

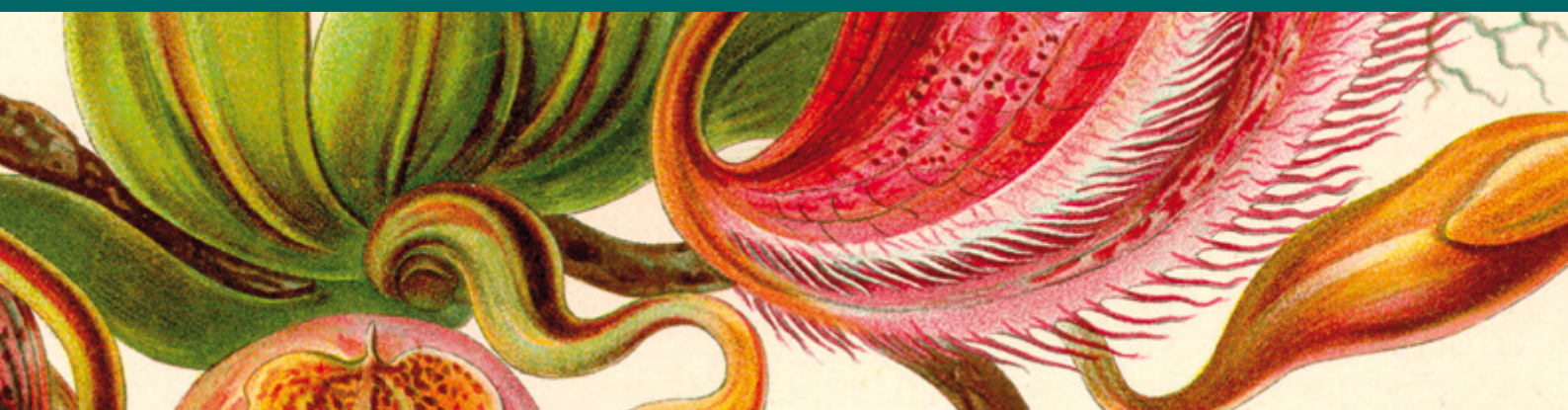


Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



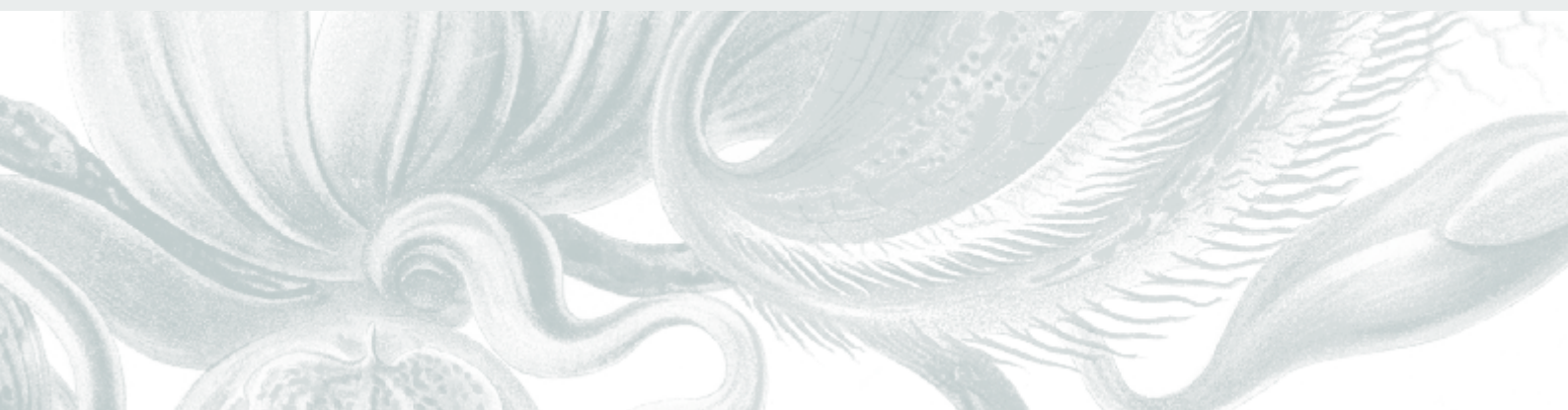
International Plant Protection Convention
Protecting the world's plant resources from pests

2015 IPPC ANNUAL REPORT



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Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Rome, 2016



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ACRONYMS

A

ADG	FAO Assistant Director-General
ADG-AG	FAO Assistant Director-General of the Agriculture
AG	FAO Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department
AGD	FAO Agriculture Department
AGDC	FAO Food Safety and Codex Unit
AGE	Joint FAO/IAEA Division of Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture
AGP	FAO Plant Production and Protection Division
AHTEG	Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group
APPPC	Asia and Pacific Plant Protection Commission
ATF	Agreement Trade Facilitation
ASTF	Africa Solidarity Trust Fund

B

BLG	Biodiversity Liaison Group
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C

CABI	Centre for Agriculture and Biosciences International
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CD	Capacity Development
CDC	Capacity Development Committee
CIHEAM	International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
Codex	Codex Alimentarius
COSAVE	Comite Regional de Sanidad Vegetal para el Cono Sur
CP	Contracting Parties
CPAM	FAO Conference Programming and Documentation Service
CPM	Commission on Phytosanitary Measures
CSF	FAO Finance Division
CSUCA	University Advisory Body for Central America
CTMM	IPPC Secretariat Core Team Management Meeting

D

DASS	Dispute Avoidance and Settlement System
DDG	FAO Deputy Director General
DDN	FAO Deputy Director-General, Natural Resources
DDO	Office of Deputy Director General Operations
DG	Director-General
DP	Diagnostic Protocol
DSV	Brazilian NPPO

E

EBRD	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
ECCT	Expert Consultation on Cold Treatments
EDF	European Development Fund
EFSA	European Food Safety Authority
EMPRES	FAO Emergency Prevention System for Animal Health
ePhyto	Electronic Phytosanitary Certificate
EPPO	European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization
ESG	ePhyto Steering Group
EST	FAO Trade and Markets Division
EU	European Union
EWG	IPPC Expert Working Groups

F

FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FC	IPPC Financial Committee
FAO-RNE	FAO Regional Office for the Near East and North Africa

G

GBIF	Global Biodiversity Information Facility
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H

HTFA	High Temperature Forced Air
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I

IAEA	United Nations International Atomic Energy Agency
IAG	Inter-Agency Informal Advisory Group
IALG-IAS	Inter-Agency Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species
ICDC	Implementation and Capacity Development Committee
ICPM	Interim Commission on Phytosanitary Measures
IICA	Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture
IMO	United Nations International Maritime Organization
IPP	International Phytosanitary Portal – www.ippc.int
IPPC	International Plant Protection Convention
IRSS	Implementation Review and Support System
ISO	International Standards Organization
IST	Integration and Support Team
ISPM	International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
IYPH	International Year of Plant Health

L

LEG	FAO Legal Office
LRG	Language Review Group

M

MAFF	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
MDTF	Multi-donor Trust Fund

N

NAPPO	North American Plant Protection Organization
NPPO	National Plant Protection Organization
NRO	National Reporting Obligations
NROAG	National Reporting Obligations Advisory Group

O

OCC	FAO Office for Corporate Communication
OCP	Official Contact Points
OCS	Online Comment System
OHR	Office of Human Resources
OIE	Office International des Épidémiologies
OIRSA	Organismo Internacional Regional de Sanidad Agropecuaria
OSP	FAO Office of Strategy, Planning and Resources Management

P

PCE	Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation
PHAMA	Pacific Horticultural and Market Access
PMRG	Phytosanitary Measures Research Group
PPPO	Pacific Plant Protection Organization
PRA	Pest Risk Analysis
PT	Phytosanitary Treatment
PTTEG	Phytosanitary Temperature Treatment Expert Group

R

REU	Regional Office for Eastern Europe
RPPO	Regional Plant Protection Organization

S

SBDS	Subsidiary Body on Dispute Settlement
SC	Standards Committee
SC-7	Standards Committee Working Group of 7
SCCP	Substantial concerns commenting period
SDA	Sustainable Development Agreements
SDG	United Nations Sustainable Development Goals
SLA	FAO Service Level Agreement
SPG	Strategic Planning Group
SPS	Sanitary and Phytosanitary
SO	FAO Strategic Objectives
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
SSP	Standard Setting Procedures
SST	Standard Setting Team
STDF	Standards and Trade Development Facility

T

TC	Technical Consultation
TCI	FAO Investment Centre
TCS	South-South and Resource Mobilization Division
TFRM	Task Force for resource Mobilization
TFWPB	Task Force for Work Plan and Budget
TP	Technical Panel
TPDP	Technical Panel on Diagnostic Protocols
TPFF	Technical Panel on Pest free areas and systems approach for Fruit Flies
TPFQ	Technical Panel on Forest Quarantine
TPG	Technical Panel for the Glossary
TPPT	Technical Panel on Phytosanitary Treatments

U

UNICC	United Nations International Computing Centre
UNGM	United Nations Global Marketplace

V

VNIKR	All-Russia Center for Plant Quarantine
VPSS	Russian Federation's Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance

W

WG	Working Group
WTO	World Trade Organization
WTO-SPS	World Trade Organization Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures
WTO-STDF	World Trade Organization and the Standards and Development Trade Facility

FOREWORD FROM THE CPM CHAIR



Ms Kyu-Ock Yim

Chairperson of the Commission for Phytosanitary Measures (CPM)

I am very pleased to have the opportunity to provide these comments for the 2015 Annual Report for the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) Secretariat.

As you know, 2015 was a momentous year for the IPPC Secretariat. From the earliest part of the year the IPPC Community received the final report of the Secretariat Enhancement Evaluation. Then, with the completion of the CPM, we immediately started to see changes. The CPM was very enthusiastic in its support of a proposed International Year of Plant Health in 2020 (IYPH 2020), as well as with their support for pursuing the project on ePhyto, which as you know was approved in October.

With the arrival of the new Secretary, Mr Jingyuan Xia, at the end of May, the IPPC Community was introduced to a person with great enthusiasm for the mission of the Secretariat, as well as a strong background in plant protection. Our Bureau meeting in June helped to set the tone for coming year, and we had an excellent opportunity to discuss the recommendations from the enhancement evaluation with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Assistant Director General (ADG) Ren Wang.

As we moved through the year, I was particularly pleased with the building momentum on both the proposal for an International Year of Plant Health and the ePhyto project. As you know, the Republic of Korea hosted the Second IPPC Global Symposium on ePhyto which was a big success. The conversations and work that took place in this event provided critical input into the development of the project document. It was particularly pleasing to see such a wide range of participants from developed and developing countries, industry and other international organizations. I am confident that ePhyto will be more than just a discussion point in 2016.

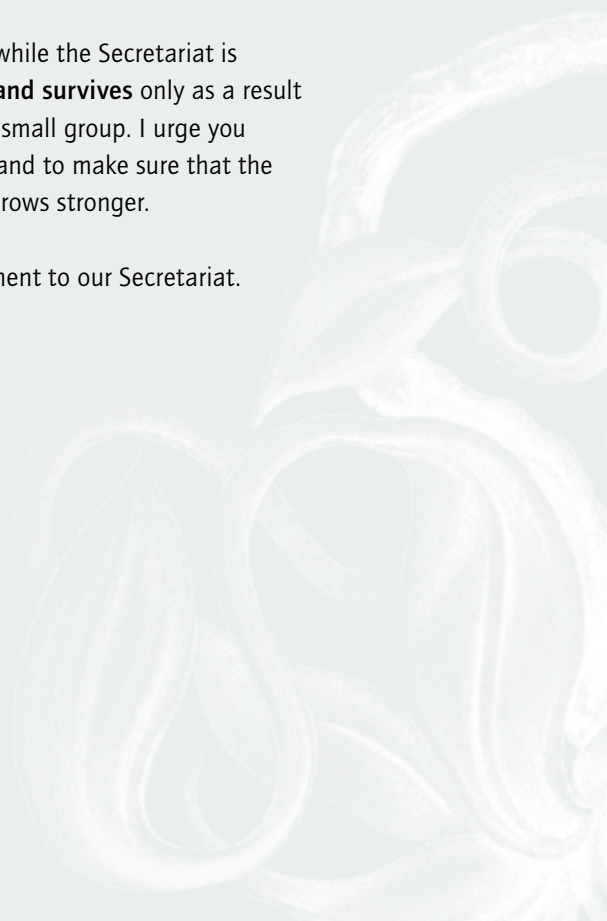
2020 International Year of Plant Health

As I mentioned, the effort to establish the IYPH 2020 also made progress in 2015. In particular, with a generous donation to activities to promote the IYPH 2020, the Republic of Ireland will hopefully set for donating financial, material and human resources to the effort. It is very good to hear that the North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO) has discussion to develop plan for IYPH 2020. I strongly encourage all Contracting Parties and Regional Plant Protection Organizations (RPPOs) to develop a plan to support the IYPH 2020, and to make sure your national representatives support the initiative in all of the appropriate meetings in which it is discussed.

Another key initiative of which I am proud is the effort from the Bureau to encourage better and more frequent communication between the standards and capacity development committees. As the Secretariat transitions to a new framework and structure, this improved engagement will be crucial to the future work of the IPPC.

Finally, I want to close this message by reminding you that while the Secretariat is **maintained** through the FAO budget, it **performs its work and survives** only as a result of extra-budgetary contributions. A lot of work is done by a small group. I urge you to consider ways to support the Secretariat into the future, and to make sure that the mission of plant protection does not remain the same, but grows stronger.

I would like to transmit CPM's appreciation and encouragement to our Secretariat.



FOREWORD FROM THE SECRETARY TO IPPC




Mr Jingyuan Xia

Secretary of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)

It is my great pleasure to present a message for 2015 Annual Report of the IPPC Secretariat. Major milestones for the IPPC Secretariat in 2015 were the transfer of leadership, and the development and early implementation of the action plan for the Secretariat Enhancement Evaluation. Since assuming my duties as the Secretary to the IPPC Secretariat in May 2015, I have clearly articulated my vision for the IPPC and the Secretariat as a whole, and initialized the process for Strategic Planning for the IPPC and the renewal of the Secretariat. With the great support from the FAO senior management, the IPPC Governing Bodies and the entire IPPC Secretariat, I have instituted a number of changes to the IPPC and the Secretariat.

The significant change taking place for the IPPC in 2015 among others was the Strategic Plan of the IPPC towards 2020 (2016-2020) including the development of five specific annual IPPC themes. The five IPPC themes were discussed at the Seventeenth SPG Meeting and approved at CPM Bureau in October 2015. These themes are: the "Plant Health and Food Security" for 2016, the "Plant Health and Trade Facilitation" for 2017, the "Plant Health and Environment Protection" for 2018, "Plant Health and Capacity Development" for 2019, and the IYPH 2020. All the themes have been welcomed and recognized by the IPPC community (NPPOs, RPPOs and the IPPC Secretariat).

There were several important changes appearing in the IPPC Secretariat for 2015. **Internal cohesion** was strengthened to create "One IPPC" with a new image, new performance, new atmosphere, and new achievements. **External influence** was highlighted to build the "Strong IPPC" with more presence, more voice, more visibility, and more impact. **Matrix management** was introduced to increase internal coordination and cooperation through a vertical line (the Secretary, Team Leads, and Staff), a horizontal (the Standard Setting, Implementation Facilitation, and Integration and Support), and a cross-cutting line (the Task Forces for Resource Mobilization, for Communication and Advocacy, etc.). A set of **new actions** were taken to enhance internal communication, such as the weekly Core Team Member Meetings (CTMM), monthly staff briefing meetings, quarterly IPPC Seminars, and mid (end)-year working meetings, as well as the timely posting of the CTMM minutes and the monthly summary of the Chronicles of Events.



A couple of key events were quite memorable for the IPPC and its Secretariat in 2015. The recommendations of the **Enhancement Evaluation** to the IPPC Secretariat was agreed and accepted by FAO Senior Management and CPM Bureau, with its action plan submitted for FAO's approval. The development of IYPH 2020 has been strongly supported by the IPPC Contracting Parties, and well recognized by the IPPC community. The work on **ePhyto** received a big boost with an agreement by the World Trade Organization and the Standards and Development Trade Facility (WTO-STDF) that USD one million will be awarded to the IPPC for the development of ePhyto hub. The **2016 Work Plan and Budget** for the IPPC Secretariat was developed and approved by CPM Bureau, which is the first exercise for the Secretariat.

The year of 2016 is the beginning of the era for the post-2015 United Nations (UN) Development Agenda towards 2030. The IPPC and its Secretariat are being faced with many opportunities as well as great challenges for the sustainable development. First, the work of the IPPC is indisputably linked with four of the 17 UN Sustainable

Development Goals (SDGs): SDG2 for food security, SDG13 for climate change, SDG15 for biodiversity, and SDG17 for trade. Second, the work of the IPPC directly contributes to two of the five FAO Strategic Objectives (SOs): SO2 for the development of new international instruments (20%), and SO4 for standard setting and capacity development (80%).

