



COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

TWENTIETH SESSION

AU-IAPSC STATEMENT ON THE AFRICAN PHYTOSANITARY PROGRAMME AND E-PHYTO

AGENDA ITEMS 13.1.1, 13.1.2, 13.1.3, 17.1

(Submitted by AU-IAPSC)

Agenda item 13.1 e-phyto

- [1] CPM 2026/11: The African region; (1) notes the continuous growth and success, yearly achievements, restructuring of the dedicated team, increased transparency, standardization of processes and workplan of the IPPC ePhyto Solution; (2) agrees on the proposed governance improvements; (3) agrees on the revised terms of reference for the ePhyto Steering Group as per Appendix 1; (4) notes the creation of the implementation package as a measure to standardize the support for countries using the IPPC ePhyto Solution; (5) notes the advancement of international cooperation and collaboration through the launch of new comprehensive implementation projects in central Africa, enabling the full implementation of the ePhyto Solution and supporting a 360-degree transformation of NPPOs; and, (6) notes the progress in international cooperation around piloting the reuse of the ePhyto Solution for other certifications (eVet, dairy product).
- [2] CPM 2026/41: The African region; (1) notes the report of the January 2026 incidents. (2) note the actions of the secretariat as preventive measures and make additional recommendations. **However, the Africa region proposes to have two (2) production environments, such that there is a backup if one environment is under maintenance, or to have an offline template on the system that updates automatically when the system is back online.**
- [3] CPM 2026/12: The African region; (1) adopts the proposed change management process as detailed in Appendix 1, (2) Accepts to proceed with the first proof of concept phase for the development of the enhancement on the harmonization of additional declarations. **However, the Africa region proposes some improvements as follows:**
- (a) **The API gateway should be made more user-friendly to integrate with national systems, and also include third-party operators on the GeNS.**
 - (b) **Africa also proposes to harmonise its additional declarations where applicable.**
 - (c) **It was also proposed that the Official stamp option be integrated in the GeNS system, and HS codes can also be made use of in the system, but this should not be mandatory.**
 - (d) **It was also proposed to include certain non-compliance issues into the system and an APP (application) messaging tool to be incorporated into the GeNS.**
 - (e) **Another proposal is to add two (2) modules to the ephyto solution to take care of plant import permits and transit permits. This is likely going to enhance adoption of the solution as it will serve as a one-stop shop for the issuance of import, export, and transit trade documents.**

(3) agrees to proceed with the first proof of concept phase for the development of the enhancement on the harmonization. **However, the African region should put in place resources and measures /instruments that will make this possible for implementation.**

- [4] **CPM 2026/13:** The African region; (1) thanks, the contracting parties that contributed to the IPPC ePhyto Solution in 2025: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Cyprus, Denmark, European Union, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Malta, Mexico, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, Poland, Republic of Korea, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and United States of America; and (2) Does not agree with the updated expected annual contributions for 2027 and 2028 provided in Appendix 1, as proposed in this paper, which are required to ensure the continued sustainability of the IPPC ePhyto Solution. **The African region interrogates the consistency of the proposed funding model and identifies a cluster that responds to its needs without jeopardizing its economies. Under Appendix 1: A country sending 150,000 certificates pays the same usage fee as one sending 799,000 certificates. The United States (799,662 exchanges) pays only a 27,600 usage fee. This does not reflect the infrastructure load, Transaction volume, System dependency, and Benefit derived. The Africa region requests more time to develop a working paper on this.**

Agenda item 17.1 African Phytosanitary Programme APP

[5] **CPM 2026/31:**

- [6] AU-IAPSC contributed with a paper titled “An in-flight adjustment to sustain the impact of the Africa phytosanitary programme (APP)” and discussions during pre-CPM20 held on 17-18 February 2026 in Entebbe, Uganda. The recommendations from AU-IAPSC have been considered, and African NPPOs have expressed the following:

- [7] The African region (1) notes updates on the implementation of the Africa Phytosanitary Programme. (2) The African region approves the draft terms of reference for the APP Steering Group as presented in Appendix 1. However, the African region proposed reviewing the steering committee membership to have a representative from AU-IAPSC as the focal point; representatives from the 5 RECs should be on the block, the FAO office, AU-IAPSC, and donors. (3) approves a suitable governance option for the Africa Phytosanitary Programme. Furthermore, to consider using the side session on the CPM to harmonise the APP position further (4). As the African Union Commission endorsed APP through DARBE/IAPSC, adding the statement, “Africa invites more donors to support the APP, inviting African countries and donors to attend the donor coordination meeting in June 2026 for the sustainability of APP. (5) Provide any guidance to improve the APP implementation. The African region requests greater clarity in the link between POARS and APP. An African-wide early warning is required.

[8] Further considerations:

- The African region feels that South Africa should be acknowledged for hosting and supporting the second phase of the APP program
- The Africa region is requesting fasttracking developing pest survey protocols for cotton jassid and Achaea
- The phased implementation is not a good idea because it excludes certain countries.
- The African member states want more clarity on centralising the data, managed by IAPSC, to the program donors, etc.
- IPPC to delegate APP activities to AU-IAPSC as the focal point for APP and to also contribute to the program.

- [9] Overall, NPPOs in the Africa region feel that AU-IAPSC and NEPPO should play a more prominent role in the implementation of APP, and this should be materialized by concrete activities and seconded staff to support the programme.

Further considerations

Table 1: Proposed funding model by the Africa Region

		Low Income Country			Lower Country	Medium	Income	Upper Medium Income Country			High Income Country		
Range	Category (Usage)	Base Fee	Usage Fee	Total	Base	Usage Fee	Total	Base	Usage Fee	Total	Base	Usage Fee	Total
<5,000	Low							,000	1,725	5,725	8,000	3,450	11,450
5,000 - 49,999	Medium				2,000	1,725	3,725	4,000	3,450	7,450	8,000	6,900	14,900
50,000 - 149,999	High				2,000	3,450	5,450	4,000	10,350	14,350	8,000	26,220	34,220
150,000 - 499,999	Very High				2,000	6,900	8,900	4,000	27,600	31,600	8,000	74,520	82,520
>500,000	Extremely High				2,000	13,800	15,800	4,000	88,320	92,320	8,000	209,760	217,760