



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



International
Plant Protection
Convention

REPORT

TECHNICAL PANEL ON COMMODITY STANDARDS

2 October 2024

Virtual meeting

IPPC Secretariat

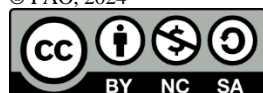
Required Citation:

IPPC Secretariat. 2024. *Report of the meeting of the Technical Panel on Commodity Standards (TPCS), 02 October 2024*. Rome. Published by FAO on behalf of the Secretariat of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC).

The designations employed and the presentation of material in this information product do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) concerning the legal or development status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The mention of specific companies or products of manufacturers, whether or not these have been patented, does not imply that these have been endorsed or recommended by FAO in preference to others of a similar nature that are not mentioned.

The views expressed in this information product are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of FAO.

© FAO, 2024



Some rights reserved. This work is made available under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 3.0 IGO licence (CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO; <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/igo/legalcode>).

Under the terms of this licence, this work may be copied, redistributed and adapted for non-commercial purposes, provided that the work is appropriately cited. In any use of this work, there should be no suggestion that FAO endorses any specific organization, products or services. The use of the FAO logo is not permitted. If the work is adapted, then it must be licensed under the same or equivalent Creative Commons licence. If a translation of this work is created, it must include the following disclaimer along with the required citation: “This translation was not created by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). FAO is not responsible for the content or accuracy of this translation. The original English edition shall be the authoritative edition.”

Disputes arising under the licence that cannot be settled amicably will be resolved by mediation and arbitration as described in Article 8 of the licence except as otherwise provided herein. The applicable mediation rules will be the mediation rules of the World Intellectual Property Organization <http://www.wipo.int/amc/en/mediation/rules> and any arbitration will be conducted in accordance with the Arbitration Rules of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL).

Third-party materials. Users wishing to reuse material from this work that is attributed to a third party, such as tables, figures or images, are responsible for determining whether permission is needed for that reuse and for obtaining permission from the copyright holder. The risk of claims resulting from infringement of any third-party-owned component in the work rests solely with the user.

Sales, rights and licensing. FAO information products are available on the FAO website (<http://www.fao.org/publications>) and can be purchased through publications-sales@fao.org. Requests for commercial use should be submitted via: www.fao.org/contact-us/licence-request. Queries regarding rights and licensing should be submitted to: copyright@fao.org

Contents

1.	Opening of the meeting	4
1.1	Welcome by the IPPC Secretariat	4
2.	Meeting arrangements	4
2.1	Selection of chairperson	4
2.2	Selection of the rapporteur	4
2.3	Adoption of the agenda	4
3.	Administrative matters	4
4.	Review of documents and information material.....	4
4.1	International movement of seeds of <i>Phaseolus vulgaris</i> (2023-008), priority 1 (revised).....	5
4.2	International movement of <i>Citrus</i> fruit (2023-019), priority 1.....	5
4.3	International movement of fresh taro (<i>Colocasia esculenta</i>) for consumption (2023-023), priority 1	6
4.4	International movement of fresh banana (<i>Musa paradisiaca</i>) fruit (2023-028), priority 1.....	7
4.5	Selection of commodity standards to start drafting at December 2024 meeting.....	7
5.	TPCS face-to-face meeting arrangements	8
6.	Any other business.....	8
7.	Next TPCS meeting	8
8.	Close of the meeting	8
	Appendix 1: Agenda.....	9

1. Opening of the meeting

1.1 Welcome by the IPPC Secretariat

- [1] Avetik NERSISYAN, the Standard Setting Unit (SSU) lead, opened the virtual meeting of the Technical Panel on Commodity Standards (TPCS) and welcomed all participants. He recognized the important contribution of the panel, acknowledged the funding provided by the European Union for the development of commodity standards, and pledged the support of the secretariat to the work of the panel.
- [2] Adriana MOREIRA, IPPC Standards Setting Officer and the deputy SSU lead, explained that the main objective of the meeting was to decide which of the new priority 1 commodity standards the TPCS would start to draft at their face-to-face meeting in December. She also welcomed the steward of two of these standards, André Felipe C.P. da SILVA (Brazil), who was attending this meeting as an observer.

2. Meeting arrangements

2.1 Selection of chairperson

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

2.2 Selection of the rapporteur

- [4] The TPCS selected Alfayo OMBUYA (Kenya) as rapporteur.

