



COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

TWENTIETH SESSION

2025 REPORT FROM THE IPPC SECRETARIAT

AGENDA ITEM 7

(Prepared by the IPPC Secretariat)

Introduction

- [1] During the reporting period, the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) Secretariat maintained consistent progress on its strategic priorities while navigating significant institutional challenges. Despite reduced staffing capacity and the pending appointment of a new IPPC Secretary, the Secretariat demonstrated strong organizational resilience and successfully delivered on its core Work Programme commitments throughout this transitional phase.
- [2] Notable milestones include the technical advancement of several draft International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs) and the landmark adoption by The Nineteenth Session of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM-19) of the first “next-generation” commodity standard: Annex 01 to ISPM 46 (International movement of fresh *Mangifera indica* fruit). This adoption marks a strategic shift toward commodity-specific harmonization. Furthermore, the Secretariat reached a critical milestone in capacity development with the launch of the IPPC Plant Health Campus in March 2025 - a multilingual digital hub developed with the FAO e-learning Academy. This was bolstered by the expansion of the Africa Phytosanitary Programme (APP), which transitioned into its second phase in June 2025, empowering 20 African nations with advanced digital tools for pest surveillance.
- [3] These initiatives, alongside a high-impact global communications campaign for the 2025 International Day of Plant Health (IDPH) under the theme “The importance of Plant Health in One Health” that achieved over 1 billion digital impressions, the continued expansion of the ePhyto Solution to additional IPPC contracting parties, and the successful execution of the IPPC Global Workshop on Systems Approaches in December 2025 ensured the uninterrupted implementation of the Strategic Framework 2020–2030, reinforcing the Convention’s role as the central platform for global phytosanitary cooperation.
- [4] **CPM and subsidiary bodies.** The IPPC Secretariat continued to support IPPC governance. The Nineteenth Session of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM-19) took place in FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy on 17–21 March 2025 and brought together over 300 delegates from the IPPC contracting parties and observer organizations.
- [5] The CPM Bureau met five times in 2025, with the support of the IPPC Secretariat. The IPPC Secretariat facilitated the Fourteenth Session of the Strategic Planning Group (SPG), which took place after the CPM Bureau meeting in October 2025 in Rome, Italy. The Standards Committee (SC) and the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC) met in Rome in May and in November.
- [6] **CPM focus groups.** In 2025, with a total of six CPM Focus Groups, there were five active CPM focus groups - two on Climate Change and Phytosanitary Issues and Global Phytosanitary Research Coordination—as along with one steering group on Pest Outbreak and Alert Response Systems (POARS). All supported implementation of the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020–2030 development agenda items (DAIs). The focus group on Diagnostic Laboratory Networking has now been established and is starting its work following its terms of reference. A full update from all groups will be presented

to CPM-20 (2026) as separate papers under agenda item 13. In addition, the CPM focus groups on sea containers, the safe provision of food and other humanitarian aid and on plant health in the context of One Health continued their work in line with their respective terms of reference. A full update from these three groups will be presented to CPM-20 (2026) under agenda item 14.

Standard setting

- [7] In 2025, the IPPC Secretariat continued to provide dedicated technical and administrative support to the SC in advancing the IPPC standard-setting work program. The SC progressed multiple draft International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs), annexes, and diagnostic protocols through consultation and adoption processes, and addressed strategic issues related to the future of ISPMs and clarification of key phytosanitary terminology. Collaboration with the IC was further strengthened, and SC members actively contributed to the 2025 IPPC regional workshops to support contracting party engagement in the standard-setting process. The full report from the SC is detailed in CPM-20 (2026) agenda item 9.1.

Implementation and capacity development

- [8] The Implementation and Facilitation Unit (IFU) within the IPPC Secretariat continues to coordinate development of IPPC guides and training materials, manage capacity-building projects, and support contracting parties in implementing the IPPC and ISPMs. This work is guided by the IC and aligns with the IFU 2025 work plan, as described in CPM-20 (2026) agenda item 9.2.
- [9] Progress on the **five priority Development Agenda Items (DAIs)** led by the IFU is summarized below, demonstrating tangible global impact.

DAI 1: Harmonization of Electronic Data Exchange — the IPPC ePhyto Solution

- [10] The IPPC ePhyto Solution continues to serve as a cornerstone of the global digitalization of phytosanitary trade documentation. During 2025, exchanges increased by 30 percent, and the ePhyto HUB currently processes an average of approximately 250,000 certificates per month. By December 2025, 98 countries were exchanging, with a steadily growing user base, contributing to enhanced trade efficiency, transparency, fraud prevention, and improved compliance with sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) requirements.
- [11] In 2025, significant emphasis was placed on strengthening the operational foundations of the ePhyto programme. Key achievements included the establishment of a dedicated and strengthened ePhyto team, standardization of processes, and the development of enhancements to the governance, change management, and the voluntary contributions model, which will be presented at CPM-20 (2026) under agenda item 13.1. Communication and transparency were further reinforced through the introduction of regular ePhyto updates to contracting parties and stakeholders.

