



REPORT

Bureau of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures

Rome, Italy 10-14 and 21 March 2025

IPPC Secretariat

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1. Opening of the meeting

[1] The Chairperson of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM), Gregory WOLFF (North America), and FAO Deputy Director-General and IPPC Officer-in-Charge (OiC), Beth BECHDOL, welcomed all participants to the meeting.

[2] The newly appointed Director of FAO's Plant Production and Protection Division, Yurdi YASMI, briefly joined the CPM Bureau (hereafter referred to as "the bureau") meeting and expressed his eagerness to collaborate with the bureau, emphasizing the importance of integrating the IPPC's work into a broader FAO initiative to address urgent issues.

2. Meeting arrangements

2.1 Election of the rapporteur

The CPM Bureau elected Jan Hendrik VENTER (Africa) as rapporteur.

2.2 Adoption of the agenda

[4] The bureau adopted the agenda (Appendix 1) and confirmed additional matters to be discussed under agenda item 11 (Any other business): news articles on the International Phytosanitary Portal (IPP), the trademark on the International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM) 15 (*Regulation of wood packaging material in international trade*) and the selection of a bureau champion for the International Day of Plant Health (IDPH).

3. Administrative matters

- [5] The list of documents is attached to this report as Appendix 2.
- [6] The list of participants is attached to this report as Appendix 3.

4. Progress report of the IPPC Secretariat for 2024

- The IPPC OiC, Beth BECHDOL, provided an update on the activities carried out by the IPPC Secretariat (hereafter referred to as "the secretariat") in 2024. The OiC also provided further updates of relevance:
 - Funding and resource landscape. As a result of a changing political landscape and global aid reductions, concerns were raised about the potential risks to FAO's regular-programme budget, including to IPPC and Codex Alimentarius. The need to emphasize the value of the IPPC in external messaging to secure funding had been stressed.
 - **FAO's eightieth anniversary celebrations.** The upcoming celebrations for FAO's eightieth year (2025) were highlighted as an opportunity for increased IPPC visibility, along with creative, bolder and more strategic ways of working.
 - **IPPC secretary search.** The search for the new IPPC secretary had been noted as nearing completion, with a final decision expected soon. The OiC also praised the work of the secretariat's management team for their continued support in the interim.
 - **Positive funding news.** A proposed USD 500 000 budget increase for IPPC and Codex Alimentarius had been proposed for the next biennium, which was highlighted as a direct result of secretariat and bureau members' efforts to promote the work of the IPPC.
- [8] The bureau welcomed the update from the OiC on the progress of IPPC activities for 2024 and beyond, and noted the update regarding recruitment for the IPPC secretary and IPPC Integration and Support Team lead roles.

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- [9] The bureau:
 - (1) *thanked* the secretariat, particularly Avetik NERSISYAN, Sarah BRUNEL and Arop DENG, for taking on the role of IPPC Officer-in-Charge for daily matters; and

(2) thanked Beth BECHDOL, Don SYME and the DDG Office for their leadership and active contributions in ensuring continuity and collaboration between the IPPC and wider FAO divisions.

5. Review of bureau reports

- [10] The bureau discussed the level of detail in their meeting reports, with concerns raised about excessive length and the time taken for drafting and publication.
- [11] The bureau noted how in-person meeting reports may include more detail and complexity than those meetings held virtually and acknowledged that the appropriate level of detail might vary depending on the issue.
- [12] The bureau:
 - (3) *agreed* to present bureau reports containing essential content only, as per the CPM-18 (2024) approach.² For items of particular complexity (or lengthy discussions), further detail will be added for context.

6. Follow up actions from previous CPM Bureau meetings

[13] The secretariat noted and discussed the follow up actions from previous bureau meetings in October and December 2024, 3,4 which comprised the agenda for the March bureau meeting.

6.1 CPM Focus Group on Sea Containers

- [14] The chairperson for the CPM Focus Group on Sea Containers provided an update on the revised action plan of the focus group.
- [15] The bureau noted the revised action plan, discussed the potential collaboration between the Convention on Biological Diversity and "three sisters" agencies (including the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH)), and discussed how the success of any proposed recommendations arising from the focus group could be measured, including how to measure stakeholder collaboration and engagement.
- [16] The bureau further discussed potential workshop arrangements, including the level of support that could be provided by the secretariat, and the need for further detail at the next bureau meeting. The bureau also discussed the need to clarify the general approach to funding and supporting workshops, and the selection of workshops determined by the CPM.
- [17] The bureau:
 - (4) asked the secretariat to develop a paper for the June CPM Bureau meeting for considerations regarding the decision-making process to determine workshop arrangement structures, including the identification of appropriate organizational resources, prioritization against the secretariat workplan, roles and responsibilities, funding requirements, proposed timelines, and opportunities for secretariat support; and:

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² CPM-18 (2024) approach: "In line with instructions for FAO governing bodies, the report will focus on key discussions and decisions and will include only those interventions and items of introductory information that are critical to the understanding of the context and the decisions reached".

³ <u>CPM Bureau October 2024 report.</u>

⁴ CPM Bureau December 2024 report.

(5) *agreed* that the CPM should be informed of any workshops planned to be organized well in advance, and to allow for the prioritization of topics.

6.2 Digitization of ISPMs

- [18] The bureau discussed the evolving nature of artificial intelligence (AI) tools and its potential benefits and challenges with the digitization of ISPMs. Concerns were noted regarding the use of AI on the development of standards without human review but also recognized AI's potential use in the ease of access and usability of ISPMs.
- [19] The secretariat clarified that the FAO elearning Academy was unable to support the effort of ISPM digitization, and that further discussion would be needed to address the scope of digitization requirements.
- [20] The bureau proposed to review the topic at the next Strategic Planning Group (SPG) meeting, including examples from organizations.
- [21] The bureau:
 - (6) agreed to reconsider the item of digitization of ISPMs at the SPG meeting in October 2025, including any feedback to the item from relevant organizations' meetings.