Strategic Plan of the IPPC towards 2020

The year of 2015 was glorious for the IPPC and its Secretariat, and the year of 2016 will be very promising as well. As a matter of fact, we have entered into a new developmental stage for the IPPC and its Secretariat which is full of opportunity and challenge. I hope the entire IPPC community works hand in hand and side by side so as to move the IPPC towards a bright future.

I would like to express my appreciation for and gratitude to the IPPC Governing Bodies and all the staff of the IPPC Secretariat.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Secretariat would like to recognize the many experts, members of various Subsidiary Bodies, Technical Panels and Advisory Bodies that have made it possible to deliver the work of the CPM. Without these contributions it would simply not possible to deliver the CPM work programme. A more detailed list of these contributions are provided annually to CPM.

FINANCIAL

The Secretariat would like to recognize the donors who continue to provide financial support for IPPC activities as their contributions are essential to ensure the Secretariat is able to deliver the CPM work programme. Further details of these contributions can be found in the 2015 Financial Report and the 2016 Budget.

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM PREVIOUS YEARS THAT WERE USED IN 2015	NEW CONTRIBUTION IN 2015 FOR IYPH 2020 PROMOTION	NEW CONTRIBUTION IN 2015
Australia European Union Sweden Switzerland United Kingdom	Ireland	Japan Korea, Republic of New Zealand South Africa

IN-KIND STAFFING, HOSTING OR TECHNICAL CONTRIBUTIONS

The Secretariat would like to recognize the donors who continue to provide in-kind staff support for IPPC activities and their contributions are also essential to ensure the Secretariat is able to deliver the CPM work programme. Individual recognition is detailed in a paper titled "Recognition of Important Contributions" presented to CPM.

A number of countries continue to host key IPPC meetings, plus those countries that made technical contributions to the standard setting process, which positively contribute to the delivery of the CPM work programme. These include those countries that hosted meeting that contributed to the adoption of International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs) or Annexes to ISPMs in 2015.

COUNTRY/ORGANIZATION	ACTIVITY
Brazil	Hosted the 2011 Technical Panel on Pest Free Areas and Systems Approach for Fruit Flies (TPFF) meeting
Canada	In-kind staffing 50% FTE* (standard setting)
European Plant Protection Organization (EPPO)	Hosted the 2012, 2013 and 2014 Technical Panel on Diagnostic Protocols (TPDP) meetings

*Full time equivalent

COUNTRY/ORGANIZATION	ACTIVITY
FAO/United Nations International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Joint Division	Hosted the 2010 TPFF Organizing the 2011 TPFF In-kind staffing 5% FTE* (standard setting)
FAO Near East and North Africa Office (FAO-RNE)	IPPC Regional Workshop in North Africa and Near East, Jordan
France	100% FTE
Germany	Hosted the 2008 TPDP meeting
Indonesia	Hosted the June TPDP 2014 meeting
Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)	IPPC Regional Workshop for Latin America and the Caribbean Sixth CDC meeting in Costa Rica
Japan	Hosted the July 2010, December 2012 and July 2013 Technical Panel on Phytosanitary Treatments (TPPT) meetings In-kind staffing 100% FTE 6 months (Dispute Avoidance and Settlement) In-kind staffing 100% FTE (Capacity Development)
Korea, Republic of	IPPC Regional Workshop for Asia Hosted the November 2015 Second IPPC global Symposium on ePhyto
New Zealand	Submitted treatment: 4. Phytosanitary Treatment (PT) Vapour Heat Treatment for <i>Bactrocera melanotus</i> and <i>B. xanthodes</i> (Diptera: Tephritidae) on <i>Carica papaya</i> (2009-105) In-kind staffing 10% FTE (standard setting)
United States of America	Hosted the workshop the elaboration of the manuals on surveillance and diagnostic in May 2015 Hosted the 2010 TPDP meeting Submitted treatment: PT Irradiation for <i>Ostrinia nubilalis</i> (2012-009) In-kind staffing 5% FTE (standard setting)

*Full time equivalent

IPPC SECRETARIAT

A special acknowledgement to all staff of the IPPC Secretariat for their dedication and commitment to the delivery of the IPPC work programme.



BACKGROUND



VISION OF THE IPPC

Protecting global plant resources from pests

MISSION OF THE IPPC

To secure cooperation among nations in protecting global plant resources from the spread and introduction of pests of plants, in order to preserve food security, biodiversity and to facilitate trade.

The concept of international plant protection began in 1881, when five countries signed an agreement to control the spread of grape *Phylloxera*, a North American aphid that was accidentally introduced into Europe around 1865 and subsequently devastated much of Europe's grape-growing regions.

The next major step was the International Convention for the Protection of Plants, signed in Rome in 1929, followed in 1951 by the adoption of the IPPC by FAO.

The IPPC came into force in April 1952, superseding all previous international plant protection agreements. This Convention was reviewed in 1979 and 1997. It was recognized by the 1989 Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade as a standard setting organization for the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (the SPS Agreement).

Contracting parties to the IPPC share the same goal: to protect the world's cultivated and natural plant resources from the spread and introduction of plant pests while minimizing interference with the international movement of goods and people.

The IPPC is an international inter-governmental plant health agreement, established in 1952, that aims to protect cultivated and wild plants by preventing the introduction and spread of pests. There are 182 signatories to the Convention. Countries that wish to become Contracting Parties to the IPPC must deposit their instrument of adherence with the Director General (DG) of FAO. The IPPC is governed through the CPM which meets annually to consider the IPPC work programme and make decisions about its future, including the adoption of new international standards. The seven-member elected executive body of the CPM Bureau provides guidance to the IPPC Secretariat on activities, particularly financial and operational management, between sessions of CPM.

THE IPPC'S STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES FOR 2012–2019 ARE TO

- A protect sustainable agriculture and enhance global food security through the prevention of pest spread;
- B protect the environment, forests and biodiversity from plant pests;
- C facilitate economic and trade development through the promotion of harmonized scientifically based phytosanitary measures;
- D develop phytosanitary capacity for members to accomplish A, B and C.

IPPC THEMES FOR 2016–2020

2016

Plant Health and
Food Security

2017

Plant Health and
Trade Facilitation

2018

Plant Health and
Environment Protection

2019

Plant Health and
Capacity Development

2020

International Year
of Plant Health
(proposed)

International travel and trade are greater than ever before – and as people and commodities move around the world, organisms that present risks to plants travel with them. Pest introductions and outbreaks cost governments, farmers and consumers billions of USD every year in losses. Once new pest species is established, their eradication is often impossible and controlling them can take up a significant percentage of the cost of producing food. The IPPC provides the framework that allows countries to analyze phytosanitary risks to their national plant resources and to use science-based measures to safeguard their cultivated and wild plants.

By protecting plant resources from pests and diseases, the IPPC ensures: (1) farmers are protected from economically devastating pests and diseases i.e. by **improving food security**; (2) **protection of the environment** from loss of species diversity and ecosystems from loss of viability and function as a result of pest and disease outbreaks; and (3) **trade facilitation** through the harmonization of phytosanitary measures by developing globally agreed ISPMs, providing mechanisms to resolve phytosanitary disputes and ensuring scientific bases for the establishment of phytosanitary measures.

The IPPC provides an international framework for plant protection that includes developing ISPMs for safeguarding plant resources.

While the IPPC's primary focus is on plants and plant products, the scope of the Convention also covers research materials, potentially beneficial organisms that may be harmful to plants and plant products (including biological control organisms, materials in germplasm banks, containment facilities and anything else that can act as a vector for the spread of plant pests – for example, containers, packaging materials, soil, used vehicles, vessels and used machinery).

Contracting Parties to the IPPC agree to promote technical assistance to other Contracting Parties. In particular, the Convention encourages support to developing countries to improve their ability to implement the Convention and the ISPMs, improve the effectiveness of their NPPOs, and to participate in Regional Plant Protection Organizations. Developing countries also receive technical assistance to support their ability to implement the Convention and the ISPMs to protect food security, facilitate safe trade and protect the environment.

The IPPC Secretariat is responsible for the coordination and operational support provided to the core activities of the IPPC work programme and is provided by FAO.

CONTRACTING PARTIES (CPs) AND REGIONAL PLANT PROTECTION ORGANIZATIONS (RPPOs)

At the end of 2015 the IPPC has 182 Contracting Parties with the Democratic Republic of the Congo joining the IPPC in 2015.

There are also nine RPPOs which are inter-governmental organizations functioning as a coordinating body of National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs) at a regional level. These bodies play a key facilitation role for CPs to implement the IPPC and associated ISPMs. Not all Contracting Parties to the IPPC are members of RPPOs, nor are all members of RPPOs Contracting Parties to the IPPC. Some Contracting Parties belong to more than one RPPO.

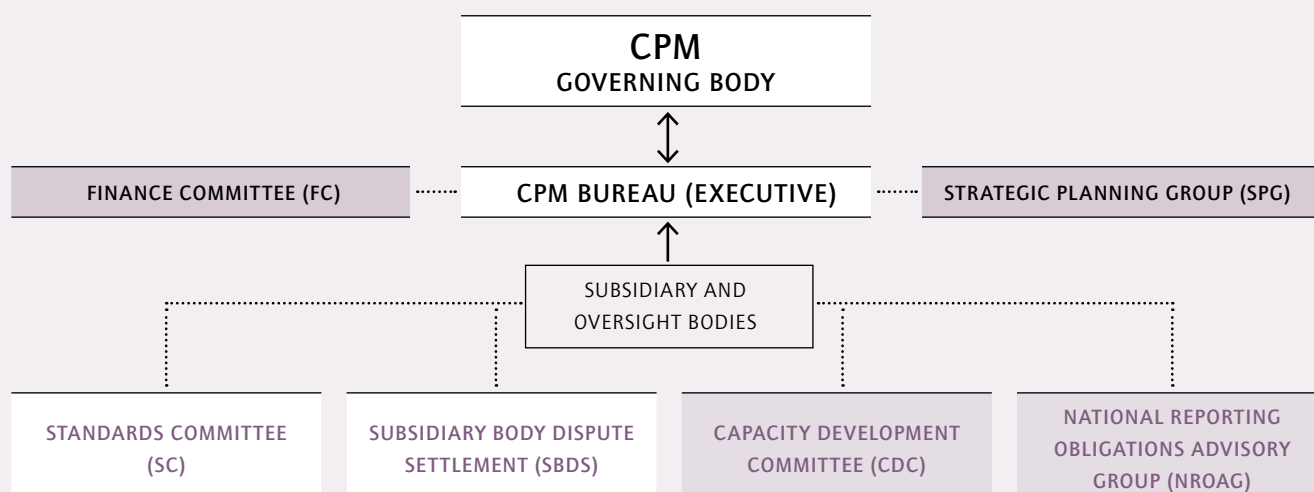
CPM CHAIRPERSONS

Interim CPM (ICPM) and CPM Chairpersons

YEAR	STATUS	CHAIRPERSON
1998	ICPM	Felipe Canale (Uruguay)
1999–2001	ICPM	John Hedley (New Zealand)
2002–2003	ICPM	Felipe Canale (Uruguay)
2004–2005	ICPM	Ralf Lopian (Finland)
2006–2008	CPM	Chagama Kadera (Kenya)
2009–2010	CPM	Reinouw Bast-Tjeerde (Canada)
2011–2012	CPM	Mohammad Rabah Katbeh Bader (Jordan)
2013–2014	CPM	Steve Ashby (United Kingdom)
2015–2016	CPM	Kyu-Ock Yim (Republic of Korea)

GOVERNING BODIES

CPM Governance



IPPC CONTRACTING PARTIES



NORTH AMERICA

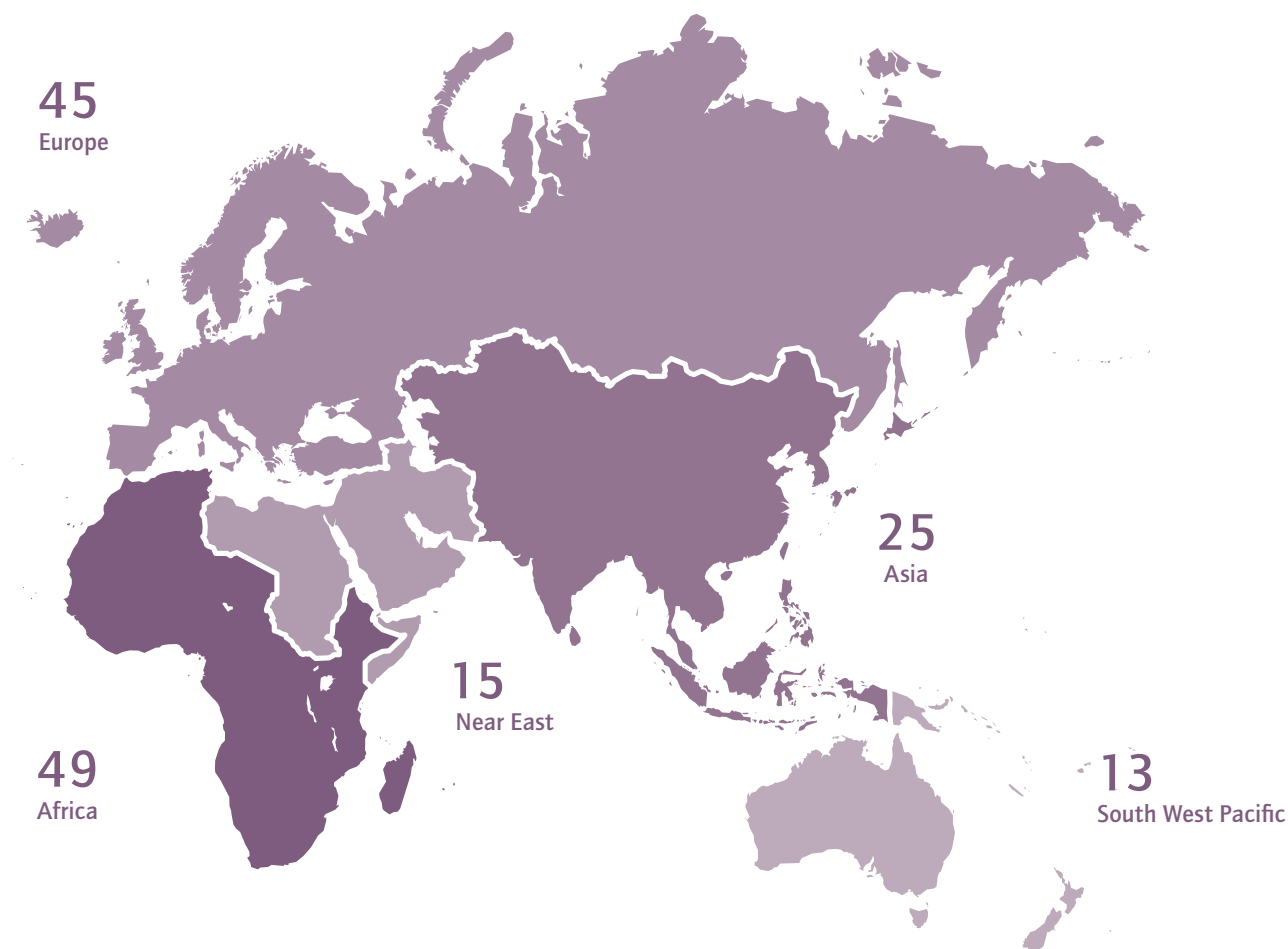
Canada 1953
United States of America 1972

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Antigua and Barbuda 2006
Argentina 1954
Bahamas 1997
Barbados 1976
Belize 1987
Bolivia, Plurinational State of 1960
Brazil 1961
Chile 1952
Colombia 1970
Costa Rica 1973
Cuba 1976
Dominica 2006
Dominican Republic 1952
Ecuador 1956
El Salvador 1953
Grenada 1985
Guatemala 1955
Guyana 1970
Haiti 1970
Honduras 2003
Jamaica 1959
Mexico 1976
Nicaragua 1956
Panama 1968
Paraguay 1968
Peru 1975
Saint Kitts and Nevis 1990
Saint Lucia 2002
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines 2001
Suriname 1977
Trinidad and Tobago 1970
Uruguay 1970
Venezuela, Bolivarian Republic of 1966

