Summary of significant activities of the IPPC Secretariat

*(Prepared by the Secretariat)*

This note is not intended to provide a comprehensive report but only provides some of the key highlights since the 27th Technical Consultation of the Regional Plant Protection Organizations (RPPOs).

The Secretary continues his “One IPPC” initiatives with the drivers being: A new image, new performance, a new atmosphere and new achievements.

The Secretary places great emphasis on the IPPC Secretariat Enhancement Evaluation conducted in 2014. A proposal to restructure the Secretariat was submitted to upper management and a response is being expected shortly. The proposal is expected to align the secretariat along two principal pillars of activities: standard setting and implementation facilitation.

Standards setting update

In July 2016 a record eleven drafts were submitted for consultation[[1]](#footnote-1) ; six drafts went for first consultation, three drafts for second consultation, and two drafts for third consultation These were as follows:

1. 2016 Amendments to ISPM 5 (*Glossary of phytosanitary terms*) (1994-001)
2. Revision of ISPM 6 *National surveillance systems* (2009-004)
3. *Requirements for the use of temperature treatments as a phytosanitary measure* (2014-005)
4. *Phytophthora ramorum* (2004-013)
5. *Fusarium circinatum* (2006-021)
6. *Candidatus* Liberibacter solanacearum (2013-001)
7. *International movement of seeds* (2009-003)
8. *International movement of vehicles, machinery and equipment* (2006-004)
9. Draft Annex 1 *Arrangements for verification of compliance of consignments by the importing country in the exporting country* (2005-003) to ISPM 20 (*Guidelines for a phytosanitary import regulatory system*)
10. *International movement of wood* (2006-029)

*International movement of growing media in association with plants for planting* (2005-004)

The Standards Committee (SC) approved six draft DPs to be submitted to the July DP notification period[[2]](#footnote-2). These included the following:

1. Genus *Liriomyza* (2006-017)
2. *Citrus tristeza virus* (2004-021)
3. *Erwinia amylovora* (2004-009*)*
4. *Tomato spotted wilt virus* (TSWV) *Impatiens necrotic spot virus* (INSV) *and watermelon silver mottle virus* (WSMoV)(2004-019)
5. *Aphelenchoides besseyi, A. ritzemabosi and A. fragariae* (2006-025)

Xanthomonas fragariae (2004-012)

Five of these DPs were adopted by the SC on behalf of the CPM in August 2016. The draft DP for *Tomato spotted wilt virus* (TSWV) *Impatiens necrotic spot virus* (INSV) *and watermelon silver mottle virus* (WSMoV)(2004-019) however received an objection[[3]](#footnote-3).

The TPDP have had two virtual meetings and their yearly face to face meeting in Jamaica[[4]](#footnote-4) in July 2016. The TPDP primarily discussed the remaining DPs on the *List of topics[[5]](#footnote-5)*. The TPDP reviewed their work programme which is now comprised of seventeen draft DPs; most of which will be submitted for adoption within the next 2 years. Once again, the importance of IPPC DPs was discussed, highlighting the fact that the CPM-11 (2016) just adopted a recommendation on the importance of pest diagnosis. During the September virtual meeting, the TPDP discussed the objection to the draft DP for *Tomato spotted wilt virus* (TSWV) *Impatiens necrotic spot virus* (INSV) *and watermelon silver mottle virus* (WSMoV)(2004-019).

The TPPT have had three virtual meetings and their yearly face to face meeting took place in Tokyo Japan in September 2016. The TPPT made a great deal of progress in moving forward with the list of pending phytosanitary treatments (PTs) in the *List of topics.* The preliminary results of the research being conducted by FAO/IAEA Joint Division on cold tolerance of *Ceratitis capitata* populations were presented which indicate that there is no difference between various fruit flies populations response to cold treatments. The TPPT recommended 11 PTs to the SC who have now reviewed them via e-Decision and all 11 PT are now recommend to CPM-12 (2017) for adoption..