6.3 Antimicrobial resistance

- [22] The secretariat provided an update on the antimicrobial resistance (AMR) questionnaire and survey launch (which identified a relatively low level of use of antibiotics and fungicides but did not assess resistance), the encouraging response rate from contracting parties, and the need to merge datasets into FAO's InFARM platform for sustainability.⁵
- [23] The bureau discussed at length the strategic significance (and need for greater visibility) of plant health in AMR discussions, and the importance of InFARM in facilitating communication of AMR data across all national focal points.
- The bureau also discussed the need for additional insights from InFARM regarding key messages on the impact of fungicide and antibiotics on plant health, and proposed to invite an expert at the next bureau meeting who could share the impact of this data for the CPM and wider IPPC activities.
- [25] The bureau:
 - (7) *proposed* to invite an FAO InFARM expert during the June 2025 CPM Bureau meeting to provide a report on AMR information gathered in the database for future considerations on the implications for CPM and activities within the CPM Focus Group on Plant Health in the Context of One Health.

6.4 Systems approach workshop

- [26] The chairperson provided a funding update from contracting parties regarding the systems approach workshop. One organization and one contracting party had shared their interest to host the webinar, which was proposed to be hosted in either 2025 or 2026.
- [27] The bureau discussed the update on the workshop and potential funding and coordination avenues, discussed the possible development of a guide on how to carry out a systems approach, and stressed the importance of funding priority 1 topics, rather than having funding dictate priorities.
- [28] The secretariat indicated their inability to organize the workshop in 2025 due to the already defined workplan for year, as well as funding and logistical constraints.

⁵ <u>CPM 2025/49</u>.

The bureau:

(8) *noted* that the secretariat has no capacity to arrange for this hosting of the systems approach workshop in 2025 and that a workshop in 2026 could be feasible with secretariat support, pending financial contributions, level of priority of a workshop on this topic, and the clarity of roles and responsibilities.⁶

6.5 Discussion on the draft commodity standard: International movement of Citrus fruit (2023-019) to ISPM 46 (Commodity-specific standards for phytosanitary measures)

- The chairperson presented the draft commodity standard on the International movement of *Citrus* fruit (2023-019) as an item to discuss among the bureau, including the development of a plan for responding to contracting party concerns.
- [31] The bureau:
 - (9) *noted* the update by the chairperson.

6.6 CPM Focus Group on Plant Health in the Context of One Health

- [32] The secretariat provided a verbal update on focus group activities to date, including membership confirmation (from e-decision).
- [33] The bureau noted the update from the focus group and clarified that due to bureau restructuring and reassignment of bureau roles and responsibilities, focus group membership may observe further changes.
- [34] The bureau:
 - (10) *confirmed* the outcome of the e-decision for membership of the CPM Focus Group on Plant Health in the Context of One Health (see Appendix 4).

6.7 IPPC ePhyto Solution

- [35] The secretariat provided an update on the IPPC ePhyto Solution.
- Governance system and financial provisions of the IPPC ePhyto Africa Initiative. Following previous discussions from the virtual meeting of the CPM Bureau in December 2024, and noting the presentation of governance options and potential funding to the IPPC ePhyto Africa Initiative by the director of the Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation, the bureau agreed to promote a solidified and harmonized approach of the Initiative's governance and donor resource mobilization. The bureau understood that the partners involved would need to take ownership and therefore agreed to adapt the name of the Initiative to "ePhyto Initiative for Africa", removing "IPPC". The bureau noted the need to protect the IPPC's interests and adhere to FAO rules, and agreed to emphasize the role of the IPPC across the wider IPPC ePhyto Solution and activities.
- [37] **Report on review of the Service Delivery Agreements between FAO and UNICC.** The bureau noted the report on the review of Service Delivery Agreements (SDAs), provided by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland's in-kind IT resource to complete the assessment report of the two SDAs for the IPPC ePhyto Solution.
- [38] **SDAs between FAO and UNICC.** The bureau discussed at length the two proposals for the secretariat regarding the IPPC ePhyto solution:

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⁶ Following pledges of financial and in-kind support received during CPM-19 (2025), it was later decided that the systems approach workshop would take place in 2025 but without the organizational support of the secretariat. See agenda item 12 (Issues arising from CPM-19 for bureau action) for further details.

- **Option one:** continuing with ePhyto HUB and ePhyto GeNS provision of service with an increased budget (10 percent), an increase in staffing, and reduced stockage and storage of data; or

- Option two: providing a more competitive solution for data security and storage by reducing staff costs for the two agreements for maintenance of the system (except security and storage of data) as this service is being covered by a full-time loan of the UNICC officer responsible for ePhyto. This approach aligns with the recommendations from the report by United Kingdom's in-house IT expert, to recruit a dedicated ePhyto officer (at P3 level), as per the terms of reference, to enhance continuity and streamline implementation, providing a tangible opportunity to strengthen governance over the IPPC ePhyto Solution and facilitate training within the secretariat.
- The bureau thanked all presenters during the session and discussed in detail the various requirements necessary for the smooth implementation of the IPPC ePhyto Solution. The bureau supported the recommendation proposed by the secretariat to receive the loan of the UNICC officer to support the IPPC ePhyto Solution and ensure its operational stability and continuity at this critical growth juncture, and the need to consider a more permanent solution.
- [40] Following a presentation on cybersecurity by the UNICC, the bureau discussed at length the need for enhanced security of the IPPC ePhyto Solution and the importance of addressing vulnerabilities, which included the increasing cybersecurity risks of ePhyto and potential threats to data (in relation to international trade), the importance of risk management, and the shared responsibility model between UNICC and IPPC. The need for critical application security, regular cybersecurity reviews and multifactor authentication was heavily stressed by both the bureau and UNICC.

[41] The bureau:

- (11) *supported* the proposal to simplify the "IPPC ePhyto Africa Initiative" name to "ePhyto Initiative for Africa" in the interests of advancing the Initiative, and to use every opportunity to highlight the IPPC's role in the IPPC ePhyto Solution in a broader context (including publications);
- (12) *supported* the setting of the ePhyto Initiative for Africa with various partners and the governance proposed;
- (13) *supported* the secretariat's proposed **option two** for managing the IPPC ePhyto Solution, noting the low level of risk identified in this approach, the increasing support required for the programme, and the importance of business continuity for programme success;
- (14) *agreed* in proceeding with the secondment of the UNICC product manager as soon as possible to ensure the daily technical management of the IPPC ePhyto Solution and prioritization activities, with the long-term objective of making the position permanent; and
- (15) *agreed* that there should be a thorough analysis of security parameters for UNICC and IPPC system and interfaces (regarding critical application security).

