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Implementation and Capacity Development Committee Meeting

19–23 May 2025

IPPC Secretariat

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Contents

Implementation and Capacity Development Committee Meeting	1
1. Opening of the meeting	6
1.1 Opening remarks by the IPPC Secretariat	6
1.2 Opening remarks by the IC chairperson	6
2. Meeting arrangements	7
2.1 Election of the rapporteur	7
2.2 Adoption of the agenda	7
3. Administrative matters	7
3.1 Documents list	7
3.2 Participants list	7
3.3 Local information	7
3.4 Evaluation results of the 2024 IC May meeting	7
4. CPM-19 (2025) implementation issues	8
4.1 Outcomes of CPM-19 (2025) and key issues and decisions that affect the IC	8
5. Updates from the IPPC Secretariat	13
5.1 Implementation and Facilitation Unit update (including IFU staff)	13
5.2 Standard Setting Unit update	13
5.3 Integration and Support Team update	14
5.4 Update from International Day of Plant Health	15
5.5 Update from CPM Bureau	16
5.6 Update on the IPPC workshop on systems approaches	16
6. Development Agenda Items	17
6.1 DAI Harmonization of electronic data exchange	17
6.2 DAI Management of e-commerce and postal and courier pathways	19
6.3 DAI Developing guidance on the use of third-party entities	19
6.4 DAI Strengthening pest outbreak alert and response systems	20
7. IPPC Implementation and Capacity Development Projects	21
7.1 Projects managed by the IPPC Secretariat	21
7.2 Update on the project Strengthening Food Control and Phytosanitary Capacities and Governance	22
7.3 Update on the IPPC Plant Health Campus	23
8. New technologies in plant health	24
8.1 IC open session on projects: Smart plant health, what does the future look like?	24
8.2 Standards and Trade Development Facility Secretariat	26
8.3 Comité de Liaison Entrepreneuriat – Agriculture – Développement	26
8.4 European Commission	26
8.4 World Bank	27

8.4	International Atomic Energy Agency – Guideline on Phytosanitary Procedures for Area-Wide Management of Fruit Fly Pests	27
9.	IC-SC Collaboration.....	28
9.1	Updates from the 2024 November SC meeting (including implementation issues identified by the SC)	28
9.2	System to collect and archive implementation issues	28
9.3	Criteria for travel support to IPPC meetings.....	29
9.4	Brainstorming session on the IC-SC collaboration.....	30
10.	Guide and training materials	31
10.1	Update on the development of IPPC guides and training materials	31
10.2	Preparation to the 2025 IPPC Call for Topics: Standards and Implementation.....	33
10.3	Integration of climate changes in IC work and implementation materials	34
10.4	Open session on the IC contribution to the promotion of the IPPC Plant Health Campus	35
11.	Activities of IC Subgroup and Teams	35
11.1	Update on the IPPC Observatory activities	35
11.2	Results of the IPPC Observatory survey on E-commerce	36
11.3	Results of the IPPC Observatory survey on Antimicrobials use	37
11.4	Update on TR4 Global coordination.....	37
11.5	TR4 Coordination with the World Banana Forum, International Atomic Energy Agency	38
11.6	Update on the Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation.....	39
12.	IPPC Regional Workshops.....	40
12.1	Preparation of the 2025 IPPC Regional Workshops.....	40
13.	IC leads.....	41
13.1	Update on status and leads of the IC subgroups and teams	41
14.	IFU workplan	41
14.1	Review of the 2025 IFU workplan.....	41
14.2	IFU staffing in the medium and long term.....	41
15.	Agenda items deferred to future IC meetings	42
16.	Any other business	42
18.	Date and venue of the next meeting	43
19.	Evaluation of the meeting	43
20.	Review and adoption of the report	43
21.	Close of the meeting.....	43
	Appendix 1 – Agenda	44
	Appendix 2 – List of documents	47
	Appendix 3 – List of participants.....	49

Appendix 4 – Projects managed by the IPPC Secretariat through the Implementation and Facilitation Unit in 2024.....	52
Appendix 5 – 2025-2026 FG-CCPI “Action Plan on Climate Change Impacts on Plant Health”	55
Appendix 6 – Summary from output of group exercise of session “Open session on the IC contribution to the promotion of the IPPC Plant Health Campus.....	58
Appendix 7 – IPPC Observatory 2025 workplan.....	60
Appendix 8 – IC leads and members for IC Subgroups and IC Teams	63
Appendix 9 – Implementation and Facilitation Unit 2025 workplan.....	65
Annex 1 – Summary of the IC May 2025 decisions	67

1. Opening of the meeting

1.1 Opening remarks by the IPPC Secretariat

- [1] The IPPC Secretary Officer-in-Charge (OIC) for daily matters, Sarah BRUNEL, welcomed participants to the May 2025 meeting of the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC), expressing sincere appreciation for their continued commitment to advancing IPPC implementation and capacity development.
- [2] She emphasized the IC's critical role in following up on the outcomes of the 19th session of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM-19) and in identifying appropriate and sustainable actions to further strengthen implementation efforts.
- [3] The OIC extended a warm welcome to observers from international partner organizations, highlighting the importance of their collaboration in developing tools and initiatives that increase the capacity of the global IPPC community.
- [4] She noted the progress achieved under the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020–2030 Development Agenda Items (DAIs), particularly in areas such as electronic data exchange, the Pest Outbreak Alert and Response System (POARS), and the management of emerging pathways including e-commerce and courier services.
- [5] The OIC also highlighted the official launch of the IPPC Plant Health Campus in March 2025 as a significant milestone in capacity building, stressing the importance of collective efforts to promote and ensure the sustainability of this innovative learning platform. This breakthrough capacity-building tool was developed with generous support from the European Union.
- [6] She further noted the upcoming open session on projects — the webinar titled “Smart Plant Health: What Does the Future Look Like?” — as a valuable opportunity for knowledge exchange and for showcasing forward-looking innovations in plant health.
- [7] In closing, the OIC thanked IC members, working groups, and partners for their dedication, collaboration, and contributions, and expressed confidence that the meeting would result in strengthened IPPC implementation and capacity development.

1.2 Opening remarks by the IC chairperson

- [8] Dominique PELLETIER (Canada), the IC chairperson, welcomed participants to the meeting, and thanked the Implementation and Facilitation Unit (IFU) of the IPPC secretariat for organizing the meeting and preparing the working papers. The chairperson also welcomed observer organizations, noting their participation in the IC meeting enables knowledge and information sharing, leading to potential collaborations.
- [9] The chairperson thanked Thorwald GEUZE (the Kingdom of the Netherlands), the IC vice chairperson, for presenting the IC's work at CPM-19 (2025). The chairperson noted the CPM had signalled its appreciation of the work of the IC and IFU and acknowledged that implementation projects are underfunded. CPM also acknowledged the lack of stable staff positions within IFU negatively impacts progress. The chairperson expressed strong hope that a new IPPC secretary – the position is currently vacant – will take necessary steps to secure sufficient, sustainable funding, and ensure resources are allocated for this core area of work.
- [10] Looking at the agenda of the meeting, the chairperson noted the large number of important discussions and decisions to be taken following the CPM-19 (2025), including the agenda items dedicated to streamline the work of the two CPM subsidiary bodies - the IC and the SC - and the brainstorming session scheduled with the SC-7 members.
- [11] Closing his remarks, the chairperson joined the IPPC Secretary OIC in her message on the need to secure sustainable funding for implementation and capacity development activities. The chairperson also stressed the

need to stabilize the positions for the IFU staff, by establishing more staff positions, to retain skilled talent and provide stability to the implementation activities – one of the core IPPC Secretariat activities.

[12] The chairperson also encouraged the IC to reflect on the duration of IFU projects and ensure that milestones are identified at their inception. This would allow the IC and IFU to divest themselves of the projects once agreed on milestones had been achieved.

[13] The chairperson welcomed the new members, Ravinder Kumar KHETARPAL (the Lao People's Democratic Republic), to the IC, replacing the Elizabeth McCRUDDEN (Australia).

2. Meeting arrangements

2.1 Election of the rapporteur

[14] Ezequiel FERRO (Argentina) was elected as the rapporteur to the meeting.

2.2 Adoption of the agenda

[15] The secretariat requested the following topics for discussion be added under agenda item 16 (Any other business):

- The possibility of organizing an IC meeting outside of Rome, Italy.

[16] The agenda was adopted with the above additions under agenda item 16 and is attached to this report as Appendix 1.

3. Administrative matters

3.1 Documents list

[17] The list of documents is attached to this report as Appendix 2.

3.2 Participants list

[18] The list of participants is attached to this report as Appendix 3.

3.3 Local information

[19] The secretariat provided a link to the document with local information.¹

3.4 Evaluation results of the 2024 IC May meeting

[20] The secretariat presented the results of the 2024 IC November meeting evaluation.² The survey had been submitted to IC members using Microsoft Forms, and 11 out of 14 IC members responded.

[21] The secretariat noted the overall evaluation results showed a satisfaction rate of 100 percent (73 percent strongly agree and 27 percent agree) regarding the coordination of IC activities as well as the preparation, organization and support provided to IC members for the 2024 November meeting.

[22] The secretariat highlighted the concrete recommendations made by the IC members and follow-up actions that had been undertaken to enhance the meeting experience. These actions included double checking the meeting papers to ensure accurate formatting, sending the meeting schedule prior to the meeting, consideration of a larger-sized meeting room with the availability of microphones, and provision of prompt and proactive assistance from IFU, especially to the IC members that are eligible for travel assistance, so that travel arrangements are confirmed and done on time.

¹ Local information: <https://www.ippc.int/en/work-area-publications/92769/>

² 04_IC_2025_May

- [23] The secretariat thanked IC members for their feedback and recommendations and encouraged them to continue to do so as a way of encouraging further improvement. The secretariat also confirmed that a dedicated time would be allocated in the agenda on Friday 23 May for IC members to respond to the meeting evaluation survey before the close of the meeting.
- [24] The chairperson thanked the secretariat for the presentation and encouraged the IC members to propose any additional recommendations or ideas during the meeting, or through the evaluation survey.
- [25] One IC member mentioned the local information document was not available at the provided link and added that the document needed to be updated with a new taxi rate from Rome Fiumicino Airport.
- [26] The IC:
- (1) *noted* the results of the evaluation of the 2024 November IC meeting;
 - (2) *encouraged* all IC members to submit responses to the 2025 May IC meeting evaluation survey; and,
 - (3) *noted* the actions undertaken by the secretariat to address the observations resulting from the responses to the 2024 May evaluation.

4. CPM-19 (2025) implementation issues

4.1 Outcomes of CPM-19 (2025) and key issues and decisions that affect the IC

- [27] The secretariat and the IC vice-chairperson presented a paper summarizing the discussions and decisions of the CPM-19 (2025) that affected the organization, the activities and the workplan of the IC.³

Is it time to rethinking ISPMs

- [28] The topic of low readability and translatability of International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs) was revisited at the CPM-19 (2025), considering the discussions at the regional meetings, as well as the 2024 Strategic Planning Group (SPG) meeting.
- [29] Following broad discussion—including in a Friends of the Chair meeting during CPM-19, the CPM had agreed: that enhancing ISPM clarity and utility will be a core agenda item for SPG 2025, inviting the SPG participants and contracting parties to provide papers on viewpoint to SPG for consideration; the IC and SC to provide papers on the matter to support the SPG 2025; the topic be discussed at the 2025 IPPC regional workshops; and, the CPM Bureau (bureau from hereafter), to decide how to work with the outcomes of, and advice from, the 2025 SPG meeting, and the next steps to be presented at CPM-20 (2026).
- [30] IC members shared diverse views on how to address the clarity and readability of ISPMs. One member expressed concern that current standards included excessive guidance content, suggesting that such content should be moved to separate guide documents, which would be also simpler and faster to update, if necessary.
- [31] Another member stated that while separating guidance might improve clarity, some implementation guidance should remain within the standards. He proposed simplifying standards where feasible and piloting this approach with ISPMs that were under development. This would mean that guide material would need to be developed concurrently with the standard, which would be impractical due to unpredictable country consultation timelines.
- [32] The SC, in its May 2025 meeting, had discussed the possibility of initiating the development of the guide material after the first consultation, without waiting for its adoption. However, this would necessitate that financial resources would need to be allocated in a timely manner so that work on guide documents could be initiated on time to accompany corresponding standards. The secretariat noted that the time needed for the

³ 05_IC_2025_May

development of guide material may take one and a half years, when the resources allocated and the staff were available.

- [33] Some IC members highlighted the need for the translation of the guides into all official UN languages, as is the case with the standards, which would be essential in case the guidance information was taken out of the standard. This would require additional resources allocation.
- [34] One IC member emphasized the importance of engaging with national plant protection organizations (NPPOs), through regional workshops, national events, and through the IPPC Observatory to understand the needs of NPPOs regarding ISPMs so that they could be addressed as part of this exercise.
- [35] Overall, the IC members agreed on the importance of using simple, clear, and adaptable language in both standards and guides. However, some cautioned against oversimplification, given that ISPMs were intended for competent authorities. There was general agreement that using accessible, plain English would improve the usability of both ISPMs and associated guides. Using plain English in these documents would also provide NPPOs with better local language translations, important to make materials accessible to plant health officers and experts across the globe.
- [36] IC members made specific suggestions: one suggestion was that communities of practice be established through regional plant protection organizations (RPPOs). Another suggestion was related to leveraging artificial intelligence and machine translation tools to expand language accessibility, though members cautioned that expert proofreading would remain essential.
- [37] One IC member noted the need for a pilot period during which suggestions made would need to be tested with a specific standard to be developed from the pipeline. The IC chairperson and the IC vice chairperson volunteered to prepare a discussion paper outlining the IC discussions during the meeting on the topic of rethinking ISPMs, which would be shared for consultation with all IC members, and be presented at the 2025 SPG meeting.
- [38] Observer organizations raised concerns about the varying capacities of contracting parties to implement ISPMs. One proposed the funding of a pilot project to be proposed by countries, as had been done for Codex *Alimentarius* standards. Progress on these discussions is expected at SPG 2025 and will help determine appropriate next steps to be presented at CPM-20. The IC agreed that this suggestion would need to be captured in a paper on the topic, to be presented at the SPG 2025 meeting.
- [39] The secretariat concluded that this topic would be discussed under agenda items 9.1 (Updates from the 2024 November SC meeting) and 9.4 (Brainstorming session on the best way forward on the IC/SC collaboration).
- [40] The IC:
 - (4) requested the IC chairperson and the IC vice chairperson to prepare a discussion paper outlining the IC discussions during its May 2025 meeting on the topic of rethinking ISPMs, to be presented at SPG 2025.

Report from the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee

- [41] The CPM-19 had noted the implementation and capacity development (ICD) activities undertaken by the IC, its teams and the subgroup. The CPM-19 had recognized that the implementation and capacity development activities are underfunded and had addressed its request with regards to allocation of funds to the underfunded ICD activities, to the IPPC secretary, in conjunction with the advice and guidance of the Financial Committee.

List of implementation and capacity development topics

- [42] The CPM-19 (2025) approved the list ICD topics; advocated for the importance of aligning the development of ISPMs and implementation materials; requested the Standard Setting Unit (SSU), the IFU, the SC and IC to

engage in enhanced efforts to align their work programmes to support the timely development of implementation materials for ISPMs; and, requested the IPPC Secretary, with the advice and guidance of the Financial Committee, consider the creation of a regular-budget position placed within the IFU to develop guides and training materials, as per the recommendations in the 2015 IPPC Secretariat enhancement evaluation.⁴

- [43] The IC chairperson noted that the requests to establish a regular-budget position within the IFU would be discussed under agenda item 10.1 (Update on the development of IPPC guides and training materials).

IPPC Call for Topics: Standards and Implementation and Task Force on Topics reflection and relevance

- [44] The CPM-19 (2025) had reviewed proposed updates to the Call for Topics: Standards and Implementation, including revised submission forms and criteria, and a new form for IPPC Observatory study and survey topics. Minor amendments were made for clarity and consistency.

- [45] In response to the joint paper by the SC and IC chairpersons, the CPM-19 had agreed to pause the current Task Force on Topics (TFT) led process, and replacing the biennial call with an ongoing call for all topics. During this trial phase, topics submitted in 2025 and through the open call will be reviewed directly by the SC and IC. The results of the trial will be evaluated and presented to CPM-21 (2027).

- [46] The secretariat noted that the discussion about the open call for topics and the topic submission procedure would be discussed under agenda item 10.2 (Preparation to the 2025 IPPC Call for Topics: Standards and Implementation).

Implementation of IPPC Strategic Framework 2020–2030 – including a mid-term review

- [47] The CPM-19 had noted the IPPC Observatory 2024 activities, and plans for 2025, including the terms of reference for a mid-term monitoring and evaluation of the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020-2030 Development Agenda Items (DAIs) implementation. The CPM had emphasized the need for flexible terms of reference to better capture the progress achieved under each DAI, especially those in early implementation.

- [48] The CPM had agreed on the mid-term monitoring and evaluation to be undertaken prior the development of the next Strategic Framework, with a revised terms of reference presented to CPM-20 (2026) and reiterated the decision from CPM-17 (2023) to establish a programme manager position for this work.

- [49] The CPM had noted the update on the IPPC Observatory activities. Further discussion on the topic is provided under agenda item 11 (Update on the IPPC Observatory activities).

Harmonization of electronic data exchange

- [50] The CPM-19 (2025) had noted progress and challenges in implementing the IPPC ePhyto Solution. The CPM also had noted the FAO and European Bank for Reconstruction and Development study on *Investing in Trade Digitalization: The case of ePhyto*, which found that digital phytosanitary certificates enhanced trade efficiency.⁵

- [51] Regarding the funding of the IPPC ePhyto Solution, key CPM-19 decisions included: elimination of usage fees for UN Least Developed Countries and World Bank Low-Income Economies starting in 2026, while maintaining the current funding model based on a two-thirds base fee and one-third usage fee, using World

⁴ FAO (2015) International Plant Protection Convention Secretariat Enhancement. Final report. 54 p. Evaluation https://assets.ippc.int/static/media/files/publication/en/2020/05/ippc_secretariat_enhancement_evaluation_report_final_1.pdf

⁵ Investing in Trade Digitalization: The case of ePhyto: <https://doi.org/10.4060/cd4649en>

Bank classifications; continuing counting both sending and receiving ePhytos, including non-commercial exchanges for fee calculations, and called for updates to the ePhyto funding procedures to reflect these changes.

- [52] One IC member asked if there was clarity on the kind of national capacity needed for implementing ePhyto, so that countries could make clear requests for donor assistance.
- [53] An observer organization noted that a lot of contracting parties faced challenges with the implementation of digital certification system and noted the system needed to be integrated into the national agricultural sector. Further, noting that national single windows are becoming more and more common, the observer gave an example of the risk management tool - risk engines, through which the countries are trying to address risk management, which also need to be integrated with the IPPC ePhyto Solution. Therefore, the observer noted the importance of national system assessment to understand how to integrate all systems, making them interoperable.
- [54] An observer organization noted that the IPPC Secretariat needed to secure resources to ensure wide implementation of innovative and successful projects such as the IPPC ePhyto Solution. Additionally, the representative expressed willingness to support the efforts with regards to the IPPC ePhyto Solution through groups, such as the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) global partners group.
- [55] The secretariat explained that having clarified the governance for ePhyto, the next step would be to develop a clear and transparent process for the implementation of the solution, to ensure costs associated were transparent.
- [56] Another IC member encouraged the IC regional representatives to provide feedback from the regions on the needs and challenges for the implementation of the IPPC ePhyto Solution.
- [57] Further discussion on the IPPC ePhyto Solution is provided under agenda item 6.1 (DAI Harmonization of electronic data exchange).

