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Report from the IPPC Secretariat - Report on the International Cooperation

Agenda item 14.1

Prepared by the IPPC Secretariat

1. The Secretariat has cooperated with several organizations in 2017, and plans to continue cooperating with them throughout 2018. The following provides highlights of the main cooperative activities with international organizations and regional plant protection organizations.

I. Section 1. International Organizations

A. Section 1.1 Report on 2017 cooperation activities

2. **Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA)** initiated contact with the IPPC Secretariat for possible cooperation. The BWC has interest to cooperate with the IPPC and to have the IPPC contribution to the project on “Strengthening Global Mechanisms and Capabilities for Responding to Deliberate Use of Disease”. The project helps in capacity-building for detecting, reporting, and responding to outbreaks of infectious diseases or biological weapons attacks, including in the areas of preparedness, response, and crisis management and mitigation. IPPC would play role in building the capacities in reporting of plant pests, risk analysis and emergency response.

3. **Codex Alimentarius** has continued to liaise with the IPPC Secretariat on the implementation of the Online Comment System, an online tool providing a standardized platform for contact points to submit comments on draft standards, thus enhancing the transparency and inclusivity of the respective standard setting processes. This tool has already been noted as a best practice by the SPS and might also fit the needs of other organizations. Both organizations have also expanded the use of the system to

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documents other than standards. The IPPC Secretariat actively took part in the International Governmental Organizations panel discussion during the 40th Codex Alimentarius Commission, highlighting areas of mutual interest and existing and potential cooperation.¹

4. **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)** Secretariat continues to liaise with the IPPC Secretariat. This year the two Secretariats updated their joint work plan for cooperation between the two Conventions which identifies major activities to be undertaken in 2017 and 2018. This constitutes a key achievement in order to help address challenges faced by both Conventions. The major activities for cooperation cover 1) Participation in Governing Body Meetings; 2) Global Taxonomy Initiative Training; 3) Comparison of Terms Used in the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, the Glossary of Phytosanitary Terms, and Other Relevant Instruments; 4) Expert meetings regarding e-commerce; and 5) Promotion of partnership and communication.

5. The Secretariat provided comments to the paper on invasive alien species (IAS) presented to the CBD's December expert workshop on invasive alien species. This expert workshop was convened to prepare for the twenty-second meeting of the CBD's Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA), where the preparation of decisions on IAS will be discussed. The IPPC Secretariat intends to participate in the July 2018 SBSTTA. The TPDP continues to liaise with the CBD Secretariat on initiatives of the Global Taxonomy Initiative and the Technical Panel on the Glossary reviewed and provided comments on the Comparison of Terms Used in the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to terms used in the Glossary. The CBD was a lecturer in the special topic session on e-commerce held during CPM-13.

6. Also in relation to activities with the CBD Secretariat, the Biodiversity Liaison Group² (BLG) was established by the governing body of the CBD and provides an opportunity for the heads of the Secretariats of biodiversity related organizations to meet regularly to explore opportunities for synergistic activities and increased coordination, and to exchange information. There have been numerous requests from the CBD's Conference of the Parties to the BLG of which the IPPC Secretariat has prioritized those activities listed in the joint CBD-IPPC Secretariats work plan.

7. **Centre International de Hautes Etudes Agronomiques Méditerranéennes (CIHEAM)** - Bari. For the second time, a 2 weeks IPPC training module on "Building Phytosanitary Capacities" was delivered to the Master students in Integrated Pest management and was opened to any NPPO. Collaboration was pursued with the CIHEAM through the events organized on the Red Palm Weevil and on *Xylella fastidiosa*. CIHEAM Bari also contributed to the drafting of the factsheet on *Xylella fastidiosa* provided to CPM-13 attendants.

8. **International Atomic Energy Agency / Food and Agriculture Organization joint division (IAEA/FAO)** cooperated with the IPPC Secretariat to support the Technical Panel on Phytosanitary Treatments (2004-005) in various aspects: IAEA/FAO joint division has members at the panel, hosted the TPPT July 2017 meeting and supported the research of vapour heat tolerance among populations of *Bactrocera dorsalis* from geographically separate regions. At this meeting the TPPT concluded that there is no evidence to confirm that there are significant differences. They also have supported the work of the Technical Panel on Pest Free Areas and Systems Approaches for Fruit Flies (2004-003) which did the technical revision of the proposed fruit fly standards which will be presented to CPM-13 (2018).

