

Africa Phytosanitary Programme



Agenda

Strategic partnership forum for the Africa Phytosanitary Programme (APP)

6 July 2026
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

#PlantHealthInAfrica
#APPPHase3

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INTERNATIONAL PLANT PROTECTION CONVENTION (IPPC)

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6 July 2026 | Ethiopian Skylight Hotel | Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Time	Agenda item
Opening ceremony	
<i>Moderator: Avetik Nersisyan, Senior Agricultural Officer and APP Coordinator International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) Secretariat</i>	
08:00 – 09:00	Registration and networking coffee
09:00 – 09:10	Welcome remarks: Enrico Perotti , Secretary, International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)
09:10 – 09:20	Remarks: Saliou Niassy , Coordinator, African Union Inter-African Phytosanitary Council (AU-IAPSC)
09:20 – 09:30	Remarks: Steve Côté , National Manager, International Phytosanitary Standards Section, Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA)
09:30 – 09:40	Remarks: Orlando Sosa , Representative ad interim, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Representation in Ethiopia
09:40 – 09:50	Opening statement: His Excellency Addisu Arega Kitessa , Minister for Agriculture, Ethiopia
Programme overview	
<i>This session will focus on the implementation of APP, its strategy, relevance, achievements and sustainability. The session also aims to demonstrate how APP strengthens countries' resilience in plant health. Countries from the pilot and second phases of APP will share their experiences.</i>	
<i>Moderator: Descartes Koumba, Agricultural Officer, International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) Secretariat</i>	
Time	Agenda item
09:50 – 10:10	APP impact video Presentation: APP: A platform for plant health surveillance Avetik Nersisyan , Senior Agricultural Officer and APP Coordinator International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) Secretariat

10:10 – 10:20	<p>APP implementation and pest surveillance in Mali</p> <p>Halidou Mohomodou, Director General of the Plant Protection Office, National Plant Protection Organisation, Mali</p>
10:20 – 10:30	<p>South Africa's early warning system and APP synergies</p> <p>JanHendrik Venter, Plant Health Director, Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development, South Africa</p>
10:30 – 10:40	<p>Overview of APP implementation and trade facilitation in Egypt</p> <p>Mohamed El-Mansy, Head, Central Administration of Plant Quarantine, Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation, Egypt</p>
10:40 – 11:00	Coffee break
<p style="text-align: center;">High-level dialogue: Advancing plant health, food security and safe trade</p> <p><i>Speakers will discuss how APP supports national plant protection systems, boosts food security, and facilitates access to new markets for the trade of plants and plant products. Ministers will be invited to express their governments' commitment to supporting the implementation of national surveillance systems and the sustainability of APP in their respective countries.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Moderator: Avetik Nersisyan, Senior Agricultural Officer and APP Coordinator International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) Secretariat</i></p>	
11:00 – 12:00	<p>His Excellency, Addisu Arega Kitessa, Minister for Agriculture, Ethiopia</p> <p>JanHendrik Venter, Plant Health Director, Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development, South Africa</p> <p>His Excellency Muhindo Nzangi Butondo, Minister of Agriculture and Food Security, the Democratic Republic of Congo</p> <p>Halidou Mohomodou, Director General of the Plant Protection Office, National Plant Protection Organisation, Mali</p> <p>Mohamed El-Mansy, Head, Central Administration of Plant Quarantine, Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation, Egypt</p>
12:00 – 12:15	Group picture + media interviews
12:15 – 13:30	Lunch

Time	Agenda item
<p style="text-align: center;">Partnership session: Collaboration and support for APP</p> <p><i>Representatives of donors and partner organisations will discuss supporting APP implementation in Africa and beyond, including through technical or financial contributions to the IPPC. This support will help strengthen national, sub-regional or continental level activities. Participants will also identify opportunities for collaboration, recommend actions to enhance effectiveness and sustainability, strengthen synergies, enhance country ownership, and increase APP's impact.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Moderators: Carla Mucavi, FAO Senior Advisor for Partnership and Regional Cooperation Descartes Koumba, Agricultural Officer, IPPC Secretariat</i></p>	
13:30 – 13:35	<p>Introduction for the partnership discussion</p> <p>Enrico Perotti, Secretary, International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)</p>
13:35 – 13:50	<p>Leonard Shumbe Plant Health Policy Officer, Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety, European Commission</p>
13:50 – 14:05	<p>Andrei Zhileikin Partnership Support Officer, FAO Sub-regional office for Eastern Africa</p>
14:05 – 14:20	<p>Michelle Gray International Phytosanitary Standards Director, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, United States Department of Agriculture</p>
14:20 – 15:20	<p>Partnership discussion: Emerging opportunities and proposed actions Panel members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • African Union Inter-African Phytosanitary Council (AU-IAPSC) • Near East and North Africa Plant Protection Organization (NEPPO) • Representatives of: Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Mali and South Africa National Plant Protection Organisations • IPPC Secretariat • FAO Subregional Office for Eastern Africa (one question per person)
15:20 – 15:30	<p>Coffee break</p>
15:30 – 15:50	<p>Collaboration and next steps Organizations are invited to indicate areas for continued engagement, resource mobilization discussions, technical cooperation, knowledge exchange, or future partnership exploration.</p>
15:50 – 16:00	<p>Closing remarks: Mohamed Habib Ben Jamâa, Executive Director, Near East and North Africa Plant Protection Organization (NEPPO)</p>
16:00 – 16:10	<p>Closing remarks: Enrico Perotti, Secretary, International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)</p>