Management of e-commerce and postal and courier pathways

- [58] The CPM-19 had noted the updates presented on the DAI on “Developing guidance for the use of third-party entities”. Further, discussions on e-commerce is provided under agenda item 6.2 (DAI on Management of e-commerce and postal and courier pathways).

Enabling the use of third-party entities

- [59] The CPM-19 had noted the updates presented on the DAI on “Management of e-commerce and postal and courier pathways”, and acknowledged that, despite approved specifications for two guides—on *Authorizing entities to perform phytosanitary actions* (2018-040) and *Audit in the phytosanitary context* (2021-009), drafting had not begun due to funding limitations. CPM-19 had welcomed the financial contributions from Australia and Canada, to support development of these guides.
- [60] Further discussions about the development of the two guides is provided under agenda item 6.3 (Developing guidance for the use of third-party entities).

Strengthening pest outbreak alert and response systems

- [61] The CPM-19 (2025) had noted the progress achieved under the DAI on “Pest outbreak alert and response systems (POARS)”, including progress made on the development of criteria for identifying emerging pests, the POARS procedure, and mapping of POARS functions and activities with the IC, other IPPC bodies and the African Phytosanitary Programme (AAP), global Fusarium TR4 coordination, National Reporting Obligations (NROs), approval of the updated implementation timeline through 2030, request to include POARS updates as a standing CPM agenda item; and, establishment of a dedicated trust fund to respond to emerging pest issues.

- [62] The secretariat noted that the bureau would be updated during its June 2025 meeting on the option of POARS steering committee. The secretariat also invited the IC to ask the secretariat to follow up on the establishment of a trust fund to address issues related to global emerging pests and emergencies.
- [63] The chairperson noted that concrete deliverables like the monthly pest reports and new alerts made a significant contribution to the impact of POARS. The issuance of a first alert for *Clavibacter nebraskensis* also contributed to a better understanding of the respective roles of the POARS and NROs.
- [64] Further discussion is provided under the agenda item 6.4 (DAI Strengthening pest outbreak alert and response systems).

IPPC Plant Health Campus

- [65] The CPM-19 (2025) noted the new e-learning platform – the IPPC Plant Health Campus, officially launched at the initial day of CPM, and had thanked the European Union for the financial support, and Canada and the Republic of Korea for technical support, making the innovative project possible.
- [66] Further discussion on the campus is provided under the agenda item 7.3 (Update on the IPPC Plant Health Campus) and 10.4 (Open session on the IC contribution to the promotion of the IPPC Plant Health Campus).

Update on plant-health implementation and capacity development projects

- [67] The CPM-19 (2025) had noted the plant-health ICD projects, calling the donors and contracting parties to increase support for more plant health ICD projects.
- [68] Further discussion on the campus is provided under agenda item 7.1 (Projects managed by the Secretariat) and 8.1 (Open session on projects).

Update on phytosanitary capacity evaluation

- [69] The CPM-19 had noted the updates on the phytosanitary capacity evaluation (PCE) tool, recognizing its critical role in strengthening national phytosanitary systems under the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020–2030.
- [70] Further discussion on the recently conducted PCEs and the tool are provided under agenda item 11.6 (Update on the Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation).

Update on coordination of *Fusarium oxysporum* f.sp. *cubense* TR4 action

- [71] The CPM-19 had noted the updates on global coordination to address *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *cubense* TR4, and had called on contracting parties and the private sector to provide financial and in-kind support to ensure sustainability and completion of planned IPPC TR4-related activities.
- [72] Further discussion on the global coordination of *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *cubense* TR4 is provided under agenda item 11.4 (Update on TR4 Global coordination).

Antimicrobial resistance

- [73] The CPM-19 had noted the conclusion of the IPPC Observatory's surveys on the use of antibiotics and fungicides in plant protection and had agreed the surveys provided a sufficient understanding of antimicrobial use (AMU) and should be closed. Further integration of future AMU and antimicrobial resistance (AMR) data collection into the FAO InFARM platform, with IPPC official contact points serving as national focal points had been noted by the CPM.
- [74] Further discussion on AMR and the results of the IPPC Observatory surveys is provided under agenda item 11.3 (Results of the IPPC Observatory survey on antimicrobials use).

Membership and potential replacements for the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee

[75] The CPM-19 (2025) had confirmed the IC membership, as well as the replacement members and the order in which the replacement members would be called on for each region,⁶ and had noted the replacement of Elizabeth McCRUDDEN (Australia) by Ravinder KHETARPAL (Lao People's Democratic Republic) as an IC expert.

[76] The IC:

(5) *noted and discussed* the outcomes and decisions of CPM-19 (2025).

5. Updates from the IPPC Secretariat

5.1 Implementation and Facilitation Unit update (including IFU staff)

[77] The IFU lead presented the updates on activities undertaken since November 2024, including the update on support and activities delivered in support of CPM-19 (2025).

[78] The chairperson thanked the secretariat for outstanding work and deliverables.

[79] The IC:

(6) *noted* the IFU update.

5.2 Standard Setting Unit update

[80] The SSU lead presented an overview of the SSU staff and their areas of responsibility, summary of SSU activities, planned activities for 2025,⁷ cooperation with IPPC bodies, external cooperation, and CPM-19 (2025) outcomes that affecting the unit's activities, and listed the ISPMs and diagnostic protocols adopted by CPM-19 (2025).⁸

[81] The SSU lead then summarized the outcomes of the SC meeting in May 2025, including the ISPMs, diagnostic protocols, and specifications approved for first or second country consultations. It was also reported that Steve Cote (Canada) and Edouard Nya (Cameroon) had been confirmed as the SC representatives to the IC subgroup on the IPPC Observatory.

[82] The report of the SC May 2025 meeting report would be made available on the IPP.⁹

[83] In terms of potential implementation issues, and how the SC would forward potential issues to the IC, the secretariat discussed the idea of a brainstorming session, scheduled during the week, and mentioned that the SC planned to discuss it further during its November 2025 meeting.

[84] In line with the issue noted by CPM-19, several IC members expressed concern about the list of specific pests annexed to commodity standards. They noted the risk that some countries might misinterpret or misuse these lists, which could negatively affect the implementation of the standards and, ultimately, international trade in the affected commodities. Members also inquired about the criteria used to select pests for inclusion, emphasizing the need for clarity to prevent unintended consequences.

⁶ CPM 2025/CRP/12_Rev2

⁷ SSU workplan for 2025:
https://assets.ippc.int/static/media/files/publication/en/2025/03/SSU_2025_TentWorkPlan.docx

⁸ 07_IC_2025_May

⁹ SC: <https://www.ippc.int/en/commission/standards-committee/>

- [85] Another IC member called for the technical panel to refer to rigorous scientific rationale and evidence, while also considering the epidemiological nature of pests and the intended use of the commodity, to confirm the spread of a certain pest could be related to certain pathways.
- [86] One IC member highlighted the importance of acknowledging and addressing such feedback to prevent any issue in the future. In response, the SSU lead underlined that the development of commodity standards followed a transparent process, including public consultation and engagement with regional SC representatives, through which such concerns could be formally raised and addressed.
- [87] Referring to the adopted commodity standards, which are annexes to existing ISPMs, one IC member added that the criteria clearly says that the pest needed to be regulated in at least one country, based on technical justification. In response, some IC members pointed out that while this is a necessary condition, it may not be sufficient for the inclusion of a certain pest in the list of pests, as the rationales provided for its inclusion should be technically analysed. Additionally, the fact of a certain pest being listed in standard, even if as an annex to the existing ISPM, may give an impression of binding nature.
- [88] The representative from the World Bank, attending as an observer, agreed with these concerns. He emphasized that listing a pest in a standard—regardless of whether it appears in an annex—can lead to trade conditionalities, disproportionately affecting developing countries that may struggle to meet stringent requirements. He also noted that the World Trade Organization (WTO) did not distinguish between standards and their annexes; both perceived as having a binding nature, which could further complicate compliance and trade participation for less-resourced countries.
- [89] One IC member mentioned a potential workshop on commodity standards, that may be proposed in the future, utilizing the IPPC Multi-Donor Trust Fund contribution of the Republic of Korea, which would be an opportunity to discuss such issues.
- [90] The secretariat noted the comment and stated that these concerns would be brought to the attention of the technical panel. The secretariat also added that such comments need to be raised during the consultation, so that the technical panel could address them.
- [91] The IC:
- (7) *noted* the SSU update;
 - (8) *noted* the concern expressed by countries, during country consultation, about the potential impact on trade because of the lists of pests from the commodity standards, and the potential of misinterpretation of their intent by some countries; and,
 - (9) *invited* the SC to re-consider the criteria used to evaluate and establish the lists of pests included in commodity standards, to minimize any incorrect interpretation and implementation.

5.3 Integration and Support Team update

- [92] The IPPC Integration and Support Team (IST) lead officer in charge for daily-matters presented a summary of IST activities undertaken in 2024 and since January 2025, including the successful organization of CPM-19 (2025), support provided to the APP, IPPC communication and advocacy activities, information management and the IPP maintenance, organization of IPPC regional workshops, annual Technical Consultation among RPPOs (TC-RPPO) meeting, and liaison and cooperation activities with internal and external partners, as well as the 2025 observance of the International Day of Plant Health (IDPH).¹⁰

¹⁰ 08_IC_2025_May

- [93] One IC member commended the secretariat for communication efforts and called the secretariat to promote plant health outside of the phytosanitary community within a bigger picture, and to link the issues of plant health with issues such as food security, so the impact of plant health work may be even more visible.
- [94] Another IC member asked if there was a report to show the impact of the communication campaign conducted for the 2025 celebration of the IDPH. The secretariat responded stating that IDPH report would be produced.
- [95] Another IC member asked if the secretariat had any feedback on their communication efforts. The secretariat stated that for social media, the feedback seemed to be straightforward. The secretariat also stated that communication materials on the International Phytosanitary Portal (IPP) were tracked to measure the impact.
- [96] Another comment was related to the language of communication activities, where the IC member expressed support for conducting the communication activities in all UN official languages, which would enhance the impact of the efforts. The secretariat noted the comment and stated that communication activities such as calls and announcements are usually translated into all UN languages.
- [97] One IC member mentioned the requests made by the IC Team on contributed resources consisting in verifying links to the resources and getting consultation rate for each resource. The secretariat stated that these would be flagged to the IPP responsible person within the secretariat.
- [98] One IC member asked if there were any procedures for promoting the implementation work on other social media platforms, such as WeChat. The secretariat clarified referring to restrictions from FAO, and that the IPPC was present on X, LinkedIn and Facebook.
- [99] The IC:
- (10) *noted* the IST update.

5.4 Update from International Day of Plant Health

- [100] The secretariat introduced the paper,¹¹ providing an update on the observance of the IDPH in 2025, the celebration of which had taken under the theme “The Importance of Plant Health in One Health”, emphasizing the interconnectedness of plant, animal, human, and environmental health. A high-level hybrid event had been organized on 12 May 2025 in El Salvador, featuring the FAO Director-General via video message and keynote interventions from the Ministers of Agriculture of El Salvador and Honduras, and a regional Peace Nobel Prize. The event included a technical session and a visit to the Organismo Internacional Regional de Sanidad Agropecuaria (OIRSA) simulation rooms, showcasing artificial intelligence in phytosanitary management.
- [101] The secretary OIC had attended the IDPH event in El Salvador and noted the outstanding efforts by OIRSA to organize the event and the impressive number of more than 800 participants, both in person and online. She further added that celebration of IDPH on the ground allows to present outstanding achievements and efforts of regions and contracting parties.
- [102] The representative from the World Bank, observer organization, commended the IDPH celebrations in 2025, and stated that showcasing successes and achievements, as it was done by OIRSA, is very helpful to raise donor awareness.
- [103] One IC member suggested that the IDPH page should enable a feature for NPPOs to report on how they were celebrating IDPH. Another suggestion was to select champions for IDPH celebration from regions.
- [104] Mentioning the 2025 IDPH theme, one IC member suggested presenting evidence from scientific literature to promote plant health within One Health, linking, soil, plant, animal, human and environmental health.

¹¹ 09_IC_2025_May

[105] The representative from the European Commission, an observer organization, asked if material, such as short video recordings from the celebration of IDPH in other countries, could be promoted through the IPP, to raise awareness and reach a wider audience.

[106] The representative from the STDF, an observer organization, expressed an interest in working with the IPPC Secretariat on further communication efforts.

[107] The IC:

(11) *noted* the update on IDPH.

5.5 Update from CPM Bureau

[108] The secretariat provided a summary of the discussions and outcomes of the March 2025 meeting of the bureau, related to PCE tool improvement; reviewing progress on key DAIs including the IPPC ePhyto Solution; the IPPC Plant Health Campus; the possibility of reinstating the CPM successes and challenges session as of CPM-20; the outcomes of CPM-19 (2025); preparations for the June 2025 bureau meeting; and considerations of the SPG 2025 meeting agenda items; the systems approach workshop to be hosted in Chile during the first week of December 2025, for the organization of which steering committee had been set; the call for establishing more synergies between the APP and other IPPC Secretariat such as POARS, and integrating IPPC guide and training materials such as IPPC Plant Health Campus; and, the criteria for travel support to IPPC meetings.

[109] One IC member raised an issue experienced by some regions regarding verification of credentials for CPM participation. Specifically, concerns were noted when the regional bureau member was absent from the bureau meeting held prior to the CPM, making it impossible for the region to verify the credentials of its own delegates. The secretariat noted the concern expressed and stated that in the case the regional bureau representative is absent, someone from a corresponding diplomatic representation may replace the missing member for verification of credentials. The secretariat asked the IC member to raise the issue with the bureau representative from his region and the issue be brought to the attention of the bureau.

[110] The March bureau meeting report is available on the IPP.¹²

[111] The IC:

(12) *noted* the update from the CPM Bureau March 2025 meeting.

5.6 Update on the IPPC workshop on systems approaches

[112] The secretariat presented an update on the IPPC workshop on systems approaches,¹³ that had been originally proposed by Canada and presented at the SPG 2024 meeting and discussed during the November 2024 IC meeting.

[113] Building on the successes from the CPM-18 (2024) science session on systems approach, and the CPM-19 side session on systems approach, Canada had presented a revised concept note for the workshop at CPM-19 (2025). CPM expressed support for this workshop, with multiple contracting parties offering to host it. The CPM-19 had agreed to organize the workshop in 2025 with a dedicated organizing committee under bureau oversight. Financial contributions have been received from Canada (USD 87 000) and Australia (USD 47 000) and confirmed by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) (USD 110 000).

[114] The secretariat indicated that the workshop is planned to take place during the first week of December 2025, in Santiago, Chile.

¹² CPM Bureau March 2025 meeting report: <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/94509/>

¹³ 10_IC_2025_May

- [115] The IC chairperson asked if any input or support from the IC would be needed for the organizing the workshop. The secretariat responded that at the moment the involvement of either IC or the SC had not yet been discussed in the organizing committee.
- [116] Another IC member asked whether a call for papers or case studies would be launched. The secretariat confirmed the intention to issue a call, though the modalities are still under consideration. Additionally, the secretariat noted that a dedicated agenda item for the workshop had been included in the 2025 IPPC Regional Workshops global agenda, to raise awareness about the workshops on systems approach among NPPOs at regional level.
- [117] The secretariat confirmed that the scope of the workshop is not limited to fruit flies but will address systems approaches more broadly across sectors and commodities.
- [118] An observer organization asked if thought was given to address the application of integrated approaches that combines animal, food safety, or plant health standards. The secretariat confirmed that there was a plan to have a session during the workshop dedicated to the One Health approach to understanding the integrated approach for the implementation of standards.
- [119] An observer organization noted the potential for the workshop to serve as a platform for sharing implementation stories and amplifying the impact of tools such as the Beyond Compliance tools.¹⁴ This tool had been developed under a STDF project in Excel format, though it may require further refinement. The secretariat acknowledged that it may need updates but would rather wait for the countries needs to be expressed through the call for topics.
- [120] One IC member suggested reaching out to trained facilitators to better understand the current usage of use the Beyond Compliance tool. Another suggested launching a dedicated IPPC Observatory survey to assess usage of the Beyond Compliance tools, and in general on systems approach, to gather data and understand contracting party needs and gaps. The World Bank representative expressed willingness to fund the potential IPPC Observatory Survey on the topic, if such an assessment was planned.
- [121] One IC member suggested the workshop should offer a remote participation option for those unable to attend in person. The secretariat noted this request to be raised when discussions on logistics take place. The IC member also proposed to have a session or similar dedicated space during the workshop to discuss the recognition and acceptance of systems approaches by countries. The secretariat confirmed that it is envisaged to assign time to that issue.
- [122] The IC:
- (13) *noted* the update on the IPPC workshop on systems approaches.

6. Development Agenda Items

6.1 DAI Harmonization of electronic data exchange

- [123] The secretariat introduces a paper¹⁵ on the implementation status of the DAI on “Harmonization of electronic data exchange”, namely the ePhyto activities. Gianluca NUZZO, representing the United Nations International Computing Centre (UNICC), whose secondment to the IPPC Secretariat had been confirmed by the bureau to support the ePhyto activities and as a member of the ePhyto Steering Group (ESG), also added some technical updates from his side.
- [124] Overall the updates included: the status of ePhyto implementation; the new FAO and European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) publication on *Investing in Trade Digitalization: the case of*

¹⁴ The Beyond Compliance Tool: <https://www.ippc.int/en/beyond-compliance-tool/en/ppc/downloadfile/>

¹⁵ 11_IC_2025_May

ePhyto,¹⁶ an update from the monthly ePhyto Steering Group (ESG) meetings, the progress made with the development of the ePhyto Africa Initiative, the main ePhyto outcomes from the bureau March 2025 meeting as well as the CPM-19 (2025) decisions and the workplan for 2025.

