



REPORT

Virtual Meeting
26 October 2016

Technical Panel on Phyosanitary Treatments October, 2016



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

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1. Opening of the meeting

[1] The International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) Secretariat (hereafter referred to “Secretariat”) lead for Technical Panel on Phytosanitary Treatments (TPPT) chaired the meeting and welcomed the following participants:

1. Mr Toshiyuki DOHINO (Japan)
2. Mr Guy HALLMAN (FAO/IAEA)
3. Mr Michael ORMSBY (New Zealand)
4. Mr Matthew SMYTH (Australia)
5. Mr Yuejin WANG (China)
6. Mr Eduardo WILLINK (Argentina)
7. Mr Bart ROSSEL (TPPT Steward)
8. Ms Adriana G. MOREIRA (IPPC Secretariat lead)
9. Mr Martin FARREN (IPPC Secretariat support)
10. Mr Piotr WLODARCZYK (IPPC Secretariat support)

[2] The full list of TPPT members and their contact details can be found on the International Phytosanitary Portal (IPP)¹.

[3] The Secretariat lead of the TPPT introduced the agenda and it was adopted as presented in Appendix 1 of this report.

Election of rapporteur

[4] Mr Toshiyuki DOHINO was elected as the rapporteur.

2. IPPC Secretariat Updates

Updates from Relevant Meetings - Strategic Planning Group (SPG) meeting (Rome, 4-6 October 2016)

[5] The Secretariat updated the TPPT members on the discussions of the SPG. The SGP recommended that the Standards Committee (SC) and the Implementation Committee/Capacity Development Committee (IC/CDC) develop mechanisms for reviewing phytosanitary treatments that are used for managing plant pests in traded commodities. These should also be made available to contracting parties through a publicly available searchable tool which would enable users to search and find internationally adopted phytosanitary treatments as well as other useful treatments posted on the Phytosanitary Resource page.

[6] The SPG also noted that phytosanitary treatments might be an integral component for future commodity standards and the development and adoption of phytosanitary treatments for the management of phytosanitary risks would be very important. The SPG suggested that the development of phytosanitary treatments should be part of the Strategic Framework 2020 – 2030.

Status of Phytosanitary Treatments (PTs) and International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs) on the TPPT work programme

[7] The Secretariat updated the TPPT on the status of the draft PTs and draft ISPMs under the TPPT work programme².

[8] The Secretariat presented the tentative TPPT calendar for 2017 and informed that the report from the TPPT September meeting in Tokyo is currently under revision and shall be posted shortly.

¹ TPPT membership list: <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/81655/>

- [9] There are currently thirteen draft PTs in the TPPT work programme. In which one was recommended to be merged; all draft PTs are planned to be presented to CPM-12 (2017) for adoption, with the expectation of the draft PT on Vapour heat treatment for *Bactrocera dorsalis* on *Carica papaya* var. Solo (2009-109). For this draft PT, the TPPT requested more information from the submitter and the Secretariat has contacted the NPPO of the Philippines, requesting additional information for the draft PT with no response to date. The Secretariat will follow-up on this and keep the TPPT informed.
- [10] Under the TPPT work programme, there are five draft ISPMs on requirements for the use of phytosanitary treatments.
- [11] The Secretariat reminded the TPPT that the draft ISPM on: Requirements for the use of temperature treatments as phytosanitary measures (2014-005) was submitted to first consultation in 2016. The compiled comments were available on the IPP³.

