Commission on Phytosanitary Measures

Eleventh Session

Rome, 4-8 April 2016

Partnerships and Liaison

Agenda item 11.2

English only

# Activities in 2015

## Internal Partnerships.

1. The Secretariat focused on liaisons with FAO offices for better internal coordination, such as with Food Safety Unit (AGDF), Plant Protection Unit (AGP), Trade and Markets Division (EST), Office for Corporate Communication (OCC), Investment Centre Division (TCI) and Emergency Prevention Systems (EMPRES). In particular, linkages were established with FAO Soils group for preparing a paper on “Soils and Relationship to Plant Health”. The Secretariat underscored the partnerships with regional plant protection organizations (RPPOs), and considered the annual Technical Consultation (TC) among RPPOs as the top priority for development of partnership with RPPOs. The preparations for 27th TC-RPPOs to be held in USA this November were initiated. The Secretariat strengthened the partnerships with National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs) through organizing annual IPPC Regional Workshop. This year, seven IPPC Regional Workshops were planned, and each team leader was responsible for running one specific Regional Workshop. The early workshop agreements were finalized in terms of dates, venues and attendance, and internal training was provided to the IPPC Secretariat staff involved.

## External Partnerships and Liaison.

1. The Secretariat has developed partnerships with a large number of organizations and institutions to help increase external cooperation. In 2015, the Secretariat liaised with several international or regional organizations, in some cases forging new relationships. As part of an effort to ensure less duplication of effort, as well as to create greater awareness of the IPPC globally, the Secretariat intends to continue a focus on strengthening relationships where they already exist and establish relationships with those organizations with which the IPPC has common ideals. The following is a brief summary of some of the IPPC Secretariat’s partnership and liaison activities.

## Partnerships

**Codex Alimentarius Commission (Codex)**

1. The IPPC Secretariat has a long-standing collaboration with the Codex Secretariat, as a result of this, the purchase and support for the development of the new Online Comment System (OCS)from PleaseTech was fully funded by Codex. The IPPC Secretariat is grateful for this support, and notes that this collaboration provides for enhanced synergies and efficient use of resources within FAO.
2. The IPPC and Codex have also worked together in outlining requirements for a document management tool based on an XML scheme developed by the University of Bologna, Italy. The outcome of this collaboration resulted in a prototype that will be further analysed by FAO.
3. The working group on the Concept of commodity standards held in Edinburgh in July 2015 was attended by a representative from the Codex Secretariat. Additionally, the IPPC Secretariat liaised with the Codex Secretariat on a number of issues, such as input for the adjustment to the Standard setting procedure.

**Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)**

* ***Global Taxonomy Initiative (GTI)***
1. The IPPC Secretariat, liaises with the Global Taxonomy Initiative (GTI) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) to establish stronger links. A representative of the Technical Panel on Diagnostic Protocols (TPDP) and the GTI discussed the mutual interest expressed by IPPC and GTI in DNA barcoding, especially on the matter of validation and verification of data. Experts contributing to the GTI through the Expertise Centre for Taxonomic Identification (ETI) were invited to provide comments on the IPPC draft Diagnostic Protocols (DPs) during the expert consultation period.
2. In addition to a letter from the IPPC Secretariat to the CBD Secretariat on the Sea Containers recommendation, the Secretariat also actively participated in the tenth meeting of the [Biodiversity Liaison Group](https://www.cbd.int/blg/) made up of the seven sustainable development agreements (SDAs) This organization, managed by the CBD Secretariat, heard reports from the IPPC on developments related to activities related to the [International Year of Plant Health proposal](https://www.ippc.int/en/iyph/), as well as ePhyto efforts (to include additional cooperation between CITES and IPPC on similar systems). Finally, the IPPC Secretariat is actively engaged in updating the work program between the two conventions. .
* ***International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)***
1. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), through its Joint FAO/IAEA Division of Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture, has actively supported the IPPC Secretariat for the last 12 years to develop and review ISPMs. During the past year, the Joint FAO/IAEA Division has specifically contributed to the development of the following:
2. Draft ISPM on *Determination of host status of fruit to fruit flies* (Tephritidae)
3. Reorganization of the suite of fruit fly standards
4. Since 2007, the Joint FAO/IAEA Division has organized and funded meetings of the IPPC Technical Panel on Pest Free Areas and Systems Approaches for Fruit Flies (TPFF), including a meeting held in Vienna in October 2015. They continue to support the work of the IPPC Secretariat through a part-time in-kind contribution and have offered to host the meeting of the TPPT in 2017 and to provide staff travel resources.

