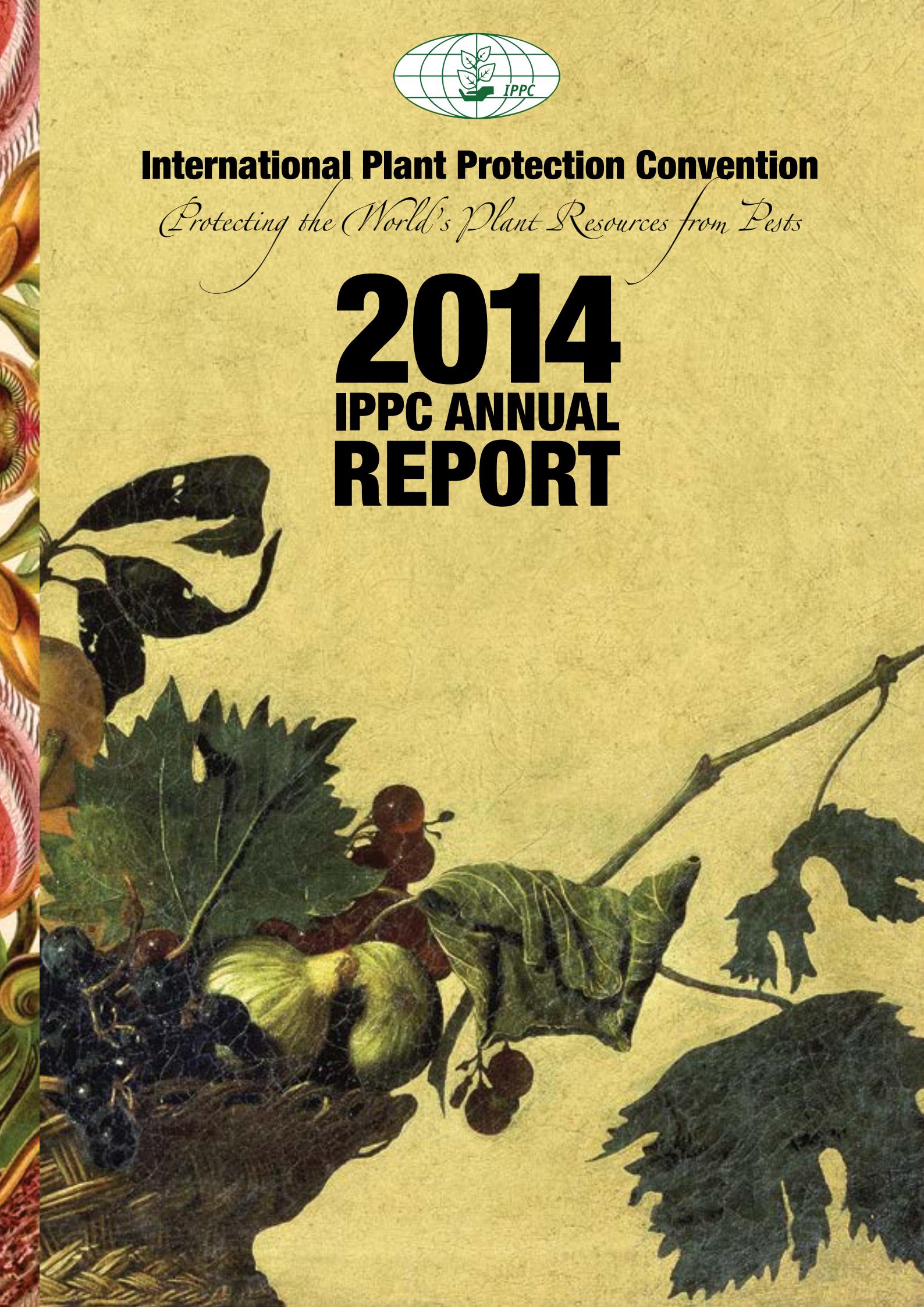




# International Plant Protection Convention

*Protecting the World's Plant Resources from Pests*

# 2014 IPPC ANNUAL REPORT





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# **Message from the Officer in Charge**

Dear Colleagues,

I am happy to introduce the 2014 IPPC annual report. This is the second annual report of this style and I hope it shows an improvement over our first effort.



The IPPC has seen a lot of changes over the past year, with more coming. While the usual transition of staff occurred, it was perhaps one of the more substantial changes in recent times. The most significant development was the return of former IPPC Secretary Yukio Yokoi to Japan. In addition, the Capacity Development and Standard Setting units also lost people. At the same time, new people were added to those two units, and the National Reporting Obligations added a first additional staff member.

As you all know, the FAO Office of Evaluations undertook a Secretariat Enhancement Evaluation late in 2014, the results of which have been shared with you. There are several recommendations in the report, some of which suggest a reorganization of the staffing structure, as well as different ways of doing business. Sometimes these comments and recommendations are not pleasant to hear, but the truth is that as we discussed things like the IPPC in 20 years, or an International Year of Plant Health, the basic question that needed to be asked was whether the Secretariat was ready for that as currently structured and operating. If not, what is recommended as a way to meet those challenges?

As another sign of changing times, the Secretariat hosted an open-ended working group on implementation last August. The topic of implementation was proposed at CPM-9 in 2014 and there was enthusiastic participation on the part of those who attended. The results of that meeting will be discussed during CPM-10, and the hope is for some next steps to be proposed and resources to be committed.

The ePhyto steering group was very active and has put together technical specifications that can be used as the blueprint when we seek a developer for the ePhyto hub. In addition, and in recognition of the fact that electronic phytosanitary certification is a part of the future regardless of whether a hub is developed, the steering group put forward a proposal to the WTO Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) for resources for ePhyto efforts. We hope to learn shortly whether this proposal will be accepted.

The Secretariat is also pleased to report that in 2014 the IPPC became the seventh member of the Biodiversity Liaison Group. This group, operating under the umbrella of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), meets regularly to explore opportunities for synergistic activities and increased coordination and to exchange information. IPPC membership also opens the door for contracting party NPPOs to engage with their Global Environmental Fund (GEF) and CBD focal points to seek access to new resources to assist in implementing the work of the IPPC.

After CPM-9, there was enough interest shown that the IPPC will now be pushing for an International Year of Plant Health. This is not intended to raise awareness of the IPPC, but rather, more importantly, of plant health globally. This effort will require a small steering group, the efforts of individual member NPPOs, substantial resources and sustained focus. This is an incredible opportunity should we succeed and I suspect this will move forward even faster following CPM-10.

Finally, I would like to end this note by discussing the staff. The Secretariat has staff members from all over the world, with many different backgrounds and working cultures. We are all united in working on the goal of protecting the earth's plants from pests. We work hard and have our disagreements, but in the end we are focused on the mission and tasks we are assigned by CPM. There are a lot of dedicated people working here in Rome, and I hope that you get the opportunity to really talk with one or more of them either at this year's CPM or in another IPPC venue. I am really proud to say that I work with them.

Good luck in 2015,

Craig Fedchock  
IPPC Officer in Charge

# 2014 Secretariat Update

2014 was a pivotal year for the International Plant Protection Convention and the IPPC Secretariat. Much of the information below will be covered in significantly more detail by the specific parts of the Secretariat responsible for those topics, but what follows can be considered a brief overview of some of the key highlights for 2014.