EUROPE

Albania 1999
Armenia 2006
Austria 1952
Azerbaijan 2000
Belarus 2005
Belgium 1952
Bosnia and Herzegovina 2003
Bulgaria 1991
Croatia 1999
Cyprus 1999
Czech Republic 1983
Denmark 1953
Estonia 2000
European Union, Member Organization 2005
Finland 1960
France 1957
Georgia 2007
Germany 1957
Greece 1954
Hungary 1960
Iceland 2005
Ireland 1955
Israel 1956
Italy 1955
Latvia 2003
Lithuania 2000
Luxembourg 1955
Macedonia – The Former Yugoslav Republic of 2004
Malta 1975
Montenegro 2009
Netherlands 1954
Norway 1956
Poland 1996
Portugal 1955
Romania 1971
Russian Federation 1956
Serbia 1992
Slovakia 2006
Slovenia 1998
Spain 1952
Sweden 1952
Switzerland 1996
Turkey 1922
Ukraine 2006
United Kingdom 1953



AFRICA

Algeria 1985
Benin 2010
Botswana 2009
Burkina Faso 1995
Burundi 2006
Cameroon 2006
Cape Verde 1980
Central Africa Republic 2004
Chad 2004
Colombia 1970
Comoros 2007
Congo 2004
Côte d'Ivoire 2004
Democratic Republic of the Congo 2015
Djibouti 2008
Equatorial Guinea 1991
Eritrea 2001
Ethiopia 1977
Gabon 2008
Chana 1991
Guinea 1991
Guinea-Bissau 2007
Kenya 1974
Lesotho 2013
Liberia 1986
Madagascar 2006
Malawi 1974
Mali 1987
Mauritania 2002
Mauritius 1971
Morocco 1972
Mozambique 2008
Namibia 2007
Niger 1985
Nigeria 1993
Rwanda 2008
Sao Tome and Principe 2006
Senegal 1975
Seychelles 1996
Sierra Leone 1981
South Africa 1956
South Sudan 2013
Sudan 1971
Swaziland 2005
Togo 1986
Tunisia 1971
Uganda 2007
United Republic of Tanzania 2005
Zambia 1986
Zimbabwe 2012

NEAR EAST

Afghanistan 2013
Bahrain 1971
Egypt 1953
Iran, Islamic Republic of 1972
Iraq 1954
Jordan 1970
Kuwait 2007
Lebanon 1970
Libya 1970
Oman 1989
Qatar 2006
Saudi Arabia 2000
Syrian Arab Republic 2003
United Arab Emirates 2001
Yemen 1990

ASIA

Bangladesh 1978
Bhutan 1994
Cambodia 1952
China 2005
Democratic People's Republic of Korea 2003
India 1952
Indonesia 1977
Japan 1952
Kazakhstan 2010
Kyrgyzstan 2003
Lao People's Democratic Republic 1955
Malaysia 1991
Maldives 2006
Moldova, Republic of 2001
Mongolia 2009
Myanmar 2006
Nepal 2006
Pakistan 1954
Philippines 1953
Republic of Korea 1953
Singapore 2010
Sri Lanka 1952
Tajikistan 2010
Thailand 1978
Viet Nam 2005

SOUTH WEST PACIFIC

Australia 1952
Cook Islands 2004
Fiji 2005
Micronesia, Federated States of 2007
New Zealand 1952
Niue 2005
Palau 2006
Papua New Guinea 1976
Samoa 2005
Solomon Islands 1978
Tonga 2005
Tuvalu 2006
Vanuatu 2007

CORE ACTIVITIES

The core activities for which the IPPC Secretariat provided operational support in 2015 are:

Standard Setting Team (SST)

The development and adoption of standards, recommendations, diagnostic protocols and phytosanitary treatments is currently the major objective of the CPM. FAO, through the IPPC, provides a neutral forum for members to negotiate such international instruments. IPPC standards are recognized by the World Trade Organization (WTO) as international benchmarks for the production of food, protection of the environment and the safe trade in plant commodities. Adopted ISPMs include the following subjects: phytosanitary procedures and references; pest surveillance, pests' survey and monitoring; import regulations and pest risk analysis; compliance procedures and phytosanitary inspection methodologies; pest management; post entry quarantine; exotic pest emergency response, control and eradication; and phytosanitary export certification.

Capacity Development (CD)

Technical assistance, capacity development, implementation and facilitation are essential for the implementation of the Convention and its standards, particularly so for developing countries. The CPM has developed a capacity development strategic and work plans with the aim of increasing national phytosanitary capacity through the cooperation of all IPPC stakeholders. In recent years, increasing emphasis is being placed on implementation and facilitation to meet these objectives. Both the Integration Review and Support System (IRSS) and Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE) are key activities of this programme.

Dispute Avoidance and Settlement System (DASS)

Dispute Avoidance is becoming increasingly important as a tool to facilitate trade, while protecting food security and the environment. Countries have realized it is more beneficial for trading partners to avoid phytosanitary disputes than ending up trying to resolve a formal dispute once the profile and stakes have become high and political. Key to dispute avoidance is the appropriate implementation of the IPPC and associated international standards as this will greatly facilitate avoiding disputes through the systematic analysis of phytosanitary risks in a scientific and transparent manner.

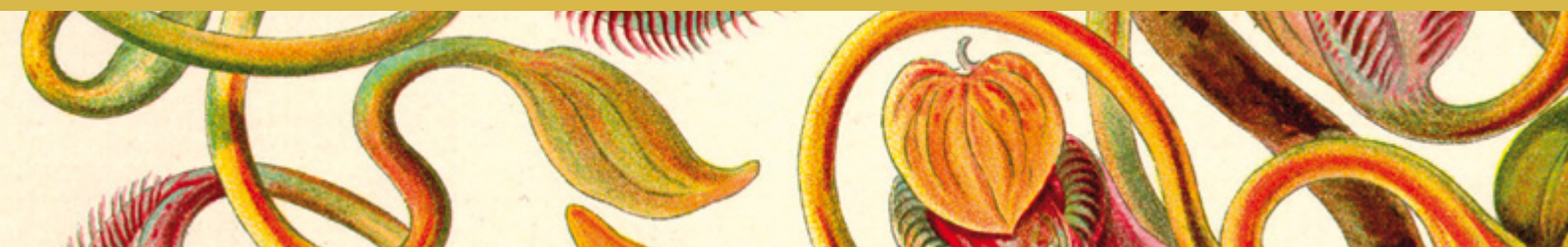
Should it not be possible to avoid a phytosanitary dispute, the IPPC also has an IPPC Dispute Settlement System (for use by CPs). This formal mechanism is a technical process for resolving phytosanitary disputes but the outcomes are not legally binding to disputing parties.

National Reporting Obligations (NROs), Communication and Advocacy

The IPPC also provides a forum for the official exchange of information related to import and export requirements, pest status and regulated pest lists, amongst others, provided by each member country meeting their NROs. The IPPC website (the International Phytosanitary Portal (IPP) – www.ippc.int) is the agreed preferred means for this purpose and its maintenance and continued development is vital for the work of IPPC members.



PROGRESS REPORT



The major milestones in 2015 were the arrival of the Secretary to the IPPC as head of the IPPC Secretariat, and the development and early implementation of the action plan for the Secretariat Enhancement Evaluation. Since assuming his duties as the Secretary to the IPPC, Mr Jingyuan Xia has clearly articulated his vision for the IPPC and the Secretariat as a whole, and has initialized the process of the Strategic Planning for the IPPC and the renewal of the Secretariat. With the pronounced support from the IPPC Governing Bodies and FAO senior management, Mr Xia has instituted a number of changes to the IPPC Secretariat. Under his strong leadership and through the dedicated efforts of all the Secretariat staff, the developmental direction of the IPPC Secretariat is now clearer, its key tasks are more focused, and its operational mechanisms are being optimized. In 2015, a number of achievements were attained under the five categories listed below.

1. GOVERNANCE AND STRATEGY

Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM)

The Tenth Session of the CPM (CPM-10) took place from 16-20 March at FAO-HQ in Rome, Italy and resulted in a number of significant outcomes including: (a) adoption of eight new annexes to ISPMs and the revision of the Glossary (ISPM); (b) approval of a pilot implementation project on surveillance; (c) discussion on the Enhancement Evaluation of the IPPC Secretariat; (d) endorsement for the development of an ePhyto hub system; (e) support to the initiative on the IYPH 2020; (f) exploration of the concept of a commodity standard; and (g) organization of a set of highly appreciated side activities including an IPPC photo contest. In addition, the CD and the NRO teams worked closely to prepare and deliver pre-CPM NRO training.

CPM Bureau (Finance Committee (FC) and Strategic Planning Group (SPG))

The CPM Bureau met three times (March, June and October) in Rome, Italy. The Bureau meeting in March mainly focused on the preparation and agenda for CPM-10. The Bureau meeting in June discussed among other issues the report of the Enhancement Evaluation of the IPPC Secretariat, the endorsement of the Evaluation's recommendations, the support to the development of an ePhyto hub, and the promotion of IYPH 2020. The Bureau meeting in October primarily focused on the action plan of the IPPC Secretariat Enhancement Evaluation, the arrangement of the SPG meeting in October, and the Annual Work Plan and Budget of the IPPC Secretariat for 2016.

The major milestones in 2015 were the arrival of the Secretary to the IPPC as head of the IPPC Secretariat, and the development and early implementation of the action plan for the Secretariat Enhancement Evaluation.

- The FC met three times (March, June and October) in Rome, Italy. In March, the discussion focused mainly on the 2014 financial report of the IPPC Secretariat, and the financial management of the IPPC Secretariat. In June, awareness of the weak financial position of the IPPC Multi-donor Trust Fund was increased with more emphasis on resource mobilization. In October, the topics discussed were resource mobilization both for the IPPC Secretariat and IYPH 2020, and the review of roles of the FC.
- The Seventeenth SPG Meeting was held in October in Rome, Italy, with the theme “the IPPC towards 2020”. Five IPPC themes were discussed and developed for the next five years (2016-2020), each year with a specified theme. These themes are: “Plant Health and Food Security” for 2016, “Plant Health and Trade Facilitation” for 2017, “Plant Health and Environment Protection” for 2018, “Plant Health and Capacity Development” for 2019, and “IYPH 2020”. The themes were welcomed and recognized by the IPPC community (NPPOs, RPPOs and the IPPC Secretariat) as important steps towards increasing awareness about the IPPC.

Standards Committee (SC)

The SC met twice (May and November) in Rome, Italy, and the SC Working Group (SC-7) met (in May two days were spent on reviewing draft ISPMs and three days were dedicated to the adjustment of the Standard setting procedure). The SC was responsible for overseeing over 100 topics (including five technical panels, regular standards, DPs, PTs and Glossary terms). Of these, 40 draft ISPMs progressed significantly in 2015. The SC, in their face-to-face meetings, discussed in detail 11 draft ISPMs and four draft specifications. Through 16 e-decisions held in 2015, the SC approved five DPs for member consultation and five DPs for the DP Notification period, recommended two PTs to CPM for adoption, approved two specifications, and adopted three DPs on behalf of the CPM.

Capacity Development Committee (CDC)

The CDC review was completed in June, with a strong support to the continuation of the CDC, its business model and its role in implementation. The review also made a recommendation to elevate it to a body that covers implementation and possibly other areas. At its Sixth (June in Costa Rica) and Seventh (December in Italy) Meetings, the CDC revised the IPPC Secretariat CD work plan, reviewed the management of current projects while considering key and strategic CD issues, and considered suggestions and requests by the CPM Bureau and the CPM. In accordance with the IPPC Secretariat Enhancement Evaluation Report, a group, including members of the CDC, the Bureau, and the IPPC Secretariat met during the Seventh CDC Meeting to discuss and propose draft Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedures for a possibly new oversight body, to be named Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (ICDC).

Subsidiary Body on Dispute Settlement (SBDS)

A virtual meeting of SBDS took place in March to discuss the dispute avoidance and settlement activities of the SBDS and the IPPC Secretariat. A face-to-face meeting of SBDS in September covered, among other things, the status and progress of the IPPC Dispute Avoidance and Settlement System (DASS) with focus on the improvement of the IPPC DASS towards 2020 and its contribution to IYPH 2020. In addition, the SBDS continued working virtually on a number of advocacy documents and other information products.

2. STANDARD SETTING

Identification and Prioritization of Topics

The List of Topics for IPPC Standards posted on the IPP in six languages was updated twice (January and June). A biennial call for topics was launched in June and 11 topics submissions were processed.

Drafting and Expert Input

The SST prepared meeting documents, organized, facilitated and finalized outcomes from four Technical Panel (TP) face-to-face meetings, one expert working group meeting (Revision of ISPM 6 (2009-004)), nine virtual TP meetings as well as 13 TP e-decisions. Two calls for experts and one call for authors for two draft DPs were also made.

- The standard setting pages on the IPP (over 65) were continuously updated to ensure all relevant information was publically available and accurate, and to satisfy the transparency requirements of the standard setting process. The PDF searchable database was also updated six times in 2015. The IPPC Secretariat established a Service Level Agreement (SLA) with FAO Translation services to help ensure timely translations of the draft ISPMs.
- The Technical Panel on Diagnostic Protocols (TPDP) met in four virtual meetings and one face-to-face meeting in Shanghai, China, in June. At their face-to-face meeting they thoroughly discussed five draft DPs and several other issues related to diagnostics.
- The Technical Panel on Pest Free Areas and Systems Approaches for Fruit Flies (TPFF) met in Vienna, Austria, in October. The TPFF made proposals for the reorganization of the fruit fly ISPMs to avoid duplication and to help further harmonize the guidance provided.
- The Technical Panel on the Glossary (TPG) met in Rome, Italy, in December. The TPG reviewed 12 draft ISPMs, including phytosanitary treatments and diagnostic protocols for consistency and use of terms. The TPG reviewed several proposals for new or revised terms, and revised the Annotated Glossary. The TPG reviewed their work programme which is comprised of 33 terms among which 29 are in the List of Topics for IPPC Standards.
- The Technical Panel on Forest Quarantine (TPFQ) met in two virtual meetings, and provided expert advice to Stewards of ISPMs on their work programme and reviewed their work programme comprised of four draft ISPMs.

- The Technical Panel on Phytosanitary Treatments (TPPT) met in three virtual meetings and in a face-to-face meeting in Fukushima, Japan, in September. At their face-to-face meeting the panel thoroughly discussed the development of the draft ISPM on Requirements for the use of temperature treatments as a phytosanitary measure (2014-005) and two draft PTs.
- An expert working group on the Revision of ISPM 6 (Guidelines for surveillance) (2009-004) met in Auckland, New Zealand, in October. Many of the experts had been involved in the development of the IPPC Surveillance Manual. The revised ISPM 6 was submitted to the SC in May 2016.

Consultation

The SST organized and delivered two member consultations, one substantial concerns commenting period, two DP notification periods, three DP expert consultations and one member of consultation on draft specifications. Member comments were received, compiled and posted on the IPP for all these consultations (except expert consultations on draft DPs). User requirements for members providing comments during the consultation processes were gathered from RPPOs and CPs, to help in the modernization of the new Online Comment System (OCS).

Adoption

Thirteen ISPMs were presented for adoption in 2015 of which nine were adopted; the revised version of ISPM 5 (Glossary of phytosanitary terms), one annex to ISPM 26, three annexes to ISPM 27 (DPs) and four annexes to ISPM 28 (PTs). This exceeded the planned outcomes indicated in FAO's Strategic Objective 4. One CPM Recommendation on Sea Containers was also adopted. Most publications are posted on the IPP in the six FAO languages. All ISPMs submitted to CPM-10 via the Language Review Group (LRG) process were noted, and all ISPMs adopted at CPM-10 have been submitted to the LRG process, and the adjusted ISPMs in Arabic, Chinese, French, and Spanish, will be presented to CPM-11 (2016). The SST has applied ink amendments noted by CPM-10 (2015) in English to align current ISPMs with the rules set out in the 2015 revoking of standards procedure. The SST has also translated and incorporated ink amendments noted in English into the French and Spanish versions of the ISPMs. All ISPMs in the three languages will be posted on the IPP in early 2016 with a new and appealing cover.

Online Comment System (OCS)

Migration of the OCS to a new platform was initiated, and following FAO procurement process the new OSC was purchased and a contract was signed in December. Support for the maintenance of the IPPC OCS was provided through bug fixing and migration of data to a new Linux based server. The SST has maintained the OCS and run three member consultations on 16 draft ISPMs, receiving 3 646 comments from 48 CPs. The IPPC OCS user manual has also been updated, and over 200 user requests for training and support were addressed. The SST has implemented the use of Adobe Connect, the FAO corporate web conference tool, holding a total of nine virtual meetings. Thirty four e-decisions were held, and ten online surveys for meetings' evaluation were completed.

3. IMPLEMENTATION FACILITATION

Capacity Development (CD)

A key project funded by the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF-350) was finalized. Twenty-six new phytosanitary resources, including manuals, videos, training materials and factsheets were produced under this project and posted in the phytosanitary resources pages. A workshop to review four key technical manuals with inputs from subject matter experts was held in Puerto Rico in May. Several technical resources produced were tested and validated in the field of training activities undertaken by the CD Team, such as the training in Bari, Italy and the project in the Comoros. The portfolio of projects managed include the phytosanitary component of the Africa Solidarity Trust Fund (ASTF) project, a regional project for the Middle East and North Africa countries, a regional project for Central Asia and Eastern Europe as well as projects in The Gambia, Lebanon and Palestine. The CD Team, with support from other teams, prepared a concept note for the funding of the Pilot implementation project on surveillance, which has been submitted to the CPM Bureau and a potential donor.