9. A team composed of staff from the joint division and the Standard Setting Unit of the IPPC Secretariat which had worked on fruit fly standards over the past 12 years received an FAO award for exceptional team work. This shows how these two international organizations have worked collaboratively to help meet the needs of both organizations.

¹ Ref. CAC40 paper by IPPC Secretariat: http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/sh-proxy/en/?Ink=1&url=https%253A%252F%252Fworkspace.fao.org%252Fsites%252Fcodex%252FMeetings%252FCX-701-40%252FINF%2Bpapers%252Fif40_04e_IPPC.pdf

² BLG: <https://www.cbd.int/blg/>

10. **International Advisory Group for Pest Risk Analysis (IAGRA)** is contributing its expertise to the production of a manual on risk communication to be published in 2018.

11. **The Inter Agency Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species (IALG-IAS)**³ meets informally when possible to facilitate cooperation among relevant organizations to support measures to prevent the introduction and mitigate the impacts of invasive alien species. This group last met in December 2017, hosted by the World Customs Organization in Brussels and discussed, among other things, the progress of the Task Force on Sea Containers. The group gained as well a better understanding of how different units within the International Maritime Organization (IMO) work on environmental and safety issues. This may present challenges as the Cargo Transport Units (CTU) code, from an IPPC perspective, impacts environment issues more than safety issues. The WCO explained how they are facilitating interagency discussions through their working group on e-commerce, which IALG-IAS members were invited to join. Reports from the meetings of the IALG-IAS may be found on their webpage of the CBD as footnoted above.

12. **International Maritime Organization (IMO)** cooperated with the IPPC Secretariat as part of the Sea Container Task Force which held its first meeting in Shanghai, China. The IMO has worked together with the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) to develop a Code of Practice for Packing of Cargo Transport Units (CTU Code). The IMO representative will cover this aspect when attending SCTF meetings.

13. **International Forest Quarantine Research Group (IFQRG)** continues to support the development of standards and helps coordinate research needed to support the development of standards related to quarantine issues in forestry. In particular this group is exploring alternatives to methyl bromide and is supporting the development of a scientific paper that will be the basis for the Revision of ISPM 15 (*Regulation of wood packaging material in international trade*): *Criteria for treatments for wood packaging material in international trade* (2006-010)

14. **International Seed Federation (ISF)** cooperates with IPPC in four areas that were discussed and agreed in 2017: 1) commenting on draft standards; 2) support the implementation and promotion of the ISPM 38 (International movement of seeds) through organization of a special session in the 2018 IPPC Regional Workshops; 3) support to IYPH 2020 and relevant IPPC communication issues; and 4) continuous engagement in IPPC ePhyto. ISF participated in the 3rd IYPH StC meeting and donated 10.000 USD to support the IYPH proclamation and promotion activities.

15. **International Organization for Standardization (ISO)** cooperates with the IPPC Secretariat through the working group (WG4) that is drafting the ISO standard called ISO/TC 34/SC 16/13484: Molecular Biomarker Analysis: General requirements for molecular biology analysis for detection and identification of plant pests. The Secretariat has an observer status in this group and is helping ensure this ISO standard is compatible with IPPC standards. Interested stakeholders may wish to follow the development of this ISO standard and submit comments through their national ISO contact point. It is important to note that CPM-8 (2013) agreed that ISO standards are not mandatory for implementation of ISPMs and that in the phytosanitary area ISPMs take precedence over ISO standards.

