



COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

TWENTIETH SESSION

UPDATE ON PHYTOSANITARY CAPACITY EVALUATIONS (PCEs)

AGENDA ITEM 15.2

(Prepared by the IPPC Secretariat)

1. Introduction

- [1] Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluations (PCEs) remain a core IPPC implementation mechanism, supporting contracting parties (CPs) to strengthen their national phytosanitary systems. Since the update delivered to [CPM-19](#),¹ implementation of the PCE Improvement Roadmap² has advanced significantly, aligned with the PCE Strategy 2020–2030, which defines six key result areas (KRAs) to strengthen national phytosanitary systems and implement the recommendations from the PCE desk study conducted in 2023.

2. Refresher: Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation Overview

- [2] CPs that request and carry out PCEs in their countries are empowered to develop national phytosanitary capacity development strategies, outlining pathways to achieve their desired phytosanitary goals. By selecting the legislation module within the PCE process, countries can also revise existing laws/regulations or create new ones to support their strategies. Guided by this strategy, national plant protection organizations (NPPOs) then work to implement the identified activities and reforms to address critical phytosanitary capacity gaps. Transitioning from diagnosis to action, countries can leverage their PCE results to address critical capacity gaps, mobilize resources and ultimately strengthen their plant health systems.

2.1 Modalities to access a PCE

- [3] Each of the three modalities for conducting PCEs offers a structured approach, with varying degrees of support from IPPC-certified PCE facilitators and the IPPC Secretariat:
- **Modality A: Facilitated with secretariat support.** This option provides technical guidance from both an IPPC-certified PCE facilitator and the secretariat, ensuring adequate oversight and support throughout the process;
 - **Modality B: Facilitated without secretariat support.** In this modality, the evaluation is conducted with the support of an IPPC-certified PCE facilitator but without direct involvement from the secretariat; and
 - **Modality C: Independent (NPPO-led).** The NPPO assumes full responsibility for the PCE process, managing it independently without support from the secretariat or IPPC-certified PCE facilitators. Consequently, the secretariat does not oversee the PCE process, cannot guarantee that the resulting national phytosanitary capacity development strategy is fully aligned with quality PCE standards, and is not involved in promoting or facilitating the implementation of the strategy.

¹ CPM 19 – 2025 Update on the Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation

² Approved by the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC) in May 2024 and revised in November 2024

- [4] Access to and use of the online PCE system is subject to FAO Terms and Conditions, ensuring confidentiality, secure data management and appropriate use of country-owned information.³

3. Strategic achievements since CPM-19

- [5] The following strategic achievements have been attained since last CPM, with funding from the European Commission project [Strengthening Food Control and Phytosanitary Capacities and Governance \(GCP/GLO/949/EC\)](#):

- E-learning on the PCE available in [English](#),⁴ French,⁵ and Spanish;⁶
- Building on PCE-delivered strategies, eight countries under the GLO/949 project have developed donor-ready project proposals;
- Uganda secured EUR 8 million and USD 5.5 million to strengthen its phytosanitary systems.
- Rwanda mobilized USD 200 000 from TradeMark Africa; and
- Key publications now support PCE long-term impacts:
 - The [Assessing and Advancing Phytosanitary Capabilities in Targeted Countries in Eastern and Southern Africa: A Pathway to Resilient Agriculture](#)⁷ shows the scale of impact.
 - The [Phytosanitary Systems and Agricultural Development: Modeling the Impact of Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluations in Africa](#)⁸ demonstrates that sustained, programmatic interventions, not just single events, are essential for delivering durable, long-term gains in agricultural GDP and export volumes.
 - Integration of gender and youth [How to Integrate Gender and Youth in Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluations \(PCE\)](#)⁹
- The PCE improvement process was promoted during the Feedback Workshop on Enhancing the PCE Process with Insights from the GLO/949 Project, conducted in April 2025, bringing together national coordinators from participating countries, certified PCE facilitators, and technical inputs from complementary assessment frameworks, including the WOA¹⁰ Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) Pathway and the FAO/WHO Food Control System Assessment Tool. The workshop generated practical, collectively agreed recommendations which will be further assessed and progressively implemented during 2026 and subsequent years.

4. Core strategic challenges and 2026 outlook

- [6] Sustainable funding for future PCE long-term maintenance and improvement remains the single most significant risk to the PCE process. The current funding model is insufficient to support this critical task. Securing a stable funding line is paramount.
- [7] While workshops dedicated to improving the PCE process have defined what needs to be done to modernize the PCE online system, execution of the upgrades is the next major challenge. Executing the upgrades will require dedicated efforts and resources from 2026 onwards to ensure the online system remains reliable, user-friendly and secure.