- [125] The secretariat also confirmed the establishment of the ePhyto Multi-Donor Trust Fund, as per the funding model approved as a pilot at CPM-18 (2024). The secretariat had sent official communication to user countries (26 November 2024) inviting voluntary contributions for 2025/2026.
- [126] The CPM Focus Group on Sustainable Funding had met twice in 2024 to explore further refinement to the funding model, and the findings had been presented to CPM. The decisions included agreeing that usage fees for the IPPC ePhyto Solution be waived for UN-designated least developed countries and World Bank low-income countries starting in 2026; and, that the current funding model, based on a two-thirds base fee and one-third usage fee, along with related parameters such as counting both sending and receiving ePhytos (including non-commercial exchanges) and applying World Bank classifications to differentiate country obligations.
- [127] An observer organization, commended the work done on the IPPC ePhyto Solution, highlighting that STDF had supported piloting of this project, which had been used as model for replication in the animal health sector.
- [128] Some IC members voiced the need to assess and understand the capacity and resource needs of the countries to assist with the implementation of ePhyto. Some IC members agreed on the key role of mapping implementation challenges. This data and involvement of all key stakeholders in the implementing country were mentioned to be essential for the successful implementation of ePhytos.
- [129] Another IC member added that the IPPC ePhyto Solution had been promoted in the Near East and North Africa, yet very few countries from the region had implemented it so far. The main issue was a lack of awareness among key stakeholders. As such, the IC member called for more awareness raising activities.
- [130] The representative from the World Bank, an observer organization, noted the overall challenges the countries face with digitalization in general, and called for promoting the fact that ePhyto is a tool for trade facilitation primarily where both importing and exporting countries benefit. Additionally, the representative stressed the importance of going beyond needs assessments, highlighting the need to conduct deep business process analysis to understand the root causes of capacity needs and other issues, identify risks, and seek opportunities and solutions.
- [131] Several IC members and the secretariat agreed on the importance of conducting comprehensive needs assessment to be able to produce transparent process and procedures, and of costed plan, for the implementation of ePhyto. The secretariat mentioned the proposal from the FAO Investment Centre to conduct a stocktaking exercise in the Caribbean region to assess the needs of local countries. Another IC member mentioned that if necessary, financial resources could be made available to conduct similar assessments in six to seven countries in Asia.
- [132] The IC chairperson thanked the secretariat for the update and the IC members for the discussion.
- [133] The IC:
- (14) *noted* the update on implementation of the IPPC ePhyto Solution and along with the related CPM-19 (2025) decisions; and,
 - (15) *encouraged* the IPPC contracting parties that have not yet registered to the IPPC ePhyto Hub to do so.

¹⁶ Investing in Trade Digitalization: the case of ePhyto: <https://doi.org/10.4060/cd4649en>

6.2 DAI Management of e-commerce and postal and courier pathways

[134] The lead for the IC Team on E-commerce presented an update on the DAI on “Management of e-commerce and postal and courier pathways”.¹⁷ The IC was reminded that the IC team had 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 completion of the survey in their regions, and reviewing the preliminary findings as well as the initial draft of the study report. Further information on the IPPC Observatory E-commerce Study is provided under agenda item 11.2 (Results of the IPPC Observatory survey on E-commerce).

[135] The IC was informed that the IC team 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.

[136] The IC recognized the contributions of Barbara PETERSON as in-kind staff from Canada to advance the work on e-commerce.

[137] The IC:

- (16) *noted* the update on the IPPC development agenda on e-commerce; and,
- (17) *acknowledged* the contribution of Barbara PETERSON as in-kind staff from Canada.

6.3 DAI Developing guidance on the use of third-party entities

[138] The secretariat presented an update on the DAI “Developing guidance on the use of third-party entities”,¹⁸ under which the main activities planned 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. The IC noted the guides should be developed in coordination to ensure the content of the two be complementary without unnecessary overlap.

[139] One IC member asked if IFU resource was available to work on the guides. The secretariat confirmed that following the departure of Barbara PETERSON, the in-kind contribution from Canada, Preet PARMAR would be taking the lead on the development of these guides.

[140] The IC members agreed the guide on audits should be prioritized first and once an initial draft is available, work on the authorization of third-party entities should be initiated. The members also agreed that separate working groups should be established for the two guides. However, it was noted that there should be coordination between the working groups to ensure the guides are complementary and not repetitive.

[141] The secretariat recalled the process for working group establishment, issuing a call for nominations, agreeing on the list of members, ensuring balanced gender representation and the availability of needed expertise, and agreeing list of members with the bureau through e-decision.

[142] The secretariat added that there was a timeline listing each step in the development of a guide and may take from one year to one and a half years. The secretariat reminded the members the process for establishment of working groups, including issuing a call for expert nominations, agreement on the list of members via e-decision

¹⁷ 12_IC_2025_May

¹⁸ 13_IC_2025_May

with the IC. The secretariat noted that along with expertise and knowledge, the selection process places importance on region and gender balance.

[143] The secretariat noted the second half of 2025 be dedicated to the finalization of the risk-based inspection guide. The call for nominations for the guide on audits would be issued towards the end of 2025 for the work to effectively start in early 2026. Some IC members asked the secretariat to specify in the text of the call about the upcoming call for nominations for the following expert working group on *Authorization of entities to perform phytosanitary actions* (2018-040).

[144] It was discussed that the call for nominations for the expert working group on authorization would be launched closer to the initiation of the work on this later guide.

[145] The IC:

- (18) noted the update on the IPPC development agenda, Guidance on the use of third-party entities;
- (19) *thanked* Canada and Australia for their recent financial contribution to the IPPC development agenda, *Guidance on the use of third-party entities*;
- (20) *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,
- (21) *requested* the IPPC Secretariat initiate work on the development of the guide on *Audit in the phytosanitary context* (2021-009) in 2026.

6.4 DAI Strengthening pest outbreak alert and response systems

[146] The secretariat presented an update on the DAI on “Strengthening pest outbreak alert and response systems”.¹⁹ The highlights included the operationalization of a structured process for identifying emerging pests, the launch of the IPPC Pest Alert System,²⁰ and the first IPPC pest alert for *Clavibacter nebraskensis*. A call for pest nominations resulted in 33 submissions, currently under assessment as per the specific criteria. The CPM-19 had endorsed the POARS Steering Group as the long-term governance body. The secretariat noted the resource challenge, which may hinder the full operationalization of POARS and recalled that the CPM-19 had requested that the secretariat establish a trust fund to address issues related to global emerging pests and emergencies, in line with the decision made at CPM-14 (2019).

[147] The secretariat also reported on the synergies between POARS and other IPPC initiatives such as NROs, the global coordination on *Fusarium TR4*, and APP. The secretariat explained the importance of keeping the pest reporting obligation under the IC.

[148] An observer organization asked if the criteria for nomination of emerging pests used by NPPOs, to nominate a certain pest, and about the role of the steering group in assessing the nominated pest. He also asked if the current membership of the steering group would be continued with the revision of the terms of reference of the steering group. The secretariat mentioned its desire to open a call to renew the membership of the steering group to ensure the inclusion of members with expertise on risk assessment and risk management.

¹⁹ 14_IC_2025_May

²⁰ IPPC Pest Alert System: <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/capacity-development/programmes/strengthening-pest-outbreak-alert-and-response-systems/pest-alerts/#:~:text=The%2022IPPC%20Pest%20Alerts%22%20is,corresponding%20National%20Plant%20Protection%20Organization.>

[149] The secretariat clarified that the criteria are not to be used by NPPOs. However, the nomination form requests related information to facilitate the assessment process, which is intended to be conducted by the steering group or an expert working group.

[150] One IC member commented on the process of pest nomination, noting if the IPPC Secretariat should be kept as one of the bodies able to send pest nominations. Another IC member responded, stating that, as the establishment of POARS is still in its early stage, the secretariat has a role compiling pest reports. The secretariat added that the rigor of the assessment process remained unchanged, irrespective of the nominating body.

[151] Another IC member suggested to be cautious with the list of hosts identified for *Xylella fastidiosa* subspecies, as it is a sensitive issue when defining phytosanitary measures by NPPOs. He recommended consulting the EFSA host plant database for this purpose. The secretariat explained that the submissions are a preliminary list and that it is planned to adjust the list of hosts according to the subspecies of this pest.

[152] The IC:

- (22) *acknowledged* the progress made by the POARS Steering Group in establishing the procedure and criteria for identifying emerging pests of global concern, and *commended* the initial results of the pilot implementation, including the launch of the IPPC Pest Alert System and the first pest alert issued for *Clavibacter nebraskensis*;
- (23) *supported* the continued operationalization of POARS through active collaboration with the IPPC Secretariat and the steering group;
- (24) *endorsed* the retention of pest reporting under the NROs overseen by the IC and *supported* enhanced collaboration with POARS for information exchange and strategic alignment; and,
- (25) *encouraged* promotion of synergies between POARS and related IPPC initiatives, including the APP and the global coordination on Fusarium TR4, to optimize resources and amplify impact.

7. IPPC Implementation and Capacity Development Projects

7.1 Projects managed by the IPPC Secretariat

[153] The secretariat presented an update on four implementation and capacity development projects managed by IFU in 2024,²¹ noting that three of these projects remain active in 2025, while one project had concluded in 2024. The secretariat highlighted the marked success by the secretariat in implementing projects, utilizing the project funds efficiently with quality and impactful outputs.

[154] The secretariat thanked the partners who had provided financial support or in-kind contributions for the projects and extended its gratitude to the European Commission (EC), Japan, the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), Canada, France, the Republic of Korea, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Transparency with the wider IPPC community had been enhanced through dedicated web pages describing projects over USD 500 000.

[155] The IC:

- (26) *noted* the deliverables of implementation and capacity development projects managed by the secretariat in 2024;
- (27) *noted* the implementation and capacity development projects are compliant with secretariat and IC procedures, and the increased transparency as presented in Appendix 4;
- (28) *noted* the efforts to support countries in mobilizing resources to implement their priority activities; and,
- (29) *noted* the efforts to develop three new implementation and capacity development projects:

²¹ 15_IC_2025_May

- a. the IPPC ePhyto Africa Initiative,
- b. the project on strengthening phytosanitary capacities in selected Asian countries under the FAO-China South-South Cooperation Programme, and
- c. the project to support the IPPC Observatory activities, to be potentially funded by the European Union.

7.2 Update on the project Strengthening Food Control and Phytosanitary Capacities and Governance

- [156] The secretariat updated the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee on the “Strengthening Food Control and Phytosanitary Capacities and Governance” project (GCP/GLO/949/EC),²² jointly implemented by the IPPC Secretariat and FAO’s Agrifood Systems and Food Safety Division, with funding from the European Commission.
- [157] Eleven (11) phytosanitary capacity evaluations (PCEs) had been completed in Djibouti, Egypt, Eswatini, Kenya, Mauritius, Malawi, Seychelles, Rwanda, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. Each country developed a national phytosanitary capacity development strategy, and several benefited from legal support provided by the FAO’s Development Law Service.
- [158] Key achievements include the certification of six new PCE facilitators, the launch of the IPPC Plant Health Campus e-learning platform with eight new elearning courses available in English and soon in French, and donor-ready project proposals developed by at least eight beneficiary countries. A detailed SPS gap analysis was conducted, providing strategic direction for future interventions and a sustainable model for monitoring and addressing phytosanitary capacity development.
- [159] The Mutualization Workshop in April 2025 fostered cross-country learning, regional collaboration, and alignment of strategies with broader development goals. The secretariat also highlighted ongoing improvements to the PCE process based on feedback from the project and the 2024 PCE desk study. The PCE Improvement Workshop held in April 2025 marked a major milestone in the refinement of the PCE process, drawing lessons from allied fields and the findings of the 2024 PCE desk study.
- [160] One IC member inquired about the secretariat’s plan in terms of scheduling review process for each PCE module as part of the review and refinement process of the tool. The secretariat confirmed that eight modules had been reviewed during the workshop held in April 2025, the remaining modules are to be reviewed in the coming months. The next step as part of the review and improvement process would be to establish a master document for all module questions and to streamline the questions in each module. The secretariat clarified that these future steps fall outside the scope and funding of the current project, as they are expected to take place after its conclusion.
- [161] Reflecting on the outcomes of the project, especially with regards to establishing the pool of PCE facilitators for Africa, the secretariat expressed wish for establishing similar pool with trained and certified facilitators in other regions as well, for which, funding at the moment lacked.
- [162] The IC:
- (30) *noted* the achievements of the GCP/GLO/949/EC – Strengthening Food Control and Phytosanitary Capacities and Governance.

²² 16_IC_2025_May

7.3 Update on the IPPC Plant Health Campus

- [163] The secretariat and the representative from the FAO elearning Academy presented the IPPC Plant Health Campus,²³ an e-learning platform developed in collaboration with, and hosted by, the FAO elearning Academy. The secretariat reported that the campus had been launched at CPM-19 (2025). The development of the campus was funded by the European Union under the project “Strengthening Food Control and Phytosanitary Capacities and Governance” project (GCP/GLO/949/EC).
- [164] This project ends on 30 June 2025. The key deliverables of the IPPC Plant Health Campus 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.
- [165] The secretariat noted the need for funding to translate the campus into other UN official languages, including Arabic, Chinese, Spanish, and Russian.
- [166] The secretariat expressed gratitude to the plant health curriculum working group and the IC members for their input and review of e-learning courses, as technical experts.
- [167] One IC member proposed that each e-learning course have a programme that can be accessed, so that NPPO decision-makers will be able to analyse it and propose its inclusion in training courses for NPPO staff.
- [168] The representative from STDF, an observer organization, asked if a capacity development material developed under the STDF projects, by other organizations, could be linked and shared through the platform. The secretariat mentioned that the campus includes a tool, NPPO learning paths, that links and maps all relevant materials with corresponding NPPO roles. The secretariat encouraged members to share with the secretariat any relevant e-learning courses that are relevant for plant health professionals. These would be reviewed and assessed by the plant health curriculum working group that would determine if they should be included in the campus.
- [169] Additionally, the secretariat confirmed the resources provided through the campus remain publicly available and can be incorporated in any current and future STDF funded projects with phytosanitary capacity development component.
- [170] One IC member stated that the NPPO of the Republic of Korea plans to use the IPPC Plant Health Campus for the training of inspection officers. The member also asked if a video tutorial developed by the NPPO of the Republic of Korea could be linked in the campus and shared as a resource, noting the different nature of material than e-learning course or a guide. The secretariat noted that the resource should be shared as a contributed resource and, and if considered as relevant by the dedicated IC Team, would be linked in via the relevant plant health topic on the campus.
- [171] The chairperson noted the importance of translation into other UN languages and acknowledged the need for additional resources. The secretariat clarified that with some funding remaining from the project, the following three e-learning courses will also be translated into Spanish by the end of the year: Working with a National Plant Protection Organization, National Reporting Obligations and Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation, as well as the learning paths. However, funds are required for translation of the remaining courses into Spanish and other UN official languages.
- [172] The secretariat stated that any potential projects to support the translation of the campus and the e-learning courses into remaining UN official languages would be welcomed. The secretariat also noted that the campus had been added within the capacity development component of the African Phytosanitary Programme.

²³ 17_IC_2025_May

[173] Following this discussion, a representative from the FAO elearning Academy, presented a demonstration of the IPPC Plant Health Campus to the IC.

[174] The representative from the FAO elearning Academy mentioned the awareness raising and promotion efforts, namely meeting with the four universities based in Brussels to integrate the campus resources into university curriculums and attribute credits. The universities were very interested in the proposal. Additionally, the representative mentioned she was working with African Union universities, with similar plans, as well as with the World Trade Organization (WTO).

[175] The IC:

- (31) *noted* the update on the launch of the IPPC Plant Health Campus;
- (32) *acknowledged* the significant contributions of the European Union, Canada and the Republic of Korea, as well as our partners, the FAO elearning Academy and Comité de Liaison Entrepreneuriat – Agriculture – Développement (COLEAD), to the development of the IPPC Plant Health Campus;
- (33) *encouraged* NPPOs in their regions to embed the IPPC Plant Health Campus into their national training programmes;
- (34) *encouraged* NPPOs, RPPOs, other international organizations and educational institutions to champion the awareness and use of the IPPC Plant Health Campus within their countries and regions;
- (35) *noted* the translation of all the IPPC - FAO elearning Academy courses to French;
- (36) *encouraged* NPPOs, RPPOs and other international organizations to partner with the secretariat to translate all IPPC e-learning courses and guides to Arabic, Chinese, Spanish and Russian; and
- (37) *encouraged* NPPOs to support the continued development of the IPPC Plant Health Campus by sharing phytosanitary training materials that may be included on the platform.

8. New technologies in plant health

8.1 IC open session on projects: Smart plant health, what does the future look like?

[176] The IC open session on projects: *Smart plant health, what does the future look like?* was held in a hybrid format, with over 400 attendants, and was moderated by Sarah Brunel, lead of the IPPC Implementation and Facilitation Unit.

[177] In March 2025, the secretariat had launched a global call for submissions. The received submissions had been reviewed by the IC Team on Projects, and seven standout initiatives had been selected for presentation during this webinar.

[178] **Monitoring pest risk with Epidemic Intelligence from Open Sources (EIOS)** was presented by Dr Hannah Fielder, lead data analyst, Centre for Agriculture and Biosciences International (CABI). This project is implemented by CABI and European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) collaborating under the Horizon Scanning mandate and PlantwisePlus programme to monitor pest risks using the World Health Organization's EIOS platform. The main objective is to enhance global pest preparedness through early warning and coordinated response. Outputs include Pest Risk Monitoring Reports, monthly newsletters, and an interactive dashboard. A key challenge is managing data noise while ensuring timely, relevant alerts to support NPPO decision-making.

[179] **Smart Surveillance and Integrated Response to Maize Lethal Necrosis (MLN) in Eastern and Southern Africa** was presented by the Dr Suresh Lingadahalli Mahabaleshwar, maize pathologist – Sub-Saharan Africa, International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT). This project is led by CIMMYT and aims to prevent the spread of MLN and protect food security in Eastern and Southern Africa. It combines digital diagnostics, resistant seed development, quarantine measures, and training. Key achievements include containment success since 2016, over 18,000 diagnostic tests, and the release of more than 20 resistant hybrids.

Challenges include limited infrastructure, high transboundary risks, and the need for stronger regional coordination.

- [180] **Ultrasound beetle detection** was presented Berend de Klerk, co-founder & CEO, Plense Technologies, which implements this project in collaboration with the NPPO of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, to pilot an ultrasound-based, non-invasive method to detect internal insect activity—specifically longhorn beetle larvae—in wood. Dubbed the “electronic woodpecker,” the system listens for insect sounds to assess presence, vitality, and damage, achieving 87 percent sensitivity and 77.1 percent specificity in early tests. While not a replacement for destructive inspection, it adds a valuable layer to pest detection with potential applications in plants, fruits, and vegetables. Challenges include long measurement times and the need for algorithmic refinement, and the team is seeking pilot projects and funding to advance the technology.
- [181] **Smart FARM** (Farmers Adopting Responsible Management) was presented Ariestelo Asilo, president, Varacco Inc. The project aims to empower indigenous peoples and smallholder farmers through the Internet of Things-enabled, climate-smart coffee nurseries and agroforestry. Key achievements include two certified digital nurseries with real-time monitoring, training for over 40 farmers and technicians, and the use of nano-biofertilizers that improved seed germination and reduced environmental impact. The initiative also boosted farmer incomes by 30 percent and enhanced pest and disease management, showcasing a scalable model for sustainable, tech-driven agriculture.
- [182] **The Shennong Plant Protection Multimodal Model 1.0, Beijing’s first AI-based Smart Crop Protection System**, was presented by Dr Yunlong Li, professor-level researcher, Beijing Plant Protection Station, China’s NPPO. This system offers 27 services across six categories, and by acting as a “super plant protection expert,” it provides 24/7 support through features such as AI-powered pest and disease identification, intelligent voice Q&A, and real-time early warnings. With a vast agricultural knowledge base and instant mobile scanning for 347 crop threats, the system enhances precision farming and accessibility, including for visually impaired users, while aiming for global expansion and improved predictive capabilities.
- [183] **The implementation of the IPPC ePhyto Solution in Senegal** was presented by Papa Massar Fall, who is responsible of Quarantine Plant, the NPPO of Senegal. The IPPC ePhyto Solution enables the secure, paperless exchange of phytosanitary certificates between countries. The system improves trade efficiency, reduces fraud, and enhances transparency. Despite achieving notable benefits—such as 85 percent improved service efficiency and 90 percent time and cost savings, Senegal faced challenges including limited resources, slow internet, and the need for broader infrastructure and support. The use of electronic signatures and integration with the global hub were key milestones, though further funding and technical support are needed for full-scale rollout.
- [184] **India’s experience with utilizing the IPPC Plant Health Campus for phytosanitary capacity development** was presented by Jaiinder Pal Singh, plant protection adviser, Directorate of Plant Protection Quarantine & Storage under the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, within the India government. The Plant Health Campus is a global e-learning platform offering state of art, certified courses and resources to strengthen phytosanitary capacity. Integrated into India’s official NPPO training curriculum, the platform has built capacity within the Indian NPPO in terms of decision-making, inspection skills, and compliance with international standards. While the tool has significantly improved technical capacity, India emphasized the need for localized content, hybrid learning formats, and better digital infrastructure to maximize its impact, especially in rural areas.
- [185] Following the presentations, an extensive question and answer session took place where webinar participants posed follow up questions to the panel members.
- [186] Selvaraju Ramasamy, senior agricultural officer, Office of Innovation, FAO closed the webinar with his remarks.