2.3 Adoption of the agenda

- [5] The TPCS adopted the agenda (Appendix 1), agreeing to add an additional item (agenda item 4.5) on the selection of the next commodity standards to draft.

3. Administrative matters

- [6] The IPPC Secretariat (hereafter referred to as the “secretariat”) invited participants to notify the secretariat of any information that required updating in the membership list or was missing from it.
- [7] The secretariat also informed the TPCS that Martin DAMUS (Canada) had resigned from the panel. The secretariat confirmed that, as per the usual practice, they would raise this at the Standards Committee (SC) meeting in November and ask for approval to open a call for an expert to replace Mr DAMUS.
- [8] The TPCS noted the absence of Eyad MOHAMMED (Syrian Arabic Republic; assistant steward).
- [9] The TPCS:
- (1) *thanked* Martin DAMUS (Canada) for his contribution to the work of the TPCS.

4. Review of documents and information material

- [10] The TPCS reviewed the material that had been submitted in response to the 2024 Call for Information Materials for Commodity Standards, which had closed on 30 September 2024 and had focused on the new subjects assigned priority 1 by the Eighteenth Session of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) in 2024:
- International movement of seeds of *Phaseolus vulgaris* (2023-008);
 - International movement of *Citrus* fruit (2023-019);
 - International movement of fresh taro (*Colocasia esculenta*) for consumption (2023-023); and
 - International movement of fresh banana (*Musa paradisiaca*) fruit (2023-028).
- [11] The TPCS also included the original topic submissions in their review.

¹ TPCS 2023-06, agenda item 2.1.

[12] The chairperson acknowledged that, because of the great amount of effort it required to compile the required information to submit, some countries that may have intended to make a submission may not have been able to do this by the deadline. The TPCS noted that material submitted by China (on all four subjects) was missing from the list of submissions and that submissions from Argentina (on *P. vulgaris*, *Citrus* and banana), Australia (on banana), Kenya (on *P. vulgaris*) and the Republic of Korea (on *P. vulgaris*, *Citrus* and banana) may or would be forthcoming.

[13] The TPCS:

- (2) *requested* that the secretariat investigate the missing material from China to locate it; and
- (3) *agreed* to accept further material submitted shortly after this meeting, and *encouraged* submitters to copy Adriana MOREIRA and Emmanuel KRAH into the email when submitting.

4.1 International movement of seeds of *Phaseolus vulgaris* (2023-008), priority 1

[14] Eight submissions had been received in the call for information materials:² from Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, the European Union, Japan, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand and the International Seed Federation.³ The original submission had been from the Kingdom of the Netherlands.⁴

[15] In response to a question about whether a link to a website was sufficient, the chairperson commented that the TPCS would need to assess the usefulness of the information and, for inclusion of pests and measures, use the criteria from ISPM 46 (*Commodity-specific standards for phytosanitary measures*).

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

[16] Six submissions had been received in the call for information materials: from Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, the European Union, Japan and Spain.⁵ The original submission had been from New Zealand.⁶

[17] The TPCS noted that the information submitted in the original proposal for the draft annex *International movement of fresh orange (Citrus sinensis) fruit* (2023-027), which had been assigned priority 2 by CPM-18 (2024), would also be useful in developing the standard on *Citrus* fruit (2023-019).

[18] The TPCS noted that the submissions received in response to the call for information materials appeared to be for all *Citrus* species and did not distinguish pests and measures between different *Citrus* species. In contrast, the original submission from New Zealand had only been for seven species, which all had similar pest profiles and measures.

[19] The TPCS noted that there was some ambiguity about whether the SC and CPM had intended for the scope to be multiple species (i.e. the seven species in the original submission) or all species, and the call for information had not mentioned that the scope was restricted to seven species.

[20] The TPCS recognized that some legislation did not distinguish between different species of *Citrus*, but where a submitter had provided a list of pests that were associated with all species of *Citrus*, this list should apply to each of the seven species in the original submission. However, the measures may vary between species of *Citrus*. Hence, it would be necessary to clarify with the submitters of technical

² 03_TPCS_Tel_2024_Oct (Brazil); 04_TPCS_Tel_2024_Oct (Chile); 05_TPCS_Tel_2024_Oct (Ecuador); 06_TPCS_Tel_2024_Oct (the European Union); 07_TPCS_Tel_2024_Oct (Japan); 08_TPCS_Tel_2024_Oct (Kingdom of the Netherlands); 09_TPCS_Tel_2024_Oct (New Zealand); 10_TPCS_Tel_2024_Oct (International Seed Federation).

