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United Nations



International  
Plant Protection  
Convention

# **REPORT**

**FAO Plant Health Team meeting  
focused on phytosanitary issues.**

**Held in the margins of CPM-14 (2019)**

**Rome, Italy**

**Saturday April 6, 2019**

**IPPC Secretariat**

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## 1. Introductions

[1] Participants all introduced themselves (See Appendix 1 for full list of participants).

## 2. Opening remarks

[2] Opening remarks by Mr. Jingyuan Xia, IPPC Secretary and Mr. Hans Dreyer, AGP Director set the scene for a discussion about opportunities to improve coordination and strengthen collaboration. It was noted that members of the IPPC Secretariat (IPPC / AGDI), the Plant Production and Protection Division (AGP) and the FAO Regional and Sub-regional offices could strengthen this collaboration through the concept of an “FAO Plant Health Team”.

## 3. Briefing on regional phytosanitary issues

[3] FAO Regional and Sub-regional officers (FAO-RO) provided updates on their phytosanitary activities.

## 4. Brainstorming on how to strengthen the cooperation in the FAO Plant Health Team

[4] Participants shared ideas on areas that would benefit from more cooperation, in particular for work in 2019. The full list of ideas is attached in Appendix 2. The following were the key areas that emerged from the discussions:

- Raise awareness and promote participation in the International Year of Plant Health (IYPH)
- IPPC Regional Workshops
- Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE)
- Emerging pests
- Surveillance
- Enhanced communication and knowledge sharing.

## 5. Conclusion

[5] The following is a list of concrete actions that could be taken over the next few years and all participants were encouraged to incorporate some of these ideas into their future work planning:

### IPPC Regional Workshops

1. Participate actively in the IPPC Regional Workshop Organizing Committees and FAO-RO may consider planning to add one or two days to these workshops to discuss and address regional issues.

### IYPH

2. Advocate for the International Year of Plant Health (IYPH), plan events in all the FAO regions and inform the IPPC Secretariat of your planned activities so they can be promoted, take opportunities to do side events and prepare advocacy material.

### National

3. Efforts should be made to use the PCE in all countries to help identify strengths and weaknesses in the national phytosanitary systems and to help put plans in place to address weaknesses.
4. NPPO's capacity should be developed for enhancing National Reporting Obligations (NRO).
5. Support NPPOs when developing their phytosanitary regulations.

### Emerging pests

6. Each region has its own emerging pests and priority should be given to finding solutions to deal with these pests in each region
7. A holistic approach should be taken to deal with emerging issues including prevention, surveillance, eradication, control and pest risk analysis, followed by pest management.
8. FAO-RO could consider holding regional Symposium on the pests of concern in their region.

### Cooperation and Information sharing

9. Efforts should be made to constantly share information and technical resources.
10. FAO-ROs are encouraged to be ambassadors for the IPPC Secretariat and work together to help identify regional priorities and develop joint projects, participate in each others meetings, share pest information and pest reports.
11. Constant efforts need to be made for coordination.
12. Make efforts to do joint missions (HQ staff and regional staff) so experiences can be shared and we can learn from each other.

## Appendix 1: Participants List

### *FAO Regional and Sub-Regional Officers:*

Region/ Role	Name, mailing, address, telephone	Email address
FAORAP	Yongfan PIAO	<a href="mailto:Yongfan.Piao@fao.org">Yongfan.Piao@fao.org</a> ;
FAORAF	Jean Baptiste BAHAMA	<a href="mailto:Jean.Bahama@fao.org">Jean.Bahama@fao.org</a> ;
FAOSFS	Mathew ABANG	<a href="mailto:Mathew.Abang@fao.org">Mathew.Abang@fao.org</a> ;
FAOSFE	Orlando SOSA	<a href="mailto:Orlando.Sosa@fao.org">Orlando.Sosa@fao.org</a> ;
FAOSNE	Noureddine NASR	<a href="mailto:Noureddine.Nasr@fao.org">Noureddine.Nasr@fao.org</a> ;
FAORNE	Thaer YASEEN	<a href="mailto:Thaer.Yaseen@fao.org">Thaer.Yaseen@fao.org</a> ;
FAOREU	Piotr Wlodarczyk	<a href="mailto:Piotr.Wlodarczyk@fao.org">Piotr.Wlodarczyk@fao.org</a> ;

### *AGP:*

Role	Name, mailing, address, telephone	Email address
AGPM	Hans DREYER	<a href="mailto:Hans.Dreyer@fao.org">Hans.Dreyer@fao.org</a>
AGPM	Remi NONO WOMDIM	<a href="mailto:Remi.NonoWomdim@fao.org">Remi.NonoWomdim@fao.org</a>
AGPM	Fazil DUSUNCELI	<a href="mailto:Fazil.Dusunceli@fao.org">Fazil.Dusunceli@fao.org</a>
AGPM	Maged ELKAHKY	<a href="mailto:Maged.Elkahky@fao.org">Maged.Elkahky@fao.org</a>
AGPM	Preetmoninder LIDDER	<a href="mailto:Preetmoninder.Lidder@fao.org">Preetmoninder.Lidder@fao.org</a>
AGPM	Christine FUELL	<a href="mailto:Christine.Fuell@fao.org">Christine.Fuell@fao.org</a>
AGPM	Baogen GU	<a href="mailto:Baogen.Gu@fao.org">Baogen.Gu@fao.org</a>

