



Protecting food security and the environment while facilitating trade



IPPC contributing to food security – Adult *Ceratitis capitata* (Mediterranean fruit fly) is a pest known to infest over 200 fruit and vegetable species.

© Pia Scanlon

The International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) is an international plant health agreement, established in 1952 and revised in 1997, that aims to protect cultivated and wild plants by preventing the introduction and spread of pests. It is well known that international travel and trade are expanding more than ever, resulting in larger numbers of people and commodities moving around the world. Sometimes traveling along with them, however, are organisms that put plant health and plant products at risk. Since its establishment, the IPPC has helped ensure food security and contributed to protecting biodiversity, as well as provided the framework for facilitating safe trade by strengthening capacity of its contracting parties (CPs). The World Trade Organization Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (WTO SPS Agreement) has recognized the international standards, guidelines and recommendations developed under the auspices of the IPPC Secretariat in cooperation with regional organizations within the IPPC framework as the ones to be followed for plant health.

What we do

The IPPC Secretariat, through international cooperation, helps facilitate the implementation of the Convention and its standards. The IPPC provides an international plant health framework that seeks to prevent the introduction of plant pests and manage their outbreaks, which can negatively affect farmers, governments, consumers, and the global economy overall. The IPPC Secretariat provides the tools countries can use to assess and deal with pest risks to their plant resources, as well as the science-based phytosanitary measures to safeguard them.

In addition to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) strategic objectives 2 and 4, the IPPC community is also contributing to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and is especially relevant to SDGs 1, 2, 8, 12, 13, 15 and 17

as protecting the health of world's plants requires attention to the issues of agriculture sustainability, full and productive employment, the effects of climate change on the environment, protection of biodiversity, and the facilitation of safe trade, among others.



IPPC contributing to environmental protection – Water hyacinth is an invasive alien species that can grow so densely that a human can walk on it.
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Understanding the context

New plant pest introductions cost governments, farmers and consumers billions of dollars every year. Once a pest becomes established in a country or ecosystem, its eradication is often impossible and managing it is costly and not always successful. The direct effects of new introductions include threats to food security and livelihoods through the destruction of staple foods, environmental degradation during pest invasions, impacts on biodiversity through the destruction of native flora, and reduced access to local and international markets due to international or domestic movement bans introduced to limit plant pest outbreaks.

The IPPC does not only focus on plants and plant products moving in international trade, but, where appropriate, the provisions of the Convention also extend to storage places, packaging, conveyances, containers, soils and any other organism, object or material capable of harbouring or spreading plant pests, particularly where international transportation is involved. International phytosanitary standards, with other provisions in the Convention such as reporting obligations, are the basis on which countries establish their own specific national legislation, regulations and procedures to regulate the movement of plants and plant products consistent with the Convention's objectives.

The IPPC Secretariat works together with 183 national plant protection organizations (NPPOs) and nine regional plant protection organizations (RPPOs) to review the state of plant protection around the world, identify actions to control the spread of pests into new areas, develop and adopt international



IPPC contributing to trade facilitation – The International Standard on Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM) 15 mark indicates that wooden pallets moved internationally are freed of wood boring pests.

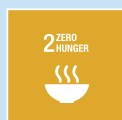
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standards, establish rules and procedures for resolving phytosanitary disputes and share phytosanitary information, and cooperate with other international organizations on relevant plant health-related matters.

When you as a consumer are able to purchase a foreign fruit or vegetable in your local store, or a foreign houseplant from your local nursery, an IPPC standard had something to do with it; usually as a result of an IPPC-developed treatment to prevent a pest or disease from coming along for the ride. For that matter, even the wood pallet that held your new television set or washing machine has been treated using an IPPC standard to prevent a harmful forest pest making the trip from the manufacturer. The food you eat, and the products you use, if coming from another country, are available to you as a direct result of the work of the IPPC.

The IPPC Secretariat is hosted and provided by the FAO as an Article XIV body under the FAO Charter.

Contributes to UN SDGs
1, 2, 8, 12, 13, 15 and 17



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16992EN/2/07.18

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MORE INFORMATION

<http://www.ippc.int>