



COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

NINETEENTH SESSION

REPORT FROM THE IPPC SECRETARIAT

AGENDA ITEM 7

(Prepared by the IPPC Secretariat)

Introduction

- [1] This paper focuses on activities carried out by the IPPC Secretariat in 2024. Activities carried out in 2023 are presented in the 2023 annual report of the IPPC Secretariat.
- [2] **CPM and subsidiary bodies.** The IPPC Secretariat continued to support IPPC governance. The Eighteenth Session of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM-18) took place in person on 15–19 April 2024 and brought together nearly 400 delegates from the IPPC contracting parties and 20 observer organizations. CPM-18 (2024) concluded its session with the adoption of modifications to four International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs): the 2022 amendments to ISPM 5 (*Glossary of phytosanitary terms*); Annex 1 (*Criteria for evaluation of available information for determining host status of fruit to fruit flies*) (2018-011) to ISPM 37 (*Determination of host status of fruit to fruit flies ((Tephritidae))*); revision of ISPM 4 (*Requirements for the establishment of pest free areas*) and phytosanitary treatment (PT) 46 (Cold treatment for *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* on *Citrus sinensis*) (2017-029) as Annex 46 to ISPM 28 (*Phytosanitary treatments for regulated pests*). Additionally, CPM-18 (2024) adopted a revision of CPM recommendation R-06, with the new title *Minimizing the pest risk associated with the sea-container pathway*. The session also listened to reports from its subsidiary governing bodies and CPM focus groups, making several endorsements to advance the IPPC.
- [3] The CPM Bureau met five times in 2024, with the support of the IPPC Secretariat. The IPPC Secretariat also facilitated the Thirteenth Session of the Strategic Planning Group (SPG), which took place after the CPM Bureau meeting in October 2024 in Rome, Italy. The Standards Committee (SC) and the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC) met in Rome in May and in November.
- [4] **CPM focus groups.** In 2024, there were four active CPM focus groups and one steering group focusing on the implementation of the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020–2030 development-agenda items (DAIs). The terms of reference for two of these (on global phytosanitary research coordination and diagnostic laboratory networks) were approved by CPM-18 (2024). A full update from all five groups will be presented to CPM-19 (2025) as separate papers under agenda item 12. In addition, the CPM focus groups on sea containers and on the safe provision of food and other humanitarian aid continued their work in line with their respective terms of reference. A full update from these two groups will be presented to CPM-19 (2025) under agenda item 13. A new focus group on plant health in the context of One Health was established by CPM-18 (2024) and an update on this will be presented under agenda item 13.3.
- [5] The task force on topics (TFT) was also active in 2024. The TFT focused on improving the generic submission forms for the Call for Topics: Standards and Implementation. Starting in May 2024, the group held three online meetings (July, October and December) to incorporate feedback from various group members. These discussions led to revisions aimed at streamlining the submission process and clarifying prioritization criteria. The finalized forms, refined with inputs from the CPM Bureau, SPG, SC and IC, were prepared for submission to CPM-19 (2025).

Standard setting

- [6] In 2024, the IPPC Secretariat continued to provide dedicated support to the SC, facilitating its vital work in setting international standards. Two in-person SC meetings were held at FAO headquarters: one in May and the other in November. The November meeting featured a comprehensive agenda, including the recommendations for adoption of standards at CPM-19 (2025). These recommendations include the draft annex *International movement of fresh Mangifera indica fruit* (2021-011) to ISPM 46 (*Commodity-specific standards for phytosanitary measures*) and the 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*). These documents will be presented to CPM-19 under agenda item 10.
- [7] The SC's accomplishments in recent years resulted in CPM-18 (2024) adopting four ISPMs, including amendments to ISPM 5, an annex to ISPM 37, the revision of ISPM 4, and an annex to ISPM 28 (see above). In addition to these achievements, the SC adopted three diagnostic protocols (DPs) in 2024 on behalf of the CPM. These included the revisions of DP 9 for the genus *Anastrepha* (2021-002), DP 25 for *Xylella fastidiosa* (2021-003) and DP 27 for *Ips* spp. (2021-004).
- [8] Beyond standards adoption, the SC engaged in several other significant discussions in 2024. These included drafting substantive adjustments to the Standard Setting Procedure, providing input into the delivery of the IPPC regional workshops, and fostering collaboration with the IC. This collaboration included reciprocal representation in committee meetings and joint efforts through the TFT. The SC also developed a paper exploring mechanisms to address technical issues raised about draft ISPMs during the adoption process, this being a priority action from CPM-18 (2024). Throughout the year, the SC utilized electronic decision-making processes to finalize nine key decisions and provided 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 Standards (TPCS), and the Technical Panel for the Glossary (TPG), comprising over 45 experts.
- [9] The SC's contributions extended to the 2024 IPPC regional workshops, where members played crucial roles both before and during the workshops. As well as contributing to workshop organization, they delivered presentations on draft ISPMs and actively engaged in discussions on key issues, ensuring the success of these workshops.
- [10] Work by the technical panels advanced throughout the year, with both virtual and in-person meetings supporting progress on DPs, PTs, glossary terms and commodity standards. These meetings included the continuing work of the TPDP, TPPT, TPG and TPCS, with each panel providing critical technical contributions to the broader phytosanitary framework.
- [11] The SC's efforts in 2024 demonstrated a strong commitment to advancing international phytosanitary standards, addressing emerging issues, and fostering global collaboration to enhance plant health.