### *IPPC:*

Region/ Role	Name, mailing, address, telephone	Email address
IPPC	Jingyuan XIA	<a href="mailto:Jingyuan.Xia@fao.org">Jingyuan.Xia@fao.org</a>

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IPPC	Brent LARSON	<a href="mailto:Brent.Larson@fao.org">Brent.Larson@fao.org</a>
IPPC	Avetik Nersisyan	<a href="mailto:Avetik.Nersisyan@fao.org">Avetik.Nersisyan@fao.org</a>
IPPC	Sarah BRUNEL	<a href="mailto:Sarah.Brunel@fao.org">Sarah.Brunel@fao.org</a>
IPPC	Adriana MOREIRA	<a href="mailto:Adriana.Moreira@fao.org">Adriana.Moreira@fao.org</a>
IPPC	Ketevan LOMSADZE	<a href="mailto:Ketevan.Lomsadze@fao.org">Ketevan.Lomsadze@fao.org</a>
IPPC	Artur SHAMILOV	<a href="mailto:Artur.Shamilov@fao.org">Artur.Shamilov@fao.org</a>
IPPC	Tommaso TETI	<a href="mailto:Tommaso.Teti@fao.org">Tommaso.Teti@fao.org</a>
IPPC	Janka KISS	<a href="mailto:Janka.Kiss@fao.org">Janka.Kiss@fao.org</a>
IPPC	Lihui WEI	<a href="mailto:Lihui.Wei@fao.org">Lihui.Wei@fao.org</a>
IPPC	Xiaonan LI	<a href="mailto:Xiaonan.Li@fao.org">Xiaonan.Li@fao.org</a>
IPPC	Qingpo YANG	<a href="mailto:Qingpo.Yang@fao.org">Qingpo.Yang@fao.org</a>
IPPC	Barbara PETERSON	<a href="mailto:Barbara.Peterson@fao.org">Barbara.Peterson@fao.org</a> (Not yet connected)

## **Appendix 2: Ideas from brainstorming session on areas for potential collaboration for the “FAO Plant Health Team”**

### **General**

- Implementation of the IPPC and ISPMS to prevent spread of pests and facilitate safe trade
- IPPC strategic framework 2020-2030
- Clarify roles and responsibilities of AGP, IPPC Secretariat and FAO-ROs
- Regular “FAO Plant Health” meetings to identify priorities and facilitate information sharing and collaboration
- Clarify scope of cooperation: emerging pests, global pest concerns, national needs, etc.
- Plan joint missions and projects

### **International Year of Plant Health (IYPH)**

- Global symposium on emerging pests (FAO) in 2020
- Propose Plant Health as a main theme for Regional FAO conferences during the IYPH in 2020 to ensure Plant Health is captured as a regional priority
- Add IYPH slides to presentations at other conferences
- Plan and budget for IYPH events
- Plan IYPH workshops for media
- Target youth and work to connect plant health issues to the climate change movement

### **IPPC Regional Workshops**

- Extend IPPC Regional Workshops from the 3 days for IPPC Secretariat issues by adding 1 or 2 days on AGP issues
- Encourage Regional Plant Protection Organizations (RPPO) and National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPO) to be involvement in regional workshops
- Include operational process for how NPPO’s can access FAO resources

### **Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluations (PCE)**

- Collaborate starting from the PCE project planning stage (inclusion in service level agreement, identify strategic program leaders, etc.)

### **Emerging Pests**

- Strengthen national cooperation between responsible people in different ministries with respect to Plant Protection and Pesticide legislation (and between countries)
- Propose inclusion of emerging pests on the agendas of Ministerial conferences
- Holistic approach should be taken to deal with emerging pests including prevention, surveillance, pest risk assessment (PRA) and then pest management. Capacity needs to be developed, information and technical resource shared, coordination and cooperation among all stakeholders including researchers, educators, NGO, IPPC, RPPO, etc.)
- Sub-regional TCP could be developed on key phytosanitary issues
- Increased collaboration between IPPC and AGP on key projects, such as:
  - Horizon scanning to identify emerging pests (globally and at the regional and national levels)
  - Emergency response
  - Certified propagation material
  - Accreditation of certification authorities / laboratories / officers
  - Mechanisms to encourage improved pest reporting

### **Enhanced communication and knowledge sharing to ensure a common approach to plant health**

- Use common terms and definitions to have a better understanding
- Improve availability of global phytosanitary resources on the web; improve IPP; video and other tools to improve access and sharing of information
- Improve sharing of information on regional emerging pests and regulated pests
- Joint database on experts (like NEPPO website)
- Clarify roles and responsibilities (AGP, IPPC Secretariat and FAO-ROs)
- Apply ‘one plant’ concept in regional notes, communication and promotional materials
- FAO-ROs should act as ambassadors of the IPPC Secretariat
- Include FAO point of view in CPM documents