



The International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)

Historical Background:

The International Plant Protection Convention is a **multilateral treaty for cooperation in plant protection** that had its beginnings with the agreement by twelve countries to regulatory measures for grapevines under the *Phylloxera* Convention of Berne in 1881. This represented the first efforts at formalizing international cooperation in plant protection and led to the recognition of the need to address other plant pests and enlist cooperation among all countries.

The **first text** of an international convention with broader objectives was drafted at the **International Conference for Plant Protection held in Rome in 1929**. After a long lapse due to a world war, the draft text was again brought to the attention of governments. This time, the forum was the young FAO in its Third and Fourth Sessions of Conference in 1947 and 1948 respectively. **In 1951**, the Sixth Session of **FAO Conference adopted the Convention** and it was deposited with the Director General of the Organization shortly thereafter. The Convention first **came into force in 1952** after ratification by **three signatory governments; Ceylon, Spain, and Chile**.

Amendments to the IPPC were proposed in **1973**. After a series of consultations, members agreed upon modifications that involved updating terminology and describing certain changes in the model phytosanitary certificates. The amendments were **adopted by FAO in 1979**. The **Revised Text of the Convention came into force in 1991** following acceptance of the amendments by two-thirds of the contracting parties.

In 1986, the landscape began to change significantly as the **General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT)** entered into an eighth round of multilateral trade negotiations known as the **Uruguay Round**. Prior to the conclusion of these negotiations **in 1993**, it was clear to IPPC Members and FAO that the **IPPC would have a prominent position in the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (the SPS Agreement)**. Within the context of the WTO, the role envisioned for the IPPC was to **encourage international harmonization** and **elaborate international standards** to help **ensure that phytosanitary measures were not used as unjustified barriers to trade**. However, FAO would continue to implement and manage the IPPC as it had since 1952.

In response, **FAO established a Secretariat for the IPPC in 1992**, followed by the **formation of the Committee of Experts on Phytosanitary Measures (CEPM) in 1993**. The Secretariat immediately began an ambitious **program of standard setting**. At the same time, interest mounted among IPPC Members to **amend the Convention to more accurately reflect the contemporary role of the Convention, particularly with respect to the relationship of the Convention to the SPS Agreement**.

Negotiations for revision started in 1995 and were finalized in November, **1997** when the 29th Session of FAO Conference **approved the New Revised Text of the IPPC**. The New Revised Text of the IPPC (1997) emphasizes cooperation and the exchange of information toward the objective of **global harmonization**. In addition to **describing national plant protection responsibilities**, it also addresses important elements of international cooperation for the protection of plant health and the establishment and use of International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (**ISPMs**).

The new revised text (1997) came into force on the thirtieth day after it was accepted by two-thirds of the contracting parties to the IPPC. See **Article XXI.4** of the new revised text. At ICPM 7, it was noted that entry into force of the new revised text applies to all contracting parties, including those that had not accepted the new revised text at the time of entry into force. It was also noted that the “two-thirds” figure is calculated on the basis of the number of parties to the treaty at the time of deposit of each instrument of acceptance of the amendments, which may change over time. **The New Revised Text of the IPPC (1997) entered into force on 2 October 2005**.

Kind of Organization:

The IPPC is an **international treaty on plant health**, deposited with FAO and administered by FAO but implemented through the cooperation of member governments and Regional Plant Protection Organizations.

As of **February 2007**, the IPPC has **161** contracting parties.

APPPC (24) CA (4) COSAVE (6) CPPC (22/29) EPPO (48) IAPSC (53) NAPPO (3) OIRSA (9) PPPO (23/26)