Significant personnel changes in the Secretariat took place in 2014. First, our Secretary, Yukio Yokoi, resigned his position and returned to Japan at the end of the year. Yukio served in the Secretariat from 2009 and oversaw the development of the current IPPC Strategic Framework, the establishment of the Capacity Development Committee (CDC) and the transition of the Strategic Planning and Technical Assistance informal working group into the Strategic Planning group (SPG). He played the lead role in ensuring the registration of the International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM) 15 mark around the world, and helped to ensure that the IPPC Financial Committee got up and running.

A lot of effort has gone into evaluating the Secretariat, as well as the IPPC capacity development effort in particular. A Secretariat enhancement evaluation, conducted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Office of Evaluations, has been under way since late summer 2014 and the results have been presented to the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) Bureau. The intent of the evaluation is to show the way forward for the Secretariat so that it will be appropriately configured and staffed for the challenges that lie ahead. The future of capacity development in the IPPC is also being addressed in the context of the CDC review. Regrettably, the review will not be completed as hoped by the time of the 2015 CPM, but we anticipate the final outcome will recognize the excellent work done by this committee. The Secretariat's efforts in this area continue to be viewed positively around the globe.

The Capacity Development group lost two staff who have subsequently been replaced, and the Standard Setting team saw turnover as well. The National Reporting Obligations (NROs) function, by contrast, has been bolstered with the addition of a new staff member. This turnover of personnel seems to be a regular occurrence for the Secretariat due in no small part to the FAO personnel structure, which is a matter of ongoing discussion internally within FAO and the IPPC community. Seeking solutions to questions of personnel within the context of being an FAO Article 14 body has been a constant matter of discussion and was briefly addressed in the enhancement evaluation.

2014 was also a year of focus on NROs. Renewed emphasis on NROs saw a marked improvement in contact point information and a strong focus on improving this critical area of IPPC activity, bolstered by a new member of staff as mentioned above. There is still more work to be done, but the reinvigoration of this important area has been a visible part of the Secretariat's activities.

The Secretariat has transformed the International Phytosanitary Portal (IPP). The primary focus has been to make it more intuitive for users

searching for information, while at the same time giving it a cleaner and fresher look. This is another area in which attrition of personnel has taken place; however, the Secretariat is seeking ways to ensure suitable support for IPPC IT efforts, especially with the Online Comment System (OCS) and the Electronic Phytosanitary Certification (ePhyto).

The work on ePhyto continues, with a significant effort made to obtain resources in order to move forward with an ePhyto hub that can be used by all contracting parties. This effort is the product of a combined group from the capacity development side of the Secretariat along with the ePhyto steering group. The hope is that in 2015 a true ePhyto system, including a hub and a web-based application, will be approved by CPM-10 and start to be developed.

In 2014, at the request of the CPM, a work plan was formulated for implementation. The focus of the effort will be on implementing ISPM 6 on surveillance. This work plan, expected to take five years to complete, was developed by an expert working group that met in August 2014 in Rome. The report of the working group meeting is available on the IPP and the results and proposed work plan will be discussed during CPM-10.

A key highlight of the year was getting the IPPC recognized as a biodiversity convention. While most would consider it a given that the IPPC was a biodiversity convention even before, this recognition does provide an opportunity for our contracting party national plant protection organizations (NPPOs) to work towards eliminating the duplication of efforts by their colleagues in environmental ministries and departments with regard to quarantine regulations and activities. In addition, this recognition also opens the door for NPPOs to seek support for implementation of the Convention by going after resources available from the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

Standard setting saw a lot of work take place in 2014. In the final meeting of the Standards Committee (SC) for 2014, the group approved the draft cold treatments for *Bactrocera tryoni* (Froggatt) on *Citrus sinensis* (L.) Osbeck, *Citrus reticulata* Blanco × *C. sinensis*, and *Citrus limon* (L.) Osbeck for submission to CPM-10 (2015) for adoption by a vote with no option for formal objection. The SC also agreed that the Standards Committee Working Group of 7 (SG-7) should discuss the SC decision-making process and how the SC should proceed when no consensus can be reached.

Finally, a lot of effort has gone into developing a framework for standards. This topic has been discussed at length in two framework working groups, a meeting of the Bureau, the SPG and the SC. In particular, the SC reviewed and adjusted the specific gaps and the proposed priorities identified in the framework meetings. The SC also agreed with the SPG in not delaying the call for topics, but recommended SC members consider the discussions in relation to the draft framework during the meeting of the SC, especially those topics related to contingency planning and emergency response and the elements of an effective NPPO. The SC also recommended members to consider encouraging their contracting party to submit the additional recommendations for topics related to the foregoing at the upcoming call for topics. The framework is not yet complete as the SPG felt strongly that it warranted

additional review and consideration. Consequently, it will not be presented to CPM-10, but will instead go to an additional review by the SPG for eventual presentation to CPM-11 in 2016. This important piece of work will help to set the future direction of standard setting in the IPPC for some years to come.

This report is not intended to provide a comprehensive report on the activities of the IPPC Secretariat, but rather to provide a view of some of the key developments in 2014, which you should note. There remains the need to gain an equivalent level of prominence to that of Codex Alimentarius and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), the continued need to establish sustained funding (voluntary assessed contributions are one way), and there is always a need for experts to work on topics, and a sustained staff with growth opportunities. The Secretariat is moving forward, but there is still much to be done.

Finally, the Secretariat would like to take this opportunity to thank NPPOs, regional plant protection organizations (RPPOs), partners and collaborators for all of their efforts to protect plant health.

# IPPC Governance

## CPM Bureau

The Bureau is a seven-member elected executive body of the CPM. The Bureau provides guidance to the IPPC Secretariat and CPM on strategic direction, cooperation, financial and operational management. The seven members are nominated by each of the IPPC regions and elected for two-year terms with options for renewal in subsequent periods.

The Secretariat asks all contracting parties to join in thanking the Bureau for their willingness to perform these duties during the past two-year term in addition to the demands of their regular positions in their respective NPPOs.

## Commission on Phytosanitary Measures

The CPM is the governing body of the IPPC. Its mission is to foster cooperation between nations in protecting the world's cultivated and natural plant resources from the spread and introduction of pests of plants, while minimizing interference with the international movement of goods and people.

The CPM meets annually and is directed between sessions by the CPM Bureau, which provides advice and administration and makes decisions between annual CPM meetings. There are two subsidiary bodies to the CPM: the Standards Committee (SC) and the Subsidiary Body on Dispute Settlement. While not a formal body of the IPPC, a third group, the Capacity Development Committee (CDC) provides input and guidance on the capacity development work plan.

# Implementation Review and Support System

Over the past three years, the Implementation Review and Support System (IRSS) project, supported by the European Union (EU) and Switzerland, has brought together views from contracting parties, their NPPOs, various experts and IPPC staff on the challenges of implementation of the IPPC and a number of its standards. These views were compiled largely through online surveys and face-to-face meetings. The outcomes of these surveys and meetings catalysed a general push towards greater integration of the IPPC Secretariat's efforts to support contracting parties to implement the IPPC and standards.

Since CPM-9, the IPPC Secretariat has undergone a period of reflection and transition with the IPPC enhancement study, review and enhancement of the NRO programme, standards framework with gap analysis and finally actions towards the establishment of a pilot Implementation Programme on Surveillance. These new initiatives required focused exchanges among NPPOs of contracting parties, RPPOs, subject-matter experts and the Secretariat to reach a common understanding of the intent and content of the programmes.

The IRSS has contributed, through the results of its work, to all the above initiatives, including providing two recommendations (on internet trade and aquatic plants) that were approved at CPM-9.

