



PHYTOSANITARY CAPACITY EVALUATION FACILITATORS CERTIFIED BY THE IPPC SECRETARIAT

(Prepared by the IPPC Secretariat)

Updated 2025-04-28

- [1] The Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE) is designed to help a country identify both strengths and weaknesses in its existing and planned phytosanitary systems. PCE facilitators were trained by experts with over 10 years of phytosanitary experience. The IPPC Secretariat considers these trainers as certified PCE facilitators. The IPPC Secretariat used trainers to deliver PCE facilitators training courses and the trainees who have satisfactorily completed this training course and conducted a PCE are eligible for the PCE facilitator certification process.
- [2] A procedure for PCE Facilitators certification is established to ensure an accurate, repeatable and transparent process under the oversight of the PCE Board formed by one IC, one SC and one CPM Bureau member as well as the PCE Mentor of the PCE facilitator trainee being assessed.
- [3] The biographies of these IPPC certified PCE facilitators are provided below (by alphabetical order).



Ringolds Arnis has long experience in plant health/plant protection. He has been for more than 10 years Director of the State Plant Protection Service in Latvia.

Among his responsibilities he was responsible for the creation and development of the phytosanitary system in Latvia.

From 2011 to 2014 he has held the position of Director General of the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (EPPO).

From 2010 onwards he has been working as international consultant in different FAO, World Bank, EU Technical assistance and training projects on international procedures, standards and practical application of phytosanitary measures.

Ringolds is also expert to the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC).

Ringolds ARNITIS



Camilo Beltrán Montoya is a Colombian Agricultural Engineer with a master's degree in plant protection. He currently serves as an Agricultural Officer at the Secretariat of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), hosted by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). In this role, he leads initiatives on Pest Outbreak and Alert Response Systems (POARS) and the Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE).

In his previous assignments, Camilo led the phytosanitary component of a joint project between the IPPC Secretariat and FAO's Food Safety Unit, delivering PCEs in eleven African countries. He has facilitated PCEs in Cambodia, Kenya, and Seychelles and provided technical support for IPPC Secretariat activities related to *Fusarium oxysporum* f.sp. cubense Tropical Race 4 (TR4) and contributed to developing tabletop exercises for this disease.

At the IPPC Secretariat, Camilo also worked as an International Phytosanitary Specialist, overseeing the development of guidelines for the prevention, preparedness, and response to *Fusarium TR4*. He also supported the coordination of the FAO/IPPC Technical Working Group for *Spodoptera frugiperda* (Fall Armyworm).

Before joining FAO, Camilo served as an International Phytosanitary Officer at the General Secretariat of the Andean Community (CAN), a recognized Regional Plant Protection Organization (RPPO). In this role, he specialized in plant health, pesticide registration, and regional initiatives targeting pests such as citrus Huanglongbing and *Fusarium TR4*.

Camilo BELTRAN MONTOYA



Sarah BRUNEL

Sarah Brunel is a French agronomist with over 20 years of experience in the field of environmental protection and plant health. She started designing and implementing the first local programme in France on invasive alien plants, engaging stakeholders and working with the media. She worked for the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (EPPO) as a scientific officer on several key topics including invasive alien plants, pest risk analysis, climatic modelling, information service and phytosanitary procedures. She was an expert for the Bern Convention, the European Environment Agency and the European Food Safety Authority. She joined the IPPC as Implementation Facilitation Officer in late 2014 and was in charge of the implementation of the STDF 401 project aiming at training PCE facilitators and coordinate among other tasks PCEs and projects. She coordinated PCEs within the IPPC secretariat and oversaw PCEs in all continents: Barbados, Comoros, Guinea, Madagascar, Nicaragua, Nepal, Palestine, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Tunisia, etc.

Sarah is currently the Team Lead of the Implementation and Facilitation Unit (IFU) of the IPPC Secretariat.



Justina CHIVANGA

Justina Chivanga is a Senior Plant Health Inspector with over 14 years of professional experience in the field of agricultural trade and plant health. She holds a Master's Degree in Agricultural Science (Plant Protection) from the University of Queensland, Australia, a Master in International Trade Law and Trade Policy Degree from Lund University, Sweden, and a Bachelor's Degree in Forestry from Copperbelt University, Zambia. Additionally, she serves as a Policy Fellow for Gender Responsive Agriculture Systems Policy under African Women in Agriculture Research and Development.