The Expert Working Group (EWG) on the *International Movement of Grain* (2008-007) met in Melbourne, Australia. In total, 15 participants from Argentina, Australia, Canada, China, Jamaica, New Zealand, and USA as well as 3 industry representatives attended the meeting. The experts worked to find consensus on requirements for the movement of grain and designed a draft standard to highlight the issues that need to be addresses as grain flows through the system from production, to export, to import and final processing. The experts were not able to conclude the draft ISPM and are continuing their work through forum discussions.

The SC will meet from 14-18 November for their biannual meeting[[6]](#footnote-6). The SC will discuss and review six standards and are as follows:

1. *International movement of wood* (2006-029)
2. *International movement of growing media in association with plants for planting* (2005-004)
3. *International movement of seeds* (2009-003)
4. *International movement of vehicles, machinery and equipment* (2006-004)
5. Draft Annex 1 *Arrangements for verification of compliance of consignments by the importing country in the exporting country* (2005-003) to ISPM 20

*International movement of cut flowers and branches* (2008-005), Priority 4

NRO update:

The National Reporting Obligation Programme reached a milestone in April 2016 in terms of the adoption of the NRO General and Specific Procedures, Quality Control Guidelines and NRO Work Plan. Following that, the series of advocacy and awareness raising materials was prepared by the IPPC Secretariat: The Guide to NRO offering guidance to Official Contact Points and IPP editors on NRO types and methods together with IPP data entry advice; Tables listing NROs; 13 detailed leaflets for each NRO. 4 NRO leaflets prepared in 2015 regarding benefits of reporting, consequences of not reporting and networking received a new improved layout. Materials are available on the IPP under NRO folder[[7]](#footnote-7) currently in English. The Secretariat is working on other language versions to be released shortly.

The automated IPP NRO reminders system[[8]](#footnote-8) developed by the IPPC Secretariat became operational in July 2016. Reminders have been scheduled to be sent out throughout the year to the email accounts of all Official Contact Points with different frequency. Reminders will refer to all Public NROs (to be reported through the IPP), as well as dysfunctional links and IPP editors. In effect, Official Contact Points will receive one automatic reminder every month. For NRO categories which are strictly bilateral no automatic reminder will be sent. The feedback received from the users will allow for the readjustment of the system according to the users’ needs.

The IPPC Secretariat has been working on delivering e-learning on NRO. So far the IPPC Secretariat prepared scripts for 5 modules (General lesson on NROs; Official Contact Point; Pest reporting (general); Pest reporting (Data entry), Lists of regulated pests). The Secretariat will continue to work on e-learning with the aim of having it released as soon as possible.

Since April 2016 the NRO Year of Pest Reporting has been taking place. The activities included: monthly publication and distribution of NRO UPDATE[[9]](#footnote-9), the educational NRO newsletter, in 5 languages concentrating on issues of Pest reporting; the letter signed by the IPPC Secretary[[10]](#footnote-10) was sent out in May 2016 to all Official Contact Point reminding about the importance of Pest reporting.

The IPPC Workshop on NRO[[11]](#footnote-11) for Asian countries took place on 5-9 September 2016 in Beijing, China. It was organized together with the Asia and Pacific Plant Protection Commission (APPPC). The NRO related topics were discussed and a hands-on demonstration and training of NRO data entry was carried out. This Workshop was the first exercise for the IPPC Secretariat to substantially strengthen the communication network on NRO among the IPPC community in the next five years (2016-2020). The Secretariat intends to organize at least one Workshop on NRO for each FAO region within the next five years in cooperation with relevant RPPOs as well as FAO regional and sub-regional offices.

Implementation Facilitation Unit (IFU)

2016 is a challenging year for the IPPC Secretariat due to resource issues. There has been less contributions by contracting parties to the Special IPPC Multi-Donor Trust Fund (MTF). This impacts the implementation facilitation unit significantly as the funding from this supports all staff of this unit.

The IFU continues to operate with a technical staff complement of three and 1 consultant under the IRSS programme. The team is supported by two administrative officers. There have been pledges for further support to the IFU through direct in-kind staff support through China and Japan. These negotiations are ongoing.

A new homepage for the IPPC was launched. The key features of the page include access to the thematic years of the IPPC and to the IYPH-2020, easier access to information to IPPC secretariat activities, tools and resources and a brief news feature for use by Contracting Parties.

