



THE IPPC IN 20 YEARS

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Summery Report of CPM-30 (2035)

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CPM-30 was held from April 2-6, 2035 at the IPPC headquarters in Bangkok, Thailand. This was the fifth meeting of the CPM in Bangkok since the IPPC had received its partial autonomy from FAO in 2030. CPM-30 was attended by representatives from 175 contracting parties. Considering that the IPPC has 191 contracting parties altogether this was thought to be a splendid result. Many delegations expressed their full satisfaction with the decision to move the IPPC Secretariat from FAO in Rome to the UN regional headquarters in Bangkok because of cost savings due to lower overhead, translation, interpretation and travel costs for many delegations. The meeting was chaired by Dr John Hedley.

In its five days the CPM addressed a number of issues pertaining to its regular business as well as to initiatives conducted under supplementary agreements. With regard to regular business the following main issues were addressed:

Electronic Phytosanitary Certification gains further traction

After the decision of CPM 11 to adopt an international standard on electronic certification and the establishment of the E-phyto hub in the IPPC Secretariat developments with regard to further harmonization efforts have been undertaken. The establishment of a system for attributing individual IPPC identification numbers for each issued E-phyto has improved traceability of E-phytos, added security against cybercrime as well as served as a basis for calculating member states' contributions to the IPPC budget. The IPPC Secretariat announced that 114 contracting parties are now using E-certification and the E-phyto hub. Several members stressed their desire to participate in the E-certification, but indicated that they would need further capacity building to do so. The CPM decided that an additional capacity building activity should be initiated with regard to E-certification. An observer from the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT) congratulated the IPPC for its visionary role in creating a worldwide electronic certification system thus creating added value to international trade. It invited the IPPC Secretariat to explore with relevant UN organizations possibilities to organize funds for capacity building activities in regard to E-certification.

International recognition of NPPOs capacity – status update

ISPM No. 55 *Requirements for NPPOs to implement the IPPC and its International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures* had been adopted by the CPM in 2027. The ISPM was based on the former Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE) tool of the IPPC and addresses certain capacity requirements for NPPOs in order to be able to implement the IPPC and its standards. Mirroring practices by the World Animal Health Organization (WAHO – former OIE) the IPPC decided to establish an official recognition process for NPPOs to facilitate, especially for developing countries, the access to international markets. The recognition process, which includes IPPC expert teams visiting requesting countries, is fully funded by the requesting NPPO. The IPPC Secretariat informed that three years after the initiation of the recognition process 17 countries have been recognized according to ISPM No. 55.

Standard Setting – adoption of ISPM No. 69: Minimum requirements for the international movement of sea containers

After 25 years of development CPM 30 adopted the ISPM on minimum requirements for the international movement of sea containers by vote of 147 to 28 against. Several delegations expressed their elation that the standard had now been adopted. Several members attributed the successful adoption to the recent changes in the standard setting procedures which requires now for voting on standard setting programmes and topics as well as on the adoption of standards immediately after a topic or standard failed to be adopted by consensus. Many delegations felt that now the standard setting programme could now enter into a new era since individual countries are unable to block commodity specific standards which may harm their exports. Some countries felt that the adoption of the grain standard may now be possible for CPM 36. One member stressed that international standards must always address the risk and that risks are different for each importing country. Therefore, commodity specific standards setting out international requirements for minimum requirements are incompatible with the requirement for technical justification of the IPPC and the SPS Agreement.

IPPC budget

Based on a proposal by the CPM Bureau and its Financial Committee the CPM adopted the IPPC budget for 2036. The IPPC Secretariat reported that the organization would have again to compensate a lower FAO contribution (approximately 1,5 Million USD) by increasing receivables from Member States. Currently 60% of the IPPC budget is generated through fees paid for the E-phyto hub, 20% through extra budgetary contributions to the trust fund and the rest through FAO.

