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**Report on international cooperation of the IPPC Secretariat - Report from
the IPPC Secretariat**

Agenda item 14.2

Prepared by the IPPC Secretariat

1. The IPPC Secretariat reviewed and updated the External Cooperation web page on the IPP¹, highlighting the organizations we are currently cooperating with and describing the areas of mutual interest that we are currently addressing jointly.
2. The following provides highlights of the main cooperative activities in 2018 with external organizations and regional plant protection organizations.

I. Section 1. International Organizations

3. **Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA):** The IPPC Secretariat attended and contributed to the 3rd workshop on the Draft International Bio-Emergency Management Plan for Deliberate Events, under the project on Strengthening Global Mechanisms and Capacities for Responding to Deliberate Use of Biological Agents. The workshop was organized by the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) in partnership with the Geneva Center for Security Policy, in Geneva, in February 2018. The IPPC Secretariat also attended and contributed to the meeting organized in November 2018 to discuss the draft “Bio-Emergency Framework for Deliberate Events (BEMF)” developed by the BWC, to enable a global response framework involving all related International Organizations including the IPPC. The Secretariat also presented the IPPC pest

¹ IPP web page on External Cooperation: <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/external-cooperation/>

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Other documents can be consulted at www.fao.org*



surveillance and pest reporting framework at the seminar on “The importance of disease monitoring and alert mechanisms: lessons relevant for the biological Weapons Convention (BWC)”.

4. **Codex Alimentarius:** The Codex and IPPC secretariats continue to cooperate in the fields of communication and information management, by supporting each other’s news and social media activity and sharing the management and costs of the Online Commenting System (OCS). In 2018, the two Secretariats also collaborated on a joint project entitled “Harmonization of national policies in implementing the normative framework for the promotion of productive and value chains” in the Andean Community. The project resulted in ample regional media coverage and increased the awareness of policy makers and industry representatives of the importance of international plant health and food safety standards.

5. **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD):** The IPPC Secretariat cooperated with CBD Secretariat for promotion of the IPPC 2018 Annual Theme “Plant Health and Environmental Protection”. The CBD Secretariat participated at the 13th Session of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) held in April 2018 in Rome and the CBD Executive Secretary delivered a keynote speech at the CPM-13 on Plant Health and Environment Protection to launch the IPPC 2018 Annual Theme. A side session was also jointly organized by both secretariats on “Plant Health and Environmental Protection – Strengthening collaboration for Plant Health and achieving Aichi Biodiversity Targets by 2020 at all levels”. The side session aimed at informing IPPC contracting parties and stakeholders about the high potential of synergy and collaborative space for national plant protection organizations and environmental protection agencies at the national and regional levels, and about outcomes and plans of the IPPC Secretariat’s collaboration with other environmental-related organizations.

6. The IPPC Secretariat in turn participated at the CBD 14th Conference of Parties (CBD COP-14) organized in Sharm El Sheikh in November 2018. Both Secretariats have ongoing collaborations to advocate and promote the 2020 International Year for Plant Health (IYPH) and the UN Decade on Biodiversity. Both Secretariats in cooperation with the Invasive Species Specialist Group of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN-ISSG) organized a side event on “2020 UN International Year of Plant Health and progress on achieving Aichi Target 9” during the COP-14. The side event highlighted the links between plant health and biodiversity, the impact of invasive alien species on agriculture and plant health, and the importance of a synergetic approach between plant health and environmental protection. The side event aimed to create a synergy and alliance between all stakeholders towards a joint celebration of 2020 as International Year of Plant Health and end of the UN Decade on Biodiversity. The CBD Secretariat also supported the campaign related to the IYPH proclamation and celebrated it by developing a video and various social media posts.

7. The IPPC Secretariat contributed to the Global Taxonomy Initiative Training held in August 2018 in Sri Lanka. The IPPC Secretariat resource person provided a capacity-building session for plant quarantine officers for the rapid identification of insect pests in imported consignments.

8. **Centre International de Hautes Etudes Agronomiques Méditerranéennes (CIHEAM):** A joint IPPC-CIHEAM training entitled “Building Phytosanitary Capacities” was conducted in Bari, Italy, in June 2018. The training was provided to 16 Master students of the Sustainable Pest Management Technologies Programme of CIHEAM–Bari, 6 researchers on *Xylella fastidiosa* and five staff members of National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs). The training built upon several IPPC technical resources developed under the STDF 350 project which supported the development of several IPPC guides. The IPPC Secretariat also contributed to and participated in an international meeting on the Innovative and Sustainable Approaches for the Control of Red Palm Weevil (RPW) that was held 23–25 October 2018 in Bari, Italy. The Secretariat gave a presentation on the FAO Framework Strategy for Eradication of RPW, gaps of the current policies and regulations to control RPW, and proposed recommendations to improve the RPW regulations, policies and control strategies.

