COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

EIGHTEENTH SESSION

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE TASK FORCE ON TOPICS FROM THE IPPC
2023 CALL FOR TOPICS: STANDARDS AND IMPLEMENTATION

AGENDA ITEM 16.5

(*Prepared by the IPPC Secretariat*)

Background

[1] The CPM-13 (2018) adopted the biennial Call for Topics: Standards and Implementation process, the criteria for justification and prioritization, and the Terms of reference for a Task Force on Topics (TFT)[1]. The TFT consists of one Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) Bureau, three Standards Committee (SC), and three Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC) representatives[2].

2023 Call for Topics: Standards and Implementation

[2] The 2023 Call for Topics was open from 5 May to 15 September, 2023. In June 2023, the Secretariat organized a *Webinar on the 2023 Call for Topics* to help contracting parties (CPs) and regional plant protection organizations (RPPOs) enhance the quality of new proposals to be included in the IPPC work programme[3]. By the end of the Call, the Secretariat received 28 topic submissions (14 standards, 3 implementation resources, and 11 diagnostic protocols (DPs)) from 9 CPs and 3 RPPOs[4].

TFT October 2023 virtual meeting and recommendations to the SC and the IC

[3] The TFT met virtually from 25 to 27 October 2023 to review the topic submissions[5]. The TFT members provided detailed preliminary assessments and scorings of topic submissions without reviewing their country submissions. These assessments formed the basis for the discussion and subsequent TFT recommendations to the SC and the IC.

[4] The TFT reviewed the topic submissions against *the Criteria for justification and prioritization of proposed topics*[6]. In addition, each TFT member assessed all topic submissions against three questions for comparative scoring and commenting on: (1) whether the problem and proposed options are relevant from an IPPC perspective; (2) whether the topic is relevant from a global perspective; and (3) whether the proposed material is adequate. Additional criteria were identified and used to review and prioritize the proposed DPs[7].

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[1] CPM-13 (2018) report: https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/85963/

[2] CPM-14 (2019) report: https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/87271/

[3] The webinar recordings are publicly available on the "2023 IPPC Call for Topics (June 2023)" web page: https://www.ippc.int/en/news/workshops-events/webinars/2023-ippc-call-for-topics-june-2023/

[4] All topic submissions are publicly available on the "Call for Topics: Standards and Implementation" web page: https://www.ippc.int/en/calls/call-for-topics-standards-and-implementation

[5] TFT October 2023 virtual meeting report available at: https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/92959/

[6] Criteria for the Justification and Prioritization of Proposed Topics: https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/89854/

[7] Criteria for prioritization of diagnostic protocols (page 2): https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/89799/

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[5]   A checklist[8] comprising questions was used to assess the topics before the meeting. The TFT discussed each topic and allocated a score from 0 (low) to 5 (high) based on the assessed merit and fit with the *Criteria for justification and prioritization of proposed topics*, and an indicative priority from 1 (high) to 4 (low) as in the Standard Setting Process ranking topics on feasibility and urgency. In addition to submission forms for commodity standards, TFT assessed information materials provided by submitters[9].

[6]   The TFT summary assessments with scores, recommendations, and proposed priorities for appropriate topic submissions were presented to the SC and the IC at their November 2023 meetings. The SC reviewed TFT recommendations on the proposed DPs as they fall within their remit (subjects for work by the Technical Panel on Diagnostic Protocols). The TFT recommendations on the topic submissions were reviewed by both committees.

SC November 2023 meeting

[7]   At their November 2023 meeting, the SC discussed the TFT recommendations on the 2023 Call for Topics submissions[10]. The SC agreed with most TFT recommendations and had additional comments on some topic submissions.

Standards other than commodity standards and DPs

[8]   The SC considered the three submissions recommended by the TFT and agreed to the inclusion of all three, with the following recommended priorities:

- **2023-031: Annex *Remote audits* to ISPM 47 (*Audits in a phytosanitary context*)** – priority 1, given how the COVID-19 pandemic had highlighted the value of remote activities and that there were more benefits to be gained from a new standard than a revision to an existing one;

- **2023-020: Revision of ISPM 12 *Phytosanitary certificates*** – priority 1, because a second EWG could be accommodated in the same year as that for 2023-031, and the global impact of this revision would be greater than that of the revision of ISPM 23 (*Guidelines for inspection*), particularly with the increasing use of electronic phytosanitary certification; and

- **2023-014: Revision of ISPM 23 (*Guidelines for inspection*)** – priority 2, although the SC welcomed the suggestion that the SC review the priority at their meeting in May 2024, when they review the draft annex to ISPM 23, as this would make it easier to understand the need for the proposed topic.

