IPPC Secretariat Update TO RPPOs

*(Prepared by the IPPC Secretariat)*

Standard Setting Unit (SSU)

Background

1. This section has been prepared by the Standard Setting Unit (SSU) to provide the Regional Plant Protection Organizations (RPPOs) a brief update on recent developments and upcoming standard setting work. The current Standard Setting Unit (SSU) staff and their main areas of work are presented in the [linked chart](https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/2463/).

2020 consultation for draft specifications, ISPMs and CPM recommendations

1. The 2020 consultation period opened on 1 July 2020 for 20 drafts:
* 3 draft specifications (first consultation) – **closed 31 August 2020**
* 4 draft ISPMs (first consultation) – **close 30 September 2020**
* 12 draft phytosanitary treatments (PTs) – **close 30 September 2020**
	+ 5 for first consultation
	+ 7 for second consultation
* 1 CPM recommendation (second consultation) – **close 30 September 2020**
1. The compiled comments for the three draft specifications are available on the IPP on the [draft Specifications page](https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/standards-setting/member-consultation-draft-specifications-ispms/)[[1]](#footnote-1).
2. Draft ISPMs and the draft CPM Recommendation are still available for commenting via the [online commenting system (OCS)](https://ocs-new.ippc.int/). For more information on the consultation periods, visit the [draft ISPM consultation page](https://www.ippc.int/core-activities/standards-setting/member-consultation-draft-ispms/), or the [draft CPM Recommendations page](https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/governance/cpm/current-consultations-for-cpm-recommendations/) on the IPP.

***Standards Committee meetings***

1. **14 July 2020.**The IPPC Secretariat organized the first informal IPPC SC virtual meeting to brief the SC on general updates from the IPPC Secretariat, CPM Bureau decisions and to discuss the plan for the next steps in relation to the Commodity Standards and the reorganization of PRA standards. The SC also discussed the topic on authorization of entities to perform phytosanitary actions and the tentative webinar on this theme.
2. The SC made recommendations on the stewards and assistants nominations for the Technical Panel on Commodity Standards (TPCS) and the draft ISPM on Commodity-based standards for phytosanitary measures. The SC noted that the stewards would address country comments on the overarching concept standard submitted for the first round of consultations in 2020, and additional SC members could steward the development of standard for individual commodities once they are in the work programme.
3. The report is available at <https://www.ippc.int/core-activities/standards-setting/standards-committee/>
4. **23 September 2020**. The 35th SC meeting is planned to be held on the 23 September 2020 in virtual mode. The provisional agenda is available at <https://www.ippc.int/events/event/871>.

Updates on Technical Panels recent work

1. **TPDP.** The first Technical Panel on Diagnostic Protocols (TPDP) virtual meeting was held on 10 September 2020 to welcome the new panel members and to discuss the TPDP work programme. There is currently 19 subjects under various stages of development, to be adopted as annexes to ISPM 27 (*Diagnostic protocols for regulated pests*). There are 9 draft diagnostic protocols (DPs) under development, while the others are with “pending status” or still awaiting call for authors hence they are not priority 1. The TPDP asked the Secretariat to open a call for authors for the remaining DPs that were added to the work programme. Additionally, the SC agreed in November 2019 to add the of Revision of DP 5 (*Phyllosticta citricarpa* (McAlpine)) Aa, (2019-011) to the work programme with a “pending” status, so that a revision can take place as soon as a specific PCR test for *Phyllosticta citricarpa* becomes available. The TPDP has now requested to change the status to “under development”. The meeting report[[2]](#footnote-2) will be available in due course. A news item was posted at <https://www.ippc.int/en/news/making-progress-in-plant-pests-diagnostics-the-ippc-technical-panel-on-diagnostic-protocols-meets-to-advance-its-work-in-pandemic-times/>
2. **TPPT.** The Technical Panel on Phytosanitary Treatments (TPPT) met virtually on 2 July 2020 and reviewed their work programme. The Leads updated the panel on the status of the remaining submissions that were not progressed to consultation yet and agreed on the way forward. They also agreed to start the revisions of ISPM 18 (*Guidelines for the use of irradiation as a phytosanitary measure*) throughout a series of virtual meetings. They also had further discussions and finally approved the responses to consultation comments on the Irradiation treatment for *Zeugodacus tau* (2017-025) to be presented to the SC. The SC also approved the TPPT work programme for the year via e-decision.
3. **TPG.** The SC via e-decision agreed on Technical Panel for the Glossary (TPG) work programme for 2020. The TPG is considering organizing a virtual meeting to review the work programme. As it was proposed by TPG and agreed by SC to achieve the best quality of translation of ink amendments, the TPG members have translated ink amendments to “commodity class” that were reviewed and approved by the SC in May 2019. This ink amendment will be presented according to the agreed processes.