9. **Comité de liaison Europe-Afrique-Caraïbes-Pacifique (COLEACP):** the COLEACP launched a call for the organization of training to be given to representatives from 10 African francophone countries on how to better access markets and conduct pest risk analysis. The IPPC Secretariat has been selected to perform this training.

10. **Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degree Programme:** A coordination meeting was held with the Representatives of the Erasmus Mundus Joint Plant Health Master Degree Programme at Universitat Politècnica de València (UPV) in Valencia, Spain, during the CPM-13 (2018). Discussions were held on the prospective cooperation with IPPC Secretariat to support and contribute to the IYPH 2020 and the IPPC 2019 annual theme Plant Health and Capacity Development.

11. The IPPC Secretariat attended the Final Conference on the first edition of the Plant Health Master Programme and the Graduation Ceremony of the first batch of Plant Health master students, organized in 18-19 September 2018 by the Universitat Politècnica de València (UPV) in Valencia, Spain. The Secretariat also discussed the bilateral cooperation of the IPPC Secretariat with the UPV aiming at strengthening the capacity building of the IPPC community. The representatives of Erasmus Mundus Joint Plant Health Master Degree Programme attended also the IPPC Strategic Planning Group (SPG) meeting held in October 2018 at FAO HQs in Rome.

12. **European Food Safety Authority (EFSA):** The IPPC Secretariat attended the meeting on climate change and emerging risks for food safety organized by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) in March 2018 at the EFSA Headquarters in Parma, Italy. The IPPC Secretariat gave a presentation on ISPMs particularly focusing on how ISPM 11 (Pest risk analysis for quarantine pests) is robust enough to deal new risks from climate change.

13. **International Advisory Group for Pest Risk Analysis (IAGPRA):** A meeting of the experts was convened in March 2018 at FAO Headquarters to draft an IPPC Guide entitled “Stakeholder Engagement and Pest Risk Communication for Plant Health” of which several experts were IAGPRA members. It is anticipated that this guide will be published in 2019.

14. **The Inter Agency Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species (IALG-IAS):** The IPPC Secretariat participated virtually in the 2018 July meeting of the Inter-Agency Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species (IALG-IAS) organized by the CBD to exchange information, explore opportunities for synergistic activities and increased coordination. The meeting was held in conjunction with the meeting of the Subsidiary body of the CBD on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA 22) and the attending organizations (CBD, IMO, WCO, OIE, IPPC, CABI, IUCN, GBIF, ICAO) provided updates on their activities related to invasive alien species. An update was provided on the IPPC Secretariat’s work on e-commerce and the progress towards the IYPH.

15. **International Maritime Organization (IMO):** Collaboration with the IMO Secretariat is crucial for the IPPC community to ensure the successful implementation of the Complementary Action Plan for Assessing and Managing the Pest Threats Associated with Sea Containers² as the IMO is one of the organizations responsible for managing the IMO/ILO/UNECE Code of Practice for Packing of Cargo Transport Units (CTU Code)³. The IPPC Secretariat is in negotiations with the IMO Secretariat to identify a representative of the IMO to the Sea Containers task Force (SCTF). The collaboration established with the IMO Secretariat and Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) has allowed to raise the issue of the inclusion of container cleanliness as one of the selection criteria in container inspection programmes carried out in accordance with the relevant MSC Circulars at the MSC 100 meeting. The issue is expected to be further discussed at the Sixth meeting of the Sub-Committee on Carriage of Cargoes and Containers. If agreed, the inclusion of container cleanliness as one of the selection criteria in container inspection programmes would assist in determining the number of incidences of pest

² Complementary Action Plan for Assessing and Managing the Pest Threats Associated with Sea Containers

³ CTU Code

contamination of containers and in identifying ways to manage pest risks associated with the movement of sea containers.

16. **International Forest Quarantine Research Group (IFQRG):** The IPPC Secretariat hosted the meeting of the International Forest Quarantine Research Group (IFQRG) in October 2018 and assisted them in conducting a survey to help IFQRG to develop an overarching strategy and identify research needs of NPPOs and RPPOs related to forest quarantine issues. Discussions on several items of interest took place such as risks of wood packaging material, ISPM 15 treatments, barriers to implementing ISPM 15 and areas for collaboration on research and paper development. IFQRG is contributing to the development of an IPPC Guide related to ISPM 15. IFQRG adopted a revised Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure to provide clarity on their role in the IPPC Community.