[187] The recording of the webinar, as well as the programme and presentations are available on the dedicated IPP page.²⁴

8.2 Standards and Trade Development Facility Secretariat

[188] The STDF representative presented an overview of the organization's core activities, the new STDF Strategy,²⁵ and projects funded through STDF since 2004. The representative also presented the STDF grant mechanism – project preparation grants (up to USD 50 000) and project grants (up to USD 1 000 000) – and highlighted recommended steps when seeking funding from the STDF. The representative complimented the close and fruitful collaboration with the IPPC and mentioned further areas of collaboration, such as funding new pilot projects linked to ISPMs, knowledge sharing, and integration of the IPPC Plant Health Campus to relevant STDF-funded projects.

[189] The secretariat thanked the STDF representative for the presentation and noted the importance of STDF-funded projects overall for SPS capacity enhancement and trade facilitation, especially in developing countries. The IPPC Secretariat, suggested that, when possible, beneficiary countries or organizations could themselves implement the STDF projects.

[190] The IC chairperson thanked the STDF representative for the presentation.

[191] The IC:

(38) *noted* the STDF presentation; and,

(39) *encouraged* the STDF representative to promote the IPPC implementation and capacity development materials within their projects and network.

8.3 Comité de Liaison Entrepreneuriat – Agriculture – Développement

[192] COLEAD presented the core institutional activities, programmes and interventions that support sanitary and phytosanitary measures (SPS), as well as the joint activities with the IPPC Secretariat, including the development of implementation and capacity development materials, translations of these materials into French and Spanish, and co-organization and co-delivery of the IPPC-COLEAD Project definition Workshop in October 2024.

[193] One IC member asked if a list of experts working on various phytosanitary issues, across the developing countries, for ease of reference to find the right expert for various regional and national projects. The secretariat mentioned the PCE facilitators pool, that includes trained and certified facilitators, some of whom were also trained on setting a project proposal, and agreed that the list of experts, would benefit the community.

[194] The IC chairperson and the secretariat thanked the COLEAD representative for the presentation.

[195] The IC:

(40) *noted* the COLEAD presentation; and,

(41) *encouraged* the COLEAD representative to promote the IPPC implementation and capacity development materials within their projects and network.

8.4 European Commission

[196] The EC representative presented an overview of EU activities on phytosanitary matters, EU support for the implementation of IPPC Strategic Framework 2020-2030 implementation, the Directorate General (DG)

²⁴ IC open session on projects: Smart plant health, what does the future look like?: <https://www.ippc.int/en/events/webinars/smart-plant-health-what-does-the-future-look-like/>

²⁵ STDF 2025-2030 Strategy: https://www.standardsfacility.org/sites/default/files/2025-03/STDF_strategy_2025-2030_Eng.pdf

SANTE (health and food safety) and the EU Plant Health Law (Regulation 2016/2031). The representative also provided an overview of the new amendments made to the EU Plant Health Law in 2024 with protective measures against plant pests.²⁶

[197] The representative noted the existing IPPC projects funded by the European Commission, which are detailed under agenda item 7.1 (Projects managed by the IPPC Secretariat), and under agenda item 7.2 (Update on the project Strengthening Food Control and Phytosanitary Capacities and Governance).

[198] The IC chairperson and the secretariat thanked the EC representative for the presentation.

[199] The IC:

(42) *noted* the EC presentation; and,

(43) *encouraged* the EC representative to promote the IPPC implementation and capacity development materials within their projects and network.

8.4 World Bank

[200] The World Bank representative presented an overview of the core institutional activities, programmes and interventions that support sanitary and phytosanitary measures (SPS) for the international agri-food trade facilitation. The representative underscored the importance of agricultural trade for developing economies, who are often constrained by inefficient and unnecessary regulations and procedures. As such, the representative called for regional coordination, harmonization, regulatory reform and transparency.

[201] The IC chairperson and the secretariat thanked the World Bank representative for the presentation.

[202] The IC:

(44) *noted* the World Bank presentation; and,

(45) *encouraged* the World Bank representative to promote the IPPC implementation and capacity development materials within their projects and network.

8.4 International Atomic Energy Agency – Guideline on Phytosanitary Procedures for Area-Wide Management of Fruit Fly Pests

[203] The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) representative presented the FAO-IAEA *Guideline on Phytosanitary Procedures for Area-Wide Management of Fruit Fly Pests*,²⁷ that provides comprehensive technical guidance on classic and modern phytosanitary procedures for area-wide management of economically significant fruit fly species, aiming to reduce fruit damage and support international trade through pest suppression, containment, eradication, and quarantine compliance. The representative also mentioned activities planned, such as training activities, and projects to support implementation of the guide.

[204] One IC member noted that the IPPC contributes resources hosted on the IPP and invited the representative to submit the presented guide as a contributed resource, enabling the plant health community to easily access it.

[205] The IC chairperson and the secretariat thanked the IAEA representative for the presentation.

[206] The IC:

(46) *noted* the IAEA presentation; and,

²⁶ EU Plant Health Law: https://food.ec.europa.eu/plants/plant-health-and-biosecurity/plant-health-rules_en

²⁷ FAO-IAEA *Guideline on Phytosanitary Procedures for Area-Wide Management of Fruit Fly Pests*: <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/be552b9e-9ab8-4cec-ba0c-2fa4f77896c7/content>

- (47) *encouraged* the IAEA representative to promote the IPPC implementation and capacity development materials within their projects and network.

9. IC-SC Collaboration

9.1 Updates from the 2024 November SC meeting (including implementation issues identified by the SC)

[207] The SC representative to the IC and the assistant IC representative to the SC presented the outcomes from the SC November 2024 meeting,²⁸ as well as an oral report from the SC May 2025 meeting, that were relevant to the IC. The meeting report for the SC May 2025 meeting will be made available on the IPP.²⁹

[208] The IC discussed the following implementation issues identified by the SC.

[209] The SC representative to the IC and the assistant IC representative to the SC mentioned that the potential misuse of pest lists in the Annex *International Movement of Fresh Mangifera indica Fruit* (2021-011) to ISPM 46 (*Commodity-based standards for phytosanitary measures*) due to limited pest risk analysis (PRA) capacity within some contracting parties, which may need to be addressed through implementation material.

[210] Regarding the annex to ISPM 39 (*International Movement of Wood*) on Use of Systems Approaches for Wood, the SC had flagged the need for guidance on wood-chip pile management, traceability of long-cycle wood commodities, and moisture content parameters for kiln-drying and irradiation.

[211] The SC had also flagged a draft revision of ISPM 26 (*Establishment and Maintenance of Pest Free Areas for Fruit Flies (Tephritidae)*) (2021-010). The SC had discussed how and where the three annexes and appendixes removed from the revised standard would be stored. The proposal mentioned was to locate these at the end of the standards and grey out with cover page.

[212] The IC:

- (48) *noted* the main outcomes of the November 2024 and May 2025 SC meetings; and,
(49) *agreed* to discuss in more details the implementations issues identified by the SC as part of an e-forum prior to its November 2025 meeting

9.2 System to collect and archive implementation issues

[213] The secretariat presented a paper with the proposed system to collect and archive potential implementation issues related to the draft ISPMs, identified by the SC.³⁰

[214] The SC and the IC had discussed the need to strengthen coordination on potential implementation issues identified during the development of ISPMs at their several meetings. To streamline the process, the secretariat proposed a simplified procedure where the SC can directly submit urgent implementation topics, linked to ISPMs under development, to the IC outside of the standard call for topics, using only a draft specification. A dedicated, searchable section in the restricted area of the IPP to house these issues. This system would also allow the two committees to establish a systematic approach to collect, track, and archive implementation issues over the multi-year standard-setting process.

²⁸ 19_IC_2025_May

²⁹ SC May 2025 meeting report: <https://www.ippc.int/en/commission/standards-committee/>

³⁰ 20_IC_2025_May

- [215] The secretariat noted that more discussion is needed to understand if the proposed system should be limited to potential implementation issues identified by the SC or also include those submitted by the contracting parties and the RPPOs during the consultation periods.
- [216] One IC member noted the importance of the SC overseeing comments coming from consultations, especially at the ISPM development process, and to report the issues arising to the IC. The secretariat added that the issue flagged by the SC would be a better way to streamline process. The contracting parties would still have an opportunity to submit their proposals through the call for topics.
- [217] Another IC member mentioned that the ICD LOT serves as a list of available implementation topics proposed, with a priority level for each topic. The secretariat clarified that the SC, while developing a standard, may notice or pick up a potential implementation issue raised during the consultation and invite the IC to consider the topic. The secretariat noted that currently there was no such list, that is a repository to store the list of potential implementation issues.
- [218] One IC member added that the proposed list within the restricted work area would be used to consult during the development of guide material and would give a background information and ensure the information was not lost. One IC member agreed that a structured repository is needed, with a search function, so that there is an accurate archive of all potential implementation issues flagged by the SC.
- [219] Several IC members agreed that as part of the communication process, the SC representative to the IC, to coordinate with ISPM steward to gather potential implementation issues and report to the IC during the following meeting.
- [220] The IC agreed, that if available, that any potential implementation issues, that had been historically forwarded by the SC, could be included in the repository already, excluding those ones that have not been approved as topics.
- [221] The IC:
- (50) *requested* the secretariat to create a dedicated section within the restricted work area of the IPP to store and retrieve the potential implementation issues; and,
 - (51) *requested* the SC representative to the IC to coordinate with the ISPM stewards to gather potential implementation issues and report to the IC.

9.3 Criteria for travel support to IPPC meetings

- [222] The secretariat presented a paper with updates on the provision of travel assistance to support attendance of the IC members to IPPC meetings.³¹
- [223] Following a 2023 bureau decision, eligibility for travel assistance to be reassessed annually. This change raised concerns, particularly where members lost their eligibility mid-term, affecting participation and possibly discouraging nominations. The IC, in its November 2024 meeting, had recommended maintaining eligibility throughout a member's term based on their status at the time of commitment, updating only if a country becomes eligible later. Another proposal was to consider alternative or additional criteria to the World Bank indicators and creating a backup funding reserve for exceptional cases.
- [224] The bureau in its March 2025 meeting endorsed the IC's recommendations on travel eligibility and agreed that IC representatives to the SC, despite their "observer" status, if eligible under the World Bank criteria, will receive travel assistance throughout their IC term.

³¹ 21_IC_2025_May

[225] The IC also raised the need to adjust SC terms of reference and rules of procedure,³² by removing the word “may” from “a representative of the IC may attend as an observer” under rule 7. Observers, of the SC terms of reference and rules of procedure, to read “a representative of the IC attends as an observer”.

[226] The IC agreed that considering the bureau’s decisions with regards to travel support, the Procedure Manual for Implementation and Capacity Development³³ would need to be updated.

[227] The IC:

- (52) *noted* the CPM Bureau guidance to maintain the eligibility status of IC members at the time when the statement of commitment is signed and until the end of the term;
- (53) *noted* the approved flexibility arrangement to update the eligibility status to travel assistance if a member became eligible after the annual update of World Bank criteria;
- (54) *noted* that the IC representative to the SC, if eligible to the World Bank criteria, will be eligible for travel assistance throughout their current IC term.
- (55) *requested* the secretariat to update the ICD Procedure Manual to reflect the decision points above – 48, 49, and 50;
- (56) *invited* the SC to consider removing the word “may” from “A representative of the IC may attend as an observer” under rule “7. Observers” of the SC terms of reference and rules of procedure, during the next revision process, to read “a representative of the IC attends as an observer”; and,
- (57) *encouraged* the IC members to secure travel assistance for their participation in the two IC annual meetings considering that travel assistance is based on prioritization and the limited resources of the IPPC secretariat.

9.4 Brainstorming session on the IC-SC collaboration

[228] The IC and the Standards Committee Group (SC-7) members participated in the brainstorming session on the IC-SC collaboration.

[229] The IC and SC members discussed mainly three area related to the two committees’ collaboration.

[230] The members started their discussion with a question on how to ensure smooth collaboration, given that this was becoming more and more relevant in view of discussions related to rethinking ISPMs, revision of ISPMs, and growing recognition of the importance of availability of implementation material for ISPMs within the IPPC community.

[231] Noting the calls for simplifying the standards by removing implementation information, and developing standards and guide implementation guide in tandem, one SC member noted the SC May 2025 discussion related to possible development of a guide following the first country consultation for the standard, that may be a good starting point in terms of the scope of the ISPM, and potential implementation issues related to it.

[232] Some IC members noted that the ISPM should be adopted, tested, before developing a robust implementation guide. Some IC and SC members mentioned that implementation issues were already raised during country consultations, as well as the IPPC regional workshops. One SC member added that in addition to gathering the implementation issues from the regional workshops and consultations, the ISPM steward could be the focal point to regularly report implementation issues raised with regards to a particular ISPM.

[233] IC and SC members noted the challenges that maybe associated with developing ISPMs and guide material in tandem, primarily allocation of financial resources, and, implementation of agreed priorities, similarly to the

³² SC terms of reference and rules of procedure: <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/1107/>

³³ Procedure Manual for Implementation and Capacity Development: <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/86954/>

way it is done with ISPMs, and translations of the guide documents into all official UN languages, as done for ISPMs.

[234] Some SC members agreed that not all ISPMs may need implementation guide or document.

[235] The IC and SC members also discussed an annex or appendix to an ISPM, that may be removed from the ISPM as part of revision process, and where and how such information should be stored. Some members proposed to store this type of information on the IPP, under a new category, apart from IPPC contributed resources or guides. The members also referred to ISPM 26 (*Establishment of Pest Free Areas for Fruit Flies (Tephritidae)*) and noted the need to discuss and decide whether a new guide should be developed to support its implementation, whether the existing guide on pest free areas would suffice, or if an annex to the existing guide would be more appropriate.

[236] The secretariat noted the call for implementation topics, IPPC Observatory surveys, regional workshops, as main channels for identification of implementation issues.

[237] Following the discussion, the members agreed on the following proposals to improve the collaboration between the two committees.

[238] The IC:

- (58) *agreed* to continue discussions on IC–SC collaboration as a standing agenda item in future IC meetings;
- (59) *invited* the IC Team on Guides and Training Materials to review the current Pest Free Area (PFA) guide, assess the needs and feasibility of developing a new guide specifically on fruit fly PFAs, and provide recommendations at the IC meeting in November 2025;
- (60) *requested* the IFU and SSU to consider establishing a dedicated section on the IPP to store guidance materials removed from revised ISPMs, ensuring improved visibility and accessibility for further discussion during the November 2025 SC and IC meetings; and,
- (61) *requested* the IFU and SSU to collaborate in coordinating their workplans, particularly to ensure timely solicitation and allocation of resources for the development of implementation materials.

10. Guide and training materials

10.1 Update on the development of IPPC guides and training materials

[239] The secretariat presented a paper with updates on the development of IPPC guides and training materials,³⁴ with an overview of the in the List of Implementation and Capacity Development Topics (ICD LOT).³⁵

[240] One IPPC guide, two e-learning courses, and the Fusarium TR4 training materials were completed or revised in 2024, several had been translated into French and Spanish, and a comprehensive communication plan had been rolled out to promote their use.

[241] The secretariat then presented an overview of the guides and training materials that were under development (priority 1):

- *IPPC Plant Health Campus e-learning platform* (2017-054);
- *Plant pest emergency simulation tool* (2024-002);
- *Guide on risk-based inspection* (2018-022);

³⁴ 22_IC_2025_May

³⁵ List of Implementation and Capacity Development Topics: <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/capacity-development/list-topics-ippc-implementation/list>

- *Wood packaging material heat treatment manual* (2017-043a);
- *Wood packaging material fumigation treatment manual* (2017-043b).

[242] The secretariat had requested assistance from the Technical Panel on Phytosanitary Treatments (TPPT) in finalizing the technical content of two wood packaging treatment manuals. There were several technical comments that the TPPT is best suited to action these comments.

[243] The secretariat then presented the topics listed with **priority 2**, noting work on the development of the two topics, *Audits in the phytosanitary context* (2021-009) and *Authorization of entities to perform phytosanitary actions* (2018-040), would be initiated as discussed and agreed under agenda item 6.3 (DAI Developing guidance on the use of third-party entities). The IC agreed that adequate funding resources are now available, the development of these two guides should be assigned **priority 1** level.

[244] The secretariat then noted **priority 3** topics, namely *Phytosanitary regulations and legislation for regulated articles guide* (2023-002) and development of the *Pest Free Areas e-learning course* (2017-044) are considered beneficial but are not urgently needed and as such no resource is allocated to these topics.

[245] The new e-learning course on phytosanitary legislation the FAO Development Law Service and COLEAD had been developing. Once available, the IC would be requested to assess whether it sufficiently covers the other priority 3 topics of the same subject, namely *Phytosanitary regulations and legislation for regulated articles guide* (2023-002), or if further materials be needed.

[246] It was noted that **priority 4** topic, namely the *Pest risk management guide* (2017-047) and *Assessing the risk of introduction of pests with seeds guide* (2018-036), cannot be developed at this time as the associated standard is pending CPM adoption.

[247] The secretariat lastly highlighted the outcome of the CPM-19 (2025), that recognized the need for establishing a regular funded position within IFU to support timely development of guides and training materials in parallel with ISPMs. The IC members agreed on this position and expressed their support for a regular-budget position within IFU.

[248] One IC member asked if the topic on the revision of the guide on NROs still needed, since there was a new e-learning course available. The secretariat confirmed that the e-learning was developed based on the guide, therefore, if revised, the e-learning course would be updated too. Additionally, the e-learning courses are a simplified version of the guide for training purposes and at times refer the learner to the guide for in-depth information.

[249] The IC members noted that the adopted ISPMs webpage on the IPP³⁶ should clearly link the ISPMs to their relevant implementation materials. The IC requested the IFU to coordinate with the SSU to undertake this task and suggested that the drop-down menu under each ISPM could capture links to relevant guides and training materials and establish clear linkages between ISPMs and any relevant guides and training materials on the IPP page. It was proposed that this should be discussed at the 2025 IPPC regional workshops and to get feedback from contracting parties.

