



***REPORT***

**Rome, Italy  
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# **Mid-year Report 2016 IPPC Secretariat**



**Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations**

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## THE MID-YEAR REPORT OF THE IPPC SECRETARIAT FOR 2016

(July, 2016)

[1] The year 2016 is the first year for the IPPC to move towards the next five years (2016-2020), with the implementation of the IPPC Theme “Plant Health and Food Security for 2016”. The year 2016 is a milestone for the IPPC Secretariat to implement the action plan of the Enhancement Evaluation. With full support from the IPPC Governing bodies and FAO Senior management, Mr Jingyuan Xia, IPPC Secretary, continues to change the *modus operandi* of the IPPC Secretariat. Key tasks continue to be more focused and operational mechanisms are optimized on an ongoing basis, while an increasing emphasis is being placed on the standardization of operational procedures and processes. The renewal of the IPPC Secretariat continues to build on the good foundations established in 2015, with a focus on moving towards “One IPPC”. In the first semester of 2016, a number of achievements were attained under the five categories listed below.

### 1. GOVERNANCE AND STRATEGY

#### 1.1 Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM)

[2] The Eleventh Session of the CPM (CPM-11) took place from 4-8 April at FAO-HQ in Rome, Italy, and resulted in a number of significant outcomes including:

- (1) adoption of nine standards and a revised Standard setting procedure to help ensure inclusiveness and transparency in setting standards
- (2) adoption of the Framework for Standards and Implementation so as to support the cooperative work on setting and implementing standards
- (3) approval of a pilot implementation project on surveillance
- (4) adoption of the Terms of Reference to form a focus group for establishing a new IPPC subsidiary body on implementation
- (5) discussion of the Enhancement Evaluation of the IPPC Secretariat
- (6) endorsement for the development of an ePhyto hub system
- (7) adoption of and support for five IPPC themes (“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
- (8) agreement on the way forward regarding the concept of a commodity standard
- (9) adoption of NRO Procedures
- (10) agreement on the IPPC Communication and Advocacy Work Plan
- (11) organization of a special topics session on sea containers webcasted to the world and agreement on the way forward for this topic
- (12) organization of a set of highly appreciated side activities such as a pre-CPM training on ISPM 32 (*Categorization of commodities according to their pest risk*), seven side-sessions, and the second IPPC photo contest.

#### 1.2 CPM Bureau and IPPC Financial Committee (FC)

[3] The CPM Bureau met twice, in March-April in Rome, Italy, and in June in Beijing, China. The Bureau meeting in March-April mainly discussed the preparation and agenda for CPM-11. The Bureau meeting in June discussed sustainable funding strategies for the IPPC work programme. A key outcome of the

meeting was that the Bureau believed that immediate actions for resource mobilization needed to be taken to secure funds for 2016. It also thought that it was essential to fund staff from those resources and to limit the earmarking of contributions to the IPPC Multi-donor trust fund (MDTF). In addition, as this was the first Bureau meeting to take place outside Rome, the Bureau and the IPPC Secretariat took the opportunity to meet with senior officials of the Chinese Ministry of Agriculture, the General Administration of the Quality, Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine, the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences, and the Chinese National Agricultural University.

- [4] The FC met twice, in March in Rome, Italy, and in June in Beijing, China. The FC meeting in March discussed mainly the 2015 financial report of the IPPC Secretariat and the financial management of the IPPC Secretariat. The FC meeting in June focused on moving from raising awareness of the weak financial position of the IPPC MTF to concrete steps to deal with the financial situation for both the short and longer term.

### 1.3 Standards Committee (SC)

- [5] The SC and the SC working group (SC-7) met in May in Rome, Italy. The SC is responsible for overseeing about 100 topics, including five technical panels, regular standards (International Standards on Phytosanitary Measures, ISPMs), diagnostic protocols (DPs), phytosanitary treatments (PTs), and Glossary terms). Of these, 18 draft ISPMs progressed significantly in the first semester of 2016. The SC, in their face-to-face meeting, discussed in detail six draft ISPMs, of which four were approved for consultation (1 July-30 November). The SC-7 discussed in detail four draft ISPMs, of which three were approved for the second consultation (1 July-30 November). Through 15 e-decisions held in the first semester of 2016, the SC approved five DPs for consultation and five DPs for the DP notification period, adopted on behalf of the CPM a technical revision to an adopted DP, reviewed the Annotated Glossary (Explanatory document for ISPM 5), and selected experts for the Technical Panel on Forest Quarantine.