Projects

The IPPC ePhyto project was finalised and funding arrangements have been concluded with the STDF. During the period the funding arrangement was being negotiated with the STDF, Canada apportioned in-kind staff support to the project. The Government of Canada has committed three years of staff support to the project.

The STDF project 401 to develop a cadre of Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE) facilitators is now being implemented as a priority. Five intensive training for PCE facilitators have been conducted in English, French and Spanish. The final phase of the project (in-country PCE application) is under planning. This project along with the products of the previous STDF 350 project that developed a series of manuals have been recognised by the Bureau and SPG as a good basis for a long term capacity development strategy and training by the IPPC.

National and regional phytosanitary capacity development projects aim at assist countries. These projects are being implemented in nine countries.

Implementation Pilot Programme on pest surveillance

A small working group met to discuss a possible implementation programme on pest surveillance focussed on three plant pests. The group met in Thailand and a report[[12]](#footnote-12) is available on the IPP. This sets the stage for further work on emerging pests of global concern.

Implementation Review and Support System

The IFU has also initiated several key initiatives under the IRSS project and programme notably:

* Launch of a revised IRSS helpdesk, located in the International Phytosanitary Portal (IPP). The helpdesk is an online platform that includes three main features - the Question and Answer (Q&A) Forum, Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and the Phytosanitary Resources webpage.
* The 2016 IPPC General Survey was launched on 9 September and sent to all contracting parties and regional plant protection organizations (RPPOs). The survey is designed to capture information on contracting parties’ implementation of the obligations and responsibilities of the IPPC and Standards.
* The development of a Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) system has been commenced in collaboration with the Centre of Development and Innovation (CDI) of Wageningen University. This work complements the IRSS function to review activities of contracting parties’ implementation of the Convention.
* Specific guidance for how to access funding both within their countries and externally, the resource mobilization analysis will be used to develop Contracting party donor guidance, which is anticipated to be completed in March 2017

A small group was convened in Washington DC to develop an outline for an IRSS study, “Analysing the benefits of implementing the IPPC”. The study will seek to identify the benefits at the national, regional and global level, while also considering benefits to different stakeholders in the IPPC community. The different aspects to be considered are in relation to the Convention, international standards for phytosanitary measures (ISPMs) and achieving the IPPC strategic objectives.

IPPC regional Workshops

Six IPPC Regional Workshops were successfully organized in Asia, Latin America, Near East and North Africa, Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia, Southwest Pacific, and the Caribbean. A total number of 212 persons from 114 countries have benefited from these workshops across the six regions. This year Workshops the IPPC Regional Workshop have been reshuffled to be organized as a real forum for exchange in between Member Countries, RPPOs, FAO offices, cooperation institutions and the IPPC. The new Online Commenting System (OCS) was launched; training activities and material were provided to all Contracting Parties, allowing a significant increase in the number of comments, particularly from developing countries.

The Technical Consultation for Regional Plant Protection Organizations has been organized in Rabat, Morocco from November 14-18, 2016

The IFU also organised a project formulation meeting in Rome from November 21-23 for potential beneficiaries of five FAO regions (Africa, Asia, Central Asia, Near East and South-West Pacific), BRICS countries and Pakistan. The project is being funded by the FAO/China South-South cooperation programme under the China “one belt one road” initiative.

1. https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/standards-setting/member-consultation-draft-ispms/ [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/standards-setting/draft-ispms/notification-period-dps/ [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/standards-setting/objections-draft-ispms-prior-cpm/> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/82977/> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/standards-setting/list-topics-ippc-standards/> [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. <https://www.ippc.int/en/events/event/482/> [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/information-exchange/nro/> [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/82725/> [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/information-exchange/nro/the-nro-year-of-the-pest-reports/> [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/82545/> [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/information-exchange/nro-and-ipp-training/2016-ipp-nro-training-for-the-apppc-region/> [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. <https://www.ippc.int/static/media/files/publication/en/2016/07/Report_IWG_Implementation_Pilot_on_Surveillance.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-12)