Implementation and capacity development

- [12] The Implementation and Facilitation Unit (IFU) within the IPPC Secretariat coordinates the development of IPPC guides and training materials, and manages projects and other activities to build national phytosanitary capacity and support implementation of the IPPC and ISPMs by contracting parties. This work is carried out under the oversight of the IC. A summary of the implementation and capacity development activities completed in 2024 will be presented under agenda item 9.2. An update on the status of IPPC guides and training materials that are under development and those that are in the queue for future development is provided in the *List of implementation and capacity development topics* paper presented under agenda item 9.2.1.
- [13] The IFU leads activities on four of the eight DAIs. The progress made in 2024 is summarized below.
- [14] The DAI on “**harmonization of electronic data exchange**” was advanced through implementation of the IPPC ePhyto Solution, which has established itself as the global leader in the digitalization of Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) trade documents. As of December 2024, a total of 136 countries were

registered with the IPPC ePhyto Solution, including 94 actively using it and exchanging a total of over 200 000 electronic phytosanitary certificates (ePhytos) per month. These achievements are a successful example of collaboration between the IPPC Secretariat, national plant protection organizations (NPPOs), regional plant protection organizations (RPPOs), international organizations and industry to facilitate safe trade development and economic growth.

- [15] Following the establishment of the “**Pest Outbreak Alert and Response Systems**” (POARS) Steering Group, as requested by CPM-16 (2022), intensive collaboration enabled advancements with this DAI. The steering group is actively preparing to pilot POARS activities until 2026. Criteria for identifying emerging pests of global concern have been developed and tested by the steering group and the SPG. 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. Activities on *Fusarium Tropical Race 4* (TR4) laid a groundwork model for enhancing prevention, preparedness and response to emerging pests. These efforts encompassed hands-on training in diagnostics, virtual training in surveillance, the development of a tabletop exercise delivered during the 2023 IPPC Regional Workshop for Africa, and the organization of the first hands-on simulation exercise conducted in Kenya, with transfer of expertise from the FAO Office in Mesoamerica to the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) region.
- [16] Work related to the “**management of e-commerce and postal and courier pathways**” has advanced to the point where most of the activities in the original implementation plan for this DAI have either been completed or are well underway. The IPPC guide on *E-commerce* was published in English in 2023 and in Spanish in 2024, and will be available in French in 2025. An infographic video was launched in January 2024 to raise awareness about the pest risks and to encourage collaboration among all stakeholders in the supply chain. In addition, an e-commerce side session was held during CPM-18 (2024). The IPPC Observatory Study on E-commerce was launched in 2024 to highlight challenges and successes in managing the pest risk associated with e-commerce at a national level and to establish a baseline for monitoring global phytosanitary e-commerce strategies. The final report of the IPPC Observatory Study on E-commerce, including key recommendations arising from it, will be presented to CPM-20 (2026).
- [17] The main activity proposed under the DAI on the use of “**third-party entities**” is the development of two IPPC guides: *Authorizing entities to perform phytosanitary actions* (2018-040) and *Audit in the phytosanitary context* (2021-009). Both guides are a high priority for the phytosanitary community; however, because of a lack of resources, work to develop these guides was not initiated in 2024.
- [18] In addition to the work completed on the DAIs, 2024 saw considerable progress being made on core capacity development projects and activities, including implementing phytosanitary capacity evaluations (PCEs). Phytosanitary capacity evaluations are IPPC’s flagship activity and have been conducted in over 60 countries since 2000. In 2024, work focused on completing several assessments and fostering the implementation of national phytosanitary capacity development strategies in targeted countries. Intensive communication efforts amplified transparency and awareness of the impact of PCEs, fostering greater engagement from countries, donors and stakeholders. The year also provided opportunities to advance and lay the groundwork for improving the PCE process in 2025 and beyond.
- [19] As part of capacity development work – another priority and cornerstone activity of the IFU – the IPPC *Guide to participating in the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures of the International Plant Protection Convention*, the revision of two e-learning courses (one on *National reporting obligations* and the other another on *Surveillance and pest status determination*) and the development of *Fusarium TR4* training materials were released in 2024.
- [20] In 2024, significant time and resources were dedicated to the development of the IPPC Plant Health Campus, to be launched in early 2025 – a significant milestone for phytosanitary capacity development. Through funding and support from the European Union, the Committee Linking Entrepreneurship, Agriculture, Development (COLEAD), Canada and the Republic of Korea, the IPPC Plant Health Campus is hosted on the FAO elearning Academy site and serves as a portal to all IPPC e-learning

courses and IPPC guides, as well as to other relevant e-learning courses developed by partners. It is targeted at plant-health professionals and supports individuals in developing the skills they need to effectively carry out their functions within an NPPO or as a PCE facilitator.

