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COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

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Report on international cooperation of the IPPC Secretariat
Agenda item 13.1
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 sections provides highlights of the main cooperative activities in 2019 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 Meetings of Experts on Assistance, Response and Preparedness of the BWC States Parties in August 2019 and provided a presentation on IPPC standards on eradication of pest and surveillance. In addition, the Secretariat attended the side event that focused on the role of relevant international organizations in case of (deliberate) use of pathogens against livestock, agriculture and the environment. The Secretariat also participated in the inter-agency table-top exercise that was held in November 2019 via VTC as an activity with the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) project on “Strengthening global mechanisms and capacities for responding to deliberate use of biological agents. In December 2019 the Secretariat attended at Stakeholder Meeting: Progress on the Draft International Bio-Emergency Framework for Deliberate Events (“BEMF”) and the Meeting of States Parties of Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) in Geneva. Parties of Biological Weapons Convention welcomed the

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

presentations provided by the IPPC Secretariat and asked to organize a side event in 2020 in margin of Meetings of Experts on Assistance, Response and Preparedness in August 2020.

4. **CABI** organized an inception workshop on the Global Burden of Crop Loss, an initiative to transform evidence-based decision making in plant health, and the IPPC Secretariat is following the developments of this initiative.

5. **Codex Alimentarius:** The Codex and IPPC secretariats have coordinated positions along with OIE in regards to several issues raised by the SPS Committee in regards to specific trade concerns and regionalization (pest free areas) as well, coordinated comments from the three sisters were submitted to the IMO regarding modernization of their FAL Convention to help align it with WTO-SPS Agreement. The 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).

6. **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD):** At the margins of the Consultation Workshop of Biodiversity-Related Conventions that took place in June 2019 on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. The IPPC and CBD secretariats signed a joint work plan for 2019-2020. With the closure of the 2017-2019 joint work plan and based on fruitful collaboration and interactions between the two Secretariats, previously, new work plan was developed and it has nine major activities, and comprises of information exchange, aware raising about each other's activities and actions, the promotion of the International Year of Plant Health (IYPH) 2020, supporting of member countries (or parties) in capacity development activities of each Convention and provide inputs into the development of the post-2020 biodiversity framework. The CBD Secretariat participated at the 14th Session of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) held in April 2019 in Rome. The IPPC Secretariat participated in a meeting of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) on Invasive Alien Species in Montreal, Canada from 2 to 4 December 2019, as well as the open online discussion forum that was established by the CBD from May through September 2019 to support the technical deliberations of the expert group. The AHTEG provided advice and developed elements of technical guidance and management measures for invasive alien species to facilitate achieving Aichi Biodiversity Target 9 and beyond. During the AHTEG meeting in Montreal, the IPPC Secretariat also led a side session which provided an introduction to the application of the World Trade Organization's Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement) and a discussion on the use of the IPPC, Standards and CPM Recommendations to prevent the introduction of those invasive alien species that are harmful to plants.

7. **Centre International de Hautes Etudes Agronomiques Méditerranéennes (CIHEAM):** CIHEAM is a member of the IYPH International Steering Committee and collaborates with the IPPC Secretariat on a number of initiatives to promote the IYPH 2020.

8. **Comité de liaison Europe-Afrique-Caraïbes-Pacifique (COLEACP):** As the IPPC Secretariat won a call to deliver a training course to francophone African countries on Pest Risk Analysis and market access, cooperation was enhanced with COLEACP. COLEACP has supported the participation at CPM-14 (2019) by providing funds to cover the costs of representatives from 18 developing countries. COLEACP has also translated eight IPPC guides into French (in kind contribution), which are currently being processed through the FAO publications workflow system. A Memorandum of Understanding is under preparation between the IPPC Secretariat and COLEACP.

9. **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 with new risks from climate change.

10. **Imperial College London:** Imperial College London is providing technical support to the IPPC Secretariat for the implementation of the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) funded

global project entitled Rolling out a Systems Approach Globally- sharing tools for enhanced application of systems approach and market negotiation on plant pest risk (MTF/INT/336/STF). The project has completed the initial training of 13 candidates for facilitation of the Beyond Compliance Tools in June 2019. Before being validated as Facilitators, each candidate also is evaluated on work on a specific trade case submitted under the project. Once validated, Facilitators may be called upon by other countries in their region or language group to support application of the Beyond Compliance tools for Systems Approach.

