



CONCEPT NOTE FOR THE IPPC INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM FOR PEST FREE AREAS¹ AND SURVEILLANCE

(Updated 2019-03-08)

Tentative dates: 28 October to 1 November 2019

Venue/Place: Hotel Associa Shizuoka² /Shizuoka

Organized by: The Secretariat of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) with the financial support of:

- Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC)
- European Commission (EC)
- Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan (MAFF)

Partners:

- Joint Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)/International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Division
- Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Supply of Brazil of Brazil (MAPA)
- United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)
- Central Administration of Plant Quarantine, Ministry of Agriculture of Egypt
- Department of Agriculture and Water Resources Australia
- Regional Plant Protection Organizations (RPPOs)

Hosted by:

- Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan (MAFF)

Participants (maximum - 150):

- Representatives of developed and developing contracting parties (about 50 participants to be financially supported subject to funds availability) - the wide geographical representation of contracting parties (CPs) to be ensured
- RPPOs - to facilitate more active involvement in capacity development activities in their respective regions and coordinate common actions under the framework of the Technical Consultation (TC-RPPOs)
- FAO Regional and Sub-regional offices - to facilitate better understanding of phytosanitary concepts and the development of need-focused national and regional projects
- Representatives of international intergovernmental, educational and scientific organizations - to maximize the use of available resource and learning outcomes

¹ For the purpose of this PFA concept note, several PFA principles are also applicable to pest free places of production (PFPPs) and/or pest free production sites (PFPS). Differences will be indicated as appropriate in the individual themes

² <https://www.associa.com/sth/multi-lingual/?wovn=en>

- Other stakeholders *inter alia* private sector/service providers involved in phytosanitary activities and trade - to facilitate the understanding of the importance of common actions on national, regional and global levels for the efficient operation of the national phytosanitary systems.

Working language: English

Background

- [1] The International Plant Protection Convention is an international plant health treaty “with the purpose of securing common and effective action to prevent the spread and introduction of pests of plants and plant products, and to promote appropriate measures for their control” (IPPC, Art. I).
- [2] The forum established by the IPPC for cooperation among contracting parties includes standards development, harmonization of phytosanitary measures, implementation and capacity development, development of legal and policy guidelines and information exchange. This forum has resulted in a very stable and reliable platform for addressing domestic pest problems and questions regarding international trade in plants, plant products and other regulated articles.
- [3] The IPPC, its international standards for phytosanitary measures (ISPMs) and recommendations of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) provide for the foundation to establish functional phytosanitary systems and guide contracting parties in the application and harmonization of technically justified phytosanitary measures to ensure safe international trade. That extends to the establishment, maintenance and recognition of PFAs and Surveillance systems which in turn translates into major benefits in trade facilitation, food security and environmental areas on national, regional and international levels.
- [4] The international framework for PFAs is contained in Article VI Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement) of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and in the relevant IPPC Articles.
- [5] IPPC Article IV.2 (e) states that the responsibilities of an official national plant protection organization shall include “the protection of endangered areas and the designation, maintenance and surveillance of pest free areas and areas of low pest prevalence”.
- [6] Pest surveillance is an essential component and core activity of an NPPO’s mandate. Under IPPC Article IV b, NPPOs have the obligation to perform the surveillance of growing plants, including both areas under cultivation (inter alia fields, plantations, nurseries, gardens, greenhouses and laboratories) and wild flora. In addition, surveillance may include plants and plant products in storage or in transportation, particularly for the purposes of reporting the occurrence, outbreak and spread of pests and controlling those pests, including the reporting referred to under Article VIII paragraph 1(a). Also the IPPC provides that “Contracting parties shall, to the best of their ability, conduct surveillance for pests and develop and maintain adequate information on pest status in order to support categorization of pests, and for the development of appropriate phytosanitary measures” (Article VII.2j).

Objectives

- Awareness raising of :

- The international phytosanitary framework 3 for Pest Free Areas (PFAs) and Pest Surveillance
- The IPPC implementation⁴ resources with the emphasis on the PFAs and Pest Surveillance related materials
- The IPPC and International Year of Plant Health (IYPH) 2020
- Providing a ‘platform’ to present and promote specific PFAs and surveillance initiatives
- Stock-taking ideas for the development of the national/global capacity development strategy on PFAs and Pest Surveillance
- Reinforcing partnerships and collaboration between various CPs and RPPOs and other stakeholders at national, regional and global levels.

Expected outputs

- Participants from CPs exposed to and aware of the PFAs and Surveillance frameworks
- An action plan to follow-up on outcomes of the symposium to be developed
- A draft outline of national/global capacity development strategies for PFAs and Pest Surveillance programmes (both strategic and operational) including strategic objectives, risk assessment, economic feasibility, operational programmes, indicators to measure the effectiveness of the PFAs programs, elements of national legislation to be in place, organizational structure, competencies and culture, and documented procedures to be initiated
- A collection of materials to facilitate implementation of the IPPC and phytosanitary capacity development of CPs (to become part of the Implementation and capacity development webpages (I&CD) of the International Phytosanitary Portal (IPP)) to be initiated
- Initiation of an Implementation and Review Support System (IRSS) study on the challenges and successes of the implementation of PFAs⁵.

