



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



International  
Plant Protection  
Convention

2017 IPPC  
ANNUAL  
REPORT





2017 IPPC  
ANNUAL  
REPORT

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations  
Rome, 2018

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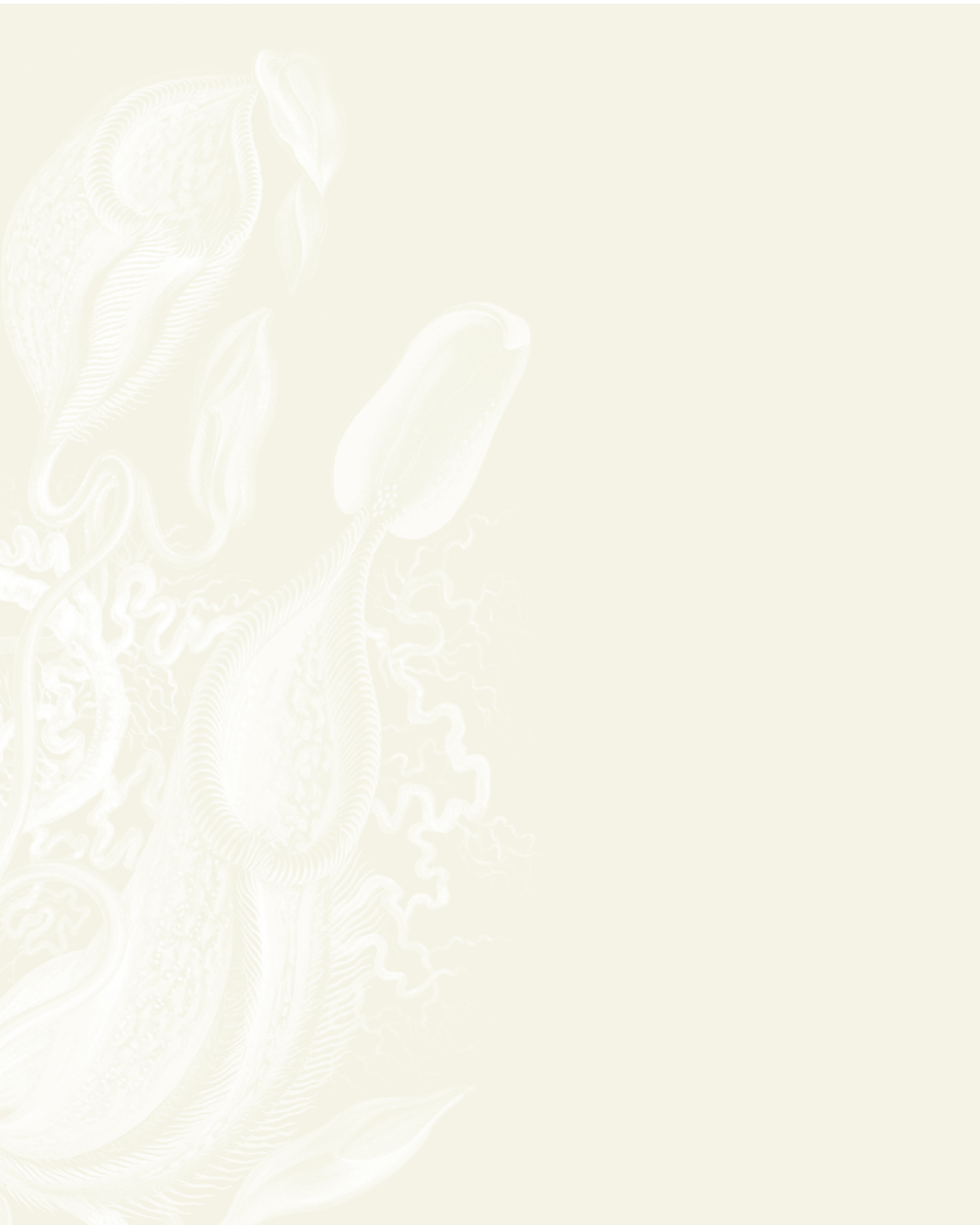
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# FOREWORD FROM THE CPM CHAIRPERSON



## **Lois Ransom**

Chairperson of the Commission for Phytosanitary Measures (CPM)

I appreciate the opportunity to introduce the 2017 Annual Report for the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) Secretariat.

This year was notable as a year of 'firsts'!

We celebrated the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the IPPC with several ceremonies and cakes. Our first celebration was at the first ever CPM meeting held outside of Rome. This was graciously and very generously hosted by the Republic of Korea, and was extremely successful. I would like to formally thank the Government of the Republic of Korea, FAO and the organising committee for their efforts.

The CPM adopted a record number of standards and agreed to establish the new committee for implementation and capacity development – the IC. We progressed actions to address the pest risks associated with sea containers and e-commerce. We have continued to evolve processes to improve the transparency and governance of budgets, expenditure and work plans in collaboration between the Bureau Finance Committee and the Secretariat. Attracting ongoing funding remains a challenge. All contributions to fund the IPPC work program are gratefully received.

The ephyto hub exchanged the first phytosanitary data, which is a fitting milestone for the IPPC annual theme for 2017 of 'Plant Health and Trade Facilitation'. Preparations are well underway for activities in 2018 to shine a spotlight on 'Plant Health and Environmental Protection'.

The proposal for the International Year of Plant Health in 2020 passed its final approval hurdle in the FAO and will progress to the United Nations General Assembly in 2018. The Steering Committee is enthusiastically planning communications, awareness materials and events for the year. The first draft of the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020 – 2030 was considered by contracting parties and will continue to focus us on the future.

These outcomes, which have resulted in great progress towards better managing phytosanitary risks in support of food security, trade facilitation and environmental protection, are due to the participation of the many people and organisations who made it possible. I would like to acknowledge and thank individuals, organisations and governments who have contributed time and resources – both cash and in-kind – to this work.

*Annual theme  
for 2017:  
“Plant Health and  
Trade Facilitation”*

While we have made significant progress on many fronts this year there is much more to be done to ensure that the IPPC is globally respected as the world leader for plant protection. I encourage everyone to continue working together to drive the IPPC agenda into the future. We have most of the tools we need to reduce the international spread and impact of plant pests. Let us focus on using these tools to tackle phytosanitary challenges at a global level for the good of all.

Finally, we have said goodbye to a number of long-serving IPPC regulars from contracting parties, and also from the IPPC Secretariat. I thank them on behalf of us all for their dedication, commitment and achievements. My sincere thanks also go to Mr Xia and the Secretariat team for their ongoing efforts.



## FOREWORD FROM THE IPPC SECRETARY



### **Jingyuan Xia**

Secretary of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)

I am honoured to make these introductory remarks for the 2017 Annual Report of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) Secretariat.

The year 2017 marked a milestone in the IPPC's history, with the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Convention, and the implementation of the annual theme on "Plant Health and Trade Facilitation". With strong support from all relevant stakeholders, the IPPC Secretariat continuously improved its performance and increased its impact globally, regionally and nationally.

Remarkable events for the IPPC governance and strategy in 2017 included: dissemination of the IPPC annual theme through organizing a series of advocacy activities; establishment of a new oversight body for implementation and capacity development (IC); and promotion of the IPPC strategic planning for 2020–2030. Furthermore, the path towards the proclamation of an International Year of Plant Health (IYPH) in 2020 was greatly enhanced with the IYPH resolution endorsed by the 40<sup>th</sup> Session of the FAO Conference.

Outstanding achievements were obtained in standard setting and implementation over the year featured by a record of 22 adopted standards in the history of IPPC, and a significant progress in implemented projects on Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE) in ten countries. Trade facilitation was greatly promoted through the deployment, testing and demonstration of the IPPC ePhyto hub and the generic ePhyto national system (GeNS), the initiated work in eCommerce, and the established IPPC Sea Containers Task Force (SCTF).