The current effort to establish an IPPC implementation programme is based on the extensive work of the IRSS on pest surveillance and related topics. The Secretariat has had consultations with every IPPC subsidiary body, as well as with the CDC, the SPG, the National Reporting Obligations Advisory Group (NROAG), the Standards Framework Group (SFG) and others to present to CPM-10 a framework for a pilot implementation programme.

The CPM recognized that much remains to be done to establish an implementation programme that meets the needs of the IPPC and in this regard requested an open-ended working group (OEWG) meeting to obtain guidance from contracting parties and the results of those deliberations will be presented at CPM-10.

The Secretariat recognizes that to establish an implementation programme a more integrated mechanism is needed, which takes into account the efforts to enhance the NRO programme, builds on the successes of the capacity development programme and IRSS project, and minimizes impact on standard setting. CPM-9 demonstrated considerable support for the IRSS and Implementation Programme on Surveillance. Post CPM, both the IRSS and the efforts to establish an implementation programme have had support from the CPM Bureau, NPPO experts from the governments of Australia, Costa Rica, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, Uruguay and more than 30 other governments through the OEWG on implementation. The Secretariat appreciates and thanks all CPs for their support and looks forward to a fruitful year of implementation.

# Standard setting

## News on Diagnostic Protocols

Three diagnostic protocols (DPs) were adopted in 2014 by the SC on behalf of the CPM.

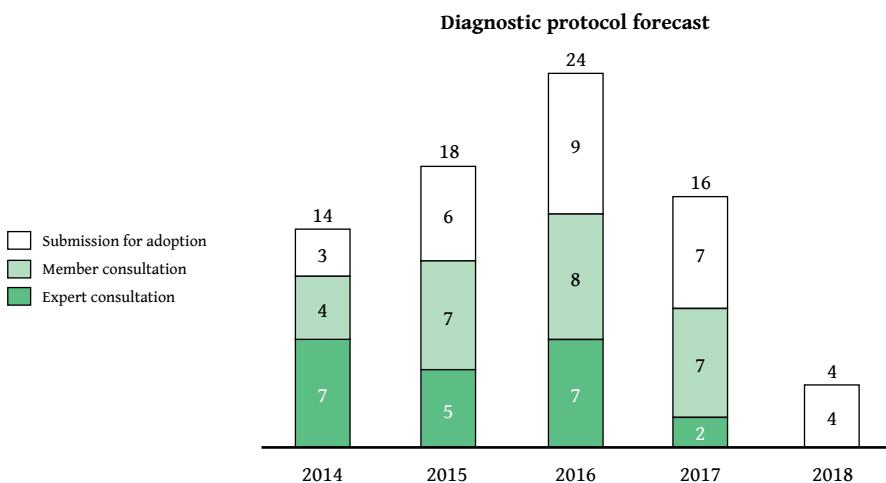
The adopted DPs were<sup>1</sup>:

- DP 4 (2014): *Tilletia indica* Mitra
- DP 5 (2014): *Phyllosticta citricarpa* (McAlpine) Aa on fruit
- DP 6 (2014): *Xanthomonas citri* subsp. *citri*

Four draft DPs were submitted to the member consultation and another four draft DPs were approved by the SC for the 2015 February member consultation. In addition, seven draft DPs were submitted to an expert consultation<sup>2</sup>, which is meant to help in the development of science-based DPs, seeking input from other experts who are not part of the DP drafting groups and are not typically reached through our normal communication channels.

This year, the Technical Panel on Diagnostic Protocols (TPDP) added a new member specializing in entomology. The panel performed a strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) analysis of the TPDP work programme and discovered that 58 percent of the regulated pests of major concern for IPPC contracting parties are subjects in the TPDP work programme<sup>3</sup>.

A total of 18 draft DPs proceeded through the standard setting system in 2014, which is double the number compared to 2013. The development of DPs will definitely support the IPPC Secretariat's implementation programme, which will focus on surveillance for the next few years.



1 Available on the “adopted ISPMs” main page of the IPP: <https://www.ippc.int/core-activities/standards-setting/ispm>.

2 Expert consultation on draft DPs on IPP: <https://www.ippc.int/en/expert-consultation-on-draft-diagnostic-protocols-ecdp>.

3 IRSS survey on ISPMs 19 & 17 in regards to the question “Which are the five pests on your regulated pest list which are the most concern?” in which 42 countries responded to the survey and indicated the regulated pest of most concern to their country (<https://www.ippc.int/largefiles/2014/Survey-Analysis-NPPOs-17-19.pdf>).

## **Continuous Improvement Cycle: Review of the Standard Setting Procedure**

In November 2014, the SC tasked the SC-7 to discuss solutions to the current challenges of the standard setting procedure. This should help to deliver a better understanding of how the procedure is currently carried out and it will also help to highlight problem areas and opportunities for change.

The SC will review the outcomes of the SC-7 and then report back to CPM in 2016 with recommended improvements to make the standard setting procedure more efficient and effective.

## **Experts Called in 2014**

Experts with solid technical skills, nominated in response to the IPPC Secretariat's calls, are the critical factor in developing ISPMs. In 2014:

- We received seven submissions for authors for five different diagnostic protocols.
- In June, a call for experts to participate in the Expert Consultation on *Bactrocera dorsalis* (Hendel) complex resulted in 19 submissions.
- In August, the Secretariat issued a call for experts for the TPDP, the Technical Panel on Phytosanitary Treatments (TPPT) and for three expert working groups (EWGs). The EWGs were to develop standards on the international movement of grain, on safe handling and disposal of waste with potential pest risk generated during international voyages and to revise ISPM 6 (guidelines for surveillance). This call resulted in 33 submissions. However, for some topics, there was a disappointingly low number of nominations for experts as the proposed members did not represent a wide geographic area (including proportional developing country participation). Thus, the SC was not able to select experts for two EWG meetings and further discussion on how to proceed with the selection of experts will take place at the May 2015 SC meeting.

## **CPM to Vote on Adopting Standards?**

So far, all ISPMs have been adopted by consensus whereas other international standard setting organizations such as Codex Alimentarius have adopted a few standards through voting. This may change in 2015.

Although the SC strongly supports the idea that consensus should always be the preferred way to adopt standards, the committee agreed to recommend the draft ISPM on *Determination of host status of fruit to fruit fly (Tephritisidae)* and three draft cold treatments to the CPM for adoption by vote, with no option of a formal objection. As these four drafts had already been presented to previous CPMs and were formally objected to then, such a recommendation is in line with the IPPC standard setting procedure. However, the final decision on these draft standards, including whether to still try to reach consensus, remains with the CPM; if this fails, the CPM will proceed with a vote.

## **Sea Containers: A New Expert Working Group**

The SC has agreed to the terms of reference for a new EWG on sea containers. The first task of the EWG will be to analyse the conceptual comments provided by members that were collected during the 2013 member consultation on the preliminary draft standard on *Minimizing pest movement by sea containers* (2008-001). The EWG will then produce a revised draft standard or recommend to the SC how to proceed. The original members of the sea containers EWG and additional experts will be invited to this new EWG meeting which is tentatively planned for 2015.



