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COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

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Report on IPPC Regional Workshops
Agenda item 11.2.1
Prepared by the IPPC Secretariat

I. Background

1. The IPPC Secretariat organized and supported six IPPC Regional Workshops in 2015.
2. CPM-8 (2013) agreed that the mandate of these workshops should be broadened to cover the broad range of the IPPC related issues. To better emphasise this change, the name of the workshops was changed to “IPPC Regional Workshops” (formerly “regional workshops on draft ISPMs”).
3. In 2015 the IPPC Regional Workshops targeted the following objectives:
 - Increase the capacity of CPs to formulate productive comments using the draft ISPMs under the member consultation in 2015;
 - Build phytosanitary capacity and raise awareness on different activities related to the IPPC; and
 - Share information and exchange experiences at the regional level.
4. The agenda and materials for the Workshops were developed in close collaboration among the different units of the IPPC Secretariat. Suggestions from FAO Regional officers and RPPOs received

during the CPM 10 (2015) were also taken into account. The topics of the common agenda served to help enhance participants' knowledge on the IPPC activities worldwide.¹

5. Reports and all the materials used in the IPPC Regional Workshops are available on the International Phytosanitary Portal (IPP)

II. Achievements and lessons learned

6. In total 169 participants from 89 Contracting Parties (CPs) attended the IPPC Regional Workshops in 2015. Detailed information on venues, dates, organizer and funding agencies and participation level for each workshop is provided in Attachment 1.

7. The exercise on the formulation of productive comments was performed using the Online Commenting System (OCS) for the following draft ISPMs:

- Draft ISPM - appendix to ISPM 20 on Arrangements for verification of compliance of consignments by the importing country in the exporting country (2005-003)
- Draft ISPM - revisions to ISPM 15 (Regulation of wood packaging material in international trade) Annex 1 and 2 for inclusion of the phytosanitary treatment and Sulphuryl fluoride fumigation of wood packaging material (2006-010A) the revision of the dielectric heating section in Annex 1 of ISPM 15 (2006-010B)

8. Discussions on IPPC-related topics covered the following themes:

- 1) Submission of formal objections: process and justification — a presentation on the topic aimed to remind participants to avoid formal objections through active participation in the Standard Setting Process.
- 2) Phytosanitary Resources page (www.phytosanitary.info) and IPPC technical resources exercise — the goal of this agenda item was not only to inform participants on the updates of the Phytosanitary Resources page, but to offer a practical exercise for discovering resources available on the page, where the participants were enthusiastic and, in many cases, defined the Phytosanitary resources page as a useful tool for their everyday activities. Additionally, workshops participants suggested that additional promotion of the Phytosanitary Resources page should be undertaken.
- 3) International Year of Plant Health in 2020 (IYPH 2020) — the participants were informed on the concept, specific objectives, outputs, future activities and preliminary programme of IYPH 2020. The participants were invited to be actively involved in the preparation of the IYPH 2020 through informing on and promoting IYPH, participation in planning and implementation, generating new ideas and involving young professionals into future activities for the IYPH 2020.
- 4) Updates on ISPM 15 symbol registration.
- 5) WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement — updates, possible issues and current status of the ATF were discussed
- 6) ePhyto updates.
- 7) IPPC Dispute avoidance and settlement system — the main message communicated to the participants was that the best way for dispute avoidance is the implementation of the IPPC framework.
- 8) Pilot programme on surveillance and the IPPC Surveillance manual — informed the participants on the upcoming pilot programme on surveillance. In order to support the pilot, the participants were invited to contribute technical resources on surveillance as well as funds for pilot activities. Participants were invited to review national and regional surveillance policies and legislation and demonstrate progress at CPM 11.

¹ Reports of IPPC Regional Workshops: <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/capacity-development/regional-ippc-workshops/>

9. Exchange of experiences at the regional level:

- 1) Exercise on the National Reporting Obligations — the exercise was requested by the CPs during the CPM 10 training session and allowed the sharing of experiences and approaches for meeting different NROs.
- 2) Experiences of the countries in surveillance — countries reported on surveillance activities. The approach and content of the presentations varied as reflected the status of surveillance programs and activities at national levels. An added value of the exercise is that it allowed to analyse current status of surveillance programmes and to plan future activities of the pilot. Additionally, information on surveillance activities, project and resources available in CPs were collected through a special questionnaire. The received responses were analyzed and collated.
- 3) Emerging pests — a region driven activity. In the past, some of the CPs suggested that three-day workshop was too short to address all issues of interest. Therefore, the workshops organizers were invited to support additional days of the workshops for discussions of issues of regional interest. The discussions on emerging pests were held at the Near East and North African and Central Asian and Eastern European workshops.

