

March 2013



منظمة الأغذية
والزراعة للأمم
المتحدة

联合国
粮食及
农业组织

Food and
Agriculture
Organization
of the
United Nations

Organisation des
Nations Unies
pour
l'alimentation
et l'agriculture

Продовольственная и
сельскохозяйственная
организация
Объединенных
Наций

Organización
de las
Naciones Unidas
para la
Alimentación y la
Agricultura

COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

Eighth Session
Rome, 8 - 12 April 2013
The Report of the IPPC Secretariat
Agenda item 6
Prepared by the IPPC Secretariat

I. Introduction

1. This report covers the activities of the IPPC Secretariat from 1 January to 31 December 2012, which is also the first year of activities under the IPPC Strategic Framework (2012-2019). As noted below in the operational results, the Secretariat was active in all of the strategic objectives of the Strategic Framework, which are posted below for ease of reference:

- A.** Protect sustainable agriculture and enhance global food security through the prevention of pest spread
- B.** Protect the environment, forests, and biodiversity from plant pests
- C.** Facilitate economic and trade development through the promotion of harmonized scientifically-based phytosanitary measures
- D.** Develop phytosanitary capacity for members to accomplish A, B and C
- X.** Effective collaboration with members and stakeholders
- Y.** Efficient and effective administration.

2. The Membership of the IPPC remains at 177 contracting parties with no changes since CPM-7 (2012). Various planned meetings took place in 2012 and are listed in Table1:

Table 1: Calendar of Activities in which the IPPC Secretariat participated in 2012

	Governance	Standard setting	Information exchange / dispute settlement	Capacity development	IRSS / PCE	Others (including resource mobilization/awareness/ liaison)
Jan					WS on Surveillance 16-18 [Egypt] 17-20 [Armenia] 24-26 [Barbados] 30-3 [Ghana] 31-3 [Thailand]	
Feb		15: Call, TPG, TPDP experts and TPPT experts(closed 2012/06/01) 15: Call, Phytosanitary treatments (closed 2012/09/30) 16: TPPT [virtual] 23: TPFQ [virtual]			6-10 [Ghana] 22-23 [Chile]	
Mar	15-16: Bureau [HQ] 19-23: CPM7 [HQ]		13-14: SBDS [HQ]		17: Triennial Review Group [HQ]	26-29: SPS [Switzerland] 29-30:STDF [Switzerland]
Apr		02: TPFQ [virtual] 23-27: SC [HQ] 28, 30: SC7[HQ]				

	Governance	Standard setting	Information exchange / dispute settlement	Capacity development	IRSS / PCE	Others (including resource mobilization/awareness/ liaison)
May		<p>15: <i>Substantial Concerns Commenting Period (SCCP)</i> (closed 2012/09/30)</p> <p>28-1: EWG (sea containers) [Malaysia]</p> <p>30: TPPT (virtual)</p>		21-25:EWG CD [Australia]		<p>14-16: RM [Germany]</p> <p>21-25: QBOL EPPO (DNA Bar-coding) [Netherlands]</p> <p>31-1: UNECE Specialized Section on Standardization of Seed Potatoes Edinburg, Scotland</p>
Jun	<p>15-16: FC [HQ]</p> <p>18-22: Bureau [HQ]</p>	<p>1: <i>Member consultation on draft specs</i> (closed 2012/07/31)</p>		25-30: SPS WS [Chile]	14-15: PCE [Armenia]	<p>4-6: RM (EC) [Belgium]</p> <p>13-17: RM [US]</p>
Jul		<p>1: <i>Member consultation on draft ISPMs</i> (closed 2012/10/20)</p> <p>06: <i>Call, TPG and TPPT experts</i> (closed 2012/08/31)</p> <p>06: TPFQ [virtual]</p>		<p>9-13: Regional WS, Eastern Europe and Central Asia [Russia]</p> <p>9-12: STDF Workshop (International Trade and Invasive Alien Species) [Switzerland]</p> <p>15-19: STDF 328 project [Viet Nam]</p>	2-11: PCE facilitators training [Gabon]	<p>13: Inter Agency Liaison Group on IAS [Switzerland]</p> <p>16-18: RM [Korea]</p>
Aug	21-23: Focus Group (RoPs of Bureau) [HQ]					27-31: TC-RPPOs [Fiji]

