

2013

IPPC SECRETARIAT REPORT



International Plant Protection Convention

Protecting the World's Plant Resources from Pests

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Message From the Secretary

It is a real pleasure to note the advances that the IPPC has made over the past year. We now have 181 contracting parties to the Convention and the IPPC is beginning, slowly, to be more visible around the world and valued for what we do. We are undergoing some significant changes, including the Secretariat move to the Office of the Assistant Director General (AG) in our hosting organization of FAO, which will ultimately have a positive impact on the IPPC.



The IPPC Secretariat has also developed some new relationships, strengthened some old ones, and is clearly the pacesetter for the three SPS sisters in looking at new ways to do things. It is very clear that much of this is a result of the focus on the new Strategic Framework adopted in 2012. The Strategic Framework has helped to clarify the role of IPPC in focusing on the four major global challenges of food and agriculture, trade, the environment and development.

A couple of significant changes took place last year. First, the adoption of new Rules of Procedure for the CPM that includes guidelines for the selection of the CPM Bureau Chairperson. This unique arrangement will allow for a greater number of country representatives over time to have an opportunity to serve as CPM Chairperson. This will also allow for a much smoother transition in CPM leadership in the future and for a greater focus on the real work of the CPM. The Secretariat is also moving forward with maintaining the registration of the ISPM 15 mark around the world, with a large number of countries either registering or re-registering. The IPPC has also been emphasizing efforts in the area of capacity development, and has seen some positive results with the creation of the Capacity Development Committee, the publication of new manuals and greater global recognition for the IPPC in general.

Challenges still remain. NPPOs around the world continue to be significantly underfunded relative to the impact which they have on their respective nations. The importance of plant protection is still not well understood around the world and there is a lot of overlap among international organizations in efforts to protect plants from pests without sufficient coordination or resources. We are making the best effort, but I urge you to help us as much as you can to get a strong message out in your countries.

Finally, while we have made great strides in establishing a clearer presentation of the IPPC financial situation, we hope to see continued progress in this area. Naturally, we hope to do this with increased resources from both traditional and non-traditional partners. We have great expectations for continued success with key IPPC projects such as IRSS, emerging capacity development efforts and consistent efforts in standard setting to produce useful and practical standards that protect plant health and facilitate trade.

Yukio Yokoi
Secretary, IPPC Secretariat

Message From the *Coordinator*

As the Ninth Session of the CPM takes place, there is no better time to think about where the IPPC has been, where it is now, and where it needs to go. There is no shortage of threats to plant health around the world, but there is a shortage of resources, both human and financial. We need these resources in our contracting parties as well as the Secretariat to ensure a sustained global effort which will keep ahead of those threats rather than trying to constantly catch up to them.



Part of that effort is letting people know that phytosanitary threats to plant health are just as important, albeit less immediate, than threats to human or animal health. In the end, life on earth cannot go on without plants.

Getting the message of plant protection out to the world is vital and is why crafting that message is so critical. The IPPC has a strategy for communications, but the work plan still is being developed. While it is regrettable that it is not yet complete, the Secretariat is making use of a professional communications firm to ensure that the work plan is finely crafted and utilizes the minimum available resources to create global impact. This is a serious job and it is getting serious attention, and only due to unforeseen circumstances regarding resources will it not be completed in time for CPM9.

As we look at the results from the past year and think about the future, we should ask ourselves how to get to the point where plant health takes its place alongside human and animal health for serious consideration and sufficient resources. The Secretariat remains committed to working hard to support the mission of the new Strategic Framework and working with all contracting parties to continue building a stronger IPPC.

Craig Fedchock
Coordinator, IPPC Secretariat

The IPPC Secretariat

The IPPC Secretariat is housed in the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. The permanent staff of nine individuals is composed of six professional and three administrative employees. The work of this group is supported by a number of consultants, temporary administrative and in-kind contribution staff.

Funding for the Secretariat's operations and personnel comes from two sources: funding allotments from the FAO (regular program) and trust funds (extra-budgetary resources). The current work program is presently supported by relatively equal amounts from each source meaning that virtually half of the work of the Secretariat is dependent on outside resources.

A key event in 2013 was the transfer of the Secretariat from the Plant Production and Protection Division (AGP) to the department level, reporting directly to the Assistant Director-General (ADG) for Agriculture and Consumer Protection. In view of the fact that the IPPC Secretariat is operating under Article XIV of the FAO Constitution, which conveys a certain amount of independence from FAO and being situated at the department level, serves to provide additional operational freedom. As well, this change may present a challenge for the Secretariat to take on additional responsibilities previously administered by the division.

The biggest ongoing challenge for the Secretariat is to not only sustain the level of service to contracting parties, but if possible to enhance the program of work. This will not happen without increased and sustained extra-budgetary support along with a transformed staffing structure which would allow for a career path for younger employees and continuity of the work program.

Goals for 2014

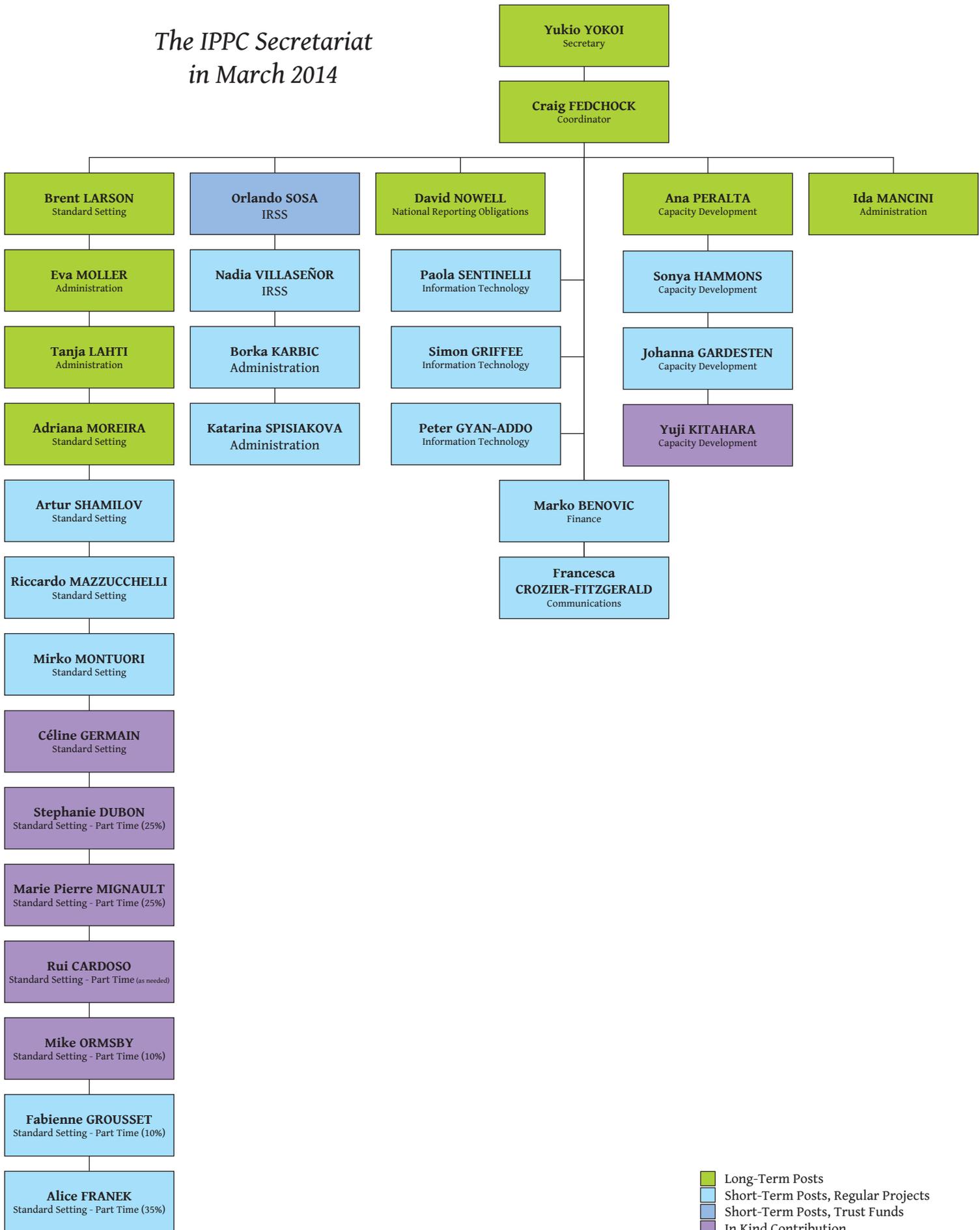
While there are a multiple number of goals for the Secretariat, those mentioned below are some of the most important to the continued successful functioning of the Secretariat:

