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Virtual Meeting

IPPC Secretariat

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1. Opening of the meeting

1.1 Welcome by the IPPC Secretariat

- [1] Adriana MOREIRA, IPPC Standard Setting Officer and Deputy Lead of the Standard Setting Unit, opened the virtual meeting of the Technical Panel on Commodity Standards (TPCS). She welcomed all participants and explained that the main objective of the meeting was to prepare for the face-to-face meeting of the panel in June 2025.
- [2] Participants included the steward for the draft annex *International movement of seeds of Phaseolus vulgaris* (2023-008) to ISPM 46 (*Commodity-specific standards for phytosanitary measures*) and an invited expert. The invited expert, Adinda DERX (Kingdom of the Netherlands), had been invited by the Standards Committee (SC),¹ on the recommendation of the TPCS,² to participate in this meeting and the face-to-face meeting in June 2025 in relation to the draft annex *International movement of seeds of Phaseolus vulgaris* (2023-008).

2. Meeting arrangements

2.1 Selection of chairperson

- [3] As agreed at their meeting in June 2023,³ the TPCS selected Lihong ZHU (New Zealand) as chairperson.

2.2 Selection of the rapporteur

- [4] The TPCS selected Adriana CERIANI CAMDESSUS (Argentina) as rapporteur.

2.3 Adoption of the agenda

- [5] The TPCS adopted the agenda (Appendix 1).

3. Administrative matters

- [6] The TPCS noted the absence of José María GUTIAN CASTRILLON (Spain), Douglas KERRUISH (Australia) and Alfayo OMBUYA (Kenya).
- [7] A link to the TPCS membership list had been made available before the meeting. The secretariat confirmed that the membership list would be updated to delete Douglas KERRUISH after the end of May, when his resignation from the panel would take effect. The secretariat asked everyone to notify the secretariat of any updates to the membership list.

4. Review of TPCS work programme

4.1 Update from SC May 2025 meeting

- [8] The TPCS Steward, Joanne WILSON (New Zealand), gave a verbal update from the SC meeting earlier in May 2025. She reported that the SC had approved two draft commodity standards (annexes to ISPM 46) to be submitted to first consultation in July 2025: *International movement of fresh Musa spp. fruit* (2023-028) and *International movement of fresh Colocasia esculenta corms* (2023-023). The SC had not made any major changes to the drafts and had retained all the pests. The SC had emphasized the need for supporting evidence for pests and measures included in commodity standards but had acknowledged that, to date, there had been a general paucity of technical information submitted. The TPCS steward had raised the difficulties in describing systems approaches in commodity standards, because of the lack of available detail, and had suggested that this be discussed during the IPPC workshop on systems approaches to be held in Chile in December 2025. The SC had also selected

¹ SC 2025-05, agenda item 7.4.

² TPCS email decision, 2025-05-30 to 2025-05-07.

³ TPCS 2023-06, agenda item 2.1.

stewards for two priority 2 subjects: Mariangela CIAMPITTI (Italy) for *International movement of Vitis vinifera fruit* (2023-018); and Eyad MOHAMMED (Syrian Arab Republic) for *International movement of Malus domestica fruit for consumption* (2023-024).

[9] The TPCS discussed whether, in the July consultation, contracting parties could suggest pests and measures to be added to the draft commodity standards. The secretariat confirmed that this was acceptable, provided the necessary technical supporting information was also submitted. The secretariat clarified that it was not possible to add a cover note to the draft commodity standards explaining this at this stage, as any cover note would need to be pre-approved by the SC. However, the issue could be highlighted during the IPPC regional workshops.

[10] The TPCS:

- (1) *requested* that, in the IPPC presentation to the 2025 IPPC regional workshops, the secretariat encourage contracting parties to submit technical supporting information for any pests or measures being proposed for inclusion in draft commodity standards and explain how this information should be submitted.

4.2 International movement of fresh *Citrus* fruit (2023-019), priority 1

[11] In the absence of the steward for this subject, the secretariat introduced this agenda item, referring to the draft standard, the steward's notes and the information material submitted by countries.⁴ The secretariat recalled that the TPCS had started to draft the commodity standard at its face-to-face meeting in December 2024, but it had been too complex to complete in the time available and additional information had been needed from submitters.

[12] The chairperson commented that the aim at the June 2025 face-to-face meeting would be to finalize the draft, with a view to it being submitted for consultation in 2026. She encouraged TPCS members to review the draft standard and submitted information, as well as the report of the TPCS meeting in December 2024,⁵ in preparation for the June 2025 meeting.

4.2 International movement of seeds of *Phaseolus vulgaris* (2023-008), priority 1

[13] The Steward, Stavroula IOANNIDOU (Greece), emphasized that this would be the first commodity standard on seeds to be drafted by the panel and seeds were different than other commodities in many respects. She explained that she hoped to prepare an initial draft standard in time for the face-to-face TPCS meeting in June 2025. The steward invited the panel to advise on how she could best support their work.

[14] **Seed-borne and seed-transmitted pests.** The steward highlighted one of the issues that the TPCS might wish to discuss at the June 2025 meeting – how to address the distinction between seed-borne and seed-transmitted pests.