[250] The IC:

- (62) *noted* the update on IPPC guides and training materials;
- (63) *reviewed* the List of Implementation and Capacity Development Topics, and *changed* the priority level for the following topics from 2 to 1:
 - a. *Audits in the phytosanitary context* (2021-009),

³⁶ IPP page for adopted ISPMs: <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/standards-setting/ispms/>

b. Authorization of entities to perform phytosanitary actions (2018-040),

- (64) *requested* that the IPPC secretary, in conjunction with the advice and guidance of the Financial Committee, consider the creation of a regular-budget position placed within the IFU to develop guides and training materials, as per the recommendations in the 2015 IPPC Secretariat enhancement evaluation and CPM-19 (2025) recommendation; and,
- (65) *requested* the IFU and SSU of the IPPC Secretariat to discuss inclusion of links to relevant guides and training materials on the IPP page for adopted standards, and report the outcomes of the discussions to the IC in November 2025 meeting.

10.2 Preparation to the 2025 IPPC Call for Topics: Standards and Implementation

- [251] The secretariat presented a paper with updates on preparations to the 2025 IPPC Call for Topics: Standards and Implementation.³⁷ The update included tentative schedule for the 2025 call for topics, and outcomes from CPM-19 (2025) on call for topics following which, the call for topics be open for the next two years, and the SC and the IC to review and assess the topic submissions. 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 during the November IC and SC meetings. For this, both committees should establish appropriate mechanisms.
- [252] For engagement and communication purposes, the secretariat would issue quarterly reminders and will organize a webinar in June 2025 to support quality topic submissions.
- [253] The IC discussed the modality for reviewing and assessing the submitted topics be established, and agreed that during its November meetings, it will dedicate a comprehensive session for a thorough review, while maintaining an overall review and discussion in its May meetings. Given that the chairpersons of the IC and SC were participating in the TFT, the IC agreed that the chairperson of the IC would be the lead of the new Team on topics.
- [254] Several IC members proposed that an IC team be created to review and assess the submitted topics should be established, which may eventually evolve into an IC subgroup. The IC agreed that the same criteria used by the TFT would be used to review and assess topic submissions.
- [255] The chairperson added topics submitted by March each year would be reviewed during the IC May meeting, and the topics submitted by September would be reviewed during the November meetings.
- [256] Another IC member added that with the open call, the contacting parties have no clarity on the process and timing of submission, therefore, need guidance and communication. The chairperson clarified that topics submitted by March each year would be reviewed during the IC May meeting, and the topics submitted by September would be reviewed during the November meeting.
- [257] Ahmed M. Abdellah ABDELMOTTALEB (Qatar), Dominique PELLETIER (Canada), Ezequiel FERRO (Argentina), Lucien KOUAMÉ KONAN (Cote d'Ivoire), and Ringolds ARNITIS (Latvia) expressed interest in joining the newly established IC Team on Topics. The secretariat confirmed to prepare terms of reference for the new IC team.
- [258] The IC:
 - (66) *noted* the update on the outcomes from CPM-19 on IPPC Call for Topics for standards and implementation;
 - (67) *noted* the proposed time frame for the 2025 Call for Topics for standards and implementation;
 - (68) *invited* the IC members to coordinate the submission of implementation and capacity development topic proposals at regional levels;

³⁷ 23_IC_2025_May

- (69) *established* a dedicated IC team to review the topics submitted during the open call for topics in 2025 and 2026, comprised of following members: Ahmed M. Abdellah ABDELMOTTALEB (Qatar), Dominique PELLETIER (Canada), Ezequiel FERRO (Argentina), Lucien KOUAMÉ KONAN (Cote d'Ivoire), and Ringolds ARNITIS (Latvia);
- (70) *requested* the secretariat to prepare terms of reference for this new IC Team on Topics; and,
- (71) *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.

10.3 Integration of climate changes in IC work and implementation materials

- [259] The CPM Focus Group on Climate Change and Phytosanitary Issues (FG-CCPI) chairperson presented a paper³⁸ with proposed way through which the climate change could be taken into account in the IC work and development of ICD materials, including: requiring submitters of topic proposals to indicate relevance of climate change; integrating climate change guidance in future guides; considering dedicated ICD materials on climate change; and, promoting climate change related dialogue at key events like CPM sessions and UN Conference of the Parties (COP).
- [260] One IC member highlighted that climate change is a complex issue that may also influence the paradigm shift in the spread of pest.
- [261] An observer organization mentioned the STDF simple action plan to mainstream environment into STDF work, and another study under development by Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation on carbon emission impact of electronic certificates and encouraged the IC to find synergies and potential areas for collaborations.
- [262] One IC member mentioned the capacity development submission forms, where criteria on the environment is optional. The secretariat added that the submission forms had been revised and had been confirmed by CPM-19 (2025), and noted that a section on climate change could be added by the IC, if applicable, when revising the draft specification forms for future guides and training materials, so that the dedicated working group could have a clear task to address climate change during the drafting and development stage of the material.
- [263] Recognizing the importance of addressing climate change, one IC member mentioned the possible ways climate change could be integrated in daily NPPO activities, such as PRA or surveillance. The member added that more research is needed to understand how pests change behavior with climate change. Another solution could be to issue call for contributed resources on the topic. Another member added that there is guidance needed from the FG-CCPI on how to integrate climate change in NPPO daily activities.
- [264] An observer organization stated that EU countries started integrating climate change related activities to the NPPO activities. The representative encouraged the IC to start integrating climate change into its ICD projects.
- [265] Another IC member added that climate change factors were the most obvious in PRA activities, which had been already covered in the ISPM on PRA, under revision, and called for the development of guide material for NPPOs.
- [266] The IC:
- (72) *noted* the update from the FG-CCPI;
 - (73) *agreed* to revise the draft specification forms for future guides and training materials, by adding a section on climate changes, if applicable, for the working group to have a clear task to address climate change during the drafting and development stage of the material; and,
 - (74) *noted* the list of activities planned by the FG-CCPI and presented in Appendix 5.

³⁸ 24_IC_2025_May

10.4 Open session on the IC contribution to the promotion of the IPPC Plant Health Campus

- [267] The secretariat organized an interactive session on the IPPC Plant Health Campus with the aim of promoting increased awareness and integration of the campus at national and regional levels.
- [268] During the session, IC members were invited to reflect on their roles as champions for the IPPC Plant Health Campus, particularly in supporting its uptake in spaces where the IPPC Secretariat is not directly present. The secretariat outlined the broader communications and engagement plan for the platform, including upcoming milestones such as the promotional webinar scheduled for June 2025.
- [269] IC members engaged in a group exercise to identify two key stakeholder groups relevant to their regions or networks, and to define actionable next steps to support campus visibility and e-learning course completion. The exercise encouraged participants to consider what specific actions they would like each stakeholder group to take, as well as enabling conditions required for such actions to take place.
- [270] The secretariat encouraged IC members to continue acting as ambassadors for the IPPC Plant Health Campus by:
- Featuring it during regional meetings and trainings
 - Including links on organizational websites or newsletters
 - Promoting enrolment in newly launched e-learning courses
 - Sharing communications materials and identifying key events where the campus could be presented
- [271] The IC took note of the activity and expressed support for continued efforts to strengthen national and regional engagement with the IPPC Plant Health Campus. Summary of the group exercise discussions is presented in Appendix 6.

11. Activities of IC Subgroup and Teams

11.1 Update on the IPPC Observatory activities

- [272] The IC subgroup on the IPPC Observatory lead presented a paper³⁹ with updates on IPPC Observatory and the IC Subgroup on IPPC Observatory activities, including the outcomes of CPM-19 (2025), and the priorities for the rest of 2025 and funding status of each activity.
- [273] The secretariat briefed the IC about the plans for 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, standardize it, so that the survey is easy to complete and can be easily repeated every two-three year. The secretariat noted that this work may require more effort and time than initially planned, and, as such, the launch may be delayed by few months. Following the initial work of the survey specialist, the IC Subgroup on IPPC Observatory will review and provide feedback on the way forward.
- [274] Several IC members supported the idea of reviewing and re-designing the Third IPPC General Survey, to shorten, simplify and standardize it, avoiding duplication, ensuring the survey could be re-launched periodically to gather data on trends, changes and challenges. Additionally, simplification would also make it easier for contracting parties to respond.
- [275] Reflecting on the CPM-19 decision related to the mid-term review of the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020–2030 development agenda items (SF DAIs), the secretariat presented the proposed terms of reference for the

³⁹ 25_IC_2025_May

mid-term monitoring and evaluation of the IPPC SF DAIs, and invited the IC to make recommendations to make the terms of reference more flexible, so that the exercise could be adapted to various DAIs at various stages of implementation.

[276] Some IC members suggested revising the TOR to include modularity and scalability, so that the assessment could be adapted to each phase and be applied to DAIs at varying levels of maturity—from concept to advanced implementation. Another suggestion was to develop an adaptable evaluation framework with core and optional criteria that could be tailored for each DAI.

[277] The secretariat noted the suggestions and agreed to revise the terms of reference and present the revised version to the IC Subgroup on the IPPC Observatory, and to the 2025 SPG for further suggestions to address the CPM-19 request.

[278] The update on the ongoing IPPC Observatory Study on E-commerce is provided under agenda item 11.2 (Results of the IPPC Observatory survey on E-commerce), and updates on the ongoing IPPC Observatory survey on antimicrobials use is provided under agenda item 11.3 (Results of the IPPC Observatory Survey on Antimicrobials use).

[279] The IC:

- (75) *noted* the status of ongoing IPPC Observatory activities, including progress made with the IPPC Observatory Study on E-commerce and the IPPC Observatory Study on Antimicrobial Resistance, as well as the pre-published version of the IPPC Observatory investment prospectus;
- (76) *noted* the funding status of the IPPC Observatory priority activities for 2025, as presented in the 2025 workplan in Appendix 7;
- (77) *requested* the secretariat to revise the terms of reference for the mid-term monitoring and evaluation of the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020–2030 DAIs, with the suggestions made, and share it with the IC Subgroup for IPPC Observatory to gather further insights and feedback; and,
- (78) *noted* the secretariat plans to review and re-design the draft Third IPPC General Survey, which may take more time than expected, therefore, causing delay in the launch of the survey.

11.2 Results of the IPPC Observatory survey on E-commerce

[280] The secretariat presented a power point presentation with preliminary results of the survey associated with the IPPC Observatory Study on E-commerce. Overall, 80 survey responses had been received (response rate of 43 percent), with all regions well represented in the survey, with a minimum of 26 percent of countries in each region completing the survey.

[281] The preliminary results had been noted by CPM-19 (2025). The initial draft of the study report had been produced. The secretariat is to finetune the report and to present them to the IC Subgroup on IPPC Observatory for review and feedback.

[282] Some IC members complimented on the survey, especially the matrix that was presented with possible recommendations of areas for improvement in each IPPC region. It was added that the study report, reflecting the situation, could be used by NPPOs and RPPOs for national or regional resource mobilization for enhancement of gaps in the system and capacity needs. Another IC member added that, the matrix with regional needs could be enhanced with what IPPC capacity development resources are available to address those needs and gaps, and what further actions needed to be.

[283] One IC member asked the secretariat to investigate sharing anonymised data, aggregated by countries related to RPPOs, with their respective RPPOs for their use. The secretariat noted the request, while expressing concern regarding sharing, even if the data was anonymous, noting that such a request may be outside the scope of the study intent.

[284] One IC member mentioned that the same presentation needed to be presented at the 2025 IPPC regional workshops. The secretariat confirmed that it was included in this year's regional workshop global agenda. Another IC member added that an additional recommendation could be added to the study report, addressed to CPM, to invite the contracting parties to submit CPM INF papers, to report on their progress with addressing gaps and needs identified through the survey to implement the CPM Recommendation on *Internet trade (e-commerce) in plants and other regulated articles* and the IPPC *E-commerce: A guide to managing the pest risk posed by goods ordered online and distributed through postal and courier pathways*. It was also added that the IPPC Observatory Survey, with minor finetuning, could be re-launched, in few years, or closer to the end of the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020-2030, to see the progress.

[285] The IC:

(79) *noted* the preliminary results of the IPPC Observatory survey on e-commerce.

11.3 Results of the IPPC Observatory survey on Antimicrobials use

[286] The secretariat presented a paper⁴⁰ with an update on their activities related to AMR. Following the decisions of CPM-18 (2024), the secretariat had extended the two surveys on AMU: one on antibiotics and the other on fungicides. The former had confirmed the results of the first survey on antibiotics, namely, that the use of antibiotics in plant protection is relatively low. The survey on fungicides had confirmed the widespread use of fungicides in plant protection. The secretariat mentioned that the results of the surveys would be summarized in a study report, to be produced in collaboration with FAO's Plant Production and Protection Division (NSP) and be released as a joint publication.

[287] The secretariat had considered the possible next steps, including closing the two surveys, launching an in-depth study on AMR if needed, and had proposed that data on AMU and AMR be collected in future using FAO's InFARM platform. Although current data collection is limited to AMU, future data collection through the InFARM platform would include both AMU and AMR data.

[288] The CPM-19 (2025) had noted the results of the two AMU surveys and the need for practical, field-applicable solutions that allow traceability of chemical usage had recognized the request to gather future data on AMR, in addition to the data gathered on AMU.

[289] One member asked how the IPPC OCPs would access the FAO InFARM platform. The secretariat added that the FAO InFARM will issue a call for AMR data and to provide user guidance, which will be communicated to the OCPs.

[290] The IC:

(80) *noted* the results of the IPPC Observatory surveys on antibiotics and fungicides used in plant protection;

(81) *noted* that the two IPPC Observatory surveys on antibiotics and fungicides are closed, and data collection on AMU and AMR in plant health will be integrated to the FAO InFARM platform with the IPPC Official Contact Points as the authorized contacts in countries; and,

(82) *noted* the intention of the IPPC Secretariat to develop a joint publication with the NSP highlighting the main outcomes on the IPPC surveys on AMU in plant protection.

11.4 Update on TR4 Global coordination

[291] The secretariat presented a paper⁴¹ with updates on *Fusarium oxysporum* f.sp. *cubense* TR4 global coordination and the activities of the IC Team on Fusarium TR4, including the activities carried out in 2024.

⁴⁰ 26_IC_2025_May

⁴¹ 27_IC_2025_May

- [292] The secretariat also reported on CPM-19 (2025) request to the secretariat, in conjunction with the Financial Committee, to consider allocation of USD 50,000 annually for POARS and where there are synergies, to advance Fusarium TR4 global coordination.
- [293] The chairperson also noted the success of the CPM-19 side session which highlighted public-private partnerships and innovative tools to combat Fusarium TR4.
- [294] The secretariat reported on the planned 2025 actions, that include development of an e-learning course on emergency preparedness which uses Fusarium TR4 as a case study, an online emergency preparedness tool, expanding simulation and awareness efforts, and mapping of Fusarium TR4 activities from the plant health community. The secretariat invited the IC to nominate technical peer-reviewers among members to peer-review the emergency preparedness e-learning resources in June 2025. Francisco Adrian GUTIERREZ (Belize), Lucien KOUAMÉ KONAN (Cote d'Ivoire), Melisa Graciela NEDILSKYJ (Argentina), and Xiaoliang WANG (China) volunteered to peer review the emergency preparedness e-learning resources.
- [295] The secretariat also noted the term of the IC Team on Fusarium TR4, stating that sufficient activities had been delivered with regards to Fusarium TR4 in-line with the agreed terms of references of the members. Some IC members proposed that the IC Team on Fusarium TR4 should be dissolved as relevant activities under the IPPC mandate had been delivered. This was noted by the secretariat. The IC also discussed the transfer of the remaining TR4 activities under the POARS workplan.
- [296] The IC requested the secretariat that November IC meeting should have a dedicated session to further discuss the terms of the IC Team on Fusarium TR4 and to determine criteria for ToR for future teams involved in pest emergencies, to ensure that they are dissolved promptly once the objectives of their mandate have been met.
- [297] Some members proposed to dissolve the IC Team on Fusarium TR4, following the delivery of the pending activities. This was noted by the secretariat.
- [298] The IC:
- (83) *noted* the update from CPM-19 (2025);
 - (84) *requested* the secretariat to include a dedicated agenda item in the IC November 2025 meeting, to discuss the scope of the IPPC involvement in the remaining TR4 activities as well as to determine whether the IC Team on Fusarium TR4 had fulfilled its terms of reference; and,
 - (85) *nominated* Francisco Adrian GUTIERREZ (Belize), Lucien KOUAMÉ KONAN (Cote d'Ivoire), Melisa Graciela NEDILSKYJ (Argentina), and Xiaoliang WANG (China), as technical peer-reviewers within the IC to peer-review the emergency preparedness e-learning resources in June 2025.

11.5 TR4 Coordination with the World Banana Forum, International Atomic Energy Agency

- [299] The secretariat reminded the IC of the CPM-17 (2023) mandate for the secretariat to lead global coordination on Fusarium TR4. The secretariat reported that this request was renewed during CPM-19 (2025). As such, under this mandate, the secretariat is organizing a coordination meeting with the following FAO units, as well as FAO regional officers, working on Fusarium TR4 to identify areas of synergies and opportunities for collaboration: the Locust and Transboundary Diseases Team of the NSP, the World Banana Forum (WBF), and the Joint FAO-IAEA Centre of Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture. These FAO units were also invited to provide updates of their Fusarium TR4 activities to the IC during an information sharing session.
- [300] Matheus LIMA, environment and sustainability specialist, presented the WBF recent activities, such as the organization and delivery of the side session dedicated to Fusarium TR4 during the Fourth Global Conference of the World Banana Forum, a webinar that had been held in January 2025, covering the case of Fusarium TR4

in Asia, elaborating on lessons learned and recommendations encouraging knowledge exchange between various regions. The representative stated that similar awareness raising, and advocacy activities were planned, including publication of a factsheet on banana genetic diversity.

[301] Pooja MADHUR, head of FAO-IAEA Plant Breeding & Genetics Laboratory, presented the activities of the Joint FAO-IAEA Centre to support efforts against Fusarium TR4, such as developing resistant banana varieties through mutation breeding, enhancing beneficial microorganisms, improving diagnostic tools, and building capacity in affected regions through national and regional research and cooperation projects. The presenter also mentioned the joint training programme on diagnostics of Fusarium TR4, including that delivered with the secretariat in 2024 to train NPPO staff from COMESA.

[302] Maged ELKAHKY, agricultural officer representing NSP's Locust and Transboundary Diseases Team stated there was nothing to report on Fusarium TR4 from NSP's side.

[303] The IC members thanked the speakers for the new information shared on Fusarium TR4. During a short question and answer session, the discussion revolved around innovative diagnostic technologies, development of new resistant varieties, and the impact of the awareness raising activities.

[304] The IC chairperson thanked the representatives from WBF, IAEA, and NSP's Locust and Transboundary Diseases Team for their updates and closed the agenda.

11.6 Update on the Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation

[305] The secretariat presented a paper⁴² with updates on the phytosanitary capacity evaluations (PCEs), that included the status of PCEs completed, the new PCEs requested or initiated, the funding sources for these PCEs, the targeted communication and advocacy activities that supported awareness raising. The secretariat also reported on the technical limitations the PCE online system faces, and the plan to conduct IT needs assessment, which the UNICC quoted to be USD 18 830, to migrate the PCE to a more efficient platform for smoother functioning. Based on this, the secretariat would open a competition for service providers for possible alternative proposals.

[306] The CPM-19 (2025) had requested the IPPC Secretary, in consultation with the Financial Committee, to allocate USD 50 000 from the IPPC regular budget and MDTF for PCE system maintenance.