- [21] The IPPC Plant Health Campus is accessible to anyone, anytime, anywhere in the world, and offers a wide range of e-learning courses, free of charge. These e-learning courses provide a practical, engaging and effective way of delivering technical knowledge to a large audience. They can be used for self-directed learning, or they can be integrated into national training programmes or used as a component of blended learning approaches. Almost all courses have been translated into French. The IFU is looking for financial or in-kind support for the translation of the e-learning courses into other United Nations languages, with a focus on Spanish. Further information is available in the IPPC Plant Health Campus paper under agenda item 14.1.
- [22] The year 2024 also saw significant advancement in the promotion of the role of plant health within the One Health framework, with the core activities of the IPPC Secretariat forming part of the One Health agenda for plant health. The IFU is taking the lead on One Health with the establishment of the CPM Focus Group. A key milestone was the side event at the Twenty-Ninth Session of the FAO Committee on Agriculture (COAG), entitled *Plant health: Why is it crucial for the success of One Health?*
- [23] The IFU activities and achievements presented above are made possible thanks to donor funding through various projects. However, despite the decline in funding and number of projects in the last two years, the IPPC Secretariat is making all efforts to develop new proposals and secure project funding to implement its activities, as well as to support countries in implementing their priorities, in particular when identified through a PCE.
- [24] Finally, monitoring and evaluation of the IPPC Secretariat activities is the mandate of the IPPC Observatory under the oversight of the IC. This work is essential for promoting transparency, ensuring accountability, measuring progress and impact, identifying gaps and challenges, promoting continuous learning and improvements, enhancing decision-making, and building credibility and support for the IPPC Secretariat's initiatives. In 2024, two IPPC Observatory Surveys – the IPPC Observatory Survey on E-commerce and the IPPC Observatory Survey on Antimicrobial Resistance – were open to contracting parties. Associated studies along with recommendations are being finalized. More information on the IPPC Observatory and its activities will be presented in a paper under agenda item 12, and on antimicrobial resistance in a paper under agenda item 16.1.

Communications and advocacy

- [25] Significant progress in communications was noted in 2024, with an impressive increase in social media performance on X (formerly Twitter), Facebook and LinkedIn, particularly during CPM-18 (2024) and around the International Day of Plant Health (IDPH), indicating increasing interest and engagement with IPPC content. Subscription to the IPPC monthly newsletter more than doubled in 2024, totalling 2 844 subscribers. Notably, the IPPC Secretariat organized for the first time an exhibit to raise the visibility of the IPPC and the CPM-18 session as well as the first interactive exhibit on IDPH at the FAO headquarters.¹ New content was developed throughout the year for the International Phytosanitary Portal, including news and feature stories. Web analytics showed that more users were viewing IPPC institutional pages (e.g. ISPMs, list of countries) and that more users read news on newly published IPPC guides and training materials, training opportunities under the Africa Phytosanitary Programme (APP), and CPM-18 news, among others.²
- [26] The secretariat developed a Draft Principle and the Terms of Reference for the IPPC Regional Communications Network Steering Group approved by CPM-18 (2024). These were presented to the CPM Bureau in June and to the Technical Consultation among RPPOs (TC-RPPO) in October for feedback, and later shared with former members of the CPM Focus Group on Communications for

¹ For details, see CPM-19 paper on Updates on the International Day of Plant Health 2024.

² For details, see CPM-19 paper on Updates on the implementation of the IPPC Communications Strategy.

consultation and advice on the best approach. Following the feedback and advice, and upon approval by the CPM Bureau in December 2024, the secretariat conducted a survey on the information needs of NPPOs and RPPOs and held consultative meetings as initial steps. Outcomes from these would be the basis for a more realistic and scaled-down plan that would address NPPO and RPPO information gaps, rather than pursuing the complex process of establishing networks that may not be applicable for all NPPOs and RPPOs because of their diverse functions, structures and capacity.³

International Day of Plant Health

[27] For the first time since IDPH was annually observed in 2022, the IPPC Secretariat developed and held an interactive exhibition at the FAO headquarters, with the theme “Plant health, safe trade and digital technology”. A high-level event was held with the FAO Director-General Qu DONGYU, Deputy Director-General Beth BECHDOL, and a presentation by CPM Chairperson Gregory WOLFF.⁴ More than 60 countries and organizations observed the IDPH through various events, captured in the [Impact Report](#) produced by the IPPC Secretariat. Digital assets and promotional materials were produced and disseminated during the global campaign, along with news stories and new videos (e.g. [The sniffer dogs saving olive trees from a deadly pest](#), [Plant health and safe trade](#)). Social media posts reached around 53 000 users with the hashtag #planthealthday, while national media coverage on the international day was recorded in six regions across the globe.

