**ePhyto Update**

1. Since CPM-7, significant ePhyto developments have taken place.
2. The Annex to ISPM 12: 2012 on ePhyto was approved by the Standards Committee for country consultation with the objective of possible adoption at CPM-8 in 2013.
3. In this regard:
   1. The ePhyto draft for member consultation can be found at <http://ocs.ippc.int>;
   2. ePhyto background information can be found at <https://www.ippc.int/index.php?id=1111140>, including documents and reports relating to previous Working Group meetings; and
   3. The ISPM 12 ePhyto Annex links and IPPC codes can be found at <https://ePhyto.ippc.int>
4. A final meeting of the Expert Working Group on ePhyto will be held in Paris from 11 to 13 September 2012. At this meeting final agreement will be reached on the XML and transmission mechanism (including security arrangements). This information will then be updated on the IPP and will be ready for consideration by the SC in November 2012.
5. In addition, an ePhyto workshop is planned for November 2013 in Brazil (who will be hosting the meeting). However, due to logistical reasons it may be necessary to postpone this meeting to December or even January 2013.
6. This ePhyto workshop will have the objectives of:
   1. Creating awareness on ePhyto;
   2. Engaging all partners in ePhyto discussion e.g. industry, NPPOs, customs; and
   3. Discussing and planning implementation, including possible challenges and how to address them.
7. It is anticipated this workshop will be well attended and will be very important to the utilization of ePhyto by countries. If possible, the meeting will be streamed on the Internet so that people unable to attend can watch it live.
8. There is ongoing discussion (briefly mentioned in the OEWG on Electronic Certification in 2011, and then more extensively in the SC and the Bureau in 2012) regards the centralization of the ePhyto system in the IPPC Secretariat. It is envisaged that this system will take on the format of an ePhyto Hub or Cloud.
9. There would be numerous advantages to such a system, including reduced development costs to NPPOs, a substantial decrease in bilateral negotiations necessary to deploy such systems between trading partners, no need for resource poor countries to develop their own ePhyto systems (this will naturally depend upon the specifications of the system), and a possible sustainable source of revenue for the IPPC work programme.
10. This subject will be discussed by the Strategic Planning Group (SPG) in October 2012 and will likely only be resolved after a feasibility study to be conducted before CPM-8 in 2013.