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Virtual Meeting

IPPC Secretariat

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1. Opening of the meeting

1.1 Welcome by the IPPC Secretariat

- [1] Adriana MOREIRA, IPPC Deputy Lead of the Standard Setting Unit, opened the virtual meeting of the Technical Panel on Commodity Standards (TPCS) and welcomed all participants. She explained that the primary purpose of the meeting was to review the main issues highlighted by the steward of the two draft commodity standards that the panel would be focusing on at their face-to-face meeting in December: the draft annex *International movement of Citrus fruit* (2023-019) to ISPM 46 (*Commodity-specific standards for phytosanitary measures*) and the draft annex *International movement of fresh banana* (*Musa paradisiaca*) fruit (2023-028) to ISPM 46.

2. Meeting arrangements

2.1 Selection of chairperson

- [2] As agreed at their meeting in June 2023,¹ the TPCS selected Lihong ZHU (New Zealand) as chairperson.

2.2 Selection of the rapporteur

- [3] The TPCS selected Douglas KERRUSH (Australia) as rapporteur.

2.3 Adoption of the agenda

- [4] The TPCS adopted the agenda (Appendix 1), agreeing to consider a letter to the TPCS from a contracting party under agenda item 6 (Any other business).

3. Administrative matters

- [5] The TPCS noted the absence of Mariangela CIAMPITTI (Italy) and welcomed André Felipe C.P. da SILVA (Brazil), who was attending as the steward of two of the draft standards on the agenda for this meeting.
- [6] The secretariat informed the TPCS that a call for two new members of the panel would be opened in January 2025: one to replace Martin DAMUS (Canada), who had resigned, and the other to replace Hideki TANIGUCHI (Japan), who had indicated that he would need to resign from the panel at some point during 2025. The secretariat confirmed that Mr TANIGUCHI would remain on the panel until that point.
- [7] The secretariat also confirmed that they were actively exploring the possibility of holding two face-to-face TPCS meetings in 2025.

4. Review of documents and information material

- [8] The chairperson thanked the steward of the draft annex *International movement of Citrus fruit* (2023-019) to ISPM 46 and the draft annex *International movement of fresh banana* (*Musa paradisiaca*) fruit (2023-028) to ISPM 46 for preparing a draft standard for consideration but sought clarification on whether the drafts were intended as a starting-point for drafting by the TPCS or as discussion papers.
- [9] The secretariat recommended that the steward's drafts be used as the starting-point for drafting, given the time constraints at the December meeting, but emphasized that this was a decision for the TPCS. The secretariat suggested that, at this meeting, the TPCS focus instead on the steward's notes and consider the main issues highlighted by the steward therein. The TPCS followed the suggested approach for this meeting.

¹ TPCS 2023-06, agenda item 2.1.

4.1 International movement of *Citrus* fruit (2023-019), priority 1

- [10] The steward for the draft annex *International movement of Citrus fruit* (2023-019) to ISPM 46, André Felipe C.P. da SILVA (Brazil), explained that he had prepared the draft standard² because he had understood that he would need to do this in his role as the steward. He presented his steward's notes,³ which highlighted some of the major issues for consideration or noting by the TPCS. These included:
- the suggested omission of the word “fresh” from the title of the standard on grounds of redundancy (as only fresh fruits are commonly traded);
 - the restriction of the scope (description of the commodity) to fruits with the calyx attached, but not the stem, leaves or other plant parts (as the excluded parts would significantly affect the pest risk);
 - the inclusion of all *Citrus* species within the scope of the standard, rather than just the seven included in the original submission (as this had been the intention of the Standards Committee (SC) and the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) when adding the subject to the list of topics and information had subsequently been provided in response to the call for information materials);
 - the sources the steward had used to check species names (Catalogue of Life and Global Biodiversity Information Facility websites), his approach to the use of preferred names and synonyms, and some explanatory notes on the scientific name of the causal agent of citrus canker;
 - the potential exclusion of some pests where the pest risk analysis (PRA) provided by the submitter did not support *Citrus* fruit as being a pathway;
 - the approach he had used to compile the various tables of options for phytosanitary measures (including what to do with pests for which no specific measure had been provided and how he had grouped, combined or condensed options according to the target pest or the fruit species); and
 - references cited in submitted material that did not support *Citrus* fruit as a pathway for the corresponding pest.
- [11] The chairperson thanked the steward and invited comments.
- [12] The TPCS Steward, Joanne WILSON (New Zealand), added her thanks to the steward of the draft *Citrus* standard and commented that New Zealand may have additional information to support the steward's explanatory notes on citrus canker.
- [13] **Which *Citrus* species to be included in the standard.** The chairperson recalled that the TPCS had agreed, at their meeting in October, that they would try to draft a standard for all *Citrus* species in the first instance and if, that was not possible, try a multi-species standard focusing on the seven species identified in the original submission by New Zealand.⁴ To inform the panel's subsequent decision on this, the TPCS had also requested that the secretariat contact the submitters of information materials to clarify the *Citrus* species applicable to the pests and measures listed in their submission and to confirm which *Citrus* species they imported and exported.
- [14] The secretariat reported that responses had been received from five contracting parties – Ecuador, the European Union, Japan, the Republic of Korea and Spain – and confirmed that this information would be made available to the TPCS for the upcoming face-to-face meeting.
- [15] The steward of the draft standard confirmed that, in his view, sufficient information had been submitted to proceed with a draft standard for all *Citrus* species. He emphasized the importance of separating options for phytosanitary measures according to the *Citrus* species.