6.8 Follow up on gap analysis of in-house IT expert for ePhyto, and also specifically for new APP work

- The secretariat provided an update of the need for an in-house IT expert for the IPPC ePhyto Solution and new work for the Africa Phytosanitary Programme (APP). Continuing discussions from the virtual CPM Bureau meeting in December 2024 that while the IT expert housed within the secretariat provided expertise regarding website maintenance (limiting capacity for other needs), the growing APP programme was recognized as requiring increased IT support, which prompted the recruitment of a GIS expert. The secretariat recognized the need for future IT expansion, particularly for managing external systems such as the IPPC ePhyto Solution.
- [43] The bureau discussed the update at length; noted the secretariat's proposal to fully integrate IT activities, including the additional in-house needs for IT consultants, to evaluate and consider ePhyto officers'

activities to ensure a harmonious and well-balanced integration of IT-related secretariat functions; and sought further clarity on secretariat needs from the incoming IPPC secretary.

[44] The bureau:

(16) *asked* the secretariat to develop a proposal for the June CPM Bureau meeting on the specific needs, including position descriptions, for the proposed GIS specialist and other IT specialist positions.

6.9 Africa Phytosanitary Programme

- [45] The secretariat provided an update on the APP, including arrangements for the long-term or permanent location of the APP and a progress report on staffing.
- [46] **Progress report on related staffing.** The bureau discussed the need for suitable staffing to ensure the sustainability of the APP following large secretariat changes, concerns regarding rising UNICC costs, and the need to retain key programme knowledge.
- **Keeping the APP housed within the secretariat.** The bureau discussed at great length the various benefits and challenges of keeping the APP housed within the secretariat and considered the various options. The bureau also sought further clarity from the secretariat.
- [48] The bureau:
 - (17) *agreed* to redefine the APP implementation strategy to achieve programme objectives without compromising ongoing or advancing activities, which included:
 - engaging in open discussions with the African Union and the Near East Plant Protection Organization (NEPPO) for clear programme commitments,
 - improving collaboration with FAO's Plant Production and Protection Division and wider FAO offices to optimize resources and coordinate data collection,
 - expediting recruitment of a GIS specialist, re-engaging a former IPPC staff member as a consultant, and considering the hiring of a phytosanitary consultant,
 - developing APP survey protocols through the APP Technical Working Group (particularly for phase 2), and utilizing the GIS expert for APP mapping development,
 - increasing efforts to secure additional funding for APP implementation,
 - enhancing integration of APP with IPPC tools and activities (phytosanitary capacity evaluations (PCEs), IPPC Plant Health Campus, IPPC ePhyto Solution, pest outbreak and alert system (POARS), and national reporting obligations (NROs)); and
 - (18) *proposed* for the new IPPC secretary to consider a suitable and sustainable long-term strategy for the APP, including better integration with IPPC activities, reputational risk, and adapting the scope and management with the available resources.

7. Arrangements for CPM-19

- [49] The secretariat discussed arrangements for CPM-19 (2025).
- **Logistics.** The bureau discussed logistics for CPM-19 (2025), including expected attendance and the national plant protection organization (NPPO) orientation session. The bureau addressed the time allocation for the presentation of non-core activities, noting the potential for limitations given the schedule and the quantity of CPM INF papers submitted by international organizations.

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⁷ CPM 2025/INF/01.

Recording of EU interventions in the report. The bureau confirmed that the approach for recording interventions in the CPM report, agreed in April and June 2024, adequately addressed how to record European Union interventions.

- [52] **Podium seating arrangements.** The bureau noted how the podium seating would adhere to protocol and would also include the IC and SC chairpersons.
- [53] The bureau:
 - (19) *agreed* that verbally presented CPM INF papers by international organizations would no longer be addressed within the CPM-19 (2025) agenda, and that an email would be sent by the secretariat to the three (3) international organizations notifying them of this change, on behalf of the CPM chairperson; and
 - (20) *agreed* that the IC and SC chairpersons (or vice-chairperson where a chairperson is not present) would sit at the top table of the CPM-19 (2025) podium, in the company of the CPM chairperson, CPM vice-chairperson and secretariat staff for the duration of the week.

7.1 Review of credentials for CPM-19 meeting participants

- Following the request at CPM-18 (2024) for the creation of a Credentials Committee, bureau members established a formal Credentials Committee from the seven members of the bureau. The Credentials Committee fulfilled all its responsibilities and undertook a review of all credentials received for CPM-19 (2025) meeting participants during the week of the bureau, and would continue to review all credentials received during the week of CPM.
- [55] The bureau:
 - (21) *agreed* to formally act as the Credentials Committee and to uphold all required responsibilities during CPM-19 (2025).

8. Review of the CPM-19 agenda items - key issues for consideration

- [56] The bureau discussed key issues for consideration within the CPM-19 (2025) agenda, mainly regarding the modifications to CPM papers.
- [57] The bureau:
 - (22) *noted* the changes to some CPM papers and a*greed* that the secretariat would share these changes with the bureau and CPM participants through an INF paper.

8.1 Potential Friends of Chair meetings

[58] The bureau discussed which CPM-19 (2025) agenda items may require a Friends of the Chair meeting.

8.2 Is it time to rethink ISPMs?

- The bureau noted the CPM-19 (2025) discussion paper on "Is it time to rethink ISPMs?" and discussed at length the need to make ISPMs more accessible and implementable, and the need for better preparation and feedback mechanisms (such as the IPPC Observatory and regional workshops). Resource implications and the need for clear, inclusive, simplified and audience-focused resources and communication were also stressed by the bureau.
- [60] The bureau noted the various changes in the submission of the paper (from an initial CPM INF paper to a CPM discussion paper) and clarified that, as per secretariat procedures, papers presented to the CPM which include decision points are presented as CPM discussion papers and not as INF papers.
- *[61]* The bureau:
 - (23) *recognized* the need to create audience-tailored resources under the IPPC (including standards) for readability, compliance and effectiveness.