Justina has undergone extensive training in Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE) from the IPPC and the Rapid Sanitary and Phytosanitary Assessment conducted by COLEAD. She commenced her professional journey as an Agricultural Research Officer in the NPPO of Zambia facilitating safe trade across borders.

Justina is currently Head of the Standards and Regulations Unit within the NPPO of Zambia.

She adeptly oversaw the coordination of the PCE for Zambia and facilitated the PCE process for Zimbabwe.



Mekki CHOUIBANI

Mekki Chouibani is a Moroccan national, he was trained as an agronomy engineer of INA Paris Grignon (France) and IAV Hassan II (Morocco). Phyto-bacteriologist, he oversaw the establishment of diagnostic laboratories, integrated crop protection, monitoring of crop health status and phytosanitary extension within the National Plant Protection Organization in Morocco. He was also in charge of the phytosanitary protection of the forest, the training of the plant protection executives as well as of research of alternative methods to methyl bromide. From 2001 to 2008 he was the Head of the Technical Control and Plant Protection Division, in charge of phytosanitary control, pesticide registration, major struggles, certification and certification of seeds and seedlings and protection of plant varieties. From 2008 to 2011, responsible for plant protection in charge of phytosanitary control, pesticide registration and major struggles. He was the Executive Director of the Plant Protection Organization in the Middle East. Mekki Chouibani facilitated the PCEs in Guinea, Tunisia, Senegal, Rwanda and Djibouti.



Jose Maria GUITIAN CASTRILLÓN

Jose Maria Guitian Castrillón is a Spanish plant health specialist with over 30 years of experience in plant health and integrated pest management.

He is Head of the plant Health department in Tragsatec for the last 25 years giving support to the Spanish NPPO and the different Spanish regions. In his post, he has the responsibility of managing and coordinating the activities of the department. Main activities includes: pest surveillance programmes, market access, systems approaches, pest response (contingency planning) , pest risk analysis, eradication programmes, capacity development initiatives including trainings on the above mentioned subjects and simulation exercises and development of training material (inspection manuals, procedures, etc.), development of plant health software as well as issues dealing with phytosanitary legislation and project preparation.

He holds a Master degree of Agricultural Engineering from the ETSI Agrónomos Polytechnic University in Madrid Jose Maria facilitated the PCE in Egypt in 2024.



Magda Gonzalez Arroyo is a citizen of Costa Rica. She has been working for the NPPO for over 30 years in phytosanitary certification programs, preparation of procedures and legislation related to phytosanitary issues. She was the Director of the NPPO for four years and is currently Head of the Department of Standards and Regulations. She was for eight years one of the Latin America representatives in the Standards Committee of the IPPC. She was a member of the WTO's Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) in 2006-2008 and also participated in the negotiating team of Costa Rica on various free trade agreements (e.g. Central America - USA, EU, China, Singapore).

She served as a member of the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC) of the IPPC and was involved in the global initiative programme on Maximum Residue Limit (MRLs) in relation to minor uses of pesticides

Magdalena GONZÁLES ARROYO



Francisco Gutierrez is the current Technical Director of the Plant Health Department of the Belize Agricultural Health Authority, a post he has held for the past eighteen. In his current post he has the responsibility of managing and coordinating the activities of the department, including pest surveillance programmes, pest diagnostic services, export certification, phytosanitary import services, pest risk analysis, maintenance of pest free areas, eradication, and internal quarantine as well as issues dealing with phytosanitary legislation. In this role he represents his organization in various national and regional technical committees involved in trade-related matters, food security and biosecurity. He has been quite involved in IPPC related activities in the past fifteen years. From 2008 to 2014 he was the representative for Latin America and the Caribbean in the CPM Bureau of the IPPC for three consecutive terms. In 2017, he was selected as the representative for Latin America and the Caribbean for the newly established Implementation and Capacity Development Committee of the CPM (2018-2020). He was again nominated for a second period in this committee. In 2016 he was selected as a participant at the workshop for Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE) Facilitators in Punta Leona, Costa Rica under the Standards Trade and Development Facility (STDF) project 401 where participants were trained to broaden and enhance their expertise in facilitating the application of the PCE tool. Francisco is also expert to the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC).

Francisco GUTIERREZ



Jeffrey Jones is an international phytosanitary consultant with extensive experience. He hails from the Caribbean where he worked as the head of the Plant Protection Department in Barbados for many years.

