



REPORT

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Progress Report of the IPPC Secretariat for 2016



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THE PROGRESS REPORT OF THE IPPC SECRETARIAT FOR 2016

(January, 2017)

[1] The year of 2016 has been a milestone for the IPPC, as it was the first year to implement the IPPC annual themes with a view towards 2020. With full support from the IPPC Governing bodies and FAO Senior management, Mr Jingyuan Xia, the 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”. Strengthened cooperation with national and regional plant protection organizations (NPPO, RPPO) was also emphasized. During 2016, a number of achievements were attained under the five categories listed below.

1. GOVERNANCE AND STRATEGY

1.1 Commission on Phytosanitary Measures

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

- (1) adoption of and support for five IPPC annual 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;
- (2) adoption of four standards and a revised Standard setting procedure to help ensure inclusiveness and transparency in setting standards, and noting the adoption of five annexes to ISPM 27 (diagnostic protocols) by the Standards Committee (SC) on behalf of the CPM;
- (3) adoption of the Terms of Reference to form a focus group for establishing a new IPPC subsidiary body on implementation and capacity development;
- (4) adoption of the Framework for Standards and Implementation to support the cooperative work on setting and implementing standards;
- (5) endorsement for the development of an ePhyto hub system, and approval of a pilot implementation project on surveillance;
- (6) agreement on the way forward regarding the concept of a commodity standard;
- (7) adoption of National Reporting Obligations (NRO) Procedures, and agreement on the IPPC Communication and Advocacy Work Plan;
- (8) organization of a special topics session on sea containers webcasted to the world and agreement on the way forward for this topic;
- (9) 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; and
- (10) discussion of the Enhancement Evaluation of the IPPC Secretariat.

1.2 CPM Bureau, IPPC Financial Committee and Strategic Planning Group

- [3] The CPM Bureau met four times, in March-April in Rome, Italy, in June in Beijing, China, in October in Rome, Italy and in December via Teleconference. The Bureau meeting in March-April mainly discussed the preparation and agenda for CPM-11. The Bureau in June discussed sustainable funding strategies for the IPPC work programme. A key output from the meeting was that the Bureau agreed to the need for immediate actions for resource mobilization 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). 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 Quality, Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine; the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences; and the Chinese National Agricultural University. The October and December Bureau meetings essentially set the stage for 2017 including finalization of the agenda for CPM-12 (2017), launching the effort for renewing the IPPC strategic framework, and approving the IPPC Secretariat Work Plan and Budget for 2017.
- [4] The IPPC Financial Committee (FC) met three times: in March in Rome, Italy; in June in Beijing, China; and in October in Rome, Italy. 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 MDTF to concrete steps to deal with the financial situation for both the short and longer term. The issue on establishment of the sustainable funding for the IPPC work programme was discussed in depth in the October FC meeting and was brought to the CPM Bureau and the IPPC Strategic Planning Group (SPG) for further consideration. The FC noted the changing financial situation of the IPPC Secretariat, especially with regard to the IPPC MDTF and proposed that short- and long-term funding options were pursued further. The FC suggested certain improvements to the proposed IPPC Secretariat Work Plan and Budget for 2017 and endorsed the draft for submission and approval of the Bureau.
- [5] The SPG agreed on milestones for the development of the IPPC Strategic Framework for 2020-2030 and identified the involvement of as many stakeholders as possible before possible final adoption in 2020. The SPG also discussed a range of topics that included: the immediate funding for emerging issues; short and long term funding options; a potential donors conference; developments towards the IYPH in 2020 (including a possible associated ministerial meeting); the IPPC Thematic Years in 2017 and 2018; the proposed Terms of Reference for the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC); the revision of the existing CPM Recommendations; global plant health and the possibility of an annual phytosanitary conference; phytosanitary treatments; the next steps on sea containers; progress with the ePhyto project; the updated Framework for Standards and Implementation; and international cooperation, including the relationship with the World Customs Organization (WCO).

