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Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluations (PCE) and latest developments

7.5 Prepared for the IPPC Regional Workshops 2025



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Overview

- Background
- Snap shot on recent and current PCEs
- PCE success stories
- Update on EU-FAO Partnership Achievements through PCE
- Updates on the road map implementation progress to improve the PCE, based on the Desk Study conducted in 2023
- Highlights from the PCE improvement through first-hand user insights
- Spotlight on PCE Publication



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What is the Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation?

The **PCE** is a **fully comprehensive NPPO-led, facilitator-enabled**, IPPC Secretariat-supported process of multiple phases, with a wide range of benefits, to help countries evaluate their phytosanitary capacities



Coordination

NPPO designates a PCE National Coordinator



Stakeholders

Actively participate and contribute to the PCE and improvement of a country's phytosanitary capacities



Consensus

PCE consists of three consensus workshops (It is not a one-man task)



Facilitation

IPPC identifies a list of facilitators
NPPO selects a PCE Facilitator
Int. and nat. legal consultants



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Modalities to access a PCE

The following three modalities are available for conducting a PCE:

1. Facilitated modality with the support of an IPPC-certified PCE facilitator **with** technical guidance from the IPPC Secretariat.
2. Facilitated modality with the support of an IPPC-certified PCE facilitator but **without** IPPC Secretariat involvement.
3. **Independent** modality, the NPPO takes all responsibilities.



System (3)

- Country Profile
- Legislation
- Environmental forces

Organizational (3)

- NPPO's mission and strategy
- NPPO's structure and processes
- NPPO's resources

Core activities (7)

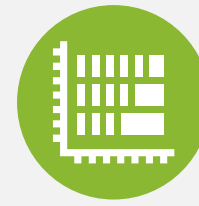
- Pest Diagnostic capabilities
- Surveillance and pest reporting
- Pest eradication
- Import regulation
- Pest risk analysis
- Pest-free areas
- Export certification & transit

Tailored and modular gap identification assessment:

1. Three levels of assessment
2. Each module contains a set of questions
3. Allows to identify gaps and their prioritization
4. Up to five gaps are prioritized per module
5. Countries can select the number of modules that suit their necessities and context
6. A full assessment is also possible
7. Arranged into an online system:



Modularity



Secure store



Confidentiality





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PCE in Action: National Benefits at a Glance!



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**SPOTLIGHT: Building a resilient
plant health system in Senegal**



**South-South Cooperation: End of
project heralds positive changes for
plant health in Cambodia and Sri Lanka**



PCE process:

Situation analysis

Strategic planning

Validation

PCE outcomes:

**National Phytosanitary Capacity
Development Strategy**

New/revised legislation/regulation



SPOTLIGHT: As its economy grows, Uganda prepares to increase exports of fresh plant produce

Posted on Tue, 22 Apr 2025, 08:21



A passion fruit farmer in Uganda © FAO / Vincent Tremeau

Ugandan's commitment to using the PCE and in a significant step forward, Uganda was able to secure EUR 8 million from the EU to implement the lessons it learned from the PCE process. The Ugandan finance ministry also pledged another USD 5.5 million toward the effort, recognizing the importance of supporting the ministry responsible for plant health. The country now plans to enhance its skills when it comes to inspections, diagnostics, and surveillance. It will also improve training for staff in both the public and relevant private sectors, and develop communications for stakeholders.

More stories at:

[Ethiopia](#)

[Saint Lucia](#)

[Sri Lanka](#)

[Zimbabwe](#)



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Strengthening Global Plant Health: Update on EU-FAO Partnership Achievements through PCE



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Focus on the PCE in COMESA

The project “*Strengthening Food Control and Phytosanitary Capacities and Governance*” was designed to **support COMESA countries in building robust, science-based phytosanitary systems** that align with international standards and facilitate trade.