[307] The secretariat reported that the revision of PCE modules was ongoing and that an initial revision had been conducted, which had been then discussed and further revised at the dedicated PCE Improvement Workshop, convened in April 2025, with participation from national coordinators and facilitators. Additionally, during the workshop WOA and food systems assessment tools were presented as well, along with lessons learned and good practices. Additional feedback and lessons learned are to be incorporated. The secretariat reported on the progress of ongoing activities related to the development of pre-PCE training materials, as well as gender and youth guide.

[308] In parallel, the global expert network had been expanded with the certification of 10 new PCE facilitators, in line with IC procedures, to further support countries in strengthening their phytosanitary systems.

[309] While presenting the updates, the secretariat highlighted the contributions to advancing each key result areas of the PCE Strategy 2020–2030.⁴³

[310] One IC member asked if the material from the project definition workshop could be shared with other countries to empower them to develop project proposals. The secretariat added that the workshop was delivered in collaboration with COLEAD, under the EU-funded project. Yet, the newly launched e-learning course on PCE has several project development and definition component that NPPOs may benefit from. Yet, no material is

⁴² 28_IC_2025_May

⁴³ Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation Strategy for 2020–2030: <https://ippc.int/en/publications/87701/>

available to be shared with the contracting parties. The lead of the IC Team on PCE highlighted the importance of conducting PCEs prior to the development of a project proposal.

[311] Regarding the engagement with stakeholder in the country of PCE implementation, it was added that engagement with all relevant stakeholders is the responsibility of the NPPO, as PCE remains a country led process.

[312] Another IC member highlighted the need for more PCE facilitator trainees with the knowledge of regional language, as involving interpreters may pose a risk for sensitive information shared during the PCE process. The IC chairperson and the secretariat stated that normally, the interpreters sign confidentiality agreements, and it would be necessary to be controlled by the NPPO.

[313] The IC:

- (86) *noted* the progress made in implementing the PCE Improvement Roadmap according to the PCE strategy 2020–2030;
- (87) *noted* the progress made addressing the recommendations from the desk study on PCE and the planned next steps for improvement;
- (88) *requested* that the IPPC secretary, in conjunction with the Financial Committee, consider the funding allocation of USD 50 000 from the IPPC regular-programme budget and the IPPC MDTF to maintain the PCE system, as per the CPM-19 (2025) recommendation; and,
- (89) *noted* the ten (10) newly certified PCE facilitators.

12. IPPC Regional Workshops

12.1 Preparation of the 2025 IPPC Regional Workshops

[314] The secretariat presented a paper⁴⁴ with updates on the preparation for the 2025 IPPC Regional Workshops in Africa, Asia, Caribbean, Europe, Central Asia, Near East and North Africa, Latin America, and Southwest Pacific. The secretariat listed the IC and SC representatives in the organizing committees of each regional workshop, inviting their active participation in the preparatory meetings and present assigned agenda items.

[315] One IC member underscored the importance of presenting the preliminary results of the IPPC Observatory Study on E-commerce and potential implementation issues at all 2025 IPPC regional workshops, so that contracting parties could provide their feedback.

[316] Another IC member noted the importance of translating the regional workshop presentations as soon as possible. The secretariat noted the request.

[317] The IC:

- (90) *noted* the update on the 2025 IPPC Regional Workshop preparations;
- (91) *encouraged* the IC and SC regional representatives to be fully involved in the organizing committee for the 2025 IPPC regional workshop in their region; and,
- (92) *encouraged* the IC members involved in the 2025 IPPC regional workshops to facilitate the discussions related to implementation issues.

⁴⁴ 29_IC_2025_May

13. IC leads

13.1 Update on status and leads of the IC subgroups and teams

[318] The secretariat presented an update on the status of IC leads, along with the membership of, CPM focus groups, ICD topics, IC subgroups and IC teams for the IC members.⁴⁵

[319] The IC discussed and agreed on the IC assignments and the list of leads for subgroups, teams, ICD topics and projects.

[320] After the meeting, the secretariat to follow up with the IC member, Ravinder Kumar KHETARPAL (Lao People's Democratic Republic), if he wishes to join any of the IC groups, following which the list to be agreed with all IC members via e-forum.

[321] One IC member referred to the membership list of the IC groups and noted that there were several former IC members who continue supporting the work of these groups. Commending the commitment of the former IC members who continue to participate in the IC group work, the member suggested that the IC should discuss the duration of the support these former members may provide.

[322] The IC:

- (93) *reviewed* the table of IC leads and members for IC Subgroups and IC Teams presented in Appendix 8;
- (94) *requested* the secretariat to initiate an e-decision to formally agree on the updated list of IC leads and members for IC subgroups and teams, following consultation with Ravinder Kumar KHETARPAL (the Lao People's Democratic Republic); and,
- (95) *requested* the secretariat to include an agenda item in the IC November 2025 meeting dedicated to the scope and duration of the support and involvement the former IC members provide.

14. IFU workplan

14.1 Review of the 2025 IFU workplan

[323] The secretariat presented updated 2025 IFU workplan.⁴⁶ The workplan had been adjusted as per the outcomes of CPM-19 (2025) and the available resources. The revisions included: addition of work on plant health within One Health under the IPPC Secretariat initiatives; the revision of the phytosanitary component pages under IFU communications; the design and preparations of the third general IPPC Survey under the IPPC Observatory; and, the work on the development of the two guides on *Audits in the phytosanitary context* (2021-040) and *Authorization of entities to perform phytosanitary actions* (2018-040)) under the guides and training materials.

[324] The IC discussed the revised workplan and made minor revisions.

[325] The IC:

- (96) *noted* the revisions to the 2025 IFU workplan, as presented in Appendix 9.

14.2 IFU staffing in the medium and long term

[326] The secretariat and an IC member presented the staff situation for IFU of the secretariat, where only three staff members are funded through regular budget, and one staff is funded through the project funds. The secretariat noted that the rest of staff are recruited as consultants, doing core implementation activities. The secretariat

⁴⁵ 30_IC_2025_May

⁴⁶ 31_IC_2025_May

highlighted the importance of establishing a staff position funded through regular budget to work on IPPC guides and training materials.

[327] One IC member asked if there was a budget breakdown for each IPPC Secretariat unit.

[328] A few IC members recalled the 2024 SPG paper that proposed reducing the costs associated with standard setting and allocating more resources to implementation.

[329] The IC:

- (97) *requested* the IC members to follow up with their respective bureau members on the CPM-19 (2025) decisions with regards to establishment of new staff positions and allocation of resources for IFU of the IPPC Secretariat;
- (98) *requested* the IC chairperson to follow up with a new IPPC Secretary, once appointed, on the CPM-19 (2025) decisions with regards to establishment of new staff positions and allocation of resources for IFU of the IPPC Secretariat.

15. Agenda items deferred to future IC meetings

[330] No agenda item was deferred.

16. Any other business

[331] **Possibility to organize one IC meeting outside of Rome, Italy.** One IC member referred to the IC November 2024 meeting discussion when the possibility to organize one IC meeting outside of Rome, Italy had been discussed. The member asked what the estimated cost was associated with organizing and hosting an IC meeting. The member also recalled that previously, one of the IC meetings in a year had been organized somewhere else than FAO headquarters in Rome. The IC member added that for countries to host IC meetings would give ownership and engagement.

[332] The secretariat stated that the previous IPPC Secretary wanted to minimize travel and hold meetings at FAO headquarters. The secretariat developed an Excel file with calculation of costs, to analyse the added cost and benefit if an invitation to host such meeting is received. Usually, what is asked from the host country is a meeting room, coffee breaks, organization of a transportation for field trips, if organized, and support with logistics. The secretariat would still cover the travel expenses of IC members who are eligible for travel assistance.

[333] Some IC members recalled the idea of organizing the upcoming November IC meeting in Bari, Italy, at the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari (CIHEAM), with a possible field visit to olive fields affected by the outbreak of *Xylella fastidiosa*.

[334] The IC:

- (99) *requested* the secretariat to explore the possibility of the IC November 2025 meeting to be hosted either at CIHEAM Bari, Italy, if confirmed by June 2025, or at FAO headquarters, Rome, as initially planned.

18. Date and venue of the next meeting

[335] The next IC meeting will be held from 10 to 14 November 2025. The location would either be the FAO headquarters in Rome, Italy, or at CIHEAM Bari, Italy, if confirmed by the secretariat by June 2025, and agreed by the IC.

19. Evaluation of the meeting

[336] The secretariat asked IC members to fill in the evaluation survey for the meeting.

20. Review and adoption of the report

[337] The IC reviewed and adopted the report.

21. Close of the meeting

[338] The IC chairperson and the IPPC Secretary OIC for daily matters thanked everyone and closed the meeting.

Appendix 1 – Agenda

	Agenda Item	Document No.	Presenter	Time (Min)
1.	Opening of the Meeting		BRUNEL	5
1.1	Opening by the IPPC Secretariat		BRUNEL	10
1.2	Opening Remarks		PELLETIER	10
2.	Meeting Arrangements			
2.1	Election of the Rapporteur		PELLETIER	5
2.2	Adoption of the Agenda	01_IC_2025_May	PELLETIER	10
3.	Administrative Matters			
3.1	Documents list	02_IC_2025_May	KOUMBA	2
3.2	Participants list	03_IC_2025_May	KOUMBA	2
3.3	Local information	Link	DERBA	2
3.4	Evaluation results of the 2024 IC November meeting	04_IC_2025_May	KOUMBA	20
4.	CPM-19 (2025) implementation issues			
4.1	Outcomes of CPM-19 (2025) and key issues and decisions that affect the IC	05_IC_2025_May	PELLETIER/ BRUNEL	120
5.	Updates from the IPPC Secretariat			
5.1	Implementation and Facilitation Unit (IFU) update (including IFU staff)	Presentation IFU organigramme	BRUNEL	30
5.2	Standard Setting Unit (SSU) update	07_IC_2025_May	NERSISYAN	20
5.3	Integration and Support Team (IST) update	08_IC_2025_May	SENTINELLI	20
5.4	Update from International Day of Plant Health (IDPH)	09_IC_2025_May	FRIO	20
5.5	Update from the CPM Bureau	Oral update Link to the Bureau Report	BRUNEL	30
5.6	Update on the IPPC workshop on systems approaches	10_IC_2025_May	NERSISYAN	20
6.	IPPC Strategic Framework			
6.1	DAI Harmonization of electronic data exchange	11_IC_2025_May	BRUNEL/ NUZZO	20
6.2	DAI Management of e-commerce and postal and courier pathways	12_IC_2025_May	GEUZE	20
6.3	DAI Developing guidance on the use of third-party entities	13_IC_2025_May	PARMAR	20
6.4	DAI Strengthening pest outbreak alert and response systems	14_IC_2025_May	BELTRAN	20
7.	IPPC Implementation and Capacity Development Projects			

	Agenda Item	Document No.	Presenter	Time (Min)
7.1	Projects managed by the IPPC Secretariat	15_IC_2025_May	MADAMINOVA	20
7.2	Update on the project Strengthening Food Control and Phytosanitary Capacities and Governance (GCP/GLO/949/EC)	16_IC_2025_May	BELTRAN	20
7.3	Update on the IPPC Plant Health Campus	17_IC_2025_May Presentation	PARMAR / PETRACCHI	30
8.	New technologies in plant health (Observers)			
8.1	IC open session on projects: Smart plant health, what does the future look like?	Webinar Link	IIZUKA	110
8.2	Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) Secretariat	Presentation	HOPPER	20
8.3	Comité de Liaison Entrepreneuriat – Agriculture – Développement (COLEAD)	18B_IC_2025_May	KESTEMONT	20
8.4	European Commission (EC)	Presentation	SHUMBE	20
8.5	World Bank	Presentation	SELA	20
8.6	IAEA - Guideline on Phytosanitary Procedures for Area-Wide Management of Fruit Fly Pests	18E_IC_2025_May Link	LU	30
9.	IC-SC Collaboration			
9.1	Updates from the 2024 November SC meeting (Including implementation issues identified by the SC)	19_IC_2025_May	ABDELMOTTALEB/ ATTIPOE/ YIM	30
9.2	System to collect and archive implementation issues	20_IC_2025_May	TORELLA/ KOUMBA MADAMINOVA/	20
9.3	Criteria for travel support to IPPC meetings	21_IC_2025_May	KOUMBA	20
9.4	Brainstorming session on the IC/SC collaboration	Open session with SC-7	ATTIPOE/ YIM	30
10.	Guide and training materials			
10.1	Update on the development of IPPC guides and training materials	22_IC_2025_May	PARMAR/ GUTIERREZ	30
10.2	Preparation to the 2025 IPPC Call for Topics: Standards and Implementation	23_IC_2025_May	KOUMBA / KRAH	20
10.3	Integration of climate changes in IC work and implementation materials	24_IC_2025_May	EYRE/ FRIO	30
10.4	Open session on the IC contribution to the promotion of the IPPC Plant Health Campus	Discussion	FERRARO	40

	Agenda Item	Document No.	Presenter	Time (Min)
11.	Activities of IC Subgroup and Teams			
11.1	Update on the IPPC Observatory activities	25_IC_2025_May	MADAMINOVA/ PELLETIER	20
11.2	Results of the IPPC Observatory survey on E-commerce	Presentation	MADAMINOVA/ GEUZE	30
11.3	Results of the IPPC Observatory survey on Antimicrobials use	26_IC_2025_May	KOUMBA	30
11.4	Update on TR4 Global coordination	27_IC_2025_May	WANG/ PARMAR	20
11.5	TR4 Coordination with NSP & IAEA	Presentation	TBC	40
11.6	Update on the Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation	28_IC_2025_May	BELTRAN/ ARNITIS	30
12.	IPPC Regional Workshops			
12.1	Preparation of the 2025 IPPC Regional Workshops	29_IC_2025_May	NERSISYAN / RUKAVISHNIKOV	20
13.	IC Leads			
13.1	Update on status and leads of the IC subgroups and teams	30_IC_2025_May	KOUMBA	20
14.	IFU Workplan			
14.1	Review of the 2025 IFU workplan	31_IC_2025_May	BRUNEL	30
14.2	IFU staffing in the medium and long term	Discussion	BRUNEL / YIM	40
15.	Agenda items deferred to future IC meetings		PELLETIER	5
16.	Any Other Business		PELLETIER	30
17.	Date and Venue of the Next Meeting	10–15, November 2025, FAO HQ, Rome	KOUMBA	5
18.	Evaluation of the meeting process	Link to the survey	KOUMBA	10
19.	Review and adoption of the meeting report		PELLETIER/ BRUNEL	240
20.	Close of the Meeting		PELLETIER/ BRUNEL	10

Sessions open to observers
Sessions for IC and SC

Appendix 2 – List of documents

DOCUMENT NO.	AGENDA ITEM	DOCUMENT TITLE	DATE POSTED / DISTRIBUTED
01_IC_2025_May	2.2	Agenda	2025-04-09 2025-05-05
02_IC_2025_May	3.1	Documents list	2025-05-05
03_IC_2025_May	3.2	Participants list	2025-05-05
04_IC_2025_May	3.4	Evaluation results of the 2024 IC November meeting	2025-04-30
05_IC_2025_May	4.1	Outcomes of CPM-19 (2025) key issues and decisions that affect the IC	2025-05-05
07_IC_2025_May	5.2	Standard Setting Unit (SSU) update	2025-04-30
08_IC_2025_May	5.3	Integration and Support Team (IST) update	2025-04-28
09_IC_2025_May	5.4	International Day of Plant Health (IDPH)	2025-04-28
10_IC_2025_May	5.6	Update on the IPPC workshop on systems approaches	2025-05-05
11_IC_2025_May	6.1	DAI Harmonization of electronic data exchange	2025-05-05
12_IC_2025_May	6.2	DAI Management of e-commerce and postal and courier pathways	2025-05-05
13_IC_2025_May	6.3	DAI Developing guidance on the use of third-party entities	2025-04-24
14_IC_2025_May	6.4	DAI Strengthening pest outbreak alert and response systems	2025-05-05
15_IC_2025_May	7.1	Projects managed by the IPPC Secretariat	2025-05-05
16_IC_2025_May	7.2	Update on the project Strengthening Food Control and Phytosanitary Capacities and Governance (GCP/GLO/949/EC)	2025-05-05
17_IC_2025_May	7.3	Update on the IPPC Plant Health Campus	2025-04-28
18B_IC_2025_May	8.3	Comité de Liaison Entrepreneuriat – Agriculture – Développement (COLEAD)	2025-05-05
18E_IC_2025_May	8.6	IAEA -Guideline on Phytosanitary Procedures for Area-Wide Management of Fruit Fly Pests	2025-05-05
19_IC_2025_May	9.1	Updates from the 2024 November SC meeting (Including implementation issues identified by the SC)	2025-05-05
20_IC_2025_May	9.2	System to collect and archive implementation issues	2025-05-05
21_IC_2025_May	9.3	Criteria for travel support to IPPC meetings	2025-04-30
22_IC_2025_May	10.1	Update on the development of IPPC guides and training materials	2025-04-30
23_IC_2025_May	10.2	Preparation to the 2025 IPPC Call for Topics: Standards and Implementation	2025-05-05
24_IC_2025_May	10.3	Integration of climate changes in IC work and implementation materials	2025-05-05
25_IC_2025_May	11.1	Update on the IPPC Observatory activities	2025-04-28
26_IC_2025_May	11.3	Results of the IPPC Observatory survey on Antimicrobials use	2025-04-28
27_IC_2025_May	11.4	Update on TR4 Global coordination	2025-05-05

DOCUMENT NO.	AGENDA ITEM	DOCUMENT TITLE	DATE POSTED / DISTRIBUTED
28_IC_2025_May	11.6	Update on the Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation	2025-05-05
29_IC_2025_May	12.1	Preparation of the 2025 IPPC Regional Workshops	2025-05-05
30_IC_2025_May	13.1	Update on status and leads for IC Subgroup and IC Teams	2025-05-05
31_IC_2025_May	14.2	Review of the 2025 IFU workplan	2025-05-05

IPP LINKS:	Agenda item
Local Information	3.3
IC Membership list	3.2
IFU Staff overview	5.1
List of ICD topics database	10.1
Procedure Manual for Implementation and Capacity Development	15.1
Link to November 2024 IC Meeting Report	3.4
CPM Bureau Report March 2025	5.5

Appendix 3 – List of participants

Region/Role	Name, mailing, address, telephone	Email address
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IPPC Secretariat

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Appendix 4 – Projects managed by the IPPC Secretariat through the Implementation and Facilitation Unit in 2024

Project name/details	Donor	Start and end dates	Budget	Project compliant with	Main concrete deliverables
“Support to the IPPC Strategic Framework and Work Plan” (GCP /GLO/1238/EC)	European Commission	Start: November 2024 End: October 2027	USD 1 666 665	IPPC Strategic Framework 2020–2030 2nd and 5th development agenda items (“Commodity and Pathway Specific International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures” and “Strengthening Pest and Outbreak Response Systems”) work plans.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strengthening pest outbreak and response systems activities (including One Health) (30%). - Commodity- and pathway-specific international standards for phytosanitary measures (30%). - African Phytosanitary Programme (APP) (40%).
“Africa Phytosanitary Programme” (GCP /GLO/1252/UK)	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Start: January 2025 End: December 2026	USD 1 197 983	IPPC Work Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implementation of the 2nd phase of the Africa Phytosanitary Programme, including the provision of equipment and organization of Train of Trainers’ workshop
“Support for Implementation and Capacity Development Activities of the IPPC Secretariat” (GCPT/GLO/102/JPN)	Japan	Start: June 2024 End: December 2025	USD 1 006 180	IPPC Strategic Framework 2020–2030	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provision of a staff member within IFU. - Operational support of the secretariat in relation to supervision of the staff recruited under

					the project and implementation and capacity development activities.
<p>“Strengthening Food Control and Phytosanitary Capacities and Governance” (GCP/GLO/949/EC)</p> <p>Project co-implemented with the FAO Food Safety Division (ESF)</p>	<p>European Commission</p>	<p>Start: January 2022 End: June 2025</p>	<p>USD 7 075 947 (total), USD 2 400 000 approximately (phytosanitary matters)</p>	<p><i>IPPC Strategic Framework 2020–2030</i></p> <p><i>Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation Strategy 2020–2030</i></p> <p><i>Implementation and Capacity Development List of topics</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PCEs in 11 countries. PCE facilitators training course organized. - Project Definition Workshop to support eight countries in mobilizing resources. - IPPC Plant Health Campus and over six new e-learning courses. - Translation of the IPPC Plant Health Campus along with the six e-learning courses into French.
<p>“FAO support to COMESA trade facilitation programme” (GCP/INT/387/COM)</p> <p>Project co-implemented with the FAO Food Safety Division (ESF)</p>	<p>European Commission through the COMESA Secretariat</p>	<p>Start: December 2018 End: May 2024 (completed)</p>	<p>USD 2 803 069 (total), USD 800 000 (phytosanitary matters)</p>	<p><i>Implementation and Capacity Development List of topics</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Four e-learning courses developed. - One guide on contingency planning and one guideline on prevention, preparedness and response to Fusarium wilt (TR4). - Five capacity development webinars.

