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REPORT

Focus Group on Global Phytosanitary Research Coordination

**Virtual Meeting
03 December 2024**

IPPC Secretariat

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1. Opening of the meeting

1.1 Welcome by the IPPC Secretariat

- [1] The first (virtual) meeting of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) Focus Group on Global Phytosanitary Research Coordination (FG-GPRC) was convened by the IPPC Secretariat (hereafter referred to as “the secretariat”).
- [2] The members of the focus group introduced themselves in a roundtable format.

2. Meeting arrangements

2.1 Election of chairperson and vice chairperson of the focus group

- [3] The secretariat proposed to select a chairperson and vice chairperson of the focus group during the next meeting.

2.2 Adoption of the rapporteur for the meeting

- [4] The focus group selected Mamoru MATSUI (CPM Bureau representative) as rapporteur for the meeting.
- [5] The secretariat explained the role of the rapporteur and proposed to rotate the role at every meeting.

2.3 Adoption of the agenda

- [6] The focus group adopted the agenda (Appendix 1).
- [7] The secretariat informed the focus group that nominations for the regions of Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Near East and North Africa were still pending. The focus group agreed to discuss the item during the work programme discussion (agenda item 4.1).

3. Administrative matters

- [8] The participant list is presented as Appendix 2 to this report.
- [9] The secretariat informed the focus group of their dedicated, online page which will act as a point of reference.

4. Focus group work programme

4.1 Work programme discussion

Update on focus group representative nominations

- [10] The secretariat explained that the call for focus group members had been extended because of a lack of nominations, particularly from the Near East and North Africa, and Latin America and Caribbean regions.
- [11] Following discussions, the secretariat confirmed the process for selecting representatives, noting that applicants are asked to apply online and are then vetted and selected by the CPM Bureau (hereafter referred to as “the bureau”).
- [12] The secretariat encouraged the focus group to submit nominations for experts, including experts for temporary participation, for example, to deliver a presentation or a piece of research.

Review of the terms of reference (ToR) of the focus group

- [13] The secretariat noted the key tasks and outputs of the focus group and workplan, and invited the focus group to discuss the ToR.

- [14] The focus group queried the development of an IPPC policy under “Functions (3)” within the ToR. The group discussed the potential for the focus group’s work for inform future IPPC policy development but recognized the need for further clarification from the bureau on this aspect.
- [15] The secretariat confirmed the flexible nature of the workplan as discussed by the bureau and noted that a potential policy development proposal, guideline or attachment to the ToR could be delivered to CPM-20 in 2026.
- [16] The focus group acknowledged the need for continued dialogue and flexibility in the interpretation of tasks under the ToR (and potential adjustments to the workplan) based on the clarification received from the bureau.

Main points of concern in relation to the scoping study

- [17] The focus group discussed the need for a clear and focused scope of phytosanitary research for the scoping study, acknowledging the possibility to extend the scope beyond technology development, field surveillance innovations (as examples), into “softer sciences” such as education programmes or studying economic implications. The group recognized the need for established boundaries to ensure a focused study.

Potential main challenges in conducting the scoping study

- [18] The secretariat clarified the role of the focus group in defining the scope of research and priority areas, and addressing feasible limitations of the scoping study.
- [19] One focus group member noted that bilateral, regional and multilateral collaboration could be a focus within the research and also across the work of the focus group itself, in identifying a strong global research network.

4.2 Development of action plan and timeline

- [20] The focus group discussed initial ideas for the development of an action plan and timeline, which emphasizes two distinct needs: those of the IPPC (including regional plant protection organizations (RPPOs) and national plant protection organizations (NPPOs)), and those of existing research coordination structures.
- [21] The focus group proposed to begin initial examinations of existing regional research organizations or networks with the creation of a questionnaire (prepared in English for ease of translation), which could consider broader research issues that intersect with phytosanitary research.
- [22] The focus group agreed on the structure for the proposed questionnaire, which includes the following information:
1. name of the research network;
 2. scope of the research topics (phytosanitary or other);
 3. geographic scope of the research (national/multi-national, international); and
 4. contact point/website.
- [23] The secretariat noted that the questionnaire could be raised at the CPM Bureau December meeting (to be held 10 and 12 December 2024) to raise awareness of the work to RPPOs – particularly for regions lacking representation within the focus group.
- [24] The secretariat proposed the creation of a Team Channel/SharePoint workspace for the group to ensure collaborative working.
- [25] The focus group agreed to begin defining key milestones at the next focus group meeting.

