



## COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

### NINETEENTH SESSION

#### UPDATE ON INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

##### AGENDA ITEM 22.2

*(Prepared by the IPPC Secretariat)*

[1] Within the strategic context of the IPPC Partnership Framework (adopted by CPM-17)<sup>1</sup>, the IPPC Secretariat continued its engagements with key international and regional organizations throughout 2025. This proactive outreach is designed to leverage synergies, optimize resource utilization, and strengthen the global phytosanitary infrastructure.

[2] To facilitate information sharing, the IPPC Secretariat has comprehensively reviewed and updated the external cooperation webpage on the IPP<sup>2</sup>. The following sections provide a high-level summary of the principal cooperative activities conducted in 2025 with external partners and regional plant protection organizations (RPPOs).

#### International Organizations

[3] **Centre for Agriculture and Bioscience International (CABI):** CABI, as an active member of the Pest Outbreak Alert and Response Systems (POARS) Steering Group, was highly engaged throughout the year, sharing information on emerging pests and associated assessments, and inviting the IPPC Secretariat to participate in a workshop on *Clavibacter nebraskensis*, one of POARS pest in the watch list. CABI also initiated the regular sharing of pest risk monitoring reports, using the Epidemic Intelligence from Open Sources (EIOS) based scanning aligned with the POARS emerging pest and watch lists, thereby strengthening early situational awareness.

[4] **Codex Alimentarius:** Frequent engagements with the *Codex Alimentarius* through the IPPC Observatory facilitate the sharing of experiences and collaboration on joint publications, including the recent work on monitoring and evaluation. Also, technical alignment was strengthened through active engagement at the IPPC Standards Committee (SC) level, where shared interests in standard-setting procedures and cross-cutting issues were discussed. Furthermore, both Secretariats collaborated closely within the framework of the WTO SPS Committee meetings.

[5] **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD):** IPPC being a Biodiversity-related convention has a long stand cooperation with the CBD. In the past year (2025), through the work of the CPM Focus Group on Sea Containers, it has been recognized that while the IPPC's scope is limited to plant pest risks, pest contamination via the sea container pathway may convey risks to both plant and animal health. Consequently, reducing contamination of sea containers generally will also reduce the spread of other organisms and invasive alien species. To avoid the development of duplicative measures on sea container cleanliness, the IPPC secretariat engaged with the CBD secretariat to ensure the coordination of related work in both organizations, including the development of guidance by the CBD, and future

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<sup>1</sup> IPPC partnership framework (adopted by CPM-17): <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/92974/>

<sup>2</sup> IPP web page on External Cooperation: <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/external-cooperation/>

joint agency guidance as recommended by the CPM Focus Group on Sea Containers. This work aligns with Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) Target 6 and COP15 (Fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity) request for further collaboration via the Inter-Agency Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species towards the development of a globally harmonized and operational voluntary guidance on the cleanliness of sea containers and their cargoes.