Very encouraging results were reached for the IPPC communication and partnership programmes in 2017 with substantial increase of collaborative activities and bilateral cooperation agreements with partner organizations, and IPPC presence on various mass media, including social media platforms, compared to the previous years. In addition, several IPPC seminars on plant health issues, and two receptions to celebrate the IPPC 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary were organized. The IPPC network has been strengthened by organizing seven IPPC Regional Workshops, with the participation of 117 countries, and supporting the Technical Consultation of the regional plant protection organizations.

Other tremendous progress and record achieved in the resource mobilization through the IPPC Multi-donor Trust Fund and IPPC in-kind contributions. Additional extra budgetary funding were obtained through the Framework of the FAO-China South-South Cooperation Programme with 2 million USD from China for the IPPC project on Capacity Development, and over a half million USD from Japan for the IPPC project on ePhyto-related Phytosanitary Measures.

*Annual theme  
for 2018:  
"Plant Health and  
Environmental  
Protection"*

The year 2017 was memorable for the IPPC Community and the IPPC Secretariat from many viewpoints, and we, "One IPPC", can all be proud of our achievements and progress. The year 2018 will be yet another important year for the IPPC, distinguished by implementation of the next IPPC annual theme on "Plant Health and Environment Protection" towards 2020. We are confident that 2018 will mark new milestones in the IPPC's history thanks to the continued support and dedication of the entire IPPC Community.

I wish to conclude this foreword by expressing my high appreciation to the IPPC Governing Bodies for their guidance and oversight; to all contracting parties (NPPOs) and the regional plant protection organizations (RPPOs) for their strong support; to all partners and collaborators for their close cooperation; and to the entire IPPC Secretariat staff for their excellent dedication and positive contribution to achieving our mission to protect the world's plant resources from pests.

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The IPPC Secretariat would like to recognize all experts, members of the CPM governing and subsidiary bodies, technical panels and advisory bodies, as well as the contracting parties that have been engaged in the IPPC-related activities, for their active participation in and positive contribution to the IPPC work programme.

## FINANCIAL SUPPORT

The IPPC Secretariat wishes to recognize the donors that have provided financial support to the IPPC Secretariat's core activities. These contributions are essential for the IPPC Secretariat to deliver the IPPC work programme. In 2017, the following contracting parties or organizations made or pledged financial contributions to the IPPC Secretariat.

CONTRACTING PARTY/ORGANIZATION	RECEIVED IN 2017 (IN USD)	PLEGGED FOR 2018 (IN USD)
Australia	433 017	
Canada	205 793	291 000
China	2 000 000	
International Seed Federation	9 875	
Japan	695 681	
Netherlands		59 737
New Zealand	50 000	
Republic of Korea	208 000	
Switzerland		304 878
United States of America/North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO)	155 000	
European Commission		742 925

## IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE IPPC SECRETARIAT IN 2017

The IPPC Secretariat wishes to recognize the in-kind contributions received to support its activities in the form of staff, staff time (expertise) or meeting support. These contributions are essential for the IPPC Secretariat to deliver the IPPC work programme. Detailed monetary estimates of the in-kind contributions are provided in the IPPC Secretariat Financial report for 2017, presented to CPM-13 (2018).

CONTRACTING PARTIES/ORGANIZATIONS	ACTIVITIES (WORK AREAS)	TYPES OF CONTRIBUTION (STAFF TIME, MEETING SUPPORT)
Australia	ePhyto	Staff time of two officers; travel for the two officers; translation
Barbados, CAHFA, FAOSLC, IICA	Governance	Meeting support for IPPC Regional Workshop for Caribbean
Canada	ePhyto	Staff time of one officer (100%); travel for the officer
	Standard Setting	Meeting support for EWG on Authorization of entities to perform phytosanitary actions (2014-002)
China	Governance	Meeting support for Sea Containers Task Force (SCTF)
EPPO	Governance	Meeting support for TC-RPPO
France	Standard Setting	Staff time of one officer (100%)
Georgia, Russia, EPPO, FAOREU, FAOSEC	Governance	Meeting support for IPPC Regional Workshop for Eastern and Central Europe and Central Asia
IAEA	Standard Setting	Meeting support for the TPPT; staff time of one officer (5%)
Italy	Standard Setting	Meeting support for the Technical Panel for the Glossary (TPG)
Japan	Implementation facilitation	Meeting support of Capacity Development Committee (CDC)
Maersk Line	Governance	Staff time for coordination of Sea Containers Task Force (SCTF)
NAPPO	Standard Setting	Translation of the ISPM 15 explanatory document in Spanish and French
New Zealand	Standard Setting	Staff time of one officer (5%)
Peru, COSAVE, OIRSA, CAN, IICA	Governance	Meeting support for IPPC Regional Workshop for Latin America
Republic of Korea	Governance	Hosting CPM-12; meeting support to IYPH StC
Republic of Korea, APPPC	Governance	Meeting support to IPPC Regional Workshop for Asia
Republic of Korea, Australia, PPPO	Governance	Meeting support for IPPC Regional Workshop for South West Pacific
Togo, IAPSC	Governance	Meeting support for IPPC Regional Workshop for Africa
Tonga	Governance	Staff time one officer for COP23
Tunisia, NEPPO, FAORNE	Governance	Meeting support for IPPC Regional Workshop for Near East
United States of America	Standard Setting	Staff time of one officer (25%)
Viet Nam	Standard Setting	Meeting support for EWG on revision of ISPM 8 (Determination of pest status in an area) (2009-005)

## IPPC SECRETARIAT

Acknowledgement is given to the IPPC Secretariat staff for their dedication and commitment to the delivery of the IPPC work programme.

**JINGYUAN XIA**, SECRETARY  
**CRAIG FEDCHOCK**, ADVISOR

Marko Benovic  
Shane Sela  
Tommaso Teti  
Laura Vicaria Lopez  
Tanja Lahti

⋮

### STANDARD SETTING UNIT

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Céline Germain  
Piotr Włodarczyk  
Janka Kiss  
Pierpaolo Lorenzo  
Aoife Cassin  
Eva Moller

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**DOROTA BUZON**, OFFICER IN CHARGE

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Paola Sentinelli  
Bin Han  
Natalie Nicora

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Ketevan Lomsadze  
Leanne Stewart  
Hechu Zhu  
Nadia Villasenor  
Katarina Spisiakova  
Alejandra Jimenez Tabares



# ACRONYMS

## A

ADG	FAO Assistant Director-General
AG	FAO Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department
ANSA	National Food Safety Agency
APHIS-IS	United States Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, International Services Division
APQA	Animal and Plant Quarantine Agency
APPPC	Asia and Pacific Plant Protection Commission
AQSIQ	Chinese General Administration for Quality Supervision Inspection and Quarantine
ASYCER	Electronic Phytosanitary Certification System

## B

BLG	Biodiversity Liaison Group
BRICS countries	Brazil, China, India, Russian Federation and South Africa

## C

CAN	Comunidad Andina
CAAS	Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences
CABI	Centre for Agriculture and Biosciences International
CAHFSA	Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency
CAU	Chinese National Agriculture University
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CDC	Capacity Development Committee
CFS	Committee on World Food Security
CIHEAM	International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies
CIOPORA	International community of breeders of asexually produced ornamental and fruit varieties

CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
CMS	Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals
COAG	Committee on Agriculture
Codex	Codex Alimentarius
COSAVE	Comité de Sanidad Vegetal
COST	European Cooperation in Science and Technology
CPM	Commission on Phytosanitary Measures
CTU code	IMO/ILO/UNECE Code of Practice for Packing of Cargo Transport Units

## D

DP	diagnostic protocol
----	---------------------

## E

EMPRES	FAO Emergency Prevention System for Transboundary Animal and Plant Pest Diseases Emergency Prevention System for Animal Health
ePhyto	Electronic phytosanitary certification
EPPO	European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization
ESG	ePhyto Steering Group
EU	European Union
EWG	IPPC Expert Working Groups

## F

FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FC	IPPC Financial Committee