10. Preoperational activities of the workshops had an indirect benefit in increasing the capacities of the Secretariat staff, since a specific internal Secretariat training programme had been prepared and implemented.

11. The IPPC Regional Workshops faced some organizational challenges regarding the dates, the Secretariat representation, as well as in finding financial support from some organizers and co-organizers of the workshops. The Secretariat acknowledges the importance of discussions and collaboration with workshops organizers and co-organizers.

12. The Secretariat considers the IPPC Regional Workshops as essential for developing phytosanitary capacity in IPPC contracting parties. The workshops represent a unique opportunity for the Secretariat to meet directly with contracting parties and to get a better understanding of their needs at the regional level. The Workshops are also very valuable to showcase the presence and visibility of the IPPC at national level.

13. In this light, the participants of the workshops were requested to give a feedback on the workshops through an online survey, 84% of the participants responded to the survey.

14. The comments received have indicated that the participants value the IPPC regional workshops as a way to:

- 1) Gain experience and knowledge on topics of interest for an NPPO;
- 2) Exchange experience, opinions and technical knowledge among NPPOs and RPPOs;
- 3) Integrate with the Secretariat and raise awareness on IPPC related issues; and
- 4) Understand better ISPMs thus allowing regional agreements and increasing implementation.

15. The participants especially appreciated the opportunity to meet with resource persons from the Secretariat, SC and RPPOs. It was also highlighted that the workshops were structured differently to previous ones and the items presented were valuable for CPs.

III. Improvements for future workshops

16. The Secretariat encourages continued coordination and cooperation by organizers and co-organizers for the best benefit of CPs.

17. The Secretariat aims to improve the organisation of the workshops through devoting more time to discussions on different IPPC related activities and to topics of regional interest.

18. The CPM is invited to:

- 1) *encourage* donors, contracting parties and RPPOs to contribute funding to the IPPC Regional workshops.
- 2) *note* that the IPPC regional workshops are a valuable and essential tool for developing phytosanitary capacity for contracting parties and that the change of content in the IPPC Regional Workshops has been a successful strategy to increase and ally the knowledge on IPPC related issues in all regions.

Attachment 1

Region	Date Venue	Participants	Contracting Parties	Secretariat representation	Organizer and Funding Agency
Asia	19-23 October Jeju Republic of Korea	35	17	-	Financed by the Republic of Korea and organized by the APPPC and the IPPC Secretariat
Caribbean	29 Sep -1 Oct Port of Spain Trinidad and Tobago	16	11	1	Financed by the European Union 10 th European Development Fund (EDF) SPS project, the IPPC Trust Fund and the IPPC Secretariat. Organized by IICA under a letter of agreement
Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia	7-10 September Moscow Russia	31	12	2	Financed by the IPPC Trust Fund and FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia (FAO REO), organized by the IPPC Secretariat, FAOREU and ALL Russian Plant Quarantine Center (FGBU VNIKR)
Latin America	20-23 October Lima Peru	30	16	Through conference	Financed by the IPPC Trust Fund and organized by IICA under a letter of agreement, OIRSA, COSAVE and the National Agricultural Health Service of Peru (SENASA)
Near East and North Africa	14-17 September Amman Jordan	40	14	2	Financed by the IPPC Trust Fund and the FAO Regional Office for the Near East (FAO-RNE) and organized by IPPC Secretariat, Jordan Plant Protection Organization, FAO - RNE and NEPPO
Southwest Pacific	29-31 July Suva Fiji	17	19	1	Financed by the Australian Government's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade with assistance from the Pacific Horticultural and Market Access project (PHAMA) and the IPPC Secretariat. Organized by the Pacific Plant Protection Organization (PPPO)
Total		169	89		