



COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

NINETEENTH SESSION

CONCEPT NOTE FOR AN IPPC WORKSHOP ON SYSTEMS APPROACHES

AGENDA ITEM 23

(Prepared by Canada)

- [1] Canada has developed a concept note (see attachment 1) for a potential IPPC workshop on systems approaches. The draft concept note was presented to the Strategic Planning Group as well as the Bureau and has been revised based on the feedback.
- [2] The proposed workshop will build on the CPM-18 (2024) science session and the CPM-19 (2025) side session on systems approaches and will provide contracting parties with opportunities for in-depth discussions, hands-on practical exercises and a field trip to observe systems approaches in action.
- [3] To date, Canada has provided 118,000 CAD to the IPPC secretariat to support this workshop, however, additional funding is still needed. A location and host contracting party have not yet been identified, therefore any potential hosts are encouraged to be identified.
- [4] Supporting from contracting parties in the planning and delivery of this workshop will be vital to its success and the establishment of an organising committee to enable this should be considered, having the CPM Bureau as the overall oversight IPPC body for this workshop.

ATTACHMENT 1 - IPPC WORKSHOP ON SYSTEMS APPROACHES

Concept Note

Purpose:

Systems approaches are an important option for facilitating safe trade in plant commodities. However, current uses and application of systems approaches among contracting parties suggest that it is under-used in practice and perhaps not sufficiently understood and embraced to make it a more commonly accepted tool in trade. It is proposed that the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) consider organizing, in collaboration with interested contracting parties, a 4 to 5-day international workshop on the concept and use of systems approaches, in 2026 to promote the relevant ISPMs on this subject and their practical implementation in international trade of regulated articles. This will help address the needs of countries to consider development, assessment and implementation of systems approaches as alternatives to the use of stand-alone measures (e.g. methyl bromide) for ensuring phytosanitary security in trade of plant products.

Background

Well designed and operated systems approaches, which integrate measures for pest risk management in a defined manner, can provide a robust, adaptable alternative to single measures to meet the appropriate level of phytosanitary protection of an importing country and to facilitate safe trade. The International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM) 14: *The use of integrated measures in a systems approach for pest risk management* was first adopted in March 2002. There are also several other International Standards which are of relevance to Systems Approaches, including:

- ISPM 24 – Guidelines for the determination and recognition of equivalence of phytosanitary measures
- ISPM 35- Systems approach for pest risk management of fruit flies
- ISPM 36 – Integrated Measures for Plants for Planting
- ISPM 38 - International movement of seeds
- ISPM 39- International movement of wood
- ISPM 46 – Commodity Specific Standards for Phytosanitary Measures

Systems approaches vary in complexity and their critical control points. In considering systems approaches that contribute towards phytosanitary certification, importing countries are expected to apply the principles of technical justification, minimal impact, transparency, non-discrimination, equivalence, and operational feasibility. A scientific session was held during CPM-18 with the aim of providing strategic insights into systems approaches for pest risk management. The session sought to facilitate discussion on the challenges, successes and understanding gained in applying systems approaches.

The science session at CPM-18 offered a look at the case studies and other practical aspects of implementing systems approaches in three different countries. However, to expand the knowledge on designing and implementing systems approaches gained during the CPM science session, organizing an international workshop would allow participants to have more in-depth discussions and learn from additional examples of systems approaches implemented by other contracting parties.

Objectives:

1. Gain a deeper understanding of the concept and use of systems approaches through shared experiences in their development and implementation among trading partners; this would include the lessons learned and the challenges faced, further enhancing policy and decision-

making by fostering collaborative engagement to improve development, recognition and use of systems approaches.

2. Increase awareness of existing tools that can be used on assessing systems approaches when importing countries receive requests from trading partners as well as training for exporting countries on how to determine equivalence of measures.
3. Offer an opportunity for continued collaboration within the IPPC community and to leverage the knowledge shared during the CPM-18 science session to inform further decision-making and to enhance the IPPC community's collective efforts to safeguard plant health and facilitate safe trade. Including identifying possible revisions that need to be made to ISPM 14 (The use of integrated measures in a systems approach for pest risk management) or the need for additional implementation material).