	Governance	Standard setting	Information exchange / dispute settlement	Capacity development	IRSS / PCE	Others (including resource mobilization/awareness/ liaison)
Sep		10: TPFQ [virtual] 12: TPPT [virtual] <i>12: Call, DP authors (closed 2012/11/01)</i>	11-14: ePhyto [Paris]	Regional WS 3-7 Asia [Korea] 9-13 Near East [Egypt] 10-14 Africa [Cameroon] 17-21 SW Pacific [Fiji] 17-21 Caribbean [Trinidad and Tobago] 10-14 Palestine mission [Israel] 24-28: SPS WS [Ethiopia]		17-21: IFQRG meeting [UK] 24-26: Cool Logistics (Reefer industry) [Belgium]
Oct	8: FC [HQ] 9-11: SPG [HQ]12:Bureau [HQ]	15-19: TPG [HQ]19: TPPT [virtual] 29-31:Workshop on engaging countries in the development of standards [Gabon]		1-5: TCP backstop [Burundi] 1-5: TC (SPS legislation) [Lao] 11-12: STDF [Switzerland] 22-24 Advanced SPS Geneva [Switzerland]	29-2: APPPC symposium on surveillance [Korea]	1-5: Cartagena Protocol. COP MOP6 [India] 8-19: CBD COP11 [India] 15-16: SPS WS on transparency [Switzerland] 16-18: SPS [Switzerland]
Nov		16: TPPT [virtual] 12-16: SC [HQ] 26-30: TPD [France]	1-3: Information exchange workshop [Gabon] 13-15: ePhyto WS [Brazil]	19-23 SPS WS Central Europe [Austria] 27-30 PANSPSO-WTO-SPS workshop [Senegal]		12-16: Montreal Protocol, COP MOP24 [Switzerland]
Dec	10-14: Bureau [HQ]	3-7: TPPT [Japan] 10: TPFQ [virtual]		3-7: First CDC meeting [HQ]		

II. Standard setting (Objectives A, C, D and X)

3. A number of specific standard setting activities are discussed in more detail in several other documents associated with Agenda Item 8.

4. A complete list of standard setting activities and their corresponding dates are presented in Table 1.

Meetings

5. Meeting reports and documents are available on the International Phytosanitary Portal (IPP)¹.

2012 consultation periods

6. *Comments collected 14 days prior to CPM on draft International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs)*. Five drafts ISPMs² were submitted to CPM-7 (2012), the comment period closed 14 days prior to CPM-7 (2012) and compiled comments are posted as a CPM document on the IPP³.

7. *Member consultation period on draft International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs)*. Five drafts ISPMs⁴ were submitted to member consultation (MC), compiled comments are posted on the IPP⁵.

8. *Member consultation on draft specifications for ISPMs*. Two draft specifications⁶ were submitted to MC, compiled comments are posted on the IPP⁷.

9. *Substantial concerns commenting period on draft ISPMs*. Two draft ISPMs⁸ were submitted to the substantial concerns commenting (SCCP) period, compiled comments have been posted on the IPP⁹.

Reformatting the Chinese and Arabic versions of adopted ISPMs

10. The Secretariat has reformatted the Chinese and Arabic language versions of adopted ISPMs to have the same physical format as the English language versions as well as include adding the publication history, adoption information where missing, aligning the format of the References section to that of the English versions, and deleting any definition in the Definitions section that is available in respectively the Chinese and Arabic language version of ISPM 5.

IPPC Online Comment System (OCS)

11. The Secretariat has used the OCS four times in 2012: collecting comments on draft ISPMs prior to CPM-7, MC for draft specifications, MC for draft ISPMs and SCCP on draft ISPMs. The IPPC and Codex Secretariats have continued working together developing the OCS, specifically considerable effort has been made adapting the OCS for Codex.