³ At the time of this meeting, the information on *P. vulgaris* from the International Seed Federation was thought to have been submitted by the NPPO of Switzerland, but the secretariat confirmed at a later date that it was actually from the International Seed Federation.

⁴ 02_TPCS_Tel_2024_Oct (Kingdom of the Netherlands).

⁵ 12_TPCS_Tel_2024_Oct (Brazil); 13_TPCS_Tel_2024_Oct (Chile); 14_TPCS_Tel_2024_Oct (Ecuador); 15_TPCS_Tel_2024_Oct (the European Union); 16_TPCS_Tel_2024_Oct (Japan); 17_TPCS_Tel_2024_Oct (Spain).

⁶ 11_TPCS_Tel_2024_Oct (New Zealand).

information whether the pests and measures listed applied to particular species or to all species of *Citrus*. The TPCS Steward, Joanne WILSON (New Zealand), and the chairperson both expressed the view that, whatever the responses to this question, a standard could be still be drafted.

- [21] The steward of the draft annex *International movement of Citrus fruit* (2023-019), André Felipe C.P. da SILVA (Brazil), and the secretariat both recalled the SC's view that if a standard on *Citrus* proved not to be feasible, the TPCS could go back to the SC to ask to start work on the draft annex *International movement of fresh orange (Citrus sinensis) fruit* (2023-027).
- [22] The TPCS recognized that the feasibility of drafting a standard for all *Citrus* species may only become apparent when drafting the section on measures. They also noted that there may only be a limited number of *Citrus* species moving in international trade, which may affect the scope of the standard.
- [23] The chairperson therefore suggested that the TPCS try to draft a standard for all *Citrus* species in the first instance and if, that was not possible, try just the seven species. If the latter was not possible, then the TPCS could go back to the SC to ask to start work on the draft annex *International movement of fresh orange (Citrus sinensis) fruit* (2023-027).
- [24] The TPCS:
- (4) *agreed* to add the information in the original submission for the draft annex *International movement of fresh orange (Citrus sinensis) fruit* (2023-027) to the list of materials to be reviewed by the TPCS in drafting the annex *International movement of Citrus fruit* (2023-019);
 - (5) *requested* that the secretariat contact the submitters of information materials for the draft annex *International movement of Citrus fruit* (2023-019) to clarify the *Citrus* species applicable to the pests and measures listed in their submission and to confirm which *Citrus* species they import and export;
 - (6) *requested* that countries that had yet to submit their information materials for the annex *International movement of Citrus fruit* (2023-019) specify the *Citrus* species applicable to the pest and measures in their submission; and
 - (7) *agreed* that, when drafting for the annex *International movement of Citrus fruit* (2023-019), they would try to draft a standard for all *Citrus* species in the first instance and if, that was not possible, try a multi-species standard focusing on the seven species identified in the original submission by New Zealand (with options for measures being species-specific where appropriate).

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

- [25] Three submissions had been received in the call for information materials: from Australia, New Zealand and Japan.⁷ The original submission had been from the Pacific Plant Protection Organisation (PPPO).⁸
- [26] The TPCS noted that this standard could be relatively easy to draft, as not much information had been submitted. They also recognized, however, that with so little information there was a risk of producing a standard that had an incomplete pest list and very few measures. The submission from New Zealand, for example, had mentioned only one measure – inspection.
- [27] The TPCS noted that, as taro is not widely traded internationally, a regional standard may be more appropriate. The chairperson confirmed, however, that the Asia and Pacific Plant Protection Commission had no plans to develop such a standard for taro.

⁷ 27_TPCS_Tel_2024_Oct (Australia); 19_TPCS_Tel_2024_Oct (New Zealand); 20_TPCS_Tel_2024_Oct (Japan).

⁸ 18_TPCS_Tel_2024_Oct (PPPO).

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

- [28] Five submissions had been received in the call for information materials: from Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Japan and New Zealand.⁹ The original submission had been from Comité de Sanidad Vegetal del Cono Sur (COSAVE).¹⁰
- [29] The TPCS noted that, in addition to the proposal that had been agreed by CPM-18 (2024) – *International movement of fresh banana (Musa paradisiaca) fruit (2023-028)* – China had submitted a proposal for banana, but the latter had been received after the deadline and so had not been recommended to the CPM by the Task Force on Topics. The TPCS noted, however, that the material would be useful in drafting 2023-028 (pending any further submission from China: see above regarding missing submissions from China).
- [30] The TPCS recognized that the banana standard would be relatively easy to develop, based on the information received thus far.

