



TERMS OF REFERENCE

CPM FOCUS GROUP ON GLOBAL PHYTOSANITARY RESEARCH COORDINATION

(Approved by the CPM Bureau in May 2024. Revised by CPM-20 (2026))

Purpose

International research collaboration across nations, institutions and disciplines leads to higher quality science, efficiencies of resource use, better outcomes, and wider adoption of results. However, these benefits of collaboration only occur when there is mutual vision in alignment of research goals and collaboration.

The need to develop a balanced portfolio of research work, ranging from strategic to applied research, is essential in creating synergistic collaboration.

The CPM decided to form a Focus Group on Global Phytosanitary Research Coordination ahead of the recommended start of this development agenda item at the earliest in 2025. During the Scope and Plan phase, a study is to be conducted to build an understanding of the coordination mechanisms that already exist, what gaps the IPPC could fill (or whether existing mechanisms are sufficient), and how the mechanism could contribute to and support the needs of the IPPC. The need for developing an implementation plan and the continuation of the DAI would depend on the outcome of the Scope study and be subject to a CPM decision based on this work.

At CPM-20 (2026), the CPM extended the term of the focus group until the end of CPM-21 (April 2027), with a mandate to finalize a proposal for a policy and research framework and to develop an implementation plan for the framework.

Process

The IPPC Secretariat will release a call for experts on the IPPC website to allow contracting parties and regional plant protection organizations to nominate their representatives to be part of the focus group. Each region, the RPPOs, and the CPM Bureau, will submit one nomination, and all nominations will be presented to the CPM Bureau for their selection and endorsement.

Meetings of the focus group will be convened virtually but may have one in-person meeting, if necessary. Attendance of meetings by focus group members is mandatory. The meetings will be held in English.

For the additional one-year extension period (2026-2027), the focus group will meet virtually regularly, and a one in-person meeting is planned.

Membership

The current membership of the focus group will remain with a new statement of commitment signed. The CPM Bureau will review nominations from the Latin America and Caribbean region to be included in the membership of the focus group. The membership should have collective experience and expertise in a

broad, global perspective of global phytosanitary research, as well as multilateral research cooperative and coordination arrangements and policies, as well as knowledge of the IPPC and its activities.

The focus group will be composed of up to eleven members with knowledge of the IPPC's mandate and activities, taking account of geographical representation and gender balance as follows:

- (1) Up to seven members representing national plant protection organizations in each of the seven FAO regions;
- (2) Up to three members representing regional plant protection organizations (RPPOs);
- (3) One representative of the CPM Bureau;
- (4) Up to three experts representing existing phytosanitary research coordination structures are to be invited.

Functions

The focus group may propose to add tasks or amend the tasks listed below according to the information they gather during the active period, for approval of the CPM Bureau.

The key tasks of the focus group will be:

- (1) undertake a scoping study to build an understanding of the needs of the IPPC and existing research coordination structures and mechanisms, to determine what is necessary for the IPPC to advance collaboration and accelerate development of scientific evidence to support all regulatory phytosanitary activities;
- (2) as part of the scoping study, consult with and explore existing international research coordination structures and mechanisms and map the options for enhancing regional and global coordination;
- (3) as part of the scoping study, assess the benefits of developing an IPPC policy and structure for international phytosanitary research coordination, especially with regard to determining the role of RPPOs in such coordination;
- (4) following the scoping study, assess whether existing international research coordination mechanisms are sufficient and identify what gaps still exist to meet the needs of the IPPC;
- (5) following the scoping study¹, seek approval from CPM to develop options for CPM consideration on the possible mechanisms for implementing global phytosanitary research coordination;
- (6) following the CPM-20 (2026) decision², finalize a policy and research framework; and
- (7) develop an implementation plan that gives effect to this proposed policy and research framework.

Expected start date and Duration

The focus group was established by the CPM Bureau in March 2025 and provided their initial report to CPM-20 (2026). If CPM decides to proceed with the work, the focus group will remain effective until the CPM approves the implementation plan. The focus group mandate has been extended by CPM-20 (2026) for one year.

Expected Outputs

Develop and finalize a proposal for a policy and research framework and an implementation plan for the framework to be presented to CPM-21 (2027).

¹ CPM 2026/19_01: <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/95405/>

² CPM-20 report: <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/95554/>

Reports to: CPM Bureau and CPM

Funding

The organization that employs an IPPC meeting participant is responsible for funding the travel and daily subsistence allowance for that person to attend. If the employer is unable to allocate sufficient funds, participants are first encouraged to seek assistance from sources other than the IPPC Secretariat. Where such demonstrated efforts to secure assistance have been unsuccessful, requests for assistance (i.e., travel and subsistence costs) from the IPPC Secretariat may be made. However, any support is subject to available funds. The IPPC Secretariat will consider funding assistance for participants following IPPC criteria for funding. Full details on these criteria can be found on the IPP (<https://www.ippc.int/publications/criteria-used-prioritizing-participants-receive-travel-assistance-attend-meetings>).