[15] **Information submitted by organizations other than national plant protection organizations (NPPOs).** The TPCS noted that one submission of technical information for this subject was from the International Seed Federation rather than from an NPPO.⁶ The TPCS recognized that, even if the NPPO of the corresponding country were to support the submission in this case, the panel would need to consider the generic issue of whether to accept non-NPPO information. The secretariat confirmed that, after discussion by the TPCS, this may need to be taken to the SC for consideration and the wording of the call for information material would also need to be checked.

[16] **Seeds as a pathway.** The invited expert, Adinda DERX (Kingdom of the Netherlands), commented that one of the questions to be considered for the draft annex *International movement of seeds of Phaseolus*

⁴ Draft standard and steward's notes: 2023-019; 02_TPCS_Tel_2025_May.

⁵ TPCS meeting reports: <https://www.ippc.int/en/commission/standards-committee/technical-panels/technical-panel-on-commodity-standards/>

⁶ Footnote to TPCS 2024-10, agenda item 4.1.

vulgaris (2023-008) would be whether the technical supporting information submitted by countries met the criteria outlined in ISPM 38 (*International movement of seeds*) for seeds as a pathway.

- [17] **Role of TPCS.** For the benefit of the new TPCS members and new stewards, the chairperson referred to the criteria for inclusion of pests and measures, which were specified in ISPM 46, and the criteria for excluding pests and measures, which had been developed by the TPCS. She emphasized that the role of the TPCS was not to assess the pest risk analyses conducted by contracting parties but to evaluate the pest and measures against the criteria for inclusion and exclusion, operating in accordance with Specification TP 6 (*Technical Panel on Commodity Standards*). One TPCS member highlighted the practice of the panel to also seek further information or clarification from submitters when needed.
- [18] The secretariat suggested that the “criteria” for exclusion of pests and measures be referred to as “reasons” rather than “criteria”, as agreed in December 2024.
- [19] The TPCS recalled that the reasons for excluding individual pests from draft commodity standards were being collated into a spreadsheet by one TPCS member, so that the secretariat could respond to queries from contracting parties if needed.
- [20] **Interception data.** The TPCS noted that interception data relating to pests were not sufficient for including a pest in a commodity standard unless the pest was regulated by at least one contracting party based on technical justification and hence met the criteria for inclusion specified in ISPM 46. The TPCS noted that the template submission form for supporting information needed to make it clear that submitters should provide evidence of the regulation and technical justification when submitting their information.

5. Upcoming TPCS meeting: arrangements for June 2025 face-to-face meeting

- [21] The secretariat referred the TPCS to the provisional agenda for the face-to-face meeting of the TPCS, to be held on 9–13 June 2025 in Auckland, New Zealand.⁷
- [22] The panel discussed the agenda and logistics.
- [23] The secretariat explained that they would defer the call for information material for the draft commodity standards on *Vitis vinifera* and *Malus domestica* until after the June meeting, as the panel would be updating the submission forms at that meeting. The secretariat confirmed that, provided the updates were only to enhance the wording or formatting and did not substantially change the substance of the form, SC approval for the revisions would not be needed.
- [24] The secretariat confirmed that the spreadsheet of pests excluded from commodity standards would be considered under agenda item 6.2 of the June meeting. This could include discussion about where to hold the spreadsheet. The TPCS noted that the spreadsheet is a work in progress and was for the internal purposes of the panel; hence, it was not appropriate to make it publicly available.

6. Any other business

- [25] There was no other business.

7. Close of the meeting

- [26] The chairperson thanked the participants and closed the meeting.

⁷ 03_TPCS_Tel_2025_May.

Appendix 1: Agenda

(Meeting documents are available only to TPCS members)

Agenda Item	Document No.	Presenter
1. Opening of the Meeting		
1.1 Welcome by the IPPC Secretariat	--	IPPC Secretariat (MOREIRA)
2. Meeting Arrangements		
2.1 Selection of Chairperson	--	MOREIRA
2.2 Selection of the Rapporteur	--	Chairperson
2.3 Adoption of the Agenda	01_TPCS_Tel_2025_May	Chairperson
3. Administrative Matters		
3.1 Connections to Zoom and virtual meetings	Short guidelines for participants	MARTINO
3.2 Introduction of new TPCS members and steward for the draft commodity standards on seeds of <i>Phaseolus vulgaris</i> .	TPCS membership list	MOREIRA/ Chairperson
3.3 Participants list (membership list)	TPCS membership list	MARTINO
4. Review of TPCS work programme		
4.1 Update from SC May 2025 meeting	--	WILSON (TPCS Steward)
4.2 International movement of Citrus fruit (2023-019), priority 1 ❖ Draft ISPM from Steward; ❖ Steward's notes ❖ Information material submission (Submitted by countries and original submissions)	2023-019 02_TPCS_Tel_2025_May Link	PERALTA DA SILVA
4.3 International movement seeds of Phaseolus vulgaris (2023-008), priority 1 ❖ Draft ISPM from Steward; ❖ Steward's notes ❖ Information material submission (Submitted by countries and original submissions)	2023-008 -- Link	IOANNIDOU
5. Upcoming TPCS meeting		
5.1 TPCS 2025 June face-face meeting arrangements • Review of draft agenda • Logistics	03_TPCS_Tel_2025_May	MOREIRA / ZHU /ALL
6. Any other business	--	Chairperson
7. Closing of the meeting	--	IPPC Secretariat / Chairperson