³ [Terms and conditions for using the online PCE system.pdf](#)

⁴ [Course: Conducting a phytosanitary capacity evaluation | FAO elearning Academy](#)

⁵ [Cours : Mener une évaluation des capacités phytosanitaires | Académie Numérique de la FAO](#)

⁶ [Curso: Realizar una evaluación de la capacidad fitosanitaria | Academia de aprendizaje electrónico de la FAO](#)

⁷ [Assessing and Advancing Phytosanitary Capabilities in Targeted Countries in Eastern and Southern Africa: A Pathway to Resilient Agriculture](#)

⁸ [Phytosanitary Systems and Agricultural Development: Modeling the Impact of Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluations in Africa](#)

⁹ [Guidance on how to integrate gender and youth in phytosanitary capacity evaluations](#)

¹⁰ World Organisation for Animal Health

5. Recent PCE implementation in countries

- [8] Since CPM-19, PCE implementation has continued across the globe. Information on PCEs completed in previous years is available on the PCE section of the International Phytosanitary Portal.¹¹ An overview of completed, ongoing and PCEs requested by CPs is provided in Table 1.

Table 1: Overview of the recent Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluations, Ongoing and Requested

Country/Region	Status	Modality	Funding Source
Completed			
Egypt	Completed 2025	A	GCP/GLO/949/EC
Ongoing			
Lao PDR	Ongoing	B	TCP/RAS/4002 (FAO Asia Office)
Mali	Ongoing	B	Self-funded
Pakistan	Ongoing	B	TCP/RAS/4002 (FAO Asia Office)
Viet Nam	Ongoing	B	TCP/RAS/4002 (FAO Asia Office)
Not started			
Burkina Faso	Not started	To be confirmed	STDF
Cameroon	Not started	A	STDF Central Africa
Chad	Not started	A	STDF Central Africa
Central African Republic	Not started	A	STDF Central Africa
Congo	Not started	A	STDF Central Africa
Equatorial Guinea	Not started	A	STDF Central Africa
Gabon	Not started	A	STDF Central Africa
Lebanon	Not started	B	TCP/LEB/4005
Philippines	Not started	B	Self-funded
Requested			
Eritrea	Requested	To be confirmed	To be confirmed
Guatemala	Requested	To be confirmed	To be confirmed
Panama	Requested	To be confirmed	To be confirmed
Togo	Requested	To be confirmed	To be confirmed

6. Evaluation of the PCE Roadmap implementation and strategic impact

- [9] Since CPM-19, the secretariat has advanced implementation of the PCE Improvement Roadmap developed following the 2023 desk study.¹² Progress has been achieved across all six key result areas of the PCE Strategy 2020–2030 with notable momentum gained in expanding awareness and uptake of the PCE process, strengthening the facilitators network, and updates to core tools. Work requiring sustained investment, particularly modernization of the PCE online platform, long-term funding, and development of a structured monitoring framework, remains in progress and will be prioritized to enhance the PCE process.

KRA 1: Countries, donors and development organizations are aware of the PCE process and understand the benefits of its application

- [10] The PCE process continued to demonstrate value and has been a catalyst for investment and system strengthening. Uganda and Rwanda mobilized new external and national financial resources directly informed by PCE priorities (Uganda: EUR 8 million in EU funding and USD 5.5 million from the national budget; Rwanda: USD 200 000 from TradeMark Africa), reinforcing the effectiveness of PCEs in transforming assessments into implementable reform pathways.
- [11] Eight Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) countries completed donor-ready project proposals based on PCE outcomes, covering legislation, diagnostics, surveillance, export

¹¹ [Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation \(PCE\) - International Plant Protection Convention](#)

¹² [VM 2024_03_PCE_Desk_Study_Report_Final_Version_-_Resolved_Comments.pdf](#)

systems and institutional strengthening. These outputs demonstrate enhanced national ownership and readiness to operationalize PCE-derived strategies.

- [12] In 2025, Ethiopia mobilized USD 1 million project grant from the Standards and Trade Development Facility following the preparation of a Project Preparation Grant¹³ to leverage the outputs of the PCE it conducted in 2024.
- [13] Two major analytical studies were completed: a regional diagnostic study in 11 COMESA countries [Assessing and Advancing Phytosanitary Capabilities in Targeted Countries in Eastern and Southern Africa: A Pathway to Resilient Agriculture](#), and in close collaboration with the African Union-Inter-Africa Phytosanitary Council, the study [Phytosanitary Systems and Agricultural Development: Modeling the Impact of Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluations in Africa](#)
- [14] The secretariat disseminated news and spotlight web stories on a number of countries that showcased progress in strengthening phytosanitary systems and leveraging the PCE process to improve agricultural trade and phytosanitary systems. An introductory video [Protecting plants: How Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluations strengthen plant health systems](#) is available on the FAO YouTube channel.
- [15] Next steps:
- Continue strengthening visibility and understanding of how PCE process benefits through dissemination of analytical studies, country success stories and short explanatory materials across IPPC communication channels; and
 - Promote regional and institutional partnerships to reinforce shared understanding of the value of the PCE process while promoting awareness beyond individual countries.