4.5 Selection of commodity standards to start drafting at December 2024 meeting

- [31] Regarding the criteria to use when selecting which subjects to work on, the TPCS recalled the criteria discussed previously by the TPCS, which had included the completeness and quality of the information, the feasibility of drafting the standard, and the impact the standard would have on trade. They also noted that, for pests and measures, criteria were specified in ISPM 46.
- [32] The secretariat explained that the aim was to start drafting two commodity standards at the meeting in December. However, this was purely on grounds of feasibility and there had been no explicit decision on it by the SC or the CPM, as all four subjects were priority 1.
- [33] The TPCS members expressed their preferences for which subjects to start on. Reasons for preferences (in no particular order) included:
- the amount of information on associated pests (banana);
 - the impact on international trade (*Citrus* and banana being widely traded);
 - the ease of development (the standards on *P. vulgaris*, taro and banana being relatively easy);
 - the opportunity to explore how to draft a standard for a group of species (*Citrus*);
 - the opportunity to draft two standards, each with a different intended use (*P. vulgaris* seed for planting, banana fruit for consumption);
 - the feasibility of the relevant stewards attending the meeting (noting that the steward for *Citrus* and banana was the same person and was present at this meeting so could confirm his availability, and the steward for taro was located in the host country for the meeting).
- [34] The TPCS agreed to start work on *Citrus* and banana first, because of the wide impact on international trade and the quantity of available information. This combination also balanced a complex standard (*Citrus*) with one that was likely to be relatively easy (banana). The steward for these two subjects confirmed that he could attend the December meeting and the TPCS steward emphasized that she and her assistant stewards would support him in his tasks. If the *Citrus* standard proved too difficult, the TPCS noted that they could continue to work on it after the December meeting and finish it at a later date.
- [35] The TPCS agreed that the taro standard would be a backup, given that the steward was located in the host country and the standard should be relatively easy to draft.

⁹ 22_TPCS_Tel_2024_Oct (Brazil); 23_TPCS_Tel_2024_Oct (Chile); 24_TPCS_Tel_2024_Oct (Ecuador); 25_TPCS_Tel_2024_Oct (Japan); 26_TPCS_Tel_2024_Oct (New Zealand).

¹⁰ 21_TPCS_Tel_2024_Oct (COSAVE).

[36] The TPCS agreed not to focus on the *P. vulgaris* standard at this stage, because there might be some difficulty in drafting the standard from the submitted information and there was also the question of whether the standard would be better placed as an annex of ISPM 38 (*International movement of seeds*) rather than ISPM 46.

[37] Lihong ZHU (New Zealand) commented on the possibility of New Zealand hosting the 2025 face-to-face TPCS meeting but explained that the meeting would need to be in the first six months, in which case any drafts deferred in December 2024 would not have to wait long before further development. The secretariat noted that this may present difficulties for some TPCS members if it fell in the same fiscal year as the December 2024 meeting; however, plans for the 2025 meeting would be discussed at the December meeting.

[38] The TPCS:

- (8) *agreed* to include the following commodity standards in the agenda for their December 2024 meeting – *International movement of Citrus fruit* (2023-019) and *International movement of fresh banana* (*Musa paradisiaca*) *fruit* (2023-028), with *International movement of fresh taro* (*Colocasia esculenta*) *for consumption* (2023-023) in reserve.

5. TPCS face-to-face meeting arrangements

[39] The secretariat confirmed that official invitations to the December 2024 would be sent out shortly after the meeting, followed by the provisional agenda. André Felipe C.P. da SILVA (Brazil), steward of the *Citrus* and banana standards would be invited, as well as Sophie PETERSON (Australia), steward of the taro standard.

6. Any other business

[40] The steward of the *Citrus* and banana standards asked whether it was intended that this next batch of standards have the same structure as the draft mango standard. The TPCS steward referred to ISPM 46, which sets out the basic structure, and commented that she assumed that the banana standard was likely to be the same structure as the mango standard but that the structure may need to be adjusted for the *Citrus* standard.

7. Next TPCS meeting

[41] The next meeting will be held in virtual mode on 13 November at 10.00–12.00 CET (Rome time).

[42] The TPCS agreed that the November virtual meeting would focus on identifying any gaps in the information submitted for the draft standards to be developed at the December 2024 meeting. It would also include consideration of any general themes arising from the second consultation on the draft mango standard, with a view to better addressing such problems in future.