Implementation Review Support System (IRSS)

Some IRSS specific activities were linked to the Pilot Implementation Project on Surveillance, and other IRSS activities related more broadly to the IPPC (IRSS studies, etc.), including work on monitoring and evaluation, phytosanitary implementation indicators and horizontal scanning for emerging phytosanitary issues. Three IRSS proposals for desk studies were prepared with NRO and Standards setting input, and submitted to the CPM Bureau. A draft study on "diversion of intended use", commissioned by the CPM Bureau, was prepared and finalized for review in December.

Dispute Avoidance

The IPPC Secretariat and the SBDS were active in producing a number of documents and material to support the IPPC DASS. Such progress was only possible due to the support from Japan in providing a consultant as an in-kind contribution for six months to work on dispute settlement. The IPPC Secretariat increased its involvement in phytosanitary dispute avoidance activities, which implicated working with a number of FAO divisions.

Tools

Many projects undertaken by or with the support of the IPPC Secretariat involved use of the Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE) tool, such as the projects in the Comores, The Gambia, Morocco, Tunisia and Moldova. In addition, the IRSS website was migrated onto the IPP software platform.

Technologies

The ePhyto Steering Group (ESG) met in Rome in May and discussed a number of issues including the common interest with representatives of the United Nations International Computing Centre (UNICC). The project proposal on ePhyto for STDF funding was officially approved. The Second IPPC Symposium on ePhyto was successfully held in Incheon, the Republic of Korea in November, where about 80 participants from over 50 CPs and some industry and multinational organizations attended the symposium.

4. INTEGRATION AND SUPPORT

National Reporting Obligation (NRO)

The NRO Year of Official Contact Points (OCPs) was completed with great success as the IPP now has the most accurate set of OCP data since its inception. The monthly "NROs Update", published in five languages, were well received by CPs. The IPPC Secretariat initiated the detailed statistical analysis of pest reports and emergency measures, which allows to improve the IPP in regards to pest reporting and to provide feedback to the National Reporting Obligations Advisory Group (NROAG) on the apparent underreporting of emergency actions. The NRO Quality Control Programme was initiated. The pre-CPM-10 training session on NROs was well received and formed the core information that was developed for the IPPC Regional Workshops training session on NROs. In addition, supplementary NRO guidance material was well prepared for training purposes.

Communications and Advocacy

The IPPC Secretariat launched a redesigned IPP website, available in six languages, and the data entry (including posting national reports) was made easier and more user friendly. The monthly IPPC Newsletters were distributed regularly and on a number of occasions news articles were made available through the FAO communications system. The number of the IPPC headline news released in 2015 was doubled compared to the previous year. The IPPC Secretariat complemented the promotion of the IYPH 2020 by working closely together with Finland and by developing papers informing about the benefits of and procedures for establishing IYPH 2020. "IPPC Seminar" series was established with two seminars held, one on the IYPH 2020 and the other on the Invasive Alien Species, which greatly increased the Secretariat's presence and visibility.

International Cooperation

The IPPC Secretariat paid great attention to the development of partnerships with a large number of organizations and institutions to strengthen the bilateral and international cooperation.

- The IPPC Secretariat attended two meetings of Technical Working Groups of the WTO-STDF, and three meetings of the WTO-SPS Committee in Geneva, Switzerland. The IPPC Secretary had the meetings with the SPS Secretary in July, and with the STDF Secretary in September, to engage in strengthening the relationship between the two Secretariats.
- The IPPC Secretariat participated in the Tenth Meeting of the Biodiversity Liaison Group, which consists of seven international biodiversity-related conventions, in Geneva, Switzerland, in September. The IPPC Secretary had a meeting with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Secretary for discussion on the joint work plan between the IPPC and the CBD. Both Secretariats agreed to enhance bilateral cooperation in order to meet the Aichi Targets.

- The IPPC Secretariat and the Centre International de Hautes Études Agronomiques Méditerranéennes/Instituto Agronomico Mediterraneo di Bari (CIHEAM-IAM) organized the First IPPC/CIHEAM Training Course on “Developing Phytosanitary Capacities”, in Bari, Italy in November. This initiative fits very well into the new strategic partnership signed on 23 October 2015 between FAO and CIHEAM aiming at strengthening the livelihoods of rural communities in the Mediterranean region.
- The IPPC Secretariat continuously got support from the Joint FAO/IAEA Division (AGE), specifically for the development of the draft ISPM on Determination of host status of fruit to fruit flies (Tephritidae) and the reorganization of the suite of fruit fly standards. The IPPC Secretary paid a visit to AGE in Vienna, Austria in December, for further strengthening the bilateral cooperation.
- The IPPC delegation led by the IPPC Secretary met twice with delegations of senior officials from CAB International (CABI) in July and October. The two parties drafted a letter of intent with specific goals for the future that, once reviewed and finalized, should lay the foundation for a program of work aimed at enhancing awareness of both organizations and the importance of plant health and protection.
- The IPPC Secretariat continued the collaboration with the Codex Secretariat with the purchase and support for the development of the new OCS from PleaseTech, fully funded by Codex. The IPPC Secretariat is grateful for this support, and notes that this collaboration provides for enhanced synergies and efficient use of resources within FAO.
- The IPPC Secretariat also focused on liaisons with FAO offices for better internal coordination, such as with Food Safety and Codex Unit (AGDC), Plant Production and Protection Division (AGP), Trade and Market Division (EST), Office for Corporate Communication (OCC), Investment Centre (TCI) and Emergency Prevention System for Animal Health (EMPRES). In particular, linkages were established with FAO Soils group for preparing a paper on “Soils and Relationship to Plant Health”.

IPPC Community Activities

The IPPC Secretariat accentuated the partnerships with Regional Plant Protection Organizations (RPPOs), and considered the annual Technical Consultation (TC) among RPPOs as the top priority for developing partnerships with RPPOs. The Twenty-seventh TC-RPPOs, organized by NAPPO, was held in the United States of America, in November, with presence of representatives from all nine RPPOs. This was the First TC-RPPOs Meeting of the IPPC Secretary and he stressed the crucial role of RPPOs in the IPPC Community. The IPPC Secretariat strengthened the partnerships with NPPOs through organizing annual IPPC Regional Workshops. Seven IPPC Regional Workshops were planned with six implemented, and each Secretariat team leader was responsible for running one Regional Workshop. More than 200 participants from 89 CPs attended the six IPPC Regional Workshops. The IPPC Secretariat continued to work with FAO decentralized offices and the FAO regional and sub-regional plant protection officers through joint implementation of projects or joint organization of specific activities.

Resource Mobilization

The IPPC Secretariat emphasized resource mobilization due to a very weak financial position of the IPPC Multi-donor Trust Fund. An innovative approach for resource mobilization was taken by developing new strategies and taking new actions. A new strategy for resource mobilization intends to stabilize the traditional contributions and to exploit new contributions by prioritizing five resources (traditional donors, potential donors, international organizations, financial international organizations, and non-governmental organizations). Several actions for resource mobilization were implemented by establishing a Task Force Team, contacting traditional and potential donors in writing, and meeting with the contributors. Over ten face-to-face meetings have been held with the senior officers of CPs to discuss possible donations, and as a result some funds and in-kind contributions were obtained. The cooperation between the IPPC Secretariat and the BRICS countries was strengthened.

5. INTERNAL MANAGEMENT

Implementation of the IPPC Secretariat Enhancement Evaluation

The Core team developed an action plan of the IPPC Secretariat Enhancement Evaluation implementation, based on the recommendations of the Enhancement Evaluation and on the request from both CPM Bureau and FAO Senior Management. The action plan was fully supported by the CPM Bureau, and is presently in the process of approval by FAO Senior Management. Meanwhile, the IPPC Secretary initiated the process of the IPPC Secretariat's renewal, including five key elements: (a) moving towards "One IPPC"; (b) increasing internal cohesion and external influence; (c) reorganizing the IPPC Secretariat's work into three core areas (Standard setting, Implementation facilitation, and Integration and support); (d) renewing the operational mechanisms; and (e) showcasing the new structure, new mechanism, new performance and new image.

Operational Management

A series of Standard Operating Processes (SOPs) for meetings were established, such as for the weekly Core Team Member Meeting (CTMM), the monthly staff briefing meeting, the quarterly seminar, the mid-year Secretariat meeting, and the annual Secretariat meeting. Some SOPs have also been developed for internal and external communications, the Secretariat's chronicle of events, and the IPP headline news. Several templates have been set up for documents, such as the back-to-office reports, the mid-year and annual progress report, and the IPPC Annual Report.

Planning and Finance

Substantial financial analysis was conducted to understand how best to address the funding needs determined by planned changes in the IPPC Secretariat. Routine financial reporting took place during CPM-10 (2015) and meetings of the CPM Bureau and the FC. The Annual Work Plan and Budget of the IPPC Secretariat for 2016 was developed, and approved by the CPM Bureau. The management of the IPPC Secretariat budget was more planned, integrated and transparent, with a minimal deficit in execution of the 2015 budget.

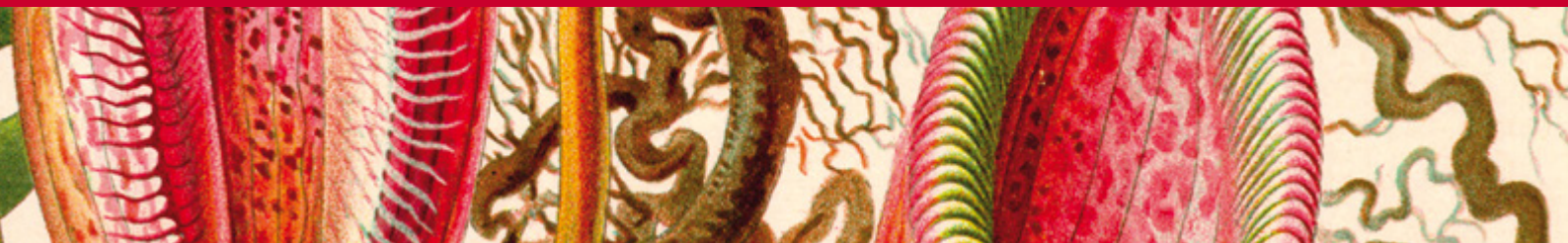
Human Resources Management

Staff resources were increased with the addition of three Professional staff positions, one consultant position and one G-staff position. All staff implemented their foreseen activities for the year through monitoring and timely communications.

Team Work

A process of renewal of the IPPC Secretariat was initiated with a view to improve the synergies and efficiencies among staff and teams. To this end, the Integration and Support Team (IST) was established to integrate and coordinate the IPPC Secretariat common activities in a more transparent and synergistic manner. A Task Force for Resource Mobilization (TFRM) was established with a priority to replenish the IPPC Multi-donor Trust Fund as well as to obtain in-kind contributions. A Task Force for Communication and Advocacy (TFCA) was set up with a priority to increase internal coordination and external impact.

HIGHLIGHTS



PRIORITIZATION OF TOPICS

A biennial call for topics was launched in June and 11 topics were submitted. These topics were reviewed by the SC, referring to the draft Framework for Standards and Implementation. The SC recommended four topics to CPM-11 (2016). The complete List of Topics for IPPC Standards is posted on the IPP in six languages.



TECHNICAL PANELS

Five TPs operated under the Standards Committee. The TPs held 14 meetings and conducted 15 TP e-decisions. In particular, the panel on DPs worked very hard progressing 18 draft DPs, resulting in 3 adopted DPs. These DPs will definitely help Contracting Parties to accurately identify pests with confidence as well as support the Implementation Programme on surveillance.



Vicia faba seed infected by *Ditylenchus dipsaci* (with nematode wool showing).

Photo courtesy G. Caubel, Nemapix (1999)



Cross-section of potato infected by *Ditylenchus destructor* compared with non-infected potato.

Photo courtesy S. Ayoub, Nemapix (2000)



General habitus of the adult female of *Anastrepha ludens* (Mexican fruit fly).

Micrograph courtesy V. Hernández-Ortiz

EXPERT INPUT

Revision of ISPM 6 (Guidelines for surveillance). An IPPC Expert Working Groups (EWG) met to revise this standard. This fundamental work ties into other IPPC Secretariat activities on surveillance, such as the Pilot Implementation Programme on surveillance; the drafting of a manual on surveillance and the development of a suite of diagnostic protocols. The standard was updated with guidance on essential elements of national surveillance systems, and the differences and linkages between general and specific surveillance were added.



TECHNICAL CONSULTATION

COMMENTS RECEIVED FROM CONSULTATIONS

- ◆ Seven first expert consultation on draft diagnostic protocols
- ◆ Three second expert consultation on draft diagnostic protocols
- ◆ 11 third expert consultation on draft diagnostic protocols
- ◆ 3646 three member consultations on draft standards
- ◆ 100 first consultation on draft specifications
- ◆ 156 second consultation on draft specifications

Two member consultations, one substantial concerns commenting period, two DPs notification periods, three DPs expert consultations and one member of consultation on draft specifications were organized and delivered. Member comments were received, compiled and posted on the IPP.

ADOPTION OF STANDARDS

Thirteen ISPMs were presented for adoption, of which nine were adopted. These included: the revised version of ISPM 5 (Glossary of phytosanitary terms); an annex to ISPM 26 (Establishment of pest free areas for fruit flies (*Tephritidae*)); three DP annexes to ISPM 27 (Diagnostic protocols for regulated pests); and four PT annexes to ISPM 28 (Phytosanitary treatments for regulated pests). ISPMs help countries harmonize their phytosanitary measures, with the ultimate objective of increasing food security, protecting the environment, and facilitating safe trade.



ONLINE COMMENT SYSTEM (OCS)

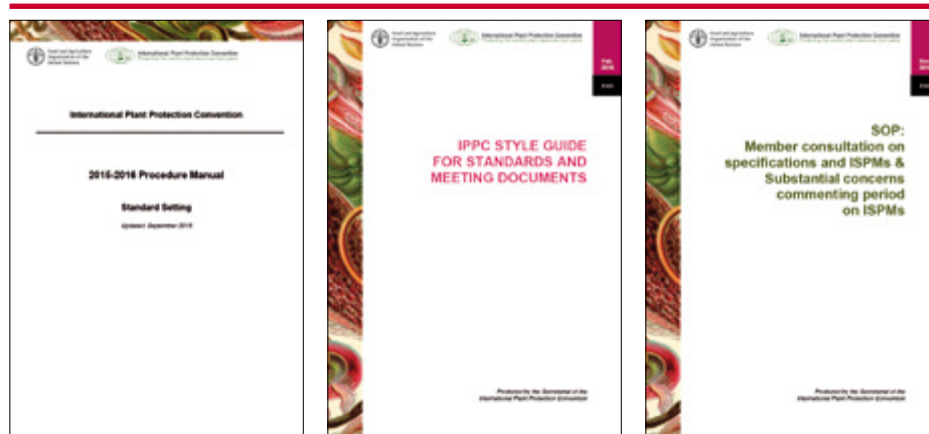
The IPPC Secretariat in collaboration with the Codex Secretariat initiated the move to the new OCS platform, and new software was purchased. Support for the maintenance of the OCS was provided by the IPPC Secretariat to ensure a functioning system before the launch of the new OCS. Users were provided timely assistance on queries.



IPPC-OCS@fao.org

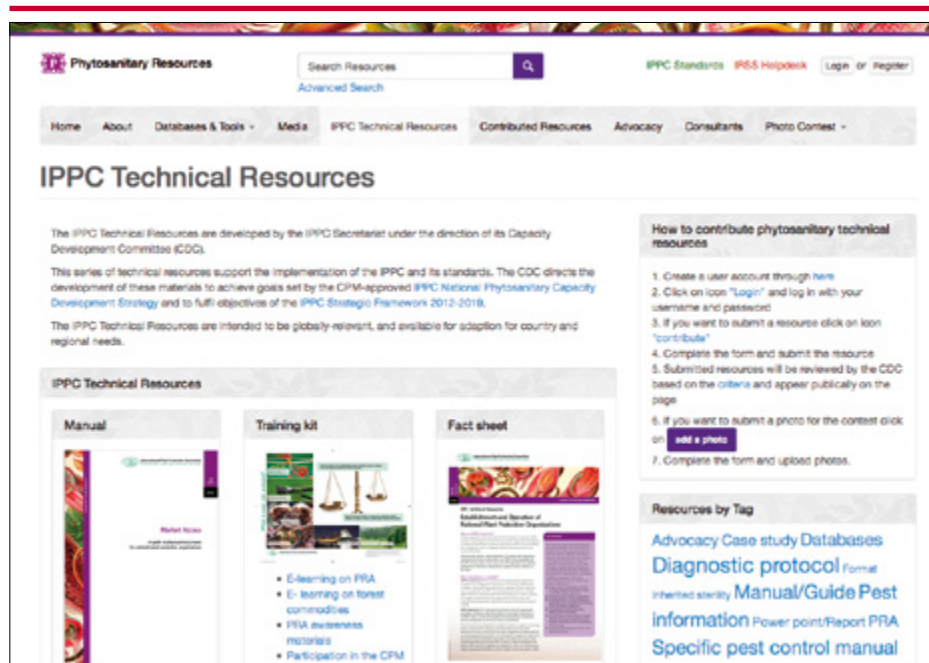
QUALITY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

To ensure an inclusive, transparent and quality-oriented standard setting process, the Standard Setting Team of the IPPC Secretariat emphasized quality in every step of the development and publication of ISPM. To this end, the Secretariat has produced an updated: the Procedure manual for standard setting, the IPPC Style Guide and annotated templates and more than 60 standard operating procedures. These products not only provide transparency for Contracting Parties, but help ensure quality.