## G

GeNS	generic ePhyto national system
------	--------------------------------

## I

IAEA	United Nations International Atomic Energy Agency
IAG	Industry Advisory Group
IAPSC	Inter-African Phytosanitary Council
IAS	Invasive Alien Species
IC	Implementation and Capacity Development Committee
ICPM	Interim Commission on Phytosanitary Measures
IFQRG	International Forest Quarantine Research Group
IFU	IPPC Secretariat Implementation Facilitation Unit
IGTC	International Grain Trade Coalition
IICA	Instituto Interamericano de Cooperación para la Agricultura
IMO	United Nations International Maritime Organization
IPM	Integrated Pest management
IPP	International Phytosanitary Portal ( <a href="http://www.ippc.int">www.ippc.int</a> )
IPPC	International Plant Protection Convention
IRSS	Implementation Review and Support System
ISO	International Standards Organization
ISPM	International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures
IST	Integration and Support Team
ITPGR-FA	International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
IYPH	International Year of Plant Health

## J

Joint FAO/IAEA Division	Joint FAO/IAEA Division of Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture
-------------------------	---

## K

KEPHIS	Kenya Plant health inspectorate Service
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## L

LMO	Living Modified Organism
LRG	Language Review Group

## M

M&E	Monitoring and evaluation
MAFF	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
MDTF	Multi-donor trust fund
MPI	New Zealand's Ministry for Primary Industries

## N

NAPPO	North American Plant Protection Organization
NEPPO	Near East Plant Protection Organization
NPPO	National plant protection organization
NGS	next generation sequence
NRO	National reporting obligation
NROAG	National Reporting Obligations Advisory Group

## O

OCC	FAO Office for Corporate Communication
OCP	Official Contact Points
OCS	Online Comment System
OIE	World Organization for Animal Health (Office International des Épizooties)
OIRSA	Organismo Internacional Regional de Sanidad Agropecuaria
OSP	FAO Office of Strategy, Planning and Resources Management

## P

PCE	Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation
PFA	Pest Free Area
PPPO	Pacific Plant Protection Organization
PRA	Pest risk analysis
PT	Phytosanitary treatment
PTC	ePhyto Project Technical Committee
PTTEG	Phytosanitary Temperature Treatment Expert Group

## Q

QUAD countries	Canada, European Union, Japan and United States of America
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## R

RAMSAR	Convention on Wetlands
RAP	FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
RPPO	Regional plant protection organization



**S**

SBDS	Subsidiary Body on Dispute Settlement
SC	Standards Committee
SC-7	Standards Committee Working Group of 7
SDG	United Nations Sustainable Development Goals
SHCIQ	Shanghai Inspection and Quarantine Bureau
SO	FAO Strategic Objectives
SPG	Strategic Planning Group
SPS	Sanitary and phytosanitary standards
SSU	IPPC Secretariat Standard Setting Unit
StC	Steering Committee (IYPH)
STDF	Standards and Trade Development Facility

**T**

TC	Technical consultation
TCD	Technical Cooperation Department
TCI	FAO Investment Centre
TCP	FAO Technical Cooperation Programme
TCS	FAO South-South and Resource Mobilization Division
TFA	Trade Facilitation Agreement
TFCA	IPPC Secretariat Task Force for Communication and Advocacy
TFRM	IPPC Secretariat Task Force for Resource Mobilization
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**

UN	United Nations
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific
UNESCO-WHC	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNGM	United Nations Global Market Place
UNICC	United Nations International Computing Centre
UNITAR	United Nations Institute for Training and Research

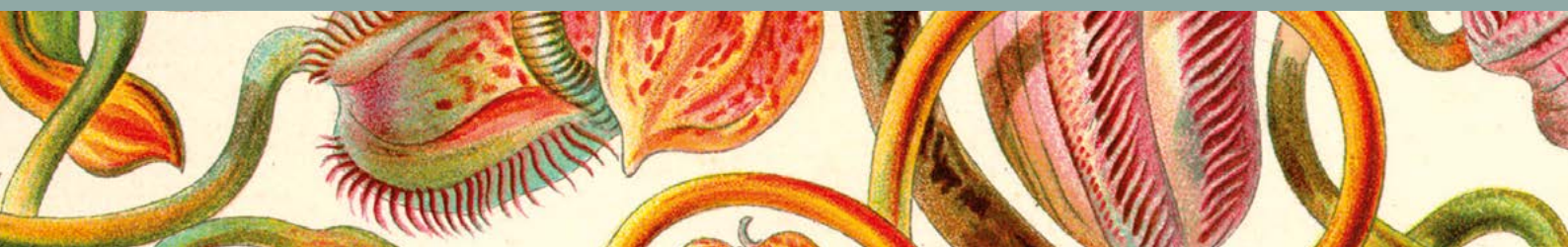
**V**

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

**W**

WCO	United Nations World Customs Organization
WHO	World Health Organization
WPB	Work Plant Budget
WTO	World Trade Organization
WTO-SPS	World Trade Organization Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

# 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, an international inter-governmental plant health agreement, came into force in April 1952, superseding all previous international plant protection agreements. The 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 (SPS Agreement).

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

There are currently 183 signatories to the Convention. Countries that wish to become contracting parties to the IPPC must deposit their instrument of adherence with the Director-General 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 for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs). The seven-member elected executive body of the CPM, 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 are 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 and thus improves *food security*
2. *protection of the environment* from loss of species diversity and ecosystems from loss of viability and functions as a result of pest and disease outbreaks, and
3. *trade facilitation* through the harmonization of phytosanitary measures by developing globally agreed standards, providing mechanisms to resolving 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 to protect plant resources.

While the IPPC's primary focus is on plants and plant products moving in international trade, 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 and materials in germplasm banks), containment facilities and anything else that can act as a vector for the spread of plant pests (such as 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 to enhance food security, facilitate safe trade and protect the environment, and to improve the effectiveness of their national plant protection organizations (NPPOs), and to participate in regional plant protection organizations (RPPOs).

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

## CONTRACTING PARTIES AND REGIONAL PLANT PROTECTION ORGANIZATIONS

In 2017, the IPPC Community had 183 contracting parties and nine regional plant protection organizations (APPPC, CAN, COSAVE, EPPO, IAPSC, NEPP, NAPPO, OIRSA, PPPO).

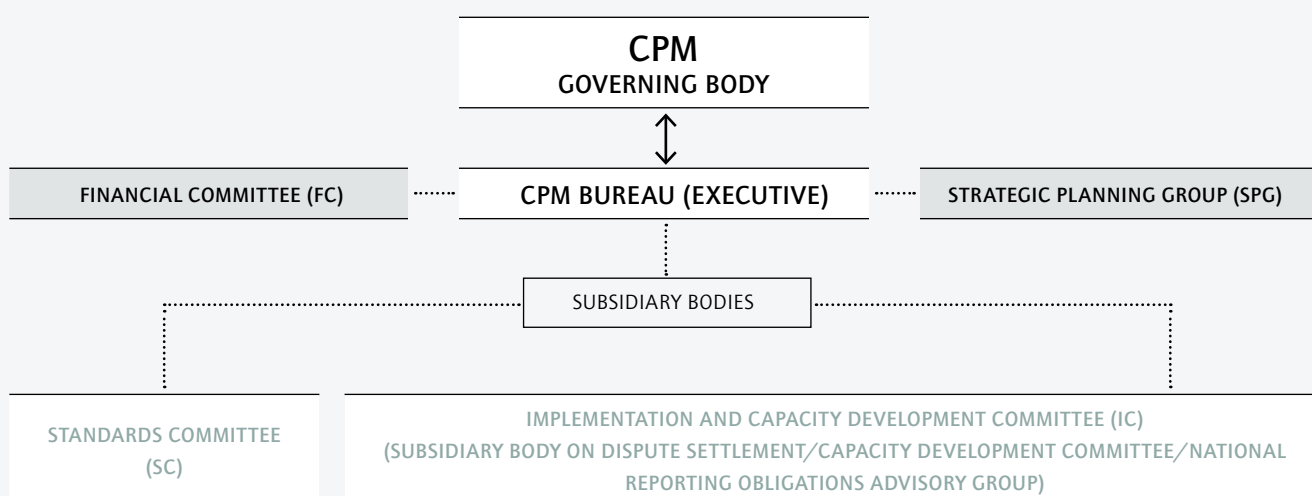
## PAST CPM CHAIRPERSONS

### 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 Kedera (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)
2017–2018	CPM	Lois Ransom (Australia)