### 1.4 Capacity Development Committee (CDC)

- [6] The CDC remained active through the first half of 2016 and reviewed 12 technical resources for posting on the phytosanitary resources page. After its 7<sup>th</sup> meeting (December 2015), the CDC proposed draft Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedures for a new oversight body to CPM-11. CPM-11 welcomed the proposal but decided to convene a focus group to discuss the issue further. The CDC met in May 2016 in Incheon, Republic of Korea, where it discussed the entire IPPC capacity development programme as well as the establishment of the new implementation subsidiary body. CDC also provided input to the Framework for Standards and Implementation as requested by CPM-11.

### 1.5 Subsidiary Body on Dispute Settlement (SBDS)

- [7] The SBDS was reconstituted at CPM-11 with Mr Luis Benavides (Panama) being elected as the Chairperson. The SBDS continues to work virtually and is currently finalizing dispute avoidance advocacy material. The future of the SBDS is being discussed in terms of possible inclusion in the new IPPC subsidiary body on implementation.

## 2. STANDARD SETTING

### 2.1 Identification and Prioritization of Topics

- [8] The List of topics for IPPC standards posted on the IPP in six languages was updated twice (January and June). Three new topics were added to the *List of topics for IPPC standards* by CPM-11 and assigned with priorities.

### 2.2 Drafting and Expert Input

- [9] The Standard Setting Team (SST) prepared meeting documents, organized, facilitated and finalized outcomes from one face-to-face meeting of the Technical Panel on Forest Quarantine (TPFQ). During this meeting, held in June, in Victoria, Canada, the TPFQ discussed the issue of forest tree seeds and the proposed annex to ISPM 15 (*Guidelines for regulating wood packaging material in international trade*) on *Criteria for treatments for wood packaging material in international trade*. The SST held three

virtual meetings of the TPFQ, the Technical Panel on Diagnostic Protocols (TPDP) and Technical Panel on Phytosanitary Treatments (TPPT). The standard setting pages on the IPP (over 65) were continuously updated to ensure all relevant information was publically available and accurate, and to satisfy the transparency requirements of the standard setting process. The PDF searchable database was also updated. The SST initiated an analysis of data on the participation in IPPC meetings to understand trends in participation per region and per category of countries (i.e. least developed countries, developing countries and developed countries) and to help identify possible actions, which could lead to an enhanced participation.

### 2.3 Consultation

- [10] The SST organized two consultation periods on draft standards, one held from 1 February to 30 June, and the second from 1 July to 30 September. The SST also organized two DP notification periods and one DP expert consultation. Consultation comments received during the consultations were compiled and posted on the IPP (except for the expert consultation on draft DPs). In addition, the SST continued to implement the use of Adobe Connect a total of three virtual meetings. Twenty-five e-decisions were held, and three online meeting evaluations were completed.

### 2.4 Adoption

- [11] Four ISPMs were presented for adoption to CPM-11 and all were adopted; the revised version of ISPM 5 (*Glossary of phytosanitary terms*), ISPM 37 on *Determination of host status of fruit to fruit fly (Tephritidae)*, and two annexes to ISPM 28 (PTs). In addition, the CPM noted the adoption of five annexes to ISPM 27 (DPs) by the SC on behalf of the CPM. This exceeded the planned outcomes indicated in FAO's Strategic Objective 4. One CPM Recommendation on the importance of pest diagnosis was also adopted. Most publications were posted on the IPP in the six FAO languages. All ISPMs submitted to CPM-11 via the Language Review Group (LRG) process were noted, and all ISPMs adopted at CPM-11 were submitted to the LRG process, with the adjusted ISPMs in Arabic, Chinese, French, and Spanish, to be presented to CPM-12 (2017). Ink amendments to the currently adopted PTs were also noted by CPM-11. These ink amendments were translated into all languages and incorporated into the English, French and Spanish versions, and posted.