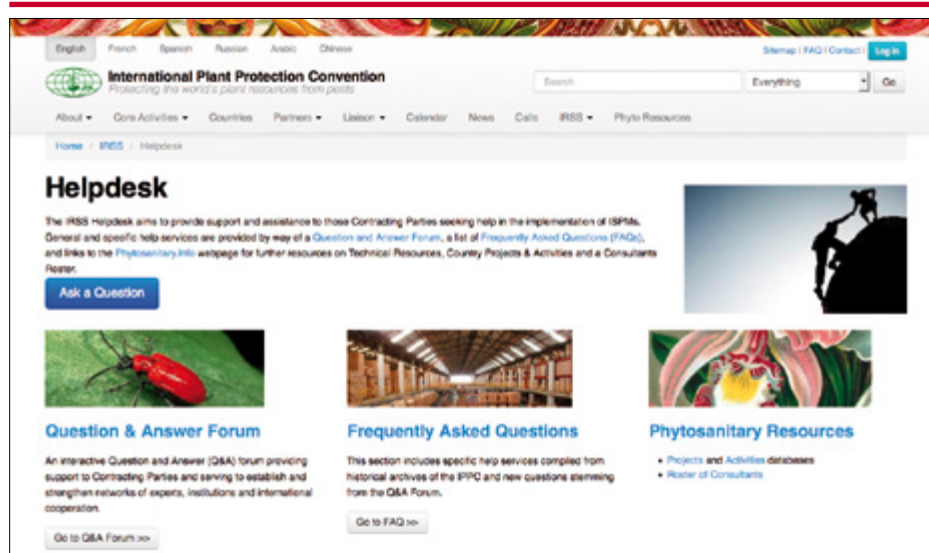
CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT (CD)

Twenty six new phytosanitary resources, including manuals, videos, training materials and factsheets were produced under the project STDF-350, and posted in the phytosanitary resources pages. The project was successfully completed. The use of the phytosanitary resources page which houses these products continues to grow!



IMPLEMENTATION REVIEW SUPPORT SYSTEM (IRSS)

IRSS specific activities included work linked to the Pilot implementation programme on pest surveillance, IRSS desk studies, monitoring and evaluation, phytosanitary implementation indicators and horizontal scanning for emerging phytosanitary issues.



PHYTOSANITARY CAPACITY EVALUATION (PCE)

PCE, as an effective and efficient tool, was implemented through IPPC country projects in ten countries. The IPPC made significant advances on the implementation of an STDF funded project to train PCE facilitators globally.



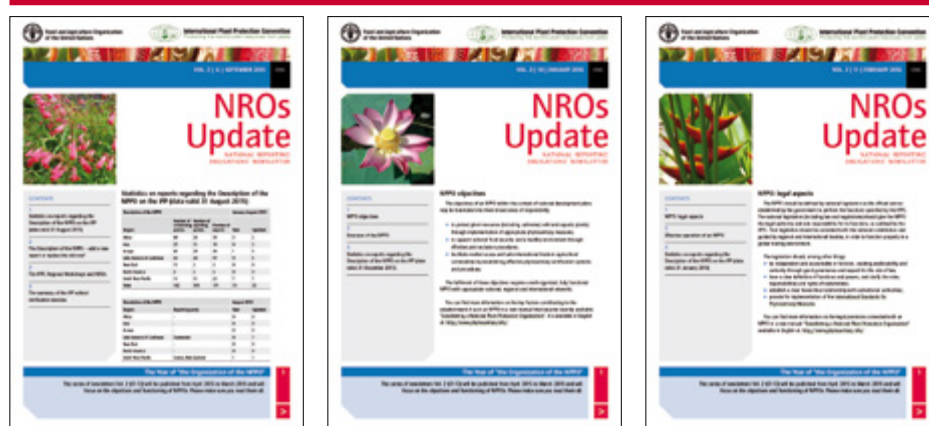
DEVELOPMENT OF ePHYTO

The CPM-10, held in Rome in March, endorsed development of an ePhyto hub system, and the IPPC Secretariat has taken a series of actions to promote ePhyto through working in SDTF project and making advocacy at the IPPC meetings. The Second IPPC Symposium on ePhyto was successfully held in Incheon, the Republic of Korea in November, where about 80 participants from over 50 CPs and some industry and multinational organizations attended the Symposium.



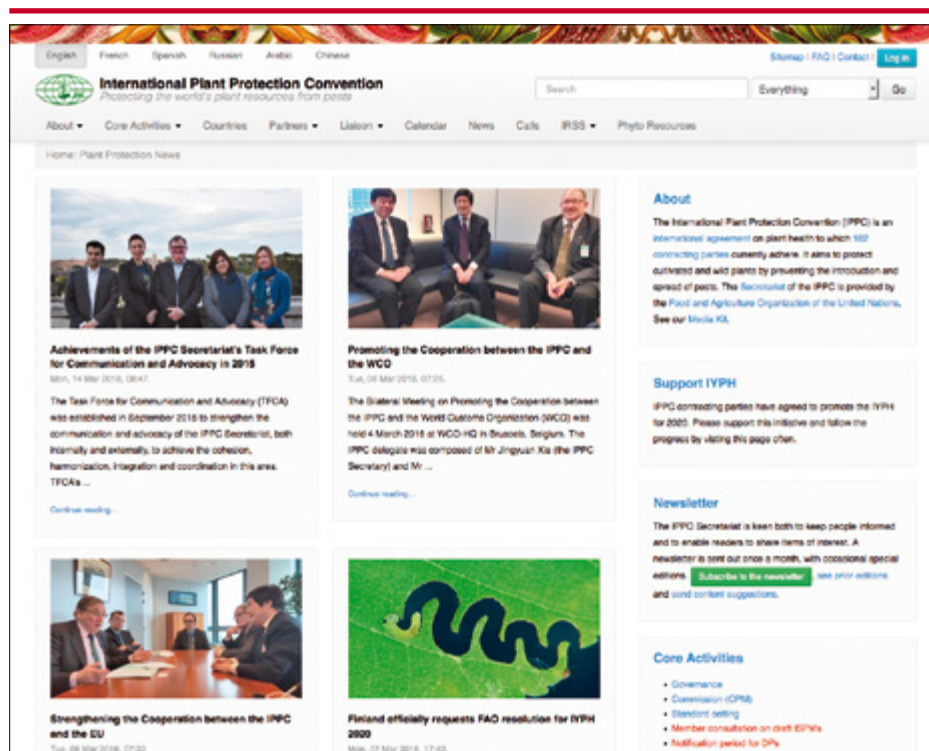
NATIONAL REPORTING OBLIGATION (NRO)

The NRO Year of Official Contact Points was completed with great success. The monthly "NROs Update", published in five languages, has been well received by CPs.



INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

The IPPC Secretariat launched a redesigned IPP website, available in six languages, and the data entry (including posting national reports) was made easier and more user friendly.



INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF PLANT HEALTH (IYPH 2020)

The Tenth Session of CPM, held in Rome in March, strongly supported the initiative to hold the IYPH 2020. The IPPC Secretariat complemented the promotion of the IYPH 2020 by working closely together with Finland (the lead in this initiative) and assisted in the development of papers outlining the benefits of and procedures for establishing the IYPH 2020.



IPPC SEMINARS

The IPPC Seminars series was established, and two Seminars were successfully held, one on the IYPH 2020 and the other on the Invasive Alien Species, which greatly increased the presence, visibility and impact of the IPPC the Secretariat.



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EXHIBITION "PESTS WITHOUT BORDERS"

The First IPPC Photo Contest "Pests without Borders" was organized during the CPM-10 in March, with the objective to raise public awareness on the protection of cultivated and wild plants by preventing the introduction and spread of pests. Dr Thomas Schröder, of the Institute for National and International Plant Health in Braunschweig, Germany, won the first prize.

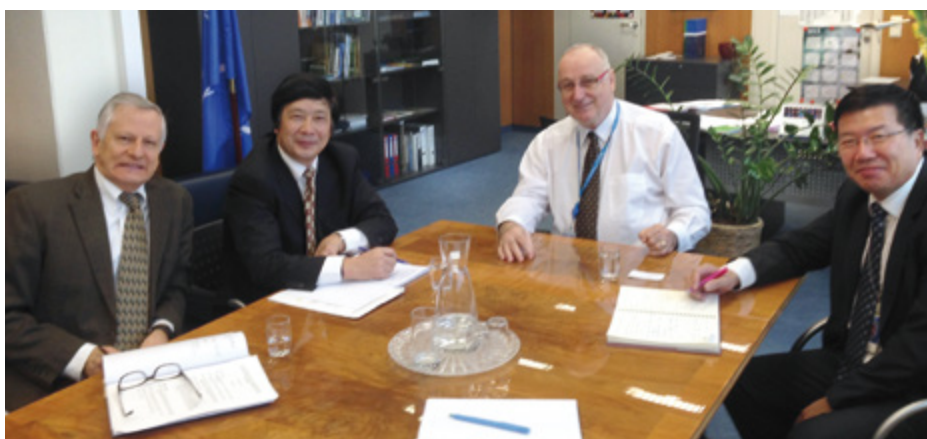


Winning image



INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

The IPPC Secretariat paid great attention to the development of partnerships with a large number of organizations and institutions to strengthen the bilateral and international cooperation, including WTO-STDF, WTO-SPS, Biodiversity Liaison Group (BLG), CIHEAM, AGE, CABI, European Union (EU).



TECHNICAL CONSULTATION AMONG REGIONAL PLANT PROTECTION ORGANIZATIONS (TC-RPPOS)

The IPPC Secretariat accentuated the partnerships with RPPOs, and considered the annual TC among RPPOs as the top priority for developing partnerships with RPPOs. The Twenty-seventh TC-RPPOs, organized by NAPPO, was held in the United States of America, in November, with presence of representatives from all nine RPPOs.



IPPC REGIONAL WORKSHOPS

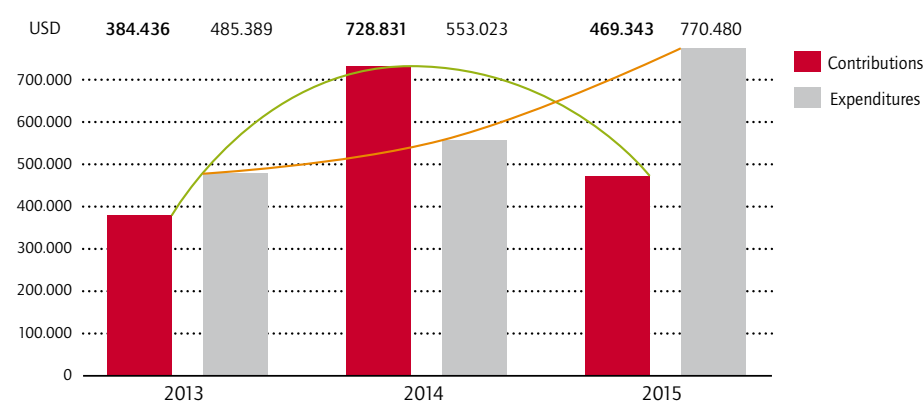
The IPPC Secretariat strengthened the partnerships with NPPOs through organizing annual IPPC Regional Workshop. Seven IPPC Regional Workshops were planned with six implemented (Asia, Pacific, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, North Africa and Near East, Caribbean, and Latin America), and each Secretariat team leader was responsible for running one Regional Workshop. More than 200 participants from 89 CPs attended six IPPC Regional Workshops.



RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

The IPPC Secretariat took an innovative approach for resource mobilization due to a very weak financial position by developing new strategies to stabilize traditional contributions and exploit new contributions, and by taking several new actions to follow up with resource mobilization. Even though, the Multi-donor Trust Fund (MDTF) contributions to the IPPC in 2015 amounted only to USD 469,343, which represents a decline of 36% compared to 2014. Only five CPs (3% of the total membership of 182 CPs) made contributions to the IPPC, compared to six CPs in 2014, adversely affecting the total of contributions received.

Special Trust Fund of the IPPC (Multi-donor) – Contributions vs. Expenditures (2013-2015)



STRATEGIC PLAN OF THE IPPC

The Seventeenth Strategic Planning Group (SPG) met in Rome in October with the theme "The IPPC toward 2020". Five IPPC themes for the next five years (2016–2020) were developed, each year with a specified theme. They are: "Plant Health and Food Security" for 2016, "Plant Health and Trade Facilitation" for 2017, "Plant Health and Environment Protection" for 2018, "Plant Health and Capacity Development" for 2019, and the "International Year of Plant Health" in 2020.



RENEWAL OF THE IPPC SECRETARIAT

The first Semester Meeting of the IPPC Secretariat was held in Rome in July, with the Theme "Renewal of the IPPC Secretariat". Based on the Enhancement Evaluation report, a renewal of the IPPC Secretariat includes four key elements: (a) moving towards "One IPPC"; (b) increasing internal cohesion and external influence; (c) taking the actions of reshaping the organizational structure, regrouping staff responsibilities, and optimizing operational mechanism; and (d) showcasing the new structure, new mechanism, new performance, and new image.



CHRONICLE OF EVENTS



JANUARY

20 January

Members of the IPPC Secretariat met with CBD Executive Secretary Mr Braulio Dias for a detailed discussion on the relationship between the two Secretariats of the two conventions. Among other things, they discussed revision of the joint work plan and other opportunities related to the BLG. Both Secretariats are focused on enhancing their relationship to work on matters of mutual interest as well as to push forward in order to meet the Aichi Targets.

29 January

The IPPC Secretariat through the FAO Procurement team submitted a Request for Information through a Public Notice on the website of the United Nations Global Marketplace (UNGM), with the purpose of obtaining information on the availability of off-the-shelf software to replace the current IPPC OCS. For more information, check the UNGM website at <https://www.ungm.org/Public/Notice/31862>.

30 January

The SC, on behalf of the CPM, adopted DP 7 (Potato spindle tuber viroid) as Annex to ISPM 27 (Diagnostic protocols for regulated pests). More information about the notification period for this DP is available at <https://www.ippc.int/news/ippc-secretariat/notification-period-draft-dp-potato-spindle-tuber-viroid-now-open>.

30 January

The following draft DPs Annex to ISPM 27 (Diagnostic protocols for regulated pests) were submitted for member consultation through the OCS from 30 January to 30 June 2015: *Bursaphelenchus xylophilus* (2004-016); Citrus tristeza virus (2004-021); Tomato spotted wilt

virus, Impatiens necrotic spot virus and Watermelon silver mottle virus (2004-019); *Xiphinema americanum* sensu lato (2004-025); and Genus *Liriomyza* (2006-017).

FEBRUARY

3 February

The TPDP, through a virtual meeting, reviewed their work programme and the tentative schedule of this year's Expert Consultations on draft DPs, and selected authors to be part of DP drafting groups for *Puccinia psidii* (2006-018) and *Striga* spp. (2008-009). For the DP drafting groups for *Anoplophora* spp. (2004-020) and *Conotrachelus nenuphar* (2013-002), the TPDP noted the lack of nominations from call for authors and agreed to try direct contact with some experts and ascertain their willingness to be part of these DP drafting groups. The panel noted the update of the draft International Standards Organization (ISO) Plant pathogen standard ISO/TC 34/SC 16. The meeting report is available at <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/80380/>.

10 – 12 February

The IPPC Secretariat was invited to provide the opening lecturer at the Thirty-eighth Sao Paulo Phytopathology Congress ("Congresso Paulista de Fitopatologia") in Araras, Brazil (10–12 February 2015). Represented by Ms Adriana G. Moreira, the lecture entitled "Protecting the world's plant resources from pests through harmonized diagnostic protocols" raised awareness of the IPPC and its standard setting process, in particular on how diagnostic protocols are developed and adopted. It is hoped that this outreach will increase participation by scientists in the standard setting process and thereby result in improved international standards for phytosanitary measures,

more specifically diagnostic protocols. The congress was attended by approximately 110 participants from universities, research institutes (from Brazil and two other countries the private sector and a representative the Brazilian NPPO.