International cooperation

[28] The IPPC Secretariat maintained external cooperation with more than 50 international and regional organizations. Full details can be found in the paper “Update on international cooperation” presented under agenda item 21.2.

IPPC networks

[29] Seven IPPC regional workshops were organized by the IPPC Secretariat in 2024 to analyse and prepare comments online for draft ISPMs; build phytosanitary capacity and raise awareness on various activities of the IPPC Community; and provide a forum to exchange experiences and ideas at the regional level. The outcomes of the workshops were harmonized comments on draft ISPMs and CPM recommendations and shared information on topics of interest and other phytosanitary issues related to each region.

[30] The IPPC Secretariat provided continuous support to RPPOs participating in CPM focus groups as well as for the delivery of regional workshops and other events. In the first quarter, the IPPC Secretariat supported the Thirty-Sixth TC-RPPO in a virtual meeting and in person on the side of CPM-18 (2024). In the last quarter of 2024, the Thirty-Sixth TC-RPPO convened in person in Panama City, Panama, led by the chairperson of the International Regional Organization for Plant and Animal Health (OIRSA).

Resource mobilization

[31] In 2024, Australia, Canada, Ireland, the Republic of Korea and the United States of America/the North American Plant Protection Organization contributed a total of USD 1 223 778 to the IPPC Multidonor Trust Fund. Four IPPC projects were activated: one by the European Commission (for the APP, commodity and pathway standards, and POARS), two multidonor trust funds (one for the IPPC ePhyto Solution and one for the APP), and one by Japan (staff secondment). The IPPC Secretariat received various in-kind contributions (non-financial) that helped implement its activities.

Africa Phytosanitary Programme

[32] The APP is an initiative of the IPPC Secretariat that aims to transform the technical capacity of Africa’s NPPOs and their national stakeholders and cooperators, using scientific evidence and advanced technology and tools to proactively monitor, efficiently and promptly detect, and ultimately respond to and recover from plant pests and diseases of economic, regulatory and environmental significance. The

³ For details, see CPM-19 paper on Updates on the IPPC Regional Communications Network.

⁴ The webcast of the high-level event can be viewed [here](#).

programme provides training, digital tools, field resources and collaboration opportunities to enhance and strengthen the resilience of Africa's phytosanitary systems against plant pests. The APP, the first-ever, continent-wide phytosanitary programme, is envisioned to support all African countries by providing techniques to prevent and manage plant pests.

- [33] The APP is one of the key mechanisms for execution of Africa-wide strategies on plant health, as indicated in the Plant Health Strategy for Africa. The APP will boost pest surveillance that could help reduce the 30–60 percent crop loss in Africa, which translates into economic losses estimated as USD 65.5 billion annually. The APP pilot phase is underway, involving 11 African countries, namely: Cameroon, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Mali, Morocco, Sierra Leone, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The IPPC Secretariat has already identified the next set of eight countries, namely: Algeria, Cabo Verde, Chad, Congo, Liberia, Malawi, South Africa and Tunisia. The IPPC Secretariat coordinates the implementation of the APP in collaboration with FAO and the African Union Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy, and Sustainable Environment.
- [34] All pilot countries have received tablets to conduct pest monitoring and detection surveys. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service supports the APP with development of pest survey protocols and associated apps, provision of three instructional videos for monitoring and detecting fruit flies, citrus greening, and the use of data management tablets.
- [35] To assist APP activities, the IPPC Secretariat created three working groups to collaborate and guide NPPOs in APP facilitation: the Operational Coordination Group, the Technical Working Group and the Communications Working Group. The APP received funding from USDA and the European Commission. An APP Multidonor Trust Fund was established and is ready to receive contributions from donors and countries.
- [36] A full update on the APP will be presented under agenda item 16.2 and more information about the APP can be found [here](#).

Internal management

- [37] The IPPC Secretariat acknowledges with deep appreciation members of the CPM Bureau, the SC and the IC, for their valuable guidance and oversight; all contracting parties (NPPOs) and RPPOs for their strong support and positive contributions, including SPG participants; and all partners and collaborators for their close cooperation.

Recommendation

- [38] The CPM is invited to:
- (1) *note* the report from the IPPC Secretariat.