GCP/GLO/949/EC

STRENGTHENING FOOD CONTROL AND PHYTOSANITARY CAPACITIES AND GOVERNANCE

- Support COMESA countries in building robust, science-based phytosanitary systems that align with international standards and facilitate trade
- Develop and deliver training for national phytosanitary officers on the proper application of the IPPC PCE tool and methodology
- Generate national and regional analyses to identify gaps and design action plans that address needs at both levels





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Key Plant Health Achievements within the Project



11 PCEs completed

Countries conducted structured evaluations of their national phytosanitary systems, identifying strengths, gaps, and priority areas for improvement.

legal module reviews

Countries have begun updating phytosanitary legislations, clarifying institutional roles, and aligning frameworks with international standards.

11 national strategies developed

Each country produced a costed, multi-year strategy to guide reform, enhance coordination, and support resource mobilization.



Cross-cutting themes integrated



SPS GAP analysis |



PCE thinking study |



Gender & Youth



6 PCE facilitators certified

A new group of certified facilitators was trained to lead future evaluations and promote sustained national and regional capacity.



8+ donor-ready proposals prepared

Countries translated their strategies into investment-ready proposals to attract support from development partners.



IPPC Plant Health Campus launched

A multilingual, learning platform offering free certified e-learning courses, guides, and tools to build capacity across NPPOs, academia and beyond.



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Meet the new certified facilitators

IPPC / News & Calls / Category: IPPC news / IPPC news / ⌵

IPPC Secretariat held training for facilitators in Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation

Posted on Wed, 14 Dec 2022, 12:45



Rome, 13 December 2022. The IPPC Secretariat held the face-to-face portion of the 2022 Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE) facilitator training course in Castel Gandolfo, south of Rome, from 28 November to 7 December 2022. Nine trainees from eight countries participated in the

[IPPC Secretariat held training for facilitators in Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation - International Plant Protection Convention](#)

IPPC / News & Calls / Category: IPPC news / highlight / ⌵

Building Phytosanitary Excellence: Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE) e-learning course and newly certified PCE facilitators strengthen global plant health

Posted on Sun, 16 Mar 2025, 11:11



[Building Phytosanitary Excellence: Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation \(PCE\) e-learning course and newly certified PCE facilitators strengthen global plant health - International Plant Protection Convention](#)

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Updates on the road map implementation to improve the PCE, based on the Desk Study conducted in 2023!



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Overview on the **Roadmap Origins**

- Based on a comprehensive **Desk Study review** conducted in 2023.
- Roadmap approved by the **Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC)** in **May 2024** and revised in **November 2024**.
- Objective: Ensure the PCE remains **fit-for-purpose**, effective, and widely accessible.



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Key Result Areas & Progress

Key Result Area: **Software and Platform Reliability**

Goal: Improve the PCE online system to ensure usability and technical reliability.





Progress:

-  Frequent IT issues identified through user feedback.
-  UNICC engaged for IT needs assessment (quoted: USD 18,830).
-  Migration to a modern platform planned for 2025/26.

Key Result Area: **Tool Revision and Strategic Updates**

Goal: Keep PCE modules current, relevant, and inclusive.

Progress:

-  **Module Revision:** Initial revision conducted with input from national stakeholders.
-  **Enhancement Workshop (Apr 2025):** Collected feedback to improve module structure.
-  **Pre-PCE Training Package:** Developed to better prepare NPPO staff and coordinators.
-  **Gender & Youth Integration:** Guidance under development with FAO teams.



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Key Result Areas (KRAs) & Progress

Key Result Area: **Strengthening Expertise**

Goal: Expand and strengthen the network of trained PCE facilitators.





Progress:

-  **10 New Facilitators Certified** following the 2021 certification procedure.
-  **Training Delivered:** Results-Based Management & Logical Framework Approach training delivered to 11 countries.
-  **Facilitator Community:** Networking and experience-sharing structures in development.

Key Result Area: **Monitoring and Evaluation**

Goal: Measure the impact of PCEs and foster continuous learning.

Progress:

-  **IPPC Plant Health Campus Launched:** Supports eLearning and facilitator development.
-  **R-SAT Virtual Course (Oct 2024):** 4-week training successfully delivered.
-  **Project Definition Workshop:** Improved donor engagement and proposal quality.
-  **Restitution Workshop (Apr 2025):** Peer learning and donor outreach event delivered.