- Developing new resources and resource partnerships for the Secretariat
- Establishing a sustainable Secretariat personnel system
- Continued improvement in financial reporting
- Maintaining leadership among the three SPS sister organizations (OIE, Codex and IPPC)
- Integrating successfully at the department level

For additional information please visit:

<https://www.ippc.int/publications/secretariat-update>

The IPPC Secretariat in March 2014



IPPC Governance

CPM Bureau

The Bureau is a seven-member elected executive body of the CPM. The Bureau provides guidance to the IPPC Secretariat and CPM on strategic direction, cooperation, financial and operational management. The seven members are nominated by each of the IPPC regions and elected for two-year terms with options for renewal in subsequent periods.



CPM Bureau

The Secretariat asks all contracting parties to join in thanking the Bureau for their willingness to perform these duties during the past two-year term in addition to the demands of their regular positions in their respective national plant protection organizations.

Commission on Phytosanitary Measures

The year 2014 will mark the Ninth Session of CPM following seven sessions of the interim Commission prior to the coming into force of changes to the IPPC. CPM is the governing body of the IPPC. Its mission is to foster cooperation between nations in protecting the worlds cultivated and natural plant resources from the spread and introduction of pests of plants, while minimizing interference with the international movement of goods and people.

The CPM meets annually and is directed between sessions by the CPM Bureau which provides advice and administration and makes decisions between annual CPM meetings. There are two subsidiary bodies to the CPM: the Standards Committee and the Subsidiary Body on Dispute Settlement. While not a formal body of the IPPC, a third group, the Capacity Development Committee provides input and guidance on the capacity development work plan.

Of special note this year is the addition of Lesotho and South Sudan as the 180th and 181st member countries of the IPPC.

Key Developments During 2013

The CPM adopted amendments to its Rules of Procedure at its Eighth Session, which was held in Rome in April, 2013. On 8 November 2013, the Director General of the FAO approved the amendments, in accordance with Rule XIV of the Rules of Procedure of the CPM. The amendments to the Rules came into force on the date of the approval, i.e. 8 November 2013.

The CPM also adopted guidelines last year for the selection of the CPM Bureau Chairperson which are intended to allow for a broader representation of all members. These guidelines call for a process of selection which allows for the

four regions which have the greatest number of contracting parties to have an equal opportunity to the other three, smaller regions in the regular selection of a CPM Chairperson.

Another significant development which took place in 2013 was the conclusion and implementation of the FAO contract with SOCIETA IB of Italy to register the ISPM 15 mark around the world. SIB had been contracted previously and when the work was placed out on tender, SIB won the bid once again. The firm immediately began working on registering the mark for the nearly 75 countries in which it would expire at the end of September. The Secretariat in particular appreciates the effort of the FAO legal office to support the IPPC in this matter.

Standard Setting

Getting Involved

To enhance the ability of various players to fully participate in the standard setting process, the IPPC Secretariat has developed several sets of training materials:

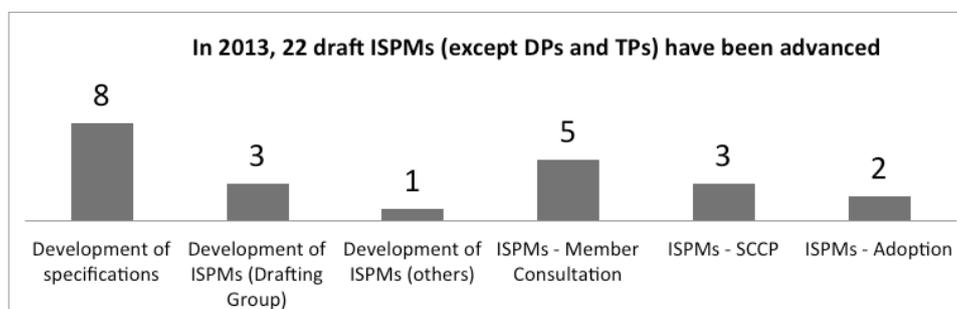
- A set of five presentations was developed to help engage contracting parties in the standard setting process. This was originally developed by the standard setting team to support an FAO project in central Africa. The presentations are posted on the IPPC in English and French and contracting parties are encouraged to use them. (<https://www.ippc.int/core-activities/standards-setting/training-materials>).
- A manual on Good practices for participation in Standards Committee (SC) meetings together with a set of self-evaluation web based questions. New SC members have begun to use the material that helps them understand the tasks they will be expected to take on. The Secretariat has also set up a mentoring programme by pairing new and experienced SC members to provide additional guidance which has already had great results (<https://www.ippc.int/publications/good-practices-participation-sc-meetings>).



Standards Committee November, 2013 Rome, Italy

The Art of Drafting ISPMs: A Snapshot of Standard Setting Meetings in 2013

- 2 Standards Committee meetings
- 1 SC-7 meeting
- 4 technical panel meetings: TPG, TPDP, TPFQ and TPPT
- 11 virtual technical panel meetings (TPDP: 2, TPFQ: 5 and TPPT: 4)
- 2 expert working group meetings



ISPMs and Specifications Published and Updated in 2013

- 12 ISPMs adopted by CPM-8 (2013): 2 for each FAO language
- 41 ISPMs (including DPs and PTs) adopted in Russian by CPM-8 (2013)
- 16 ISPMs noted by CPM-8 (2013) from the Language Review Group process: Chinese: 4, French: 6 and Spanish: 6
- 7 ISPMs with ink amendments noted by CPM-8 (2013)
- 15 Specifications approved by the Standards Committee, English: 5, French: 5 and Spanish: 5
- 24 Specifications updated by the SC: English versions
- 50 Specifications published for the first time in French and Spanish