DAI 3: Management of E-commerce and Postal/Courier Pathways

- [12] The IPPC guide on e-commerce has been widely disseminated and translated, an infographic video has raised global awareness, and an IPPC Observatory e-commerce survey was finalized for publication, with results to be presented at CPM-20 (2026) under agenda item 13.3.

DAI 4: Developing Guidance for the Use of Third-Party Entities

- [13] Development of two high-priority guides — *Authorizing entities to perform phytosanitary actions* and *Audit in the phytosanitary context* — has progressed from concept toward initiation. The report from this DAI is presented to CPM-20 under agenda item 13.4.

DAI 5: Strengthening Pest Outbreak Alert and Response Systems (POARS)

- [14] The DAI on POARS advanced from pilot testing to early operational implementation, with the Steering Group applying the agreed upon criteria to identify emerging pests of global concern and issuing global pest alerts based on horizon scanning and National Reporting Obligations to identify relevant pests.

Monthly pest reporting summaries continue to be produced, and a dedicated working group will further aggregate global information on prioritized emerging pests. The report from this DAI is presented to CPM-20 under agenda item 13.5 and 19.

DAI 6: Assessment and Management of Climate Change impacts on Plant Health (see point 13.6)

- [15] The Climate Change Focus Group is concluding its mandate, having successfully delivered all planned activities. These included awareness-raising initiatives through the organization of a series of webinars and publications, as well as the development of forthcoming recommendations on how to systematically embed climate change considerations into plant health frameworks and the core activities of the IPPC Secretariat. The report from this DAI is presented to CPM-20 under agenda item 13.6.

Core Capacity Development and Phytosanitary Tools (see point 15)

- [16] The [IPPC Plant Health Campus](#) (see CPM-20 (2026) agenda item 15.1) was successfully launched in early 2025 as a unique global e-learning platform hosted on the FAO e-learning Academy. It offers 12 certified courses in English and French, with Spanish forthcoming, more than 20 IPPC guides, and structured learning pathways accessible to plant health professionals worldwide. By December 2025, over 15 000 learners had registered on the Campus, and universities demonstrated strong interest in integrating these resources into Master's programmes, contributing to the training of the next generation of plant health professionals.
- [17] **Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluations (PCEs)** (see CPM-20 (2026) agenda item 15.2) continued to be a flagship activity with increased uptake, supporting countries in assessing and strengthening their national phytosanitary systems. PCEs contributed to institutional change within NPPOs and, in several cases, informed project development and resource mobilization to advance national priorities. In 2025, the IFU supported multiple assessments, defined a clear way forward to improve the PCE tool, and took stock of the benefits of PCEs for countries, including the integration of youth and gender considerations, through dedicated published studies.

Transversal implementation and capacity development activities

- [18] The **CPM Focus Group on Plant Health in the Context of One Health** (see CPM-20 (2026) agenda item 14.3) is concluding its mandate, having successfully delivered all planned activities, notably the drafting of a study on Plant Health within the One Health framework. The CPM will consider the relevance of a recommendation on antimicrobial use in plant health.
- [19] The [IPPC Observatory](#) is the monitoring, evaluation, and analytical function of the IPPC Secretariat, established to collect, analyse and synthesize phytosanitary data and information from contracting parties in order to support transparent, evidence-based and timely decision-making. In 2025, the IPPC Observatory finalized two studies, one on e-commerce and another on antimicrobial use in plant health, providing reliable global insights, identifying trends and gaps, and strengthening the basis for informed policy development, strategic planning and monitoring of phytosanitary implementation.
- [20] Another major achievement for the observatory in 2025 was the redesign of the **Third IPPC General Survey**, which resulted in a streamlined, standardised tool that generates more accurate, comparable, and actionable data on how contracting parties implement their national obligations. This new methodology enables the general survey to be repeated every two to three years, allowing consistent monitoring of implementation progress, trends, achievements, and challenges across the IPPC community.
- [21] Despite ongoing resource constraints, the IFU continued to **mobilize partnerships, advocate for sustainable funding, and expand capacity development outreach**. Key challenges remain in ensuring long-term funding for guides, POARS, ePhyto, and core IPPC implementation activities.