					<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Translations of six guides in French.- Surveillance, diagnostic training courses on TR4.- Tabletop and simulation exercises on TR4.
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Appendix 5 – 2025-2026 FG-CCPI “Action Plan on Climate Change Impacts on Plant Health”

(Updated in October 2024)

Core action areas	Key activities	Tentative delivery dates	Priority
Outcome 1: Awareness on the impacts of climate change on plant health is improved			
1. Convene and participate in meetings and side events related to the impacts of climate change on plant health	1. Participate in the next International Plant Health Conference (side session), in person or hybrid	2026	HIGH
	2. Participate in regional level webinars or workshops on the impacts of climate change on plant health (targeted to regional priorities)	2025	HIGH
	3. Promote the FG-CCPI and its action plan at the 2025 IPPC Plant Health conference and other relevant conferences, workshops and events, FAO events (e.g. World Food Forum) and UN International Days	2025	HIGH
2. Raise awareness on the impacts of climate change on plant health	1. Investigate opportunities to raise awareness on the impacts of climate change on plant health at the next UN Climate Change Conference Forums (COP30 in Brazil)	2025	HIGH
	2. Investigate opportunities to raise awareness of the impacts of climate change on plant health, including cultural and social impacts (e.g., radio talk shows, social media, poster and flyers, videos, digital platforms, etc.)	2025	MEDIUM
	3. Develop a ‘climate change impacts on plant pests’ webpage (landing page) on the IPP as a repository of all FG-CCPI related materials and resources (including links to tools)	2025	HIGH
	4. Identify and engage stakeholders at different levels (Online survey, in-person or telephone interactions) to gather information on climate change impacts on plant health	2025	MEDIUM
	5. Include the ‘climate change impacts on plant pests’ topic into the agenda of all IPPC meetings (SPG and Bureau) to raise awareness	2025	HIGH
3. Facilitate discussions within IPPC subsidiary bodies, regional	2. Include ‘climate change impacts on plant health’ topic in the agenda of all upcoming RPPO meetings and conferences (including annual workshops)	2025	HIGH

workshops as well as other IPPC technical groups and CPM			
	3. Include side session into the CPM-20 agenda	2026	HIGH
Outcome 2: Risks of climate change to plant health are evaluated and managed			
4. Support countries to collect, analyse and use climate change impacts-related information in decision-making	1. Incorporate climate change considerations in the new pest risk analysis (PRA) standard to be developed by the IPPC Expert Working Group	2025	HIGH
	2. Continue to provide advice on the use of climate change models e.g., pros and cons of different models (e.g. predictive models for plant pests), time period to use, uncertainties, geographical and temporal scale (webinars/ publications and other materials).	2025	LOW
	3. Provide advice on how to assess the impact of climate change on individual pests, the suite of pests on an individual crop and pest management.	2025	LOW
	4. Suggest to IPPC Call for Topics group to include climate change considerations into the criteria for decision-making on the topics.	2025	MEDIUM
	5. Review and promote tools to enhance the preparedness and response of Agricultural Extension Agents, community-based organizations (CBOs), farmers and other relevant stakeholders on the impacts of climate change on plant health	2025	MEDIUM
Outcome 3: Enhanced recognition of phytosanitary matters in the international climate change debate			
5. Strengthen collaboration with relevant organizations	1. Cooperate and exchange information on climate change and plant health matters with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and other international and regional organisations (e.g., International Pest Risk Research Group, Centre for Agriculture and Bioscience International (CABI), FAO Office of Climate Change and Biodiversity (OCB), IPBES, etc.)	2025 - 2026	HIGH

	2. Collaborate with FAO OCB in identifying cultural and social impacts of climate change on plant health, including island communities under threat of sea level rise.	2025-2026	MEDIUM
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Appendix 6 – Summary from output of group exercise of session “Open session on the IC contribution to the promotion of the IPPC Plant Health Campus

During the exercise IC members and observers identified key stakeholder groups, relevant to their regions or networks, and defined actionable next steps to support IPPC Plant Health Campus visibility and e-learning course completion. Outputs, by group, are summarised in the table below.

WHO? Identify stakeholder group	END GOAL What do you want to achieve with this group?	WHAT? Specific action you want them to take?	What needs to happen first?	HOW? Through what comms channels will you reach them?	WHEN? With what frequency?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plant Health Colleagues working as risk managers NPPO staff Seed Associations Private sector and associations related to plant health Regional economic associations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve understanding of plant health for legislative purposes Strengthening capacity of implementing standards Facilitate safe trade of plants and plant products 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use the IPPC Plant Health Campus to develop capacity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Widespread awareness of the IPPC Plant Health Campus and all it has to offer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social media, presentations, e-mails 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As the opportunity arises
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NPPO and RPPO staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Include the campus in national and regional training programs Promote the campus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make e-learning course completion a pre-requisite to start specific roles/responsibilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secretariat to formalize regional champions Publicize IPPC Community LinkedIn page 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NPPO-RPPO focal points Social media Events Blogs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monthly, quarterly, annually
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students, researchers and policy makers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To prepare a generation of national plant health specialists RESEARCHERS: awareness of spread of pests and responsibilities of each stakeholder 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To undertake high-quality, systematic capacity building To give suggestions for improvement RESEARCHERS: strengthen linkages with the NPPO STUDENTS: best-in-class knowledge on plant health issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tailoring of awareness materials Development of communication plan at national/regional level Approach institutions at a national level with 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Webinars Social media (Facebook/LinkedIn) Memorandums of Understanding One-to-one meetings Participate in relevant congresses-seminars 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annually/every semester At relevant events

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fast pest notification to NPPO ▪ Join the IPPC working group ▪ STUDENTS: include campus in university curricula 		a tailored message		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Importers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Phytosanitary compliance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Short term: complete e-learning courses in "Inspector learning pathway" ▪ Long term: source imports from compliant sources in exporting countries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Drive awareness that these courses exist and promote completing them 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Feature on import/export pages of NPPO websites ▪ Meetings with industry organizations (including those outside of plant health) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 1 time per month ▪ During annual meetings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Exporters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Compliance, especially with regards to Wood Packaging Materials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Short term: complete e-learning course related to WPM ▪ Long term: only use compliant WPM for exports 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continuous ▪ 4 times per year

Appendix 7 – IPPC Observatory 2025 workplan

*** Subject to availability of financial resources

Activities and sub-activities	Outputs	Lead/Responsible	Comments
Work package I: Oversee the IPPC Observatory studies and surveys			
1. Conduct studies on priority topics contributing to the review of implementation of the IPPC, ISPMs and CPM Recommendations			
1.1. One priority 1 topics per year to provide cross-cutting support to IPPC core activities are conducted***	One study published, and communication activities undertaken as appropriate	IPPC Secretariat, consultants, Subgroup on IPPC Observatory	
2. Study on E-commerce (2021-01, Priority 1)			<i>Ongoing activity from 2024</i>
2.1. Review the results of the IPPC Observatory Study survey on E-commerce	Results reviewed	IC Subgroup on IPPC Observatory, IC Team on E-commerce	
2.2. Analyse the results of the IPPC Observatory Study survey on E-commerce	Results analysed	IPPC Secretariat, survey specialist, Subgroup on IPPC Observatory	
2.3. Finalize the report/study, prepare for publication, and publish through FAO PWS	Study published	IPPC Secretariat, survey specialist	
2.4. Present the updates on the IPPC Observatory Study on E-commerce at CPM-19	CPM paper developed	IPPC Secretariat, survey specialist, Subgroup on IPPC Observatory	
3. Survey on Antimicrobial resistance			<i>Ongoing activity from 2024</i>
3.1. Conduct the third phase on fungicides of the AMR survey	Survey launched	IPPC Secretariat, consultants	
3.2. Finalize a report of the two phases of the AMR survey, prepare for publication, and publish through FAO PWS	AMR survey published	IPPC Secretariat, consultants, Subgroup on IPPC Observatory	
3.3. Present the outcomes of the AMR survey at CPM-19 (2025)	CPM paper developed	IPPC Secretariat, consultants, Subgroup on IPPC Observatory	
4. Formulate a new project on IPPC Observatory operationalization			
4.1. Coordinate with the EU to mobilize resources for a new project	Project submitted	IPPC Secretariat	
4.2. Include the priority 1 topics in the EU project proposal	Project document finalized	IPPC Secretariat	
Work package II: Contribute to the monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL)			
1. Conduct the third IPPC General survey (2018-54, Priority 1)***			Estimated cost:

Activities and sub-activities	Outputs	Lead/Responsible	Comments
			USD 80 000–90 000
1.1. Hire a survey specialist to work on the third General survey based on the outcomes of the comparative analysis report of the first and second general surveys	Third IPPC General survey drafted	IPPC Secretariat / Survey specialist	
1.2. Review the proposed questionnaire of the survey by the IPPC Secretariat	Questionnaire reviewed	IPPC Secretariat / Survey specialist	
1.3. Review the reworked questionnaire of the survey by the IC Subgroup on IPPC Observatory	Questionnaire reviewed	IC Subgroup on IPPC Observatory	
1.4. Conduct the third General survey	Report of the survey	Survey specialist /Phytosanitary expert	
1.5. Review the results of the survey by the Subgroup	Results reviewed	IC Subgroup on IPPC Observatory	
1.6. Analyse the results of the survey and consult with IC, SC and CPM Bureau	Results of studies reviewed	IC, SC and CPM Bureau	
1.7. Finalize the report of the third General survey, prepare for publication, and publish through FAO PWS to be published	The results and recommendations of the third General survey posted	IPPC Secretariat	
Work package III: Conduct mid-term evaluation of the IPPC Strategic Framework (SF) 2020–2030 – NOT FUNDED – TBC IN VIEW OF REVISION OS TERMS OF REFERENCE			
1. Conduct the mid-term evaluation of the IPPC SF 2020–2030 (2018-52, Priority 1)***			Estimated cost: USD 53 250
1.1. Hire a survey/monitoring and evaluation specialist(s)	The specialist is hired	IPPC Secretariat	
1.2. Develop a methodology for the mid-term evaluation and a baseline data to assess impact and progress of the IPPC SF 2020–2030	Methodology and baseline data are developed	IPPC Secretariat and the DAI leads / Subgroup on IPPC Observatory	
1.3. Develop a matrix table to monitor the impacts of the eight (8) DAIs and record/report the benefits of the SF 2020–2030	Matrix table is developed	IPPC Secretariat and the DAI leads / Subgroup on IPPC Observatory	
1.4. Prepare, finalize and publish a report	Report is prepared and published	IPPC Secretariat/Subgroup on IPPC Observatory	
Work package IV: Coordination of the Subgroup on IPPC Observatory meetings, reporting and updating the workplan			
1. Prepare and coordinate the meetings of the Subgroup on IPPC Observatory			
1.1. Organize the first virtual meeting of the Subgroup	Report of the meeting first virtual meeting prepared	IPPC Secretariat /Subgroup on IPPC Observatory	
1.2. Organize the second virtual meeting of the Subgroup	Report of the meeting second virtual meeting prepared	IPPC Secretariat /Subgroup on IPPC Observatory	

Activities and sub-activities	Outputs	Lead/Responsible	Comments
1.3. Organize the third virtual meeting of the Subgroup	Report of the meeting third virtual meeting prepared	IPPC Secretariat /Subgroup on IPPC Observatory	
Work package V: Update IPPC Observatory List of Topics			
1. Launch Call for new IPPC Observatory Topics and update the IPPC Observatory List of Topics			
1.1. Launch the Call for new IPPC Observatory Topics together with the 2025 IPPC Call for Topics: Standards and Implementation	Call launched	IPPC Secretariat	
1.2. Compile the submitted IPPC Observatory topics	Submissions and List of IPPC Observatory Topics updated	IPPC Secretariat	
1.3. Review the updated IPPC Observatory List of Topics	Updated IPPC Observatory List of Topics reviewed	Subgroup on IPPC Observatory	
1.4. Submit the updated IPPC Observatory List of Topics to the IC for approval	Updated IPPC Observatory List of Topics approved	IPPC Secretariat	
1.5. Inform the SC, RPPOs, CPM Bureau and RPPOs	Updated IPPC Observatory List of Topics shared	Subgroup on IPPC Observatory	
1.6. Update the IPPC Observatory List of Topics on the IPP	IPPC Observatory List of Topics posted	IPPC Secretariat	
Work package VI: Improvement of IPPC Observatory sustainability			
1. Undertake resource mobilization activities for IPPC Observatory sustainability	Resources secured for the IPPC Observatory activities	IPPC Secretariat, Subgroup on IPPC Observatory	
2. Develop the IPPC Observatory 2026 workplan	IPPC Observatory workplan for 2026 developed	IPPC Secretariat, Subgroup on IPPC Observatory	
Work package 0 (cross-cutting): Communication			
1. Undertake communication activities to promote IPPC Observatory work and outputs across all activities			
1.1. Plan and undertake communication activities	IPPC Observatory activities and outputs are efficiently promoted	IPPC Secretariat	

Appendix 8 – IC leads and members for IC Subgroups and IC Teams

(IC leads/members are indicated in bold, Replacement and other members are not in bold)

	Title	IC lead	IC Members/others (by alphabetical order)	Secretariat lead
Committee and Representative	IC Chairperson	Dominique PELLETIER		Descartes KOUMBA
	IC Vice Chairperson	Thorwald GEUZE		
	IC Representative to the SC	Ahmed ADELMOTTALEB	Kyu-Ock YIM	
	SC Representative to IC	Prudence ATTIPOE		
	IC Representative to TC- RPPOs	Melisa NEDILSKYJ		Mariam ALMASRI Russell CAPLEN
CPM Focus Groups	FG on Climate change	Ngatoko TA NGATOKO		Mutya FRIO
	FG on Sea Containers	Thorwald GEUZE	Ezequiel FERRO	Colleen STIRLING
	FG on Safe Provision of Aid	Lucien KOUAMÉ KONAN		Adriana MOREIRA
	FG on Laboratory diagnostic	Kyu-Ock YIM		Adriana MOREIRA
	FG on One Health	TBD		Sarah BRUNEL
	PCE Board	Ahmed ABDELMOTTALEB Dominique PELLETIER Francisco GUTIERREZ Melisa NEDILSKYJ Ringolds ARNITIS	- Mariangela CIAMPITTI (SC) - Matías GONZALEZ (SC) - Prudence ATTIPOE (SC) - TBD (Bureau) - TBD (Bureau) - Sam BISHOP (Bureau)	Descartes KOUMBA
Steering Group	POARS	Ringolds ARNITIS		Camilo BELTRAN
IC Subgroup	IPPC Observatory	Dominique PELLETIER	- Ezequiel FERRO - Faith NDUNGE - Francisco GUTIERREZ - RPPO - SC - Sam BISHOP (Bureau)	Rokhila MADAMINOVA
IC Team	Guides and training materials	Francisco GUTIERREZ	- Ahmed ADELMOTTALEB - Faith NDUNGE - Lucien KOUAME KONAN - Elizabeth McCRUDDEN - Melisa NEDILSKYJ - Ravinder Kumar KHETARPAL	Preet PARMAR

	Title	IC lead	IC Members/others (by alphabetical order)	Secretariat lead
IC Team	National Reporting Obligations (NROs)	Ahmed ADELMOTTALEB	- Ezequiel FERRO - Lucien KOUAME KONAN - Magda GONZALEZ ARROYO - Xiaoliang WANG	Descartes KOUMBA
IC Team	Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE)	Ringolds ARNITIS	- Francisco GUTIERREZ - Lucien KOUAME KONAN - Magda GONZALEZ ARROYO - Mekki CHOUIBANI - Melisa NEDILSKYJ - Ravinder Kumar KHETARPAL	Camilo BELTRAN
IC Team	Projects	Lucien KOUAME KONAN	- Dominique PELLETIER - Elizabeth McCRUDDEN - Kyu-Ock YIM - Ravinder Kumar KHETARPAL - Xiaoliang WANG	Rokhila MADAMINOVA
IC Team	E-commerce	Thorwald GEUZE	- Ahmed ADELMOTTALEB - Ezequiel FERRO - Melisa NEDILSKYJ - Ngatoko NGATOKO - To be nominated (SC)	TBD
Task Force on Topics (In hold)	Task Force on Topics	Dominique PELLETIER	- To be nominated (SC) - To be nominated (CPM Bureau) - Faith NDUNGE - Sophie PETERSON (SC Chair) - Thorwald GEUZE	Emmanuel KRAH Descartes KOUMBA
IC Team	Contributed Resources	Ahmed ADELMOTTALEB	- Faith NDUNGE - Ngatoko NGATOKO - Ravinder Kumar KHETARPAL - Xiaoliang WANG - Magda GONZALEZ ARROYO	Maki IIZUKA
IC Team	Fusarium TR4	Xiaoliang WANG	- Lucien KOUAME KONAN - Melisa NEDILSKYJ	Preet PARMAR
IC Team	Third-party entities	Dominique PELLETIER	- Lucien KOUAME KONAN - Ringolds ARNITIS - Ruth AREVALO MACIAS	Preet PARMAR
IC Team	Review of implementation topics	Dominique PELLETIER	- Ahmed ABDELMOTTALEB - Ezequiel FERRO - Lucien KOUAMÉ KONAN - Ringolds ARNITIS	Descartes KOUMBA

Appendix 9 – Implementation and Facilitation Unit 2025 workplan

(Last updated: May 2025)

Strategies: the 2025 IFU work plan is fully consistent with the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020-2030.

The Implementation and Capacity Development (ICD) objectives will be achieved by:

- Focusing on global impact in order of priority: international, regional and national.
- Continuing building strong, quality-oriented team that supports and implements innovative ideas.
- Strengthening cooperation with relevant stakeholders to maximize resources to deliver ICD activities.
- Plan work according to allocated resources and mobilize resources as needed.