17 February

The TPPT, through a virtual meeting, welcomed three new members (two from Australia and one from China) as selected by the Standards Committee (SC) in its 2015-11 meeting. The TPPT reviewed their work programme and comments received from the member consultation on six draft PTs, as well as the panel's recommendations for future research on High Temperature Forced Air (HTFA) treatment, characterization of heated air treatments, extrapolation to estimate efficacy and a technical support document for glossary definition of effective dose. The panel was also updated on the Expert Consultation on Phytosanitary Treatments for *Bactrocera dorsalis* complex held in December 2015 in Okinawa, Japan. The panel also noted that four draft PTs (three cold treatments and one irradiation treatment) were submitted to CPM-10 for adoption. The TPPT February 2015 Meeting Report is available at <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/80998/>.

20 February

The IPPC member consultation on draft specifications started on 19 December 2014 and closed on 20 February 2015. The following draft were submitted for member consultation: Annex to ISPM 20 (Guidelines for a phytosanitary import regulatory system); Use of specific import authorization (2008-006); Guidance on pest risk management (2014-001); Authorization of entities other than National Plant Protection Organizations to perform phytosanitary actions (2014-002); and Requirements for the use of phytosanitary treatments as phytosanitary measures (2014-008). The IPPC CPs were able to submit their comments through the OCS at <http://ocs.ippc.int/>. More information on this consultation is available at <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/standards-setting/member-consultation-draft-specifications-ispms/>.

22 – 27 February

A CPM-10 preparatory meeting was delivered in El Salvador, San Salvador at the request of OIRSA who covered all costs. The meeting provided the opportunity to transfer methodologies to regions to prepare for CPM-10, the Regional Workshop, to test technical materials developed under project STDF 350, as well as to have a discussion on regional capacity development activities.

26 February

The IPPC Secretariat Enhancement Evaluation was publicly released. The evaluation was requested by the CPM during CPM-9 (2014) and was carried out by a team of consultants selected by the FAO Office of Evaluations.

MARCH

5 March

Mr Jingyuan Xia of the People's Republic of China was named by FAO Director General Mr Graziano da Silva as the next Secretary of IPPC. Mr Xia has a BSc in plant protection, as well as an MSc and PhD in entomology. He has held several senior positions with Chinese agricultural institutions and most recently has been the Chinese Permanent Representative and Minister Plenipotentiary to FAO.

10 March

The First 2015 Expert Consultation on draft DP was opened for: *Fusarium moniliformis/moniforme* syn. *F. circinatum* (2006-021); *Phytophthora ramorum* (2004-013); and *Dendroctonus ponderosae* syn. *Scolytus scolytus* (2006-019). The closing date was 24 April 2015 and comments were submitted by IPPC contact points through the expert consultation on draft DPs webpage.

15 March

The IPPC Secretariat welcomed The Democratic Republic of the Congo as the 182nd contracting party to the IPPC.

16 – 20 March

The Tenth Session of the CPM, the governing body of the IPPC, adopted 3 standards. The CPM agreed to develop a global system of electronic phytosanitary certificates, known as ePhyto. The project is intended to develop both an ePhyto hub as well as a generic system that can be utilized by developing countries who do not have an

established national system. CPM also unanimously and enthusiastically supported a proposal by Finland to begin a process to establish in the IYPH 2020. While there is no guarantee that an international year will be approved in the end, Finland volunteered to take the lead in pushing the proposal through the FAO and UN systems.

24 March

The Second Expert Consultation on draft DPs in 2015 was opened through the IPP for *Anguina* spp. (2013-003). The closing date was 24 April 2015. Comments were submitted through the expert consultation on draft DPs webpage.

23 – 26 March

The IPPC Secretariat was an active participant of the STDF Working Group meeting, in Geneva, Switzerland, discussing and providing comments on trade facilitation related studies and on the criteria to identify sanitary and phytosanitary measures and differentiate them from trade barriers. The priorities for the STDF future work plan were also discussed, as well as the revision of the STDFs Operational Rules. This meeting also provided the opportunity to present the IPPC Secretariat proposal for a Project Preparation Grant related to ePhyto. The proposal was considered quite important and some members requested modifications and clarifications on the contents of the project.

27 March

Compiled comments for the 2014-2015 member consultation on four draft specifications were posted on the IPP at <https://www.ippc.int/core-activities/standards-setting/compiled-member-comments-draft-specifications>.

31 March – 2 April

The IPPC participated in the annual meeting of the Inter-Agency Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species (IALG-IAS) in London from 31 March – 2 April 2015. The purpose of the meeting is for participants to provide information on the activities the participating agencies are carrying out relative to alien invasive species and to identify those areas where coordination and cooperation may be possible in the future. The meeting was hosted by the United Nations International Maritime Organization (IMO) and was attended by representatives of CABI, CBD, WTO SPS, the Ramsar Convention, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and Global

Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF). On the margins of the meeting the IPPC team took advantage of the opportunity to make progress relative to the development of the work plan between the IPPC and CBD Secretariats.

APRIL

8 April

The TPDP met virtually to review their work programme, the tentative schedule for the draft DPs intended to be submitted to the 2015 expert consultation and the agenda for the TPDP June 2015 meeting, to be convened from 22 – 26 June 2015 in Shanghai, China. The panel also reviewed and selected authors associated with the TPDP work programme for the following DP drafting groups: *Striga* spp. (2008-009); *Conotrachelus nenuphar* (2013-002); and *Anoplophora* spp. (2004-020).

MAY

4 – 8 May

The SC met from 4 – 8 May at FAO headquarters in Rome, Italy. Nineteen SC members and five observers attended the meeting which was chaired by Ms Jane Chard (United Kingdom). The SC approved three draft ISPMs for member consultation: two draft ISPMs to be submitted to the 2015 member consultation (1 July – 30 November): Revisions of annexes 1 and 2 to ISPM 15 for the inclusion of the phytosanitary treatment sulphuryl fluoride fumigation of wood packaging material (2006-010A) and the revision of dielectric heating section (2006-010B); Appendix (Arrangements for verification of compliance of consignments by the importing country in the exporting country) to ISPM 20 (2005-003); amendments to ISPM 5 (Glossary of phytosanitary terms) (1994-001) (to be submitted for member consultation in 2016). The SC also reviewed the draft ISPM on Determination of host status of fruit to fruit fly (Tephritidae) (2006-031), that was returned for its consideration by CPM-10 (2015), and agreed to submit the draft for the 2015 substantial concerns commenting period. Additionally, the SC has approved the specification 62: Requirements for the use of phytosanitary treatments as phytosanitary measures. Finally, updates on the work plans of TPs were provided and the SC thanked the TP members for their excellent work and contribution to the standard setting process.

The meeting report is available at <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/standards-setting/standards-committee/>.

11 – 12 May

The Standards Committee Working Group (SC-7) met from 11–12 May at FAO headquarters in Rome, Italy. Ms Marie-Claude Forest (Canada) was elected as Chairperson. The SC-7 has reviewed the draft ISPM on International movement of seeds (2009-003), and it has requested the steward and assistant steward revise the draft for review at the next SC-7. The SC-7 also reviewed the draft 2014 amendments to ISPM 5 (Glossary of phytosanitary terms) (1994-001) and was sent for the 2015 Substantial Concerns Commenting Period (SCCP).

13 – 15 May

The SC-7 Plus Group met from 13–15 May on the Revision of the IPPC Standard Setting Procedure (SSP) at FAO headquarters in Rome, Italy. Ms Marie-Claude FOREST (Canada) was elected as Chairperson. The group agreed that the revision was exclusively applicable to the current procedure as adopted by CPM-7 (2012). The group discussed the scope of the meeting and agreed that it would be to “adjust the procedure to ensure that it facilitates the development of technically sound standards through a transparent process that truly engages IPPC members”. The outcomes from this meeting will be submitted to the SC, at its November 2015 meeting, for their consideration. The proposed changes to the SSP would then be recommended to CPM-11 (2016).

18 – 22 May

The CD team held a working meeting to review and finalize four draft manuals and was attended by experts from various regions of the world with expertise on pest diagnostics, pest surveillance, import verification and export certification. The manuals were reviewed and missing new text was drafted and finalized. Final drafts would be prepared by the IPPC Secretariat before publishing.

22 May

The new secretary of the IPPC, Mr Jingyuan Xia, arrived to take up his new position. One of the new Secretary's first tasks was to develop a work plan for the implementation of the IPPC Secretariat Enhancement Evaluation recommendations.

26 May

The TPPT held a virtual meeting organized by the Secretariat with nine participants present. Mr Guy Hallman from the United States served as Rapporteur. The Secretariat provided an update from the Tenth Session of the CPM held in March 2015 and from the SC 2015 May Meeting and also provided an overview of the TPPT portfolio of draft PTs, currently totaling 15 draft PTs at various stages of development and the five draft ISPMs.

JUNE

1 June

The draft ISPM on Determination of host status of fruit to fruit flies (Tephritidae) (2006-031) and draft amendment to ISPM 5 (Glossary of phytosanitary terms) (1994-001) were submitted to the substantial concerns commenting period (SCCP) with the deadline for submission of comments being 30 September 2015.

1 – 5 June

The Sixth meeting of the IPPC CDC was held at Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) Headquarters in San José, Costa Rica. Ms Sally Jennings from New Zealand chaired the meeting. The CDC provided advice on two global-level projects for which it is the project steering committee, discussed options for new projects, current activities including the program of side sessions for the CPM-11, and reviewed the CDCs work plan. In addition, all CDC members and observers to the meeting shared updates on phytosanitary capacity development activities taking place in their regions. More from the report of the meeting and on the capacity development materials and projects website.

2 June

A SLA was agreed between the IPPC Secretariat and the FAO Conference Programming and Documentation Service (CPAM) to ensure delivery of quality translations in a timely manner.

5 June

A call for possible standard setting topics was made to IPPC Contracting Parties and relevant organizations. Deadline for submission of topics is 14 August 2015. Further information.

15 June

The FC of the CPM was held at FAO-HQ in Rome. The meeting was chaired by Mr John Greifer from the USA with all FC members attended, and the IPPC Secretariat was represented by Mr Jingyuan Xia, Mr Craig Fedchock, Mr Ralf Lopian and Mr Marko Benovic. The main discussions and decisions of the FC were related to the organization of the IYPH 2020, the financial analysis of the enhancement evaluation and the organization of the CPM-11.

16 – 19 June

The CPM Bureau met in HQ-FAO in Rome. The meeting was chaired by Ms Kyu-Ock Yim from the Republic of Korea with the presence of all Bureau members. The IPPC Secretariat was represented by Mr Jingyuan Xia, Mr Craig Fedchock, Mr Ralf Lopian and Ms Eva Moller on a permanent basis, with Team Leaders being present for presentations on demand. The main discussions focused on the Enhancement Evaluation, and the Bureau made precise recommendations to be implemented as soon as possible. The IPPC Secretariat is requested to report to CPM-11 about their implementation. A further important item was the ePhyto project, and the decisions were made to organize a pilot project and to seek alternative funding. The IYPH 2020, the communication work plan and partnerships were additional important discussions.

22 – 26 June

The TPDP met in Shanghai, China (hosted by the Chinese NPPO), with the 12 participants present. Mr Robert Taylor from the New Zealand was Chairperson and Mr Hans de Gruyter from the Netherlands served as Rapporteur. The TPDP reviewed 27 draft DPs. Five draft DPs were reviewed in detail, including the comments received from the expert consultations held in 2015 and they will be forwarded to the SC. The TPDP also discussed quality assurance, best practices for sequences, detection of viable pests in seeds and wood material. The next TPDP face-to-face meeting is scheduled 11–15 July 2016 in Jamaica.

22 – 26 June

Preparation for the 2015 IPPC Regional Workshops was conducted at FAO-HQ in Rome. This annual activity is coordinated and overseen by the IPPC Secretariat in association with external organizers to ensure appropriate content and efficient logistics for the workshops. The whole Secretariat worked together to develop the technical content for all items in the agenda of the workshops and staff was trained to ensure effective and consistent participation. This is a key activity that integrates all staff and work areas in the Secretariat and takes into account the preferences and suggestions of workshops organizers and Contracting Parties worldwide.

24 June

The first IPPC Seminar was held at FAO-HQ in Rome. Mr Ralf Lopian (IPPC Consultant from Finland) presented a lecture covering efforts with regard to the proposed the IYPH 2020 and other future challenges for the IPPC. The Seminar was chaired by the IPPC Secretary Mr Jingyuan Xia with presence of nearly all IPPC Secretariat staff as well as the Joint FAO/IAEA division in Vienna, staff from other FAO divisions, and staff seconded from Canada. FAO staff from some other divisions welcomed the information provided and supported the IYPH 2020. Specific comments were made in relation to communication efforts. It was stressed that the promotion of an IYPH 2020 would require especially compelling and convincing communication efforts.

1 – 30 June

The new Secretary Mr Jingyuan Xia and the coordinator Mr Craig Fedchock paid a series of courtesy visit to FAO's Senior Management Officers, including Mr Dan Gustafson (Office of Deputy Director General Operations, DDO), Ms Maria Helena Semedo (Deputy Director-General, Natural Resources, DDN), Ms Fernanda Guerrieri (Directeur de Cabinet at the time), Mr Ren Wang (FAO Assistant Director-General of the Agriculture, ADG-AG) and Mr Denis Aitken (FAO Assistant Director-General, ADG ad interim), as well as Ms Monika Altmaier (Director of Office of Human Resources, OHR) and Mr Boyd Haight (Director of Office of Strategy, Planning and Resources Management, OSP). During each visit, Mr Xia made a briefing on the IPPC and its Secretary, the key initiatives, the critical needs, and future development. All senior management officers involved expressed their concern with and support to the IPPC and its Secretariat.

JULY

29 June – 1 July

The International Workshop on Phytosanitary Threats was held in Sao Paulo, Brazil. The Workshop was organized by the Brazilian Plant and Animal Health Protection Society, the Brazilian NPPO (DSV) and the National Association of Plant and Animal Health Pesticides. The initial activity was awards presented by about 400 persons from national organizations and individuals for their outstanding role in education and promotion of good practices related to plant protection. The second activity focused on new trends and good practices in managing phytosanitary risks. The IPPC Secretariat's presentation raised substantive interest to the participants, and the proposal of 2020 as the International Year of Plant Health was enthusiastically received by the audience.

1 July

The Member Consultation in Standard Setting was started for nine draft ISPMs (closing date: 30 November 2015), and DP Notification Period was started for three draft DPs (closing date: 15 August 2015).

7 – 8 July

The Regional Meeting of International Organizations and Integration and Cooperation Organizations for Animal and Plant Health and Food Safety, was held in San Salvador, El Salvador. The meeting was organized by the International and Regional Organization for Plant and Animal Health for Central America and the Dominican Republic (OIRSA), with 17 organizations with each presenting an overview of their current and near future work. In the case of IPPC, the work on PCE was considered to be an important area and has been integrated into the matrix. The University Advisory Body for Central America (CSUCA) was interested in the IPPC's work on manuals and possibilities for training, which might be worthwhile in exploring with OIRSA at a later stage.

14 July

The IPPC Coordinator, Mr Craig Fedchock, delivered the keynote speech at the Milan Expo conference on "Climate change and food security: challenges for plant health, plant breeding and genetic resources", organized by the European Commission in the framework of the Milan Expo.

15 July

The IPPC Secretary, Mr Jingyuan Xia, and the Coordinator, Mr Craig Fedchock, met with Mr Ulrich Kuhlmann (CABI Regional Director, Europe-Switzerland & Plantwise Programme Executive) and Ms Melanie Bateman (CABI Integrated Crop Management Advisor) in Geneva. Both sides exchanged the views on how to strengthen IPPC/CABI cooperation. For the follow-up action, Mr Xia suggested both parties should work in four focus areas: (a) reviewing past cooperation, joint activities, achievements, problems – focusing in particular on points related to plant quarantine; (b) re-evaluating the entry point for cooperation, such as surveillance; (c) resetting the cooperation; and (d) renewal of the working mechanism.

15 – 16 July

The IPPC Secretary, Mr Jingyuan Xia, and the Coordinator, Mr Craig Fedchock, attended the meeting of SPS Committee. During the meeting, both Secretary and Coordinator conducted a number of bilateral meetings with key partners and collaborators, such as Office International des Épidémiologies (OIE), Codex, etc.

16 July

The IPPC Secretary, Mr Jingyuan Xia, and the Coordinator, Mr Craig Fedchock, had an informal meeting with the Israeli Minister Counsellor for Agricultural Affairs, a former member of the IPPC SC. Both sides exchanged views on the standard setting process, ideas to consider for improving the process, and electronic phytosanitary certificate exchange. There was a clear indication that work on the ePhyto hub was of great interest.