Other Standard Setting Publications

- Annotated Glossary: Explanatory document for ISPM 5 The Glossary of Phytosanitary Terms
- IPPC Standards Setting Procedure Manual 2013
- IPPC Style Guide: guidance to expert drafting groups
- Good practices for participation in Standard Committee meetings

Members Are Speaking Up

Over 5700 member comments were gathered from member consultation periods in 2013:

- 1 member consultation on draft ISPMs (July): 5 draft ISPMs, 2 diagnostic protocols (DP) and 1 phytosanitary treatment (PT)
- 2 member consultations were held on 5 draft specifications (June & December)
- 1 substantial concerns commenting period (June): 3 draft ISPMs

Standard Setting Embraces New Technology

- The SC made 29 e-decisions using modern web-based forums and polls. The Secretariat held over 50 meetings using virtual tools such as Skype, Adobe Connect and GoToMeetings.com
- Eleven of these meetings were virtual Technical Panel (TP) meetings. These new innovations save both time and money and allow experts to come together to help solve urgent issues
- CPM-9 (2014) should be approving a new Appendix to ISPM 12: 2011 on the use of electronic phytosanitary certificates
- The Secretariat is reviewing its Information Technology needs including the IPP, Online Comment System, phytosanitary resources page and the Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE) tool to better understand how to engage modern stakeholders in the IPPC processes

Great News on the Fruit Fly Front

To help in the development of phytosanitary treatments for *Bactrocera dorsalis complex*, Japan has offered to host an Expert Consultation which will gather fruit fly experts from around the world to discuss the scientific concerns in the development phytosanitary treatments. Treatment developers will be able to share common concerns and gain a better understanding of how to develop and present their experimental data to support NPPO and RPPO's submissions of phytosanitary treatments.

A 20-Year Vision for Standards

In September 2013 a Task Force met in Ottawa to consider the future of IPPC standards and excellent work was begun developing a Framework for Standards. This will serve also as a basis for further gap analysis to be done in 2014.



Task Force on the Framework for Standards, September 2013, Ottawa, Canada

First Ever Member Consultation on a Preliminary Draft: Sea Containers

A preliminary draft on the Sea Container standard, as revised during the SC 2013 May meeting was approved for a preliminary member consultation open only for general conceptual comments (with the understanding that there will be a further member consultation). It was hoped that having access to this early draft would facilitate NPPO discussion with their national stakeholders. The preliminary comments should help guide the SC members on how to take this draft ISPM forward.

Calls Made in 2013

- 2 calls for DP authors were made (April & August) for 5 different DPs, resulting in 17 submissions
- 1 biennial call for topics (May) for standards was made resulting in 34 submissions
- 3 calls for experts (June, September & December) for 6 different expert drafting groups resulting in 341 submissions

Grain Specification: *Feeding the World's Growing Population*

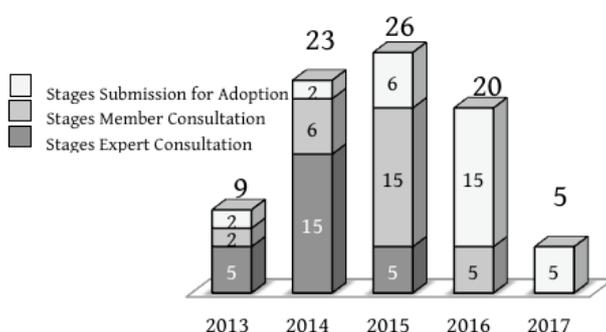
After many months of negotiation and participation of a small group of experts with specific expertise in strategic issues, the SC approved the draft Specification on the *International movement of grain* (2008-007) for member consultation.

The Latest on Diagnostic Protocols

The Secretariat is developing science-based DPs using Web-based systems to gather specialized expert opinions:

- 3 expert consultations: 4 draft diagnostic protocol (3 x April)
- 18 diagnostic experts contributed comments at the early stage of development
- 114 diagnostic experts are currently contributing to the development of DPs
- Adoption of DPs streamlined: for the first time the SC adopted one DP through the 45-day Notification period which started in December

Forecast for Diagnostic Protocols

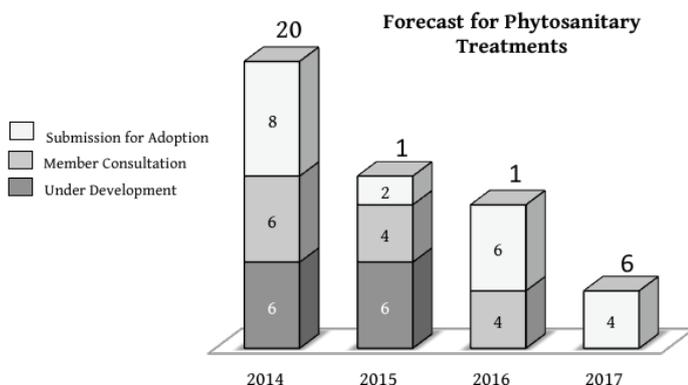


Helping to Develop the Scientific Foundation for Phytosanitary Treatments

Experts from around the world gathered in Buenos Aires in December 2013 to discuss the challenges related to the development of cold treatments. At the Expert Consultation on Cold Treatments (ECCT) many of the challenges faced by the treatment developers were shared and common solutions found. It was discovered that there are many different types of cold treatments in use but most are bilaterally agreed.

The question as to why these treatments were not submitted in response to the specific call for cold treatments was raised. It was discovered that the experimental data is developed by the exporter and the treatment is approved by the importer, therefore it was not certain who owned the treatment and thus these treatments were not submitted to the IPPC. The experts formed an independent group and agreed to work together to share the various types of cold treatment

options available and help enhance communications between NPOs for the submission of many of these treatments to the IPPC in response to the next call for treatments.



ISPMs in Languages

There are increasing concerns about ISPMs in languages, the huge cost of translation, the laborious task of following the Language Review Group process and the updating and publication of ISPMs in all FAO languages.

Still it seems members are not pleased with the translations. The Secretariat is exploring cost effective options to deal with these complex issues and some changes may be implemented. The SC will discuss many of these issues and make some recommendations for possible changes to the overall standard setting process for the review in 2016.



Expert Consultation on Cold Treatments, December 2013, Buenos Aires Argentina

FAO CIO Office in Bangkok Closed

With the sudden closure of the office of FAO's Information Technology Division's (CIO) in Bangkok the IPPC Secretariat was left scrambling to provide support and development for the Online Comment System (OCS). The Codex Secretariat has come to the rescue and through a joint cooperative approach the OCS will be moved to Rome and a programmer hired. Nevertheless, the OCS system is now also being utilized by the Secretariat for the Codex Alimentarius Commission and additionally, the Convention on Biological Diversity has also expressed interest in making use of the system. Thanks for the patience from all the users.

Absent Near East Experts

There is growing concern in the Secretariat that experts nominated from the Near East region are having difficulty to attend various meeting due to a combination of funding issues and authority to travel. The Secretariat has been working with NEPPO to help address these issues but this is also a concern that is shared by all.

Capacity Development

Contracting parties to the IPPC agree to promote the provision of technical assistance to contracting parties, especially those that are developing contracting parties, with the objective of facilitating the implementation of the Convention.

CDC Meetings Update

**Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia,
27-31 May 2013**

During the five-day meeting the Committee identified key points where capacity development would strengthen implementation of the Convention and its standards and discussed an operational work plan with innovative ideas for implementing a globally agreed strategy on capacity development. Additionally, the CDC served as the steering committee to guide specific projects.