3. TPPT work programme

Draft ISPM: Requirements for the use of fumigation treatments as a phytosanitary measure (2014-004)

- [12] The Secretariat informed the participants that this draft ISPM is planned to be discussed by the SC in May 2017. The Secretariat thanked the steward and the assistant steward for their work on the draft and invited the steward to introduce the draft to the TPPT.
- [13] The steward introduced the draft ISPM and thanked the TPPT members for submitting comments on the draft. He noted that the main issues were that more information may be needed in the draft on the types of chambers, the duration of the treatments, the monitoring of the duration of the treatment and the concentration of the fumigants.
- [14] The TPPT steward noted that the consultation comments for the draft ISPM: Requirements for the use of temperature treatments as a phytosanitary measure (2014-005) should be considered as some of them may also be relevant to fumigation treatment requirements.
- [15] The steward for the draft ISPM on the use of temperature treatments (2014-005) stressed that the main issues raised during the first consultation were whether the topic should be developed as a standard or as a manual and whether there were enough requirements in the draft. He suggested these comments could also be considered for the draft ISPM on fumigation treatments (2014-004). He also mentioned that the issue of relative humidity during treatments might not been addressed sufficiently in the draft. He suggested that the steward's summary of consultation comments for the SC November 2016 meeting could be made available to the TPPT members. The Secretariat informed the TPPT that a link to the compiled comments to the draft ISPM on the use of temperature treatments (2014-005) had already been shared with the TPPT.
- [16] The steward for the draft ISPM on the use of temperature treatments (2014-005) noted that the decision on whether a standard or a manual would be developed is outside the mandate of the TPPT. He also mentioned that some countries wanted to see more information on combined treatments in the draft ISPM on temperature treatments (2014-005) and some thought that the research guidance in Appendix 1 should be better placed in an annex to ISPM 28 (*Phytosanitary treatments for regulated pests*).
- [17] The TPPT agreed that the outline of requirements should be considered later, when a review of the draft is finalized.
- [18] One TPPT member suggested, that the objective of treatments should be formulated more broadly, e.g. to mitigate pest risk rather than achieving pest mortality at a specific level, and to cover the delayed

³ <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/83033/>

pest mortality and other effects of treatments. This was supported by other TPPT members. The TPPT questioned the necessity to keep the original text in as the purpose of this ISPM is not to explain why the measures are applied, but how they should be applied.

- [19] The TPPT noted that ISPM 28 is used for the assessment of phytosanitary treatments submitted for adoption by CPM, but countries may also use it to assess other treatments. The TPPT suggested that if this ISPM on the use of fumigation treatments (2014-004) is meant to cover both categories of treatments then keeping the paragraph would ensure clarity. This was supported by the steward for this topic. The paragraph will be modified by the steward prior to the next TPPT meeting.
- [20] In relation to section on treatment application, one TPPT member questioned whether the issue of the impact of the chamber load on achieving the required concentration over time (CT) was sufficiently addressed in the draft. The TPPT agreed that the issue of the chamber load was covered by the CT, but was concerned that if the chamber is loaded excessively, the required CT will not be reached.
- [21] Another TPPT member explained that the chamber load reflects the ability to achieve the CT throughout the chamber. In order to achieve the CT in the whole chamber it is important that the fumigant is evenly spread throughout the chamber.
- [22] One participant requested clarification on the humidity thresholds for the fumigation treatments. One TPPT member explained that for some fumigants the level of relative humidity is important and it should be addressed in the standard, preferably in a separate section. Another TPPT member agreed that the humidity is a complex issue and may be required at different levels depending on the situation, e.g. for living plants and for treatments using aluminium phosphide or some CO₂ mixtures it should be higher, while for treatments using sulphuryl fluoride high humidity it is not recommended.
- [23] With regard to the sections on combined treatments, the TPPT noted that consultation comments for the draft ISPM on the use of temperature treatments (2014-005) referring to combining temperature treatments and fumigation should be considered. One TPPT member suggested that the section on Treatment Types be reorganized as some sub-sections relate to combined treatments. Another TPPT member did not agree with this. He proposed that instead the title could be changed to read as “Combined Fumigant Treatments”. The TPPT agreed to review this at the next meeting.
- [24] A TPPT member suggested that text on fumigation under vacuum could be added. The TPPT agreed to this modification.
- [25] One TPPT member proposed that the section on Fumigant and Controlled Atmosphere Combination Treatments be deleted as treatments combining fumigation and controlled atmosphere were not commonly used. He also mentioned that the elements naturally occurring in the atmosphere may, in high concentrations, become toxic and act as fumigants. Another member noted that such combinations of treatments are sometimes used, so the section should be retained.
- [26] One TPPT member requested that an example be given for the increase of treatment efficacy by increasing the respiration of the pests due to changed atmosphere. In response to this, another member thought that the wording provided was imprecise and could be improved. Another TPPT member gave an example of a fumigation treatment using 1% of SO₂ which works better when the level of CO₂ is increased to 6%. The Secretariat suggested that as the draft is at an early stage of development, current wording could be kept to see if countries will comment on this issue.
- [27] One TPPT member requested that more details on the fumigation enclosures is included in the section on Fumigation equipment and enclosures. The Secretariat informed the TPPT that a comment from an absent TPPT member requested clarification whether “tarpaulin ‘tents’” includes e.g. plastic or nylon sheets. A TPPT member explained that all types of materials both impermeable and non-absorbent to the fumigant could be used. Thus, the TPPT agreed to review this at the next meeting.
- [28] A subsection on “Pressure testing the enclosure” was added, specifying the required gas tightness of the fumigation enclosure under vacuum. There was a discussion on the required half pressure decay