17 July

The IPPC Secretary, Mr Jingyuan Xia, and the Coordinator, Mr Craig Fedchock, met with Gretchen Stanton, Christiane Wolff and Rolando Alcala of the WTO SPS Secretariat for a discussion on a number of topics relevant to both Secretariats. Both sides agreed that the relationship between the two Secretariats should be renewed and reinvigorated with a specific goal of enhanced cooperation. Meanwhile, the Secretary and the Coordinator had the opportunity for a brief meeting with Mr Xiaozhun Yi, the Deputy Director General (DDG) of the WTO. As Mr Yi is also the DDG for the area covering the Agreement on Trade Facilitation (ATF), both sides discussed ways how to facilitate communication between the IPPC and the ATF.

20 – 24 July

The CPM Working Groups (WG) on the concept of a commodity standard met in Edinburgh, Scotland, UK, with 14 participants. Ms Jane Chard from the UK was Chairperson and Mr Francisco Gutierrez from the Belize served as Rapporteur. The WG reviewed and addressed tasks from the CPM-10 (2015) agreed Terms of Reference, and agreed that Contracting Parties would benefit from commodity standards, but only if they provided solutions to clearly identified problems while the purpose, content and format were also determined. The WG also recommends a common approach be used to help determine which of the available IPPC mechanisms (standards, manuals, recommendations, etc.) would be most appropriate. Recommendations from this meeting will be forwarded to the October 2015 SPG Meeting for their consideration and the CPM will be requested to determine the priority of this work and allocate appropriate resources.

28 July

The Mid-year meeting of the IPPC Secretariat in 2015 was held on 28 July at the HQ-FAO in Rome. The meeting was chaired by Mr Jingyuan Xia, the IPPC Secretary, with participation of all Secretariat staff. Team Leaders, Brent Larson, David Nowell and Orlando Sosa, made presentations of their work in the respected teams, and Mr Craig Fedchock, the IPPC Coordinator, delivered a report on the important Secretariat issues. All staff in the meeting actively shared their review and put forward valuable suggestions on the Theme of the meeting. At the end, The Secretary made concluding remarks, highlighting three important points: (a) six main achievements of the First Semester; (b) six core activities for the Next Semester; and (c) the theme of the meeting "Strategic Planning on IPPC and Renewing of its Secretariat". Finally, Mr Xia urged all staff of the IPPC Secretariat to work hand in hand and side by side in order to move IPPC and its Secretariat towards a bright future.

28 – 31 July

The IPPC Regional Workshop for Pacific was held in Fiji, which was organized by the Pacific Plant Protection Organization (PPPO), with the participation of representatives from 19 NPPOs in that region. The Workshop was funded with assistance from the Pacific Horticultural and Market Access (PHAMA) project, and financed by the Australian Government's Department

of Foreign Affairs and Trade. The Workshop was co-chaired by PPPO Secretary, Mr Josua Wainiqolo and PPPO Chairman, Mr Ngatoko Ngatoko with the support of the IPPC Secretariat representative, Mrs. Ana Peralta. The participants highly appreciated the results of the activities of the workshop and shared a significant amount of information in terms of joint positions on draft standards, updated information on national surveillance programs and fulfillment of national reporting obligations. The training activities developed were keys not only to support the development of capacities at national level, but also to support the adoption of informed decisions in the next meeting of the CPM in 2016.

1 – 31 July

The Secretary Jingyuan Xia and the coordinator Craig Fedchock paid a series of courtesy visit to FAO's Senior Management Officers, including Mr Laurent Thomas (Agriculture Department AGD-Technical Cooperation), Mr Mario Lubetkin (Director of OCC), Mr Aiman Hija (Director of the Finance Division CSF), and Mr Alexander L. Jones (Deputy Director of South-South and Resource Mobilization Division, TCS). During each visit, Mr Xia made a briefing on the IPPC and its Secretary, the key initiatives, the critical needs, and future development. All senior management officers involved expressed their concern over sustainable resources while expressing strong support the IPPC and its Secretariat.

AUGUST**10 August**

The call for experts to take part in the EWG on Minimizing pest movement by sea containers (2008-001) as additional EWG members was closed. The IPPC Secretariat has received eight nominations from eight CPs in answer to the call.

13 August

The Coordinator, Mr Craig Fedchock met with Mr Eric Robinson, Permanent Representative of Canada, for a brief discussion on resource mobilization. Several ideas were exchanged including the possibility of establishing a Canadian "chair" in the Secretariat (a Canadian-funded position) as well as other possible ways to support the activities of the Secretariat.

14 August

The 2015 call for topics on the IPPC standard setting programme was closed. The IPPC Secretariat has received eleven submissions from three CPs, one RPPO, one TP, and one international organization in answering to the call.

15 August

The DP Notification Period was closed, which had started for three draft DPs on 1 July 2015. No formal objection was received on the DPs for *Ditylenchus destructor* and *Ditylenchus dipsaci* (2004-017) and Genus *Anastrepha* (2004-015), and consequently these 2 DPs were adopted by the SC on behalf of the CPM (DP 08 and DP 09, respectively). The draft DP for Phytoplasmas (2004-018) received one formal objection and this draft will be reviewed by the discipline lead and the DP drafting group, before being presented again to the Technical Panel on Diagnostic Protocols and the SC.

17–21 August

The Phytosanitary Temperature Treatment Expert Group (PTTEG), now named as Phytosanitary Measures Research Group (PMRG), was formed as a result of an Expert Consultation on Cold Treatments (ECCT). The PMRG had its first meeting from 17–21 August 2015 in Nelspruit, South Africa, with 21 participants from 13 countries. The group revised their terms of reference and agreed that the main functions of the PMRG, among others, are to serve as a forum for discussion and provide scientific analysis and review of issues and new information related to global phytosanitary treatments.

17–31 August

The Secretary, Mr Jingyuan Xia, and the Coordinator, Mr Craig Fedchock, worked closely with Mr Ren Wang, the ADG-AG, and Matthew Montavon, the Senior Officer of FAO Agriculture Department (AGD), for the development of the Action Plan on Implementation of the Enhancement Evaluation to the IPPC Secretariat. The overall objective of the action plan is to implement the Enhancement Evaluation Recommendations through regrouping the Secretariat's functions, reshaping the Secretariat's structure, and renewing the Secretariat's operational mechanisms.

SEPTEMBER**31 August – 4 September**

The TPPT met in Fukushima, Japan. The meeting was hosted by the Plant Quarantine Office, Plant Protection Division, Food Safety and Consumers Affairs Bureau of the Japanese Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF). The meeting was chaired by Mr Patrick Gomes (USA), with presence of 18 participants. The TPPT reviewed its work programme currently comprising five draft ISPMs on requirements of treatments as phytosanitary measures and 15 draft PTs. Two draft PTs were recommended to the SC for adoption by the CPM, and four draft PTs are currently under member consultation. The TPPT expressed appreciation for the professional support provided by the IPPC Secretariat.

7–11 September

The 2015 IPPC Regional Workshop for Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia was held in Bykovo, Russia. The workshop was organized by the FAO Regional Office for Eastern Europe (REU), the All-Russia Center for Plant Quarantine (VNIIKR), and the IPPC Secretariat. The Workshop was chaired by Mr Leonid Pleshko, the Director of the NPPO of Belarus, with the support of the IPPC Secretariat representative, the Coordinator Craig Fedchock and Ms Ketevan Lomsadze. The Director of VNIIKR Mr Aleksandr Sapozhnikov opened the workshop. Representatives from 12 National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs) in the region actively participated in the Workshop and proved substantial feedback on a variety of agenda items.

9 September

The Coordinator, Mr Craig Fedchock had the opportunity to meet directly with Ms Yulia Shvabauskene, Deputy Head of the Russian Federation's Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance (VPSS) in Bykovo, Russia. Both sides had a wide-ranging and fruitful discussion on the relationship between VPSS and the IPPC.

9–11 September

The SBDS met in Rome under the chairpersonship of Ms Mennie Gerritsen-Wielard (The Netherlands). The meeting was opened by the Secretary Dr Jingyuan Xia, and supported by Mr David Nowell, IPPC Information Exchange Officer. The meeting discussed progress made with the SBDS work programme, the formal dispute

between South Africa and the EU, and agreed to focus on dispute avoidance for the foreseeable future. Significant progress was made in developing dispute avoidance materials for awareness raising and training purposes.

14 – 17 September

The 2015 IPPC Regional Workshop for the Near East and North Africa was held in Amman, Jordan, with presence of 40 participants from 14 Contracting Parties and West Bank and Gaza Strip. The Workshop was organized by the FAO Regional Office for the Near East and North Africa (FAO-RNE), the Jordan Plant Protection Organization, and the IPPC Secretariat. The Workshop was co-chaired by Ms Fida'a Ali Al-Rawabdeh, Head of the Jordan Plant Protection Organization, and Mr Saad Moussa, Head of the Egyptian Plant Protection Organization, with the support of the FAO-RNE Regional Crop Protection Officer, Mr Shoki AlDobai, the Executive Director of the Near East Plant Protection Organization, Mr Mekki Chouibani, and the IPPC Secretariat representative, Ms Sarah Brunel. The workshop was opened by the Jordan Ministry of Agriculture, Mr Akef Al Zoubi, and the IPPC Secretary, Mr Jingyuan Xia, made opening remarks.

14 – 17 September

Ms Leanne Stewart, IRSS consultant, participated in the CBD Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) meeting on Indicators for the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020. The AHTEG focused on agreeing on and developing guidance for a small set of measurable potential indicators that could be used to monitor progress at the global level towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. There was a focus on those targets that are currently not well addressed and those that may be relevant to the United Nations post-2015 development agenda and the new SDGs. The consultant documented CBD's process of indicator development to assist/inform IPPC's upcoming indicator project.

16 September

The Secretary, Mr Jingyuan Xia and the Coordinator, Mr Craig Fedchock participated the Tenth Meeting of the BLG made up of the seven Sustainable Development Agreements (SDAs) in Geneva. The agenda covered a wide variety of topics, and the IPPC reported on developments related to activities in support of the IYPH 2020 proposal, as well as ePhyto efforts, which includes additional cooperation between Convention on

International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and IPPC on the similar systems.

16 September

The Secretary, Mr Jingyuan Xia and the Coordinator, Mr Craig Fedchock had the opportunity to meet with Mr Melvin Spreij, Secretary of the STDF and Ms Kenza Le Mentec of the STDF Secretariat. The discussions covered a number of topics, including developments related to current STDF projects being managed by the IPPC as well as possible future activities.

17 – 18 September

The Secretary, Mr Jingyuan Xia participated in a meeting of the Inter-Agency Informal Advisory Group (IAG) concerning cooperation among biodiversity conventions. During this meeting discussions took place on planning for a workshop to be held in January 2016 which will focus on determining ways to support parties to biodiversity-related conventions to enhance synergies and improve efficiency among the conventions, ultimately with a view to enhancing their implementation at all levels.

24 September

The second IPPC seminar was presented by Mr Piero Genovesi, the Chair IUCN Invasive Species Specialist Group, in FAO headquarters on Invasive Alien Species Trends and Patterns of Invasion, Global Impacts, and Possible Responses. The Seminar was chaired by Mr Jingyuan Xia, the IPPC Secretary, and had more than 60 participants from a number of different departments in FAO, among but not limited to fisheries, land and water, food safety and forestry. The French Ambassador, His Excellency Mr Tomasi and some staff from the China Mission to FAO were also present at the Seminar. In his presentation, Mr Genovesi illustrated the invasion trends by invasive alien species on a global scale, as well as the main patterns of their arrival, establishment and spread, based on the latest scientific evidence.

25 – 27 September

The seven Secretaries of the BLG-related Conventions, of which the IPPC is a member, issued a joint statement in advance of the UN Sustainable Development Summit which took place from 25–27 September at UN Headquarters in New York.

28 – 29 September

The Capacity Development Officer, Ms Ana Peralta and Implementation Officer, Mr Orlando Sosa, participated in a technical workshop organized by the FAO Investment Center on the phytosanitary measures in grain trade in Egypt to discuss the “weed risks analysis”, which provided grounds for requesting pest freedom from *Ambrosia* spp. and for establishing phytosanitary measures applied to grain consignments imported by Egypt. Around 30 persons from both the private and public sector attended the workshop. Applicable international standards for phytosanitary measures on Pest Risk Analysis (PRA) and import verification were discussed, as well as possible technical assistance that might be needed to be considered under the FAO/European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) Framework or through the usual technical cooperation projects programme in FAO.

28 September – 2 October

The IPPC EWG for the Revision of the ISPM 6: Guidelines for Surveillance (2009-004) met in Auckland, New Zealand. The meeting was organized by the IPPC Secretariat and was hosted by the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI), New Zealand, with presence of nine participants. The EWG proposed to add new sections to the ISPM to better explain how and why to perform general and specific surveillance and details were added with the aim to have a standard that provides guidance to NPPOs on the establishment of dynamic and efficient pest surveillance systems. The discussions of the meeting will be presented to CPM-11 (2016) in a side session “Standard setting and surveillance”, as agreed by the CPM Bureau in June 2015.

29 September – 1 October

The 2015 IPPC Regional Workshop for the Caribbean region was held in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. The workshop was organized by the IICA and the IPPC Secretariat, hosted by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, and funded by the Tenth European Development Fund (EDF) SPS Project from the EU. The Workshop chaired by was by Mr Michael James (Barbados) with presence of 16 participants from 12 Contracting Parties, representatives from IICA, the IPPC Secretariat, and a member of the SC. The participants highly appreciated the activities of the workshop and shared a significant amount of information in terms of joint positions on draft standards, updated information on national surveillance programs and fulfilment of national reporting obligations.

1 June – 30 September

Two draft ISPMs went through the IPPC Substantial Concerns Commenting Period 2015 (SCCP): draft ISPM on Determination of host status of fruit to fruit flies (Tephritidae) (2006-031) – however only paragraphs where the text was modified following the SC 2015 May Review were open for comments – and draft amendments (2014) to ISPM 5 (Glossary of phytosanitary terms) (1994-001). Compiled comments were sent to the stewards for consideration. The draft ISPMs will be reviewed by the Standards Committee at their November 2015 Meeting together with the stewards' response to compiled comments.

29 September – 2 October

The IPPC ESG met in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The purpose of the meeting was to finalize the specifications for the pilot hub and the functionalities for the generic system, to discuss the hub and the generic system with UNICC, to prepare for the programme for the Korean symposium, the STDF Meeting in Geneva and the SPG Meeting in Rome, and to plan the future work of the ESG.

OCTOBER**6 October**

The TPFQ (2004-004) met virtually. The meeting was organized and chaired by the IPPC Secretariat. Seven participants were in attendance including four experts (Norway, Canada, Japan and Germany), two stewards (Canada and Cameroon) and one member of the IPPC Secretariat. The TPFQ discussed the changes made by the stewards to draft ISPM on International movement of wood (2006-029) and on International movement of wood products and handicrafts made from wood (2008-008).

9 October

The meeting for discussion on Implementation Plan of Enhancement Evaluation to the IPPC Secretariat was held in Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department (AG) meeting room. The meeting was chaired by the ADG-AG, Mr Ren Wang, with presence of representatives from DDG-N's office, OHR, OSP, FAO Legal Office (LEG), AGD and IPPC Secretariat. The IPPC Secretary, Mr Jingyuan Xia, made a presentation on the Action Plan of the Enhancement Evaluation to the IPPC Secretariat.

After a serious discussion, it was agreed that the IPPC Secretariat should submit the revised plan to FAO Senior management for approval through AG department.

12 October

The 2015-2016 edition of the IPPC Procedure Manual for Standard Setting was published on the IPP, which covers decisions and procedures made up to and including the May 2015 Standards Committee meeting and technical panel decisions made before September 2015. The manual will be revised annually in September to include any new decisions and procedures and to amend existing decisions and procedures as necessary.

12 October

The FC met at the FAO-HQ in Rome. Mr John Greifer from USA chaired the meeting, with the presence of all FC members, as well as Mr Jingyuan Xia and Mr Marko Benovic from the IPPC Secretariat. Topics discussed included: the financial situation of the IPPC Secretariat as of 30 September 2015, resource mobilization efforts, the IYPH 2020 initiative, the hosting of CPM outside of Rome, and progress in ISPM 15 symbol registration.

12 – 13 October

The IPPC Coordinator, Mr Craig Fedchock, attended the meeting of the WTO-STDF during which the IPPC Secretariat's project proposal for the development of an ePhyto hub as a trade facilitation instrument for developing countries was considered for a second time. Prior to this meeting, the IPPC Secretariat provided answers to questions and issues raised during the first round of consideration, as well as worked with the ESG to prepare any additional responses that would be required. Finally, the STDF working group awarded the IPPC Secretariat a project grant of USD 1 million on a conditional basis.