IPPC Strategic Framework 2020-2030

1. The SSU took initiative to develop concept notes / updates on the development agenda items assigned to be coordinated by the SSU:
* Commodity- and pathway-specific ISPMs;
* Developing guidance on the use of third-party entities;
* Diagnostic laboratory networking.
1. The concept notes are proposing ongoing and potential activities along with their cost implications and are intended to be presented to the Strategic Planning Group meeting in October 2020.

Webinar on Authorization of Entities

1. A webinar will take place on the **20 October 2020** on “Enhancing the understanding of the concept on authorization of entities to perform phytosanitary actions”. This webinar is replacing the previously planned CPM side session and aims to provide a forum to present the concept of authorization, present case studies and demonstrate successes and challenges identified while authorizing entities. It will provide an opportunity for discussing concerns and positions. The webinar will have interpretation into English-Russian.
2. A small Standards Committee (SC) working group that developed the paper on this topic for the CPM is being consulted on the agenda and the operations for the webinar. The communications and announcements will soon be released.

Implementation and Facilitation Unit (IFU)

Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC)

1. The IC have been meeting virtually since June 2020:
* VM03; (3 sessions: 24 June, 1 & 15 July): List of Implementation and Capacity Development Topics
* VM04: 9 July: Review of specific Drafts of Implementation Plans for guides and training materials
* VM05: 22 July: Update on STDF project: Beyond Compliance
1. Reports from these meetings are posted on the IPP[[3]](#footnote-3).

IC Sub-group: Sea Container Task Force

1. The CPM Bureau was provided with the overview of the Sea Containers Task Force (SCTF), including completed and in-progress deliverables, to inform the discussion and decision-making on extending the mandate of the SCTF. The CPM Bureau discussed the opportunity to extend the mandate of SCTF until the end of 2021 to compensate for the COVID-19 restrictions, which affected the SCTF planned activities, to help address this, the CPM Bureau agreed to extend the mandate of the SCTF for one additional year, until the end of 2021.

IC Sub-group: Implementation Review and Support System (IRSS)

1. The IRSS is under the oversight of the IC with input from RPPOs. The work is under the guidance of an IC Sub-Group, the RPPO representative in the Sub-Group is Ms Juliet Goldsmith. The IRSS was established to review the implementation of the IPPC, its ISPMs and CPM recommendations and then provide support to strengthen identified areas that were lacking or needed further guidance. The main funding for this work has come from the EU under three project cycles, currently we are in the third cycle (2018-2020) which ends in December, however due to COVID-19, considerations are being given to extend this project.
2. The IC Sub-group: IRSS has representatives from the IC, SC, Bureau and RPPOs and works in accordance to the Terms of Reference[[4]](#footnote-4) (TOR) approved by the IC. A procedure[[5]](#footnote-5) for submission of Topic Proposals allows new topics or suggestions for changes in priority to be submitted by the Bureau, RPPOs, IC, SC and the IPPC Secretariat. The RPPOs are invited to follow this procedure and submit new proposals for topics or proposals for changing priorities via the RPPO representative on this IC Sub-group. A list of IC approved IRSS topics for studies and surveys is posted on the IPP[[6]](#footnote-6).

Programme: Strengthening Pest Outbreak Alert and Response Systems

1. In July 2020, the Bureau discussed this topic and agreed to establish a CPM Focus Group which will meet virtually, hopefully by the end of 2020. The Bureau also agreed the IPPC Secretariat should make a call for experts for this Focus Group on Strengthening Pest Outbreak Alert and Response Systems and the SC should ensure that some SC members submit their nominations. The Bureau revised and agreed to a Terms of Reference of this Focus Group which will shortly be available on the dedicated programme IPP Webpage[[7]](#footnote-7) and a call for experts for this Focus Group will soon be issued.