## GOVERNING BODIES

### CPM Governance



## IPPC CONTRACTING PARTIES

# 183

Contracting Parties worldwide



### NORTH AMERICA

Canada 1953  
United States of America 1972

### LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARRIBEAN

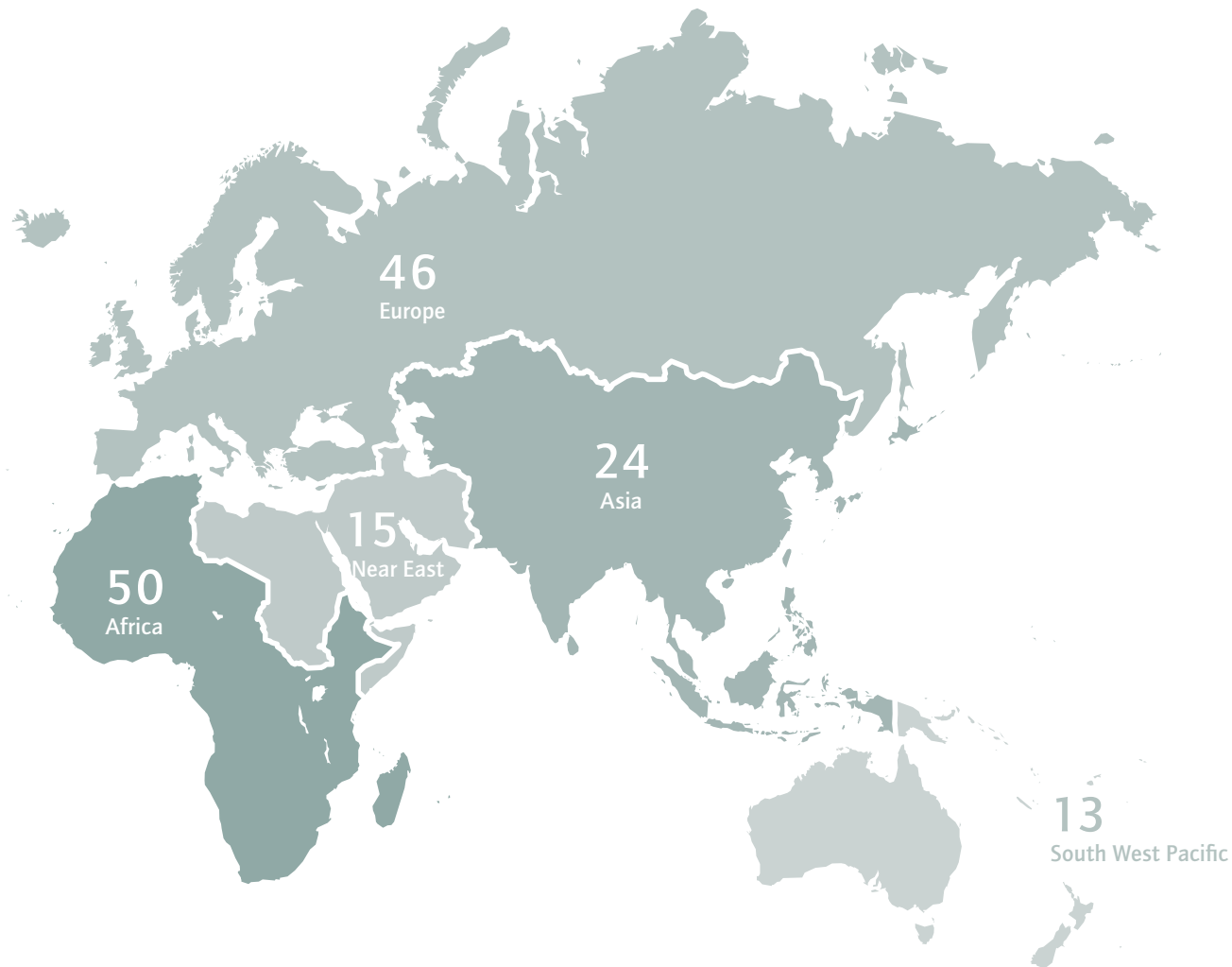
Antigua and Barbuda 2006  
Argentina 1954  
Bahamas 1997  
Barbados 1976  
Belize 1987  
Bolivia (Plurinational State of) 1960  
Brazil 1961  
Chile 1952  
Colombia 1970  
Costa Rica 1973  
Cuba 1976  
Dominica 2006  
Dominican Republic 1952  
Ecuador 1956  
El Salvador 1953  
Grenada 1985  
Guatemala 1955  
Guyana 1970

Haiti 1970  
Honduras 2003  
Jamaica 1969  
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  
Czechia 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  
Malta 1975  
Montenegro 2009  
Netherlands 1954  
Norway 1956  
Poland 1996  
Portugal 1955  
Republic of Moldova 2001  
Romania 1971  
Russian Federation 1956  
Serbia 1992  
Slovakia 2006  
Slovenia 1998  
Spain 1952  
Sweden 1952  
Switzerland 1996  
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia 2004  
Turkey 1988  
Ukraine 2006  
United Kingdom 1953



## AFRICA

Algeria 1985  
 Benin 2010  
 Botswana 2009  
 Burkina Faso 1995  
 Burundi 2006  
 Cabo Verde 1980  
 Cameroon 2006  
 Central African Republic 2004  
 Chad 2004  
 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  
 Gambia 2016  
 Ghana 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  
 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

# PROGRESS REPORT





## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2017 marked a milestone in IPPC history, with the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Convention, and the implementation of the annual theme on "Plant Health and Trade Facilitation". Ten outstanding achievements for the IPPC Secretariat in 2017 were highlighted amongst many others:

1. The IPPC annual theme for 2017 was promoted through organizing a series of activities during the CPM-12 in Republic of Korea, including one Key-note on the annual theme, one special topic session on eCommerce and one side event on ePhyto. The IPPC Secretariat and SPS Secretariat co-organized an IPPC-SPS side event on the annual theme during the July SPS Committee meeting in Geneva. We also held two IPPC seminars on the annual theme at FAO-HQs.
2. A record number of standards were adopted (22), including five ISPMs, ten PTs and seven DPs; five TP meetings were organized (TPDP, TPPT, TPG, and 2 EWGs); and two consultations were conducted, one on 13 draft ISPMs, and one on three draft Specifications.
3. The IPPC Governing Bodies meetings were successfully organized, including the CPM-12, three FC meetings, four Bureau meetings, two SC meetings, one CDC meeting, one IC meeting, and one SPG meeting. The new oversight body for implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC), and a focus group on the joint call for Phytosanitary Measures were established based on the CPM and Bureau's decision.
4. Standards implementation was strengthened by implementing the PCE in ten countries (Barbados, Botswana, Georgia, Guinea, Kenya, Uzbekistan, Madagascar, Namibia, Somalia and Zambia); by conducting the pilot programme on surveillance of the three target pests; and by carrying out the IPPC project on Capacity Development supported by FAO-China SSC Programme.
5. IPPC Trade facilitation was promoted by finalizing the requirements for deployment of the IPPC ePhyto hub and the generic ePhyto national system (GeNS); by establishing the IPPC Sea Containers Task Force (SCTF) with its first meeting held in Shanghai, China; and by initializing the IPPC work on eCommerce.
6. IPPC Communication and Advocacy were promoted through the release of over 140 news (30 percent increase compared to 2016) and the increased IPPC presence on social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Weibo). The IPPC Secretariat published the 2016 IPPC Annual Report, four IPPC factsheets, two brochures, and other advocacy materials. Two receptions were organized to celebrate the IPPC 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary at the CPM-12 in Republic of Korea, and during the SPG meeting in Rome.