8.3 Potential for CPM recommendation on AMR

[62] The bureau noted the proposal from the chairperson for a CPM recommendation on AMR, including discussions on seaweed.

[63] The bureau discussed the importance of a potential CPM recommendation in limiting AMR resistance within plant health and discussed in detail the increasing role of seaweed in commerce and One Health and the lack of import/export guidance on pest requirements. The bureau proposed to discuss this further at CPM-19 (2025).

8.4 Recommendations to CPM in papers

- The secretariat presented the recommendations to the CPM^{8,9}, including: the establishment of three (3) additional regular funded positions for the IPPC; the request to the IPPC Financial Committee to approve the provision of funds to NROs (USD 50 000 per year), PCEs (USD 50 000 per year) and POARS global coordination of *Fusarium* TR4 (USD 50 000 per year) for the overall functioning of the IPPC Observatory, as well as the development of guides and training materials; and the establishment of a trust fund to address issues related to global emerging pests and emergencies.
- [65] The bureau noted the proposed recommendations and suggested to discuss this further at the March IPPC Financial Committee meeting.

8.5 Discussion on the proposed regional communications network and the related survey

- [66] The secretariat provided an update on the proposed regional communications network (RCN) and NPPO communications needs assessment survey. 10
- The bureau noted the update on the proposed RCN, the change in wording to the related CPM-19 (2025) paper, and the delay to the NPPO communications needs assessment survey and subsequent consultative meetings to be undertaken after the IDPH in May 2025.

9. Other key issues to be considered by the CPM Bureau

9.1 Update on the arrangements for the International Day of Plant Health

- [68] The secretariat provided a verbal update on the arrangements for the IDPH.¹¹
- [69] The bureau noted past logistical issues and discussed the secretariat's proposal to start planning for the 2026 IDPH much earlier (at the June CPM Bureau meeting) with a multi-year strategy to identify hosts, champions and themes proactively.
- The bureau noted that EL Salvador would be the 2025 IDPH host country and discussed efforts to showcase 2025 IDPH activities more widely, including engagement with FAO's Regional Office for Africa, the FAO director-general and the DDG Office.
- [71] The bureau:
 - (24) agreed to allow more time for planning considerations under the IDPH.

9.2 Discuss travel support criteria to ensure that the IC representative (observer) to the SC can receive travel support to attend SC meeting

[72] The secretariat provided an update on the status of travel support to the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC) representative to the Standards Committee (SC). The secretariat informed

⁹ CPM 2025/25.

⁸ CPM 2025/11.

¹⁰ CPM 2025/41.

¹¹ CPM 2025/40.

the bureau that current World Bank criteria for travel assistance creates challenges for IC member participation, especially for those from developing countries. The IC had recommended that the bureau reconsider the application of these criteria and proposed a more flexible approach. The IC had debated the role of its representatives to the SC, initially aiming for reciprocal alignment but ultimately proposed to maintain observer status, with a clarified invitation in the SC's Rules of Procedure to provide flexibility and to allow for travel assistance.

- [73] The bureau noted the secretariat's proposal to improve the application of criteria for travel prioritization and the feasibility of flexible travel support criteria to allow participation of IC representatives at SC meetings, and discussed the matter at length.
- [74] The bureau:
 - (25) *approved* the proposed changes in the eligibility status of IC members for travel assistance after the World Bank's annual criteria update;
 - (26) *agreed* to reconsider the eligibility of IC members for travel assistance at the time of signature of the statement of commitment and to maintain the eligibility throughout their term on the IC;
 - (27) *agreed* that non-eligible members at the start of their term who become eligible after the World Bank's annual update will maintain the eligibility until the end of the ongoing term on the IC; and
 - (28) agreed that the IC representative to the SC, despite being an observer, if eligible according to the World Bank criteria, will be eligible for travel assistance throughout their current term on the IC, considering the CPM encouragements to have observers of the IC attending the SC meetings and reciprocally.

9.3 CPM "Successes and Challenges" session

- [75] The secretariat reported on countries' dissatisfaction with the removal of the CPM "Successes and Challenges" session and advocated for its reinstatement in the CPM agenda.
- [76] The bureau discussed the vital role of holding the CPM "Successes and Challenges" session for contracting parties and international organizations, the need to successfully deliver this session at CPM-20 in 2026, and how best to plan for this session at the next bureau meeting in June.
- [77] The bureau:
 - (29) recognized the importance of a session on "Successes and Challenges" as a feature of CPM, and agreed to reinstate this session at CPM-20 (2026); and
 - (30) *agreed* to assess the key objectives and outcomes of what this "Success and Challenges" session would look like at the June CPM Bureau meeting.

9.4 Regional representation for the CPM Focus Group on Global Phytosanitary Research Coordination

- [78] The secretariat provided an update on the regional representation for the CPM Focus Group on Global Phytosanitary Research Coordination (FG-GPRC).
- [79] The bureau had confirmed the selection of the regional representation for the focus group via e-decision.
- [80] The bureau:
 - (31) *supported* the nomination of Rashid Hamdan AL-SHIDI (Near East and North Africa) as the regional representative for the CPM Focus Group on Global Phytosanitary Research Coordination and *thanked* the region for their submissions.