Commodity standards

[9]   There was general support among the SC for including both a temperate commodity and a tropical one. However, there was not a clear consensus on which two commodities should be prioritized. The SC therefore agreed to recommend four submissions as priority 1 topics, with a view to the TPCS providing further advice, following a call for information material, on which two to work on first. The priority 1 topics and the corresponding rationale were as follows:

- **2023-008: Seeds of *Phaseolus vulgaris*** – as a learning process on how to draft a commodity standard for a commodity other than fruit and because it may inform the development of the draft annex *Design and use of systems approaches for phytosanitary certification of seeds* (2018-009) to ISPM 38 (*International movement of seeds*);

- **2023-019: International movement of citrus fruit** – as a learning process on how to draft a commodity standard for a group of species and because of the global impact of the proposed standard (but noting that if this standard proved not to be feasible, the single-species standard (2023-027) would be developed);

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[8] Checklist for evaluating topic submissions – Appendix 6 of the TFT October 2018 meeting report: https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/86953/

[9] Information Materials for Commodity Standards: https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/92264/

[10] SC November 2023 meeting report: https://www.ippc.int/en/commission/standards-committee/

- **2023-023: International movement of fresh taro (*Colocasia esculenta*) corm for consumption** – because the proposed standard would facilitate trade by developing countries and support work on the safe provision of food aid; and
- **2023-028: International movement of fresh banana (*Musa paradisiaca*) fruit** – because of the global impact of the proposed standard and because it would support the IPPC work on addressing the pest risk of *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *cubense* Tropical Race 4.

[10] The SC recommended that the other three submissions should be included as priority 2 topics:
- **2023-018: International movement of *Vitis vinifera* fruit** – noting that it is a widely traded commodity and development of the standard may be more straightforward than the standard for *Malus domestica*;
- **2023-024: International movement of *Malus domestica* fruit for consumption** – noting that it is a widely traded commodity and the submission already contained information from several countries; and
- **2023-027: International movement of fresh orange (*Citrus sinensis*) fruit** – agreeing that this should be developed if the standard on multiple species of *Citrus* (2023-019) proved not to be feasible.

Diagnostic Protocols

[11] The SC noted that, although the TFT had recommended that all 11 submissions received be included in the work programme, the TPDP had agreed to recommend eight. The reasons for not recommending three of the submissions were related to their feasibility. The SC agreed with the TPDP's conclusion not to recommend these three topics.

[12] The SC *added* the following diagnostic protocols to the *List of topics for IPPC standards*:
- 2023-003: ISPM 27 Annex: *Oryctes rhinoceros*, priority 2,
- 2023-009: ISPM 27 Annex: High-throughput sequencing identification of pure culture of phytopathogenic regulated bacteria isolated from plants, priority 2,
- 2023-010: ISPM 27 Annex: *Alopecurus myosuroides*, priority 3,
- 2023-012: ISPM 27 Annex: Detection and identification of *Halyomorpha halys*, priority 1,
- 2023-015: ISPM 27 Annex: *Bactrocera correcta*, priority 2,
- 2023-016: ISPM 27 Annex: *Bactrocera tsuneonis* and *Bactrocera minax*, priority 2,
- 2023-026: ISPM 27 Annex: Avocado sun blotch viroid, priority 1, and
- 2023-029: ISPM 27 Annex: *Thaumatotibia leucotreta*, priority 1;

[13] *The SC agreed with the TPDP's recommendation not to add the following subjects to the List of topics for IPPC standards:*
- 2023-011: Diagnostic protocol for detection and identification of *Xylella* vectors,
- 2023-017: DP *Colletotrichum kahawae* J.M. Waller & Bridge, and
- 2023-025: DNA barcoding as an identification tool for regulated pests.

IC November 2023 meeting

[14] At their November 2023 meeting, the IC discussed the TFT recommendations on the 2023 Call for Topics submissions[11].

[15] For the **2023-013_JPN_IPPC guide: Pest risk analysis for quarantine pests,** the secretariat referred to the existing IPPC materials, such as the e-learning course on Pest Risk Analysis from which all training materials can be downloaded. Therefore, the need to amplify and promote the existing materials was

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[11] IC November 2023 meeting report: https://www.ippc.int/en/commission/capacity-development-committee/

highlighted. The revision of the PRA standards was also noted, and the secretariat stated that once the revision is finalized, the e-learning course should be reviewed as well.

[16] For the topic *2023-022_AUS_Guidance material for ISPM 26 (Establishment of pest free areas for fruit flies (Tephritidae)),* the IC agreed to include the material removed as a result of the revision of ISPM 26 in the revision of the guide on *Pest Free Areas* (2017-0044). The working group can discuss and recommend if it is feasible to add it to the current guide or to develop a standalone guide on PFAs for fruit flies.

