



UPDATE FROM THE IMPLEMENTATION AND CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

(Prepared by the IPPC Secretariat)

1. Introduction

- [1] The Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC)¹ is a subsidiary body of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) which develops, monitors and oversees an integrated programme to support the implementation of the IPPC, the International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs) and the CPM recommendations. The IC strengthens the phytosanitary capacity of contracting parties.
- [2] The objective of this paper is to provide an overview of the IC activities to the Technical Consultations among Regional Plant Protection Organizations (TC-RPPO).

2. IC contribution to the IPPC Strategic Framework (2020–2030)

- [3] The IC plays a significant role in the implementation of the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020–2030. The IC oversees five (5) of the eight (8) development agenda items (DAIs):

2.1 harmonization of electronic data exchange.

- [4] To support the harmonization of electronic phytosanitary certification, the ePhyto Multi-Donor Trust Fund was established based on the funding model approved as a pilot by CPM-18 (2024). In line with this model, the secretariat sent an official communication to all user countries (on 26 November 2024), inviting them to provide voluntary contributions for the 2025/2026 period. As of July 2025, approximately 30% of the expected contributions had been received.
- [5] The CPM Focus Group on Sustainable Funding met twice in 2024 to explore further refinement to the funding model. The group's findings were presented to CPM-19 (2025). As a result, CPM agreed on the following decisions:
 - usage fees for the IPPC ePhyto Solution will be waived for UN-designated least developed countries and World Bank low-income countries starting in 2026;
 - The current funding model will be maintained based on a two-third base fee and one-third usage fee.
 - Additional parameters will continue to apply:
 - o Counting both sending and receiving ePhytos (including non-commercial exchanges)
 - o Applying World Bank classifications to differentiate the country's obligations.
- [6] From 1st September 2025 Gianluca NUZZO and Valeria LUGINI will support the implementation of work on ePhyto and the ePhyto Africa initiative.

2.2 e-commerce, and postal and courier channels.

- [7] The IC team on e-commerce contributed to the development of the 2024 IPPC Observatory E-commerce Study by reviewing the draft questionnaire, testing the survey, proofreading the translations, promoting the

¹ IC webpage: <https://www.ippc.int/en/commission/capacity-development-committee/>

completion of the survey in their regions, and reviewing the preliminary findings as well as the initial draft of the study report.

- [8] The IC team on e-commerce had recommended that completion of the investment prospectus flyer for the *IPPC Management of e-commerce and postal and courier pathways* DAI be delayed, so that the outcomes of the e-commerce study could be considered.

2.3 Strengthening pest outbreak alert and response systems (POARS).

- [9] The IC continues to support the strengthening of the POARS initiative, which has made significant progress in 2025.
- [10] At CPM-19 (2025), the POARS Steering Group was officially endorsed as the long-term governance body for the system. However, the IPPC Secretariat highlighted that resource constraints may limit the full operationalization of POARS. In response, CPM-19 reaffirmed the request, first made at CPM-14 (2019), for the Secretariat to establish a dedicated trust fund to address global emerging pest threats and emergencies. Currently, the Secretariat is considering opening a specific pocket for POARS under the MTDF, which would have the same effects but with less bureaucracy than opening a new one.
- [11] Key recent achievements under POARS include:
- The operationalization of a structured process and criteria to identify and assess emerging pests;
 - A global call for pest nominations, resulting in 33 submissions, which are currently being assessed based on defined criteria;
 - The launch of the IPPC Pest Alert System; and
 - The first official pest alert, issued for *Clavibacter nebraskensis*.
- [12] The IC has encouraged synergies between POARS and other IPPC initiatives such as NROs, global coordination on Fusarium TR4, and APP. The Steering Group will meet in person in Rome at the end of September to advance concrete deliverables.
- [13] Currently, there is no RPPO representative in the POARS Steering Group, as the previously designated member declined for personal reasons, and their predecessor has since retired.

2.4 developing guidelines on the use of third-party entities.

- [14] The main activities planned on this topic include the development of two IPPC guides: *Authorization of entities to perform phytosanitary actions* (2018-040), and *Audit in the phytosanitary context* (2021-009). Specifications for both guides have previously been approved and are available on the IPP. In 2022, Canada had contributed partial funding for this DAI. At CPM-19 (2025), Australia and Canada contributed additional funds to the Multi-Donor Trust Fund to support the third-party entities development agenda, enabling work on the two guides to begin once secretariat resources are available.
- [15] The IC noted the guides should be developed in coordination to ensure the content of the two be complementary without unnecessary overlap. The IC invited the secretariat to launch a call for nominations for expert working group for the guide on *Audit in the phytosanitary context* (2021-009) in November 2025, including a notice about a second call to be launched for second expert working group for guide on *Authorization of entities to perform phytosanitary actions* (2018-040); and requested the IPPC Secretariat initiate work on the development of the guide on *Audit in the phytosanitary context* (2021-009) in 2026.