9.5 Raising the profile of IPPC, including working with IPPC Secretary/Secretariat, FAO permanent representatives and Commission

- [81] The bureau member for Europe provided a verbal update on raising the profile of the IPPC and opportunities for wider collaboration.
- [82] The bureau noted the proposal to prioritize IPPC profile-raising in internal and external communications and meetings, and to work closely with the secretariat to strategically identify opportunities for FAO integration, particularly highlighting activities that resonate with FAO's strategic objectives.
- [83] The bureau discussed the crucial need for enhanced collaboration with Permanent Representatives to elevate the IPPC's profile within FAO and the wider international community, and to empower contracting parties and NPPOs to raise their own visibility.
- [84] The bureau also discussed FAO's eightieth anniversary celebrations as a key opportunity for outreach and explored ideas such as a potential SPG side event, aligning IPPC messaging with FAO's anniversary themes. The bureau proposed to return to the discussion at the next bureau meeting.
- [85] The bureau:
 - (32) agreed to begin planning activities (with secretariat support) for FAO's eightieth anniversary celebrations, which could coincide with FAO's pre-planned activities or take place during the week of the October SPG meeting; and
 - (33) *agreed* to discuss the topic further at the June CPM Bureau meeting.

10. CPM Bureau, SC and IC members and potential replacement members

- [86] The secretariat provided an update on the membership of the CPM Bureau¹², SC¹³ and IC¹⁴ and discussed potential replacement members.
- [87] The bureau noted the update on membership regarding the bureau, SC and IC.

11. Any other business (pre-CPM)

- [88] News articles on the IPP. The bureau noted concern regarding several news articles on the IPP (regarding plant protection products), which had been incorrectly presented as IPPC work, and discussed the importance of accurate attribution in news articles. The secretariat agreed to clarify the IPP articles.
- **Bureau champion.** The bureau discussed the selection of an IDPH champion, considering past examples, and tasked the bureau member from the Europe region to provide a list of bureau members for the role (acknowledging that the final decision would ultimately lie with the new IPPC secretary). The bureau also discussed the possibility of an organizing committee to assist with IDPH preparations, and an alignment of broader IDPH celebrations (with the day itself under the organizational remit of FAO's Plant Production and Protection Division).
- (Regulation of wood packaging material in international trade) trademark, which was nearing expiration in several countries. FAO's Legal Team was scheduled to meet with the bureau during the week of CPM-19 (2025) to address the cost implications of this necessary renewal to ensure its protection. The bureau further discussed the need to include the topic as a regular item on the CPM agenda to ensure regular protections are in place, and agreed to work closely with the secretariat on the consequences of this trademark on contracting parties.

¹³ CPM 2025/46.

¹² CPM 2025/45.

¹⁴ CPM 2025/44.

- [91] The bureau:
 - (34) asked the secretariat to work on ramifications of the trademark on ISPM 15.

Adoption of decisions

- [92] The bureau adopted the decisions reached thus far. This completed their pre-CPM session.
- [93] For ease of reference, a list of action points for bureau members arising from the meeting, together with roles and responsibilities, is provided as Appendix 5.

Post-CPM session

[94] In addition to the current and outgoing bureau members, the newly elected bureau replacement members, Glenn PANGANIBAN (Asia), Larry Mauricio RIVERA (Latin America and the Caribbean), and Temarama ANGUNA-KAMANA (Southwest Pacific) were present for this session.

12. Issues arising from CPM-19 for bureau action

- [95] The newly appointed Chairperson of the CPM Bureau, Samuel BIHSOP (Europe), highlighted the issues that arose from CPM-19 (2025) for action.
- [96] **Systems approach workshop.** The bureau discussed the systems approach workshop, due to be held in November 2025, and noted the financial pledges received for the workshop at CPM-19 (2025), as well as the organizational support pledged to coordinate the workshop. The bureau noted the secretariat's lack of capacity to organize the workshop, as per the pre-CPM bureau meeting, and agreed for the outgoing bureau member from the Latin America and Caribbean region to assist the organization in the arrangement of the workshop.
- [97] **Rethinking ISPMs.** The bureau recognized the CPM request for all SPG participants and contracting parties to provide papers on viewpoints regarding the "rethinking" of ISPMs (for the promotion of modern and accessible ISPMs) for consideration to the SPG, which would be reviewed by the IC and SC, prior to the SPG.
- [98] **CPM "Successes and Challenges" session.**¹⁵ The bureau discussed at length suggestions for a CPM-20 (2026) "Successes and Challenges" session, including how to showcase the session with presentations, posters in the FAO atrium and virtual posters.
- [99] The bureau also discussed the need for clarity regarding the role of plant health in the One Health framework and the identity of the IPPC community in utilizing this space. The bureau agreed to revisit this at the October SPG meeting.
- [100] **APP.** The bureau discussed in detail the regional sensitivities regarding the APP, and noted concerns raised at CPM-19 (2025) that the APP (and the wider focus on the African continent) may be perceived as receiving disproportionate resources, potentially excluding other regions and creating disharmony. The bureau acknowledged that some contracting parties may feel overlooked by initiatives such as the APP. The bureau clarified FAO's broader messaging of "leaving no one behind" and suggested to involve various regions in the evaluation of successful programmes, such as the APP, in order to carry through lessons learned into other regions. The bureau discussed the necessity of resource sharing, the possibility of a twinning programme, and the importance of ongoing communication to ensure all regions remained informed. The bureau agreed to revisit this at the June CPM Bureau meeting.

¹⁵ See decision items under agenda item 9.3 (CPM successes and challenges session).

Other issues and lessons learned

[101] Improving the flow of the CPM agenda. The bureau emphasized the importance of a thorough, advance review of the full CPM-20 (2026) agenda to improve the flow of the session, including the strategic rearrangement of items, to ensure a smooth and successful CPM.

- [102] **Translation services.** The bureau noted the feedback received from CPM-19 (2025) regarding the impact of insufficient translation availability during longer, hybrid sessions and its impact on participation and interruptions to session flow. The need to reconsider hybrid delivery of side sessions was discussed.
- [103] **Presenter timings.** The bureau discussed the need for the placement of a visible timer for presenter adherence to timings, noting the secretariat's attempts to accommodate this request during CPM-19 (2025). The option to provide presenters with a timing sheet, similar to the one presented at CPM-19 (2025), was also discussed for CPM-20 (2026).
- [104] Confirmation of decision points. The bureau stressed the need to develop a process for confirming new decision points in advance (for those decisions not listed in conference room papers), rather than through unexpected delivery during the session.
- [105] Bureau participation in side sessions and wider input. The bureau noted the need for members to attend necessary side sessions and for greater involvement in wider organizational aspects to ensure support and enhance the bureau's visibility within CPM. The bureau also noted the need for strengthened internal communications to support this visibility.