'(...)' member of the relevant RPPO, but not a contracting party of the IPPC

'- ...' not a member of any RPPO, but a contracting party of the IPPC

Albania	Greece	Norway
Algeria	Grenada	- Oman
Antigua and Barbuda	(Guam)	Pakistan
Argentina	Guatemala	Palau
Armenia	(Guernsey)	Panama
Australia	Guinea, Rep. of	Papua New Guinea
Austria	Guyana	Paraguay
- Azerbaijan	Haiti	Peru
- Bahamas	Honduras	(Pitcairn Islands)
- Bahrain	Hungary	Philippines
Bangladesh	Iceland	Poland
Barbados	India	Portugal
Belarus	Indonesia	- Qatar
Belgium	- Iran, Islamic Republic of	Romania
Belize	- Iraq	Russia, Russian Federation
- Bhutan	Ireland	(Samoa American)
Bolivia	Israel	Samoa Western
- Bosnia and Herzegovina	Italy	Sao Tome and Principe
Brazil	Jamaica	- Saudi Arabia
Bulgaria	- Japan	Senegal
Burkina Faso	(Jersey)	Serbia
Burundi	Jordan	Seychelles
Cambodia	(Kazakhstan)	Sierra Leone
Cameroon	Kenya	Slovakia
Canada	(Kiribati)	Slovenia
Cape Verde	Korea, Rep. of	Solomon Islands
Central African Republic	- Kuwait	South Africa
Chad	Kyrgyzstan	Spain
Chile	Laos	Sri Lanka
China	Latvia	St. Kitts and Nevis
Colombia	- Lebanon	St. Lucia
Comoros	Liberia	- St. Vincent & the Grenadines
Congo	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Sudan
Cook Islands	Lithuania	Suriname
Costa Rica	Luxemburg	Swaziland
Côte d'Ivoire	Macedonia, FYR	Sweden
Croatia	Madagascar	Switzerland
Cuba	Malawi	Syria
Cyprus	Malaysia	Tanzania
Czechia / Czech Republic	Maldives	Thailand
Denmark	Mali	The Gambia
D.P.R. of Korea	Malta	Togo
Dominica	(Marshall Islands)	(Tokelau)
Dominican Republic	Mauritania	Tonga
Ecuador	Mauritius	Trinidad and Tobago
Egypt	Mexico	Tunisia
El Salvador	Micronesia, Federated States of	Turkey
Equatorial Guinea	Moldova	Tuvalu
Eritrea	Morocco	Ukraine
Estonia	Myanmar	- United Arab Emirates
Ethiopia	(Nauru)	United Kingdom
European Community	Nepal	United States of America
Fiji	Netherlands	Uruguay
Finland	(New Caledonia)	(Uzbekistan)
France	New Zealand	(Vanuatu)
(French Polynesia)	Nicaragua	Venezuela
Germany	Niger	Viet Nam
Ghana	Nigeria	(Wallis and Futuna)
	Niue	- Yemen
	(Northern Mariana Islands)	Zambia

Parties to the Convention: 162 [December 2006]

The following are the participants that deposited their instruments on the corresponding date indicated:

Participant	Signature	Definitive Signature	Ratification	Adherence
Albania				29 Jul 1999
Algeria				1 Oct 1985
Antigua and Barbuda				24 Jan 2006
Argentina				23 Sep 1954
Armenia				9 June 2006
Australia ¹	30 Apr 1952		27 Aug 1952	
Austria	6 Dec 1951		22 Oct 1952	
Azerbaijan				18 Aug 2000
Bahamas				19 Sep 1997
Bahrain				29 Mar 1971
Bangladesh				1 Sep 1978
Barbados				6 Dec 1976
Belarus				21 Feb 2005
Belgium	6 Dec 1951		22 Jul 1952	
Belize				14 May 1987
Bhutan				20 Jun 1994
Bolivia				27 Oct 1960
Bosnia and Herzegovina				30 July 2003
Brazil	6 Dec 1951		14 Sep 1961	
Bulgaria				8 Nov 1991
Burkina Faso				8 Jun 1995
Burundi				3 Apr 2006
Cambodia				10 Jun 1952
Cameroon				5 Apr 2006
Canada	6 Dec 1951		10 Jul 1953	
Cape Verde				19 Mar 1980
Central African Republic				27 Oct 2004
Chad				15 Mar 2004
Chile		3 April 1952		
China ²				20 Oct 2005
Colombia	29 Apr 1952		26 Jan 1970	
Comoros				January 2007
Congo				14 Dec 2004

