p>Project co-implemented with the FAO Food Safety Division (ESF)</p>	<p>European Commission through the COMESA Secretariat</p>	<p>Start: December 2018 End: May 2024 (completed)</p>	<p>USD 2 803 069 (total), USD 800 000 (phytosanitary matters)</p>	<p><i>Implementation and Capacity Development List of topics</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Four e-learning courses developed. - One guide on contingency planning and one guideline on prevention, preparedness and response to Fusarium wilt (TR4). - Five capacity development webinars. - Translations of six guides in French. - Surveillance, diagnostic training courses on TR4. - Tabletop and simulation exercises on TR4.