[26] The secretariat suggested to meet in early January/February 2025 to determine the outline of the scoping study, how progress will be tracked, a list of responsibilities with accompanied owners or stewards, how often to meet, and the frequency of meetings.

[27] The secretariat agreed to:

- 1) *create* an email template to research networks with the embedded questionnaire;
- 2) *create* a Teams Channel/SharePoint workspace for the focus group to ensure collaborative working; and
- 3) *create* an excel spreadsheet to capture questionnaire responses from members.

[28] The focus group agreed to:

- 1) *distribute* the email to their networks and *return* the completed questionnaires to the secretariat by 17 January 2025.

5. Any other business

[29] The secretariat informed the focus group that Nico HORN (EPPO, representing the RPPOs) will be ending his term as Director-General of the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (EPPO) at the end December 2024. Mr HORN announced that his successor would be joining the focus group in his place.

[30] The secretariat agreed to prepare the next steps for this replacement, including the preparation of a formal letter, accompanied by a CV and a statement of commitment form of his successor, to be sent from Mr HORN. This would then be uploaded and distributed to the bureau for e-decision.

6. Date and arrangement of the next meeting

[31] The focus group agreed to meet virtually every month and agreed to hold their next meeting on **04 February 2025** (and, if necessary, on **06 February 2025**), from 11:00 to 13:00 CET (UTC +1).

7. Close of the meeting

[32] The secretariat thanked the participants for their contributions and closed the meeting.

Appendix 1: Agenda

COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES
FOCUS GROUP ON GLOBAL PHYTOSANITARY RESEARCH COORDINATION
(Prepared by the IPPC Secretariat)

03 December 2024, 11:00–13:00 (Rome time)

Agenda Item	Document No.	Presenter(s)
1. Opening of the meeting		
1.1 Welcome by the IPPC Secretariat	--	IPPC Secretariat
2. Meeting arrangements		
2.1 Election of chairperson and vice chairperson of the focus group	--	DENG
2.2 Selection of the rapporteur for the meeting	--	Chairperson
2.3 Adoption of the agenda	01_FG-GPRC_2024_Dec	Chairperson
3. Administrative matters		
3.1 Participants / membership	FG membership list	DENG
4. Focus group work programme		
4.1 Discussions on the work programme of the focus group: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - review of the terms of reference (ToR) of the focus group; - main points of concern in relation to the scoping study; and - potential main challenges in conducting the scoping study. 	Link to the ToRs	Chairperson/All
4.2 Develop an action plan and timeline: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - create an initial action plan: outline the steps and tasks involved in the scoping study, including timelines and responsibilities; - set milestones: define key milestones to track progress throughout the study, ensuring that key deliverables are met on time; and - set future focus group meetings. 		Chairperson/All
5. Any other business	-	Chairperson
6. Closing of the meeting	-	Chairperson

Appendix 2: Participants List

**COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES
FOCUS GROUP ON GLOBAL PHYTOSANITARY RESEARCH COORDINATION**

03 December 2024, 11:00–13:00 (Rome time)

PARTICIPANTS LIST

A check (✓) in the last column indicates confirmed attendance at the meeting

	Participant role	Name, mailing address, email address	Attendance
1	CPM Bureau representative	Mamoru MATSUI Director (Operation Division) Kobe Plant Protection Station (PPS), Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan (MAFF) Japan	✓
2	RPPO representative	Saliou NIASSY Coordinator of Inter-African Phytosanitary Council (AU-IAPSC)	✓
3	RPPO representative	Nico HORN Director-General of European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (EPPO)	✓
4	NPPO representative	Susie COLLINS Assistant Secretary, Plant Health Policy Plant Protection and Environmental Biosecurity Division Australia	✓
5	NPPO representative	Cheryl DOLLARD Director, Plant Intelligence, Research and Laboratory Services Canada	✓
6	NPPO representative	Philippe REIGNAULT Head of the Plant Health Laboratory & Scientific Director in charge of Plant Health – ANSES France	✓
7	NPPO representative	Maikel AVESKAMP Senior Policy Advisor Plant Health The Netherlands	✓
8	Expert	Takashi FUJIKAWA Principal Scientist, National Agriculture and Food Research Organization Japan	✓

IPPC Secretariat

Name	
Arop DENG Integration and Support Team Lead	✓
Aoife CASSIN IPPC Programme Specialist	✓
Emma GIBBS Copy-Editor and Report Writer	✓