The IPPC in 20 years

*(Excerpt from report of draft SPG meeting 2014)*

The IPPC in 20 years

1. The IPPC Coordinator informed the SPG that thirteen papers expressing the vision for IPPC in 20 years had been submitted[[1]](#footnote-1) following the SPG October 2013 suggestion that members submit a two-page paper to the Secretariat to be presented to this meeting. The intention of this exercise was to provide a perspective on the potential role of the IPPC in the next 10 years and beyond, both in terms of consideration of the relevance of the IPPC in the future and major challenges and trends for its work. He expressed gratitude for the many contributions because this also validated SPG’s role in providing horizontal strategic guidance.
2. He suggested that a standing agenda item “future-casting” be added to the SPG agenda for the group to regularly make horizontal scans for future threats and opportunities (identify what has changed the past year, and choose one item to drive forward). The SPG agreed that this would be a positive result of the discussions. This should be done with reference to the IPPC strategic framework.
3. The SPG agreed that the main outcomes of the discussions should be:
4. –a prioritized list (5-10) of likely future scenarious for the IPPC that can be investigated further in the coming years with first key actions that would need to be taken to address these.
5. – identifying current processes that could be modified to address urgent needs for change.
6. The SPG Chairperson suggested that the discussions should focus around the themes that members had identified. He also reflected on the task noting there is no right answer as to what the future may bring, because thinking back 20 years, a number of things in the world have not changed significantly, while others have changed dramatically. For this reason, he started the discussions by asking the group reflect on the major changes within IPPC and plant health the past 20 years.
7. The SPG identified the following changes (numbers to not indicate priority):
8. Changes in technology enhanced and real time communication thus resulting in better cooperation between contracting parties ( (lastest e.g. ePhyto). This helps trade because misunderstandings or problems can be resolved more quickly.
9. More standards developed - In 1994, there was only one IPPC standard, whereas there are numerous today and countries use them in a natural way.
10. Growth in IPPC membership - Has had a positive effect on inter-country communication and trade leading to globalization.
11. Increase in membership from the developing countries has added value by aiding the countries’ economies, their capacity in implementing the standards and their ability to understand the importance and value of IPPC.
12. Diversity and complexity of the trading environment: Countries trade globally, 20 years ago trade was often limited to specific regions; great increase in the types of products traded internationally; market access has improved globally; trade has changed from trade between individual countries to trade between trading blocks.
13. SPS and environmental conventions have increased.
14. IPPC has strengthened its role in the international phytosanitary community, and mention of IPPC is now frequent.
15. The cooperative approach within the IPPC has improved, from prevalent mistrust to constructive dialogues, coordination and solutions.
16. CPM sessions have facilitated dialogue and harmonization (previously FAO Conference would meet every two years, and the participants would not be plant health persons).
17. RPPOs have been formed and grown in strength, being able to proficiently assist NPPOs.
18. Common language of plant health issues have aided international dialogue.
19. IPPC has increased attention to communication and capacity development to the benefit of countries.
20. The IPPC has helped break down trade barriers and the implementing the IPPC standards in national legislation has become more common.
21. Seasonality is a thing of the past; trade has expanded with the consequence of increased pest risks.
22. Globalization - Greater awareness of what goes on in the world; the world is becoming smaller and there is more participation in IPPC activities.
23. IPPC Secretariat has matured and increased the services provided.
24. Countries have established NPPOs which has greatly influenced the countries’ work on plant protection.
25. The IPPC has become more inclusive and transparent in its consultation on standards.
26. With this in mind, the SPG brainstormed on future challenges and opportunities and collected more than 60 points for reflection[[2]](#footnote-2). The SPG grouped these points in eight main themes and discussed them in detail in three breakout groups (2-3 themes per group) with the purpose of understanding what IPPC wishes to achieve and how it will achieve these goals.
27. The SPG agreed that all the themes should feature in Secretariat and SPG considerations for short term activities, because they expressed strategic directions the IPPC should consider.
28. The SPG agreed to elaborate a one-page narrative for all of the themes to present to the CPM-10 (2015) and individual SPG members volunteered for this task (these are mentioned below each theme, with the first name being lead). For the next SPG, more elaborated analysis and action plans for in-depth discussion of themes B and C would be developed because Resource mobilization and Advocacy, communication and awareness were selected as the main priorities which the IPPC should initiate immediately. The SPG acknowledged that discussing all themes in one SPG meeting would not be feasible.
29. A member recalled that the current strategic framework would end in 2019 and therefore suggested that a strategic vision should be developed to be adopted at a ministerial conference in conjunction with an International Year of Plant Health (IYPH).
30. The following text for the themes was developed by the small groups, modified in plenary and reflects agreed draft wording.
31. **A. Technology, innovation and data**

(Mr Jan Bart ROSSEL, Australia and Sr Diego QUIROGA, Argentina)

*What*

1. IPPC (including contracting parties and Secretariat) takes advantage and instigates the development of new technologies and innovations for the purpose of identifying, assessing and responding emerging risks, and exchanging information, data management and communication. Development of new standards, tools and guidance material including pest diagnostic methods and treatments, e-Phyto, bar coding.
2. *How*

* Perform continual reviews of existing information systems, with full participation of RPPOs.
* Providing recommendations
* Establish a quick response system