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Cross-Cutting Achievements



Awareness & Communication

-  PCE Webpage updated with modules and guidance.
-  Global outreach materials developed (impact video, example outputs).
-  SPS Gap Analysis completed.

Sustainable Funding

-  Cost structure shared with all IPPC bodies.
-  Resource mobilization strategy in progress.
-  CPM-19 encouraged allocation of USD 50,000 for system support.

Institutional Improvements

-  Post-PCE review processes being institutionalized (e.g. regional follow-ups).
-  Exploration of AI and strategic dashboards for smarter planning and reporting.



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Updates on Enhancing the PCE Through First- Hand User Insights

User Feedback: A Key Driver
in Enhancing the PCE





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Feedback from National Coordinators and PCE Facilitators to improve the PCE



Technical Workshop Held – April 2025: A technical face-to-face workshops to strengthen the PCE process



Key Recommendations Generated: The PCE Improvement Workshop generated key recommendations to enhance the PCE process



Revision of the PCE modules

- In April, IPPC secretariate along with facilitators initiated comprehensive revision to the modules structure, order, relevance and questions

Pre-PCE training

- A new e-learning course on the PCE, developed with the FAO eLearning Academy, was launched to train national coordinators and NPPO staff in effectively using the tool and applying its recommendations.

Gender & Youth mainstreaming

- The IPPC, in collaboration with the Gender and Youth team, developed a guiding document to better integrate gender and youth considerations into the PCE process, offering clear guidance on how to incorporate gender effectively



learning from Other organization

- The IPPC invited the World Organization for Animal Health to share insights from its PVS tool to explore best practices & innovations that could enhance the PCE

Software and platform enhancement

- The tool will be enhanced with new features, e.g. including automatic generation of similar questions and answers, as well as improved data retrieval and analysis capabilities.

Integration of AI Features in Tool Enhancement

- The tool will include AI features to extract shared themes and ideas, analyze data, identify gaps, and suggest targeted solutions to address weaknesses.



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Spotlight on PCE Publications



1. Assessing and advancing phytosanitary capabilities in targeted countries in eastern and southern Africa: a pathway to resilient agriculture



© FAO / Anita Tibesaaga

Main Gaps Identified

- Outdated legislation and limited legal enforcement
- Weak diagnostic and surveillance infrastructure
- Poorly defined NPPO structures and limited staffing
- Inadequate border inspection capacity
- Governance and strategic planning under-addressed

Recommendations

- Modernize phytosanitary legislation
- Strengthen technical infrastructure (labs, ePhyto, PRA tools)
- Establish regional training hubs and databases
- Integrate PCE results into national budgets and development plans
- Promote coordinated regional strategies through COMESA & AU-IAPSC

2. Phytosanitary systems and agricultural development: modeling the impact of phytosanitary capacity evaluations in Africa

The study focuses on the following specific objectives:

- Analysis of interactions between phytosanitary measures, plant health, human health, environmental health, and economic outcomes
- Assessment of the impact of phytosanitary measures on trade efficiency, economic growth, and youth employment/migration trends
- Provision of evidence-based policy recommendations

Results:

- Biodiversity preservation
- Ecosystem resilience
- Soil and water quality

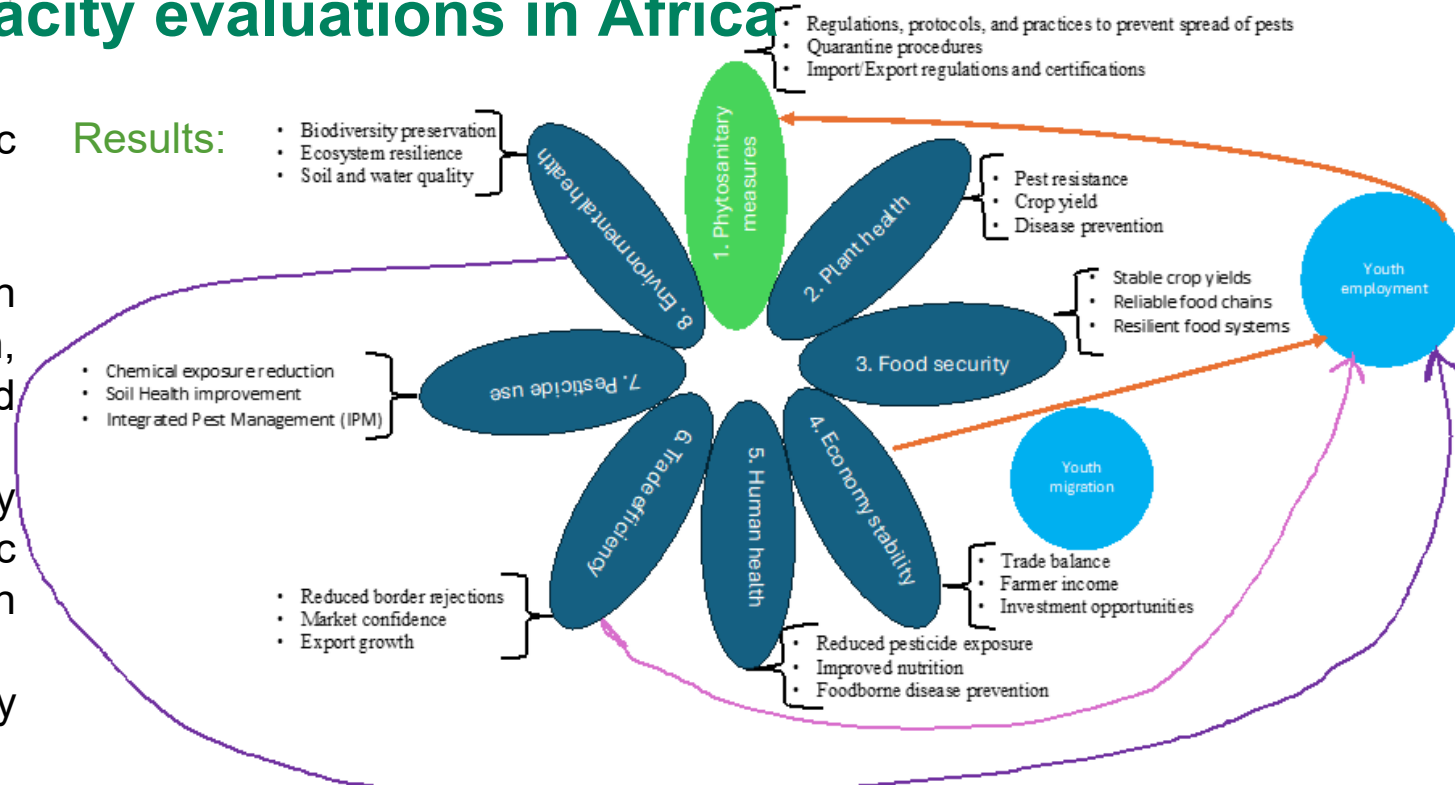


Figure 1. Diagram of the key components of an African phytosanitary core system. Each component plays a critical role in ensuring food security, economic stability, environmental health, and youth participation



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3. How to integrate gender and youth in Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluations (PCE).



*“Sanitary and phytosanitary measures (SPS) are critical for protecting plant health, ensuring food safety, safeguarding biodiversity, and enabling access to international markets. Yet, the **successful implementation of these measures depends not only on technical expertise, but also on whether systems are inclusive, equitable and socially responsive.** In many countries, critical social dimensions—including gender and age—remain under-considered in phytosanitary planning, limiting the resilience, legitimacy, and long-term impact of national plant protection efforts (Henson, 2018).”*



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Initiate the pathway for an improved phytosanitary system in your country !!

Visit the IPP to learn how to access a PCE!

<https://www.ippc.int/en/about/core-activities/capacity-development/phytosanitary-capacity-evaluation/>



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Thank you

IPPC Secretariat

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