Guides and training materials

1. ***e-Commerce guide for plants, plant products and other regulated articles* (2017-039**). In July 2020, the Bureau agreed to treat this topic as a priority 1. The consultation for the draft Outline for the guide opened on 05 May and closed on 05 July 2020. This is the first formal consultation on a draft Outline for an implementation resource. Future consultations on draft Outlines are expected to be coordinated with the consultations on draft ISPMs (01 July 1 – 30 September). The final Outline for the e-Commerce Guide approved by the IC is posted on the IPP[[8]](#footnote-8)***.***
2. **e-Learning materials on pest risk analysis and export certification** are being developed under the framework of a FAO project for Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) countries for which the IPPC Secretariat implements phytosanitary activities. Two dedicated Expert Working Groups have been set following the IC procedures. The Comité de Liaison Europe-Afrique-Caraïbe et Pacifique (COLEACP) has extensive experience in developing e-Learning materials and will provide in-kind contributions to produce these two products within the framework of its collaboration with the IPPC Secretariat.
3. **ISPM 15 Implementation Resource (2012-015, 2017-043 and 2018-012)** The IC determined (VM 03) that the three ISPM-15 related topics should be merged and that a comprehensive guide to support the implementation of ISPM 15 is needed. The working group that will be tasked with developing this Guide will be established in September.
4. ***Pest Status Guide* (2017-048)** has been peer reviewed and will be ready for publication later this year. Publication will then be pending adoption of the revision of ISPM 8 Determination of pest status in an area (2009-005).

Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation

1. A recent PCE in Nicaragua has resulted in new phytosanitary legislation being ratified. A PCE is currently on-going in Sri Lanka and the 2nd mission took place in February 2020. A PCE is also being conducted in Sierra Leone. Whenever possible, new PCE facilitators are being mentored. A FAO project, funded by the Russian Federation, to conduct a PCE in Belarus, will be initiated once there is agreement from the stakeholders. PCEs are also being conducted virtually in four countries in the Caribbean (Dominica, Santa Lucia, the Bahamas, Trinidad and Tobago). Although many activities have been put on hold due to COVID-19, there are increasing attempts to conduct PCEs virtually.

Web-based information for Implementation and Capacity Development

1. The IFU has been reviewing all the ICD web pages[[9]](#footnote-9) on the IPP and most have been updated while others were shifted, combined or deleted. These changes should make it easier for visitors to the website to find the information they are looking for. In addition, a Phytosanitary Systems landing page[[10]](#footnote-10) has been developed in collaboration with the IC. The landing page is composed of several component pages. Each component page brings together ISPMs, CPM Recommendations, Guides and training materials and contributed resources on a given subject. It is hoped that these webpages will help NPPO staff find all relevant information to help them implement ISPMs.
2. RPPOs are encouraged to visit these webpages and provide comments to support continual improvements to these pages (ippc@fao.org).

IPPC Regional Workshops

1. Seven IPPC Regional Workshops (RW) have been delivered virtually in 2020. Dates, agendas, schedules, documents and presentations are all posted on the IPP[[11]](#footnote-11), reports once finalized will also be posted on the IPP.

Monitoring and Evaluation

1. The Secretariat continues to work with Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation (WCDI) (within the legal entity Stichting Wageningen Research (Stichting WR), part of Wageningen University) under a letter of agreement. A literature review of M&E frameworks and implementation within the SPS areas has been published[[12]](#footnote-12). A Call[[13]](#footnote-13) for case studies on good practices for monitoring and evaluation of national phytosanitary systems was launched and it was hoped to compile some good practices to share with the IPPC Community.
2. The Secretariat is also working on setting up Monitoring and Evaluation for the IPPC Community, in particular to help contracting parties to monitor the implementation of the IPPC Strategic Framework (2020-2030) development agenda items but is waiting for guidance from the CPM Bureau and Strategic Plan Group.