Main activities and outputs⁴⁷:

- **Governance:** CPM-19 (2025), Bureau, SPG, POARS SG, ePhyto SG, One Health FG are supported, implementation of four development agendas (ePhyto, e-commerce, [POARS](#), and authorization of third-party entities).
- **CPM events:** Coordination of One Health science session, the plenary session on “emerging pests”, organization of one side session and support to the NPPOs orientation session during CPM-18 (2024).
- **IPPC Secretariat initiatives** are supported: [FAO-One Health \(including AMR\)](#), Management Team Meetings, [TR4 global coordination](#).
- **IC is supported** including face to face/virtual meetings, [IC Sub-group: IPPC Observatory](#), IC Teams: [NROs](#), Contributed Resources, E-commerce, Guides and training materials, PCE, Projects, TR4.
- **Guides and training materials and the List of ICD** topics is managed, and IC recommendations are submitted to CPM.
- **IFU communications** work plan is developed and implemented through IST and the FAO PWS (including publications, webinars, news, calls and announcements), two ICD webinars organized (on projects and latest IPPC ICD materials). [The phytosanitary component pages are revised](#).
- **ICD web-based information** is updated once a year. Contribute to the maintenance of the IPP through IST. Contributed resources are managed.
- **IPPC Observatory:** AMR studies are published. The e-commerce survey report is published. The third general survey is designed and prepared..
- **Guides and training materials:** Risk-based inspection guide and two WPM treatment manuals published. At least six new e-learning courses developed. Promote and continue to develop the IPPC learning platform. Procedures for guides on audit and authorization of third-party entities initiated (call for resources, call for experts). Four guides or training materials are translated to an official FAO language.

⁴⁷ 1 Subject to the following staff resources. Regular Programme: P4, P2, G4. In-kind: P4 Canada, P5 France, P2 Japan, eLearning support COLEAD. Projects: P3 (multiple sources), 2 Consultant (\$ EC and various sources), 1 Consultant (\$ PRASAC), PCE facilitators (\$ EC), 1 Consultant (\$ MDTF).

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- **Projects managed (or phytosanitary input provided):** Africa Phytosanitary Programme (APP) supported; EU: (PCEs in COMESA countries; DAIs); Japan project. Support overall management for the 6 PCE legal reviews in PRASAC-CEMAC countries (STDF). Backstopping for FAO projects. At least one new project proposed to a donor.
 - **PCE online system:** The PCE online system improvement initiated.
 - **ePhyto:** ePhyto governance is maintained, ePhyto funding model agreed at CPM-18 is implemented, ePhyto Africa Initiative is implemented, participation in regional or international partners workshops/meetings.
 - **STDF Working Group:** STDF WG attended, PPGs and PGs reviewed and supported.
 - **ICD Procedure Manual** is reviewed and updated annually; the 2024 version is published in March 2025.
 - **Dispute avoidance assistance** is provided to Contracting Parties as requested, and the CPM Bureau is supported accordingly.
 - **IPPC Regional workshops:** participate in preparatory meetings to develop the agenda and presentations and two RW are co-organized and co-delivered by IFU.
 - **External Cooperation** is maintained or developed with various organizations: EC, CABI, COLEAD, EFSA, IICA, GEA, STDF, UPU, WCO, Global Alliance.

Annex 1 – Summary of the IC May 2025 decisions

3. Administrative matters

3.4 Evaluation results of the 2024 IC November meeting

The IC:

- (1) *noted* the results of the evaluation of the 2024 November IC meeting;
- (2) *encouraged* all IC members to submit responses to the 2025 May IC meeting evaluation survey; and,
- (3) *noted* the actions undertaken by the secretariat to address the observations resulting from the responses to the 2024 May evaluation.

4. CPM-19 (2025) implementation issues

4.1 Outcomes of CPM-19 (2025) and key issues and decisions that affect the IC

The IC:

- (4) *requested* the IC chairperson and the IC vice chairperson to prepare a discussion paper outlining the IC discussions during its May 2025 meeting on the topic of rethinking ISPMs, to be presented at SPG 2025;
- (5) *noted and discussed* the outcomes and decisions of CPM-19 (2025).

5. Updates from the IPPC Secretariat

5.1 Implementation and Facilitation Unit update (including IFU staff)

The IC:

- (6) *noted* the IFU update.

5.2 Standard Setting Unit update

The IC:

- (7) *noted* the SSU update;
- (8) *noted* the concern expressed by countries, during country consultation, about the potential impact on trade because of the lists of pests from the commodity standards, and the potential of misinterpretation of their intent by some countries; and,
- (9) *invited* the SC to re-consider the criteria used to evaluate and establish the lists of pests included in commodity standards, to minimize any incorrect interpretation and implementation.

5.3 Integration and Support Team update

The IC:

- (10) *noted* the IST update.

5.4 Update from International Day of Plant Health

The IC:

- (11) *noted* the update on IDPH.

5.5 Update from CPM Bureau

The IC:

- (12) *noted* the update from the CPM Bureau March 2025 meeting.

5.6 Update on the IPPC workshop on systems approaches

The IC:

- (13) *noted* the update on the IPPC workshop on systems approaches.

6. Development Agenda Items

6.1 DAI Harmonization of electronic data exchange

The IC:

- (14) *noted* the update on implementation of the IPPC ePhyto Solution and along with the related CPM-19 (2025) decisions; and,
- (15) *encouraged* the IPPC contracting parties that have not yet registered to the IPPC ePhyto Hub to do so.

6.2 DAI Management of e-commerce and postal and courier pathways

The IC:

- (16) *noted* the update on the IPPC development agenda on e-commerce; and,
- (17) *acknowledged* the contribution of Barbara PETERSON as in-kind staff from Canada.

6.3 DAI Developing guidance on the use of third-party entities

The IC:

- (18) *noted* the update on the IPPC development agenda, Guidance on the use of third-party entities;
- (19) *thanked* Canada and Australia for their recent financial contribution to the IPPC development agenda, *Guidance on the use of third-party entities*;
- (20) *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,
- (21) *requested* the IPPC Secretariat initiate work on the development of the guide on *Audit in the phytosanitary context* (2021-009) in 2026.

6.4 DAI Strengthening pest outbreak alert and response systems

The IC:

- (22) *acknowledged* the progress made by the POARS Steering Group in establishing the procedure and criteria for identifying emerging pests of global concern, and *commended* the initial results of the pilot implementation, including the launch of the IPPC Pest Alert System and the first pest alert issued for *Clavibacter nebraskensis*;
- (23) *supported* the continued operationalization of POARS through active collaboration with the IPPC Secretariat and the steering group;
- (24) *endorsed* the retention of pest reporting under the NROs overseen by the IC and *supported* enhanced collaboration with POARS for information exchange and strategic alignment; and,
- (25) *encouraged* promotion of synergies between POARS and related IPPC initiatives, including the APP and the global coordination on *Fusarium TR4*, to optimize resources and amplify impact.

7. IPPC Implementation and Capacity Development Projects

7.1 Projects managed by the IPPC Secretariat

The IC:

- (26) *noted* the deliverables of implementation and capacity development projects managed by the secretariat in 2024;
- (27) *noted* the implementation and capacity development projects are compliant with secretariat and IC procedures, and the increased transparency as presented in Appendix 4;
- (28) *noted* the efforts to support countries in mobilizing resources to implement their priority activities; and,
- (29) *noted* the efforts to develop three new implementation and capacity development projects:
 - a. the IPPC ePhyto Africa Initiative,
 - b. the project on strengthening phytosanitary capacities in selected Asian countries under the FAO-China South-South Cooperation Programme, and
 - c. the project to support the IPPC Observatory activities, to be potentially funded by the European Union.

7.2 Update on the project Strengthening Food Control and Phytosanitary Capacities and Governance

The IC:

- (30) *noted* the achievements of the GCP/GLO/949/EC – Strengthening Food Control and Phytosanitary Capacities and Governance.

7.3 Update on the IPPC Plant Health Campus

The IC:

- (31) *noted* the update on the launch of the IPPC Plant Health Campus;
- (32) *acknowledged* the significant contributions of the European Union, Canada and the Republic of Korea, as well as our partners, the FAO elearning Academy and Comité de Liaison Entrepreneuriat – Agriculture – Développement (COLEAD), to the development of the IPPC Plant Health Campus;
- (33) *encouraged* NPPOs in their regions to embed the IPPC Plant Health Campus into their national training programmes;
- (34) *encouraged* NPPOs, RPPOs, other international organizations and educational institutions to champion the awareness and use of the IPPC Plant Health Campus within their countries and regions;
- (35) *noted* the translation of all the IPPC - FAO elearning Academy courses to French;
- (36) *encouraged* NPPOs, RPPOs and other international organizations to partner with the secretariat to translate all IPPC e-learning courses and guides to Arabic, Chinese, Spanish and Russian; and
- (37) *encouraged* NPPOs to support the continued development of the IPPC Plant Health Campus by sharing phytosanitary training materials that may be included on the platform.

8. New technologies in plant health

8.2 Standards and Trade Development Facility Secretariat

The IC:

- (38) *noted* the STDF presentation; and,
- (39) *encouraged* the STDF representative to promote the IPPC implementation and capacity development materials within their projects and network.

8.3 Comité de Liaison Entrepreneuriat – Agriculture – Développement

The IC:

- (40) *noted* the COLEAD presentation; and,
- (41) *encouraged* the COLEAD representative to promote the IPPC implementation and capacity development materials within their projects and network.

8.4 European Commission

The IC:

- (42) *noted* the EC presentation; and,
- (43) *encouraged* the EC representative to promote the IPPC implementation and capacity development materials within their projects and network.

8.5 World Bank

The IC:

- (44) *noted* the World Bank presentation; and,
- (45) *encouraged* the World Bank representative to promote the IPPC implementation and capacity development materials within their projects and network.

8.6 International Atomic Energy Agency – Guideline on Phytosanitary Procedures for Area-Wide Management of Fruit Fly Pests

The IC:

- (46) *noted* the IAEA presentation; and,
- (47) *encouraged* the IAEA representative to promote the IPPC implementation and capacity development materials within their projects and network.

9. IC-SC Collaboration

9.1 Updates from the 2024 November SC meeting (including implementation issues identified by the SC)

The IC:

- (48) *noted* the main outcomes of the November 2024 and May 2025 SC meetings; and,
- (49) *agreed* to discuss in more details the implementations issues identified by the SC as part of an e-forum prior to its November 2025 meeting.

9.2 System to collect and archive implementation issues

The IC:

- (50) *requested* the secretariat to create a dedicated section within the restricted work area of the IPP to store and retrieve the potential implementation issues; and,
- (51) *requested* the SC representative to the IC to coordinate with the ISPM stewards to gather potential implementation issues and report to the IC.

9.3 Criteria for travel support to IPPC meetings

The IC:

- (52) *noted* the CPM Bureau guidance to maintain the eligibility status of IC members at the time when the statement of commitment is signed and until the end of the term;

- (53) *noted* the approved flexibility arrangement to update the eligibility status to travel assistance if a member became eligible after the annual update of World Bank criteria;
- (54) *noted* that the IC representative to the SC, if eligible to the World Bank criteria, will be eligible for travel assistance throughout their current IC term.
- (55) *requested* the secretariat to update the ICD Procedure Manual to reflect the decision points above – 48, 49, and 50;
- (56) *invited* the SC to consider removing the word “may” from “A representative of the IC may attend as an observer” under rule “7. Observers” of the SC terms of reference and rules of procedure, during the next revision process, to read “a representative of the IC attends as an observer”; and,
- (57) *encouraged* the IC members to secure travel assistance for their participation in the two IC annual meetings considering that travel assistance is based on prioritization and the limited resources of the IPPC secretariat.

9.4 Brainstorming session on the IC-SC collaboration

The IC:

- (58) *agreed* to continue discussions on IC–SC collaboration as a standing agenda item in future IC meetings;
- (59) *invited* the IC Team on Guides and Training Materials to review the current Pest Free Area (PFA) guide, assess the needs and feasibility of developing a new guide specifically on fruit fly PFAs, and provide recommendations at the IC meeting in November 2025;
- (60) *requested* the IFU and SSU to consider establishing a dedicated section on the IPP to store guidance materials removed from revised ISPMs, ensuring improved visibility and accessibility for further discussion during the November 2025 SC and IC meetings; and,
- (61) *requested* the IFU and SSU to collaborate in coordinating their workplans, particularly to ensure timely solicitation and allocation of resources for the development of implementation materials.

10. Guide and training materials

10.1 Update on the development of IPPC guides and training materials

The IC:

- (62) *noted* the update on IPPC guides and training materials;
- (63) *reviewed* the List of Implementation and Capacity Development Topics, and *changed* the priority level for the following topics from 2 to 1:
 - a. Audits in the phytosanitary context (2021-009),
 - b. Authorization of entities to perform phytosanitary actions (2018-040),
- (64) *requested* that the IPPC secretary, in conjunction with the advice and guidance of the Financial Committee, consider the creation of a regular-budget position placed within the IFU to develop guides and training materials, as per the recommendations in the 2015 IPPC Secretariat enhancement evaluation and CPM-19 (2025) recommendation; and,
- (65) *requested* the IFU and SSU of the IPPC Secretariat to discuss inclusion of links to relevant guides and training materials on the IPP page for adopted standards, and report the outcomes of the discussions to the IC in November 2025 meeting.

10.2 Preparation to the 2025 IPPC Call for Topics: Standards and Implementation

The IC:

- (66) *noted* the update on the outcomes from CPM-19 on IPPC Call for Topics for standards and implementation;

- (67) *noted* the proposed time frame for the 2025 Call for Topics for standards and implementation;
- (68) *invited* the IC members to coordinate the submission of implementation and capacity development topic proposals at regional levels;
- (69) *established* a dedicated IC team to review the topics submitted during the open call for topics in 2025 and 2026, comprised of following members: Ahmed M. Abdellah ABDELMOTTALEB (Qatar), Dominique PELLETIER (Canada), Ezequiel FERRO (Argentina), Lucien KOUAMÉ KONAN (Cote d'Ivoire), and Ringolds ARNITIS (Latvia);
- (70) *requested* the secretariat to prepare terms of reference for this new IC Team on Topics; and,
- (71) *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.

10.3 Preparation to the 2025 IPPC Call for Topics: Standards and Implementation

The IC:

- (72) *noted* the update from the FG-CCPI;
- (73) *agreed* to revise the draft specification forms for future guides and training materials, by adding a section on climate changes, if applicable, for the working group to have a clear task to address climate change during the drafting and development stage of the material; and,
- (74) *noted* the list of activities planned by the FG-CCPI and presented in Appendix 5.

11. Activities of IC Subgroup and Teams

11.1 Update on the IPPC Observatory activities

The IC:

- (75) *noted* the status of ongoing IPPC Observatory activities, including progress made with the IPPC Observatory Study on E-commerce and the IPPC Observatory Study on Antimicrobial Resistance, as well as the pre-published version of the IPPC Observatory investment prospectus;
- (76) *noted* the funding status of the IPPC Observatory priority activities for 2025, as presented in the 2025 workplan in Appendix 7;
- (77) *requested* the secretariat to revise the terms of reference for the mid-term monitoring and evaluation of the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020–2030 DAIs, with the suggestions made, and share it with the IC Subgroup for IPPC Observatory to gather further insights and feedback; and,
- (78) *noted* the secretariat plans to review and re-design the draft Third IPPC General Survey, which may take more time than expected, therefore, causing delay in the launch of the survey.

11.2 Results of the IPPC Observatory survey on E-commerce

The IC:

- (79) *noted* the preliminary results of the IPPC Observatory survey on e-commerce.

11.3 Results of the IPPC Observatory survey on Antimicrobials use

The IC:

- (80) *noted* the results of the IPPC Observatory surveys on antibiotics and fungicides used in plant protection;
- (81) *noted* that the two IPPC Observatory surveys on antibiotics and fungicides are closed, and data collection on AMU and AMR in plant health will be integrated to the FAO InFARM platform with the IPPC Official Contact Points as the authorized contacts in countries; and,

- (82) *noted* the intention of the IPPC Secretariat to develop a joint publication with the NSP highlighting the main outcomes on the IPPC surveys on AMU in plant protection.

11.4 Update on TR4 Global coordination

The IC:

- (83) *noted* the update from CPM-19 (2025);
- (84) *requested* the secretariat to include a dedicated agenda item in the IC November 2025 meeting, to discuss the scope of the IPPC involvement in the remaining TR4 activities as well as to determine whether the IC Team on Fusarium TR4 had fulfilled its terms of reference; and,
- (85) *nominated* Francisco Adrian GUTIERREZ (Belize), Lucien KOUAMÉ KONAN (Cote d'Ivoire), Melisa Graciela NEDILSKYJ (Argentina), and Xiaoliang WANG (China), as technical peer-reviewers within the IC to peer-review the emergency preparedness e-learning resources in June 2025.

11.6 Update on the Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation

The IC:

- (86) *noted* the progress made in implementing the PCE Improvement Roadmap according to the PCE strategy 2020–2030;
- (87) *noted* the progress made addressing the recommendations from the desk study on PCE and the planned next steps for improvement;
- (88) *requested* that the IPPC secretary, in conjunction with the Financial Committee, consider the funding allocation of USD 50 000 from the IPPC regular-programme budget and the IPPC MDTF to maintain the PCE system, as per the CPM-19 (2025) recommendation; and,
- (89) *noted* the ten (10) newly certified PCE facilitators.

12. IPPC Regional Workshops

12.1 Preparation of the 2025 IPPC Regional Workshops

The IC:

- (90) *noted* the update on the 2025 IPPC Regional Workshop preparations;
- (91) *encouraged* the IC and SC regional representatives to be fully involved in the organizing committee for the 2025 IPPC regional workshop in their region; and,
- (92) *encouraged* the IC members involved in the 2025 IPPC regional workshops to facilitate the discussions related to implementation issues.

13. IC leads

13.1 Update on status and leads of the IC subgroups and teams

The IC:

- (93) *reviewed* the table of IC leads and members for IC Subgroups and IC Teams presented in Appendix 8;
- (94) *requested* the secretariat to initiate an e-decision to formally agree on the updated list of IC leads and members for IC subgroups and teams, following consultation with Ravinder Kumar KHETARPAL (the Lao People's Democratic Republic); and,
- (95) *requested* the secretariat to include an agenda item in the IC November 2025 meeting dedicated to the scope and duration of the support and involvement the former IC members provide.

14. IFU workplan

14.1 Review of the 2025 IFU workplan

The IC:

- (96) *noted* the revisions to the 2025 IFU workplan, as presented in Appendix 9.

14.2 IFU staffing in the medium and long term

The IC:

- (97) *requested* the IC members to follow up with their respective bureau members on the CPM-19 (2025) decisions with regards to establishment of new staff positions and allocation of resources for IFU of the IPPC Secretariat;
- (98) *requested* the IC chairperson to follow up with a new IPPC Secretary, once appointed, on the CPM-19 (2025) decisions with regards to establishment of new staff positions and allocation of resources for IFU of the IPPC Secretariat.

16. Any other business

Possibility to organize one IC meeting outside of Rome, Italy.

The IC:

- (99) *requested* the secretariat to explore the possibility of the IC November 20205 meeting to be hosted either at CIHEAM Bari, Italy, if confirmed by June 2025, or at FAO headquarters, Rome, as initially planned.