² 2023-019.

³ 02_TPCS_Tel_2024_Nov.

⁴ TPCS 2024-10, agenda item 4.2.

- [16] **Editorial style.** The secretariat offered to provide notes on the generic editorial style that had already been agreed for the draft annex *International movement of fresh Mangifera indica fruit* (2021-011) to ISPM 46, for use as a reference when drafting the new commodity standards. The chairperson welcomed this offer.
- [17] **Excluding pests or options for phytosanitary measures.** The chairperson suggested that, in addition to the notes about editorial style, it would be useful to have a summary of the generic criteria that the TPCS had agreed about excluding pests or options for phytosanitary measures, as the documentation of the criteria is important for transparency.
- [18] The steward for the draft standard encouraged the TPCS to look at the PRAs submitted for the *Citrus* standard, and the associated steward's notes about the potential exclusion of some pests, in preparation for the TPCS meeting in December.
- [19] The chairperson recalled that the TPCS had excluded some options for phytosanitary measures from the draft annex *International movement of fresh Mangifera indica fruit* (2021-011) to ISPM 46 when it had been clear from the submitted PRA that the pest was not associated with the pathway.
- [20] The TPCS:
- (1) *accepted* the offer from the secretariat to provide notes on the generic editorial style already agreed for the draft annex *International movement of fresh Mangifera indica fruit* (2021-011) to ISPM 46; and
 - (2) *encouraged* TPCS members to review the draft annex *International movement of Citrus fruit* (2023-019) to ISPM 46, the associated steward's notes and the PRAs and other information provided by submitters in preparation for the TPCS meeting in December.

4.2 International movement of fresh banana (*Musa paradisiaca*) fruit (2023-028), priority 1

- [21] The steward of the draft annex *International movement of fresh banana (Musa paradisiaca) fruit* (2023-028) to ISPM 46, André Felipe C.P. da SILVA (Brazil), presented his steward's notes, which highlighted some of the major issues for consideration or noting by the TPCS.⁵ The notes related to the draft standard he had prepared in readiness for the December meeting.⁶ The highlighted issues included:
- the suggested restriction of the scope (description of the commodity) to hands or clusters, rather than bunches;
 - the sources the steward had used to check species names (as per the *Citrus* standard);
 - the reasons for excluding some pests (two because the fruit of *Musa paradisiaca* was not a pathway and one group of pests that were contaminating pests only);
 - whether harvest time should be included only as a component of a systems approach or should also be listed as a stand-alone measure;
 - whether pest-control activities (including in-field chemical, biological and cultural controls, integrated pest management, physical removal of the pest during post-harvest processing, and applying a treatment if the pest is detected during phytosanitary inspection) should be included as stand-alone measures in the draft standard or considered to be a consequence of field inspection and export inspection; and
 - the combining and condensing of components of systems approaches according to the target pest.
- [22] The steward explained that far fewer measures had been submitted for this commodity standard compared to the one on *Citrus* and it had been fairly straightforward to draft the standard.
- [23] The chairperson thanked the steward and invited comments. There were no comments.

⁵ 03_TPCS_Tel_2024_Nov.

⁶ 2023-028.

[24] The chairperson drew the attention of the panel to the spreadsheet of pests and measures compiled by the TPCS steward and two other TPCS members (Douglas KERRUISH (Australia) and Sun SHUANGYAN (China)), which had been circulated to the TPCS before the meeting. The chairperson commented that the list should complement the work done by the steward of the draft banana standard.

4.3 International movement of fresh taro (*Colocasia esculenta*) for consumption (2023-023), priority 1

[25] The chairperson reported that, in readiness for the TPCS meeting in December, Douglas KERRUISH had started to compile a spreadsheet of information on pests and measures for the draft annex *International movement of fresh taro (Colocasia esculenta) for consumption (2023-023)* to ISPM 46.

[26] Douglas KERRUISH commented that the list of pests and measures for taro was proving to be far easier than for *Citrus* and probably also for banana. He offered to circulate the spreadsheet and to prepare an initial draft standard if that would be of help to the panel.

