



2ND VIRTUAL MEETING FOR RPPOS

26 June 2020 (14:00-15:50 Rome time)

1. Opening of the Meeting

- [1] The IPPC Secretary, Mr Jingyuan XIA, opened the meeting and welcomed all participants to the meeting. The meeting was chaired by Mr Brent LARSON, the Implementation Facilitation Unit Lead of the IPPC Secretariat, and attended by 24 participants and observers from nine RPPOs, as well as all core team members of the IPPC Secretariat.
- [2] In his opening remarks, Mr Xia highlighted that a lot of activities have been organized by the IPPC Secretariat even in the COVID-19 pandemic situation and he thanked all RPPOs for their continuous support. He also noted the importance of RPPOs in facilitating discussions on various topics in order to help achieve consensus because no physical meeting had taken place in the first semester of 2020.

2. Updates

2.1. Governing bodies

- [3] The IPPC Secretariat presented an update on governance activities since the last meeting for this group in May. He reported that the CPM Bureau discussed the scope of their decision-making and noted that Contracting Parties (CPs) had been consulted. He also informed the RPPOs that the Bureau confirmed 12th of May as the International Day of Plant Health as proposed by the International Year of Plant Health (IYPH) International Steering Committee (ISC) as IYPH legacy and Zambia agreed to be the champion to go through the approval process of proclamation.

2.2. Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC)

- [4] Ms Stephanie BLOEM (NAPPO representative), RPPO representative to the IC, reminded the participants that she is the RPPO representative on the IC and informed them that the IC had set up a series of virtual meetings (VM) to continue working to deliver the implementation and capacity development work. The first IC virtual meeting (VM) provided the IC with updates from the IPPC Secretariat since the November 2019 IC meeting and IC VM02 discussed the development of an Implementation Plan for the Pest Free Area Guide¹ which will help identify actions needed to the Guide is more utilized by stakeholders. She informed that the Implementation Plan would be a first example and would also be tailored to fit other Guides. At the IC VM03, the IC discussed the topics on the List of Implementation and Capacity Development Topics² and some topics were combined to maximize the limited resources, noting that additional two VMs were planned to continue this discussion. She explained that IC members had been providing comments on the meeting documents prior to the meetings using the IPP e-forum, the Online Commenting System (OCS) and some e-mail exchange and as a result, these comments had facilitated a more efficient discussion during the VM.

2.3. Standard Setting

- [5] The IPPC Secretariat updated participants on the Standard Setting work. The Standards Committee (SC) reviewed draft standards using the OCS and discussed on e-Forums. The SC approved for consultation the three draft ISPM; *Focused revision of ISPM 12 (Phytosanitary certificates) in relation to re-export* (2015-011), *Audit in the phytosanitary context* (2015-014) and draft 2019&2020 amendments to ISPM 5 (*Glossary of phytosanitary terms*) (1994-001), 2 draft specifications for ISPMs and 12 Phytosanitary

¹ Guide for Establishing and Maintaining Pest Free Areas: <http://www.fao.org/3/ca5844en/CA5844EN.pdf>

² List of Implementation and Capacity Development Topics: <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/86844/>

Treatments as draft annexes to ISPM 28. The Secretariat also reported that the Bureau had approved for consultation, the draft ISPM on *Commodity based standards for phytosanitary measures* (2019-008) and a draft specification for the Technical Panel on Commodity Standards (2019-009). The draft CPM recommendation: *Safe provision of food and other aid to prevent the introduction of plant pests during an emergency situation* (2018-026) was also approved by the Bureau to be circulated for consultation. The Standards Setting Unit is preparing consultation accordingly. The Secretariat added that these consultations would start on 1st of July 2020.

- [6] One RPPO representative asked the status of the adoption of draft Revision of ISPM 8: *Determination of pest status in an area* (2009-005) which was going to be presented in the CPM-15 because they would like to apply the new terminology from the ISPM. The Secretariat clarified that the adoption of International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs) remained in the remit of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) even though, following the established standard setting procedures, no objection had not been submitted prior to the planned CPM-15 meeting. The Secretariat added that the Pest Status Guide could not be published until the revision to ISPM 8 was adopted.