16. **Ozone Secretariat** - The IPPC Secretariat has strengthened its liaison with the Ozone Secretariat (Montreal Protocol) for which the IPPC has a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with. The MOU is to “promote and facilitate collaboration between the Montreal Protocol and the IPPC through joint participation of technical experts in the technical panels and committees of both treaties, such as the Methyl Bromide Technical Options Committee, the Technical Panel on Phytosanitary Treatments (TPPT) and the Expert Working Group on Alternatives to Methyl Bromide, to enhance communication and advice consistent with the aims of both agreements. The Ozone Secretariat provided

³ IALG-IAS: <https://www.ippc.int/en/partners/cbd/publications/2014/11/joint-work-programme-of-the-cbd-and-ippc-secretariats/>

comments during the 2017 consultation for the draft ISPMs on treatments requirements. The Ozone Secretariat Methyl Bromide Technical Options Committee (MBTOC) has the objective to advise the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on alternatives to methyl bromide for all uses including quarantine pre-shipment, research and developments related to them, and their adoption. MBTOC also evaluates Critical Use Nominations on a yearly basis. MBTOC members are independent experts, from various countries around the world. The Ozone Secretariat, represented by a MBTOC member, also joined the 2017 PMRG meeting. The IPPC draft phytosanitary treatments annexes to ISPM 28 (Phytosanitary treatments for regulated pests) being presented to the CPM-13 for adoption will add to the suite of phytosanitary treatments as alternatives to methyl bromide.

17. **The Phytosanitary Measures Research Group (PMRG)** continued its liaison with the IPPC Secretariat supporting the work of the TPPT. This group was formed as a result of an Expert Consultation on Cold Treatments (ECCT) which was organized by the Standard Setting Unit in 2013. The PMRG is an independent group of phytosanitary treatment researchers who have created a forum where critical phytosanitary treatment issues can be addressed through discussion and collaborative research. The Technical Panel on Phytosanitary Treatments (TPPT) liaises with the PMRG to help resolve technical issues, facilitate the sharing of data among treatment submitters and to help collaborate research, which is needed to support phytosanitary treatments. The PMRG supported several researches thought their experts as for example the research of vapour heat tolerance among populations of *Bactrocera dorsalis* from geographically separate regions. The PMRG had a meeting in July 2017 in the Netherlands, and they are developing research guidelines for several types of phytosanitary treatments. More information about the PMRG can be found on the IPP⁴.

18. **UN Environment** - The IPPC Secretariat took part in two meetings organized by UN Environment in Geneva: one with Public Information Officers, aimed at sharing information and prompting joint action on awareness raising campaigns, resources and tools, and one on the development and promotion of the InforMEA portal, the website collecting normative texts of Multilateral Environmental Agencies. New synergies will also be explored via the project 'Environmental Treaties Programme - realizing synergies for biodiversity' led by UN Environment with the support of the European Union and Switzerland.

19. **The World Customs Organization (WCO)** and the IPPC Secretariat have initiated a deeper collaboration based on three specific issues that have applicability to both organizations: the Trade Facilitation Agreement, the ongoing implementation of a single windows system at the border in many countries and the development of the IPPC's ePhyto system. The WCO participated in CPM-12 (2017) with its Executive Secretary as keynote speaker, and is represented on the ePhyto Project Advisory Committee. The WCO has also been an active participant in the Sea Containers Task Force. The IPPC Secretariat was also invited to present its activities on e-commerce to the WCO working group on the topic. An Agreement on Bilateral Cooperation between IPPC and WCO has been prepared and is hoped to be signed at the beginning of 2018.

20. **The World Bank (WB)** and the IPPC Secretariat have deepened cooperation in 2017 in areas of trade facilitation and the IRSS. The World Bank contributed speakers to the IPPC seminar on plant health and trade facilitation held at the FAO HQ. The Bank covered topics on the coordinated border management approach to address common challenges and outlined the benefits for each border and trade facilitation stakeholder as well as on the topic of a study conducted on enabling the business of agriculture. Furthermore the World Bank collaborated with the IPPC in the Sea Containers Task Force as well as on a Country Trade Facilitation Assessment for Malawi which included studying the country phytosanitary system and has provided resources for the ePhyto project.

21. **The World Trade Organization (WTO)** and the IPPC Secretariat has continued its role as one of the "three sisters" under the SPS Agreement and regularly participates in meetings of the SPS Committee in that capacity. In addition, the Secretariat has provided expertise and instruction in a

⁴ PMRG webpage: <https://www.ippc.int/en/liason/organizations/phytosanitarymeasuresresearchgroup/>.

number of WTO SPS training programs at WTO headquarters and around the world. The IPPC and STDF Secretariats also collaborated on the development of joint advocacy materials, including two videos and two factsheets.