He worked with the IPPC Secretariat for 12 years as the senior officer managing the phytosanitary capacity development programme from 1998 to 2010.

He spearheaded the development of the various stages of the PCE and applied it for projects in dozens of countries.

Since leaving the IPPC Secretariat, he continues to provide support to the IPPC's phytosanitary capacity development programme drafting global manuals (7 to date).

He also does consultancies with international organizations such as the WTO, the Inter- American Development Bank and the Institute for Cooperation in Agriculture (IICA).

Jeffrey JONES



Lucien Kouamé Konan is a citizen of Côte d'Ivoire. He was trained as Agronomist and holds a PhD in Entomology and Plant Protection, and a MSc in Integrated Pest Management. He worked for the Ivorian NPPO for over 35 years on various phytosanitary issues including phytosanitary legislation and procedures, export certification, import regulation, pest surveillance, pest control programmes, pesticide regulation and registration, and phytosanitary legislation.

He also works as Lecturer on Plant Health and International Trade issues at the Department of Biological Sciences at NANGUI ABROGOUA University in Abidjan and is Consultant for several institutions in the areas of plant health system, food quality management, phytosanitary measures and regulation, and environmental issues.

At regional level, He has been active as resource person, contributing to the delivering of capacity development programmes of the AU-IAPSC which is the Regional Plant Protection Organization (RPPO) for African. He has long been involved in the activities of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), serving as the IPPC Official Contact Point for Côte d'Ivoire, representing the African Region to the CPM Bureau for eight years from (2000 to 2012), and as member of several CPM Subsidiary Bodies and Focus groups, and IPPC working groups. He Chaired the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) from 2020 to 2023 after being CPM Vice Chair from 2018 to 2020.

He has participated in many Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE) training workshops and assisted to complete the first PCE of Djibouti in 2023.

Lucien KOUAME KONAN



Descartes Larios Koumba Mouendou is a Gabonese Agricultural Officer specialized in plant health and sustainable agricultural practices. He holds a Master's degree in Environmental Management Valuation and Analysis from the University Paul Cézanne in France and an Engineer Degree in Agricultural Plant Production from the National Higher Institute of Agronomy and Biotechnology in Gabon.

With extensive professional experience, Descartes has worked on various projects related to plant protection, including supporting rural farmers in sustainable production systems and contributing to the development of urban horticulture at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Sub-regional office for Central Africa (SFC).

Currently, he serves as the Implementation Facilitation Officer at the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) Secretariat within the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Rome, where he coordinates and supports the implementation and Capacity Development committee (IC) and the Africa Phytosanitary Programme (APP).

He has coordinated the sub-regional project on strengthening phytosanitary capacities of central Africa countries and conducted the PCE in Senegal in 2023.

Descartes KOU MBA MOUENDOU



Ketevan Lomsadze is a national of Georgia working in the field of plant protection since 2006.

Her working experience started in the Georgian Plant Protection Organization, where she worked as a main specialist for different divisions of the NPPO.

Later she contributed to the institutional building of the Georgian NPPO through the EU funded program "Comprehensive Institutional Building of the National Food Agency" at the Ministry of Agriculture of Georgia. She has served as an Implementation Facilitation Officer of the Implementation Facilitation Unit of the IPPC Secretariat.

Ketevan LOMSADZE



Alphonsine Louhouari Tokozaba is a national of the Republic of Congo, working at the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, specifically at the Directorate of Plant Protection.

She was trained as an Agronomist Engineer and is the Director of Plant Protection since June 2018), the Official Contact Point of the IPPC for her country, and an African representative of the IPPC Standards Committee.

She is also a consultant to the Inter- State Committee for Pesticides in Central Africa (CPAC), the regulatory body for pesticide management in Central Africa.

She coordinated several FAO phytosanitary projects, in particular one related to Fall Armyworm.

She facilitated the PCE in Madagascar.

Alphonsine LOUHOUARI TOKOZABA



Dr. Isaac Macharia, PHD is the Director Phytosanitary and Biosecurity in Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS) in Kenya. He holds a Doctor of Philosophy (PHD) in Plant Virology from the University of New England in Australia, a Master of Science in Plant Pathology and a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture from the University of Nairobi.