Calls

12. As displayed in Table 1, several calls for experts were made in 2012 as well as a call for phytosanitary treatment submissions. For more details, please refer to the 2012 November Standards Committee (SC) meeting report¹⁰, the 2012 November Technical Panel on Diagnostic Protocols

¹ <https://www.ippc.int/index.php?id=13352>

² <https://www.ippc.int/index.php?id=13330>

³ <https://www.ippc.int/index.php?id=13330>

⁴ <https://www.ippc.int/index.php?id=207803>

⁵ <https://www.ippc.int/index.php?id=1110637>

⁶ <https://www.ippc.int/index.php?id=190935>

⁷ <https://www.ippc.int/index.php?id=1110732>

⁸ <https://www.ippc.int/index.php?id=1111115>

⁹ <https://www.ippc.int/index.php?id=1111116>

¹⁰ <https://www.ippc.int/index.php?id=13355>

(TPDP) meeting report¹¹ and the 2012 December Technical Panel on Phytosanitary Treatments (TPPT) meeting report¹².

E-decisions

13. Eleven SC e-decisions (including ten discussion forums and six polls) were processed in 2012 by the IPPC Secretariat on the SC e-decision webpage on the IPP.

Procedure manual

14. The Secretariat has updated the Standard Setting part of the IPPC Procedure Manual, taking into account the new IPPC standard setting procedure adopted by the CPM-7 (2012). The IPPC Procedure Manual for Standard Setting will now be published independently from the rest of the Procedure Manual¹³.

IPPC Style Guide

15. The Secretariat developed a style guide to be applied to all IPPC documents. This guide provides advice to experts drafting standards as well as specific guidance for the formatting and publishing of many of our documents. The Secretariat has now posted the IPPC Style Guide on the IPP¹⁴.

Training material

16. The Secretariat developed training material for providing guidance to countries on how to more fully engage in the standard setting process. This material was used to deliver a workshop on this subject as part of a Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) for Central Africa. The Secretariat has also developed training material for new SC members as well as finalized the OCS manual.

III. Information exchange (Objectives A, C, D and X)

17. More detailed statistics regarding IPPC contact points and IPPC contracting parties meeting their national reporting obligations can be found at <https://www.ippc.int/index.php?id=1110726&L=0>

18. Table 2 shows the number of changes to IPPC contact points, information points and IPP editors as of 14 December 2012. The Secretariat is responsible for the initial registration of all IPP users and national plant protection organizations (NPPOs). Regional plant protection organizations (RPPOs) are then responsible for updating their contact information. Considerable time is spent communicating with NPPOs and RPPOs regarding changing contact points and editors who no longer have IPPC responsibilities.

¹¹ <https://www.ippc.int/index.php?id=1110710>

¹² <https://www.ippc.int/index.php?id=1110739>

¹³ <https://www.ippc.int/index.php?id=159891>

¹⁴ <https://www.ippc.int/index.php?id=13352>

Table 2: Maintenance of IPPC contact points and editors in 2012

Contracting Parties			
	# Sept 2012	% Changed	% Updated
Official contact points	170	23.9%	51.3%
Unofficial contact points	7		
Editors	203		
Non Contracting Parties			
	# Sept 2012	% Changed	% Updated
Information points	16	6.2%	13.7%
Editors	11		
Registered Users			
	# in 2012	% Increase in 2012	# in 2012
Total Users	1119	07.2%	82

19. Table 3 provides statistics on the amount of new and updated information on the IPP by both countries and the Secretariat. This shows a steady growth in information made available by some NPPOs in meeting their information exchange obligations as stipulated in the IPPC, but the total number of countries reporting has unfortunately not increased.

Table 3: New and updated phytosanitary information maintained by NPPOs and the Secretariat in the IPP

Updates/change on IPP				
	# in 2011	% Increase / decrease	# to 14 Dec. 2012	Total
Countries				
New	227	13.7%	258	1790
updates	178	18.5%	211	811
Secretariat				
New	450	37.3%	618	3674
updates	283	-14.5%	242	2430

20. General usage statistics continue to show growth that was supported by migration to new hardware and software platforms. There was an increase of 32 percent in the number of visits to the website, a 123 percent increase in page views, and 147 percent increase in the volume of information viewed or downloaded. There is a healthy and consistent 25 percent of users that spent more than 2 minutes on the website, i.e. they are presumed to be regular users or from the phytosanitary community.