17. **International Olive Council (IOC):** The IOC held a coordination meeting with the IPPC Secretariat in attendance to explain how the IPPC framework could be used to help manage *Xylella fastidiosa*. Later in the year, the IOC organized an international workshop for producers and NPPOs on *X. fastidiosa*, which was organized at CIHEAM Bari. The IPPC Secretariat provided a virtual presentation on how ISPMs could be used to deal with emerging pests, in particular *X. fastidiosa*. The participants drafted a work plan to conduct activities to further prevent the introduction and spread of *X. fastidiosa*.

18. **International Organization for Standardization (ISO):** The IPPC Secretariat cooperates with ISO through the working group (WG4) tasked to draft the ISO standard called ISO/TC 34/SC 16/13484: Molecular Biomarker Analysis: General requirements for molecular biology analysis for detection and identification of plant pests. The Secretariat has an observer status in this group and is helping ensure this ISO standard is compatible with IPPC standards. It is important to note that CPM-8 (2013) agreed that ISO standards are not mandatory for implementation of ISPMs and that in the phytosanitary area ISPMs take precedence over ISO standards. In December 2018 the ISO committee disbanded the working group WG4 (TC 34/SC 16/WG 4) on Plant Pathogens. The IPPC Secretariat will follow up on any new topics related to plant pathogens/plant pests within ISO and report back to the CPM.

19. **International Seed Federation (ISF):** A collaboration established with the International Seed Federation allowed to organize and deliver a session on ISPM 38 International movement of seeds during 7 IPPC RWs. This was a first attempt to involve an international organization in the delivery of RWs to facilitate better implementation of the Convention and ISPMs. The session allowed to raise awareness of the implementation of ISPM 38 and have open discussions with countries on implementation challenges, as well as to establish new linkages between the ISF and CPs. This ongoing discussion with the ISF could result in a proposal for future collaboration.

20. An ISF representative also participated in the two meetings of the IYPH Steering Committee, providing a valuable contribution to the discussions and financial support for the path towards the IYPH proclamation. The ISF and IPPC Secretariat have also worked together in the communications field to enhance each other's presence on social media.

21. **Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA):** The Secretariat continued collaboration with IICA for the organization of the 2018 IPPC Regional Workshops in the Caribbean and in Latin America and an ePhyto workshop in Latin America. IICA also kindly provided the Spanish translation of the IPPC Guide on Plant pest surveillance.

22. **Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE):** A representative from the IPPC Secretariat attended the OSCE workshop "Furthering the Draft Plan of Action on the implementation of the WTO TFA" in Kazakhstan in November 2018. An overview of the Convention and ISPMs was provided and the benefits of the Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation were explained in order to promote the implementation of the PCE in Kazakhstan.

23. **Ozone Secretariat:** The IPPC Secretariat actively engaged with the Ozone Secretariat for collaboration on issues related to Methyl Bromide alternatives. The Ozone Secretariat and the Methyl

Bromide Technical Options Committee (MBTOC) with the facilitation of the IPPC Secretariat liaises with the Technical Panel on Phytosanitary Treatments (TPPT) on technical issues.

24. **Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF):** The STDF is a partner organization composed of (FAO (IPPC & Codex), OIE, WBG, WHO and WTO) and housed in the WTO. A representative of the IPPC Secretariat is a member of the STDF working group (WG). The Secretariat participated in the March and October WG meetings. The Secretariat conducted in depth reviews of applications with a phytosanitary component, providing these comments to the WG, which reviews, approves and prioritizes STDF projects (including project preparation grants). Full details on approved projects and their outcomes can be found on the STDF website. In addition, the Secretariat provided input into a draft assessment tool that will be used to determine country's readiness to implement the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) at the border. The Secretariat was audited for their implementation of a STDF project for the development of IPPC Guides and Training Materials and results of this audit will be presented to the WG. The Secretariat also provided feedback to an external audit of the STDF itself, this information will be used to begin work on developing a new Strategic Plan for the STDF.

25. **The Phytosanitary Measures Research Group (PMRG):** continued its liaison with the IPPC Secretariat supporting the work of the TPPT. This group was formed as a result of an Expert Consultation on Cold Treatments (ECCT) which was organized by the Standard Setting Unit on the IPPC Secretariat in 2013. The PMRG is an independent group of phytosanitary treatment researchers who have created a forum where critical phytosanitary treatment issues can be addressed through discussion and collaborative research. The TPPT liaises with the PMRG to help resolve technical issues, facilitate the sharing of data among treatment submitters and to help collaborate research, which is needed to support phytosanitary treatments. The PMRG is currently working on several treatment research guidelines to help improve the common understanding on phytosanitary treatments development. The next PMRG meeting is tentatively planned to be held in mid-2019 in Australia. More information about the PMRG can be found on the IPP⁴.