**2017 marked a milestone in IPPC history, with the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Convention, and the implementation of the annual theme on "Plant Health and Trade Facilitation"**

7. The International Year of Plant Health (IYPH) initiative was endorsed at the 40<sup>th</sup> Session of FAO Conference. Two IYPH Steering Committee meetings were organized, and one reception on promotion of the IYPH held at FAO HQs.
8. IPPC Network was promoted by organizing seven IPPC Regional Workshops with 206 participants from 117 countries benefited and one IPPC Workshop on NRO in Pacific region with 29 participants from 21 NPPOs involved. The international cooperation was enhanced by signing the Joint Work Programme with CBD, and developing an Agreement with WCO for bilateral cooperation.
9. Resource mobilization was greatly strengthened with the IPPC Multi-donor trust fund, the IPPC projects and the IPPC in-kind contributions all increased substantially compared to 2016.
10. The internal management was also strengthened by: a) standardizing 16 items for IPPC communication and advocacy issues; b) improving the IPPC work plan and budget on a biannual basis; and c) promoting the teamwork and team spirit through the renewed task forces on resource mobilization (TFRM), and on communication and advocacy (TFCA).

## GOVERNANCE AND STRATEGY

### **Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM)**

The Twelfth Session of the CPM (CPM-12) took place in 2017 from 5 to 11 April in Incheon, Republic of Korea, which was the first CPM organized outside Rome in the CPM history, and resulted in a number of significant outcomes, including:

1. adoption of 22 standards, including five ISPMs, ten PTs and seven DPs which means that a record number of ISPMs adopted in the IPPC history for a single year;
2. support to the continued progress in implementing the ePhyto project and in particular to urge countries to financially support the project through donations to operate the hub and generic system following the pilot;
3. support for 2017 IPPC theme "Plant Health and Trade Facilitation" and "International Year of Plant Health (IYPH)" in 2020, including adoption of envisaged outputs and outcomes for the IYPH;
4. adoption of the revised version of the RPPOs' roles and functions;
5. agreement on the IPPC Communication and Advocacy activities planned for 2017;
6. organization of a special topics session on e-commerce webcasted to the world;
7. holding of five side sessions on the following topics (Benefits of the IPPC, IPPC in Asia, Trade facilitation and ePhyto, Facilitation of international trade and safeguarding biodiversity from the outspread pathways, and The new Plant Health Regime in the European Union);
8. agreement that the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee be established under the adopted Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure, that the IC should start operations in the second half of 2017;
9. agreement that the National Reporting Obligations Advisory Group (NROAG), Triennial Review Group (TRG) and Subsidiary Body on Dispute Settlement (SBDS) be dissolved at the same time as the IC is established and the functions and procedures of these committees be transferred to the IC; and
10. agreement that the call for topics be delayed so that a joint SC/IC call for topics for standards and issues for implementation can be held.

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

The CPM Bureau met four times (three physical meetings and one teleconference); first in Incheon, the Republic of Korea in April, then in Washington DC, USA in June, followed by an October meeting in Rome. Finally, Bureau had a teleconference in December. The Bureau meeting in April mainly discussed the preparation and agenda for CPM-12 with regard financial documents. The Bureau meeting in June discussed both a long and short term strategy for IPPC efforts, the annual work plan and budget for the IPPC Secretariat for 2018 and 2019. A key outcome of the meeting was that the Bureau proposed changes to the IPPC Secretariat annual work plan and budget and way forward on sustainable funding initiative. Bureau also proposed that the budgeting process is moved one year ahead starting from 2018 and subsequent years. In October, Bureau discussed sustainable funding of the Secretariat and approved the IPPC Secretariat Work Plan and Budget for 2018. At December teleconference, Bureau approved the IPPC Secretariat Work Plan and Budget for 2019.

The FC met three times; in Incheon, the Republic of Korea in April, in Washington DC, in June and in Rome in October. In April, the discussion focused mainly on the 2016 financial report and 2017 work plan and budget of the IPPC Secretariat and the financial management of the IPPC Secretariat. In June, the focus was on IPPC Secretariat Work Plan and Budget for 2018 and sustainable funding initiative for the IPPC Work Programme. In October, FC focused the discussed on IPPC Secretariat Work Plan and Budget for 2018 and sustainable funding. FC also reviewed CPM-12 costs.

The 6<sup>th</sup> CPM Strategic Planning Group (SPG) meeting was held at FAO-HQ in Rome, Italy during 10–12 October 2017. The meeting was attended by 43 participants from 35 IPPC Contracting Parties, as well as a representative of the World Bank and IPPC Secretariat staff. The discussion at the SPG meeting focused mainly on the proposed IPPC Strategic Framework for 2020–2030 and sustainable funding mechanism for the IPPC Work Programme. In addition, several other IPPC-related issues were also discussed, such as the call for phytosanitary issues and outcomes of the ad-hoc Focus Group; International Year of Plant Health (IYPH) in 2020; 2018 IPPC theme on Plant Health and Environment Protection; Promotion of the implementation of e-commerce; Implementation of the IPPC ePhyto project and the IPPC trade facilitation work plan.

### **Standards Committee (SC)**

The SC had two meetings in 2017, in May and November, in Rome, Italy. The first May SC meeting included the SC-7 meeting. The SC is responsible for overseeing about 75 topics (including five technical panels, regular standards [International Standards on Phytosanitary Measures – ISPMs]), diagnostic protocols (DPs), phytosanitary treatments (PTs) and Glossary terms as well as 28 new phytosanitary treatments have been submitted and are under review. Of these, four draft ISPMs were presented to the SC in their May 2017 face-to-face meeting, of which three were approved for first consultation (1 July–30 September 2017).

The SC-7 discussed in detail four draft ISPMs, of which all were approved for the second consultation (1 July–30 September 2017). Through 22 e-decisions held in 2017, the SC approved six draft DPs for consultation and two draft DPs for the July DP Notification period, recommended one PT for adoption, three draft specifications for consultation, one specification, approved Guidelines for a consistent ISPM terminology and selected four sets of experts. The SC, in its May meeting, also selected experts for the EWG on the Revision of ISPM 8: *Pest status in an area* (2009-005), members for the Technical

Panel for the Glossary (Arabic, English and Chinese). The Framework for standards and implementation was updated, a promotional paper for the IYPH was discussed, and SC representatives for the new Implementation Committee selected, as well as for the 2017 IPPC Regional Workshops.

In November the SC reviewed five draft ISPMs and recommended four for adoption. The concept of commodity standards was discussed in depth in relation to the International movement of grain (2008-007) and International movement of cut flowers and foliage (2008-005) and the SC will seek guidance from the CPM on how to progress. The SC was also able to reach consensus on the reorganization of the fruit fly standards which are recommended to CPM.

### **Capacity Development Committee (CDC)/Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC)**

The CDC remained active through mid-year and reviewed 20 technical resources for posting on the phytosanitary resources page. The 10<sup>th</sup> CDC meeting (also the last) was held in Tokyo, Japan in May which was a preparatory meeting for the transition to the new Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC) approved at CPM-12 in April. The group discussed the Terms of Reference for the IC operational framework, priority tasks for the IC were also discussed. Another major highlight of the meeting included the CDC's development of a proposal for the Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedures for the IPPC Sea Containers Task Force (SCTF).

The first IC meeting was held in December 2017. The meeting elected Olga Lavrentjeva (Estonia) as Chair and Dominique Pelletier as vice-chair. They will serve a term of three years. The IC developed a provisional work plan and agreed on working modalities for supporting the NRO work programme, dispute avoidance and settlement process and procedure, IRSS and capacity development and trade facilitation work priorities including the Sea Containers task force and ePhyto.

## **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). One new topic was added to the List of topics for IPPC standards by CPM-12 (2017) and assigned a priority. In February 2017, an ongoing call for phytosanitary treatments was launched, which is soliciting submissions for: a) Phytosanitary treatments to be adopted as international standards, as annexes to ISPM 28 (Phytosanitary treatments for regulated pests); and b) Phytosanitary treatments used in international trade, to be posted on the Phytosanitary Resources page. This year, the IPPC Secretariat received a total of 28 treatments submissions. The Technical Panel on Phytosanitary Treatments (TPPT) is reviewing these submissions and will proposed recommendations to the SC in May 2018.