### 2.5 Online Comment System (OCS)

- [12] Migration of the OCS to a new platform was successfully carried out in collaboration with the Codex Alimentarius Secretariat to enhance the efficiency, transparency and inclusiveness of the Standard setting process. The new system was used for the consultation starting on 1 July and closing on 30 September. An unprecedented total of 11 draft ISPMs were submitted for simultaneous consultations. The SST has maintained the old OCS for the first semester of 2016 and ran one consultation on two draft DPs (1 February-30 June), receiving 182 comments from 14 contracting parties. Support for the maintenance of the old OCS was provided through bug fixing and migration of data to a new Linux based server. The IPPC OCS user manual was updated, training videos were developed, several trainings were organized (e.g. during CPM-11 and the May SC meetings), and over 300 user requests for training and support were addressed.

## 3. IMPLEMENTATION FACILITATION

### 3.1 Capacity Development (CD)

- [13] The Implementation Facilitation Team (IFT) organized two small focus groups, one on the establishment of the new implementation body and the other on a surveillance pilot project covering three potential pests. A major workshop on *Xylella fastidiosa* was organized with support from FAO, Centre International de Hautes Etudes Agronomiques Méditerranéennes (CIHEAM-Bari), the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (EPPO) and the Near East Plant Protection Organization (NEPPO). The workshop highlighted the latest efforts to control the pest in Italy and covered topics including diagnostics, surveillance, management, legislation, pest risk analysis and others. Six projects were completed, ten are active and two are in final approval stages, with the national, regional and global coverage. The Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) project 401 to

develop a cadre of Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE) facilitators has been extended to 2017, where several preparatory training of trainers sessions should be conducted. The first PCE facilitators training took place at the end of June. The products, manuals and other technical resources from this project, as well as from its predecessor STDF project 350, are considered the building blocks of a long-term capacity development strategy for the IPPC.

### **3.2 Implementation Review Support System (IRSS)**

- [14] The IRSS integrates work activities across the work programme of the IPPC Secretariat focusing on challenges and opportunities of contracting parties' implementation of the Convention and ISPMs. Case studies and technical papers on emerging issues related to thematic areas were developed. A study on "diversion of intended use", commissioned by the CPM Bureau, was finalized and distributed at CPM-11. An evaluation of biosecurity approaches being applied in various countries was in its final stages. These will contribute to the International Year of Plant Health (IYPH) and the proposed IPPC flagship publication on the State of Plant Health in the World. IRSS, in close collaboration with the FAO foresight group, are involved in an initiative to develop methods for identifying issues, their impacts and ways to mitigate associated pest risks. Information on current and emerging pest risks will be collected from contracting parties during the 2016 IPPC Regional Workshops. The IRSS continued to work on restructuring the IRSS Help Desk to enhance functionality and user experience.

### **3.3 Dispute Avoidance**

- [15] The IPPC Secretariat and the SBDS continue to be active in producing a number of documents and material to support the IPPC dispute avoidance component. The IPPC Secretariat continues its involvement in phytosanitary dispute avoidance activities, primarily working with the FAO Investment Centre (TCI) on a project.

### **3.4 Tools (PCE and Phytosanitary Resources Page)**

- [16] The PCE tool was upgraded in time for its application in the first training of the PCE facilitators' project. The tool is being applied in at least seven countries. The phytosanitary resources were updated with the latest technical products from STDF-350, and several new resources were reviewed by the CDC for inclusion. A study to enhance the user experience with this tool is underway. The second IPPC photo contest on the "Shocking Impacts of Pests" was organized and the winner was announced during CPM-11.

### **3.5 Technologies (ePhyto)**

- [17] The ePhyto Steering Group and the ePhyto Project Steering Committee met in Geneva in May to discuss a number of issues including the common interest with representatives of the United Nations International Computing Centre (UNICC), the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT), the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), and others. With additional resources being provided by the United States of America, detailed technical discussions took place, which have formed the basis for the first technical work on the project to take place. In June, the IPPC Secretariat participated in a number of ePhyto project related meetings, including an STDF sponsored eCertification Seminar. The eCertification Seminar was attended by more than 150 people from a wide range of countries and international organizations. The overall objective of the Seminar was to raise awareness of the opportunities and the challenges related to the implementation of electronic sanitary and phytosanitary standards (SPS) certification systems, mainly in developing countries.