21. The IPPC is now communicating with a broader phytosanitary community to increase awareness and profile using some social media tools:

Facebook	Broader IPPC news interaction forum	http://www.facebook.com/pages/IPPC-News/113230338690380
Twitter	IPPC news service linked to other social media accounts	www.twitter.com/ippcnews
LinkedIn	IPPC interface for professionals	www.linkedin.com/groups/IPPC-International-Plant-Protection-Convention-3175642?home=&gid=3175642&trk=anet ug hm
Flickr	IPPC image database	www.flickr.com/groups/international_plant_protection_convention/

22. Please join and participate (by posting information and comments on other posts) in these phytosanitary communities and encourage others to do the same.

23. Information management support across all objectives continues to increase as reflected in Table 7.

Activities supporting all IPPC Strategic Objectives:

24. In regard to the operation and maintenance of the IPPC website, the International Phytosanitary Portal (IPP: www.ippc.int), the following tasks have been completed for the various IPPC goals in 2012:

General

- a) Migrating the entire IPPC website/s to the Drupal Content Management System (CMS) as the current Typo 3 is not able to adequately deliver the IPPC web requirements.
- b) Maintenance: bugs fixed and minor improvements in user interface.
- c) Discussion forums maintained and new ones established.
- d) All software updated and new routine software security checks introduced.
- e) Ongoing translation of navigation text maintained in 6 FAO languages.
- f) Survey tools maintained.
- g) Provided technical support for calls, e-decisions, polls, forums, permissions and work areas.
- h) Routine support provided for updates: NPPO Official Contact Points, NPPO Editors, RPPO contact points, responded to user queries, managed user accounts, etc.
- i) User and Editor Manual maintained and translated into 5 FAO languages.
- j) Provided technical support for updating pages, surveys and calls.
- k) PCE (Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation) updated based on user feedback.
- l) The Phytosanitary Resources website (www.phytosanitary.info) is of increasing importance and engagement with countries is growing. In addition to a number of key publications, this site now contains:
 - o IPPC e-learning Course on Pest Risk Analysis (PRA): <http://elearning.phytosanitary.info/>
 - o Phytosanitary Capacity Development Projects Database: <http://projects.phytosanitary.info/>
 - o Phytosanitary Capacity Development Activities Database: <http://activities.phytosanitary.info/>
 - o Phytosanitary Capacity Development Roster of Consultants: <http://consultants.phytosanitary.info/>
- m) The APPPC website <http://www.apppc.org> is autonomously run by APPPC and the infrastructure is now available for other RPPOs – the Secretariat is engaged in discussions with NEPPO about the possible use. Providing ongoing maintenance support.

- n) Implementation Review and Support System (IRSS) page established (and subsequently revised - <https://irss.ippc.int>), and includes the IPPC Help Desk.

25. Activities related to the development of new and additional products for the Secretariat required significant amounts of time during the past year. They are difficult to represent in the text of this document as they are yet to be completed. Nevertheless, the amount of effort and time related to development activities is considerable and this is noted here in order to acknowledge the efforts of the Secretariat in this regard.

IV. Dispute Settlement (Objectives C and X)

26. The Secretariat has not been in a position to completely support this activity as initially agreed.
27. There is one outstanding official phytosanitary dispute which is currently being addressed by the Secretariat.
28. The SBDS met in March, 2013.
29. There were no informal consultations of phytosanitary disputes in 2012.