2.5 CPM Focus Group on Climate Change and Phytosanitary Issues (FG-CCPI)

- [16] The IFU has taken over the activities of this FG, meaning that the work with IC is being strengthened. The FG - CCPI proposed to the IC ways to consider climate change in the IC's work and development of ICD materials, including requiring submitters of topic proposals to indicate the relevance of climate change; integrating climate change guidance in future guides; and considering dedicated ICD materials on climate change. The IC agreed to revise the draft specification forms for future guides and training materials by adding a section on climate change, if applicable, for the working group to have a clear task to address climate change during the drafting and development stage of the material.
- [17] To support awareness and knowledge exchange, the IPPC Secretariat and FG-CCPI are co-organizing a webinar series in October 2025, focusing on pest risk analysis under climate stress, climate-resilient surveillance, and the role of biocontrol.

3. IC meetings

- [18] In November 2024, the IC met in Rome, Italy, to review the 2024 activities of the secretariat's Implementation and Facilitation Unit (IFU), IC Subgroup and Teams, and approved their work plans for 2025². The IC also raised the crucial issue of sustainable resourcing of the IPPC IFU, for which several activities, some of which are a core function of the IPPC, remain insufficiently funded and staffed.
- [19] The November meeting was an opportunity for the IC to discuss the CPM Bureau and Strategic Planning Group (SPG) meetings held in October 2024 and receive an update on POARS, PCE, the Africa Phytosanitary Programme (APP), 2024 IPPC regional workshops, as well as the 2024 Technical Consultation among Regional Plant Protection Organizations.
- [20] The IC discussed strategic approaches to raise national plant protection organization (NPPO) awareness and improve their access to IPPC online capacity development resources. The IC also raised the need for more countries to adopt the IPPC ePhyto Solution and conduct PCEs to assess and enhance the effectiveness of their plant health systems.
- [21] A demo of the new IPPC Plant Health Campus was presented to the IC during its November 2024 meeting. The IC recommended that the Campus be made available in all FAO languages.
- [22] In May 2025, the IC reviewed outcomes from CPM-19 (2025) in the implementation area and agreed on the needed follow up actions. The IC underscored underfunding challenges in implementation and capacity development activities and advocated for regular-budget positions within the Implementation and Facilitation Unit (IFU) in particular for developing guides and training materials.
- [23] The May IC meeting³ was also an opportunity to strengthen collaboration with international organizations that participated in the IC meeting as observers and promote innovations in plant health during the IC webinar⁴ which was organized during the IC meeting as part of the IC open session on project. Collaboration between the IC and the Standards Committee (SC) was strengthened through proposed systems to collect and archive implementation issues and ongoing brainstorming sessions to streamline joint efforts.

² IFU work plan 2025: <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/94305/>

³ IC May 2025 meeting report: <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/94703/>

⁴ IC webinar on project: <https://www.ippc.int/en/events/webinars/smart-plant-health-what-does-the-future-look-like/>

[24] Further information on IC meeting outcomes is available on the International Phytosanitary Portal (IPP).⁵

4. IPPC guides and training materials

[25] In addition to those completed or revised in 2024 (one IPPC guide, two e-learning courses, and the Fusarium TR4 training materials), several implementation resources have been developed in 2025 to enrich the IPPC Plant Health Campus. A lot of these implementation resources had been translated into French and Spanish, and a comprehensive communication plan had been rolled out to promote their use.

[26] The following the guides and training materials are under development (priority 1):

- 3 *Plant pest emergency simulation tool* (2024-002);
- 4 *Guide on risk-based inspection* (2018-022);
- 5 *Wood packaging material heat treatment manual* (2017-043a);
- 6 *Wood packaging material fumigation treatment manual* (2017-043b).
- 7 The *IPPC Plant Health Campus e-learning platform* (2017-054) was released in March 2025, and the key deliverables include eight new e-learning courses, a learning paths tool that links NPPO roles to relevant e-learning courses and resources, an emergency pest simulation tool, and the translation of the materials into French. All efforts are being made to translate the courses in Spanish. RPPOs are invited to support the promotion of the Campus in general, and to provide in-kind as well as financial support to further translate the guides and courses to Arabic and Russian.

