



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	Insights from the Steward for Citrus fruit and Musa spp. Standards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What information is used to draft commodity standards ○ Information Material Submissions: get familiar with the submission template 	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

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Lessons learned from IPPC consultation period 	
10 minutes	The perspective from Europe	Leonard Shumbe, Policy Officer, Plant Health Unit, European Commission Directorate-General for Health & Food Safety
05 minutes	Future steps: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Potential IPPC Global Workshop on Commodity Standards (2027) 	Avetik Nersisyan, Lead of the Technical Panel for Commodity Standards (TPCS), Standards Setting Unit, IPPC Secretariat
30 minutes	Moderated Question and Answer session	Avetik Nersisyan, Lead of the Technical Panel for Commodity Standards (TPCS), Standards Setting Unit, IPPC Secretariat
05 minutes	Closing remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Summary of key take-home messages ○ Call to action for continued collaboration 	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

Speakers' biographies

Speaker	Bio
<p style="text-align: center;">Enrico Perotti IPPIC Secretary</p> 	<p>Dr. Enrico Perotti is the newly appointed Secretary of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) at the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). He brings over 30 years of experience in scientific research and biosecurity, spanning government, academia, and the private sector. A passionate advocate for food security and sustainable agricultural productivity, Enrico has held senior roles including leadership of the biosecurity risk assessment team at New Zealand's Ministry for Primary Industries and key positions within the Australian Public Service focused on biosecurity policy and emergency response. He also advanced Australia's trade and market access as Australia's first Agriculture Counsellor to Malaysia and Brunei. Since January 2023, Enrico has served as General Manager of the Invasive Species Program at Biosecurity Queensland, leading efforts to prevent, manage, and mitigate the impacts of invasive plants and animals across the state. Coming from a multicultural background, he champions collaborative approaches that harness diverse strengths and perspectives to tackle biosecurity challenges. Enrico supports scientific innovation and the development of novel tools to enhance biosecurity and agricultural outcomes. His broad expertise includes managing operational and research programs, driving industry-wide initiatives, and building strategic partnerships across primary industries. He has worked with the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre (CIMMYT) in Mexico and Australia, and previously lectured in plant biology, biochemistry, genetics and epigenetics at the Universities of Lausanne and Zurich in Switzerland. Dr. Perotti's enduring passion and professional focus remain centered on improving food security and combating hunger worldwide through science-based biosecurity and international collaboration.</p>