V. Capacity Development (Objectives A, B, C, D and X)

30. The terms of reference and Rules of Procedure for a Capacity Development Committee were adopted at CPM-7 (2012). A call for candidates was released in July 2012 and the first meeting of the CDC occurred in December 2012, after nominations were reviewed by the Bureau and members selected.
31. In response to the adoption of the Capacity Building Strategy (CPM-5 (2010) and through the guidance provided by the Expert Working Group on Capacity Development (EWG CD), significant progress continues to be made in implementing this strategy which has also increased the visibility and level of activity of the work under Objective D. Concrete efforts in terms of communication and awareness-raising are being currently performed.
32. Various collaborative activities with other teams in FAO (i.e. food safety, seed and pesticide and forestry groups) and with various other organizations or partnerships (i.e. IICA, Standard Trade Development Facility (STDF) and Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)) were undertaken in 2012.
33. A PRA e-learning training course was developed in cooperation with IICA, based on developments by the IAGPRA. This resource is available in the phytosanitary resources page in English and Spanish and has been used in the framework of the previously mentioned collaborative efforts.
34. A call to all IPPC contracting parties, Regional Plant Protection Organizations and relevant organizations was made for currently available technical resources and to authorize their use by the IPPC. The call yielded around 300 phytosanitary technical resources. The phytosanitary technical resources web site was established to make all these technical resources available to the world's plant protection community.
35. The call for currently available technical resources is now open on a permanent basis. After simple registration, anyone is able to contribute phytosanitary technical resources for consideration as a global resource.
36. The global project "Global Phytosanitary Manuals, Standard Procedures and Training Kits", funded by the Standards and Trade Development Facility, is being implemented by the IPPC Secretariat (2012-2014). The objective of this project is to develop a foundation for national systems for plant health which will improve the possibility for productive trade relationships and ultimately food security in developing countries.

37. This project will develop 20 phytosanitary technical resources to support an effective implementation of the IPPC and its standards by countries. These resources will help National Plant Protection Organizations fulfil their roles and responsibilities to improve/maintain external market access and/or support national import and export certification programmes.
38. A new IPPC project proposal was approved by the STDF Working Group, on Training of Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE) Facilitators. The objective of this project is to improve the capability of countries to evaluate their phytosanitary capacities using the PCE tool and plan their phytosanitary programmes, which should result in the objective identification of gaps in phytosanitary systems and enable governments to factor national phytosanitary planning in the design of their overall development plans. Other project proposals are under different levels of development and a summary table of the projects in which the Secretariat is involved is presented in a separate INF paper.
39. Seven workshops on the review of draft ISPMS were held in 2012 and the results are reported in another CPM paper.
40. A workshop on surveillance was organized jointly with the APPPC and with generous financial support from Korea, in October 2012, to develop the necessary guidance to support the production of technical resources after the gaps and needs identification on surveillance performed by the IRSS.
41. Five support actions to facilitate application of the PCE have been undertaken in 2012. There are currently requests for support from more than 25 countries.
42. The IPPC Secretariat supported the WTO-SPS technical assistance programme through direct participation of Secretariat members, and provision of technical materials for the workshops and an advanced SPS course.
43. The IPPC Secretariat has undertaken missions (e.g., Palestine mission on SPS issues) and actions (Legal study on the COMESA Green Pass and further collaborative actions) as part of the SPS team in FAO.
44. The CD area is collaborating with the development of e-learning materials on the guide to implementation of international standards in the forestry sector.

VI. Strategic planning (Objectives C, X and Y)

45. The IPPC strategic framework, a resource mobilization strategy, and capacity building work plan were adopted in CPM7, and a communication strategy was revised based on discussions in CPM7 and Bureau meetings.
46. In addition, a communications strategy and work plan were prepared for review and discussion at the October 2012 meeting of the Strategic Planning Group (SPG), which, after slight modifications have been forwarded to the CPM.

VII. Advocacy (Objectives C, X and Y)

47. There was a significant effort by the entire Secretariat in 2012 to generate advocacy material to increase awareness of IPPC activities and to support resource mobilization efforts. Efforts to expand the amount of information available are ongoing and steps have been taken to ensure advocacy material is more freely available and updated regularly. With the generous financial support of Korea, a substantial number of printed advocacy materials are now available.