He has over 22 years working experience in Phytosanitary matters where he is involved in establishment of different phytosanitary systems. In his current position, he has the responsibility of managing and coordinating the phytosanitary activities of the department, including pest surveillance programmes, pest diagnostic services, export certification, phytosanitary import regulation, pest risk analysis, maintenance of pest free areas and pest free places of production and plant quarantine activities as well as issues development and review of phytosanitary policy and legislations. He has represented his organization and the country in various national and regional committees involved in Phytosanitary and trade related matters. He has been instrumental in developing state of the art laboratories which are ISO 17025 accredited.

Dr. Isaac Macharia has participated in Phytosanitary capacity building in different countries in Africa. He has participated in both bilateral and multilateral negotiations on SPS, supported development of the African Union Sanitary and Phytosanitary Policy, served as the Chair of the pest risk analysis technical working group in COMESA and EAC and a member of the African Union Inter- African Phytosanitary Council (IAPSC) technical committee.

Isaac MACHARIA



Nhamo Mudada is a Zimbabwean expert with over 22 years of experience in plant health, phytosanitary systems, seed systems, rural development, and monitoring and evaluation. His career includes a 12-year tenure as the Head of the Plant Quarantine Services Institute, (NPPO of Zimbabwe). Prior to joining the NPPO, he was a plant breeder with the national breeding programs. Mudada's expertise in plant health systems covers a wide range of subjects including phytosanitary policy and regulations, market access, pest surveillance, pest diagnostics services, pest risk analysis, phytosanitary inspections, measures, certification, good agricultural practices, monitoring and evaluation, and training and extension. He played a pivotal role to maintain old and access new markets for plant products destined to China, the European Union, and the Middle East amongst others. Throughout his career, Mudada collaborated with various partners such as the FAO, SADC, COMESA, COLEAD, AU-IAPSC, CIMMYT and the IPPC on plant health issues. He participated in many IPPC activities and is currently a member of the IPPC Plant Health Officer curricula development working group. He is an associate member of the CABI - Australia - Africa Plant Biosecurity Partnership Network (2014 to 2016) and a member of the Zimbabwe Plant Breeders Association. Currently, Mudada serves as a Director with oversight of all Agricultural

Advisory and Rural Development Services' programs and projects at the provincial level where he also chairs the provincial food security and nutrition committee. Mudada facilitated the Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE) for Eswatini NPPO and coordinated the PCE for the Zimbabwe NPPO.

Nhamo MUDADA



Chiluba Mwape is a Zambian national with over 20 years of experience working on international trade issues and SPS measures at national, regional and global levels. He holds an MSc in Agriculture – Crop Protection and BSc in Agriculture – Crop Production. He spent 17 years rising through the ranks as an SPS officer serving the Government of the Republic of Zambia under the Ministry of Agriculture – Plant Quarantine and Phytosanitary Services. He has worked as a Sanitary and Phytosanitary Programme Officer at the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Secretariat providing strategic guidance to regional SPS structures and coordinating implementation of activities related to the World Trade Organization Sanitary and Phytosanitary Agreement, International Plant Protection Convention, Codex Alimentarius Commission and the World Organization for Animal Health. Currently, Chiluba Mwape is working as an Agricultural Value Chain Expert under the Trade and Commodities Directorate of the Centre for Agriculture and Biosciences International. He facilitated the application of the Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE) tool for the National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs) of Kenya and Somalia.

Chiluba MWAPE



Brenda Mweemba is a plant health expert from Zambia. A dedicated professional with over 18 years of experience in the Ministry of Agriculture, currently serving as a Plant Health Inspector within the Department of Plant Quarantine and Phytosanitary Services.

As Deputy Head of the Phytosanitary Inspections Unit, she supports efforts to facilitate safe trade through risk-based inspections and regulatory compliance.

Passionate about addressing food security challenges, Brenda brings in extensive expertise in areas such as pest risk analysis, plant pest diagnostics, market access facilitation and capacity-building initiatives. A certified Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE) facilitator by the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) Secretariat blends her abilities to strengthen national plant health systems.

Academic qualifications include a Masters in Climate Change and Sustainable Development, Bachelor's Degree in General Agriculture and Certificate in Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation.

She is highly equipped with a well-rounded perspective to address complex agricultural and food security issues.

Brenda MWEEMBA



Shaza Omar is a phytosanitary specialist and capacity-building expert. Since 2024, she has supported the implementation of phytosanitary standards and facilitated Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluations (PCEs) to strengthen national systems.