### **Drafting and Expert Input**

The Standard Setting Unit (SSU) prepared meeting documents, organized, facilitated and finalized outcomes of the following meetings: a) five face-to-face meetings, one on the Technical Panel on Diagnostic Protocols (TPDP), one on the Technical Panel on Phytosanitary Treatments (TPPT), one on the Technical Panel for the Glossary (TPG), one

on EWG on *Authorization of entities to perform phytosanitary actions* (2014-002), and one EWG on the revision of ISPM 8 (*Determination of Pest Status in an Area*) (2009-005); b) four virtual meetings on the Technical Panel on Phytosanitary Treatments; c) two virtual meetings on the TPFQ; and d) nine TP e-decisions.

### **Consultation**

The SSU organized one consultation on draft standards and one on draft specifications (1 July to 30 September and 1 July to 30 August, respectively). One DP notification period (1 July to 15 August), was also organized. Comments received during the consultations were compiled and posted on the IPP.

### **Adoption and Publication**

Twenty-two ISPMs were adopted this year, including five regular ISPMs; ISPM 38 on the *International movement of seeds; Annex 1 Arrangements for verification of compliance of consignments by the importing country in the exporting country* (2005-003) to ISPM 20 (*Guidelines for a phytosanitary import regulatory system*); ISPM 39 on the *International movement of wood* (2006-029); ISPM 40 on the *International movement of growing media in association with plants for planting* (2005-004), ISPM 41 on the *International movement of used vehicles, machinery and equipment* (2006-004), ten annexes to ISPM 28 (PTs) and seven annexes to ISPM 27 (DPs). One draft phytosanitary treatment concerning dielectric heating received an objection prior to CPM-12 (2017). This number of adopted ISPMs exceeded the planned outcomes indicated in FAO's Strategic Objective 4. Most publications are posted on the IPP in the six FAO languages. According to the standard setting procedure, the SC adopts DPs on behalf of CPM.

All ISPMs submitted to CPM-12 (2017) via the Language Review Group (LRG) process were noted, and all ISPMs adopted at CPM-12 (2017) have been posted on the IPP in the six FAO languages. CPM-12 (2017) approved the modified LRG process proposed by the IPPC Secretariat and agreed that it would take immediate effect. The IPPC Secretariat will post the modified ISPMs on the IPP and notify all contracting parties and CPM will be requested to note the specific standards that were adjusted and to revoke previously adopted versions of the ISPMs. Ink amendments to the currently adopted ISPMs were also noted by CPM-12 (2017). These ink amendments will be translated into all languages and will be incorporated into the language versions of the concerned standards as resources permit.

### **Quality management**

The standard setting pages on the IPP (over 70) 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. The revised versions of the IPPC Procedure Manual for Standard Setting and the IPPC Style Guide were published. The CPM Recommendations page on the IPP was also modernized to ensure that all contracting parties have easy access to the adopted texts in all FAO languages.

## IMPLEMENTATION FACILITATION

### Capacity Development (CD)

The Implementation Facilitation Unit (IFU) managed eight Global projects, and completed two projects (SDTF 401), and the second cycle of the EC-IRSS. The China South-South cooperation project was launched in the regional workshop for Eastern Europe and central Asia. The Japan supported project (GLO/827/JPN) was final approved. A project supporting the application of the PCE in Georgia was completed – The IPPC Secretariat facilitated application of all of the PCE modules. Two trainings on legal issues were delivered within the framework of the project along with the PCE application, strategic planning and consensus workshops. The phytosanitary capacity development strategy (Strategy) and action plan were developed based on the outcomes of the PCE application in close collaboration with the project staff and relevant national stakeholders. National projects on the PCE are currently active or have been completed and involve the application of a PCE in Barbados, Botswana, Georgia, Guinea, Kenya, Uzbekistan, Madagascar, Namibia, Somalia and Zambia.

A joint IPPC-CIHEAM training entitled “Building Phytosanitary Capacities” was conducted in Bari, Italy, in June 2017. The training was provided to 15 Master students of the Sustainable Pest Management Technologies Programme of CIHEAM-Bari, and was open to NPPO staff worldwide. The training built upon several IPPC technical guides developed under the STDF 350 project.

A PFA guide and supplementary resources are being developed with the financial support of Agriculture Canada and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Government of Canada. The objective of the Guide is to provide a general guidance to national plant protection organizations who aim to establish and maintain PFAs/PFPPs/PFSPs and ALPPs. The IPPC Secretariat in close consultation with NPPOs and RPPOs identified experts to be part of the expert working group to develop the guide. The first face-to-face meeting of the EWG convened in November 2017 in Rome, Italy.

Under the most recent project funded by the European Commission (EC) – the European Commission support for implementation of the International Plant Protection Convention to facilitate safe trade and dispute avoidance (2016–2019), the IFU has committed to develop technical resources to facilitate the implementation of the international standard for phytosanitary measures (ISPM) 8: Determination of pest status in an area and the draft ISPM: Guidance on pest risk management. Oversight for development of these guidelines will be undertaken by the IPPC Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC). To develop guidelines for the implementation of ISPM 8, the IFU participated in the Standards Setting Expert Work Group (EWG) meeting for Revision of ISPM 8 in September 2017. Participation in this meeting provided an opportunity to present implementation challenges identified from the ISPM 8 Survey and the 2012 and 2016 IPPC General Surveys and gain a comprehensive understanding of proposed changes/improvements to the ISPM.

Technical resources resulted from implementation of the pilot programme on pest surveillance aggregated on the three pests have been posted and are being reviewed by the IC. A factsheet on *Xylella fastidiosa* was developed and distributed to the CPM-12 (2017) and is available on-line. The IPPC Secretariat compiled and analyzed information related to emerging pests mentioned by the Capacity Development Committee (CDC) and the TC-RPPO since 2014. As part of the FAO organizational foresight group, the Implementation Review and Support System (IRSS) prepared a questionnaire on Plant

Health Emerging Issues that was sent to all IPPC Regional Workshop participants. The questionnaire was also sent to all regional plant protection organizations (RPPOs). The questionnaire asked participating contracting parties and RPPOs to list the five most important emerging issues related to plant health in the next two to five years and provide short explanations for each issue. Phytosanitary capacity of pest surveillance stands as the 3<sup>rd</sup> most common emerging issues across all participating contracting parties and regions.

The meeting of the Focus Group (FG) on the criteria for the call for phytosanitary issues was held in the FAO HQ in Rome, Italy, on 9 October 2017. During the meeting, the FG developed a proposal for the process for the call and the criteria for the assessment of the submitted topics. The outcome of the meeting was presented at the October 2017 meeting of the Strategic Planning Group (SPG).

### **Implementation Review Support System (IRSS)**

The Implementation Review and Support System (IRSS) has identified that risk communication is an area where contracting parties have difficulty in implementation, within their existing pest risk analysis (PRA) systems. Therefore, to address this shortcoming specific implementation support guidance on the topic has been prioritized for development. A draft of the manual is under preparation with finalization expected in the first quarter of 2018. The Informal Advisory Group on Pest Risk Analysis (IAGPRA) is providing technical support to this activity.

The second project cycle of the IRSS concluded on 31 March 2017 with all planned activities and outputs completed. The activities completed in the third year of the project cycle are summarized below and will be included in the second cycle Triennial Review Response report (TRR) that is currently being drafted. An IPPC M&E framework is being developed (in conjunction with Wageningen University of the Netherlands) that will seek to understand how the IPPC operates on three levels: a) Implementation of IPPC frameworks; b) IPPC policies and procedures; and c) IPPC Secretariat work areas.

The IPPC M&E framework is being developed in two phases, with the first phase (analysis, scoping, initial drafting and stakeholder feedback) to be completed by the end of 2017. The second phase of the project will move into finalizing development of the framework and developing an M&E plan for implementation.

To seek feedback from contracting parties on the draft IPPC M&E framework an expert meeting was conducted in Wellington, New Zealand in September 2017 to discuss issues related to the development of the framework and seek feedback from contracting parties and to understand how they undertake M&E in their national situations. Experts from the New Zealand Ministry of Primary Industries provided expert support to the deliberations of the meeting.