B. Section 1.2 Plans for 2018 cooperation activities

22. The IPPC Secretariat plans to continue liaising with the following organizations in 2018.
23. **BWC**, the IPPC will participate in the 3rd workshop on discussing the first Draft of an International Bio-Management Emergency Plan for Deliberate Events, organized in the context Article VII of the BWC of the UNODA/BWC-ISU project on "Strengthening global mechanisms and capabilities for responding to deliberate use of diseases".
24. **CBD**, to implement our joint work plan and address the issue of Invasive Alien Species which is on both the SBBSTA and COP agendas, and to provide input into the work of the **BGL**.
25. **IALG-IAS**, providing a network on issues related to IAS, e-commerce and the use of ISPMs; **Codex Alimentarius** to continue cooperation on the Online Comment System and to share best practices in relation to respective processes, communication and web tools.
26. **IAEA/FAO** joint division has offered to partly sponsor the TPPT meeting and may work with the Secretariat to develop advocacy material for the suite of fruit fly standards.
27. **IAGRA** is actively contributing to the development of a manual on Pest Risk Management.
28. **IMO, WB, WCO, the Container Owners Association (COA) and the World Shipping Council (WSC)** will continue to participate in the Sea Container Task Force.
29. **IFQRG** is helping to coordinate research for draft ISPMs and is developing guidance on the application of some ISPM 15 treatments.
30. **ISF** will develop training materials on our new seed ISPM to be used in the IPPC regional workshops and will participate to the IYPH Steering Committee meetings, also providing input and support to the IYPH programme development.
31. **IICA** will continue supporting the IPPC Regional Workshop for the Caribbean.
32. **ISO** welcomes input from the Secretariat into the development of standards for detection and identification of plant pests.
33. **OIE** has expressed interest in collaborating in the implementation of an Online Comment System to provide comments on their standards, and the IPPC Secretariat has offered support to share their OCS experience.
34. **PMRG** continues to coordinate research on phytosanitary treatments to support new submissions.
35. **UN Environment**, to implement the "Environmental Treaties Programme – realizing synergies for biodiversity", consisting of five outputs, with continued involvement by the IPPC Secretariat in output 2: Cooperation with Public Information Officers, and through the IPPC Secretariat participation in the Information Knowledge Management Steering Committee, tasked to share best practices in the IKM field, including collaboration on the development of the InforMEA portal.
36. **The WCO** and the IPPC Secretariat will sign an agreement this year to facilitate our cooperation.
37. **The World Bank** will continue supporting the e-Phyto programme.

38. As per the **WTO-SPS Committee**, the Secretariat will attend these meetings as well as participate as a member in the **STDF** working group. In addition, ongoing collaboration with the **STDF Secretariat** will continue in the communications and awareness raising field.

II. Section 2 Regional Plant Protection Organizations

39. **Regional Plant Protection Organizations and FAO Regional Offices** were instrumental in the organization of 2017 IPPC Regional Workshops. The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) was of great help for the 2017 IPPC Regional Workshops in Latin America and in the Caribbean.

40. **EPPO – the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization** continues to liaise with the IPPC Secretariat regarding the development of diagnostic protocols (DPs) for regulated pests. EPPO had an invited expert at the Technical Panel on Diagnostic Protocols (TPDP) meeting in February 2017, has members at the panel and also provides experts for various DP drafting groups. EPPO hosted the 29th TC-RPPO in Paris to discuss support and coordination on standards setting and implementation. EPPO contributed to the drafting of the factsheet on *Xylella fastidiosa* providing to CPM-13 attendants.

41. **NAPPO - The North American Plant Protection Organization** has provided translation into Spanish for the IPPC publication *Introduction to international phytosanitary terminology* as well they have provided translations into French and Spanish for the Explanatory document for ISPM 15 (*Regulation of wood packaging material in international trade*). NAPPO representatives participated at the International Year of Plant Health (IYPH) Steering Committee meetings and the first meeting of the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC) meeting.

42. **NEPPO –The Near East Plant Protection Organization** has provided the LRG coordinator for the review of Arabic standards.

43. **Liaison activities planned for 2018** The IPPC Secretariat plans to continue to liaise with all RPPOs. In particular the RPPOs will support the IPPC Regional Workshops and work with the Secretariat as need to deliver our work plan.