1. Notes: The purpose of the goal is to enhance credibility, efficacy and efficiency in a changing global environment. The Secretariat should enquire with organizations that use similar systems to understand advantages and disadvantages. The vision is that IPPC could tap into other systems to become the main global plant health player.
2. Visions included are 7, 11, 12, 13, 14, 18, 24, 26, 29, 30, 31, 38, 40, 48, 52, 54, 60.
3. **B. Resource Mobilization**

(Mr Ralf LOPIAN, Finland and M Lucien KOUAME KONAN, Côte d’Ivoire)

*What*

1. Effective operation of NPPOs and international cooperation under the IPPC require sustainable resources (staff, cooperation and financial resources) to operate key priority programmes. Resource mobilization requires increasing public awareness and influencing political decision and the development of policies to support IPPC. Effective and efficient administrative management procedures and clear demonstration of value compliments resource mobilization.
2. *How*

* ePhyto as a potential funding source (should be included in 18)
* voluntary contributions
* Succeeding in having an International Year of Plant Health (2020) with ministerial and donor conferences.

1. Notes: Visions included are 1, 3, 9, 10, 19, 29, 30, 36, 50, 51, 56, 61, 62.
2. **C. Advocacy and awareness through strong communication**

(Gregory WOLFF, Canada and John HEDLEY, New Zealand)

*What*

1. An effective IPPC will be promoting itself externally on an ongoing basis to ensure public and political support, and sound and effective phytosanitary policies around the world. All IPPC programmes will benefit from a strong advocacy and awareness programme.
2. *How*

* Communication is central part to many themes
* Providing advocacy material that links to global food security, environment and economic impacts is essential.

1. Notes: Visions included are 3, 15, 17, 24, 28, 34, 35, 36, 39, 42, 47, 50.

**D. Implementation, Participation and Collaboration**

(Mr Corné VAN ALPHEN, The Netherlands and Mr Similo George MAVIMBELA, Swaziland)

1. *What*
2. Through IPPC activities, all IPPC contracting parties implement the Convention and IPPC standards, fully participating in IPPC related meetings and collaborating together.
3. *How*

* Developing a sustainable implementation program which has gone through at least 5 cycles, engaging RPPOs as active partners
* At least 10 PCEs are completed on annual basis
* A network of IPPC recognized centers of expertise (e.g. diagnostics, eradication programmes, treatments) has been established and CPs contribute to and use them.
* All CPs have a clear understanding of their obligation to: mentor, interact and develop collaborations and agreements with other organizations, RPPOs, non-CPs and industry.

**E. The IPPC is a center of excellence and innovation**

(Peter THOMSON, New Zealand and Mr Damas MAMBA MAMBA, Dem. Rep. of Congo)

*What*

1. The IPPC is a center of excellence and innovation, including expanding the role of the Secretariat (services and functions)
2. *How*

* Establish a global network of expertise that is coordinated by the Secretariat
* Edequately resourced Secretariat
* Build relationships with IPPC recognized institutions
* Establish a system for IPPC recognition of institutions
* Increase the number of IPPC secretariat staff to coordinate these activities (e.g. entomologists, plant health experts…)
* Set up a training program to increase staff expertise.
* Establish a means for communicating the expectations and accountabilities across the IPPC functions (accountability)

**F. The IPPC contribution to food security, environmental protection and economic prosperity**

(Mr Josiah M. SYANDA, Kenya, Ms Mable MUDENDA, Zambia and Ms Ines Maria ARES ALONZO, Uruguay)

*What*

1. It is widely recognized that global food security and the protection of the environment is essential for the future of humanity. (i) It is well know that the IPPC plays a critical role in ensuring global food security. (ii) The IPPC also protects the environment. (iii) In addition, the IPPC plays a key role in the economic success of plant-based industries worldwide.
2. *How*

* Topics for standards and guidance will be prioritized and developed based on their impacts in relation to the above
* Capacity development will be prioritized targeting the above three issues.
* Implementation targeting the above three issues.
* Communication targeting the above three issues.

1. Notes: Visions included are 10, 13, 33, 34, 35, 39, 40, 41, 44, 53, 57, 58, 59, 64)

**G. Simplify regulatory environment for the complexities of future global trade**

(John GREIFER, USA and Jane CHARD, United Kingdom)

*What*

1. Simple and harmonized regulatory systems are in place for global trade.
2. *How*

* International standards are followed to build harmonized systems that CPs trust.
* Develop more commodity/pathway standards where the appropriate level of protection is determined globally and equivalent phytosanitary measures are agreed to (e.g. ISPM 15).

1. Notes: Visions included are 2, 4, 6, 7, 15, 18, 19, 23, 25, 27, 30, 31, 32, 39, 43, 44, 48, 53, 55, 60, 61, 62, 63.
2. The SPG:

* *agreed* to include a standing agenda item on “future-casting” for the SPG meetings.
* *agreed* to elaborate a one-page narrative for each of the eight above themes to present to the CPM. The narratives would be written by individual SPG members (see themes) and all SPG participants would be invited to comment. The narratives would follow the same format and would note that they were draft proposals and additional discussions were envisaged. By 21 November the lead shall have circulated the narrative for comments from the SPG, incorporated comments and sent the final narrative to the Secretariat for presentation to CPM-10 (2015).

1. 06\_SPG\_2014\_Oct A/B/C/D/E/F/G/H/I/J/K/L/M [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. CRP\_01\_SPG\_2014 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)