Roles and responsibilities

An organizing committee should be established, under the oversight of the CPM Bureau. The organizing committee will be composed by Canada, the IPPC Secretariat, a CPM Bureau representative, the host country and the host RPPO. Any additional contracting party that may have an interest in this topic can join the organizing committee, at the discretion of the IPPC secretariat and CPM Bureau. The main tasks of the organizing committee would be:

- Overall coordination of the IPPC workshop on systems approaches
- Create a comprehensive workshop program, including sessions, presentations, and interactive activities.
- Identify and secure expert speakers and facilitators.
- Determine the workshop's format (e.g., presentations, panel discussions, group work).
- Ensure the workshop content aligns with the latest scientific and technical information on systems approaches and plant health.
- Document the workshop including presentations, discussions, and main outcomes, and prepare a report back to the following CPM

Moreover, the organizing committee should provide support with:

Logistical Coordination:

- **Venue Selection and Management:**
 - o Choose a suitable location that meets the workshop's requirements.
 - o Handle all venue-related arrangements, including room setup, equipment, and catering.
- **Participant Management:**
 - o Manage registration, invitations, and participant communication.
 - o Arrange travel and accommodation for speakers and participants, if necessary.
- **Financial Management**
- **Communication and Outreach:** Promote the Workshop, develop and distribute promotional materials, including brochures, websites, and social media content; Reach out to relevant organizations and individuals to promote participation.

The IPPC Secretariat will determine whether financial assistance will be available to support experts from eligible status NPPOs to travel to participate in the workshop.

Financial support has already been provided by Canada to the IPPC Secretariat. Additional funding is sought from other contracting parties.

The host country or organization will be responsible for coordination and logistical arrangements, including interpretation (if deemed necessary). The IPPC secretariat, together with the organizing committee, will be responsible for finalizing the programme, sending official invitations to and coordinating with speakers, informing observers from key international organizations about the workshop, promoting the workshop, etc.

Expected Outcomes

An IPPC workshop on systems approaches would be a valuable opportunity to bring together the international phytosanitary community to encourage a common understanding of systems approaches, how they are developed, assessed, documented, implemented and verified to facilitate trade of plants and plants products and prevent the international spread of plant pest at the same time. This workshop will build on insights gained and discussions that took place during the science session on systems approaches that was held during CPM18 and the side session from CPM-19:

1. Enhanced understanding of successful national implementation
2. Knowledge sharing on lessons learned and challenges
3. Actionable recommendations and insights to inform future IPPC decision-making

It will also offer a chance for more in-depth understanding and the opportunity to see key parts of a systems approach in action during a field visit. Participants will also be a part of a practical exercise where they will have to review and compare systems approaches to single measures.

Format

- The workshop will be open to NPPOs, RPPOs and representatives from industry.
- The workshop will be a four to five day workshop held in person and will include a field visit.
- Participants will have the opportunity to ask questions of the speakers and other panel members.
- A demonstration of the [IPPC Systems Approach Assessment Tool](#) will be presented.
- Interactive activities in which participants will work in groups to complete exercises in systems approach assessments.

Draft Program

Venue: TBD		
Facilitator: TBD		
Date: TBC		
DAY 1		
Time	Description	Speakers
	Opening	IPPC Secretary or Secretariat Representative
	Overview and background presentation	
	Presentation by FAO on the assessment of how well systems approach is understood across FAO divisions	
	ISPM 14 concepts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dependant vs Independent measures • Quantitative vs Qualitative measures 	
	Example of a simple systems approach	

	Characterizing the system – Documenting features of pest-commodity-production/supply chain that are relevant to assessing the risk.	
	Residual risk. Working out by how much the risk needs to be reduced (including how production practices are considered as part of risk assessment or as phytosanitary measures and appropriate level of protection).	
	Measure options. Identifying the measure options that might be feasible (including how they reduce risk and where they could be applied in the production/supply chain).	
	Measure efficacy. Estimating the efficacy of each measure, individually and in combination, and determining whether it is “enough”.	
	Implementation. Once potential measures have been identified, determine how you can ensure sufficient confidence in their implementation.	
	Communication. Communicating how the intended systems approach “works”, including providing confidence around efficacy and implementation.	
	Overview of the tools on the IPP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Systems approach tool - Mapping production chain 	
	Case study – example from NPPO	
Day 2		
	Overview of other standards connected to ISPM 14 (ISPM 24, ISPM 35, ISPM 38, ISPM 39, ISPM 46)	
	Case study – Example from NPPO	
	Exercise in groups: Export case study – using the systems approach assessment tool	
	Presentation on other systems approach tools/approaches	
Day 3		
9:00 – 17:00	Field Trip (s)	
Day 4		
	Administrative components of export systems (e.g. registration of production sites and facilities, product traceability procedures and record keeping) that do not directly manage pest risk but are necessary to support phytosanitary assurances. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Quality system versus systems approaches - Roles and responsibilities (NPPOs, industry, etc...) 	
	Exercise in groups: Import case study – using the systems approach assessment tool	
Day 5		
	Presentation - Overview of the development of systems approach ISPM (s) and challenges.	

	Working group discussion on challenges and opportunities for systems approaches. What pathways are systems approaches more successful in and why (in comparison to other pathways).	
	Session on developing recommendations for implementation/next steps, including recommendations for the revision of ISPM 14.	
	8. Closing	TBD