Pest work on Fall Armyworm (FAW) and red palm weevil

1. The FAO/IPPC Technical Working Group (TWG) for the Global Action for FAW control on “Quarantine and Phytosanitary in Relation to Trade” was established. It is composed of representatives from RPPOs of regions where the pest is absent or has a limited distribution, as well as representatives from the IPPC Secretariat, NPPOs, academia and the private sector. Mr Chris DALE ((NPPO representative) is the Chair of this group, Ms Sarah BRUNEL (IPPC Secretariat representative) is the Vice-chair, Ms Mariangela CIAMPITTI (NPPO representative), Mr Mekki CHOUIBANI (Near East Plant Protection Organization representative), Mr Viliami Pila KAMI (Pacific Plant Protection Organization), Mr Valerio LUCCHESI (European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization), Mr Tek TAY (scientific/academia based technical expert), Mr Roger DAY and Ms Alison WATSON (industry/partnership based technical experts).
2. The overall aim of the FAO/IPPC FAW TWG is be to provide current, scientifically and evidence-based, internationally harmonised and practical advisory support on Fall Armyworm prevention, preparedness and containment to the FAW Global Action Technical Committee. It will also provide vital communication and awareness between all relevant government, industry, donor and scientific stakeholders.
3. This FAO/IPPC FAW TWG already met twice to establish the group and advance on activities.
4. Regarding activities on red palm weevil, discussions are being held in the NENA region to consider activities on its control and prevention in the framework of a FAO project.
5. The IPPC Secretariat has developed a webpage[[14]](#footnote-14) for this group, an overview of the activities of this group will be posted there as well as reports from their meetings.

Design thinking

1. The IFU is facing several challenges for the delivery of its activities resulting from travel restrictions due to the global pandemic, limited team resources within the IPPC Secretariat, low use of guides and training materials. The IFU therefore engaged a firm to carry out a “design thinking study” in order to identify how to leverage digital methods to efficiently deliver IPPC implementation and capacity development activities at global, regional and national levels. This study, held by the company PwC, is structured in three steps:
2. Scope: understand IPPC activities and define the scope of the research (users/countries). A kick-off workshop was held on the 10th of July and repeated for the whole IPPC Secretariat on the 24th of September and interviews were subsequently held with individual IFU staff.
3. Understand: understand the target user experience. Interviews were held in two countries (Kenya and Madagascar) with five key NPPO staff in each country. A debrief workshop was organized to present the findings of the interviews to the whole IPPC Secretariat on the 30th of July.
4. Define: prioritize the opportunities and redesign one of the identified challenges. Workshops with the IFU Team and IPPC Secretariat are planned in September.

Integration and Support Team (IST)

Governance and Strategy

1. Since July 2020, the IST coordinated and organized the IPPC Secretariat 2020 Mid-year meeting, two CPM Bureau virtual meetings and the 10th IYPH ISC meetings.
2. Two IPPC regional workshops for Africa and Caribbean regions were coordinated and organized successfully with 55 participants from 17 countries and territories for Caribbean and over 60 participants from 47 countries for the African region.

IYPH 2020

1. The IPPC Secretariat and [IYPH ISC](https://www.ippc.int/en/ph/iyphisc/) continue to implement the IYPH action plan with fruitful achievements. New dates for the [International Plant Health Conference](http://www.fao.org/plant-health-2020/events/events-detail/en/c/1250609/) and IYPH closing ceremony in Helsinki is scheduled for 28th June to 1st July 2021. Prof. Maria Lodovica Gullino is leading the study on the impact of climate change on plant health.
2. IYPH website and FAO and IPPC social media channels are being filled with plant health-related contents. IST have launched an [IYPH activity book](http://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/ca9327en) (now available in 8 languages), a [video animation](https://youtu.be/ioAl18nMxpI), an [art and drawing competition](http://www.fao.org/plant-health-2020/art-competition/enter-the-contest/en/) for children, a [photo contest](http://www.fao.org/plant-health-2020/photo-contest/enter-the-contest/en/), new IYPH social media video on [FAO YouTube playlist](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLzp5NgJ2-dK4cmV7gTSNPk6y6V9AAr52q), and a new social media campaign: “[A day in the life of a plant health professional](https://www.facebook.com/ippcheadlines/videos/289673568908198)”. Fifteen countries have issued IYPH commemorative stamps.!
3. IST has published three monthly IYPH newsletters in June, July and August 2020. In addition, IST has recorded 500 events, particularly webinars, taking place worldwide. IYPH 2020 calendar was developed by Croatia following IPPC Secretariat, EPPO, NAPPO and Greece. Plant health was reported in 4 online training sessions on TR4, as well as [Festival Plant Health](https://planthealth2020.di.unito.it/%5D), [AVIS Webinar on “Environment, Climate Crisis, COVID-19”](https://avispercorsovarasi.it/news/62-diario-di-percorso-giorno-2-gli-obiettivi-ambientali-2030) and [Virtual World Seed Congress](https://govirtual.worldseed.org/).
4. International Day of Plant Health (IDPH) is being championed by Zambia, which is a key IYPH legacy.