<p>Avetik Nersisyan Lead of the Technical Panel for Commodity Standards (TPCS), Standards Setting Unit, IPPC Secretariat</p> 	<p>Avetik leads the Standard Setting Unit and oversees functions such as staffing, budgeting and resource mobilization. He coordinates standard setting activities of the IPPC Standards Committee, technical panels and expert working groups. As the Unit Lead, he makes a substantial input to preparations for sessions of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM), the Strategic Planning Group, the CPM Bureau, and other ad-hoc meetings. Avetik is also a liaison between the IPPC Secretariat and some key organizations and stakeholders. Before joining the secretariat, he managed the implementation of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)'s Strategic Programme Two (SP2) in the FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia. SP2 focuses on making agriculture, forestry, and fisheries more productive and sustainable. He has previously served as alternative FAO Representative for Moldova, FAO Technical Officer for Plant Production and Protection in the region and Assistant FAO Representative in Armenia. Avetik is an agronomist with a PhD in plant production and about three decades of experience in management of agriculture, plant production and protection programmes at local, regional, and global levels. Avetik has authored and co-authored several scientific publications, book chapters and training materials. He speaks Armenian, Assyrian, English, German, and Russian.</p>
<p>Marina Martino Phytosanitary Standard Setting Specialist, IPPC Standards Setting Unit</p> 	<p>Marina Martino is a phytosanitary standard setting specialist at the International Plant Protection Organization (IPPC) where she is supporting the work of the Technical Panel on Commodity Standards (TPCS), the Technical Panel on Diagnostic Protocols (TPDP) and various CPM Focus Groups and Expert Working Groups. She previously worked at the CNR Institute for Sustainable Plant Protection on research to reduce the impact of <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i> on agricultural and natural ecosystems, and at the European Food Safety Authority, strengthening plant pest surveillance and monitoring frameworks across Europe. She holds a Master's degree in Plant Sciences from Wageningen University & Research, specializing in entomology, natural resource management, and sustainable cropping systems.</p>
<p>Lihong Zhu Portfolio Manager IPPC New Zealand Ministry for Primary Industries (NPP), TPCS member</p> 	<p>Dr Lihong Zhu is the Portfolio Manager for International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) in Policy and Trade at Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) and serves as New Zealand's IPPC Contact Point. She holds a PhD in Natural Resources, in Risk Assessment for Plant Health, from the University of Greenwich, the United Kingdom. Lihong has over 30 years of experience in plant health. Since joining MPI in 2004, she has worked in a wide range of roles, including risk analysis, plant imports, plant exports, market access, and leading New Zealand's engagement in international and regional plant protection organisations. She provides strategic leadership for New Zealand's participation in both the IPPC and the Asia and Pacific Plant Protection Commission (APPPC). Lihong is a member of the IPPC Technical Panel on Commodity Standards (TPCS) and has chaired all TPCS meetings since the panel was established in 2022. Lihong chaired the IPPC CPM Focus Group on Communication Strategy, resulting in the adoption of the IPPC Communication Strategy 2023–2030 at CPM 17 in 2023. Lihong plays a major role in supporting the regional plant protection organisations. She led the development of the APPPC Strategic Plan 2022–2028 and is currently the Chairperson of the APPPC Plant Quarantine Standing Committee. She is also a member of the APPPC Advisory Group, contributing actively to regional</p>

	<p>standard setting, cooperation, and capacity building across the Asia-Pacific region. In addition to her multilateral work, Lihong has in the past led bilateral market access negotiations for New Zealand with trading partners across multiple primary industry sectors</p>
<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> 	<p>André Felipe da Silva is a Federal Inspector at Brazil’s Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, with over 22 years of experience. He is an agronomist with a Master’s degree in Plant Protection and currently works in the NPPO’s Plant Quarantine Coordination. He currently works conducting pest risk analysis reports, assessing pest risks associated with pest interceptions, and supporting bilateral negotiations on the import and export of plant products. He has been a member of the IPPC Standards Committee since 2019 and has served as Steward for the draft commodity standards on <i>Musa</i> spp. and <i>Citrus</i> spp.</p>
<p>Leonard Shumbe Policy Officer, Plant Health Unit, European Commission Directorate-General for Health & Food Safety</p> 	<p>Leonard Shumbe is a policy officer in the Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety (DG SANTE) of the European Commission, where he contributes to the development, management, monitoring and evaluation of EU policies and/or legislation in Plant Health. He is also in charge of coordinating the EU’s Plant health activities with international organizations such as IPPC and EPPO (European and mediterranean plant protection organization). Leonard holds a PhD in Plant Biology, with over 8 years of experience as a Plant genetics researcher, prior to joining the European Commission.</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



Sophie Peterson has a PhD in Plant Pathology from the University of Sydney and has worked in plant biosecurity policy and research in both the private and public sectors. She is the Pacific Engagement Manager for Plant Biosecurity and Director for Pacific Engagement and International Plant Health. Her team manages Australia's multilateral engagement on plant health matters through the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), Pacific Plant Protection Organisation (PPPO) and Asia Pacific Plant Protection Commission (APPPC). The team also delivers Australia's offshore plant health surveillance and related programs, in collaboration with Australia's near neighbour countries. In her role as Pacific Engagement Manager, Sophie acts as a contact point for countries of the region into the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry to solve biosecurity related issues and also supports capacity development programs in the region. Sophie is currently the Vice-Chair of the PPPO and represents the South-West Pacific on the IPPC Standards Committee, which she also Chairs.