[43] The next face-to-face meeting will be held on 2–6 December 2024 in Canberra, Australia.

8. Close of the meeting

[44] The chairperson and the SSU lead thanked the participants, and the chairperson closed the meeting.

Appendix 1: Agenda

Agenda Item		Document No.	Presenter
1.	Opening of the Meeting		
1.1	Welcome by the IPPC Secretariat	--	IPPC Secretariat (MOREIRA)
2.	Meeting Arrangements		
2.1	Selection of Chairperson	--	MOREIRA
2.2	Selection of the Rapporteur	--	Chairperson
2.3	Adoption of the Agenda	01_TPCS_Tel_2024_Oct	Chairperson
3.	Administrative Matters		
3.1	TPCS membership list	TPCS membership list	KRAH
3.2	Connections to Zoom and virtual meetings	Short guidelines for participants	
4.	Review of documents and information material		
4.1	International movement of seeds of <i>Phaseolus vulgaris</i> (2023-008), priority 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Original submission: NETHERLANDS (2023 Call for topics) ❖ Paper submitted by BRAZIL ❖ Paper submitted by CHILE ❖ Paper submitted by ECUADOR ❖ Paper submitted by EU ❖ Paper submitted by JAPAN ❖ Paper submitted by NETHERLANDS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annex 1 ❖ Paper submitted by NEW ZEALAND ❖ Paper submitted by SWITZERLAND <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ISF Regulated Pests Export 	02_TPCS_Tel_2024_Oct 03_TPCS_Tel_2024_Oct 04_TPCS_Tel_2024_Oct 05_TPCS_Tel_2024_Oct 06_TPCS_Tel_2024_Oct 07_TPCS_Tel_2024_Oct 08_TPCS_Tel_2024_Oct 09_TPCS_Tel_2024_Oct 10_TPCS_Tel_2024_Oct	-
4.2	International movement of Citrus fruit (2023-019), priority 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Original submission: NEW ZEALAND (2023 Call for topics) ❖ Paper submitted by BRAZIL ❖ Paper submitted by CHILE ❖ Paper submitted by ECUADOR ❖ Paper submitted by EU ❖ Paper submitted by JAPAN ❖ Paper submitted by SPAIN 	11_TPCS_Tel_2024_Oct 12_TPCS_Tel_2024_Oct 13_TPCS_Tel_2024_Oct 14_TPCS_Tel_2024_Oct 15_TPCS_Tel_2024_Oct 16_TPCS_Tel_2024_Oct 17_TPCS_Tel_2024_Oct	-

Agenda Item	Document No.	Presenter
4.3	<p>International movement of fresh taro (<i>Colocasia esculenta</i>) for consumption (2023-023), priority 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Original submission: PPPO (2023 Call for topics) ❖ Paper submitted by NEW ZEALAND ❖ Paper submitted by JAPAN ❖ Paper submitted by AUSTRALIA 	<p>18_TPCS_Tel_2024_Oct 19_TPCS_Tel_2024_Oct 20_TPCS_Tel_2024_Oct 27_TPCS_Tel_2024_Oct</p> <p>-</p>
4.4	<p>International movement of fresh banana (<i>Musa paradisiaca</i>) fruit (2023-028), priority 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Original submission: COSAVE (2023 Call for topics) ❖ Paper submitted by BRAZIL ❖ Paper submitted by CHILE ❖ Paper submitted by ECUADOR ❖ Paper submitted by JAPAN ❖ Paper submitted by NEW ZEALAND 	<p>21_TPCS_Tel_2024_Oct 22_TPCS_Tel_2024_Oct 23_TPCS_Tel_2024_Oct 24_TPCS_Tel_2024_Oct 25_TPCS_Tel_2024_Oct 26_TPCS_Tel_2024_Oct</p> <p>-</p>
4.5	<p>Topics selected</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ International movement of Citrus fruit (2023-019), priority 1 ❖ International movement of fresh banana (<i>Musa paradisiaca</i>) fruit (2023-028), priority 1 ❖ International movement of fresh taro (<i>Colocasia esculenta</i>) for consumption (2023-023) 	<p>ALL</p>
5	TPCS face-face meeting arrangements	MOREIRA / ALL
6.	Any other business	-- Chairperson
7.	Next TPCS meeting	KRAH / Chairperson
8.	Closing of the meeting	-- IPPC Secretariat / Chairperson