1.3 Standards Committee

- [6] The SC and the SC working group (SC-7) met in May and the SC met in November, all meetings were held in Rome, Italy. The SC is responsible for overseeing over 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, 44 draft ISPMs progressed significantly in 2016 and five new issues were considered. The SC, in their May 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 consultation, and the SC in November discussed in detail six draft ISPMs, of which five were recommended to the CPM for adoption. Through 31 e-decisions held in 2016, the SC recommended 11 PTs to the CPM for adoption, approved five DPs for consultation and 12 DPs for the DP notification period to be adopted on behalf of the CPM. A technical revision to an adopted DP was also approved by the SC. The SC approved the revised version of the Annotated Glossary (explanatory document for ISPM 5), and selected experts for the Technical Panel on Forest Quarantine.

1.4 Capacity Development Committee

- [7] The Capacity Development Committee (CDC) remained active through 2016 and reviewed 12 technical resources for posting on the phytosanitary resources page. Based on CDC proposed draft Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedures for a new oversight body, 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. The CDC also provided input to the Framework for Standards and Implementation as requested by CPM-11. The CDC met in December for its final meeting of 2016. The CDC discussed current advances in the “Training of Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation facilitators” 401 project, funded by the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF), IPPC regional workshop outcomes and future topics, and potential capacity development activities and project proposals.

1.5 Subsidiary Body on Dispute Settlement

- [8] The Subsidiary Body on Dispute Settlement (SBDS) was reconstituted at CPM-11 with Mr Luis Benavides (Panama) being elected as the Chairperson. 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

- [9] The *List of topics for IPPC standards*, posted on the International Phytosanitary Portal (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. In November the SC, as requested by CPM-11, reconsidered three topics on commodity standards of which the SC recommended the CPM add two to the *List of topics for IPPC standards*.

2.2 Drafting and Expert Input

- [10] Five face-to-face meetings of technical panels and one expert working group meeting (EWG) were organized. The Technical Panel on Forest Quarantine (TPFQ) met in June, in Victoria, Canada, and discussed the issue of forest tree seeds and the proposed annex to ISPM 15 on Criteria for treatments for wood packaging material in international trade. The Technical Panel for Diagnostic Protocols (TPDP) met in July, in Montego Bay, Jamaica, and discussed their work programme consisting of 22 draft DPs and reviewed five draft DPs in detail. The Technical Panel for Phytosanitary Treatments (TPPT) met in September, in Tokyo, Japan, and discussed their work programme consisting of 12 draft PTs and five topics for treatment requirements, with 11 draft PTs recommended to the SC for adoption. The Technical Panel for the Glossary (TPG) met in December, Rome, Italy, and reviewed their work programme consisting of 23 terms and two draft ISPMs for consistency and terminology issues, as well as revised Amendments to ISPM 5 in response to consultation comments and discussed 10 terms in detail. An EWG met in September in Melbourne, Australia, and developed a draft ISPM on the *International movement of grain* (2008-007). Ten virtual meetings for technical panels were organized.

2.3 Consultation

- [11] Two consultation periods on draft standards were conducted, one from 1 February to 30 June, and the second from 1 July to 30 September. Two DP notification periods and four expert consultations on draft DPs were organized. Consultation comments received during the consultations were compiled and posted on the IPP (except for the expert consultation on draft DPs). In addition, 48 e-decisions were held (31 SC e-decisions and 17 technical panel e-decisions), and 15 online meeting evaluations were completed.

2.4 Adoption

- [12] 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 (phytosanitary treatments). In addition, the CPM-11 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. According to the standard setting procedure, the SC adopts DPs on behalf of CPM (January and August), and in 2016 a total of eight DPs were adopted.

2.5 Quality Management

- [13] The standard setting pages on the IPP (over 70) 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 revised versions of the IPPC Procedure Manual for Standard Setting and the IPPC Style Guide as well as an annotated template for draft phytosanitary treatments were published.