## **Revocation of Older Versions of ISPMs: How to Clarify an Ambiguous Situation**

Many ISPMs have undergone revisions since the adoption of ISPM 1 in 1993. Because older versions of ISPMs have never been officially revoked, this has led to an unclear situation where latest versions of ISPMs coexist with older versions of the same ISPM. To rectify the situation, the IPPC Secretariat undertook an in-depth analysis of all ISPMs in close consultation with FAO Legal Office and proposed a simplified mechanism. The SC reviewed the comprehensive analysis and approved the changes that would need to be applied to existing ISPMs before older versions of ISPMs can effectively be replaced by latest versions of ISPMs and be revoked. In this respect, ink amendments approved by the SC in November 2014 are to be presented to CPM-10 (2015) for noting. After application of the mechanism and changes, it will be clarified that the latest versions of ISPMs<sup>4</sup> are the ones in force.

## **Phytosanitary Treatments**

One phytosanitary vapour heat treatment for fruit flies was adopted in 2014 as the first non-irradiation treatment of the 15 adopted treatments to date.

A set of draft cold treatments for tephritids is at various stages of advancement:

- Three have been recommended again by the SC at its 2014 November meeting for adoption by the CPM in 2015 (along with an irradiation treatment for mealy bugs) after receiving formal objections once (1 draft treatment) or twice (2 draft treatments).
- Five draft cold treatments are currently under review by the TPPT for further analysis of possible effects of host variety and pest populations on treatment efficacy and are expected to be resubmitted to the SC in 2015.
- Two further draft cold treatments were under member consultation in 2014 and are currently being reviewed by the treatment leads of the TPPT, as were one high-temperature forced air treatment, two vapour heat treatments and one irradiation treatment.

Finally, three draft treatments for wood (one dielectric heat and two fumiga-

<sup>4</sup> Available on the “adopted ISPMs” main page of the IPP: <https://www.ippc.int/core-activities/standards-setting/ispm>.

tion treatments) and one vapour heat draft treatment against a tephritid pest have been approved by the SC for member consultation in 2015.

No call for further treatments is expected in 2015 in order to allow members of the TPPT to shift their focus to drafting standards for new topics on the requirements for the use of the different types of treatment (irradiation, temperature, fumigation, modified atmosphere and chemical treatments) as phytosanitary measures.

## **Expert Consultation on Phytosanitary Treatments for the *Bactrocera dorsalis* Complex**

Twenty-four participants, mostly researchers, from 12 countries met in Okinawa, Japan, in December 2014 for an expert consultation on phytosanitary treatments for fruit flies belonging to the *Bactrocera dorsalis* complex. The meeting was hosted by the Plant Quarantine Office of the Japanese Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, and partly funded by Japan, the FAO/IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) Joint Division of Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture and the IPPC Secretariat.

Setting the scene was a discussion of the implications of the recent taxonomic synonymization of four fruit fly pests in the *Bactrocera* genus on the application of phytosanitary measures, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa where outbreaks of *B. dorsalis* have been occurring in recent years.



Participants presented their countries' research on specific phytosanitary treatments against the different fruit flies. Issues on the design, conduct, operationalization, evaluation and presentation of the data of post-harvest treatments were discussed. Participants collated a comprehensive list of NPPO-approved treatments for species in the *B. dorsalis* complex and this helped to raise a list of points for future research.

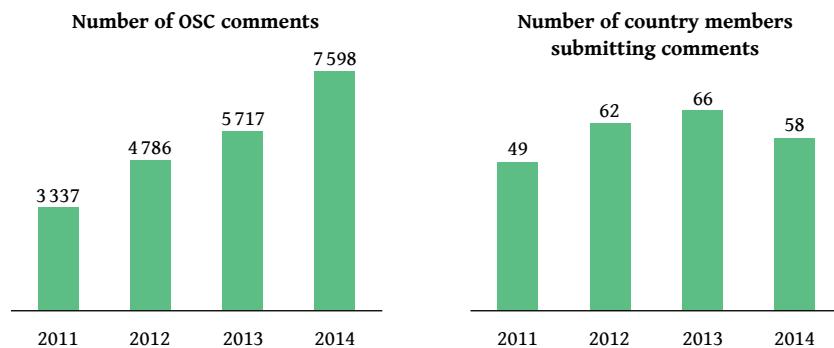
## **Online Comment System Struggling to Survive ... While Being More Used Than Ever**

In 2014, the Online Comment System (OCS) has been more used than ever: 7 598 comments on draft standards have been submitted by 58 contact points.

The full statistics on the OCS use can be found below – please note that the 2014 statistics do not take into account the year-end consultation on four draft specifications.

Following the restructuring of the FAO IT Division and evolving technologies, the IPPC Secretariat conducted a survey of OCS users in May 2014. The Codex Alimentarius and IPPC Secretariats continue to cooperate closely in the development of an online commenting system that will improve the capacity of all members to participate more effectively in intergovernmental negotiations.

The IPPC Secretariat is striving to start a tendering process in collaboration with Codex Alimentarius to have the OCS modernized to be more in line with its users' requirements and modern technology.



## **Secretariat's Contribution to FAO's Strategic Objectives**

The IPPC Secretariat is contributing to output 1.1 of FAO's strategic objective 4: "Enable inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems, specifically on the number of new or revised international standards in food safety, quality and plant health."

2014 outcomes by the IPPC Secretariat for each of the indicators were as follows:

Indicator	2014 outcome
(1) New standards adopted	6
(2) Draft standards progressed	39*
(3) New issues considered	7

\*: This number is higher than predicted as we have had a large number of Diagnostic Protocols in the system which advanced this year; this is not the normal progression expected.

The IPPC Secretariat continues to contribute to the development and adoption of ISPMs that are considered outputs under strategic objective 4. In 2014, work proceeded as planned but with a larger than expected number of DPs being progressed. The recently adopted standard on electronic phytosanitary certificates will help facilitate the modern exchange of data. Advances have been made in the standards on growing media in association with plants for planting, the international movement of wood, the last few ISPMs in the suite of standards for fruit flies as well as several phytosanitary treatments and DPs, and it is hoped that they will soon be adopted at CPM-10 (2015).

# **The Long and Slow History of the Development of an ISPM for Grain, Delayed Again**

The phytosanitary world becomes very animated and involved when the draft ISPM on the international movement of grain is discussed.

The topic was quietly added to the List of topics for IPPC standards at CPM-3 (2008).

At CPM-4 (2009), when there was a proposal to change the priority to “high”, a lengthy debate, which could not be concluded, left the priority at “normal”. CPM-4 agreed that an IPPC open-ended workshop on the international movement of grain be convened, depending on the availability of extra-budgetary resources. This workshop was held in Canada in 2011 and attended by 48 participants from 20 countries.

At CPM-7 (2012), many interventions led the CPM to ask the SC to develop the specification on this topic, considering the main results of the workshop, and then to gather input from contracting parties during the July 2012 member consultation. The SC would then revise the specification based on comments.

At CPM-8 (2013), the SC asked the CPM to consider three options:

1. development of an ISPM
2. development of guidance document(s) for the international movement of grain
3. development of an ISPM with a reduced scope.

Again the floor of CPM-8 erupted with interventions expressing support for all three options! A Friends of the Chair group was convened and, after much discussion, the group recommended that a technical panel be formed to oversee the development of the draft ISPM and further guidance. However, the CPM did not agree and the CPM Chair requested that the Standards Officer convene a meeting during the plenary, which was attended by many CPM members. It was finally agreed to continue the development of an ISPM and the SC was asked to revise the draft specification, narrowing its scope to phytosanitary issues (excluding Living Modified Organisms, climate change, food safety and quality issues). The SC was also asked to determine if traceability should be excluded or not.

