



CPM-20 (2026) SIDE SESSION - NAVIGATING NEW FRONTIERS: UNDERSTANDING AND CONTRIBUTING TO IPPC COMMODITY-SPECIFIC STANDARDS FOR PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

CONCEPT NOTE

Wednesday, March 11th 2026

13:00-14:30, FAO Red Room

Background

- [1] The global movement of plant commodities is constantly increasing, bringing with it both significant economic benefits and inherent risks of pest introduction and spread. Recognizing this evolving landscape, the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020–2030 includes the development of commodity and pathway-specific International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs) as a key Development Agenda Item (DAI).
- [2] This initiative aims to provide robust guidance to Contracting Parties in protecting plant health and facilitating safe international trade through developing and implementing harmonized and technically justified phytosanitary measures for plant pests. These new standards, now being named as “next generation” of IPPC standards, are also critical for addressing challenges related to import regulations and other complex phytosanitary issues that arise in global trade.
- [3] By 2030, it is anticipated that a substantial number of these new ISPMs will have been adopted and implemented for specific commodities. It is expected that the implementation of these standards will be supported by existing and forthcoming diagnostic protocols and phytosanitary treatments, ensuring a coherent and technically robust framework for their application. Critically, these commodity-specific ISPMs are expected to provide National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs) with harmonized phytosanitary measures, which they can leverage to strengthen their pest risk analysis activities, refine import regulatory systems, and establish robust export-oriented production systems. Ultimately, these standards are designed to simplify global trade processes and expedite market-access negotiations, fostering greater predictability and efficiency.

Objectives

- [4] This side session aims to:

1. **Provide a comprehensive overview** of the IPPC's strategic approach to developing commodity-specific ISPMs under the framework of ISPM 46, by deepening the understanding among Contracting Parties regarding their purpose, benefits, and underlying principles.

2. **Highlight the significant benefits** these standards offer in facilitating market access, accelerating trade negotiations, and promoting harmonized, technically justified phytosanitary measures.
3. **Facilitate an interactive discussion** on how Contracting Parties can best leverage these new standards to enhance their phytosanitary systems, simplify trade, and secure new market access opportunities.
4. **Share the latest progress** on the development commodity standards (e.g., bananas, taro, citrus fruits, bean seeds and apples).
5. **Clarify key principles** governing the development of commodity standards, particularly regarding national sovereignty, pest risk analysis (PRA), and the non-exhaustive nature of pest lists and options of measures.
6. **Address concerns and foster dialogue** on critical aspects of commodity standard development, including the criteria for pest inclusion, technical justification, and avoiding misuse of pest lists.
7. **Encourage engagement and gather feedback** from contracting parties, NPPOs, and relevant stakeholders to ensure effective and inclusive participation and implementation, by reinforcing the IPPC's commitment to a transparent and inclusive standard-setting process that balances plant protection with trade facilitation.
8. **Invite contributions** of new topics/subjects and information materials in 2026 to support the development of new commodity standards of global interest.
9. **Generate interest in a potential IPPC workshop** on commodity specific standards for 2027.

Target Audience

[5] This side session is designed for:

- Heads of National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs) and their technical experts as delegates of IPPC Contracting Parties at CPM.
- Representatives from Regional Plant Protection Organizations (RPPOs).
- Representatives from the private sector involved in international trade of plant commodities at CPM.
- Researchers, academics, and other stakeholders interested in international plant health and trade.
- FAO employees, NSP Division, and others.
- Anyone interested in the future of international plant health standards and global agricultural trade.

Expected Outcomes

[6] Participants will gain:

- a) A clear understanding of the rationale, principles, and strategic importance of IPPC commodity standards.
- b) Updated information on the progress of IPPC commodity standard development.
- c) Enhanced confidence in the transparency and technical rigor of the standard-setting process.
- d) An opportunity to engage directly with the IPPC Secretariat and TPCS experts on implementation challenges and future directions.
- e) Increased awareness of how these standards will simplify trade processes and create new market opportunities for contracting parties.
- f) Information and discussions about a potential IPPC workshop on commodity-specific standards.

Proposed agenda (Duration: 90 minutes)

Session moderator: Avetik Nersisyan

Duration	Topic	Proposed speakers
5 minutes	Welcome and opening remarks	Enrico Perotti, IPPC Secretary
10 minutes	A recap of the history of IPPC commodity standards: from the Focus Group establishment to the adoption of the first Commodity Standard	Avetik Nersisyan, Lead of the Technical Panel for Commodity Standards (TPCS), Standards Setting Unit, IPPC Secretariat
10 minutes	Overview of the IPPC Standard Setting Process in Commodity Standards: Steps, Roles and Participation	Marina Martino, Phytosanitary Standard Setting Specialist, IPPC Standards Setting Unit
10 minutes	The Technical Panel on Commodity Standards (TPCS): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The overarching standard: ISPM 46 ○ The "Why" and "What": Benefits and key principles of Commodity Standards ○ TPCS work programme and working procedures 	Lihong Zhu, Portfolio Manager IPPC New Zealand Ministry for Primary Industries (NPPO), TPCS member

10 minutes	<p>Insights from the Steward for Citrus fruit and Musa spp. Standards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What information is used to draft commodity standards ○ Information Material Submissions: get familiar with the submission template ○ Lessons learned from IPPC consultation period 	<p>André Felipe C. P. da Silva, Federal Inspector at Quarantine Division Brazil Ministry of Agriculture, Live Stock and Food Supply; IPPC Standards Committee (SC) member</p>
10 minutes	<p>The perspective from Europe</p>	<p>Leonard Shumbe, Policy Officer, Plant Health Unit, European Commission Directorate-General for Health & Food Safety</p>
05 minutes	<p>Future steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Potential IPPC Global Workshop on Commodity Standards (2027) 	<p>Avetik Nersisyan, Lead of the Technical Panel for Commodity Standards (TPCS), Standards Setting Unit, IPPC Secretariat</p>
05 minutes	<p>Closing remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Summary of key take-home messages ○ Call to action for continued collaboration 	<p>Sophie Peterson, Director of Pacific Engagement and International Plant Health at Australian Chief Plant Protection Office Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment; IPPC Standards Committee (SC) Chairperson</p>
30 minutes	<p>Moderated Question and Answer session</p>	<p>Avetik Nersisyan, Lead of the Technical Panel for Commodity Standards (TPCS), Standards Setting Unit, IPPC Secretariat</p>