Themes and Subthemes

- [7] The main themes of PFAs and Surveillance will be delivered through the presentations and discussions around the following sub-themes:

1. IPPC, International Phytosanitary Framework and National Legislation International Year of Plant Health (IYPH) 2020

- [8] The aim is to demonstrate how the Convention, ISPMs and CPM Recommendations enable to set sound national phytosanitary systems and to demonstrate to different stakeholders the benefits of the implementation of the Convention and NPPOs leading role and authority. The

³ Includes WTO SPS Agreement, IPPC and ISPMs

⁴ IPPC implementation resources - guides and training materials

⁵ The IC approved topic for the IRSS third cycle (priority 2). The proposal came from the EC after the SPS Committee Thematic Session on Pest-Free Areas

session is also meant to raise awareness of and secure the support for the IYPH 2020 activities. Overall the session will set a stage for the following sessions.

- [9] This session will recall the main international provisions related to PFAs and Surveillance, as well as discuss the legislative framework. Effective approaches are to be demonstrated on collaboration of different stakeholders for the setting and implementation of national strategies and policies. The session will deliberate on the challenges the CPs, NPPOs and RPPOs face.

2. Framework for PFAs

- [10] The session aims to demonstrate approaches for the establishment, maintenance and recognition of PFAs including approaches for the establishment of a pest free country and the comparison with a pest free area when this area is smaller than a country. The IPPC Guide on PFAs will be introduced to facilitate the understanding of the PFAs related activities. Specific issues to be presented under this sub-theme include national, regional and international experiences and successes regarding a relevant programme development, establishment, contingency plans and correction actions in case of outbreaks, eradication efforts, and recognition as a collaborative, transparent and inclusive approach by trading partners and economic impact. The session will deliberate on the challenges the CPs, NPPOs and RPPOs face.

3. Framework for Surveillance

- [11] The session aims to highlight the importance of surveillance for the establishment, maintenance and recognition of PFAs. ISPM 6 Surveillance and IPPC Guide on Plant Pest Surveillance will be presented. Policies and strategies for setting and operating different types of surveillance programmes will be discussed. The role of surveillance programmes for both the determination of pest status as part of PFAs, ALPPs and systems approaches for regulatory certification, as well as preventing the introduction of non-native invasive pest species will be highlighted. Specific surveillance programmes for different pests including case studies of operational surveillance programs will be discussed and demonstrated. The session will deliberate on the challenges the CPs, NPPOs and RPPOs face.

4. Market Access

- [12] The session aims to present an overview of market access schemes following the SPS Agreement framework and ISPMs and IPPC implementation resources, as well as conditions applied in international trade and IPPC implementation resources. Opening/maintaining market access by applying systems approach/ PFAs and phytosanitary certification are to be discussed. As a component of certification, advances of ePhyto solution with cases studies are to be communicated. The session will deliberate on the challenges the CPs, NPPOs and RPPOs face.

5. Implementation and Capacity Development Needs

- [13] The aim of the session is to present the FAO and IPPC frameworks for capacity development to carry out surveillance and establish and maintain PFAs. The summary of challenges the CPs, NPPOs and RPPOs discussed during the previous sessions will be further considered during this session for stock-taking ideas for the development of the national/global capacity

development strategy on PFAs and Pest Surveillance. The IRSS study on PFAs will be introduced.

[14] A panel discussion will follow to discuss:

- What are effective strategies to maximize resources for implementation and capacity development activities
- How available implementation materials and expertise might be leveraged to increase those phytosanitary capacities
- How to monitor the impact of the IPPC implementation resources at national, regional and international levels
- Opportunities for collaboration with stakeholders for implementation and capacity development

6. Field Trip ⁶

[15] A field trip to Fujieda city Shizuoka Pref. is aimed to demonstrate an active surveillance programme for Mandarin (*Citrus unshiu*) being exported to New Zealand. The programme covers pests such as Citrus canker (*Xanthomonas campestris pv. citri.*), Japanese orange fly (*Bactrocera tsuneonis*) and Kanzawa spider mite (*Tetranychus kanzawai*).

[16] The export requirements include the designation of production site and packing facility, management measures applied during growing period including field inspection, bacteriophage testing for citrus canker, trapping for Japanese orange fly, and selection and packaging and inspection of fruit for export.

[17] Harvesting season: September - December

⁶ Preferred option recommended by Japanese hosts based on the distance from Tokyo (main point of arrival) and sites for demonstrating surveillance programme.