2.4. Implementation and Facilitation

- [7] The IPPC Secretariat updated participants on the Implementation and Capacity Development (ICD) work. He highlighted that the Secretariat was trying to analyze NPPOs' view and the best approach to deliver the six projects implemented by the Secretariat to fulfill donors' expectation considering the travel restrictions. He noted the ongoing collaboration with the Europe-Africa-Caribbean-Pacific Liaison Committee (COLEACP) which helps develop e-learnings. He added the liaison activities of external cooperation such as participating virtually in the Standards Trade Development Facility (STDF) seminars and SPS committee meeting sessions.
- [8] The Secretariat also shared the progress of the organization of the IPPC Regional Workshops 2020. Draft agenda was circulated to the regional organizing committees. All regions were moving forward with virtual sessions, except Asia which is considering a hybrid meeting with both a face-to-face meeting with some participation electronically. Dates for seven IPPC Regional Workshops, once confirmed, will be posted on the IPP Calendar.

2.5. International Year of Plant Health (IYPH)

- [9] The IPPC Secretariat updated participants on the IYPH activities sharing a draft IYPH monthly newsletter. The letter would be shared with all CPs and IPPC partners, and public could also subscribe to it. He highlighted the recent activities such as the support by the national champions, extension of photo contest and the release of a children's activity book that is now available online³ in English, Spanish and Italian (other languages to follow). He reported that the IYPH International Steering Committee (ISC) had identified new dates for the International Plant Health Conference in Helsinki, Finland as 28 June -1 July, including the IYPH closing ceremony.
- [10] As an IYPH legacy, the proposal of the International Day of Plant Health (IDPH) (12 May) would go through the approval process of FAO governing bodies to be presented by Zambia, the new champion for the process. With FAO approval, the proposal would be submitted to the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), with the aim to declare 12 May the IDPH in the UNGA 2021 session. The Secretariat informed that the development of the study on the impact of climate change on plant health, was underway, with Prof. Maria Lodovica Gullino (University of Turin) selected as lead author and co-authors for the study being selected. He added the collaboration work with universities; particularly Oxford University initiated a scientific series of articles in the context of IYPH. He encouraged participants to submit their events or ideas to the IYPH Secretariat (IYPH@fao.org) if they wish to have their IYPH event included in the list (<http://www.fao.org/plant-health-2020/events/en/>), and to provide input on the expected IYPH legacy at the regional level.

³ Activity book – Healthy plants, healthy planet: <http://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/ca9327en>

2.6. ePhyto

- [11] The IPPC Secretariat informed the RPPOs that video training for GeNs users is now available on the IPP⁴. He updated participants on the video conferences with the ePhyto Steering group and industry advisory group which was attended by the FAO Deputy Director-General (Programmes). Other video conferences were organized with block chain companies to discuss the future sustainability of the ePhyto solution. The STDF electronic certification group met to discuss the SPS certification. He highlighted the IPPC community is the only one that has the electronic certificate that is supported by an international standards (ISPM 12). He also highlighted the development of collaboration in the trade facilitation context, particularly with the World Economic Forum, which is a global alliance for trade facilitation. They have great technological resources with a blockchain toolkit webpage⁵ and the IPPC community has started to work with them to develop an ePhyto tool kit which is expected to look like the similar to their blockchain tool kit. Lastly, the Secretariat added that there were technical discussions on how to deal with versions of the ePhyto system.