KRA 2: Long-term sustainable funding is in place to support the maintenance and administration of the PCE process, and resources are mobilized to support the application of PCEs

- [16] Work to improve transparency on PCE implementation costs was completed and presented to governing bodies, fulfilling the first roadmap objective. The development of a resource mobilization plan is underway, and governing bodies have already signaled political support for dedicated funding. At the same time, CPM-19 asked the IPPC Secretary to consider the allocation of USD 50 000 from the regular budget for PCE-related activities.
- [17] In Central Africa, the technical component of PCEs in five countries¹⁴ will be supported through funding arrangements linked to IPPC ePhyto Solution implementation activities, enabling synergies between capacity assessment and digital phytosanitary certification.
- [18] Next steps:
- Maintain support for ongoing and newly requested PCEs, based on available resources and support mobilization of resources for PCE implementation.

KRA 3: The PCE online platform is reliable, effective and easy to use

- [19] Requirements for upgrading the PCE online platform were clarified through facilitator and country-based consultations. Desired improvements include enhanced usability, collaborative features, analytics, dashboard tracking and integration with national data systems. System development has not yet begun and will require both technical and financial resources. Opportunities to align with other assessment platforms, including the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) Pathway, are being explored to promote shared learning.

¹³ STDF/PPG/945 [Evaluating Ethiopia's phytosanitary capacity](#) | STDF

¹⁴ Cameroon, Chad, Central African Republic, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon

[20] Next steps:

- Finalize technical specifications for the upgraded system based on facilitator and country consultations; and
- Launch a competitive procurement process and begin phased development once resources are secured.

KRA 4: The PCE tool is revised and updated regularly, and new modules and strategic planning tools are added as needed

[21] The first revision of most PCE modules was completed in 2025 based on facilitator and national feedback. A practical guide on [How to Integrate Gender and Youth in Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluations \(PCE\)](#) is now available, and a pre-PCE training package, including e-learning and the course on results-based management (RBM) and logical framework approach (LFA) were integrated to improve preparedness and ownership.

[22] Upcoming work includes integrating revised modules into the platform and developing a new module on pest outbreak response and value-chain considerations for enhanced impact.

[23] Next steps:

- Finalize and pilot the new Pest Outbreak Response module to replace the current eradication module;
- Design a value-chain-oriented approach to strengthen relevance for trade, market access and private sector engagement;
- Expand the pre-PCE training package and onboarding materials, including RBM/LFA resources (subject to funding) and e-learning courses available through the IPPC Plant Health Campus; and
- Upload and activate revised PCE modules within the current platform as an interim step.

KRA 5: A strong network of phytosanitary expertise is available to facilitate the application of PCEs

[24] The certification of ten new PCE facilitators expanding global availability of expertise is a milestone. The full list of certified facilitators is available on the International Phytosanitary Portal.¹⁵ Additional learning pathways utilizing the IPPC Plant Health Campus now support continued professional development. Future certification of facilitators and refresher training will depend on financial resources.

[25] Next steps:

- Maintain certification and learning pathways through the IPPC Plant Health Campus; and
- Plan future certification rounds and refresher training when resources become available to ensure continued global coverage.

KRA 6: Monitoring and Evaluation

[26] A structured and recurring monitoring and evaluation framework is still to be established.

[27] Next steps for 2026-2027:

- Explore options for a streamlined dashboard or light reporting mechanism to strengthen monitoring, follow-up, and learning, and to track progress and longer-term outcomes of PCE implementation over time.

¹⁵ [List of certified PCE facilitators - International Plant Protection Convention](#)

Recommendations

[28] The CPM is *invited* to:

- (1) *note* the progress made in advancing the implementation of the PCE Improvement Roadmap and the continued demand for PCE support from contracting parties in cooperation with various partners;
- (2) *note* the next steps for each key result area endorsed by the IC, subject to available funding, including:
 - continued delivery of PCE support to requesting countries,
 - phased modernization of the PCE online system with integration of revised modules, expanded training, and development of new technical content, and
 - continued strengthening of the PCE facilitator network and foundational steps toward a monitoring and evaluation approach; and
- (3) *encourage* contracting parties, donors and implementing partners to support the long-term sustainability of the PCE, particularly for modernization of the online platform, facilitator development and follow-up implementation mechanisms.

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