CDC May 2013

Bari, Italy, November 2013

The main actions performed by the CDC in this meeting were the following:

- Reviewed progress of all CD-related activities and gave guidance on two STDF-funded projects in its role as steering committee
- Agreed on criteria for prioritizing future activities that it would add to its work plan
- Progressed plans for an evaluation of the CDC's work during its initial two-year term
- Recommended more sustainable staffing of the capacity development work area to fulfill the capacity development work plan



CDC November 2013

CDC Operational Plan and CDC Evaluation

- The CDC agreed to continue to present simple summaries of its work to the CPM while maintaining a more detailed and dynamic versions of plans and documents for use by the CDC and Secretariat
- The CDC considered that an external evaluation of IPPC capacity development activities since the adoption of the IPPC capacity development strategy in 2010 would be valuable
- The evaluation would take place after the CDC's full term (April 2014)
- Evaluation experts are going to be selected by the Bureau to carry out this evaluation and present the results to CPM-10

STDF Project 401: Training of Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE) Facilitators

The project seeks to improve national-level coordination and coherence of plant protection programmes through improved needs assessment and action planning. A pool of individuals will be trained to facilitate phytosanitary needs assessment and action planning processes using the IPPC phytosanitary capacity evaluation (PCE) tool. The IPPC developed the PCE with the intention for countries to use it as a self-assessment tool and strategic planning platform. Effective application of the PCE, supported by competent facilitators, results in alignment of a stakeholders through establishment of a clear understanding of strengths, needs and validation of a coordinated action plan at a national level that clarifies what specific technical assistance interventions is most effective.

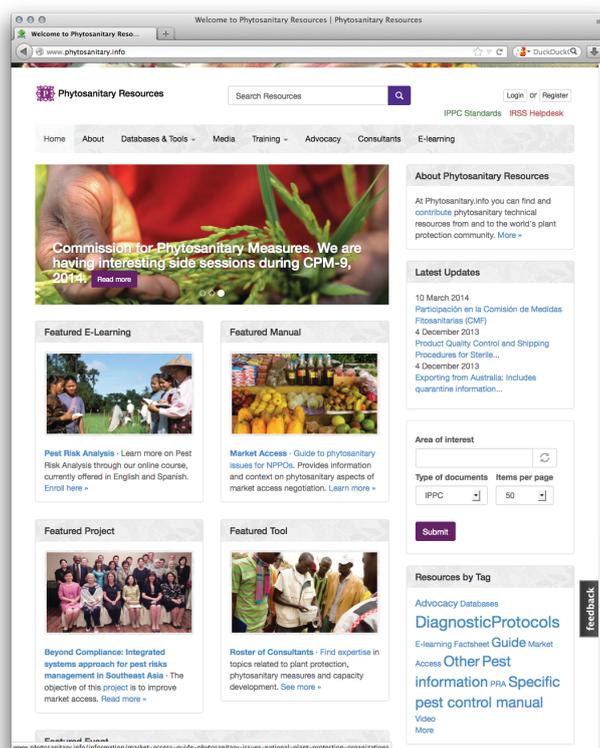
This project shall begin to be implemented in 2014 and the candidates to be trained under the project will be identified through a call by the IPPC Secretariat to NPPOs, RPPOs and other IPPC partners (IICA, IDB, STDF, etc.). The call will provide the minimum requirements for the selection of candidates and a description of the selection process. The selection will involve the use of a consultant versed in pre-testing potential trainees for adult education and process facilitation skills to guide the scrutiny of applicants. The trainees will have to demonstrate strong phytosanitary knowledge as a principal requirement for ensuring the success of future PCE application by countries. The candidates may or may not be currently serving in NPPOs.

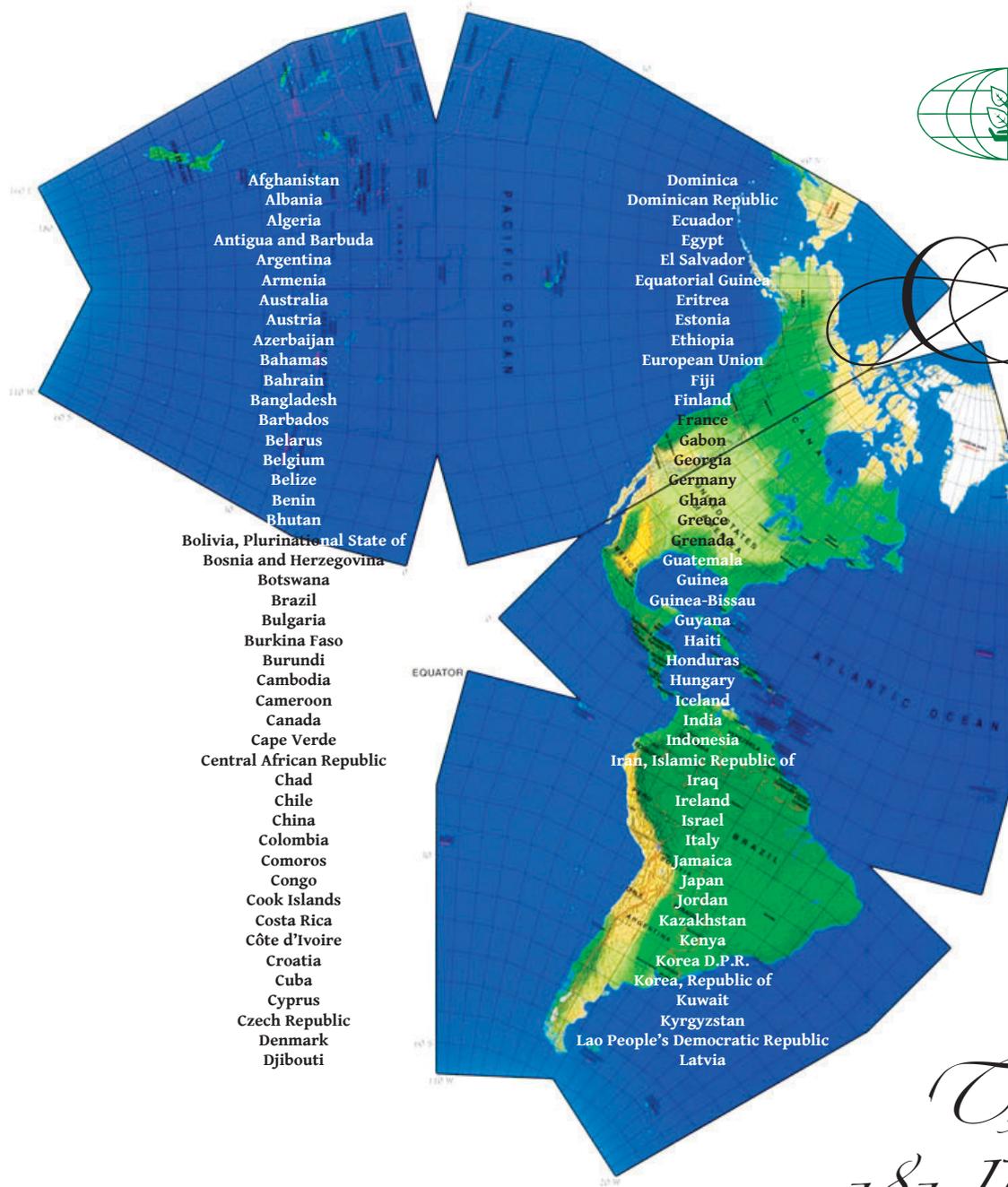
Funding will exclusively be provided to developing and least developed countries and contracting parties to the IPPC Convention.