Cook Islands				2 Dec 2004
Costa Rica	28 Apr 1952		23 Jul 1973	
Côte d'Ivoire				17 Dec 2004
Croatia				14 May 1999
Cuba	6 Dec 1951		14 Apr 1976	
Cyprus			11 Feb 1999	
Czech Republic ³				5 Aug 1983
D.P.R. of Korea				25 Aug 2003
Denmark ⁴	6 Dec 1951		13 Feb 1953	
Dominica				30 Mar 2006
Dominican Republic				20 Jun 1952
Ecuador	12 Mar 1952		9 May 1956	
Egypt	6 Dec 1951		22 Jul 1953	
El Salvador	6 Dec 1951		12 Feb 1953	
Equatorial Guinea				27 Aug 1991
Eritrea				6 Apr 2001
Estonia				7 Dec 2000
Ethiopia				20 Jun 1977
European Community				6 Oct 2005
Fiji				10 Aug 2005
Finland				22 Jun 1960
France	6 Dec 1951		20 Aug 1957	
Germany ⁵	30 Apr 1952		3 May 1957	
Ghana				22 Feb 1991
Greece				9 Dec 1954
Grenada				27 Nov 1985
Guatemala	23 Apr 1952		25 May 1955	
Guinea				22 May 1991
Guyana				31 Aug 1970
Haiti				6 Nov 1970
Honduras				30 Jul 2003
Hungary				17 May 1960
Iceland				11 Apr 2005
India	30 Apr 1952		9 Jun 1952	
Indonesia	6 Dec 1951		21 Jun 1977	
Iran (Islamic Republic of)				18 Sep 1972
Iraq				1 Jul 1954
Ireland	6 Dec 1951		31 Mar 1955	

Israel	6 Dec 1951		3 Sep 1956	
Italy	2 Feb 1952		3 Aug 1955	
Jamaica				24 Nov 1969
Japan	6 Dec 1951		11 Aug 1952	
Jordan				24 Apr 1970
Kenya				7 May 1974
Korea, Republic of				8 Dec 1953
Kuwait, State of				7 March 2006
Kyrgyzstan				11 Dec 2003
Laos				28 Feb 1955
Latvia				18 Aug 2003
Lebanon				18 Sep 1970
Liberia				2 Jul 1986
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya				9 Jul 1970
Lithuania				12 Jan 2000
Luxembourg	16 Jan 1952		13 Jan 1955	
Madagascar				24 May 2006
Malawi				21 May 1974
Malaysia				17 May 1991
Maldives (The Republic of)				3 October 2006
Mali				31 Aug 1987
Malta				13 May 1975
Mauritania				29 Apr 2002
Mauritius				11 Jun 1971
Micronesia (Fed. States of)				12 September
Myanmar				26 May 2006
Mexico				26 May 1976
Moldova				25 Jan 2001
Morocco				12 Oct 1972
Nepal				8 May 2006
Netherlands	6 Dec 1951		29 Oct 1954	
New Zealand	6 Dec 1951		16 Sep 1952	
Nicaragua				2 Aug 1956
Niger				4 Jun 1985
Nigeria				17 Aug 1993
Niue				27 Oct 2005
Norway				23 Apr 1956
Oman				23 Jan 1989

Pakistan				10 Nov 1954
Palau				23 June 2006
Panama				14 Feb 1968
Papua New Guinea				1 Jun 1976
Paraguay				5 Apr 1968
Peru				1 Jul 1975
Philippines	6 Dec 1951		3 Dec 1953	
Poland				29 May 1996
Portugal	6 Dec 1951			20 Oct 1955
Qatar				8 June 2006
Romania				17 Nov 1971
Russian Federation				24 Apr 1956
Samoa				2 Mar 2005
Sao Tome and Principe				7 Apr 2006
Saudi Arabia				7 Aug 2000
Senegal				3 Mar 1975
Serbia (Republic of)				27 April 1992
Seychelles				31 Oct 1996
Sierra Leone				23 Jun 1981
Slovakia				24 Mar 2006
Slovenia				27 May 1998
Solomon Islands				18 Oct 1978
South Africa	6 Dec 1951		21 Sep 1956	
Spain	10 Dec 1951		18 Feb 1952	
Sri Lanka	7 Dec 1951		12 Feb 1952	
St. Kitts & Nevis				17 Apr 1990
St. Lucia				23 Oct 2002
St. Vincent and the Grenadines				15 Nov 2001
Sudan				16 Jul 1971
Suriname ⁷	29 Oct 1954			
Swaziland				12 Jul 2005
Sweden	11 Dec 1951		30 May 1952	
Switzerland	6 Dec 1951		26 Sep 1996	
Syria				5 Nov 2003
Thailand	6 Dec 1951		16 Aug 1978	
The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia				9 Aug 2004