- [6] Regarding e-commerce as a pathway, COP16 (2024) suggested referencing relevant international guidance, including the ongoing work of the IPPC.
- [7] At CPM-19 (2025), the CBD secretariat presented on One Health in the context of the KMGBF, highlighting how KMGBF and Global Action Plan on Biodiversity and Health (GAP) promote biodiversity's role in generating health co-benefits across human, animal, plant, and ecosystem domains, and how IPPC work supports the objectives of these frameworks. The CBD secretariat also called for coordinated efforts, mutual support, and the sharing of knowledge and experiences.
- [8] **Centre International de Hautes Etudes Agronomiques Méditerranéennes (CIHEAM):** CIHEAM has integrated IPPC e-learning courses as mandatory components of its master's programmes. In November, CIHEAM welcomed the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC) to Bari and organized a visit to the Monumental Olive Tree Park.
- [9] **Comité de Liaison Entrepreneuriat-Agriculture-Développement (COLEAD):** Over the years, COLEAD has supported the translation of all IPPC guides into French, and the translation of the e-learning course on Pest Risk Analysis is currently underway. The Memorandum of Understanding with COLEAD has been extended for a further three years to support continued joint efforts. COLEAD also participates in the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC) as an observer.
- [10] **Global Alliance for Trade facilitation (GATF):** GATF is a crucial partner in the ePhyto Africa initiative and recently mobilized EUR 3 M with Sweden to implement the IPPC ePhyto Solution in six GATF participated as a panelist, sharing project experiences during the WTO Public Forum side session on ePhyto.
- [11] **Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA):** The partnership between the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) reached a new milestone in 2025, characterized by high-impact technical synergy and regional leadership. A primary highlight was the successful delivery of the 2025 IPPC Regional Workshop for Latin America in Buenos Aires, and the 2025 **IPPC Regional Workshop** for the Caribbean, where the IPPC and IICA collaborated closely with CAHFS to strengthen the voice of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in the global standard-setting process. These regional efforts were further amplified by the landmark **IPPC Global Workshop on Systems Approaches**, with IICA's technical expertise support and the vital financial contributions to mark IICA as a key co-organizer for the workshop.
- [12] **International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA):** In 2025, the IPPC Secretariat and the Joint FAO/IAEA Centre significantly strengthened their technical partnership through high-level collaboration on phytosanitary treatments. Key activities focused on the continued promotion and refinement of ISPM 18 (*Guidelines for the use of irradiation as a phytosanitary measure*) and ISPM 28 (*Phytosanitary treatments for regulated pests*). These efforts facilitate safer international trade by leveraging nuclear-derived technologies. Furthermore, the Joint Centre maintains a permanent seat on the IPPC Technical Panel on Phytosanitary Treatments (TPPT), ensuring ongoing scientific synergy and alignment between nuclear research and international standard-setting processes.
- [13] **International Maritime Organization (IMO):** The CPM Focus Group on Sea Containers drafted and submitted amendments in 2024 to the Code of Practice for Packing of Cargo Transport Units (CTU Code), developed by IMO in cooperation with ILO and UNECE. These amendments address the prevention and control of pest contamination, providing more comprehensive pest-related information. They are under consideration for inclusion in the revised CTU Code (expected to be published in 2026).

**[14] International Forest Quarantine Research Group (IFQRG):** The IPPC Secretariat continues to engage with the International Forest Quarantine Research Group (IFQRG) to facilitate science-based solutions for global forest health. In 2025, this partnership focused on ensuring that research outcomes remain closely aligned with the strategic priorities of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM). A central point of collaboration involves the "Forest Pests Diagnostic Molecular Tools" developed by IFQRG. To ensure these tools meet the rigorous requirements for international policy and harmonization, the IPPC Secretariat has informed the Technical Panel on Diagnostic Protocols (TPDP).

**[15]** The feedback provided by the TPDP is to ensure that these diagnostic methodologies are fully compatible with existing IPPC standards. Furthermore, discussions to consider whether an update to the group's Terms of Reference (ToR) is necessary to ensure that its activities are more directly driven by the specific technical needs and priorities defined by the CPM. Such a discussion would aim to strengthen the alignment of forest quarantine research with the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020–2030, ensuring that the group's technical outputs remain a relevant and responsive resource for the global phytosanitary community.

**[16] International Seed Federation (ISF):** In 2025, the collaboration between the IPPC Secretariat and the International Seed Federation (ISF) continued to focus on enhancing the efficiency of the international movement of seeds through innovation and harmonized practices. The ISF remained an active and valuable member of the ePhyto Industry Advisory Group (IAG), providing critical industry feedback to ensure the ePhyto Solution remains responsive to the complexities of seed trade logistics.

**[17]** Furthermore, the ISF played a significant role in the IPPC Global Workshop on Systems Approaches, contributing industry perspectives on the implementation of ISPM 38 (*International movement of seeds*) and discussing how systems approaches can reduce reliance on single-point inspections while maintaining high phytosanitary security. This ongoing cooperation is essential for bridging the gap between international standard-setting and practical field implementation, ensuring that the seed sector's technical expertise supports the broader goals of the IPPC Strategic Framework.

**[18] Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF):** The IPPC Secretariat continues to participate in the STDF Working Group as a founding partner, reviewing and providing advice on project proposals and grants, and contributing to knowledge work on e-certification, public-private partnerships, monitoring and evaluation, and joint communication. STDF is also actively involved in supporting the ePhyto initiative in Africa.

**[19] The World Bank (WB):** As a key partner in the implementation of the IPPC ePhyto Solution and single window systems, the World Bank participated as a panelist, sharing project experiences during the WTO Public Forum side session on ePhyto. The WB also participates in the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC) as an observer.