The SC, with input from selected Experts on Strategic Issues, reviewed and revised the draft specification, which was sent for a second member consultation in December 2013. In May 2014, the SC approved the specification and the IPPC Secretariat called for experts for an EWG scheduled to take place in September 2015, funded and hosted by Australia. The SC and the Secretariat were disappointed with the low number of nominations for experts, as developing countries importing grain were not well represented, and the selection of experts was deferred, as a result the EWG has been postponed.

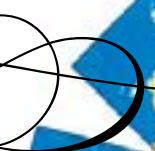


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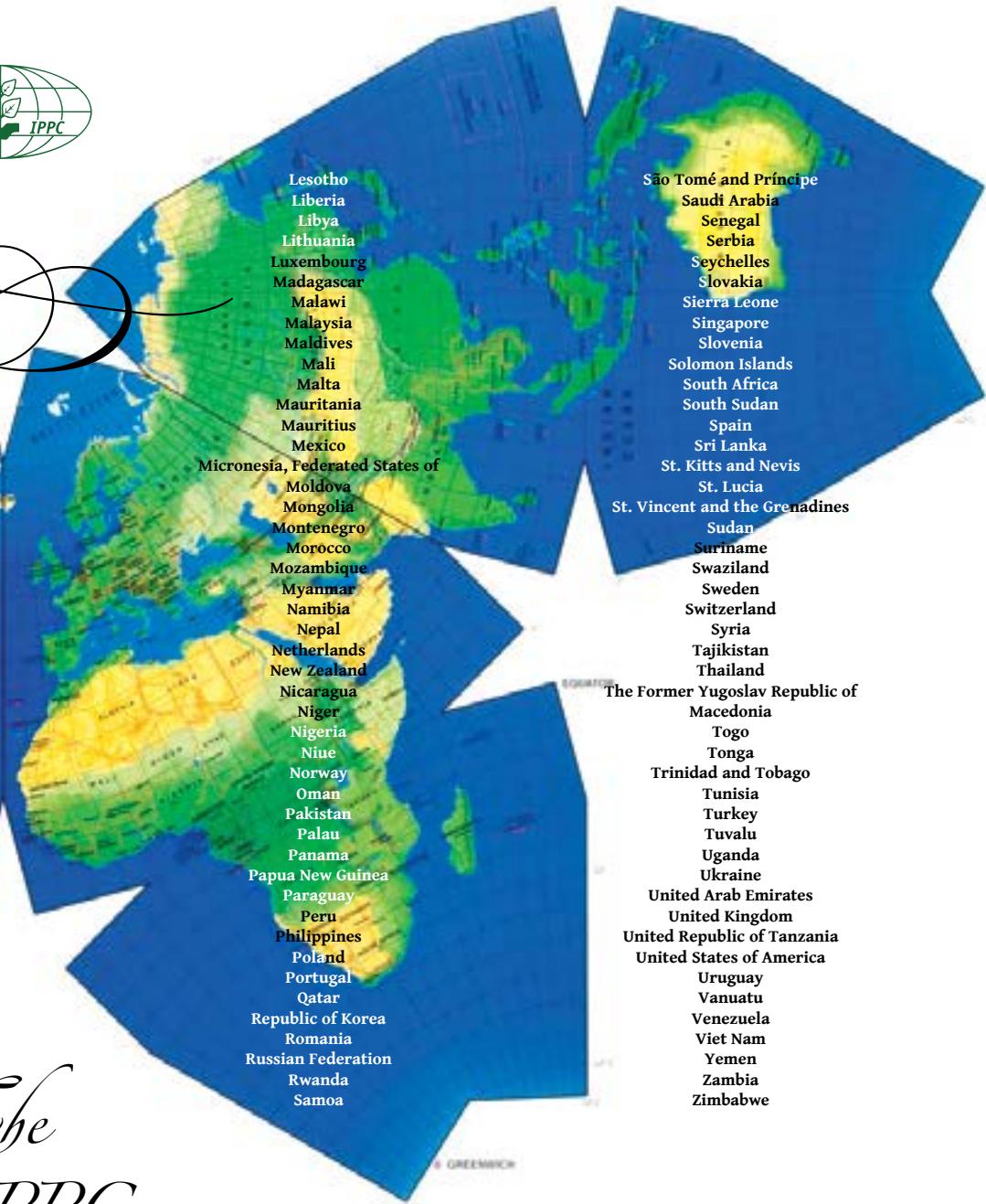
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Cook Islands  
Costa Rica  
Côte d'Ivoire  
Croatia  
Cuba  
Cyprus  
Czech Republic  
Democratic People's Republic of Korea  
Denmark



181 Member



The  
PPC  
Countries



# Capacity Development

National phytosanitary capacity is defined as the ability of individuals, organizations and systems of a country to perform functions effectively and sustainably in order to protect plants and plant products from pests and to facilitate trade, in accordance with the IPPC.

## CDC Meetings Update

### The Hague, the Netherlands, 2–6 July 2014

Following key decisions at CPM-9 in April 2013, the CDC agreed to support activities related to implementation issues, the framework for standards and NROs. During 2014, representatives of the CDC needed to attend many key meetings about implementation and NROs, and the CDC decided that these additional activities required planning and strategic coordination, which took place at the meeting in the Netherlands.



### Rome, Italy, 1–5 December 2014

The CDC undertook several actions at the meeting:

- Reviewed and provided guidance on two projects funded by the World Trade Organization (WTO) Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF), as part of its role as the STDF steering committee.
- Identified possible actions to support the implementation of the pilot Implementation Programme on Surveillance.
- Agreed to consider comments on the Framework for Implementation at its next meeting.
- Agreed that, following a decision at CPM-10, the CDC would consider incorporating the needs of NROs in the IPPC Capacity Development work plan.
- Reviewed and updated the IPPC Capacity Development work plan to better coordinate with the surveillance pilot programme.



## CDC Work Plan and CDC Evaluation

The CDC continues to update its work plan and, during its most recent meeting in Rome, performed a careful review in order to ensure that capacity development could fully support the future needs of an Implementation Programme on Surveillance.

Implementation of the work plan is at an advanced stage, and the review of the IPPC National Phytosanitary Capacity Development Strategy is imminent.

Members of the CDC, for its second period of activity, were elected by the Bureau according to the CDC Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure. The chosen experts from seven regions met in Rome in December 2014.

External evaluation of CDC began in 2014, but has not been completed in time for CPM-10.

# Phytosanitary Resources Website

The phytosanitary resources website ([www.phytosanitary.info](http://www.phytosanitary.info)) is an information-sharing platform where people can find phytosanitary technical resources. We also welcome contributions from the world's plant protection community.

In April 2014, we launched the site with a new layout and functionality designed to make it easier to use. The site now offers more than 280 phytosanitary technical resources. These include materials developed under the auspices of the IPPC Secretariat and the CDC, pest risk analysis (PRA) advocacy videos and a roster of consultants.



Anyone can access the available resources and share materials that may assist in the implementation of the Convention. We encourage contributions in any language from anyone in the world working in the field of plant protection.

# STDF Project 401: Training of Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation Facilitators

The IPPC Secretariat, with financial support from the STDF, has started a project to develop a pool of qualified experts to serve as facilitators of the tool for Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE).

PCE is a management tool designed to help countries to assess the capacity of their phytosanitary systems, and thus to form the basis for a national phytosanitary action plan. The project aims to improve national-level co-ordination and coherence of plant protection programmes by improving needs assessment and action planning. A key element is to create a pool of individuals who have been trained and coached to facilitate the use of the PCE tool for phytosanitary needs-assessment and action-planning processes.