13. Arrangements for bureau activities in 2025 (overall)

[106] The bureau confirmed the dates of their meetings in 2025:

- 16–20 June 2025, Rome; and
- 22–24 October 2025, Rome, with the SPG held 27–29 October, Rome.
- [107] The bureau also discussed the reassignment of bureau membership and responsibilities across CPM bodies, including subsidiary bodies and focus groups (Appendix 5). The bureau noted the request from Michelle GRAY (United States) to serve as the new chairperson of the IPPC Financial Committee.
- [108] The bureau:
 - (35) *agreed* to keep the same responsibilities for the incoming bureau members as per the outgoing members, with the exception of adding Mr Barik DRIS (Morocco) as representative of the Harmonization of electronic data exchange; and
 - (36) *agreed* to review the reassignment of all roles and responsibilities listed in appendix 5 at the next CPM Bureau meeting in June, in the presence of all new bureau members.

14. Planning for bureau meeting in June 2025

June 2025 bureau meeting

- [109] The bureau identified the following items for discussion at their meeting in June 2025 (in no particular order):
 - finalization of bureau roles and responsibilities;
 - discussion of a "Success and Challenges" session at CPM-20 (2026), adopting the similar format of the CPM-19 (2025) science session on One Health, and the potential use of a poster series in the atrium:
 - review of the systems approach workshop arrangements; and
 - inclusivity of wider regions in APP evaluation and future programme development.

October 2025 Strategic Planning Group meeting

[110] The bureau noted the following items for review for the SPG meeting agenda in October 2025 (in no particular order):

- IDPH 2026;
- rethinking ISPMs;
- ePhyto governance;
- IPPC Strategic Framework mid-term review;
- CPM Focus Group on Plant Health in the Context of One Health, and next phases for the role of plant health in One Health;
- feedback from contracting parties and international organizations on systems approach workshop; and
- ISPM 15 (*Regulation of wood packaging material in international trade*) pest interception data presentations.

15. Training for new bureau members

[111] The secretariat discussed the training to be delivered for new bureau members, which would include a review of bureau procedures, IPPC Rules of Procedure and SharePoint knowledge management.

16. Any other business (Post-CPM)

- [112] Continuation of bureau member activities as experts. Several outgoing members of the bureau informed the bureau that they would serve as interim experts in their respective roles on the POARS Steering Group and CPM Focus Group on Global Phytosanitary Research Coordination, until their successors were in place, or the required expertise was adequately addressed.
- [113] Media publication with former CPM bureau chairperson. The former CPM Bureau Chairperson, and outgoing Chairperson of the CPM Focus Group on Sea Containers, Gregory WOLFF, informed the bureau of a recent interview with media publication, Sea trade Maritime News, on behalf of the focus group.¹⁶

17. Next meeting

[114] The next meeting of the bureau is scheduled for 16–20 June 2025 in Rome, Italy.

18. Closing of the meeting

[115] The CPM chairperson thanked the bureau members, outgoing and incoming, as well as the secretariat for their participation and efforts at CPM-19 (2025) and closed the meeting.

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¹⁶ https://www.seatrade-maritime.com/containers/is-container-shipping-costing-the-earth-

Appendix 1: Agenda

	AGENDA ITEM	DOCUMENT NO.	PRESENTER
1.	Opening of the meeting	DOCOMENT NO.	IPPC OIC (DDG Bechdol) /
١.			CHAIR
2.	Meeting arrangements		
2.1	Election of the rapporteur		CHAIR
2.2	Adoption of the agenda	01_Bureau_2025_Mar	CHAIR
3.	Administrative matters		
3.1	Document list	02_Bureau_2025_Mar	SENTINELLI/CASSIN
3.2	Participants list	03_Bureau_2025_Mar	SENTINELLI/CASSIN
	Progress Report of the IPPC Secretariat for 2024	Link to IPPC Secretariat paper CPM 2025/05	BECHDOL/IPPC OIC
5.	Review of bureau reports - Length and detail		
	Follow up actions from previous Bureau meetings	Link to October 2024 meeting Link to December 2024 meeting	SENTINELLI/CASSIN
6.1	CPM Focus Group on Sea Containers - Action plan updated for noting.	08_Bureau_2025_Mar	STIRLING / CHAIR?
6.2	Digitization of ISPMs - advice from an IT expert from UK NPPO support the FAO elearning Academy		BISHOP/BRUNEL
6.3	Antimicrobial resistance - Update on questionnaire and survey launch	CPM 2025/49	KOUMBA
6.4	Systems Approach workshop - Any funding updates from contracting parties		CHAIR
	Discussion on the draft commodity standard: International movement of citrus fruit (2023-019) to ISPM 46 (Commodity-specific standards for phytosanitary measures) - Develop a plan for responding to		CHAIR / ALL
	concerns CPM Focus Group on Plant Health in the Context of One Health - Membership confirmation (from eDecision)		BRUNEL
6.7	IPPC ePhyto Solution - Governance system and financial provisions of the IPPC ePhyto Africa	07_Bureau_2025_Mar	BRUNEL/SENTINELLI/BENOVIC / ISLAR
	Report on Review of the SDAs between FAO and UNICC	10_Bureau_2025_Mar	
	- Service Delivery Agreements between FAO and UNICC	11_Bureau_2025_Mar	REYES
	Follow up on Gap analysis of in-house IT expert for ePhyto, and also specifically for new APP work		
6.9		09_Bureau_2025_Mar 04_Bureau_2025_Mar	KOUMBA/DENG