Phytosanitary Resources Website

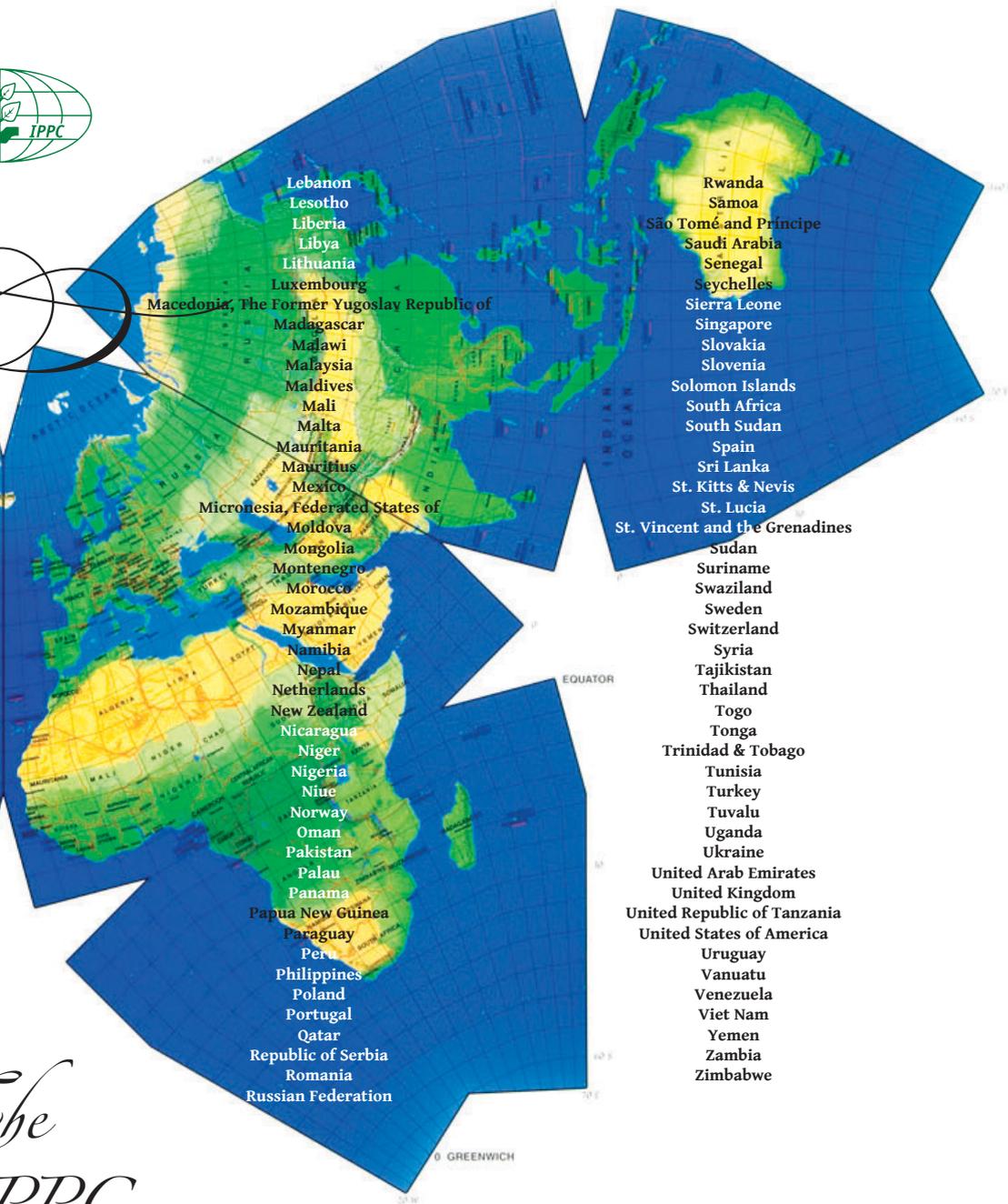
The phytosanitary resources website (www.phytosanitary.info) has the objective to be an information sharing platform where you will be able to find and contribute phytosanitary technical resources from and to the world's plant protection community. Here you will find useful tools such as an e-learning course on Pest Risk Analysis, a Roster of Consultants, as well other technical resources (including training material, guides and manuals) to develop phytosanitary capacity among IPPC contracting parties.

The IPPC Secretariat is currently working on a new structure of the web page in order to make it more user-friendly. The improvement of the functions and layout is expected to be re-launched in Spring 2014.





181 Member



- Lebanon
- Lesotho
- Liberia
- Libya
- Lithuania
- Luxembourg
- Macedonia, The Former Yugoslav Republic of
- Madagascar
- Malawi
- Malaysia
- Maldives
- Mali
- Malta
- Mauritania
- Mauritius
- Mexico
- Micronesia, Federated States of
- Moldova
- Mongolia
- Montenegro
- Morocco
- Mozambique
- Myanmar
- Namibia
- Nepal
- Netherlands
- New Zealand
- Nicaragua
- Niger
- Nigeria
- Niue
- Norway
- Oman
- Pakistan
- Palau
- Panama
- Papua New Guinea
- Paraguay
- Peru
- Philippines
- Poland
- Portugal
- Qatar
- Republic of Serbia
- Romania
- Russian Federation

- Rwanda
- Samoa
- São Tomé and Príncipe
- Saudi Arabia
- Senegal
- Seychelles
- Sierra Leone
- Singapore
- Slovakia
- Slovenia
- Solomon Islands
- South Africa
- South Sudan
- Spain
- Sri Lanka
- St. Kitts & Nevis
- St. Lucia
- St. Vincent and the Grenadines
- Sudan
- Suriname
- Swaziland
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- Syria
- Tajikistan
- Thailand
- Togo
- Tonga
- Trinidad & Tobago
- Tunisia
- Turkey
- Tuvalu
- Uganda
- Ukraine
- United Arab Emirates
- United Kingdom
- United Republic of Tanzania
- United States of America
- Uruguay
- Vanuatu
- Venezuela
- Viet Nam
- Yemen
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe

The
IPPC
Countries



The CDC discussed the value of the page and discussed options to continue to improve it. An additional call for technical resources for incorporation into the phytosanitary resources page is planned.

STDF Project 350: Global Phytosanitary Manuals, Standard Operating Procedures and Training Kits Project

The CDC, as the steering committee for this project, discussed progress and took decisions on the range of products in development. The CDC also advised on general project management issues such as identifying relevant input materials, developing plans for product review, exploring partnerships opportunities for translation, and planning pilot-testing and feedback mechanisms. The CDC is developing materials through this project based on criteria that it established in order to focus on products that address core IPPC functions, are globally applicable, fill a gap where no existing materials exist, address emerging issues and strengthen NPPO management systems.