3. Discussion

3.1. Planning for the next TC-RPPO in Rome (week after CPM)

- [12] Mr Nico HORN (EPPO representative) suggested the next Technical Consultation among RPPOs (TC-RPPO) meeting be held the week after the CPM in 2021, if a physical meeting can be organized. He highlighted the importance of the attendance of all RPPOs and all RPPOs present agreed that they would attend. The NAPPO representative added a three-day meeting would be sufficient for the TC-RPPO focusing on discussions because participants would have just received an update at the CPM.
- [13] The Secretariat indicated possible dates for the TC-RPPO accordingly (22 to 24 March 2020). RPPO representatives agreed that the next TC-RPPO would be organized the week after the CPM in 2021 on the dates.

3.2. Promotion of IYPH at regional levels

- [14] The IPPC Secretariat stressed the proposal of the International Day of Plant Health (12 May) would need to go through the FAO governing bodies for official approval before the UN assembly. The Secretariat requested all regions to engage in the approval process as it is paramount to get wide support from different regions in the world. Regarding the work related to climate change, it is underway looking into how climate change could have an impact on plant health and the Secretariat encouraged participants to involve in this work so that NPPOs and RPPOs could enhance the visibility. He concluded thanking participants for their support.

3.3. Next virtual meeting

- [15] Mr Nico HORN (EPPO representative) suggested this group meet every three months. RPPO representatives agreed, with their next meeting being scheduled for 25 September 2020.

4. Close of Meeting

- [16] In his conclusion remarks, Mr Xia highlighted five key tasks for consideration by all RPPOs:
- 1) Promotion of the IYPH. He encouraged all regions to organize at least one regional or national activity for IYPH and provide a news item on the activity to increase the visibility of regions. He also encouraged participants to promote the International Day of Plant Health for great legacy of IYPH.

⁴ IPPC ePhyto Solution Training Platform can be accessed from this page:

<https://www.ephytoexchange.org/landing/>

⁵ World Economic Forum tool kit webpage: <https://widgets.weforum.org/blockchain-toolkit/modules/>

2022 is also the 70th anniversary of the Convention and the importance of support from all CPs was highlighted.

- 2) Application of IPPC ePhyto solution. He noted the usefulness of IPPC ePhyto solution, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic situation and invited all regions to consider participating in ePhyto and playing active role to promote its large-scale extension.
- 3) Organization of 2020 IPPC Regional Workshop. He stressed the importance of involving FAO regional officers in the IPPC Regional Workshops for not only this year but also future collaboration.
- 4) Implementation of FAO Global Action Plan for Fall Armyworm control. Participants were informed that implementation of FAO Global Action Plan for Fall Armyworm control in relation to the IPPC issue will focus on the three regions: Near East, South Europe and South Pacific. He called upon technical support and close cooperation from all relevant RPPOs and NPPOs.
- 5) Strengthening of communication. He encouraged all RPPO representatives to join the 2020 SPG meeting, where the new IPPC communication strategy will be discussed. Participants were also encouraged to send an emergency issues to the IPPC Secretariat which could be discussed in the next meeting.

[17] Finally, IPPC Secretary Xia expressed his gratitude to all participants for the active participation and positive contribution to great success of this meeting.

APPENDIX 1: AGENDA

Agenda Item		Document No.	Presenter
1.	Opening of the Meeting		Chaired by Brent Larson and opened by Mr Jingyuan Xia
2.	Updates		
2.1	Governing bodies		Mr Arop Deng
2.2	Implementation and Capacity Development Committee		Ms Stephanie Bloem
2.3	Standards setting		Mr Avetik Nersisyan
2.4	Implementation facilitation	Proposed agenda items for IPPC Regional Workshops 2020 virtual meetings	Mr Brent Larson
2.5	IYPH		Mr Mirko Montuori
2.6	ePhyto		Mr Craig Fedchock
3.	Discussion		
3.1	Planning for the next TC-RPPO in Rome (week after CPM)		Ms Stephanie Bloem / Mr Nico Horn
3.2	Promotion of IYPH at regional levels		Mr Mirko Montuori
3.3	Next virtual meeting		Mr Brent Larson
4.	Close of the Meeting		Mr Jingyuan Xia

APPENDIX 2: PARTICIPANTS LIST

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