26. **UN Environment:** The IPPC Secretariat is also involved in the InforMEA project led by UNEP. In cooperation with UNEP, the IPPC Secretariat developed an e-learning course "Introduction to the IPPC" that was launched in January on the InforMEA e-learning platform and contributed towards analyzing data to be automatically imported in the InforMEA Portal. It is also working jointly with UNEP and the seven biodiversity-related conventions to share good practices in the communications field and maximize impact on awareness raising in the field of environmental protection.

27. **The World Customs Organization (WCO):** On 19 June 2018, the IPPC Secretariat signed an agreement with the World Customs Organization (WCO) to promote cooperation on matters of common interest including Electronic Data Exchange (ePhyto), eCommerce, Sea Containers, Single Window and Communication and Advocacy. A joint work plan is currently under development. The IPPC Secretariat attended the WCO e-Commerce Working Group in October 2018 at the WCO Headquarters in Brussels, Belgium and the outcome of this meeting has been integrated in the IPPC e-Commerce Project Work Plan and Budget (presented under Agenda item 8.7).

28. **The World Trade Organization (WTO):** The IPPC Secretariat presented updates at the three meetings of the WTO-SPS Committee (February, July and November 2018). Materials were prepared for the SPS Committee thematic session on pest-free areas to facilitate the better understanding of the PFA related ISPMs and IPPC implementation resources in February. The IPPC Secretariat's participation in the workshop on Annex C of the SPS Agreement on control, inspection and approval procedures organized by the WTO in July, allowed to raise awareness of member countries on IPPC framework for control, inspection and approval procedures, phytosanitary certification and import regulation system. Advances of ePhyto solution and IPPC work on e-Commerce were presented during

⁴ PMRG webpage: <https://www.ippc.int/en/external-cooperation/organizations-page-in-ipp/phytosanitarymeasuresresearchgroup/>.

the session “Annex C in the digital world”. A presentation was delivered for another thematic workshop on Equivalence in November. The Secretariat also attended the first ever Border Agency Cooperation Workshop organized by the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) Secretariat. This workshop was held in Cape Town South Africa as part of the work being done to help implement the TFA and resulted in increased dialogue with the various national representatives from the agencies involved at border points.

29. IPPC Secretariat had bilateral meetings and communication with many stakeholder organizations and plant health professional societies interested to join and support the promotion of IYPH 2020. The outcome of these meetings and communications is an agreement to organize IYPH Partners Coordination Meeting at the margins of CPM-14 (2019), to share ideas and programmes, and to establish a coordination mechanism between all stakeholders and a global programme with a calendar of events.

II. Section 2 Regional Plant Protection Organizations

30. The following **Regional Plant Protection Organizations** were instrumental in the organization of 2018 IPPC Regional Workshops: APPPC, CAHFSA, CAN, COSAVE, EPPO, IAPSC, NEPPO, OIRSA, and PPPO.

31. **CAN – Comunidad Andina** hosted and chaired the 30th Technical Consultation among RPPOs in Lima, Peru in November 2018. The CAN representative also provided in kind contribution in revising the Spanish translation of the IPPC Guide on Plant pest surveillance.

32. **EPPO – the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization** continues to liaise with the IPPC Secretariat regarding the development of diagnostic protocols (DPs) for regulated pests. EPPO Secretariat hosted the Technical Panel on Diagnostic Protocols (TPDP) meeting in February 2018 and has members in the panel. It also provides experts for various DP drafting groups and had an invited expert at the 2018 TPDP meeting. In addition, the EPPO Secretariat also collaborated with the IPPC Secretariat in co-organizing the side session at the CPM-13 on “gene sequencing and molecular technologies”. Jointly with EUPHRESKO and the IPPC Secretariat, EPPO also organized the side session during CPM-13 on “Collaboration with Research Organisations”.

33. **NAPPO - The North American Plant Protection Organization** has provided translation into Spanish language for the IPPC publication *Introduction to international phytosanitary terminology* and into French and Spanish for the Explanatory Document for ISPM 15 (*Regulation of wood packaging material in international trade*). The NAPPO representative participated in the International Year of Plant Health (IYPH) Steering Committee meetings and in the 2nd meeting of the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC) meeting as the RPPOs representative. The NAPPO hosted the second face-to-face meeting of experts working on the development of the IPPC Guide for Pest Free Areas. This was the first case when NAPPO hosted this kind of meetings.

34. **NEPPO –The Near East Plant Protection Organization** has provided the Language Review Group (LRG) coordinator for the review of Arabic standards. The NEPPO representative, certified as a PCE facilitator, provided in kind contribution to facilitate the PCE in Tunisia which has been completed.

35. The CPM is invited to:

- 1) *note* the Report on the 2018 International Cooperation Activities.