Togo				2 Apr 1986
Tonga				23 Nov 2005
Trinidad & Tobago				30 Jun 1970
Tunisia				22 Jul 1971
Turkey				29 Jul 1988
Tuvalu				18 Dec 2006
Ukraine				31 May 2006
United Arab Emirates				2 Apr 2001
United Kingdom ⁸	6 Dec 1951		7 Sep 1953	
United Republic of Tanzania				21 Feb 2005
United States of America ⁹	6 Dec 1951		18 Aug 1972	
Uruguay	30 Apr 1952			15 Jul 1970
Venezuela				12 May 1966
Viet Nam				22 Feb 2005
Yemen ¹⁰				20 Dec 1990
Zambia				24 Jun 1986

The Exchange of Official Phytosanitary Information

The exchange of official information as defined by the **New Revised Text** (NRT) of the IPPC is entering a new era, with the primary obligation for the exchange of information being that of the NPPOs and the IPPC Secretariat provides the forum for such sharing of information. Previously, it had been the responsibility of the member countries to inform the FAO / IPPC Secretariat of their phytosanitary regulations, any changes to phytosanitary regulations and pest status, who acted as the centralised depository for this information. This system was not efficient in information dissemination and many countries did not meet their obligations. **The WTO-SPS Agreement and the NRT of the IPPC now ensures that there are structured channels for notification of changes to phytosanitary measures, deviations in the relevant regulations, and a forum for information sharing. The primary responsibility on information sharing now lies with each individual country member.**

Under the NRT of the IPPC, each member country is obliged to provide the IPPC Secretariat with **an official Contact Point** for the member country. All **official communication** with member countries will then be channelled through this Contact Point. This is intended to facilitate communication, information sharing and transparency between countries, and between the IPPC Secretariat and the member countries. Under the Revised Text of the IPPC, governments are encouraged to carry out regular pest surveillance's and monitoring, to establish and maintain pest free areas, and to conduct pest risk analyses when scientific support for a phytosanitary measure may be needed. To do this, countries must be able to readily obtain pertinent data on pest biology, distribution, host range and potential for impact. The IPPC Secretariat assists countries by helping to facilitate the exchange of official pest data.

The IPPC Secretariat does and will continue to promote and facilitate information sharing in a variety of ways. These include:

- **Translation and documentation** through the normal FAO facilities
- The IPPC and related **publications** (such as the ISPMs) will continue to be distributed through the IPPC Secretariat and FAO in the normal manner.
- The **IPPC Web Site** will be used as the primary means of communicating ICPM activities of the IPPC Secretariat, RPPOs and NPPOs will be highlighted and all official documentation relating to the IPPC will be available through this site. The resources on the site will also provide valuable technical and background information that is needed when dealing with phytosanitary measures.
- **International standards:** The harmonization and development of International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures facilitates discussion and agreement of phytosanitary measures. This process will continue to be implemented and developed further.
- **Official Contact Points:** The function and role of the official contact points will be central to the success and effectiveness of information exchange. This network will allow for rapid and reliable interaction between member countries, and between countries and the IPPC Secretariat.
- **Pest Information** is available from a numbers of different sources in the *Resources WorldView*. However, one of the preferred FAO source for technical information is EcoPort.
- The events **calendar** is available to keep IPPC contracting parties abreast of important meetings being organized by the IPPC Secretariat and by Regional Plant Protection Organizations.
- **Pest Reporting** is considered a high priority by the ICPM and a global reporting system will be introduced in the foreseeable future.
- **Technical assistance:** Technical assistance on phytosanitary measures is mentioned as a specific obligation of the More Developed Nations towards the Less Developed members under the new Revised Text of the IPPC. This currently needs encouraging and more emphasis. In addition, technical assistance is also available through the IPPC Secretariat from the FAO.
- **Technical meetings:** There are a variety of technical meetings that meet to discuss pertinent and current issues. These are often used to draft international standards or clarify specific phytosanitary issues. Every two years a technical meeting of the RPPOs is held to provide discussion on phytosanitary issues and direction to the IPPC Secretariat.
- **Training** is available through the offices of the IPPC Secretariat. The type and format will depend upon the requirements and capacity of the members' country or region.