12 – 16 October

The CPM Bureau met on the margins of the SPG Meeting. The Bureau applauded the efforts to increase communication between the Secretariat and the Contracting Parties through the Mid-year report, and internally through more regular meetings. Among other things, discussions took place on the Secretariat's work plan and budget for 2016, the progress towards implementing the recommendations of the enhancement evaluation, the international year of plant health effort, ePhyto, and the framework for standards and implementation.

13 – 15 October

The meeting of the SPG took place at Società Geografica Italiana in Rome. As this was the first SPG taking place under the direction of the new IPPC Secretary, the format and approach were changed from previous meetings. The focus of this year's meeting was towards planning for the next five years and discussions also provided longer term strategic direction. The meeting was chaired by Ms Lois Ransom from Australia, and the IPPC Secretary, Mr Jingyuan Xia, gave a keynote speech focused on the overall theme of the SPG, "The IPPC towards 2020". The following themes were agreed: "Plant Health and Food Security" for 2016, "Plant Health and Trade Facilitation" for 2017, "Plant Health and Environment Protection" for 2018, "Plant Health and Capacity Building" for 2019, and the IYPH 2020.

14 October

The IPPC Secretariat had meeting with the delegation from the European Commission for discussions on strengthening bilateral cooperation. The IPPC Secretary, Mr Jingyuan Xia noted the importance of the European Commission-IPPC relationship. The IPPC Secretariat introduced a proposal for a "Multi-year partnership programme" to promote efficient and inclusive trade by increasing the capacity of CPs to implement the IPPC and its standards as a "single package approach" for the European Commission/IPPC projects from 2016–2020.

19 October

The IPPC Coordinator, Mr Craig Fedchock, participated in the annual WTO SPS training for developing countries. This training affords participants to learn in greater detail about the activities of the three SPS "Sisters", as well as the opportunity to engage in a question and answer session with the participants and presenters regarding the most recent sanitary and phytosanitary developments in each of the organizations.

19 – 23 October

The IPPC Regional Workshop for Latin America was held in Lima, Peru, which was hosted by the Peruvian NPPO and organized by the IICA with the financial support of Comité de Sanidad Vegetal (COSAVE), OIRSA and the IPPC Secretariat. The Workshop was chaired by Ms Isabel Díaz Nieves (Mexico), with presence of seventeen representatives of IPPC Contracting Parties and representatives from IICA. The IPPC Secretariat

participated through videoconference during the last two days of the meeting. The participants were quite active in the activities prepared for the meeting and a substantive amount of new data were produced for the case of surveillance programmes.

19 – 23 October

The TPFF met in Vienna, Austria. The meeting was organized by the IPPC Secretariat and was hosted and supported by the AGE. The meeting was chaired by Ms Ana Lilia Montealegre Lara (Mexico), and attended by ten participants including eight experts from six countries and one organization, and two representatives from the host organization. The objective of the TPFF was to reorganize and harmonize ISPMs on fruit flies.

19 – 23 October

The Sixteenth IPPC Asia and Pacific Plant Protection Commission (APPPC) Regional Workshop for Asia on the review of draft ISPMs and key IPPC issues was held in Jeju, Republic of Korea. The Workshop was chaired by Ms Kyu-Ock Yim (Republic of Korea), with participation of 35 delegates from 19 countries in the region. The workshop produced regional comments on two draft ISPMs, and also updated on ePhyto developments, IYPH 2020, the registration of the ISPM 15 symbol, procedures for submission of formal objection of the adoption of an ISPM, the importance of meeting NROs, and the availability of phytosanitary resources.

22 October

An IPPC delegation led by the Secretary Mr Jingyuan Xia met with a delegation of senior officials from CAB International led by CABI CEO Trevor Nicholls. During the meeting the two parties drafted a letter of intent with some specific goals for the future which, once reviewed and finalized, should lay the foundation for a future programme of work aimed at enhancing awareness of both organizations and the importance of plant health and protection. Among other things, the two organizations hope to participate in joint Plantwise/ IPPC workshops and cooperate on the promotion of the international year of plant health 2020.

28 – 30 October

The IPPC Secretariat through the IRSS programme participated in the AHTEG of the CBD to ascertain synergies between CBD's strategic plan and IPPC's strategic objectives to identify relevant environmental protection and biodiversity related indicators that can be used by IPPC's Contracting Parties to measure implementation in these areas. This is a preparatory activity for more specific work on monitoring and evaluation.

NOVEMBER

2 – 6 November

The Twentyseventh TC among the RPPOs was held 2–6 November 2015, in Memphis, USA. The meeting was organized by the NAPPOs, with all nine RPPOs represented. The meeting was officially opened by Mr Osama El-Lissy, Deputy Administrator of the NPPO of the USA. He welcomed the participants and highlighted the importance of protecting agriculture and the natural environment, and facilitating safe trade. Mr Jingyuan Xia, the Secretary of the IPPC, welcomed everyone and stressed the crucial role of RPPOs in the IPPC family. The TC represented a unique opportunity to get an update on all RPPOs activities while encouraging joint activities among RPPOs. The IPPC Secretariat presented on the IPPC towards 2020, the IYPH 2020, the ePhyto project and its main activities in 2015. The RPPOs discussed the organization of a workshop on the implementation of ISPM 15, the topics for the future CPM side sessions, revised the RPPOs work plan, and technical discussions took place on the IPPC Regional Workshops, current and emerging major pest issues, and the elaboration of priority pest lists.

4 November

The TPDP held a virtual meeting organized by the Secretariat with seven participants present. Ms Géraldine Anthoine (France) served as Rapporteur. The panel discussed the challenges and importance of the TPDP work as well as a proposal to adjust the scope of the draft for Tephritidae: Identification of immature stages of fruit flies of economic importance by molecular techniques (2006-028). The meeting also provided participants with an update on individual DP statuses from the various discipline leads.

9 – 13 November

The Second IPPC Global Symposium on ePhyto was held 9–13 November 2015 in Incheon, Republic of Korea, and was financially supported by the Government of Korea. About 80 participants attended the Symposium, who came from over 50 Contracting Parties of the Convention along with industry and multinational organizations. Mr Suhyon Rho, the Governor of the Animal and plant Quarantine Agency, delivered the Welcome Address, Mr Jingyuan Xia, the Secretary of IPPC Secretariat, did the Opening Remarks, and Ms Kyu-Ock Yim, the Chairperson of CPM, made a presentation on the International Year of Plant Health 2020. The Symposium was facilitated by the ESG and the Coordinator of the IPPC Secretariat. The five day symposium heard a number of presentations from the participants, but most importantly took the first steps in addressing how to implement the work program for the ePhyto project. Although there is a lot of work yet to be done, the positive contribution of the people working on ePhyto globally will ensure its success.

12 – 13 November

The workshop "*Xylella fastidiosa*: knowledge gaps and research priorities for the EU" gathered researchers from all over Europe to provide guidance on research needs to design the EU Commission USD 7 million research call on *Xylella fastidiosa* and was organized by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) (see <http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/h2020/topics/6071-sfs-09-2016.html>). This workshop was an excellent opportunity to get a very broad overview of the state of the problem and of the research on this species, as well as on the various existing projects and initiatives, to build synergies with institutions working on *Xylella fastidiosa* and to make known IPPC capacity development activities.

16 – 20 November

The Second IPPC SC meeting in 2015 convened 16–20 November 2015 at FAO headquarters in Rome. The meeting was chaired by Mr Bart Rossel (Australia), with presence of 22 out of 25 members and 4 observers. Following the introductions from the IPPC Secretary and Secretariat briefings, key discussions included: the review and approval of ISPMs, proposed revisions of the standard setting procedure and the discussion on the concept of commodity standards. Three draft ISPMs were moved forward: (1) The draft ISPM on Determination of host

status of fruit to fruit fly (Tephritidae) was recommended to CPM for adoption in 2016; (2) the amendments to ISPM 5 (Glossary of phytosanitary terms) were also recommended to CPM for adoption in 2016; and (3) the draft ISPM on International movement of growing media in association with plants for planting was approved to go for the 2016 Substantial concerns commenting period. Three ISPMs were sent back to the stewards or drafting working groups for further revision, namely International movement of cut flowers and foliage, International movement of wood, and International movement of wood products and handicrafts made from wood. The specification on Guidance on pest risk management was also approved. The SC made further steps towards increased transparency, inclusiveness and clarity of the standard setting procedure by proposing to CPM its third revision. The group also discussed the concept of a commodity standard and provided recommendations for CPM-11 (2016).

23 – 27 November

The First IPPC/CIHEAM Training Course on "Developing Phytosanitary Capacities" was held 23–27 November 2015 at the CIHEAM-IAM Bari, Italy. Fifteen students from the Mediterranean region participated in the Master 1 course on Integrated Pest Management from the Mediterranean region as the course was open to NPPOs from the Mediterranean region. The IPPC Secretariat delivered a series of courses on the recent resources developed by the IPPC Capacity Development team which were manuals on: Establishing a NPPO, Operation of a NPPO and Managing relationships with stakeholders. In addition, general presentations on the IPPC, the ISPMs and the activities of NPPOs alternated with interactive exercises. It is anticipated that cooperation on this training course will increase in future and this initiative fits very well into the new strategic partnership signed 23 October 2015 between FAO and CIHEAM aiming at strengthening the livelihoods of rural communities in the Mediterranean region.

30 November

The 2015 member consultation on draft ISPMs closed on 30 November 2015. The following drafts were approved by the SC for member consultation: draft Appendix to ISPM 20 (Guidelines for a phytosanitary import regulatory system) Arrangements for verification of compliance of consignments by the importing country in the

exporting country (2005-003); draft revisions to ISPM 15 (Regulation of wood packaging material in international trade) in Annex 1 and 2 for inclusion of the phytosanitary treatment Sulphuryl fluoride fumigation of wood packaging material (2006-010A) and the revision of the dielectric heating section in Annex 1 (2006-010B); draft Annexes to ISPM 27 (Diagnostic protocols for regulated pests) *Aphelenchoides besseyi*, *A. fragariae* and *A. ritzemabosi* (2006-025), *Xanthomonas fragariae* (2004-012); and *Sorghum halepense* (2006-027); draft Annexes to ISPM 28 Heat treatment of wood using dielectric heating (2007-114), Sulphuryl fluoride fumigation of insects in debarked wood (2007-101A), Sulphuryl fluoride fumigation of nematodes and insects in debarked wood (2007-101B) and Vapour heat treatment for *Bactrocera tryoni* on *Mangifera indica* (2010-107). Compiled comments were sent to each respective stewards or technical panel's leads for consideration. The draft ISPMs will be reviewed by the SC-7 May 2016 Meeting or via electronic means for phytosanitary treatments and diagnostic protocols, together with the stewards/leads' response to compiled comments.

30 November – 2 December

The Seventh Session of CDC was held in Rome, Italy. The meeting was attended by all CDC members, the CPM Bureau representatives and the observers from the STDF and IICA. The meeting was chaired by Ms Sally Jennings (New Zealand) and Mr Sam Bishop (United Kingdom) was elected as Rapporteur. The meeting was officially opened by the IPPC Secretary who highlighted the immediate focus on the IPPC towards 2020 and the imminent restructuring of the Secretariat. Following the updates from the IPPC Secretariat, CPM Bureau representatives, CDC members and observers, discussions covered current and future capacity development activities, work plan and strategy of the CDC. The meeting was updated on the new resources posted in the Phytosanitary Resources website and the 23 products under the project STDF350 "Global Phytosanitary Manuals, Standard Operating Procedures and Training Kits". The operational details of the STDF Project 401 "Training of PCE Facilitators" were also discussed. The meeting supported the preparation work for the CPM-11 side-sessions. The IPPC capacity development programmes and other projects, including PCE tool, were also emphasized.

DECEMBER

2 December

The TPPT held a virtual meeting organized by the Secretariat with nine participants present. Mr Guy Hallman from the United States served as Rapporteur. They were informed that the SC supported a call for phytosanitary treatments and stressed the importance of developing more phytosanitary treatments for use in international trade. The panel discussed the draft ISPM on Requirements for the use of temperature treatments as a phytosanitary measure (2014-005) and general updates were provided from the SC November 2015 meeting.

4 December

The Secretariat met with EU Commission representatives from DG-Sante and DG-Trade to discuss the current IRSS project and the details for a new EU funding contribution in 2016. The Secretariat provided an overview of the IPPC work programme on Implementation, *Xylella* actions, and the IPPC new proposal for the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee. DG-Trade and DG-Sante received the proposal very positively and agreed to submit comments on the IPPC proposal. They agreed to a follow-up working meeting to be held in late January between IPPC and DG-Trade to prepare a final version of the proposal.

7 – 10 December

The TPG met from 7–10 December 2015 in Rome, Italy. The meeting was opened by the IPPC Secretary, Mr Jingyuan Xia, and chaired by Mr John Hedley (New Zealand). All eight TPG members participated, including the TPG Steward, Ms Laurence Bouhot-Delduc (France), hereby representing the six official FAO languages. The TPG worked on the harmonization of international phytosanitary terminology by reviewing 12 draft ISPMs, phytosanitary treatments and diagnostic protocols. The TPG also revised the Annotated Glossary, the explanatory document for ISPM 5, which will be published in the first half of 2016. The TPG currently has 33 terms on their work programme and the next TPG meeting is tentatively scheduled 5–9 December 2016 in Rome, Italy.

14 – 15 December

The IPPC Secretary, Mr Jingyuan Xia, paid a visit to the AGE in Vienna, Austria. The main objective of this visit was to further strengthen cooperation between the IPPC Secretariat and the AGE. During the visit, Mr Xia, observed and studied the Joint FAO/IAEA Division's Laboratories at Seibersdorf, made presentations on the IPPC towards 2020 and the IYPH 2020, and had several meetings with Mr Aldo Malavasi (DDG of IAEA), Mr Qu Liang (the Director of the Joint Division), Mr Jorge Hendrichs (the Section Head of the Insect Pest Control) and Mr Zhihua Ye (the Section Head of the Food and Environmental Protection). A draft practical arrangement for the bilateral cooperation (2016–2020) was developed, and the AGE is highly interested in and fully supportive to the development of IYPH 2020."

15 December

The DP Notification Period started for three draft DPs (closing date: 30 January 2016): *Bursaphelenchus xylophilus* (2004-016), Phytoplasmas (2004-018) and *Xiphinema americanum* sensu lato (2004-015). More information is available at <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/standards-setting/draft-ispms/notification-period-dps/>.

18 December

The IPPC Secretariat and Codex Alimentarius purchased software for a new OCS from PleaseTech following a thorough FAO procurement process. The system, called PleaseReview, will enable IPPC members to share and submit comments on draft standards with the click of a button, and the IPPC Secretariat to manage consultation processes by automating notifications, compiling comments in an easy and efficient manner, and providing data for analysis. The purchase of PleaseReview is the outcome of a long-standing collaboration with the Codex Secretariat. In 2012, the WTO-SPS Committee welcomed the development of joint activities among its "Three Sisters" (Codex, IPPC and OIE), and noted the OCS as one possible tool for enhancing such collaboration.

REFERENCE MATERIAL



REPORTS

CPM Reports

<https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/governance/cpm/>

Bureau Reports

<https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/governance/bureau/>

SPG Reports

<https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/governance/strategic-planning-group/>

TC for RPPOs Reports

<https://www.ippc.int/en/reports---tc-amongst-rppos/>

SC Reports

<https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/standards-setting/standards-committee/>

TP Reports

<https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/standards-setting/expert-drafting-groups/technical-panels/>

CDC Reports

<https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/capacity-development/>

SBDS Reports

<https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/dispute-avoidance-dispute-settlement/subsidiary-body-dispute-settlement/>

IPPC Regional Workshops Reports

<https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/capacity-development/regional-ippc-workshops/>

Secretariat Progress Reports

<https://www.ippc.int/en/about/secretariat/>

KEY PRESENTATIONS

Seminars

<https://www.ippc.int/en/who-we-are//ippc-seminars/>

IPPC Regional Workshops

<https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/capacity-development/regional-ippc-workshops/>

PUBLICATIONS

IPPC Brochures

<https://www.ippc.int/static/media/files/mediakit/IPPCOverviewBrochure2012-03-en.pdf>

IPPC Advocacy Material

<https://www.ippc.int/en/media-kit/>

ISPMs

<https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/standards-setting/ispms/>

Capacity Development Manuals

<http://www.phytosanitary.info/ippc-technical-resources>

Photo contest "Pests without Borders" posters

<http://www.phytosanitary.info/ippc-exhibition-pests-without-borders>

Scientific Publications

Brunel S. & Chouibani M. (2015) *Renforcer les capacités phytosanitaires au Proche Orient pour une meilleure sécurité alimentaire*. CIHEAM Watch Letter No. 33:6.

SOCIAL MEDIA

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<https://twitter.com/ippcnews>

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<https://www.youtube.com/user/IPPCnews>

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