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1. The International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), established in 1952, is an international plant health agreement with 182 contracting parties. The IPPC aims to protect cultivated and wild plants by preventing the introduction and spread of pests. The IPPC, together with CODEX and OIE, are collectively called the “Three Sisters”. The three organizations are recognized as the only standard setting bodies for Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) matters by the World Trade Organization (WTO), with the IPPC solely responsible for establishing International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs). The main mission of the IPPC is to protect farmers from economically devastating pest and disease outbreaks, to protect the environment from the loss of species diversity, to protect ecosystems from the loss of viability and function as a result of pest invasions, and to protect industries and consumers from the costs of pest control or eradication.

I. Historical Development

2. The historical development of the IPPC can be roughly divided into 4 stages:

The first developmental stage (1881–1951): This stage began with the agreement by twelve countries to regulatory measures for grapevines under the Phylloxera Convention of Berne in 1881, and ended with the first IPP Convention was adopted at the Sixth Session of FAO Conference in 1951.

The second developmental stage (1952 – 1979): This stage started with the first IPP Convention coming into force in 1952, and terminated with the final amendments of the IPPC adopted by FAO in 1979, which came into force in 1991.

The third developmental stage (1980 – 1997): This stage was marked with the prominent position for the IPPC in the WTO-SPS Agreement in 1986, the establishment of the IPPC Secretariat in 1992, the creation of the Committee of Experts on Phytosanitary Measures (CEPM) in 1993, and the New Revised Text of the IPPC approved at the 29th Session of FAO Conference in 1997 which came into force in 2005.

The fourth developmental stage (1998 – present): This stage possesses several milestone events, such as the steady development of core IPPC standards, establishment of key subsidiary bodies, including the Informal Working Group on Strategic Planning and Technical Assistance (SPTA) in 1999, the Standards Committee (SC) in 2001, various standing technical panels, the Subsidiary Body on Dispute Settlement (SBDS) in 2003, the First Session of the CPM in 2006, and the Capacity Development Committee (CDC) in 2012.

II. Major Achievements.

3. Since the formal establishment of the IPPC in 1952, and in particular following the establishment of the Secretariat in 1992, a number of great achievements have been made for the IPPC in the following 5 aspects:

Governance and strategies: A fairly complete system for the IPPC Governing Bodies has been established, including the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM), CPM Bureau, Strategic Planning Group, SC, CDC and SBDS, and the relevant operational mechanisms for the IPPC Governing Bodies have been standardized and integrated in the Procedure Manual for IPPC 2011.

Standard settings: So far, 36 International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs) have been established as well as 19 phytosanitary treatments and 9 diagnostic protocols have been adopted, respectively. A new on-line comment system was developed and adopted, creating new opportunities for enhancing NPPO and RPPO participation in the standard setting process.

Implementation facilitation: The development and active use of Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE) tool to assess plant protection services and support NPPOs training and capacity development needs, the global project STDF 350 has been completed, resulting in the development of numerous technical resources available for contracting parties; the Implementation Review and Support System (IRSS) project has conducted 6 regional workshops on surveillance; and the focus of dispute settlement has been shifted to dispute avoidance.

Communication and partnership: A National Reporting Obligations (NROs) bulletin is being issued monthly; the IPPC websites and tools are continuously being improved; a variety of activities have been carried out for releasing Website news, publishing brochures and organizing the IPPC Seminar; and a close partnership has been established with EC, WTO-SPS, WTO-STDF, BLG, with over 45% of IPPC financial resources coming from extra-budgetary funds.

New technologies and tools: A number of new technologies and tools have been identified and applied for monitoring and surveillance (i.e. information technologies, GIS, simulation modelling, sex-pheromones and light traps), for diagnostics and risk assessment (i.e. modern biotechnologies and biochemistry), and for the trade facilitation (i.e. e-Phyto).

III. Great Challenges.

4. With increasing globalization and free trade, the IPPC is faced with great challenges for its development in the following 5 areas.

UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): The SDGs seek to build on the Millennium Development Goals and complete what these did not achieve. They seek to realize the human rights of all and to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. They are integrated and

indivisible and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development: the economic, social and environmental. There are 17 UN SDGs towards 2030 with 169 targets. The IPPC work is indisputably linked with 6 SDGs: 2, 8, 12, 13, 15 and 17.

FAO Strategic Objectives: To meet the demands posed by major global trends in agricultural development and challenges faced by member nations, FAO has identified key priorities on which it is best placed to intervene. A comprehensive review of the Organization's comparative advantages was undertaken which enabled strategic objectives to be set, representing the main areas of work on which FAO will concentrate its efforts in striving to achieve its vision and global goals. There are five Strategic Objectives (SOs) for FAO, where the IPPC contribute directly to SO2 "Make agriculture, forestry and fisheries more productive and sustainable" (20%) and SO4 "Enable inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems" (80%).

IPPC's Strategic Goals (2012-2019): There are 4 IPPC Strategic Goals (2012-2019), including promotion of sustainable agriculture and global food security, facilitation of trade development, protection of the environment, and increase in phytosanitary capacity to accomplish the above-mentioned three goals. These link with and help enable the achievement of global initiatives including those of the United Nations and its Food and Agriculture Organization.

Increasing Demands from CPs: There is increasing demand from Contracting Parties (CPs) to respond to and manage plant pest threats while harmonizing phytosanitary import requirements. And CPs request more involvement of IPPC issues with global and national priorities and more ISPMs for trade facilitation. In addition, effective implementation of the IPPC and its objectives to prevent global pest spread depend largely on the capacity of all NPPOs to conduct surveillance, inspect, and carry out other basic plant protection and certification functions.

Implementing the changes recommended from the recent Enhancement Evaluation: During the CPM-9 in 2014, the IPPC Contracting Parties agreed launching an evaluation of the IPPC Secretariat. The key message from the Evaluation was to streamline the IPPC Secretariat and CPM structures and functions to improve organizational efficiencies and effectiveness.

IV. Way towards 2020

5. The strategic plan for the IPPC towards 2020 was intensively discussed at the SPG meeting in October 2015. A key strategy has been agreed upon, with one general goal, three core actions and five main themes:

One general goal: The general goal for the IPPC towards 2020 is to increase the overall capacity of the contracting parties and the IPPC Secretariat to implement the International Plant Protection Convention.

Three core actions: There are 3 core actions for the IPPC towards 2020, the Standard Setting (SS), the Implementation Facilitation (IF), and Communication and Partnership (CP).

Five main themes: There are themes set for the IPPC towards 2020 each year with a specified theme, such as "Plant Health and Food Security" for 2016, "Plant Health and Trade Facilitation" for 2017, "Plant Health and Environmental Protection" for 2018, "Plant Health and Capacity Development" for 2019, and "International Year of Plant Health (IYPH)" in 2020. These themes provide a focus for communications on the importance of the IPPC to achieving global enhancement of food security, trade, environment protection and capacity in plant protection.

V. Beyond 2020

6. Planning has begun on the 2020–2030 strategic frameworks, which will build on the IYPH and take the IPPC and its contracting parties on pathway to greater influence and impact to prevent the

global spread of plant pests. An additional and specific focus of the next strategic framework will be related to 6 SDGs as protecting the health of plants requires attention to the issues of agriculture sustainability, full and productive employment, the effects of climate change on the environment, protection of biodiversity, and the facilitation of safe trade among others. The IPPC should strive to achieve these goals through the development of standards to facilitate trade, protect agriculture and the environment as well as develop the capacity of our contracting parties to implement those standards. The IPPC is committed to reaching these goals and will make strategic planning for the IPPC towards 2030.