time of 10 seconds or more (air pressure decaying from 200 Pa to 100 Pa). The Assistant steward suggested to increase the half pressure decay time referring to requirements in practical application, and queried if it is dependent on the chamber size. The steward suggested to adopt the minimum half pressure decay time to 30 second in agreement with the assistant steward.

- [29] With regard to text on heating equipment, a TPPT member suggested that since the 5°C requirement is relevant to the application of methyl bromide only, a more general sentence would be more appropriate. The steward agreed to modify the text. The steward will also consider the temperature limitations for other fumigation treatments. Another TPPT member suggested including more information on minimum temperatures for the main fumigants used globally, if available.
- [30] A TPPT member thought that a section on instruments to measure the moisture content or the relative humidity should be added and that the text should not use outdated measurement units (ppms). The TPPT agreed that a section on the measurement of the humidity should be added.
- [31] Another member suggested checking the draft ISPM on temperature treatments (2014-005) for consistency in the use of terminology used for thermometers, temperature probes, sensors etc.
- [32] In the section on Fumigant recycle use or disposal facility it was suggested to remove the requirement of 50 kg limit for methyl bromide as it was too prescriptive and would probably not be accepted by countries. The TPPT agreed and removed this requirement.
- [33] The Secretariat thanked the participants for their comments and suggested that comments on issues not discussed at this meeting should be submitted to the steward and the assistant steward by 04 November 2016. The Secretariat also informed the TPPT that the next TPPT virtual meeting is planned for 08 December.

4. Other business

- [34] No other business was discussed.

5. Close of the meeting

- [35] The Secretariat thanked the TPPT for their participation in the meeting and reminded them of the posting deadline of documents for the December 2016 virtual meeting. The Secretariat closed the meeting.

Appendix 1: Agenda**2016 OCTOBER VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE TECHNICAL PANEL ON
PHYTOSANITARY TREATMENTS (TPPT)****26 October 2016****Time: 12:00-14:00 (GMT +1)****Adobe Connect****AGENDA**

AGENDA ITEM	DOCUMENT NO.	PRESENTER
1. Opening of the meeting		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome by the IPPC Secretariat and introductions 	02_TPPT_2016_Oct	MOREIRA / ALL
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adoption of the agenda and election of rapporteur 	01_TPPT_2016_Oct	MOREIRA / ALL
2. IPPC Secretariat Updates		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updates from relevant meetings 	-	MOREIRA / ROSSEL
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Status of PTs and ISPMs 	03_TPPT_2016_Oct	MOREIRA / ROSSEL
3. TPPT work programme		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft ISPM: Requirements for the use of fumigation treatments as a phytosanitary measure 	2014-004	WANG / ORMSBY / ALL
4. Other business	-	MOREIRA
5. Close of the meeting	-	MOREIRA