Products of the Project

- New manuals and related resources are under production on: NPPO establishment and management, Import and Export operations and other issues
- The CDC decided that a very brief flyer to summarize basic information on the dielectric heating treatment would provide valuable, simple information on this newly adopted treatment, and agreed on content to be addressed in this document
- A set of materials specifically produced for awareness-raising on pest risk analysis are in development in partnership with USDA-APHIS and the International Advisory Group on Pest Risk Analysis
- The IICA Manual on Participation in IPPC meetings was updated through this project and new visual materials have been produced to support its use
- Partners are actively sought to collaborate on translation, printing, and use of these materials

Manuals Produced Under the Auspices of the IPPC Secretariat

The first manual produced under the auspices of the IPPC Secretariat, Market Access, a guide to phytosanitary issues for NPPOs, was launched in October 2013 at the Workshop on “SPS-related market access challenges & opportunities”, organized by the World Trade Organization (WTO-SPS) in Geneva, Switzerland. The CDC discussed the value of the manual and developed a plan to complement it with additional materials. Other manuals on Transit and Equivalence are being finalized.



Regional Workshops

- Seven regional workshops were organized in 2013 with generous contribution of organizers and co-organizers
- Out of the 181 IPPC contracting parties, 134 attended the seven IPPC regional workshops in 2013
- The workshops had a total of 236 participants
- The broader scope of the workshops and inclusion of more topics and updates from the IPPC Secretariat was seen as positive
- The opportunity for contracting parties to meet on a regional basis to discuss experiences and challenges related to phytosanitary issues is highly valuable
- Strong preparation for participation at the workshops is needed
- National Reporting Obligations would be an important activity to put more focus on in future workshops
- A more developed evaluation system is under planning

Opportunity: Training of Trainers

The Secretariat and CDC invite collaborators for creating phytosanitary training of trainers programmes. The programmes would strengthen the technical and teaching skills of individuals who would be able to train others on core phytosanitary themes such as NPPO management, phytosanitary issues of market access, pest risk analysis, surveillance, etc. Collaborators participating in this initiative could include contracting parties, RPPOs, FAO regional officers, donors, and others with an interest in strengthening the global level of understanding of the IPPC framework. Financial and organizational contributions are needed to launch these programmes. For more information please contact ana.peralta@fao.org

Dispute Settlement

The Subsidiary Body on Dispute Settlement and the IPPC Dispute Settlement Process itself are underutilized, but vital activities under the Convention. The system allows contracting parties to engage on a technical basis in pursuit of a science-based resolution to a phytosanitary dispute in a process that is intended to be efficient and of significantly lower cost than engaging in the World Trade Organization.

Background

- Provides guidance to the Secretariat and disputing parties in selecting dispute resolution methods, and may help with consultation, good offices, mediation or arbitration
- Proposes nominations for independent experts in IPPC Expert Committee procedures where disputing parties cannot agree on experts proposed by the Secretariat
- Approves reports of Expert Committees, including verification of all points in Expert Committee procedures

- Undertakes other functions, including *i)* helping the Secretariat with requests from WTO or other organizations, *ii)* reporting on IPPC dispute settlement activities as well as dispute settlement activities by other organizations that have implications for the phytosanitary community, and *iii)* identifying appropriate experts

Updates

There are no new disputes in the IPPC dispute system. As noted during last year's meeting of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures, the Secretariat has facilitated discussions on one dispute which is still in the process of being resolved.

The Secretariat stands ready to assist in the resolution of phytosanitary disputes and notes that while the dispute resolution process of the IPPC is non-binding, it should be significantly less costly and faster than engaging in a World Trade Organization (WTO) dispute settlement.

10th SBDS Meeting, 2013 Report

Several recommendations from the report of the last SBDS meeting still remain valid:

- There is an ongoing need for stronger promotion of both the formal and informal processes of Dispute Settlement within the IPPC
- The IPPC has both the technical expertise and understanding of the standards and thus should be the better option for resolving technical disputes
- The IPPC Secretariat should monitor phytosanitary trade concerns registered with WTO SPS Committee and offer to Contracting Parties the services of the IPPC dispute avoidance process

Upcoming Meetings

The Secretariat has attempted to begin using virtual meetings of the Subsidiary Body on Dispute Settlement. Nevertheless, it has been very difficult to get the SBDS to work virtually – not only are time differences a challenge, the Secretariat has been unable to get everyone available for the conference call at the same time.

Receiving Feedback from Contracting Parties

While it is increasingly evident that there is survey fatigue among contracting parties, the survey process is nevertheless the one way to obtain useful information from a wider audience *when* the surveys are answered. While the SBDS survey launched at CPM did not have many respondents, there are now draft recommendations based on the response to the survey that were reviewed at the SPG and will be going forward to CPM-9.

National Reporting Obligations

CPM-8 declared that the IPPC Information Exchange Programme will now operate under the IPPC National Reporting Obligations (NRO) programme as a more accurate reflection of the nature of the task and obligation to IPPC contracting parties (CPs). The programme will establish good practices to ensure that information is consistent and readily available for the IPPC, stakeholders, and other international organizations such as the WTO.

Pest Reports

A summary of pest reports made through the IPP can be found below. A more detailed analysis will be undertaken through the NROAG. It was found that very few countries have been reporting over years.

Pest reports made through the IPP from 2005 to 2013

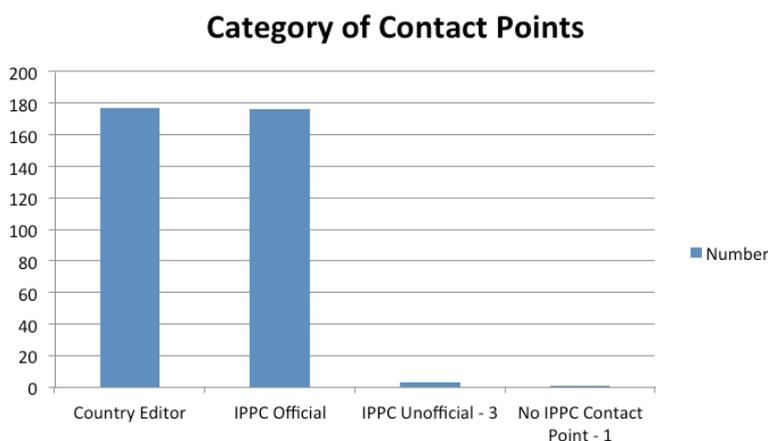
	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
Countries	16	17	22	16	32	11	15	11	4
Reports	47	66	56	69	31	28	28	29	5
Pests	37	42	44	65	13	27	24	26	4

Legislation

A summary of legislation-related reports made through the IPP can be found below. A more detailed analysis will be undertaken through the NROAG. Ninety countries have reported over 420 times between 2005 and 2013, but some countries do not appear to have updated the information for a few years.

Legislation reports made through the IPP from 2005 to 2013

	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
Countries	15	21	21	21	11	10	17	24	18
Reports	28	46	50	38	15	29	42	45	27



National Reporting Obligations Advisory Group (NROAG)

CPM-8 agreed to establish the NROAG national reporting obligations (NRO) advisory group to provide identify barriers and issues which have been the cause of limited reporting in the past. The NROAG will consist of one expert from each of the seven FAO regions, one Bureau member, CDC Chair, SBDS Chair, and SC Chair.

The NROAG will work to develop of a revised work plan aimed at improving members' capacity to meet their reporting obligations.

