



SPECIFICATION

TP 1

Technical Panel on Diagnostic Protocols

(2023)

Title

Technical Panel on Diagnostic Protocols (2004-002).

Reason for the technical panel

Proper pest detection and pest identification are crucial for the appropriate application of phytosanitary measures. In particular, contracting parties need proper diagnostic procedures for determination of pest status and pest reporting (ISPM 8 *Determination of pest status in an area*; ISPM 17, *Pest reporting*), and the diagnosis of pests in imported consignments (ISPM 13 *Guidelines for the notification of non-compliance and emergency action*). ICPM-6 (2004) recognized that there was a need for international diagnostic protocols within the framework of the IPPC and approved the formation of a technical panel on diagnostic protocols.

Scope and purpose

The Technical Panel on Diagnostic Protocols (TPDP) develops diagnostic protocols (DPs) within the framework of ISPM 27 (*Diagnostic protocols for regulated pests*) and develops guidance on related issues.

Tasks

The TPDP should undertake the following:

- (1) Identify the need for DPs to be developed based on the guidance paper on “*Criteria for the prioritisation of diagnostic protocols*” (TPDP, July 2010), including considering suggestions for new DPs (i.e. put forward by national plant protection organizations (NPPOs), regional plant protection organizations, expert working groups (EWGs) or other technical panels), and submit subjects for new protocols to the Standards Committee (SC).
- (2) Identify specialists for the development or revision of a DP (authors, editorial team, experts to be consulted) and if applicable provide advice to the SC accordingly.
- (3) Produce or supervise the production or revision of DPs.
- (4) Submit draft DPs to the SC.
- (5) Review adopted DPs regularly, identify the need for revising DPs and submit revisions to the SC.
- (6) Consider aspects of quality assurance related to the development of DPs and their application. Where necessary establish general guidance on the criteria for methods to be included in DPs (e.g. validation).

- (7) Provide specific advice to the SC and other technical panels or EWGs on issues related to the correct nomenclature of pests.
- (8) Under the direction of the SC, consider other topics related to diagnosis of regulated pests.
- (9) Review appropriate draft International Organization for Standardization (ISO) standards, identify standards of significance for the IPPC, and seek guidance from the SC on whether to provide comments to ISO.
- (10) In drafting an ISPM, consider whether the new standard could affect in a specific way (positively or negatively) the protection of biodiversity and the environment, and if so, the impact should be identified, addressed and clarified in the draft standard.
- (11) Consider implementation of standards by contracting parties and identify potential operational and technical implementation issues. Provide information and possible recommendations on these issues to the SC.

Provision of resources

Funding for the meeting is provided by the IPPC Secretariat (FAO). As recommended by ICPM-2 (1999), whenever possible, those participating in standard setting activities voluntarily fund their travel and subsistence to attend meetings. Participants may request financial assistance, with the understanding that resources are limited and the priority for financial assistance is given to developing country participants. Please refer to the *Criteria used for prioritizing participants to receive travel assistance to attend meetings organized by the IPPC Secretariat* posted on the IPP (see <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/>).

Steward

Please refer to the list of topics for IPPC standards posted on the IPP (see <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/standards-setting/list-topics-ippc-standards/list>).

Expertise

Members of this panel should primarily have diagnostic expertise (where appropriate taxonomic) with at least one member representing each discipline: entomology, acarology, nematology, mycology, bacteriology, virology (including viroids and phytoplasma) and botany. Between them, participants should have practical expertise in the use of morphological and molecular/biochemical diagnostic techniques, in quality assurance and in phytosanitary procedures.

Participants

Details of TPDP membership may be found on the IPP:

<https://www.ippc.int/en/commission/standards-committee/technical-panels/technical-panel-diagnostic-protocols/>. Panel members are selected by the SC for a 5-year term. The SC reviews the composition of the panel on a regular basis. The SC may renew individual memberships for additional terms.

The SC in November 2012 agreed that the TPDP could invite to their meetings lead authors or members of DP drafting groups when their DP is being reviewed.

References

The IPPC, relevant ISPMs and other national, regional and international standards and agreements as may be applicable to the tasks, and discussion papers submitted in relation to this work. For example:

- . European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (EPPO) DPs
- . International Seed Testing Association.

Discussion papers

Participants and interested parties are encouraged to submit discussion papers to the IPPC Secretariat (ippc@fao.org) for consideration by the technical panel.

Publication history

This is not an official part of the specification

2004-04 ICPM-6 added topic *Diagnostic protocols for specific pests* (2004-002)

2004-04 SC approved specification

2004-11 SC revised and approved specification (rev. 1)

2007-05 SC revised and approved specification (rev. 2)

2011-05 SC revised and approved specification (rev. 3)

2011-11 reformatted

2011-12 applied consistency in line with the decision made by SC May 2009

2012-04 SC added task 9 and approved specification (rev. 4)

2012-11 SC replaced task regarding implementation issues

2013-03 Secretariat corrected publication history

2022-11 TPDP revised specification

2023-05 SC approved the revision of the specification (rev. 5)

Specification TP1. 2023. Technical Panel on Diagnostic Protocols. Rome, IPPC, FAO.

Publication history last updated: July 2025