## **4. INTEGRATION AND SUPPORT**

### **4.1 National Reporting Obligations (NRO)**

- [18] The "NRO Year of Organization of the NPPO" was completed in March with great success as countries posted or updated their reports in the "Description of NPPO" category. As a result 112 contracting parties posted minimum one report on the IPP regarding the description of their NPPO. In April the NRO Year of Pest reporting was initiated. The monthly educational NRO newsletter "NROs Update"

continued being published. All six issues were made available in all FAO official languages. The IPPC Secretariat provided detailed statistical analysis for the period 2005-2015 of all reporting available on the IPP. CPM-11 adopted General and Specific IPPC NRO Procedures and, following, a new Guide to NROs was prepared by the IPPC Secretariat. In addition, supplementary NRO guidance material (fact sheets and table summaries) was prepared for developmental purposes.

## 4.2 Communications and Advocacy

[19] Maintenance of all IPPC Secretariat websites and their functions was provided to improve quality and efficiency. Specific improvements to the existing pages that were implemented included the re-design of the IPP home page (support materials), development of an NRO automatic reminders system, and facilitation of the PCE conversion (translations), ePhyto pages and the photo contest. Efforts went into the preparation of the launch of the redesigned IPP homepage, which was needed to better address the communication needs of the IPPC contracting parties. The number of IPPC released headline news reached 44 by the end of June. The IPPC Secretariat complemented the promotion of the IYPH 2020 by working closely with Finland, and by developing papers needed for the establishment of IYPH 2020. Two IPPC Seminars were held, one on the Plant Health and Climate Change and the other on the Plant Health Standards and Food Security, which greatly increased the IPPC Secretariat's presence and visibility. The IPPC Secretariat collaborated with Australia to propose a side event on food security and plant health in occasion of the 43<sup>rd</sup> Commission on World Food Security (17-21 October); the side event was granted.

## 4.3 International Cooperation

[20] The IPPC Secretariat continues to pay great attention to forging partnerships with a large number of international and regional organizations to strengthen the bilateral cooperation.

- *Cooperation with technical-related organizations.* The IPPC Secretariat continuously receives support from the Joint FAO/IAEA Division of Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture (AGE), specifically for the finalization of ISPM 37 on *Determination of host status of fruit to fruit flies (Tephritidae)* and the reorganization of fruit fly standards. The IPPC Secretariat continued to cooperate with the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) through the working group that is drafting the ISO standard ISO/TC 34/SC 16/ 13484 (WG4), and on issues such as molecular biomarker analysis and general requirements for molecular biology analysis for detection and identification of plant pests. The IPPC Secretariat has an observer status in this working group and, in February, joined a conference call to help ensure this ISO standard is compatible with IPPC standards.
- *Cooperation with trade-related organizations.* The IPPC Secretariat attended the meetings of Technical Working Group of the World Trade Organization (WTO)-STDF, and the WTO-SPS Committee. The IPPC Secretariat had a meeting with Director-General of the World Customs Organization (WCO) to strengthen bilateral cooperation. The IPPC Secretariat liaised actively with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and shipping companies regarding the topic of sea containers. Representatives of the IMO and of shipping companies delivered presentations during CPM-11 special topics session, and a document from the IPPC Secretariat providing an update on activities related to minimizing pest movement by sea containers was presented to the IMO Maritime Safety Committee in May.
- *Cooperation with environment-related organizations.* The IPPC Secretariat participated in a workshop of the Biodiversity Liaison Group members in February in Geneva, which focused on developing synergies and common approaches. The IPPC Secretariat engaged with the Ozone Secretariat, in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding on collaboration on issues related to Methyl Bromide signed in 2012. Contacts were renewed to strengthen collaborations, especially regarding the development of phytosanitary treatments as alternatives to the use of Methyl Bromide. The IPPC Secretariat liaises with the Global Taxonomy Initiative of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) to establish stronger links. The IPPC Secretariat is increasingly engaging with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

- *Cooperation with FAO.* The IPPC Secretariat focused on liaisons with FAO offices to enhance internal coordination, including the Food Safety and Codex Unit (AGDC), the Plant Production and Protection Division (AGP), the Trade and Market Division (EST), the Office for Corporate Communication (OCC), the Investment Centre (TCI) and the Emergency Prevention System for Transboundary Animal and Plant Pest Diseases (EMPRES). The IPPC Secretariat continued to work with FAO decentralized offices and the FAO regional and sub-regional plant protection officers through joint implementation of projects or joint organization of specific activities.