11. **International Advisory Group for Pest Risk Analysis (IAGPRA):** The IPPC Guide “Stakeholder Engagement and Pest Risk Communication for Plant Health” was published thanks to contributions from several IAGPRA members.

12. **International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA):** The IPPC Secretariat continued its long-lasting collaboration with IAEA through Joint FAO/IAEA Division of Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture. In 2019, the IAEA hosted the meeting of the Technical Panel on Phytosanitary Treatments (TPPT) that was held from 8 to 12 July 2019 in Vienna, Austria. The work of the IPPC Technical Panel on Phytosanitary Treatments (TPPT) was supported by a recent study carried out by the Joint FAO/IAEA Division of Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture in order to understand how low oxygen influences the efficacy of irradiation treatments in tephritid fruit flies. The IAEA is continuing to provide one expert to the TPPT.

13. **International Maritime Organization (IMO):** The IPPC Secretary has been very active with the IMO this past year and an IMO representatives is on the SCTF, details of this collaboration is provided in the papers related to agenda item 11.1. In addition, the IPPC Secretariat provided input to the IMO regarding the modernization of their FAL Convention to help align it with WTO-SPS Agreement.

14. **International Forest Quarantine Research Group (IFQRG):** The IPPC Secretariat virtually attended the meeting of the International Forest Quarantine Research Group (IFQRG) in October 2019 and the IFQRG has indicated that they will be contributing to the development of an IPPC Guide related to ISPM 15.

15. **International Olive Council (IOC):** A Memorandum of Understanding was signed in between FAO and the Olive Oil Council. Areas of work related to the IPPC Secretariat include the development and implementation of capacity development initiatives and knowledge exchange on plant protection, particularly on *Xylella fastidiosa*.

16. **International Seed Federation (ISF):** The ISF is also a member of the IYPH International Steering Committee, and its Secretary-General was invited as a speaker of the launch event of IYPH 2020 in Rome. The ISF and IPPC Secretariat have also worked together in the communications field to enhance each other's presence on social media.

17. **Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA):** The Secretariat continued collaboration with IICA for the organization of the 2019 IPPC Regional Workshops in the Caribbean

18. **Ozone Secretariat:** The IPPC Secretariat actively engaged with the Ozone Secretariat 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 and with the permission of the SC, the TPPT provided input on a list of specific phytosanitary treatments that could serve as alternatives for methyl bromide.

19. **Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF):** The STDF is an organization composed of the following core members: Codex, FAO, IPPC Secretariat, OIE, WBG, WHO and WTO and the STDF Secretariat is housed in the WTO. The Secretariat participated in the March and October WG meetings as well as in a special June meeting to revise the STDF strategy which will be presented to the

Policy Committee for approval in 2020. The Secretariat conducted in depth reviews of grant 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. 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 were presented to the WG in March and highlighted the production of a very useful set of guides. However, the awareness by stakeholders and uptake by the phytosanitary community is still lacking.

20. **The Phytosanitary Measures Research Group (PMRG)²:** The IPPC Secretariat continued collaboration with the Phytosanitary Measures Research Group that is supporting the work of the TPPT. The IPPC Secretariat participated at the meeting of PMRG that was held in Australia, Cairns 23-27 September 2019. The IPPC Secretariat provided presentations on the International Plant Protection Convention, the IPPC Strategic framework for 2020-2030, IPPC tools for phytosanitary treatments and on the procedures of the Technical Panel on Phytosanitary Treatments (TPPT) including the TPPT's specific points to the PMRG as well as supported the discussions on further collaboration between the PMRG and the TPPT. 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 and IPPC Secretariat liaise with the PMRG to resolve technical issues during the development of phytosanitary treatments, as well as collect additional data on treatments. The Secretariat supports the PMRG's continuing work to develop guidelines aiding the work of researchers developing and testing the efficacy of phytosanitary treatments.