Professional/Technical Activities

1. The IST has overseen the implementation of National Reporting Obligations activities and provided regular assistance to IPPC contact points and their IPP editors throughout the year to facilitate reporting through the IPP. The [Pest reports bulletin](https://www.ippc.int/en/countries/reportingsystem-summary/all/) is being maintained and updated. The IST continue to collaborate with the FAO Intelligence and Coordination Unit of the Food Chain Crisis Management Framework (FCC-ICU) to streamline pest reports.
2. A new FAO/IPPC Technical Working Group (TWG) on *Quarantine and Phytosanitary in Relation to Trade* and IPPC/ RPPOs Task Force have been established to fight the FAW global threat to plant health and food security, and limit further spread of the pest to new areas. IST work closely with IFU and leads the new IPPC/RPPO task force to coordinate the prevention of Fall armyworm further spread. Three FAW TWG meetings have been organized.
3. The IST coordinated the development of a concept note and ToRs on development of scientific study on Plant Health and Climate Change in collaboration with CIHEAM. Currently, a team of authors are progressing well with drafting work.

IPPC Communications and Advocacy

1. The IST coordinated and posted 36 IPP headline news, and produced two videos on IYPH, all translated into six FAO languages as well as social media work especially in relation to the IYPH.

ePhyto

1. Since June 2020, ePhytos have been keeping growing and a few more countries have gone live, including Guatemala and Uganda. The first training in French was conducted for Tunisia.
2. RPPOs are invited to:
* *Note* the IPPC Secretariat update.
1. Draft Specifications: <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/standards-setting/member-consultation-draft-specifications-ispms/> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. TPDP meeting reports: <https://www.ippc.int/core-activities/standards-setting/expert-drafting-groups/technical-panels/technical-panel-diagnostic-protocols/> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. IC meeting reports: <http://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/capacity-development/capacity-development-committee/> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. IC Sub-group on IRSS TOR: <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/86154/> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Procedure for Submission of IRSS topics: <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/88059/> [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. IC approved topics for IRSS Studies and Surveys: <http://www.ippc.int/en/publications/87720/> [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Strengthening Pest Outbreak Alert and Response Systems IPP Webpage <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/capacity-development/programmes/strenghtening-pest-outbreak-alert-and-response-systems/> [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. Outline: e-Commerce Guide for plants, plant products and other regulated articles (2017-039) : <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/88771/> [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. Implementation and Capacity Development (ICD) home page is available at: <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/capacity-development/> [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. Phytosanitary System landing page is available at: <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/capacity-development/phytosanitary-system/> [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. 2020 IPPC Regional Workshops: <http://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/capacity-development/regional-ippc-workshops/2020-ippc-regional-workshop/> [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. Evidence on effects of plant pests on IPPC strategic objectives and monitoring and evaluation mechanisms by the SPS community: Report based on literature review and interviews with SPS organisations: <https://research.wur.nl/en/publications/evidence-on-effects-of-plant-pests-on-ippc-strategic-objectives-a> [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. Call for Call for case studies on good practices for M&E: <https://www.ippc.int/en/calls/call-for-case-studies-on-good-practices-for-monitoring-and-evaluation-of-national-phytosanitary-systems/> [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. FAO Global Action for Fall Armyworm (FAW) Control: Preventing FAW introduction into new areas <https://www.ippc.int/en/the-global-action-for-fall-armyworm-control/#a> [↑](#footnote-ref-14)