Table 4: Summarizes the total number of news articles and other advocacy material published by the Secretariat over the past 4 years

	Link	New number of articles / items			
		2009	2010	2011	14 Dec. 2012
News		33	92	67	61
Press release					2
Videos					1
Factsheets				3	5
Flyers					4
Brochures					1
Publications					4
Posters				1	1

48. IPPC advocacy material is available through:

- IPP <https://www.ippc.int/index.php?id=6&L=0>; and
- IPPC 60th anniversary website <https://www.ippc.int/60years/media/>.

VIII. Staffing (Objective Y)

49. In 2012, significant efforts were made to fill the vacant regular programme post of the assistant standard officer. Regrettably, due to a recruitment freeze instituted within FAO, the appointment was significantly delayed. Nevertheless, once the freeze was lifted, an offer was made, accepted and the position is now filled.

50. Within the budget available, various short term staff members and consultants were recruited and interns/volunteers contributed to the IPPC activities in their capacity.

IX. Reporting and in-kind contributions from contracting parties and organizations (Objectives X and Y)

51. The IPPC Secretariat would like to recognize the donations to the Trust Fund for the IPPC which are also noted in the Financial Report for 2012. The IPPC Secretariat would also like to recognize the generous in-kind support provided and which are shown in Table 5.

Table 5: In kind contributions to support the IPPC activities (2012) ¹⁵

Contributing Contracting Party/ Organization	Contribution	Use of the contribution
Countries		
Brazil	Hosting	ePhyto Workshop
Canada	In kind staff	2 staff to support standard setting support (part time: 25%)
China	In kind staff	Translation of IPP (1 week)
France	In kind staff	1 staff to support standard setting (starting from March 2012)
Japan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hosting • Event support • In kind staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TPPT meeting • Arrangement associated with CPM -7 • 1 staff to support standard setting (until March 2012) • 2 staff to support CPM-7 preparation (each 2 weeks)
Korea , Republic of	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hosting • Printing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional workshop on draft ISPMs • CD related symposium • printed IPPC publications
New Zealand	In kind staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 staff to support standard setting (part time: 10%) 1 staff to support standard setting (part time: 5%, ending in August 2012)
United Kingdom	In kind staff	CPM-7 preparation (2 weeks)
United States	In kind staff	1 staff to support standard setting (part time: 25% starting from December 2012)

Regional Plant Protection Organizations		
APPPC, EPPO, IAPSC, PPPO, OIRSA and COSAVE	Organization assistance	Regional workshops (various)
APPPC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organization assistance • Provided travel support for some participants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional workshop (Asia) • IRSS related symposium
OIRSA and COSAVE	Provided travel support	Regional workshop (Latin America)
COSAVE	Event support	Arrangement associated with CPM
EPPO	Hosting	ePhyto workshop
NAPPO	In kind staff	CPM-7 preparation (2 weeks)

¹⁵ Please note that additional contributions to trust funds are presented in the financial reports and budget papers under agenda items 9.4 and 9.5

PPPO	Hosting	24th TC among RPPOs
Organizations		
IICA	Hosting	Regional workshop (Latin America)
IAEA/FAO Joint division	In kind staff	1 staff to support standard setting (part time: 5%)
Collaborative programmes		
Several contracting parties, regional organizations and international organizations	Organization assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EWGs • ePhyto • TPs • workshops

X. Status of bodies under Article XIV of the FAO Constitution (Objective Y)

52. Various meetings were held in FAO to discuss the operational autonomy options available for Article XIV bodies. Also, a questionnaire was circulated to FAO member countries and relevant FAO meetings have continued to discuss the results, including a meeting of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters during the week of October 8. Further discussions are planned for 2013.

XI. Liaison Activities (Objective X)

53. The Secretariat was represented at a range of meetings with international and regional organizations (See Table 1).

54. In addition to attending relevant meetings listed in Table 1 above and in kind contributions listed in Table 5 above, the following are some brief highlights of the Secretariat's liaison activities:

Regional Organizations

55. Liaison activities with RPPOs are included in the report of the 24th Technical Consultation among RPPOs and in Table 5 above.