Becoming a validated PCE facilitator involves several phases of selection, including face-to-face training and practical experience. More than 160 people applied in response to a call for candidates in August 2014. The IPPC Secretariat and CDC will select candidates for the next steps based on their experience and technical expertise.

The project runs from April 2014 to September 2016.

## **STDF Project 350: Global Phytosanitary Manuals, Standard Operating Procedures and Training Kits**

The CDC is the steering committee for this project and continues to discuss progress, take decisions on the range of products in development and advise on general project management issues. The project delay was due to problems of lack of staff, related to the length of the staffing procedures. Even so, progress has been remarkable, and the resources released are appreciated by the IPPC membership.

### **Project product highlights:**

- Additional materials on market access are at an advanced stage of production.
- A flyer of basic information on dielectric heat treatment is available from the phytosanitary resources website.
- A set of materials specifically produced for raising awareness of PRA was developed in partnership with the United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA-APHIS) and is also available from the website. The materials have been tested by contracting parties and other organizations with good results.
- New manuals and other resources are in production on topics such as NPPO establishment and management, import and export operations, surveillance and diagnostics for surveillance.

## **Innovative Projects: The IPPC Photo Contest “Pests without Borders!”**

During its meeting in December 2014, the CDC proposed launching a photo contest on pests. This contest, entitled “Pests without Borders!”, was launched in January 2015 in order to raise awareness on how preventing pests is essential to protect agriculture and the environment. The contest has three thematic areas: pests, pests affecting food security and the environment, and managing pests. Participants can make a difference in protecting agriculture and the environment by contributing photos that will be used by the IPPC and its contracting parties in communication and training material.



Prizes consist of assignments with IPPC for a photographic mission to an IPPC-related project close to the residence of the winner. Recognition will also be granted to photos deemed to be the best and most representative during the CPM-10.

## **Manuals**

The second manual produced under the auspices of the Secretariat – entitled *Transit: Phytosanitary issues of consignments in transit, a guide for national plant protection organizations* – was completed in 2014 and shared via the phytosanitary resources website.

This manual supports facilitation of trade through consistent implementation of ISPM 25 (Transit), with additional information drawn from other relevant ISPMs. It includes practical examples of transit situations to help NPPOs identify whether the consignment in transit poses a phytosanitary risk and how to manage the risk appropriately.

## **Regional Workshops**

- Seven regional IPPC workshops were organized in 2014 with generous contributions from organizers and co-organizers.
- Of the 181 IPPC contracting parties, 86 attended six of the workshops (no data available for the workshop in Africa).
- The six workshops had a total of 167 participants.
- The broader scope of the workshops and inclusion of more topics and updates from the IPPC Secretariat were seen as positive.
- The opportunity for contracting parties to discuss and share experiences and challenges related to phytosanitary issues was very valuable.
- Almost all participants prepared well for the workshops and consulted within their NPPO, as well as with other stakeholders, before attending.
- The group exercise on PRA advocacy materials was very valuable.
- Almost all participants planned to share information from the workshop with their NPPO colleagues as well as with other stakeholders after returning to their countries.

## **Participation in World Trade Organization Activities**

The Secretariat participated in WTO Technical Assistance activities related to the WTO Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Agreement. The overall objective of these activities is to enhance the knowledge and expertise of government officials from developing country members and observers of the WTO, to understand and implement the SPS Agreement.

IPPC Secretariat staff developed the plant health component and led the activities related to plant health at three regional workshops (Latin America, Pacific and Central and Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the Caucasus), one thematic SPS workshop on risk analysis and the usual session of the 2014 Advanced Course on the SPS Agreement.

### Regional IPPC workshops 2014

Region	Date & venue	Secretariat represented	Organizer and funding agency	CPs represented	Non-CPs represented	Participants (including observers)	CPs sending comments	Participants completing evaluation
Africa	17–19 November Addis Ababa, Ethiopia		Financed (except for Secretariat participation) and organized by AU-IAPSC, PAN-SPSO project				(8)	0
Asia	15–19 September Busan, Republic of Korea	Yes	Financed by Republic of Korea and organized by APPPC	18	0	30	11	24
Caribbean	22–25 September Kingston, Jamaica		Financed by IPPC Trust Fund under letter of agreement with IICA and organized by IICA	13	0	18	7	16
Central Asia and Eastern Europe	28–31 July Moscow, Russia	Yes	Financed by IPPC Trust Fund and organized by EPPO, FAO-REU and IPPC Secretariat	17	1	45	2	18
Latin America	27–31 October San José, Costa Rica		Financed and organized by IICA, OIRSA and COSAVE	17	0	25	8	21
Near East	27–30 October Cairo, Egypt	Yes	Financed by IPPC Trust Fund and NEPPO and organized by FAO-RNE	11	0	18	4	12
South-west Pacific	28–30 July Suva, Fiji	Yes	Financed by Australia and organized by PPPO	10	7	31	2	20
<b>Total</b>				<b>86</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>111</b>

AU-IAPSC, African Union Inter-African Phytosanitary Council; PAN-SPSO, Participation of African Nations in Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standard Setting Organizations; APPPC, Asia and Pacific Plant Protection Commission; IICA, Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture; EPPO, European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization; FAO-REU, FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia; OIRSA, Organismo Internacional Regional de Sanidad Agropecuaria; COSAVE, Comité de Sanidad Vegetal; NEPPO, Near East Plant Protection Organization; FAO-RNE, FAO Regional Office for the Near East and North Africa; PPPO, Pacific Plant Protection Organization.

# Dispute Settlement

In 2014, the IPPC began its first formal dispute settlement activity, between the European Union and South Africa on the subject of Citrus Black Spot (CBS) disease on exported citrus fruit. Following a facilitated bilateral discussion and several preparatory meetings in late 2012 and early 2013 between South Africa and the European Union, and the subsequent publication of a risk assessment prepared by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), South Africa still held the opinion that commercially produced citrus fruit does not pose a phytosanitary risk.



Consequently, in November 2014, South Africa requested the further engagement of the dispute resolution procedures of the IPPC.

At the present time, the two sides, along with the IPPC Secretariat and FAO legal staff, are engaged in discussions on the terms of reference and the constitution of the expert panel. Beyond looking to resolve the matter between these two important parties to the Convention, this effort has helped the Secretariat to identify shortcomings and needed improvements in the IPPC dispute settlement process, which are going to be addressed by the Subsidiary Body on Dispute Settlement in upcoming meetings.

Nevertheless, it is important to remember that the IPPC dispute settlement process emphasizes dispute avoidance and focuses specifically on technical differences, which ultimately should serve to improve cooperation on the technical level. While non-binding, it also minimizes trade and political influences and is less expensive, as well as shorter, than the WTO dispute settlement mechanism. In the event that no suitable resolution is achieved between the parties, it can nevertheless serve as a complement to the WTO dispute settlement mechanism at a technical level.

# National Reporting Obligations

## Update on the National Reporting Obligations Advisory Group

CPM-8 (2013) agreed to review the NRO programme under the guidance of the NROAG, which is composed of 11 representatives (from the regions and different IPPC statutory bodies) and the IPPC Secretariat.

The group met in July 2014 for the first time and provided advice on NRO-related issues. During the meeting members discussed possible causes of limited reporting. The group



concluded that, as a result of the complex nature of non-reporting, a series of actions would be needed to improve the situation.