**[20] The World Customs Organization (WCO):** collaboration continues through initiatives on e-commerce, sea containers, and the promotion of the ePhyto Solution.

**[21] The World Trade Organization (WTO) and the SPS Committee:** The IPPC Secretariat continued its engagement with the World Trade Organization (WTO) Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Committee by participating in regular SPS Committee meetings and thematic sessions, including discussions on the use of technologies in standard setting. These engagements helped strengthen coordination between the IPPC and the SPS Committee, promote awareness of IPPC standards and activities, and support coherence between international phytosanitary standards and the SPS Agreement.

**[22] The World Animal Health Organization (WOAH):** Frequent engagements with WOAH through the IPPC Observatory facilitate the sharing of experiences and collaboration on joint publications, including the recent work on monitoring and evaluation.

**[23] Universal Postal Union (UPU):** collaboration continues through the initiatives on e-commerce and plant health.

[24] **European Food Safety Authority (EFSA):** collaboration proceeds through the EIOS and participation in the community of practice for emerging pests under the POARS initiative.

[25] **EUPHRESCO:** The IPPC Secretariat partnered with EUPHRESCO on its annual video contest including promotion of the contest and announcing the winner during the International Day of Plant Health,

## Regional Plant Protection Organizations

[26] As core partners formally recognized in the Convention text, Regional Plant Protection Organizations (RPPOs) remain fundamental to the global implementation of the IPPC. Throughout 2025, the Secretariat provided continuous support to RPPOs, facilitating their participation in CPM Focus Groups and the delivery of the 2025 IPPC Regional Workshops. A cornerstone of this engagement was the support provided for the 36th Technical Consultation (TC) among RPPOs, which served as the primary platform for harmonizing regional phytosanitary activities and identifying shared technical challenges. Moreover, RPPOs are involved and engaged in several CPM Focus Groups, such as FG on Research Coordination, FG on Humanitarian Aid, and FG on Laboratory Diagnostic Network.

[27] In alignment with the spirit of the Convention, this partnership is a two-way collaboration based on mutual support and RPPOs play a vital role in representing their regions' collective interests. To ensure the long-term sustainability of this global-regional framework, both the IPPC secretariat and the RPPOs are encouraged to explore collaborative resource-sharing models and further collaborative initiatives, elements being considered by the TC-RPPOs.

## FAO

[28] FAO Regional Office in Santiago, Chile provided support for IPPC Global Workshop on Systems Approaches. This collaboration mainly focused on communications and logistical arrangements for the workshop.

[29] FAO Regional and Subregional Offices also provide vital support to the IPPC Regional Workshops, from technical to logistical support.

[30] The FAO Subregional Office for Eastern Africa provided financial support for the translation of the IPPC Plant Health Campus into additional languages and successfully secured an STDF project which, among other activities, supports the development of face-to-face training courses to complement the IPPC Plant Health Campus e-learning courses.

[31] The IPPC Secretariat, being part of the FAO Plant Production and Plant Protection (NSP) Division had several collaborative initiatives with NSP. Besides usual collaboration with NSP Director's Office, and continued collaboration with the Seed Security Team and Transboundary Pest's Team, the highlight of 2025 was the "Seeds to Food" FAO exhibition.

[32] **World Food Programme (WFP):** The collaboration between the IPPC Secretariat and the WFP is currently in an early phase of exploration, with initial dialogues centering on the strategic priority of "Safe Humanitarian Aid." A positive first step in this engagement has been the interest and participation of WFP in the CPM Focus Group on Safe Provision of Food and Other Humanitarian Aid, and at the focus group 2025 meeting with the participation of WFP-Kenya joining in person. This involvement is part of the first approach to facilitate a helpful exchange of perspectives, bridging the understanding between emergency logistics and phytosanitary security. By seeking to align IPPC standards and recommendations with WFP's humanitarian mandate over time, this emerging cooperation aspires to ensure that the movement of aid is both efficient and environmentally and agricultural responsible, eventually contributing to the protection of agricultural resources and food security in receiving countries and regions.

## Recommendations

[33] The CPM is invited to:

- (1) *note* the report on the 2025 main international cooperation activities between IPPC secretariat and partners organizations and FAO offices.