#### **4.4 IPPC Community Activities**

- [21] The IPPC Secretariat made significant efforts to strengthen its partnerships with regional plant protection organizations (RPPOs), and held a special meeting with representatives of all nine RPPOs at CPM-11. Preparation for the annual Technical Consultation among RPPOs was well underway with NEPPO and Morocco hosting. The IPPC Secretariat initiated the organization of the seven yearly IPPC Regional Workshops, with each IPPC Secretariat team leader responsible for running one.

#### **4.5 Resource Mobilization**

- [22] The IPPC Secretariat continued to emphasize resource mobilization due to the very weak financial position of the MDTF. Awareness of the IPPC Secretariat's financial stress was substantially increased through an in-depth analysis of the actual and current finance and resource mobilization situation that was presented to the CPM, and discussed by CPM Bureau and FC in March-April and June. The work for Task Force of Resource Mobilization (TFRM) was strengthened by setting up a 2016 Work plan, by active communication with existing and potential donors, and by preparing a series of meetings with QUAD and BRICS countries during CPM-11. The cooperation with existing donors was underlined by working with the European Union for a renewed project on implementation of the IPPC and ISPMs (2016-2018), and by liaising with Australia, France, Korea, New Zealand, Switzerland and USA for contributions to the MDTF. The cooperation with potential donors mainly focused on BRICS countries and included bilateral meetings with the Permanent Representative of Brazil to FAO, and following up with the IPPC project on capacity development supported by the FAO-China South-South Cooperation Programme; a milestone achievement as the Chinese government pledged to support to the IPPC work programme with USD 2 million (for the period 2017-2020).

### **5. INTERNAL MANAGEMENT**

#### **5.1 Implementation of the IPPC Secretariat Enhancement Evaluation**

- [23] The action plan of the IPPC Secretariat Enhancement Evaluation was improved with the guidance from AGD senior management, and was submitted for approval by the Director-General of FAO. Meanwhile, in preparation of restructuring the IPPC Secretariat, optimization of operational mechanism was carried out.

#### **5.2 Operational Management**

- [24] The development of standard operating processes (SOPs) for all IPPC Secretariat activities was stressed, in particular to increase effective communication and awareness raising. Central to this was standardization of agendas and reports for IPPC governing body meetings, of headline news and brief news of the IPP websites, and of other documentation produced by the IPPC secretariat.

#### **5.3 Planning and Finance**

- [25] The annual work plans for the TFRM and the Task Force for Communication and Advocacy (TFCA) were initialized. A substantial analysis on the financial situation of the IPPC Secretariat was conducted to understand how best to address the funding needs determined by planned changes. Routine financial reporting took place during the CPM-11, and the meetings of the CPM Bureau and the FC. The annual Work Plan and Budget of the IPPC Secretariat for 2017 was developed and discussed at the CPM Bureau and the FC meetings in June.



#### **5.4 Human Resources Management**

[26] Staff resources were increased with the addition of seven intern and 21 consultancy positions. All staff set up their performance and evaluation agreements, and implemented their foreseen activities through timely monitoring and effective communications.

#### **5.5 Team and Cultural Building**

[27] Both TFRM and TFCA started implementing their inclusive work programmes. The TFRM substantially increased the effectiveness of the IPPC Secretariat's resource mobilization, and the TFCA enhanced substantially the visibility and impact of the IPPC and IPPC Secretariat. The 2016 theme "Team and Cultural Building" was established for the IPPC Secretariat to improve teamwork, and a Workshop on team building was carried out with great success and positive impact.