21. **UN Environment:** The IPPC Secretariat has been participating in the project "Enhancing synergies among biodiversity-related conventions", led by UN Environment. The project is designed to support the implementation of biodiversity-related MEAs and contribute to the improvement of Biodiversity Governance. The project consists of five outputs, including contributing to capacity development for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework; cooperation among public information officers; development of tools related to synergies; data and reporting tool; and national level support. The IPPC Secretariat has been engaged particularly in sharing good practices in the communications field and maximizing awareness raising in the field of environmental protection, while also contributing to participate in the post-2020 discussion and to review the developed tools.

22. **The World Customs Organization (WCO):** In October 2019, The IPPC Secretariat participated in the Coordinated Border Management (CBM) panel discussion in the meeting of the Permanent Technical Committee (PTC) together with Codex, the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and OIE. The IPPC and WCO Secretariats collaborated for the implementation of the IPPC -WCO joint work plan including areas such as exploring the feasibility of enhancing the use Authorised Economic Operators (AEO) programme with phytosanitary criteria and using WCO Data Model for tracing sea containers cleanliness. A representatives of the WCO is on the SCTF. The IPPC Secretariat also collaborated with WCO regarding e-Commerce and participated in several meetings as WCO is the lead international organization for e-Commerce.

23. **The World Trade Organization (WTO):** The IPPC Secretariat presented updates at the three meetings of the WTO-SPS Committee (March, July and November 2019). During the fifth review of the SPS agreement, some members expressed a desire to have the "three sisters" more involved in resolving specific trade concerns and in the work on regionalization (Pest Free Areas), however the three sisters, in a consolidated position agreed that this was outside their remit. The Secretariat also provided training at the SPS advance training course in November 2019. The SPS Secretariat gave a virtual presentation at the IPPC Symposium on PFA and Surveillance on PFAs from a WTO-SPS standpoint.

² PMRG webpage: <https://www.ippc.int/en/external-cooperation/organizations-page-in-ipp/phytosanitarymeasuresresearchgroup/>.

The IPPC Secretariat and WTO are planning to hold a joint seminar on IYPH during the SPS meeting in June 2020.

24. The 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 was the IYPH Partners Coordination Meeting held at the margins of CPM-14 (2019), the involvement of some of them in the IYPH International Steering Committee, and the subsequent IYPH 2020 launch held on 2 December 2019 at FAO headquarters.

25. The IPPC Secretariat has also increased its liaison activities with research and academia, in line with the new development agenda on phytosanitary research coordination foreseen by the IPPC strategic framework 2020-2030. Liaison activities were carried out with the following organizations: Euphresco (for the paper on phytosanitary research coordination); University of Cyprus, CIHEAM and University of Florence (for the 16th Congress of the Mediterranean Phytopathological Union and other joint activities); CABI and University of York (for the study on the global burden of crop loss); the Universities of Basilicata and Perugia, for the 14th International Conference on Plant Pathogenic Bacteria; the Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degree in Plant Health (for their support towards IYPH 2020 and a presentation made by the IPPC Secretary); the University of Turin / Agroinnova (for their annual programme on the IYPH 2020); contacts were also established with the Entomological Society of America, the International Association for the Plant Protection Sciences, the International Society for Plant Pathology and La Sapienza University of Rome.

II. Section 2 Regional Plant Protection Organizations

26. The following **Regional Plant Protection Organizations** were instrumental in the organization of 2019 IPPC Regional Workshops: APPPC, CAHFSA, CAN, COSAVE, EPPO, IAPSC, NEPPO, OIRSA and PPPO.

27. **EPPO – the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization** continues to liaise with the IPPC Secretariat regarding the support of the IPPC Regional Workshop for Europe and Central Asia.

28. **NAPPO - The North American Plant Protection Organization** along with the USA, hosted the Sea Container Task Force meeting in Baltimore in September 2019.

29. **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.

30. **IAPSC - Inter-African Phytosanitary Council** hosted and chaired the 31st Technical Consultation among RPPOs in Abuja, Nigeria.

31. The CPM is invited to:

- 1) *note* the Report on the 2019 International Cooperation Activities.