A stepwise programme with immediate, short-, medium- and long-term goals was prepared to encourage reporting. Contracting parties will be actively prompted to report and annual awareness-raising campaigns will be launched. Various educational and guidance materials as well as e-learning modules will be prepared by the Secretariat. The IPPC website (the IPP) will be made more user-friendly by the Secretariat to remove technical obstacles to non-reporting. More details regarding the meeting can be found in the meeting report drafted by the Secretariat and commented on by the NROAG. The report is available on the IPP at <https://www.ippc.int/publications/report-first-meeting-nroag1-draft>.

The NROAG continues to work through e-mail to fulfil the terms of reference agreed by the Bureau.

## The IPPC Year of the Official Contact Point

During the first meeting of the NROAG, it was agreed that every year would be dedicated to a different NRO. As Official Contact Points (OCPs) are central to the functioning and well-being of the IPPC, it was unanimously agreed that 2014/15 would focus on awareness-raising among OCPs regarding their contact details, roles and responsibilities and increasing the activity of OCPs in general. Therefore, after discussion with the Bureau, the period up to CPM-10 in 2015 became the NRO “Year of the IPPC Official Contact Point”. This has been vigorously promoted at every opportunity.

## NRO Newsletter

Since October 2014, the IPPC Secretariat has been distributing *NROs Update*, a monthly newsletter on NROs. The English version is made available first and all other language versions are uploaded onto the IPPC website as they are translated. For further information, please visit: <https://www.ippc.int/core-activities/information-exchange/nro>.

Because this newsletter is intended for contracting parties, we would greatly appreciate hearing from you about how we can improve the content and messages. Please send all suggestions and comments by e-mail to the IPPC Secretariat at [ippc@fao.org](mailto:ippc@fao.org).

The initial series of six newsletters was designed by the Secretariat to be published from October 2014 to March 2015, focusing on the objectives and functioning of OCPs. In 2014, three issues were published via the website and made available in five languages. So far, the following topics have been covered:

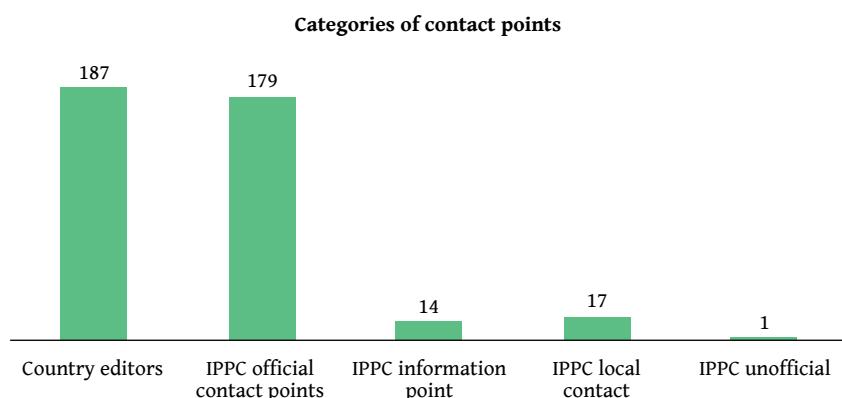
- how to nominate a new OCP
- advantages of keeping the OCP's contact details up to date
- possible consequences of not keeping the OCP's contact details up to date
- good practices for nominating a new OCP
- the role of the IPP editor
- good practices for establishing national NRO networks
- editing of national data on the IPP.

## Status of IPPC Contact Points

By the end of December 2014, some 181 IPPC contracting parties have had 179 OCPs nominated. South Sudan successfully nominated its OCP in September 2014. New nominations from Bahamas (unofficial contact point at the moment) and Kazakhstan were awaited by the Secretariat – it is hoped that these will be received soon.

The IPPC Year of the OCP has meant that a large effort has been made to update the OCPs by the Secretariat, with the help of some Bureau members and FAO decentralized staff. There have been many changes in both OCPs and OCP contact details. This is an ongoing process and changes are being made frequently – please check the IPP for the latest information and do not rely on previous printouts and downloads of contact point information.

To the end of 2014, some 187 IPP editors appointed by the OCPs possessed editing rights to their national information on the IPP. At the same time, 14 information points (for non-contracting parties) and 17 local contacts (for dependent territories of contracting parties) were available via the IPP.



## The Benefits of Reporting and Possible Consequences of Not Reporting

Following the meeting of the NROAG, the IPPC Secretariat developed two hand-outs to make CPs more aware of the benefits of meeting reporting obligations and the possible consequences of not meeting reporting obligations. A frequent reason given for CPs not meeting NROs is that they do not understand the possible benefits of reporting, nor the possible consequences of not reporting. The Secretariat is now sharing this information widely (<https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/information-exchange/nro/>) and is encouraging NPPOs to share this information with decision-makers in their governments.

## The Option of Pest Reporting Through RPPOs

The Secretariat and European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (EPPO) continue to develop a pest-reporting system that will allow contact points to report through RPPOs if they so wish. Now that we are rolling out this

reporting option, all contracting parties who wish to make use of it must complete a form authorizing a specific RPPO to undertake pest reports on their behalf, sign and return it to the Secretariat. Once pest reporting through RPPO(s) is completely functional and well supported, the NROAG will consider expansion of this programme to other NROs.

The form can be downloaded from the IPPC: <https://www.ippc.int/publications/national-pest-reporting-through-regional-plant-protection-organizations>.

## The IPPC and CABI-Plantwise

CAB International (CABI) is developing the Plantwise initiative in many countries around the world and the effort is being received enthusiastically. Plantwise is essentially a diagnostic service that is based on trained plant doctors at clinics. It generates substantial information of use primarily to extension and research services, and – more importantly – for NPPOs. The Plantwise programme is well funded and resourced and is going through a healthy expansion phase.

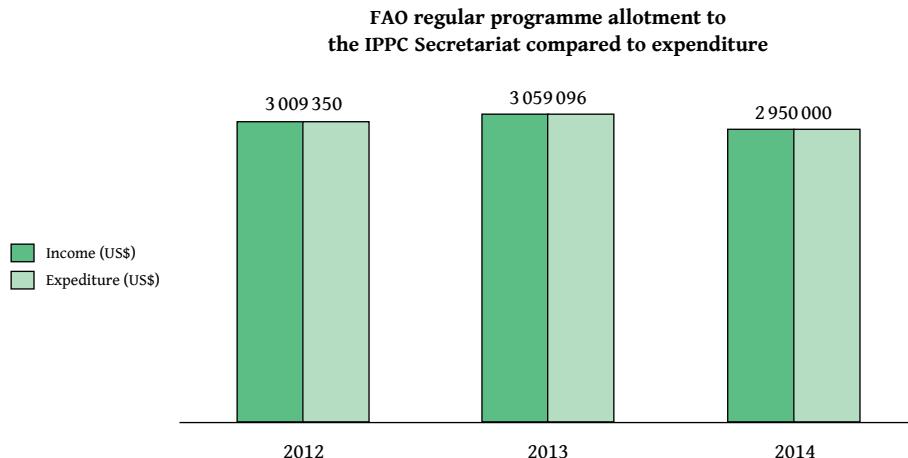
In some countries there are also good examples of NPPOs engaged and sometimes leading this initiative. However, the IPPC Secretariat realized early on that NPPO engagement was often lacking or minimal, and saw this as a potential risk to the objectives of the IPPC: Plantwise clinics were generating pest information that could have major impact on the work of the NPPO, but NPPOs were not always involved in the process. As a result, the Secretariat has engaged in the Plantwise process with the following objectives:

- Creating awareness among CAB International and CABI-Plantwise staff, and national extension and research services (including some in academia), about the IPPC and the central role NPPOs play in any national surveillance, diagnostic and reporting system.
- Engaging with stakeholders to ensure they understand one another's roles and responsibilities.
- Engaging with stakeholders to ensure the necessary national functional and sustainable surveillance and verification networks are established to deal with the data generated by Plantwise in a responsible and effective manner.
- Ensuring NPPOs are able to meet their legal IPPC-reporting obligations and responsibilities while utilizing Plantwise data as and when appropriate.

