

(APP) Phase 2 · Train-the-Trainer workshop 23–27 June 2025 · Mpumalanga, South Africa

Global Coordination Group recommendations for APP implementation

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Global Coordination Group





IPPC Secretariat. 2024. Terms of Reference – Africa Phytosanitary Programme (APP) Operational Coordination Group (OCG).

Rome. FAO on behalf of the Secretariat of the International Plant Protection Convention. [with DOI at end, when provided by OCCP]

TERMS OF REFERENCE – AFRICA PHYTOSANITARY PROGRAMME (APP) OPERATIONAL COORDINATION GROUP (OCG)

1. Background

- [1] The Africa Phytosanitary Programme (APP) is an IPPC initiative, in collaboration with FAO and the African Union Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy, and Sustainable Environment, which aims to empower plant health national authorities, namely, National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs) and stakeholders, with the capacity necessary to rapidly detect and respond to plant pests that have regulatory, economic, and environmental consequences. The overall goal of APP is to safeguard agricultural production and natural resources against pests and to facilitate the safe trade of agricultural products, hence contributing to sustainable food security, human health and economic growth. The APP is aligned with the IPPC's Strategic Framework 2020-2030, FAO Strategic Action Plan 2022-2031, and the African Union's Plant Health Strategy for Africa 2022-2036.
- [2] The IPPC is applying a phased-in strategy for APP with the pilot phase involving 11 countries (Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Mali, Morocco, Sierra Leone, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe), which were nominated by member countries in each of the five sub-regions in Africa in consultation with their Regional Economic Communities (RECs). Using the same initial process, the plan for the rest of the countries in Africa is to join APP over the next four-five years, with the aim to include all 54 countries by 2027.
- [3] The IPPC Secretariat in collaboration with USDA-APHIS and FAO regional office for Near East organized a hands-on train the trainer workshop involving 100 plant health specialists drawn from the 11 pilot countries held in September 2023 in Cairo, Egypt.
- [4] As the APP enters its operational phase at the field level, there is an urgent need to establish the governance structures, one of which is the Operational Coordination Group (OCG) whose terms of reference (ToRs) are formulated in this paper for its establishment.

African Phytosanitary Programme

Online meeting of the Operational Coordination Group June 2nd, 2025

Memberships

The operational coordination group (OCG) comprises 14 individuals with knowledge of the IPPC APP's goals and activities.

- (5) Members representing NPPO;
- (2) Representatives of the two RPPO (AU-IAPSC and NEPPO);
- (5) Representatives of the five RECs (ECOWAS, ECCAS, SADC, EAC and UMA);
- (2) Representative of the FAO sub-regional and country offices.



Africa Phytosanitary Programme · 23–27 June 2025

Recommendations for APP implementation

■To IPPC

The OCG appreciates the IPPC's support in developing and implementing the Africa Phytosanitary Programme. We recommend that the IPPC:

- 1. Secure sustainable funding for the programme to accelerate its implementation across Africa.
- 2. Organize meetings with all groups—Coordination, Technical, and Communication—twice a year to gather feedback and track the progress of the Africa Phytosanitary Programme.
- 3. Support RPPOs in this initiative by providing one dedicated support staff member.
- 4. Communicate APP by developing awareness materials, reporting on day-to-day activities per country, using diverse pathways.

Recommendations for APP implementation

To Donors

The OCG appreciates the significant contributions and support provided by the United States of America, the European Union, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for the implementation of the APP.

The OCG is thankful for the mobilization of the FAO, which has provided essential support for the meetings.

The OCG acknowledges the assistance from COLEAD that enabled Senegal to participate in the APP training of trainers and to receive tablets.

The OCG encourages donors to continue their support for the remaining countries and, if possible, to increase their contributions. We also call for further support and resources.

Recommendations for APP implementation

■ To NPPOs

The OCG acknowledged the significant efforts made by the pilot countries and also made the following recommendations:

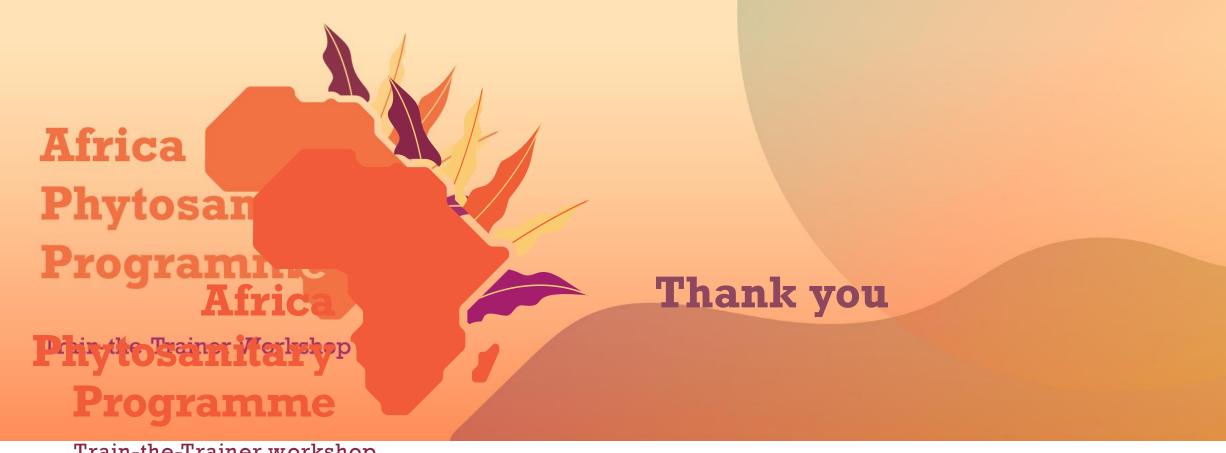
- 1. The pilot countries should share information with other NPPOs, RECs, and RPPOs.
- 2. Each pilot country should designate one focal person to oversee the program.
- 3. NPPOs are encouraged to take ownership of the initiative and consolidate resources at the national level, including support from local donors.

Recommendations for APP implementation

■ To the Operational Coordination Group

To create a work plan and schedule regular meetings.

To continue with the selection process for the incoming countries.



Train-the-Trainer workshop

IPPC Secretariat

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