	Drogroop you get an indicate the title			
	Progress report on related staffing			
7.		Link to CPM-19 schedule	SENTINELLI/CASSIN	
	Review of credentials for CPM-19 meeting participants			
	,	Link to CPM-19 agenda	CHAIR / ALL	
8.1	Potential Friends of Chair meetings		CHAIR	
8.2	Is it time to rethink ISPMs?		CHAIR / ALL	
8.3	Potential for CPM Recommendation on AMR		CHAIR	
8.4	Recommendations to CPM in papers	CPM 2025/11 CPM 2025/25	BISHOP / BRUNEL	
	Discussion on the proposed regional communications network and the related survey	CPM 2025/41	CHAIR / FRIO / ALL	
9.	Other Key Issues to be Considered by Bureau			
	Update on the arrangements for the International Day of Plant Health		FRIO/BRUNEL	
	Discuss travel support criteria to ensure that the IC representative (observer) to the SC can receive travel support to attend SC meeting	06_Bureau_2025_Mar	KOUMBA / BRUNEL	
9.3	CPM Successes and challenges session		BRUNEL	
9.4	Regional representation for the CPM focus group on Global Phytosanitary Research Coordination		MATSUI / CASSIN	
9.5	Raising the profile of IPPC, including working with IPPC Secretary/Secretariat, FAO permanent representatives and Commission.		BISHOP	
10	CPM Bureau, SC and IC members and	Link to Bureau	SENTINELLI/CASSIN/	
	potential replacement members - eDecision for IC expert		NERSYSIAN / BRUNEL	
	Any other business - News articles on the IPP - Trademark on the International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM) 15 (Regulation of wood packaging material in international trade - Selection of a bureau champion for the International Day of Plant Health (IDPH)			
12.	Next meeting - 16 – 20 June 2025			
13.	- 16 – 20 June 2025 Closing of the meeting			
	POST CPM-19 (2025)	SESSION (21 March	2025)	
	Canada Room (A356/7)			

1.	Issues arising from CPM-19 for action	CHAIRPERSON (BISHOP)
2.	Arrangements for bureau activities in 2025 (overall)	CHAIRPERSON
	- Review and reasignment of bureau membership of/respnsibilities for CPM bodies, inc. Subsidary bodies andFocus Groups	
3.	Planning for bureau meeting in June 2025	CHAIRPERSON
4.	Training for new bureau members	SECRETARIAT
5.	Any Other Business	ALL
6.	Next Meeting	SECRETARIAT
6.	Closing of the Meeting	CHAIRPERSON

Appendix 2: List of documents

DOCUMENT NO.	AGENDA ITEM	DOCUMENT TITLE	DATE POSTED / DISTRIBUTED
01_Bureau_2025_Mar	2.2	Agenda	2025-03-03 2025-03-07
02_Bureau_2025_Mar	3.1	Documents List	2025-03-04
03_Bureau_2025_Mar	3.2	Participants List	
04_Bureau_2025_Mar	6.9	APP update (progress report)	2025-03-03
05_Bureau_2025_Mar	6.8	Follow up on Gap analysis of in- house IT expert for ePhyto, and also specifically for new APP work	2025-03-03
06_Bureau_2025_Mar	9.2	Discuss travel support criteria to ensure that the IC representative (observer) to the SC can receive travel support to attend SC meeting	2025-03-03
07_Bureau_2025_Mar	6.7	Governance of the IPPC ePhyto Africa Initiative	2025-03-03
08_Bureau_2025_Mar	6.1	Update from CPM Focus Group on Sea Containers	2025-03-04
09_Bureau_2025_Mar	6.9	Keeping the APP housed within the secretariat	2025-03-04
10_Bureau_2025_Mar	6.7	Report on Review of the SDAs between FAO and UNICC	2025-03-04
11_Bureau_2025_Mar	6.7	Service Delivery Agreements between FAO and UNICC	2025-03-07

Appendix 3: List of participants

	Region/ Role	Name, mailing, address, telephone	Email address
√	North America CPM Chairperson	Mr Gregory WOLFF Canadian Food Inspection Agency 59 Camelot Drive Ottawa, Ontario K1A0Y9 CANADA	greg.wolff@inspection.gc.ca
√	Europe	Mr Samuel BISHOP Head of International Plant Health Policy Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs UNITED KINGDOM	sam.bishop@defra.gsi.gov.uk
√	Africa	Mr Jan Hendrik VENTER Director Plant Health Department of Agriculture Land Reform and Rural Development SOUTH AFRICA	janhendrikv@dalrrd.gov.za
✓	Asia	Mr Mamoru MATSUI Director (Operation Division) Kobe Plant Protection Station (PPS), Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan (MAFF) JAPAN	mamoru_matsui430@maff.go.jp
√	Latin America and Caribbean	Mr Diego QUIROGA Director Nacional de Protección Vegetal SENASA ARGENTINA	dquiroga@senasa.gob.ar
√	Near East	Mr Barik Dris Chef de la Division de la Protection des Végétaux Office National de Sécurité Sanitaire des Produits Alimentaires (ONSSA) MOROCCO	dris.barik@onssa.gov.ma; barikdris@gmail.com;
√	Southwest Pacific	Ms Gabrielle VIVIAN SMITH Chief Plant Protection Officer Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forest AUSTRALIA	gabrielle.vivian-smith@aff.gov.au

Observers

Region / Role	Name	Email address
Asia / incoming bureau member		glenn.panganiban@da.gov.ph gfpanganiban@gmail.com_

Region /	Name	Email address
Role		
Southwest Pacific / incoming	Ms Temarama ANGUNA-KAMANA	temarama.anguna@cookislands.gov.ck
bureau member		
USA / incoming bureau	Ms Michelle GRAY	michelle.l.gray@usda.gov
members		
Latin America and Caribbean /	Mr Larry Mauricio RIVERA	larry.rivera@agrocalidad.gob.ec
incoming bureau members	-	

IPPC Secretariat

Region / Role	Name, mailing, address, telephone, nationality	Email address
IPPC Secretariat	Mr Avetik NERSISYAN	Avetik.Nersisyan@fao.org
IPPC Secretariat	Ms Sarah BRUNEL	Sarah.Brunel@fao.org
IPPC Secretariat	Mr Descartes KOUMBA	Descartes.Koumba@fao.org
IPPC Secretariat	Ms Adriana MOREIRA	Adriana.Moreira@fao.org
IPPC Secretariat	Ms Paola SENTINELLI	Paola.Sentinelli@fao.org
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IPPC Secretariat	Ms Mutya FRIO	Mutya.Frio@fao.org
IPPC Secretariat	Ms Aoife CASSIN	Aoife.Cassin@fao.org
IPPC Secretariat	Ms Emma GiBBS	Emma.Gibbs@fao.org