- a) **International Organizations** in alphabetical order: CABI: Continued to work with CABI on a range of mutually beneficial projects and finding ways of improving Plantwise compatibility with IPPC processes.
- b) Codex Alimentarius: Continue the joint development and maintenance of the OCS and development of a capacity assessment tool for food safety.
- c) Container Owners Association (COA): engaged to gather input into the development of the sea container standard.
- d) Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety: Liaised on issues related to IAS and pest risk assessments of LMOs and the use of ISPMs.
- e) FAO: Participated in the Inter Departmental Working Group on Biodiversity, engaged EMPRES-Plants to cover pests of plants other than locusts and wheat diseases; worked in cooperation with the FAO Forestry Department for the development of an e-learning product. The most significant engagement is ensuring inclusion in the new FAO Strategic Objectives (SOs) to secure the IPPC regular programme budget from FAO.
- f) Inter-Agency Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species (IALG-IAS): helped to organize a meeting of this group and stimulated discussions on the future of this group. Members (WHO, OIE, CBD, FAO, IMO) helped to solicit input into the development of criteria to be used by industry for cleaning sea containers.
- g) International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Joint FAO/IAEA Division of Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture. Continues to provide technical support to the Technical Panel on Fruit Flies.

- h) International Forest Quarantine Research Group (IFQRG): Worked together with members from the TPFQ to help develop the Cardiff Protocol which presents an alternative assessment of efficacy.
- i) International Maritime Organization (IMO): attempted to engage them in the development of the sea container standard.
- j) International Standards Organization (ISO): reviewed and provided comments on specific standards.
- k) Ozone Secretariat: Signed a memorandum of understanding to facilitate cooperation in areas of mutual interest.
- l) Safe Supply of Affordable Food Everywhere (SSAFE): Liaised to try to build synergies in areas of mutual interest.
- m) Standards Trade and Development Facility (STDF): reviewed and commented on grant applications, projects, initiatives and tools, as well as provided an IPPC Secretariat representative on the working group and steering committees of some of its projects. Organization of a joint workshop STDF-SPS-OIE-IPPC on Trade and Invasive Alien Species.
- n) United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT): Worked on setting up codes for the harmonized transfer of electronic data for electronic certificates.
- o) United Nations Economic Committee for Europe (UNECE): Provided comments on the Seed Potato standard and challenged their claims as an international standard in line with the IPPC.
- p) World Customs Organization (WCO): engaged them in the development of ePhyto and determining how electronic information on sea containers could be exchanged.
- q) World Health Organization: requested input into the development of criteria to be used by industry for cleaning sea containers.
- r) World Trade Organization Sanitary and Phytosanitary (WTO-SPS) Committee: prepared reports for all meetings and participated in the workshops and activities of their technical assistance program.

XII. IRSS (Objective A, B, C, D and X)

56. The first year of the 3-year IRSS cycle was delivered at the end of March 2012 with the establishment of the IRSS webpage. The webpage is undergoing continual improvements, which will include the Helpdesk facility.

57. Additional activities conducted included initiating studies on the challenges for implementation of ISPM 17 and 19, and the release of the general IPPC survey to the NPPOs.

XIII. ePhyto (Objective C, X and Y)

58. A page to store all information related to ePhyto has been established on the IPP – <http://ephyto.ippc.int/>. All agreed ePhyto procedures, protocols, XML schema and codes will be made available through this page.

59. An ePhyto expert working group (EWG) meeting was hosted by EPPO. This meeting allowed experts to agree on the final components and code for the ePhyto XML schema and communication/security protocols. The report of the EWG will be available in the immediate future.

60. The ePhyto experts continue to test these agreed schemas and coding with the objective of introducing them into their ePhyto system in the coming months. This will allow extensive testing and confirmation of codes and processes by the time ISPM 12:2011 Appendix 1 is adopted.

61. The Secretariat has undertaken to provide a written proposal on a revised ePhyto Steering Committee, including their role and composition, to the first SC meeting in 2013.

62. The Secretariat helped organize the successful ePhyto workshop from 20-22 November 2012 in Vitoria City, Espirito Santo, Brazil. This workshop showed the importance of such workshops in creating awareness and getting specific feedback from countries. ePhyto workshops will also be needed in Europe, Asia and Africa.