[17] For the topic, *2023-030_CAN_Sampling Calculator Tool for Surveillance (ISPM 6) and Inspection of Consignments (ISPM 31)* the IC requested the secretariat to request the submitter to submit it as a contributed resource.

[18] Therefore, based on this discussion, IC did not recommend the inclusion in the List of Implementation and Capacity Development Topics:

    (a)   2023-013_JPN_IPPC guide: Pest risk analysis for quarantine pests;

    (b)   2023-022_AUS_Guidance material for ISPM 26 (Establishment of pest free areas for fruit flies (Tephritidae));

    (c)   2023-030_CAN_Sampling Calculator Tool for Surveillance (ISPM 6) and Inspection of Consignments (ISPM 31).

TFT December 2023 virtual meeting

[19] The TFT met virtually on 11 December 2023 and 13 December 2023 to finalize their recommendations to CPM-18[12].

[20] The topics recommended by TFT, in agreement with SC are presented to CPM for adoption as outlined in Table 1. Topics for the SC should be reflected in the LOT. (see CPM 2024/XX).

[21] The TFT discussed proposals from the SC on changing priorities of some of the proposed topic submissions. Below highlights priorities recommended by the TFT and later changed by the SC during its November 2023 meeting.

Topic	TFT priority	SC priority
2023-018_NZ_ISPM 46 Commodity-Based Standards for Phytosanitary Measures, Annex X International Movement of Vitis vinifera fruit	1	2
2023-024_UK_ISPM 46 Commodity-Based Standards for Phytosanitary Measures, Annex X, International Movement of Malus domestica fruit for consumption	1	2

[22] TFT agreed with the proposals made by the SC to change the priorities of some proposed topic submissions as demonstrated above.

[23] The TFT agreed not to recommend some topics to CPM-18 (Table 2) for various reasons justified at the meetings (see the respective reports).

[24] Although the TFT in its October meeting had recommended all 11 DPs, SC agreed with the TPDP's conclusion not to recommend these three topics:

-    2023-011: Diagnostic protocol for detection and identification of *Xylella* vectors

-    2023-017: DP *Colletotrichum kahawae* J.M. Waller & Bridge, and

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[12] TFT December 2023 virtual meeting report: https://www.ippc.int/en/commission/cpm-focus-group-reports/task-force-on-topics/

- 2023-025: DNA barcoding as an identification tool for regulated pests.

[25] Taking this information into account, TFT, at its December virtual meeting, agreed with the recommendations from the SC to exclude these three DP submissions. The final list of recommended DPs to be added to the *List of Topics for IPPC Standards* as subjects under TPDP work programme is provided in Table 3 for CPM noting.

Implementation Materials

[26] The TFT at its December meeting, agreed with the recommendations made by the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC) of not including the three Implementation submissions to the List of Implementation and Capacity Development Topics[13].

[27] The TFT noted the IC discussion that even though the three submissions for implementation materials would not be included in the List of Implementation and Capacity Development Topics, one of the submissions could be integrated into the existing guide, and the secretariat will reach out to the submitters, urging them to submit the material as a contributed resource[14].

[28] TFT agreed that topics submitted for Implementation Materials will not be added to the work programme, but the IC will integrate these topics into existing ones while promoting the information already available for other topics proposed.

Lessons learned

[29] The TFT acknowledged the continued utilization of the online submission forms for the 2023 Call for Topics to (1) simplify and accelerate the submission process, (2) increase the quality of the topic proposals, (3) ensure there are no omissions in mandatory sections, (4) establish the database with all submissions, and (5) reduce the workload on the relevant stakeholders.

[30] The TFT discussed the need for updating the submission forms and criteria for the justification and prioritization of proposed topics submissions to make it more efficient. They agreed that a more comprehensive criteria would improve the evaluation process. The TFT decided to send the revised submission forms and criteria for the justification and prioritization of proposed topics to the CPM Bureau, SPG, SC and IC for further input before presenting it at CPM-19 (2025). If CPM-19 (2025) adopts this revised submission forms and criteria for the justification and prioritization of proposed topics, the Secretariat will apply the proposed changes to the online submission forms and use it for the next IPPC Call for topics: Standards and Implementation scheduled for 2025.

Recommendations

[31] The CPM is *invited* to:

(1) *adopt* recommended topics in response to the 2023 Call for topics: Standards and Implementation as presented in Table 1;

(2) *request* the SC to add the adopted topics in their respective lists of topics with the associated recommended priorities;

(3) *request* the IC to integrate submitted topics into existing ones within work programme of the IC and promote the information already available for the topics proposed;

(4) *note* the TFT recommendations on SC subjects outlined in Table 3.