Previously, she was a Senior Agricultural Specialist at the U.S. Embassy's USDA Office (2018–2023), analyzing trade barriers and facilitating market access. Before that, she spent 13 years (2005–2018) with Egyptian Plant Quarantine, managing trade relations, import requirements, and export certification, while representing Egypt at WTO SPS meetings.

Active with the IPPC since 2012, she served on the Technical Panel for the Glossary and was elected Vice-Chair of the IPPC Standards Committee in 2015. Since 2009, she has also been a consultant for FAO's Near East Regional Office on plant protection and agribusiness projects.

Shaza holds a degree in Plant Protection and a master's in Organizational Sociology (2014), providing her with a strong foundation in both the technical and organizational aspects of phytosanitary systems. Her career has been dedicated to strengthening global phytosanitary systems, promoting trade facilitation, and enhancing food security through international standards and capacity-building initiatives.

Shaza OMAR



Barbara Peterson is a Canadian plant health specialist with over 30 years of experience in pest risk management, market access, systems approaches, pest response and other phytosanitary systems.

She began her career as an integrated pest management (IPM) consultant, conducting applied research and working with farmers to reduce pesticide use. She later joined the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), where she developed phytosanitary policies and procedures, designed export certification frameworks, and contributed to emergency pest response activities.

In 2019, she joined the IPPC Secretariat to oversee the IPPC's work on e-commerce and various capacity development initiatives, including IPPC Guides, e-learning courses and the IPPC Plant Health Campus.

Barbara guided the NPPO of Malawi in completing a PCE and was certified as an IPPC PCE facilitator in 2024. She holds a Master of Pest Management from Simon Fraser University and a Bachelor of Science in Biology from the University of British Columbia.

Barbara PETERSON



Ana Peralta is native of Uruguay and agronomist with 40 years of experience in the field of plant protection and phytosanitary regulations.

She began her career at the national level as a university professor in plant pathology and continued as director of phytosanitary laboratories of the NPPO of Uruguay. She has worked for more than two decades in different positions and groups for the Southern Cone Regional Plant Protection Organization (COSAVE), acting for 8 years as Coordinating Secretary. In this position she has been closely involved in the activities of the IPPC.

Between 2010 and 2016 she worked for the IPPC Secretariat as a Senior Capacity Building Specialist and was responsible for the management of implementation projects and activities. She is currently an international phytosanitary consultant.

Ana PERALTA OTTONELLO



Orlando Sosa is a national of Belize with over 22 years of progressive experience in the phytosanitary regulatory field. He started with field experience managing the Belize NPPO and establishing phytosanitary programs based on the earliest ISPMs at the time. He has been closely involved in standards development having served on the first Standards Committee of the IPPC.

From 2003 to 2018, he worked for the IPPC Secretariat and managed several key initiatives including leading the development of the PCE through its current iteration, the development of the IPPC building national capacity building strategy, the IPPC capacity development programme and the Implementation Review and Support System.

He currently serves as agricultural officer for the FAO Sub-regional Office for Eastern Africa (SFE) based in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia).

Orlando SOSA



Fitzroy White is a Jamaican national. After graduating from the College of Agriculture in Portland, Jamaica, with an Associates of Science, Fitzroy joined the Government Service in the Ministry of Agriculture in 1991. He was awarded a masters degree in Tropical Crop Protection from the University of the West Indies, and a post graduate diploma in Agriculture and Rural Development. He served on many committees relating directly and indirectly to plant health, including Jamaica's National Agriculture Health and Food Safety Committee, and the Regional Technical Working Group on Emergency Response Preparedness Plans and Mechanisms for Response. While in the Plant Quarantine Department in Jamaica as a Senior Plant Quarantine / SPS Enquiry Point Officer, Fitzroy White was instrumental in the development of the current Phytosanitary Plant Health System in Jamaica. He has also influenced the development of Plant Health Professional in over 14 Caribbean territories, by being one of the main trainers in the Regional Plant Quarantine Principle and Procedure Training for 9 consecutive years. In 2018 he assisted the Island of Barbados to complete their first Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation. After serving the Civil Service in Jamaica for over 27 years. He went on to serve the plant health community internationally facilitating the PCE in Fiji, Mongolia and Nepal, and being on the facilitation team for Seychelles, Mauritius, Egypt and Kenya.

Fitzroy WHITE