3. IMPLEMENTATION FACILITATION

3.1 Capacity Development

- [14] Two focus groups, one on the establishment of the new implementation body and the other on a surveillance pilot project covering three potential pests, were organized. 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, and pest risk analysis. Six projects were completed, ten were still active and two, intended to have national, regional and global coverage, were in the final approval stages. The STDF project 401 to develop a pool of Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE) facilitators was extended to 2017. Phase 1 of the project was successfully completed, consisting in organizing five two-week intensive trainings for 40 international phytosanitary experts from 36 countries, and 21 lawyers from 13 countries plus FAO staff. 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

- [15] The Implementation Review Support System (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 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 were 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 and Settlement

- [16] The IPPC Secretariat and the SBDS continue to be active in preparing 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 Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation

- [17] The PCE tool was upgraded in time for its application in the first training of the PCE facilitators. The French, Spanish and Russian versions of the PCE were reviewed. The tool was being applied in at least seven countries in 2016.

3.5 e-Phyto

- [18] The ePhyto Steering Group (ESG) and the ePhyto Project Steering Committee met in May in Geneva, Switzerland to discuss a number of issues including defining the harmonized elements of an electronic phytosanitary certificate, identifying the key business requirements for the generic ePhyto national system (GeNS) and the hub and defining the processes needed for assisting pilot countries in implementing the GeNS when it is ready. The IPPC Secretariat also brought together some of the members of the ESG and the ePhyto Project Advisory Committee in June to discuss the project proposal and how the project could utilize synergies with other international organizations undertaking similar electronic certification initiatives including the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), CODEX Alimentarius and others. The ESG also met in November in Argentina to review the specifications and recommended key changes to simplify the operation of the system and manage the costs of operation.
- [19] The IPPC Secretariat participated in a number of electronic certification related meetings and workshops, including an STDF sponsored eCertification Seminar which 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. The IPPC Secretariat's similarly participated in the United Nation's Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific (UNESCAP), Workshop on Implementation of e-SPS certification systems. The workshop brought together NPPOs experts from developing countries to share information on the importance of paperless systems and how best to implement the business, policy, technical and legislative changes required to improve trade flows by adopting electronic certification systems.
- [20] The ePhyto Industry Advisory Group (IAG), which provides advice on ensuring that ePhyto has a practical application in facilitating trade, also met in May in Rome, Italy and again in November 2016 in Brussels, Belgium. The IAG was given an overview of the ePhyto Solution and provided feedback on pilot country selection, data exchange, and key features of the system required to increase industry confidence in the continued access of phytosanitary information required to facilitate trade.

4. INTEGRATION AND SUPPORT

4.1 National Reporting Obligations

- [21] Following the adoption of General and Specific IPPC NRO Procedures at CPM-11, a new Guide to NROs was prepared by the IPPC Secretariat. Supplementary NRO guidance material (fact sheets and table summaries) was prepared for awareness raising. The monthly educational NRO newsletter "NROs Update" continued being published and distributed concentrating on topics relevant to the NRO years. As a result the number of reports updated by countries on the IPP more than doubled in 2016 while the number of new reports was at a record high with 244 reports. The "NRO Year of Organization of the NPPO" was completed 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. A record number of pest reports (98 new reports) were posted by countries on the IPP this year. The automated IPP NRO reminder system, developed by the IPPC Secretariat, became operational.
- [22] An NRO Workshop took place in September in Beijing, China. It was organized together with the Asia and Pacific Plant Protection Commission (APPPC) for countries from the Asian region. It was the first in a new series of NRO Workshops to be held the coming years.