(5) *encourage* CPs, RPPOs, and other interested parties to consider providing support and resources to deliver high-priority topics on the lists of topics.

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[13] List of implementation and capacity development topics: https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/86844/

[14] IPPC Guides and Training Materials https://www.ippc.int/en/about/core-activities/capacity-development/guides-and-training-materials/

(6)   *note* that TFT will revise the submission forms and criteria for the justification and prioritization of proposed topics with inputs from the CPM Bureau, SPG, SC and IC and present the revised forms to CPM-19 (2025).

Table 1: TFT recommendations for the proposed standards

Topic number	Title	CP / RPPO	TFT recommended priority (1-4)	TFT recommended material	TFT summary
2023-008	Annex to ISPM 46: Commodity Standard Seeds of Phaseolus vulgaris	Netherlands	1	Standards	TFT recommended considering these topic submissions.
2023-014	The revision of ISPM 23 (Guidelines for inspection)	Japan	2		
2023-018	ISPM 46 Commodity-Based Standards for Phytosanitary Measures, Annex X International Movement of Vitus vinifera fruit	New Zealand	1		
2023-019	ISPM 46 Commodity-Based Standards for Phytosanitary Measures, Annex X International Movement of Citrus Fruit	New Zealand	1		
2023-020	Revision of ISPM 12 Phytosanitary certificates	New Zealand	2		
2023-023	ISPM 46 Commodity-Based Standards for Phytosanitary Measures, Annex on the International Movement of fresh taro (Colocasia esculenta) corm for consumption	PPPO	1		
2023-024	ISPM 46 Commodity-Based Standards for Phytosanitary Measures, Annex X, International Movement of Malus domestica fruit for consumption	United Kingdom	1		
2023-027	Annex International movement of fresh orange (Citrus sinensis) fruit to ISPM 46	COSAVE	2		
2023-028	Annex International movement of fresh banana (Musa paradisiaca) fruit to ISPM 46 (Commodity specific standards for phytosanitary measures)	COSAVE	1		
2023-031	Annex to ISPM 47 on Remote Audits	Canada	1		

Table 2: Topic submissions not recommended by the TFT

Topic number	Title	CP / RPPO	TFT recommended material	TFT summary
2023-005	Guidelines for the use of remote technology in inspection and auditing practices in phytosanitary systems	Egypt	Standard	TFT did not recommend these topics to CPM for inclusion on the work program
2023-007	Certification scheme for date-palm propagation material	NEPPO	Standard	
2023-021	ISPM 46 Commodity-Based Standards for Phytosanitary Measures, Annex outlining commodities of lower pest risk complexity	Australia	Standard	
2023-036	Annex The international movement of Musa spp (banana) fruit, to ISPM 46 (Commodity-based standards for phytosanitary measures)	China	Standard	
2023-013	IPPC guide: Pest risk analysis for quarantine pests	Japan	Implementation resource	
2023-022	Guidance material for ISPM 26 (Establishment of pest free areas for fruit flies (Tephritidae))	Australia	Implementation resource	
2023-030	Sampling Calculator Tool for Surveillance (ISPM 6) and Inspection of Consignments (ISPM 31)	Canada	Implementation resource	
2023-011	Diagnostic Protocol for detection and identification of Xylella vectors	Australia	Diagnostic Protocol	
2023-017	DP: Colletotrichum kahawae J.M. Waller & Bridge	China	Diagnostic Protocol	
2023-025	DNA barcoding as an identification tool for regulated pests	Kenya	Diagnostic Protocol	

Table 3: DPs recommended by the TFT and subsequently added by the SC to the LOT

Topic number	Title	CP / RPPO	TFT recommended priority (1-4)	TFT summary
2023-003	Developing Diagnostic Protocols for the Coconut Rhinoceros beetle (CRB). Oryctes rhinoceros	PPPO	2	TFT recommended the development of the DPs.
2023-009	HTS Identification of regulated bacteria isolated from plants, Annex to ISPM 27 (Diagnostic protocols for regulated pests)	New Zealand	2	
2023-010	Alopecurus myosuroides Annex to ISPM 27 (Diagnostic protocols for regulated pests)	New Zealand	3	
2023-012	Diagnostic Protocol for detection and identification of Halyomorpha halys (Brown Marmorated Stink Bug)	Australia	2	

2023-015	Diagnostic protocol for Bactrocera correcta	China	2	
2023-016	Diagnostic protocol for Bactrocera tsuneonis and Bactrocera minax	China	2	
2023-026	Diagnostic protocol for Avocado sun blotch viroid	Kenya	2	
2023-029	Diagnostic protocol for False Codling Moth, Thaumatotibia leucotreta	Kenya	2	