Communications and outreach

- [22] Using a **strategic communications approach by creating more meaningful content, targeted distribution and measuring impact**, communication efforts yielded continued growth in social media engagement and following; a 65 percent increase in [newsletter](#) subscription; and 90 [media outlets](#) covering various IPPC events and activities worldwide. The IPPC Secretariat participated in the first FAO Global Exhibition: Seeds to Foods in Rome, engaging around 10 000 visitors and raising IPPC's visibility. [Branding](#) FAO spaces during CPM-19 helped raise awareness about the role of IPPC and CPM in FAO's wider work in plant protection. Further details can be found in the paper presented under Agenda Item 21.1.

International Day of Plant Health (IDPH) 2025

- [23] With the theme "[The importance of plant health in One Health](#)", was held in El Salvador, hosted by the International Regional Organization for Plant and Animal Health (OIRSA) and opened by FAO Director-General QU Dongyu vis a vis FAO's 80th anniversary and in parallel with IPPC's long-standing work on plant protection.
- [24] The IDPH global campaign reached a milestone of **1+ billion online impressions**, signifying heightened interest and engagement on the Day among NPPOs, RPPOs, relevant organizations and the wider public. Further details can be found in the paper presented under Agenda Item 21.1.

International cooperation

- [25] The IPPC Secretariat maintained external cooperation with more than 50 international and regional organizations. Full details can be found in the paper presented under agenda item 22.2.

IPPC networks

- [26] Seven IPPC regional workshops were organized by the IPPC Secretariat in 2025 to analyse and prepare comments online for draft ISPMs; build phytosanitary capacity and raise awareness on various activities of the IPPC Community; and provide a forum to exchange experiences and ideas at the regional level. The outcomes of the workshops were harmonized comments on draft ISPMs and CPM recommendations and shared information on topics of interest and other phytosanitary issues related to each region. Full details of the workshops can be found in the paper presented under agenda item 22.1.
- [27] The IPPC Secretariat provided continuous support to RPPOs participating in CPM focus groups as well as for the delivery of regional workshops and other events. In the first quarter, the IPPC Secretariat supported the Thirty-Seventh TC-RPPO convened in person in Bangkok, Thailand. Full details of the meeting can be found in the paper presented under agenda item 16.1.
- [28] In 2025, Australia, Canada, Ireland, the Republic of Korea, New Zealand, and the United States of America contributed a total of USD 614,372 to the IPPC Multidonor Trust Fund. In addition, the European Commission committed USD 1,666,666 over a three-year period to support three priority areas: the development of Commodity Standards, the strengthening of Pest Outbreak Alert and Response Systems (POARS), and the implementation of the Africa Phytosanitary Programme (APP). The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland also contributed USD 1.197 million in support of the Africa Phytosanitary Programme. Regarding the ePhyto Solution, as of November 2025, 22 out of the 72 contracting parties encouraged at CPM-18 (2024) to provide a voluntary contribution have done so in 2025 (under the CPM-20 (2026) agenda item 13.1.3 IPPC ePhyto Solution funding model). Furthermore, a new project, with a dedicated funding source and team, for the full implementation of ePhyto across five Central African countries (Chad, Central African Republic, Cameroon, Gabon, Democratic Republic of the Congo) and selected European countries has been confirmed by the European Commission, with an overall budget of approximately USD 4 million (under the CPM-20 (2026) agenda item 13.1.1 IPPC ePhyto Solution Implementation Update Including Governance Status).

Africa Phytosanitary Programme

[29] The APP is an initiative of the IPPC Secretariat that aims to transform the technical capacity of Africa's NPPOs and their national stakeholders and cooperators, using scientific evidence and advanced technology and tools to proactively monitor, efficiently and promptly detect, and ultimately respond to and recover from plant pests and diseases of economic, regulatory and environmental significance. The programme provides training, digital tools, field resources, and collaboration opportunities to enhance and strengthen the resilience of Africa's phytosanitary systems against plant pests. The APP is a continent-wide phytosanitary programme aiming to support all African countries by providing techniques to prevent and manage plant pests. The APP has onboarded 9 additional countries in 2025, bringing the total countries participating to 20. Additionally, APP has held one Train-the-Trainer Workshop, two Regional Trainings and six National Trainings in: Cameroon, Kenya, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Uganda, Egypt and Sierra Leone. The Programme is also currently delivering 400 tablets and field supplies to participating countries. A full update on the APP will be presented under agenda item 17.1 and more information about the APP can be found [here](#).

Internal management

[30] The IPPC Secretariat acknowledges with deep appreciation members of the CPM Bureau, the SC and the IC, for their valuable guidance and oversight; all contracting parties (NPPOs) and RPPOs for their strong support and positive contributions, including SPG participants; and all partners and collaborators for their close cooperation.

Recommendation

[31] The CPM is invited to:

- (1) *note* the 2025 report from the IPPC Secretariat.