Scientific Session – Multilateralism vs. bilateralism – threats for the IPPC

A scientific session was held to investigate in how far the growing trend of countries or trade blocks to enter into bilateral agreements containing SPS chapters would present threats to the international phytosanitary system. The discussion held showed that some countries felt that the international phytosanitary system may be in danger because bilateral agreements may contain specific phytosanitary chapters which may effectively establish preferential treatments thus creating an inconsistent import system. Many delegations thought that bilateral agreements are not transparent and that further efforts be needed to monitor such agreements. Other delegations thought that bilateral agreements usually refer to the SPS Agreement and the IPPC and their principles and are therefore enhancing the implementation of these agreements and conventions. The CPM decided to commission a detailed study on this matter to be presented at CPM-31 in 2036.

ACTIVITIES WITH REGARD TO SUPPLEMENTARY AGREEMENTS

At the 1st Ministerial CPM meeting held at the occasion of the “International Year of Plant Health” in 2020 a number of decisions had been taken with regard to ensuring plant health through the establishment of supplementary agreements. At the ministerial CPM meeting decisions had been taken to include into the IPPC activities non-trade related endeavors in plant health to ensure food security and prevent biodiversity loss. To avoid considerable changes to the convention it was thought that the ideal way of carrying out and financing such activities would be through supplementary agreements. A number of business meetings were conducted at CPM-30 with regard to such activities.

Meeting of the Board of Trustees for the “INTERNATIONAL PLANT HEALTH TRUST FUND”

At the 1st Ministerial CPM meeting (CPM-15) held at the occasion of the “International Year of Plant Health” in 2020 an initiative had been approved to create an international trust fund for plant health endowed with 150 million USD. Pledges and commitments for this trust fund were expected from 15 countries and three international organizations and by 2028 all pledged and committed funds were received. The “INTERNATIONAL PLANT HEALTH TRUST FUND” has the purpose to provide resources for combating pest outbreaks in developing countries which may endanger food security or cause severe environmental damages. The trust fund which is administered by the board of trustees which decides how the proceeds of the invested funds are dispersed based on proposals by the IPPC Secretariat.

In 2034 the funds invested generated an income of 6 million USD. The board of trustees decided that 50% of these receivables were to be reinvested. Of the remaining funds 30% would be provided to the project “Fruit Fly Surveillance in Southern Africa”. The remaining 70% would be provided to the locust control programme in Africa. A proposal by the IPPC Secretariat that USD 500 000 would be made available to the IPPC Secretariat for administrative purpose was declined by the board of trustees.

Transboundary Pest Control Agreements

At the 1st Ministerial CPM meeting (CPM-15) held at the occasion of the “International Year of Plant Health” in 2020 a decision had been made to merge the FAO activities with regard to plant health (IPPC) and the plant protection components of the “Emergency Prevention System (EMPRES). The FAO Conference in 2022 adopted changes which placed the phytosanitary EMPRES projects in form of supplementary agreements under the IPPC. Annually at the occasion of the CPM meetings of the members of these supplementary agreements meet to plan further control activities. This year, three project oversight committees met. The oversight committees are composed of representatives of the countries which are members of the relevant supplementary agreement.

Establishment of volunteer organization “Plant Doctors without Frontiers”

Based on discussions and proposals at the second Ministerial CPM (CPM-25) in 2030 preliminary discussion were held to establish an international volunteer organization “Plant Doctors without Frontiers” modeled after similar organizations in the human health and veterinary field. In a technical consultation held at the occasion of CPM 30 the participants thought that such an volunteer organization may be beneficial to plant health in developing countries. Several delegates thought that the mobilization of professional volunteers from universities and research organizations may contribute to control activities for specific pests and prevent biodiversity loss and ensure food security. Several delegates also thought that this would raise the visibility of plant health. The meeting decided that the IPPC Secretariat should develop an action plan and programme on how such a volunteer organization should be established. This should be further discussed at CPM 31 and then finalized for adoption at the third Ministerial CPM meeting in 2040.