In 2014, the Secretariat took part in two regional workshops and intends to continue this engagement as and when resources allow. To date, CABI-Plantwise has generously supported the travel expenses of the Secretariat to these workshops.

# IPPC Financial Snapshot

## FAO Regular Programme



### Income

In 2014, FAO regular programme allotment to the IPPC amounted to US\$ 2 950 000, compared to \$3 059 096 in 2013 and \$3 009 350 in 2012. This represents a decrease of 3.6% for 2013–2014. As in previous years, the IPPC Secretariat's financial priority was to fully spend regular programme funds and execute all budgeted activities.

### Trust Funds

#### Special Trust Fund of the IPPC (Multi-donor) contributions (in US\$)

Contribution	2012	2013	2014
Australia			139 695
Japan		28 500	28 500
New Zealand	30 000	80 000	
Republic of Korea	100 000	100 000	100 000
United States of America		175 000	
Canada			337 255
Netherlands		50 000	
Sweden		70 000	
Other	3 143	936	2 751
<b>Total</b>	<b>133 143</b>	<b>384 436</b>	<b>728 201</b>

In 2014, contributions to the Special Trust Fund of the IPPC (Multi-donor) amounted to \$728 201, the highest annual contribution amount since the trust fund was established in 2003. However, as the work programme of the IPPC Secretariat has increased, the trust fund may not be able to support the expectations of CPM if not replenished at a higher rate.

The IPPC Secretariat appreciates the generous contributions from contracting parties, which allow the Secretariat to expand its capacity and deliver better services. Contracting parties are invited to continue to contribute to the Special Trust Fund of the IPPC (Multi-donor) and other trust funds in the light of the increased Secretariat work programme.

#### **Other trust funds administered by the IPPC Secretariat**

<b>Secretariat trust funds (short description/project symbol)</b>	<b>Donor</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Start date</b>	<b>End date</b>	<b>Total budget (US\$)</b>
<b>European Union trust funds</b>					
Participation TF (311/EC) (2011–2014)	EU	Closed	2011-01-01	2014-06-30	1 204 819
Participation TF (311/EC) (2014–2017)	EU	Active	2014-07-01	2017-06-30	819 282
IRSS TF (Part A) (311/EC) (2011–2012)	EU	Closed	2011-01-01	2012-03-31	534 614
IRSS TF (Part B) (391/EC) (2012–2014)	EU	Closed	2012-04-01	2014-03-31	1 088 436
IRSS TF (Part C) (391/EC) (2014–2017)	EU	Active	2014-04-01	2017-03-31	794 702
<b>Umbrella Programme for Capacity Development</b>					
Global phytosanitary manuals (368/STF)	STDF	Active	2012-02-01	2015-07-31	672 329
Strengthening biosecurity (165/UK)	UK	Active	2014-04-01	2015-03-31	269 697
Training of PCE facilitators (527/STF)	STDF	Active	2014-04-01	2016-09-30	734 078
Cooperation for phytosanitary capacity development (419/JPN)	Japan	Active	2012-08-01	2015-04-30	425 262
Strengthening Gambia NPP (030/STF)	STDF	Active	2013-03-15	2014-03-31	56 020
SWI-IRSS (551/SWI)	SWI	Active	2014-07-01	2016-06-30	339 750
<b>Other trust funds</b>					
SWI-standard setting TF (368/SWI)	SWI	Active	2012-10-05	2015-06-30	315 425
USA support to IPPC (555/USA)	USA	Active	2014-07-01	2014-09-30	80 000
PCE tool translation (368/UK)	UK	Closed	2013-03-01	2013-09-30	98 590
APO USA (017/USA)	USA	Closed	2011-10-31	2012-10-30	123 752
<b>Total</b>					<b>7 556 756</b>

# Abbreviations and Definitions

<b>APPPC</b>	Asia and Pacific Plant Protection Commission
<b>AU-IAPSC</b>	African Union Inter-African Phytosanitary Council
<b>CABI</b>	CAB International
<b>CBD</b>	Convention on Biological Diversity
<b>CBS</b>	Citrus Black Spot
<b>CDC</b>	Capacity Development Committee
<b>COSAVE</b>	Comité de Sanidad Vegetal
<b>CP</b>	Contact point
<b>CP</b>	Contracting party
<b>CPM</b>	Commission on Phytosanitary Measures
<b>DP</b>	Diagnostic Protocol
<b>EFSA</b>	European Food Safety Authority
<b>ePhyto</b>	Electronic Phytosanitary Certification
<b>EPPO</b>	European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>EWG</b>	Expert Working Group
<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
<b>FAO-REU</b>	FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia
<b>FAO-RNE</b>	FAO Regional Office for the Near East and North Africa
<b>GEF</b>	Global Environment Facility
<b>IAEA</b>	International Atomic Energy Agency
<b>IICA</b>	Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture
<b>IPP</b>	International Phytosanitary Portal (the <a href="http://www.ippc.int">www.ippc.int</a> website)
<b>IPPC</b>	International Plant Protection Convention
<b>IRSS</b>	Implementation Review and Support System
<b>ISPM</b>	International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures
<b>NEPPO</b>	Near East Plant Protection Organization
<b>NPPO</b>	National plant protection organization
<b>NRO</b>	National reporting obligation
<b>NROAG</b>	National Reporting Obligations Advisory Group
<b>OCP</b>	Official Contact Point
<b>OCS</b>	Online Comment System
<b>OEWG</b>	Open-ended working group
<b>OIE</b>	World Organization for animal health
<b>OIRSA</b>	Organismo Internacional Regional de Sanidad Agropecuaria
<b>PAN-SPSO</b>	Participation of African Nations in Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standard Setting Organizations
<b>PCE</b>	Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation
<b>PPPO</b>	Pacific Plant Protection Organization
<b>PRA</b>	Pest risk analysis – the process of evaluating scientific and economic evidence to determine whether a pest should be regulated and the strength of any phytosanitary measures to be taken against it
<b>RPPO</b>	Regional plant protection organization
<b>SC</b>	Standards Committee
<b>SC-7</b>	Standards Committee Working Group of 7
<b>SFG</b>	Standards Framework Group
<b>SPG</b>	Strategic Planning Group
<b>SPS</b>	Sanitary and Phytosanitary
<b>STDF</b>	Standards and Trade Development Facility (WTO)
<b>SWOT</b>	Strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats
<b>TF</b>	Trust fund
<b>TPDP</b>	Technical Panel on Diagnostic Protocols
<b>TPPT</b>	Technical Panel on Phytosanitary Treatment
<b>USDA-APHIS</b>	United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
<b>WTO</b>	World Trade Organization



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Cover image: *Basket of Fruit* by Michelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio (~1599)



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