The nomination of the NRO advisory group (NROAG) — two regions have yet to nominate participants — has taken much longer than anticipated and no meetings have been arranged. However, in the interim the Secretariat has accumulated NRO statistics, summaries of obligations and analysis of the general survey results.

A physical meeting of the NROAG will not take place until after CPM-9, but is anticipated there will be sufficient progress to allow a status update at the meeting.

Collaboration with CABI

In recent efforts to improve collaboration on joint activities, the IPPC and CABI Plantwise have agreed to initiate secondments between their organizations to increase transparency and effectiveness, to assist in the guidance and approval of tasks that will further implement these efforts.



Plantwise & IPPC Joint Workshop, February 2014, Nairobi, Kenya

IPPC hopes to implement several crucial projects such as harmonizing terminology used by both the IPPC and Plantwise, building necessary links between online resources managed by both teams, continuing to raise awareness about their efforts through advocacy material, and promoting quality assurance among the IPPC and CABI.

Communications Strategy & Workplan

With the aim of establishing a diverse communications effort and separately to focus renewed attention toward NRO, the Secretariat has separated the communications effort from the old Information Exchange structure. The intent is to raise national reporting obligations to a higher level while communications and information technology assume roles of support to the primary activities of the Secretariat and IPPC: standard setting, capacity development, as well as national reporting.

Since the formal updated Communications Strategy was approved at CPM-8, the IPPC has been working with a generous offer from USDA APHIS to conduct a communications needs assessment. Through this process, the Secretariat hopes to identify the most effective processes through which the IPPC and its members can communicate with their target audiences and enhance the global profile of the IPPC and raise awareness about the imperative to protect plant health.

Ultimately, the Secretariat expects to utilize this assessment to increase awareness and financial support for IPPC efforts.

Central Africa

The IPPC organized and conducted a training workshop for IPP editors responsible for reporting obligations in as many as 11 Central African countries, which took place at the end of June 2013. The initial FAO project will continue to be supported by the local regional economic communities. It is expected that the number of NROs met from this region will steadily improve over the next few years.

Continued support is being provided to countries with queries on reporting obligations and these countries are now working on implementing their national NRO action plans.

Reporting Through RPPOs

The Secretariat and EPPO continue to develop a pest reporting system that will allow reporting by CPs through RPPOs. CPs will need to give authority to the RPPOs to undertake this work on their behalf. This new system is in the testing phase and should be released before the middle of 2014.

It is foreseen this will substantially increase reporting from EPPO member countries. It should then be relatively easy to make the IPP system more widely available for pest reporting through other RPPOs. It can then also be extended to report other categories of NROs.

Liaison Activities

IPPC Secretariat Activities

The IPPC Secretariat engages in a number of activities with a wide variety of organizations, be they national, international or private. In the majority of situations in which the IPPC Secretariat liaises, the activity is focused on maintaining or enhancing mutual understanding, rather than on any specific cooperative activity.

A good example of this type of liaison would be the meeting between the Secretariat and the World Customs Organization (WCO) in Brussels in July 2013. This was the first exploratory meeting to create awareness of IPPC activities and find out about the WCO activities. There are a number of areas of mutual interest such as some components of standard setting, ePhyto, the WCO single window and WCO coordinated border management.

IPPC-CBD

The Secretaries of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the IPPC met in September of this year to discuss details on their partnership. It was decided to expand the cooperation to other areas of joint interest in addition to the traditional cooperation on Living Modified Organisms (LMO) under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and Invasive Alien Species (IAS).

IALG-IAS

The IPPC Secretariat and FAO hosted the Inter-Agency Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species (IALG-IAS) this year. In order to make the Terms of Reference (ToR) more inclusive to all international organizations involved, they were successfully redrafted.

Stakeholder Input Into the Standard Setting Process

In addition to contracting parties, NPPOs and RPPOs, the standard setting procedure includes input from relevant international organizations. This year was no exception.

- We continue to work with the Codex Alimentarius Secretariat on the joint development and maintenance of the Online Comment System (OCS) and much of the development planned for next year will be carried with resources provided by Codex
- The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Joint FAO/IAEA Division of Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture continues to provide technical support to the Technical Panel on Fruit Flies
- The International Forest Quarantine Research Group (IFQRG) has been conducting research to provide the scientific support for the TPFQ's considerations as to what criteria needs to be before a phytosanitary treatment can be

included in ISPM 15 (*Guidelines for regulating wood packaging material in international trade*)

- The International Grain Trade Coalition was keenly interested in the development of the draft Specification on the *International movement of grain* (2008-007), they met with the IPPC Secretariat, who encouraged them to have their members work with NPPOs in order to provide input into the drafting of this specification
- The International Seed Federation (ISF) actively participated as a member of the EWG on the *International movement of seed* (2009-003) and the International Seed Testing Association (ISTA) also contributed indirectly through a member of the EWG who also participated in ISTA work



Expert Working Group on the International Movement of Seeds, July 2013 Den Haag, The Netherlands

Draft ISPM on Sea Containers

- Out of all the work on drafting of standards, the draft ISPM on Sea Containers has kept us in contact with the most international organizations including: the Container Owners Association (COA), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the International Chamber of Shipping, the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the World Animal Health Organization (OIE), the World Customs Organization (WCO), the World Shipping Council (WSC) and the World Health Organization (WHO)
- Of particular interest is the consideration by the WCO for the inclusion of some data fields in their Customs data base that would be able to store and retrieve information on a container's cleanliness status. As well, the Code of Practice for Packing of Cargo Transport Units has been updated jointly by the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the International Labour Organization (ILO) considering input from the EWG on Sea Containers and the IPPC Secretariat, as well as several other international organizations

Other Activities of the IPPC

Electronic Phytosanitary Certificates

The first face-to-face meeting of the ePhyto Steering Group (ePhyto SG) in New Zealand in September 2013 was a success. A work plan has been developed and there have also been productive discussions and clarifications of the intended outcomes of the work on ePhyto.

The three main areas of work of the ePhyto SG are:

- Harmonization
- The Hub feasibility study (to be introduced at CPM9-2014)
- Awareness-raising campaign together with capacity development

The ePhyto Steering Group is awaiting the publication of a feasibility study on an ePhyto hub prior to considering a new framework for ePhyto.

A broad study on the IT needs of the IPPC Secretariat as a whole took place at the beginning of the year (including OCS, e-decisions, meeting documents). As a part of this process, selected members of the staff and other users SC members would be contacted in order to gather user needs.



ePhyto Steering Group, September 2013, New Zealand

Cooperation with the CBD

The IPPC Secretariat met with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) during the week of September 16, 2013 in Montreal, Canada. This meeting was considered a success in that, consistent with the 2004 *Memorandum of Cooperation*, the two Secretariats have agreed to work together on a thorough review and update of the Joint Work Programme. Both sides presented and discussed their strategic frameworks focusing on future collaboration, and the possibility of holding joint workshops on capacity development was proposed as way to promote consistency across conventions.



CBD-IPPC Meeting, September 2013, Montreal, Canada

Meeting with the EC

The Secretariat also held a substantive meeting with the European Commission to discuss continued financial support, and possible future collaboration. This meeting, held in early July in Brussels, was the third such meeting with the IPPC Secretariat's most significant donor. In addition to discussing continued support, the Commission representatives presented a detailed review of the proposed new EU plant health legislation and requested IPPC Secretariat support in publicizing the publication of two new pest risk assessments.