[27] The chairperson recalled the decision made by the TPCS in October that the draft commodity standard on taro would be the reserve subject for their December meeting, with the draft standards on *Citrus* and banana being their main focus.⁷ The chairperson expressed her personal view that the TPCS had already set itself an ambitious target to complete the latter two draft standards, so it would better not to attempt to draft the standard on taro at the moment, although the compiled spreadsheet of pests and measures could be circulated. The secretariat supported this approach and the TPCS agreed.

[28] The TPCS:

- (3) *agreed* that Douglas KERRUISH would send the spreadsheet of pests and measures that he was compiling in relation to this draft standard to the secretariat for circulation as a document for the December 2024 TPCS meeting.

5. TPCS face-to-face meeting arrangements

Review of draft agenda

[29] The secretariat presented the draft agenda for the TPCS meeting in December 2024 and explained that the inclusion of a field trip had yet to be confirmed.

[30] **Changes to the agenda.** The TPCS agreed to incorporate two additional items into the draft agenda: criteria for excluding pests from commodity standards (for potential inclusion in the TPCS working procedures) and a review of the template form for submitting information materials (in the light of experience gained from the materials received to date). The TPCS also noted that they may need to discuss, in general terms, how to respond to direct requests from contracting parties expressing concerns about particular draft commodity standards (such as the example referred to in agenda item 6).

[31] **Call for topics.** Looking ahead to the work programme over the next few years, the chairperson asked whether the TPCS should consider seeking a change in procedures to allow an ongoing call for commodity-standard subjects, rather than it being part of the biennial Call for Topics: Standards and Implementation. The secretariat referred to a discussion at the recent meeting of the Strategic Planning Group, where a paper by the SC chairperson and the chairperson of the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee had proposed that the biennial call for topics be replaced entirely by an ongoing call. The secretariat explained that the proposal would be discussed at CPM-19 (2025) but the 2025 call for topics would go ahead as planned.

[32] **Maintaining TPCS records.** The secretariat asked Tiago Rodrigo LOHMANN (Brazil) whether he would be willing to create and maintain spreadsheets, on behalf of the TPCS as done for the first specific commodity standard in 2023, listing the pests and measures excluded from the draft commodity standards being developed and the reasons for the exclusions. The secretariat noted that the information

⁷ TPCS 2024-10, agenda item 4.5.

was needed in case the TPCS was required to justify the exclusion of a pest or measure to the SC. Mr LOHMANN agreed and the chairperson thanked him and emphasized the importance of this work for transparency.

Logistics

[33] There were no questions from TPCS members on the logistics of the December meeting.

[34] The TPCS:

- (4) *requested* that the secretariat modify the draft agenda for the December 2024 TPCS meeting as agreed at this meeting; and
- (5) *agreed* that Tiago Rodrigo LOHMANN (Brazil) would create and maintain spreadsheets, on behalf of the TPCS, listing the pests and measures excluded from the draft commodity standards being developed and the reasons for the exclusions.

6. Any other business

[35] The chairperson reported that she had just received a ministerial letter from one contracting party, addressed to the chairperson of the TPCS. The letter requested that the TPCS abstain from developing a standard on citrus (or oranges) as the next commodity standard because of the inclusion of certain phytosanitary measures that were the subject of an ongoing World Trade Organization dispute. The letter also indicated that no input from the contracting party had been recorded or considered in response to the call for information materials by the TPCS.

[36] The TPCS discussed the issues raised in the letter. The secretariat confirmed that they would follow up about the submission of information material from the contracting party and with the CPM Bureau, and the chairperson confirmed that she would liaise with the secretariat to draft a response, including an invitation to the contracting party to submit any technical material for consideration by the TPCS at their meeting in December 2024.⁸

[37] As highlighted by the secretariat, the TPCS noted that, as a panel, their responsibility was to develop draft standards according to the priorities assigned by the CPM. As CPM-19 (2025) had assigned priority 1 to the draft annex *International movement of Citrus fruit* (2023-019) to ISPM 46, the panel was not at liberty to abstain from developing it. The TPCS also noted that, when drafting commodity standards, it was their responsibility to follow the requirements specified in ISPM 46 and they could not exclude a regulated pest or a measure that had been set as a phytosanitary import requirement unless there was technical justification to do so.

[38] The TPCS:

- (6) *noted* that they will continue with plans to draft the annex *International movement of Citrus fruit* (2023-019) to ISPM 46 at their meeting in December 2024.

7. Next TPCS meeting

[39] The next meeting will be held in person on 2–6 December 2024 in Canberra, Australia.

8. Close of the meeting

[40] The chairperson thanked the participants and closed the meeting.

⁸ Immediately following the TPCS meeting, the IPPC Secretariat emailed the NPPO of the contracting party and requested technical information on citrus by 25 November 2025.