### **ePhyto**

The ePhyto Solution project which has been generously funded by the Standards and Trade Development Facility and a number of donor countries seeks to implement a harmonized solution for the exchange of electronic phytosanitary certificate as the basis of official communications in the trade of plants and plant products. The ePhyto Steering Group (ESG) met twice in 2017 at the World Trade Organization (WTO) which was arranged by the STDF, in early March in Geneva, Switzerland. The group reviewed the specifications for hub and generic ePhyto national system (GeNS); finalized the specifications and worked out the details for the web services description language (WSDL) for connecting to the hub. They also began development of the evaluation criteria for evaluating the

existing United Nations Centre for Trade and Developments system, ASYCER which may be an option for the GeNS. The ESG worked on finalizing the mapping of phytosanitary certificate information to the proposed electronic certificate based upon the standardized structure in ISPM 12 and also discussed further collaboration with other international organizations undertaking electronic certification to further simplify trade and border procedures. The ESG met again in Valencia, Spain, from 2 to 6 October 2017 hosted at the United Nations International Computing Center. The meeting was used to kick-off the pilot of the IPPC ePhyto hub. Pilot countries began registering to participate on 6<sup>th</sup> of October. Many countries have initiated test exchanges and some are moving to exchange certificates in the operational environment. The ESG also finalized details of the hub user interface and connection procedures during their second meeting; reviewed and adjusted details of the anticipated costs of hub operation and worked on finalizing the specifications for the GeNS.

The IPPC ePhyto Industry Advisory Group (IAG) met from 27–28 June 2017, in Washington DC, USA. The members discussed support from the IAG in pilot implementation and in developing a business modelling framework. A meeting subsequent to the Project Advisory Committee (PAC) meeting also held in Washington was hosted by the Embassy of Canada where both the IPPC Secretariat and IAG members presented and discussed the importance and progress of the IPPC ePhyto project to Agriculture representatives of embassies based in Washington. The 2<sup>nd</sup> ePhyto PAC meeting, facilitated by the STDF was held on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2017 at the World Trade Organization, Geneva, Switzerland. The PAC members discussed progress on the IPPC ePhyto project, and the work current underway by a contractor to develop and analyze options for an ePhyto Business Model to support ongoing operation of the ePhyto Solution.

The IPPC Secretariat and ESG members worked closely with pilot countries to advance the development of technical tools to support ePhyto implantation by developing countries. From 8 to 12 May 2017 the IPPC Secretariat working with the World Bank Group participated in a series of technical discussions with a number of government ministries in Samoa regarding the implementation of the World Trade Organization Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA). The main focus of the meetings was on specific technical assistance to the government on implementing key areas of the TFA, but it also provided the opportunity to discuss with the Samoan authorities the pilot implementation of the ePhyto Solution and its direct linkages to improving border procedures. These meetings were followed by a meeting between Australian Department of Agriculture and Water Resources and the Samoa Quarantine Service from 1 to 8 April 2017 to discuss country implementation plans for the GeNS. The team discussed the specifications of the GeNS system; conducted an industry awareness session and developed tentative plans for capacity building, training and benefit assessment.

The IPPC Secretariat and World Bank met with Samoan Quarantine Service to discuss progress in advancing key business changes to support electronic certification and improved border coordination with Customs authorities. The Secretariat and World Bank conducted a thorough assessment of both Customs and Quarantine activities to determine if electronic data transfer and coordination could improve trade procedures. Recommendations were provided to both agencies. Furthermore, the procedures and analysis developed during these missions is being document in a more general implementation guide for use by countries intended to implement ePhyto.



The IPPC Secretariat working with FAO Legal Services and the ESG have completed a draft policy framework for ePhyto Solution users to standardize the security and stability of use. Once finalized, the framework will be presented to CPM-13 for consideration for adoption. The IPPC Secretariat also conducted a survey of both NPPOs and phytosanitary users for ePhyto Solution to identify preferences of potential funding options. The report has been analyzed by the CPM Bureau, Industry Advisory Group, the ePhyto Project Advisory Committee and other technology and business experts.

### **Sea Containers**

A meeting was held for the first meeting of the Sea Containers Task Force in Shanghai, China from 6 to 10 of November 2017. The meeting had representatives from the IPPC Secretariat, CPM Bureau, IC, expert from EWG, representatives of China, USA, Australia, New Zealand (APPPC), the Netherlands (SC EWG, EPPO), Kenya (IAPSC) and experts from the World Bank (WB), Container Owners Association (COA), World Customs Organization (WCO), and independent experts. The SCTF 2018 Work Plan with Action Items was developed.

### **eCommerce**

The CPM-12 (2017) special topic session was organized on e-commerce and allowed to formulate recommendations to: enhance collaboration among international organizations; collaborate further at the national level; identify and report risks to e-traders; engage express delivery companies (DHL Express, Fedex, UPS, TNT); and raise awareness of suppliers, transporters and other organizations and the general public. The IPPC participated in the WCO e-commerce working group held in Brussels, Belgium to present its activities. The SPG, Bureau and IC were updated on the conducted and planned activities and decided on priorities on e-commerce which were costed for further decision.

## **INTEGRATION AND SUPPORT**

### **National Reporting Obligations (NRO)**

The year 2017 was the third stable year during which countries supplied above 240 new NRO reports through the IPP. The NRO Year of Pest Reporting was completed in March 2017 with a great success. In 2017, alone contracting parties provided 88 pest reports on the IPP. In April 2017 the NRO Year of Phytosanitary legislation was initiated. Fifty four new reports on Phytosanitary legislation were posted to the IPP in 2017. It makes 2017 the fourth year during which countries supplied more than 50 new reports on Phytosanitary legislation. The educational NRO newsletter "NROs Update" kept being published in Arabic, English, French, Russian, and Spanish (six issues).

The IPPC Secretariat provided detailed statistical analysis for the period 2005–2016 of all reporting available on the IPP. A new Guide to NROs with supplementary NRO guidance material (fact sheets, leaflets and table summaries) was made available in Arabic, French, Spanish and Russian by the IPPC Secretariat for contracting parties. In addition, NRO automatic reminder system kept functioning and works were carried out on the finalization of an NRO e-learning course.

The second NRO workshop was held in August 2017 for the South-West Pacific region countries and was prepared in cooperation with the Pacific Plant Protection Organization (PPPO). During the two-days Workshop participants were made familiar with basic information and the latest developments and were given practical advice based on frequently asked questions. The Workshop included a hands-on training of the IPP data entry and upload of reports brought by participants. Valuable feedback from participants regarding possible improvements to reporting and the IPP website was collected to serve as the basis for future work and improvements in the NRO area.

### **Information Management**

The IPPC Secretariat maintained the IPP and related websites, including the Phytosanitary Resource Page, PCE and eLearning, and implemented some improvements to the existing IPP pages, including: a review of the standard setting landing page, of the IPPC Seminar, Cooperation and Media pages, and an initial review of the IYPH web page. The IPPC Secretariat developed a new short guide on the Online Comment System (OCS), conducting several training sessions and handling over 1,000 requests for user support. 2017 also marked two records for the OCS: the record number of users (88) providing comments on IPPC draft texts, and its first-time use for consultations on topics other than standards.

The Phytosanitary Facility Search Tool was developed and launched. The Online Registration System (ORS) was developed and tested. ORS is a new tool that will improve Secretariats' work, which would automate a job previously done manually improving quality avoiding human errors. The List of Topics database was developed and tested, this new tool is also connected to the ORS, so that a topic can be assigned to a meeting, topics will be translatable and versioned to keep track of every change. The IPPC Secretariat also started using Skype for Business, the new FAO corporate call and web conference tool.