Appendix 4: Membership of the CPM Focus Group on Plant Health in the Context of One Health

FAO Region	Country	Name	Contact details (e-mail)
Africa	Kenya	Mr Henri Edouard Zefack Tonnang International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), Nairobi KENYA Phone: +254 725 797240	htonnang@gmail.com h.tonnang@cgiar.org
Europe and Central Asia	France	Mr Philippe Lucien Reignault French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health Safety (ANSES) Laboratoire de la santé des végétaux / Plant Health Laboratory 7, rue Jean Dixméras FR-49044 Angers cedex 01 FRANCE Phone: + 33 (0)675207075	philippe.reignault@anses.fr
Latin America and Caribbean	Chile	Mr Alvaro Sepúlveda Luque National Plant Protection Organization Av. Santa Rosa # 238, Dep. 113 Santiago de Chile CHILE Phone: +569-66377853	alvaro.sepulveda@sag.gob.cl
Southwest Pacific	Cook Islands	Ms Temarama Rou - Ariki Anguna Kamana Ministry of Agriculture P O Box 96, Arorangi, Rarotonga, COOK ISLANDS Phone: +682 55871	temarama.anguna@cookisland s.gov.ck
Near East and North Africa	Egypt	Ms Heba Salah El-Dein Kassab National Plant Protection Organization 6, Michael Bakhoum St, Dokki, Giza, EGYPT Phone: +201005190669	enghkassab@gmail.com
North America	United States of America	Ms Michelle Gray Plant Protection and Quarantine Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service 11409 Old Creedmoor Road, Raleigh, NC 27613 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA Phone: 919-937-8528	Michelle.L.Gray@usda.gov
FAO Technical Working Group for One Health	FAO	Ms Carmel Bullon The Development Law Service (LEGN), FAO Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Rome, ITALY Phone: +39 06 570 54162	Carmen.Bullon@fao.org
IPPC Secretariat	IPPC	Ms Sarah Brunel IPPC Secretariat, FAO	Sarah.Brunel@fao.org

		Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Rome, ITALY	
		Phone: +39 06 570 53768	
IPPC	IPPC	Ms Rokhila Madaminova	Rokhila.Madaminova@fao.org
Secretariat		IPPC Secretariat, FAO	
		Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Rome,	
		ITALY	
		Phone: +39 06 570 52556	

Appendix 5: Roles, responsibilities and tasks assigned to CPM Bureau members

1. Roles and responsibilities assigned to new CPM bureau members (pending confirmation in June 2025)

Work area	Bureau lead	Date appointed
Strategic Framework developmen	t agenda items	
	Temarama ANGUNA-KAMANA (Southwest Pacific) Barik DRIS (Near East)	2025-03 2025-03
Commodity- and pathway-specific ISPMs		2023-03
postal and courier pathways	Larry Mauricio RIVERA (Latin America and Caribbean)	2025-03
Developing guidance on the use of third-party entities	, ,	2025-03
	Mamba Mamba DAMAS (Africa) with support from with support from Jan (outgoing bureau member for Africa)	2025-03
Assessment and management of climate-change impacts on plant health	` ' '	2023-03
Global phytosanitary research coordination	Glenn PANGANIBAN (Asia)	2025-03
Laboratory diagnostic networking	Mamba Mamba DAMAS (Africa)	2025-03
Committees		
Head of Finance Committee	Michelle GRAY (North America)	2025-03
Standards Committee	Samuel BISHOP (Europe)	2023-03
Implementation and Capacity Development Committee	Michelle GRAY (North America)	2025-03
Task Force on Topics	Larry Mauricio RIVERA (Latin America and Caribbean)	2025-03
Other groups and initiatives		
Containers	Michelle GRAY (North America)	2025-03
CPM Focus Group on Safe Provision of Food and Other Humanitarian Aid	Temarama ANGUNA-KAMANA (Southwest Pacific)	2025-03
CPM Focus Group on One Health	Michelle GRAY (North America)	2025-03
IPPC Observatory Subgroup	Samuel BISHOP (Europe)	2023-06
Africa Phytosanitary Programme	Mamba Mamba DAMAS (Africa) (with involvement of the CPM chairperson)	2025-03
ePhyto Steering Group	Barik DRIS (Near East)	2024-06
	Samuel BISHOP (Europe). Mamba Mamba DAMAS (Africa) Larry Mauricio RIVERA (Latin America and Caribbean)	2025-03

2. Action list

Meeting	Agenda item (decision)	Task	Person or persons responsible	Deadline
2025-03	6.1 (4)	Develop a paper for the with the considerations regarding the decision-making process to determine workshop arrangements	Secretariat	2025-06
2025-03	6.2 (6)	Reconsider the item of digitization of ISPMs at the SPG meeting in October 2025, including any feedback to the item from relevant organizations' meetings	Secretariat	2025-10
2025-03	6.3 (7)	Invite an FAO InFARM expert during the June 2025 CPM Bureau meeting to provide a report on AMR information gathered in the database for future	Secretariat	2025-06

		considerations on the implications for CPM and activities within the CPM Focus Group on Plant Health in the Context of One Health.		
2025-03	6.7 (15)	A thorough analysis of security parameters for UNICC and IPPC system and interfaces (regarding critical application security).	Secretariat	2025
2025-03	6.8 (16)	Develop a proposal on the specific needs, including position descriptions, for the proposed GIS specialist and other IT specialist positions.	Secretariat	2025-06
2025-03	6.9 (18)	Consider a suitable and sustainable long-term strategy for the APP.	Secretariat	2025
2025-03	9.5 (33)	Further discussions on raising the profile of the IPPC and opportunities for wider collaboration (during FAO's 80 th celebration)	All	2025-06
2025-03	11 (34)	Review of the ramifications of the trademark on ISPM 15	Secretariat	2025-10
2025-03	13 (36)	Review the reassignment of all roles and responsibilities	Bureau	2025-06