25th TC Among RPPOs

The 25th technical coordination meeting among regional plant protection organizations provided input to the different work programs under the IPPC.

More than twelve mentoring and cooperation actions among RPPOs were identified for next year in a record of cooperative activities under the responsibility of the RPPOs.

The meeting provided also strategic and technical advice and support to the Bureau, Secretariat and CPM on issue of global interest and identifying possible side sessions and scientific sessions.



Activities in Support of the WTO/SPS Technical Assistance Program

The Secretariat contributed with the SPS Technical assistance program working as a part of the team for the organization of the following workshops and activities:

- Workshop for French-speaking Africa: 17-20 September 2013. Venue: Libreville, Gabon (TBC)
- Workshop for Arab & Middle East: 4-7 November 2013. Venue: Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates
- The 2013 Advanced SPS course was held in English in Geneva. The participation of the IPPC took place during the third week of the course, as in previous years
- The SPS Thematic Workshop happened on 14 October 2013. This year it was entitled “WTO Workshop on SPS-related Market Access Challenges and Opportunities. The IPPC Secretariat presented in this occasion the first manual produced under the auspices of the IPPC Secretariat: *Market Access: A Guide to Phytosanitary Issues for NPPOs*



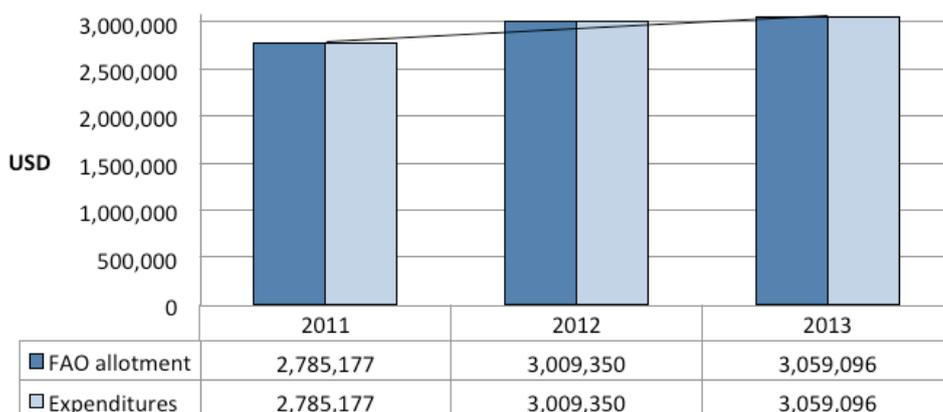
NRO Training Workshop, Libreville, Gabon, 2013

IPPC Financial Snapshot

In 2013, the FAO Regular programme allotment to the IPPC amounted to USD 3,059,096, compared to USD 3,009,350 in 2012 and USD 2,785,177 in 2011, which is an increase in resources of 1.6% for the 2012-2013 period and 9.8% in the 2011-2013 period. As in previous years, the IPPC Secretariat's financial priority was to fully spend regular programme funds and execute all budgeted activities.

In 2013, IPPC trust fund contributions amounted to USD 1,657,134, compared to 2012 contributions of USD 505,853 and 2011 of USD 1,216,451. However, IPPC Multi-donor trust fund contributions show a steady decline. Therefore, it is crucial that resource mobilization efforts are strengthened in order that the level of work programme expected by CPM is maintained.

FAO Regular programme allotment to IPPC compared to expenditures



International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) Trust funds			
Contributions / as of 31 December 2013 / in USD			
IPPC Multi-donor TF	2011	2012	2013
Australia	574,078		
Japan	28,500		28,500
New Zealand		30,000	80,000
Republic of Korea	50,000	100,000	100,000
USA	20,000		175,000
Other	36,881	3,143	189
Total	709,459	133,143	383,689
Other trust funds	2011	2012	2013
EU - Participation TF	320	7	407,056
EU - IRSS (Part 2) TF	506,672	374	550,964
Capacity development TF		372,329	
Switzerland TF			315,425
Total	506,992	372,710	1,273,445

Abbreviations & Definitions

APPPC	Asia and Pacific Plant Protection Commission
CAN	Comunidad Andina
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CDC	Capacity Development Committee
CEPM	Committee of Experts on Phytosanitary Measures
COSAVE	Comite Regional de Sanidad Vegetal Para el Cono Sur
CPM	Commission on Phytosanitary Measures
CPPC	Caribbean Plant Protection Commission
DP	Diagnostic Protocol
EPPO	European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization
ECCT	Expert Consultation on Cold Treatments
ELISA	Enzyme Linked ImmunoSorbent Assay
ePhyto	Electronic Phytosanitary Certification
EPPO	European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization
EWG	Expert Working Group
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GMO	Genetically Modified Organism
GRO	General Rules of the Organization
GWG	Glossary Working Group
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
IAPSC	Inter-African Phytosanitary Council
ICPM	Interim Commission on Phytosanitary Measures
IPP	International Phytosanitary Portal (the www.ippc.int website)
IPP-SG	IPP Support Group
IPPC	International Plant Protection Convention
IPPC-FC	Finance Committee
IRSS	Implementation Review & Support System
ISC	Interim Standards Committee
ISO	International Standards Organization
ISPM	International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures
IWG	Interim Working Group
LMO	Living Modified Organism
LRG	Language Review Group
NAPPO	North American Plant Protection Organization
NEPPO	Near East Plant Protection Organization
NPPO	National plant protection organization
NRO	National reporting obligation
NROAG	National Reporting Obligations Advisory Group
NRT	New Revised Text (of the International Plant Protection Convention)
OCS	Online Comments System
OIE	World Animal Health Organization
OIRSA	Organismo Internacional Regional de Sanidad Agropecuaria
OEWG	Open-ended Working Group
PCE	Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation
PFA	Pest Free Area - an area in which a specific pest does not occur and in which this condition is being officially maintained
PPPO	Pacific Plant Protection Organization
PRA	Pest Risk Analysis - the process of evaluating scientific and economic evidence to determine whether a pest should be regulated and the and the strength of any phytosanitary measures to be taken against it
PT	Phytosanitary Treatment
ROP	Rules of Procedure
RPPO	Regional plant protection organization
RSPM	Regional Standard for Phytosanitary Measures
SBDS	Subsidiary Body on Dispute Settlement
SBDS	Subsidiary Body on Dispute Settlement
SBSTTA	Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice
SC	Standards Committee
SC-7	Standards Committee Working Group of 7
SPG	Strategic Planning Group
SPS	Sanitary and Phytosanitary
SPTA	Strategic Planning and Technical Assistance (informal working group)
TCP	Technical Cooperation Programme
TOR	Terms of Reference
TP	Technical Panel
TPDP	Technical Panel on Diagnostic Protocols
TPFF	Technical Panel on Pest Free Areas and Systems Approaches for Fruit Flies
TPFQ	Technical Panel on Forest Quarantine
TPG	Technical Panel for the Glossary
TPPT	Technical Panel on Phytosanitary Treatment
TRG	Triennial Review Group
UN/CEFACT	United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
WCO	World Customs Organization
WTO	World Trade Organization
XML	Extensible Markup Language



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