# Cooperation and Liaison

**CAB International**

1. The IPPC continued to enhance the relationship with CAB International in 2015. In particular, Mr. Xia took the opportunity to meet briefly with CABI Plantwise officials in Geneva on the margins of the WTO SPS Committee meeting. This brief meeting was followed by a meeting with a delegation of senior officials from CAB International led by CABI CEO Trevor Nicholls in October 2015. During the meeting the two parties drafted a letter of intent with some specific goals for the future which, once reviewed and finalized, should lay the foundation for a future programme of work aimed at enhancing awareness of both organizations and the importance of plant health and protection.

**International Maritime Organization, the Container Owners Association and the World Shipping Council**

1. The SSU liaised with the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the Containers Owners Association (COA) and the World Shipping Council (WSC) to ensure they are continuously involved in the activities related to the draft standard on Minimizing pest movement by sea containers (2008-001) and in the CPM-11 (2016) special topics session on sea containers. In order to help minimize pest movement by sea containers, it is particularly important to raise awareness amongst IMO members and the shipping industry about the risks arising from the international movement of sea containers and the benefit of ensuring that sea containers are clean.

**Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)**

1. One of the IPPC Regional Workshops was held 29 September – 1 October 2015, in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. This workshop was organized in collaboration with the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA). Contracting parties from the Caribbean Region were invited to attend and 16 participants from 12 countries attended the workshop.

**International Organization for Biological Control**

1. In response to a request from some Contracting Parties, the Secretariat invited a representative from the International Organization for Biological Control to attend CPM-11 (2016). The invitation was issued and a response was received in the affirmative.

**ISO**

1. The SSU cooperates with the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) through the working group (WG4) that is drafting the ISO standard called ISO/TC 34/SC 16/ 13484: Molecular Biomarker Analysis: General requirements for molecular biology analysis for detection and identification of plant pests. The IPPC Secretariat has an observer status in this group and is helping ensure this ISO standard is compatible with IPPC standards. The draft ISO standard is foreseen to be presented to ISO member countries by 2017. Interested stakeholders may wish to follow the development of this ISO standard and submit comments through their national ISO contact point once the ISO commenting period opens. It is important to note that CPM-8 (2013) agreed that ISO standards are not mandatory for implementation of ISPMs and that in the phytosanitary area ISPMs take precedence over ISO standards.

**Phytosanitary Measures Research Group (PMRG)**

1. The Phytosanitary Measures Research group (PMRG), previously named Phytosanitary Temperature Treatment Expert Group (PTTEG), was formed as a result of an Expert Consultation on Cold Treatments (ECCT) which was organized by the SSU in 2013. The PMRG is an independent group of phytosanitary treatment researchers who have created a forum where critical phytosanitary treatment issues can be addressed through discussion and collaborative research.
2. The representatives from the SSU, and two IPPC Secretariat sponsored researchers from developing countries, attended the first meeting of the PMRG held in Nelspruit, South Africa, in August 2015. There were 21 participants from 13 countries. The group revised their terms of reference and agreed that the main functions of the PMRG, among others, were to serve as a forum for discussion and provide scientific analysis and review of global phytosanitary treatment issues and new information. The group discussed terminology, existing cold treatments (CTs) schedules, cultivar/varietal effects on treatment efficacy, “high”-temperature CTs, possibility of a CT database, treatments research guidelines, possibility of “generic” CT and new issues. A work plan was developed and participants agreed to present their work to the next PMRG meeting, tentatively scheduled for August 2017 in Wageningen, The Netherlands.
3. The Technical Panel on Phytosanitary Treatments (TPPT) liaises with the PMRG to help resolve technical issues, facilitate the sharing of data among treatment submitters and to help collaborate research, which is needed to support phytosanitary treatments.

**Sanitary and Phytosanitary Agreement of the World Trade Organization**

1. Special attention was paid to strengthen the cooperation of the IPPC Secretariat with the SPS Secretariat. In a July meeting, the Secretary and the Coordinator had the opportunity to meet with senior representatives of the WTO SPS Secretariat for a discussion on a number of topics. Both Secretariats agreed that the relationship between the two should be renewed and reinvigorated with a specific goal of enhanced cooperation. There were also discussions later in the year regarding the relationship of the IPPC to the STDF Secretariat during which all present agreed that with a new IPPC Secretary and the results of the enhancement evaluation, the relationship would be improving.

**World Customs Organization (WCO)**

1. Initial efforts were made to increase cooperation between the IPPC Secretariat and the World Customs Organization. While some progress was made,

**Others**

1. According to the Terms of Reference agreed by CPM-10 (2015), several experts from the industry (from the grain industry, the International Seed Federation and the European Federation of Wooden Pallet and Packaging Manufacturers) were selected by the CPM Bureau and invited to the meeting of the Working Group on the Concept of a commodity standard (Edinburgh, United Kingdom, July 2015). These experts provided valuable input to the meeting.