4.2 Communications and Advocacy

- [23] The IPPC homepage was renewed and officially released, which was welcomed and appreciated by all NPPOs and RPPOs. A new Online Comment System (OCS) was released in cooperation with the CODEX Alimentarius Secretariat, resulting in an improved layout and user experience, which led to the record number of 84 IPPC official contact points providing comments on draft standards. The PCE tool and the Phytosanitary resources website were also maintained and improved based on user feedback.
- [24] The IPPC annual theme “Plant Health and Food Security” for 2016 was initialized with a presentation of a keynote address at CPM-11. Three IPPC seminars and one side event during the 43rd Session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS-43) were successfully organized. With 177 headline and brief news items released, there was a 90 percent increase compared to 2015 of news releases on the IPP. Two IPPC-related news items on CPM and on sea containers respectively were published on the FAO website, and one news item on fruit fly host status was shared on the website of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Work on social media was hugely successful, resulting in annual increases in the number of followers of 42 percent for Twitter, 26 percent for Facebook and 44 percent for LinkedIn. The second edition of the IPPC photo contest “Shocking Impacts of Pests” was organized in partnership with the National Geographic Italia, and the winner was announced during CPM-11.
- [25] The record number of 1 000 copies of the IPPC Annual Report for 2015, as well as over 500 copies of other IPPC publications (e.g. *List of adopted standards*, factsheets on *Introduction to standard setting* and *Introduction to diagnostic protocols*, and Technical manuals) were distributed along the year. Eight IPPC videos were developed on IPPC links to plant health and food security.
- [26] The IPPC Secretariat complemented the promotion of the IYPH 2020 by providing support to the establishment of the IYPH Steering Committee, and to the organization of its first meeting held in FAO-HQ. One side event on the development of IYPH 2020 was organized during the 25th session of the Committee on Agriculture (COAG). The resolution of IYPH 2020 was endorsed by COAG, and following by the 155th session of FAO Council.

4.3 IPPC Network

- [27] Seven IPPC Regional Workshops were organized in close collaboration with RPPOs and FAO Regional or Sub-regional offices. The workshops were attended by 212 participants from 114 contracting parties across all FAO regions (Near-East, Africa, Asia, Pacific, Caribbean, Eastern Europe and Central Asia and Latin America). The workshops served to support contracting parties in building their phytosanitary capacity and raise awareness of IPPC activities. The workshops also focused on strengthening the exchange between contracting parties, RPPOs, FAO offices, cooperation institutions and the IPPC Secretariat. At present, the IPPC Secretariat initiated the organization of the seven annual IPPC Regional Workshops for 2017, in close collaboration with RPPOs and FAO Regional/Sub-regional offices
- [28] The IPPC Secretariat made significant efforts to strengthen its partnerships with RPPOs, and held a special meeting with representatives of all nine RPPOs at CPM-11. The 28th Technical Consultation (TC) among RPPOs was organized by NEPPO and held in Rabat, Morocco, where RPPOs agreed on revised roles and functions of RPPOs, which will be presented to CPM-12.

4.4 International Cooperation

- [29] The IPPC Secretariat continuously strengthen the cooperation with technical-related organizations, especially with the Joint FAO/IAEA Division of Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture, 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 Joint FAO/IAEA division conducted a study to understand if populations of *Ceratitidis capitata* from different geographical regions of the world responded differently to phytosanitary cold treatments. Based on this study, the TPPT concluded that there is no evidence to support that there are significant differences in cold tolerance among populations of *Ceratitidis capitata* from geographically separate regions.
- [30] 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.

- [31] 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 continuously followed its activities. In February, the IPPC Secretariat joined a conference call to help ensure this ISO standard is compatible with IPPC standards.
- [32] The IPPC Secretariat continuously attended the meetings of the trade-related organizations, such as the Technical Working Group of the World Trade Organization (WTO)-STDF, and the WTO-SPS Committee. The IPPC Secretariat had a meeting with Secretary-General of 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.
- [33] The IPPC Secretariat actively participated in activities of environment-related organizations, such as the Workshop on synergies among biodiversity-related conventions in February in Geneva, Switzerland, and the Ninth annual meeting of Biodiversity Liaison Group (BLG) in August in Bonn, Germany. 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, where 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 Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) to establish stronger links for the management of Invasive Alien Species (IAS), to help conduct risk assessments of living modified organisms (LMOs) and to build synergies with the Global Taxonomy Initiative. The IPPC Secretariat also attended the three governing bodies for the CBD, the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Nagoya Protocol, where consideration was given to developing further measures to help manage IAS to facilitate achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Target 9. The IPPC Secretariat is also increasingly engaging with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
- [34] The IPPC Secretariat focused on liaison with FAO offices to enhance internal coordination. Work with the Food safety unit and the CODEX Alimentarius Secretariat, specifically to better understand the role of IPPC contracting parties may need to play in addressing the issue of Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and for the implementation and minor improvements to the OCS. The IPPC Secretariat also worked with the Plant Production and Protection Division (AGP), the Trade and Market Division (EST), the Office for Corporate Communication (OCC), the 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.

