Private sector partnerships (pros, cons, feasibility, how, etc.)

1. The purpose of this document is to begin a discussion on the best approach for a reasoned and rational IPPC Community effort to sustained engagement with the private sector stakeholders. In the 2013 FAO Strategy for Partnerships with the Private Sector, FAO recognized “that the private sector is a key stakeholder in the fight against food insecurity, malnutrition and rural poverty, and acknowledges the potential that better coordination and collaboration between the public and private sectors can offer in the delivery of the Organization’s Strategic Objectives. The Organization, therefore, takes an open and pro-active approach to optimizing the benefits of closer collaboration. In this regard, FAO will consider engaging with all private sector entities, including small and medium enterprises (SMEs), cooperatives and producers’ organizations, local companies through to MNCs.”
2. Based on the preceding, it is now clear that the IPPC Community can proceed to engage with industry in a collaborative way to further the goals and objectives of the CPM, as well as to implement the Convention itself. At this point it would seem moot to argue the merits of engaging in partnerships with industry as beneficial cooperation is already taking place in a number of areas, most especially with the IPPC ePhyto Solution, with the International Year of Plant Health (IYPH) and in standards development and implementation.
3. It should be stressed again that collaboration and cooperation with the private sector is already taking place. The ePhyto Industry Advisory Group meets regularly to discuss the latest developments, provides information and case study results, and is actively looking at the best ways to facilitate the technical integration of industry systems with ePhyto. Beyond that, some industry groups have indicated a willingness to financially support the technical developments necessary to allow a broad spectrum of industry and other governmental/international organizations (such as Customs) to integrate into the ePhyto system. The seed industry stood as a resource in the development of ISPM-38 on the International Movement of Seed and has a full membership on the IYPH International Steering Committee, and the container industry is actively supporting efforts with the IPPC community to look into the best means for addressing the potential pest pathway of sea containers.
4. From previous and ongoing efforts, it is clear that different activities will result in different types of collaboration and partnerships. It is proposed in this paper that the approach remain ad hoc and without any specifically proscribed methodology. Naturally and necessarily, any partnership undertaking requires attention to detail and legal necessities, and it should be undertaken with respect to the goals and objectives of the Convention and CPM.
5. The SPG is invited to:

* *Discuss* the necessity of establishing a proscribed process/procedure for partnerships with industry, and if it feels this is necessary, to *propose* what such a process, rules and procedure should look like.