5. Collaboration between the IC and SC

[27] The IC is fully committed to strengthening collaboration with the SC to include the development of ISPMs and their implementation in a more unified approach. Strengthening collaboration between the two committees requires a different way of funding the IFU, for which more staff should be available for non-project work, or that project funding should be made available for the IFU when a standard is being developed to facilitate a synergistic approach (as has been discussed by the SPG). The IC is working on a proposal to rethink ISPMs and a paper will be developed to propose its view to SPG 2025.

[28] The IC has opened a discussion to strengthen the status of the IC representative to the SC. Proposals also include the establishment of a more efficient process for the transmission and archiving of implementation issues identified by the SC, as well as the reciprocal participation of chairpersons in the meetings of the May 2025 IC and SC meetings.

[29] As part of ongoing collaboration, the Standards Committee (SC) supported the certification of eight new PCE facilitators by actively participating in the PCE Boards.

6. IPPC Call for Topics: Standards and Implementation

[30] CPM-19 (2025) agreed that the IPP call for topics for the next two years will be an open call and requested the SC and the IC to review and assess the topic submissions. The call will now include submission of topics for IPPC Observatory studies and surveys. It was proposed that topics submitted from October to March be reviewed during the May meetings of the IC and the SC, while those submitted from April to September be reviewed during the November IC and SC meetings.

⁵ IC meeting reports: <https://www.ippc.int/en/commission/capacity-development-committee/>

[31] The IC established a dedicated IC team to review the topics submitted during the open call for topics in 2025 and 2026, requested the secretariat to prepare terms of reference for this new IC Team on Topics; and, noted that the 2-year trial period assessment of the new process will be conducted, and the results will be presented to CPM-21 (2027) with recommendations for future steps.

7. Other implementation activities

7.1. IPPC Observatory

[32] The IC subgroup on the IPPC Observatory is working on the Third IPPC General Survey, to deliver the work as scheduled. The international survey specialist is to be hired to support the review, development, and re-design of the third general survey, with an objective to simplify and standardize it, so that the survey is easy to complete and can be easily repeated every two-three year. RPPOs will be invited to spread the Third IPPC General Survey that will be launched by the end of 2025.

[33] The two IPPC surveys on the use of fungicides and antibiotics in plant protection have been closed as mandated by CPM-19 (2025). The continuation of AMR/AMU data collection in plant health will now be carried out through the FAO InFARM platform, and the call for data collection will be launched shortly.

7.2. Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE)

[34] The IC received an update on recent Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluations (PCEs), including the status of evaluations completed or initiated in countries, funding sources, and the resource needs for the modernization and maintenance of the PCE tool. Many of these activities were supported under the GCP/GLO/949/EC project, which enabled the conduct of PCEs in 11 COMESA countries and the development of national phytosanitary strategies.

[35] Two technical workshops were held in Rome in April 2025 as part of the GLO/949 project:

- The Mutualization Workshop (9–11 April) promoted regional dialogue and collaboration, leading to the identification of cross-cutting gaps, regional priorities, and opportunities for cross-border coordination.
- The PCE Improvement Workshop (14–17 April) generated key recommendations to enhance the PCE process, including module revisions, development of pre-evaluation training, digital platform modernization, and strengthened follow-up mechanisms.

[36] In response, efforts are now underway to revise the PCE framework and upgrade the online PCE tool to support continuous improvement.

[37] The IC acknowledged the certification of 8 new PCE facilitators, in line with IC procedures, to further support countries in strengthening their phytosanitary systems.

[38] The TC- RPPO is invited to:

- (1) *note* the update from the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee;
- (2) *support* the upcoming calls that will be circulated by the end of the year, in particular the call for nominations to the Expert Working Group on Audit in the phytosanitary context;
- (3) *support* the promotion of the IPPC Plant Health Campus and provide in-kind and/or financial contributions for translations of all guides and courses to additional languages;
- (4) *support* the promotion of the third general survey;

- (5) *nominate* a representative from the RPPOs to join and actively contribute to the POARS Steering Group;
- (6) *promote* regional engagement in the upcoming FG-CCPI webinar series on climate change and phytosanitary issues (October 2025) and encourage the integration of climate change considerations in national and regional plant health strategies.