4.5 Resource Mobilization

- [35] 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 current financial and resource mobilization situation that was presented to the CPM-11, and discussed by CPM Bureau and FC in March-April, June and October. The sustainable funding mechanism for the IPPC work programmes was proposed and discussed extensively at FC, Bureau and SPG. A series of meetings with traditional (such as QUAD countries) and potential (such as BRICS countries) donors were organized for resource mobilization; and New Zealand and Japan were visited for resource mobilization purposes.
- [36] Five existing donors made generous contributions to the MDTF: Australia, France, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, and United States of America. The SDTF 401 project on PCE was successfully extended by one year. The IPPC project on capacity development under the framework of FAO-China South-South Cooperation programme for USD 2 million (for the period 2017-2020) was officially approved by the Chinese Government and FAO. The STDF approved the ePhyto pilot project with an allocation of USD 1.12 million (for 2017-2019). In addition, United States of America provided financial support

and Canada provided in-kind staff support. A renewed EU project on implementation of the IPPC and ISPMs was formally agreed with EUR 900 000 (for 2017-2019).

5. INTERNAL MANAGEMENT

5.1 Implementation of the IPPC Secretariat Enhancement Evaluation

[37] The action plan of the IPPC Secretariat Enhancement Evaluation was improved with the guidance from FAO AGD Senior management, and was submitted for approval to the Director-General of FAO. In restructuring the IPPC Secretariat, the Standard Setting Unit (SSU), the Implementation Facilitation Unit (IFU) as well as the Integration and Support Team (IST) were officially established. Accordingly, the Core Team members have been regrouped, and responsibilities of several staff re-assigned.

5.2 Operational Management

[38] The development of w procedure (SOPs) for all IPPC Secretariat activities was encouraged, 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 of the IPP websites, and of other documentation produced by the IPPC Secretariat. In addition, the IPPC Secretariat staff made an effort to add as many events into the calendar as possible to provide appropriate information for contracting parties and other IPPC stakeholders.

5.3 Planning and Finance

[39] The IPPC Secretariat work plan and budget (WPB) for 2016 was implemented and monitored closely, in particular at both mid-year and year-end meetings. The WPB for 2017 was developed and approved by CPM Bureau. The annual work plans for the Task Forces on Resource Mobilization (TFRM) and Communication and Advocacy (TFCA) respectively were initialized, implemented and monitored on a regular basis. The finances of the IPPC Secretariat were well managed with minus or zero deficit.

5.4 Human Resources Management

[40] Staff resources were increased with the addition of seven interns and 21 consultancy positions. Not all of these positions were in place simultaneously; a number of them were rotational or for specific projects only. All staff set up their performance and evaluation agreements, and implemented their foreseen activities through timely monitoring and effective communication. At the same time, the IPPC Secretariat saw members of the permanent staff retire or be reassigned resulting in a larger workload for the remainder of the staff. New positions are in the pipeline and are intended to be announced in early 2017.

5.5 Team and Culture Building

[41] The 2016 theme for the IPPC Secretariat was settled as “Team and Culture Building” to help the IPPC Secretariat move towards “One IPPC”. A workshop on team building was carried out with great success and positive impact. A monitoring and evaluation (M&E) training workshop for the IPPC Secretariat was also organized with a participation of the IPPC Secretariat’s staff. The M&E training provided an opportunity for all units to collaborate and exchange ideas for working more cohesively, with particular importance placed on streamlining the work of facilitating the development of international standards and supporting their implementation.

[42] The 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.