### **Communications and Advocacy**

A series of activities were organized to showcase the 2017 IPPC theme "Plant health and Trade Facilitation", such as a key note address delivered by WCO Secretary, a special topic session on e-Commerce, and a side event on Trade Facilitation and ePhyto, held at CPM-12 in the Republic of Korea; the IPPC-SPS Side Event on Trade Facilitation held in Geneva; and six relevant videos, all available on the IPP thematic page: <https://www.ippc.int/en/themes/trade-facilitation/>. Three IPPC Seminars were organized with overall presence of 300 participants. The IPPC headline news released in 2017 amounted to 143, with 81 announcements, marking respectively a +30 percent and a +256 percent increase compared to 2016, and a record for the past 19 years since when IPP news were published and tracked. The 2016 IPPC Annual Report, the renewed IPPC posters and folders, and six factsheets: on IPPC, *Xylella fastidiosa*, ISPM 5, Plant Health and Food Security, ePhyto and IYPH were published and widely distributed.

The IPPC Secretariat supported the promotion of the International Year of Plant Health in 2020 by working closely with Finland for the FAO Conference approval of the draft resolution proclaiming IYPH 2020. A video and a factsheet on IYPH were prepared and presented at the reception co-hosted at FAO HQs by the IPPC Secretariat and the Finnish Permanent Representation to FAO. The IPPC Secretariat also revised the IYPH communications plan and launched a survey for NPPOs and RPPOs to provide feedback on the IYPH programme development.

Two IYPH Steering Committee (StC) Meetings were held during 2017. The 2<sup>nd</sup> the StC was held in Incheon, the Republic of Korea in 12–13 April 2017. The StC reviewed the

action list arising from the first meeting, and planned ahead for the future steps. The main meeting outcomes included: a new IYPH communications work plan; advancements in the discussion over the IYPH resource mobilization and partnerships; arrangements for the proposed IYPH side event at the upcoming 40<sup>th</sup> Session of the FAO Conference. The 3<sup>rd</sup> StC meeting was held at FAO Headquarters in Rome, Italy during 8–10 November 2017. The final steps of a proclamations process, possible support, communication and partnership strategy and plans. The IYPH factsheet was reviewed, communication and advocacy action plan was updated and the estimated budget needed for IYPH was identified.

### **IPPC Network**

The IPPC Secretariat made significant efforts to strengthen its partnership with regional plant protection organizations (RPPOs). The Secretariat met with RPPOs represented at CPM-12 and the 29<sup>th</sup> TC-RPPO was successfully organized in EPPO Headquarters in Paris in November 2017 with the attendance of RPPOs as well as CAHFSA. At the meeting CAHFSA requested to be recognized as an RPPO. Supporting documents were presented and with the support of the IFU the procedure for recognition as an RPPO was implemented culminating with the TC-RPPO agreeing to recognize CAHFSA as an RPPO.

Seven IPPC regional workshops were organized in Africa, Asia, Latin America, Near East and North Africa, Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia, Southwest Pacific, and the Caribbean. A total number of 206 participants from 117 countries benefited from the workshops. This year was the first year the IPPC Secretariat worked towards establishing organizing committees in each region. The Committee consisted of regional plant protection organizations (RPPOs), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) regional offices, cooperation institutions such as IICA and national hosts. FAO regional offices, RPPOs and other co-organizer institutions had two opportunities to present on their activities during the workshop. The updated version of the Online Commenting System (OCS) was used during each regional workshop, and a responsible person was in charge of checking comments and using the OCS live during regional workshops for each region.

### **External Cooperation**

The IPPC Secretariat continued to attend meetings of Technical Working Group of the STDF, the WTO-SPS Committee, and a conference call for the Biodiversity Liaison Group members. The IPPC Secretariat actively engaged with the Ozone Secretariat for collaboration on issues related to Methyl Bromide alternatives. The IPPC Secretariat continuously cooperated with the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) through the working group (WG4) that is drafting the ISO standard called ISO/TC 34/SC 16/ 13484. The IPPC Secretariat closely cooperated with the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (EPPO) Secretariat, particularly with the IPPC Programme on diagnostic protocols and with the International Forest Quarantine Research Group (IFQRG). The IPPC Secretariat also focused on liaisons with FAO offices for continued internal coordination, such as with Food Safety (AGFF), Codex Alimentarius (AGFC) and relevant regional and sub-regional offices.

The IPPC Secretariat continuously strengthened the cooperation with the Joint FAO/IAEA Division, specifically for studies on *Bactrocera dorsalis* populations from different geographical regions of the world responded differently to vapour heat treatments. Based on these and others studies from MAFF–Japan (Research Center Yokohama), converging with the work of the Phytosanitary Measures Research group (PMRG), the TPPT concluded

that there is no evidence to support that there are significant differences in vapour heat tolerance among populations of *B. dorsalis* from geographically separate regions. In addition, the IPPC Secretariat signed the Joint Work Plan (2017–2020) with the CBD Secretariat, and developed an Agreement for the bilateral cooperation with WCO.

The IPPC Secretariat also initiated contact with the Biological Weapons Convention of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) on possible cooperation. Four areas of cooperation with International Seed Federation (ISF) were discussed and agreed this year: a) commenting on draft standards; b) support the implementation and promotion of the ISPM 38 (International movement of seeds) through the organization of a special session in the 2018 IPPC Regional Workshops; c) support to IYPH 2020 and relevant IPPC communication issues; and d) continuous engagement in IPPC ePhyto.

The IPPC Secretariat is also involved in the InforMEA project lead by UNEP. IPPC Secretariat is contributing analyzing content to be used for an e-learning course on IPPC (recently launched in the InforMEA E-Learning Platform) and analyzing and working on the data to be automatically imported in the InforMEA Portal. It is also working jointly with UNEP and the seven biodiversity-related conventions to share good practices in the communications field and maximize impact on awareness raising in the field of environmental protection

### **Resource Mobilization**

The IPPC Secretariat continued to emphasize resource mobilization due to its challenging financial position. An innovative approach for resource mobilization through “Supplementary Contribution” was proposed to the June 2017 Bureau meeting and supported at the October SPG. The IPPC Secretariat conducted resource mobilization activities through maintaining and building relationships with donors and partners, especially with EU (DG SANTE, DG TRADE, DG ENV, and DG DEVCO), STDF, as well as with Australia, Canada, China, France, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Switzerland, USA, and other international organizations (CBD, WCO, and IAEA) and regional organizations.

The IPPC Secretariat received a record amount of contributions to the IPPC Multi-donor trust fund (over one million USD) provided by Australia, Canada, Japan, Republic of Korea, USA/NAPPO, Netherlands, New Zealand, Switzerland and the International Seed Federation. The IPPC Secretariat obtained five new (or renewed) projects: the STDF ePhyto project (MTF/GLO/688/STF), the EU project to support the implementation of the IPPC (GCP/GLO/725/EC), the EU project to support the 3<sup>rd</sup> cycle of the IRSS (GCP/GLO/877/EC), the FAO-China project to strengthen the capacity of developing contracting parties to implement the IPPC (GCP/INT/291/CPR), and the Japanese project to support cooperation for the development of the ePhyto solution (GCP/GLO/827/JPN). The IPPC Secretariat also got a record amount of the IPPC In-kind contribution by over one million USD from various NPPOs, RPPOs and international organizations.

## INTERNAL MANAGEMENT

### **Operational Management**

Building upon the operational foundation established in 2015, the IPPC Secretary continues to drive the optimization of processes and procedures through the development of standard operating processes (SOPs) for all Secretariat activities and a focus on increased effective communication and awareness- raising. Sixteen items on IPPC Communication and Advocacy issues were standardized and implemented: 1) the renewed IPPC logo; 2) the template for visiting cards; 3) the email signature template; 4) the meeting report cover template; 5) the official letter template; 6) the documents folder; 7) the SOP for Publication Workflow; 8) the template for meeting agendas; 9) the template for PPT presentations; 10) the template for PEMS Planning; 11) SOP on drafting and clearance of IPPC news and announcements;; 12) SOP on IPPC documents storing and management; 13) standardized IPPC Job titles; 14) I-drive new structure;15) Template for Certificates; and 16) IPPC Poster.

### **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. IPPC Secretariat Financial report for 2016 was noted by CPM-12 and IPPC Secretariat Work Plan and Budget (WPB) for 2017 was successfully executed. The WBP of the IPPC Secretariat for 2018 and 2019 was developed, which was approved by the Bureau.

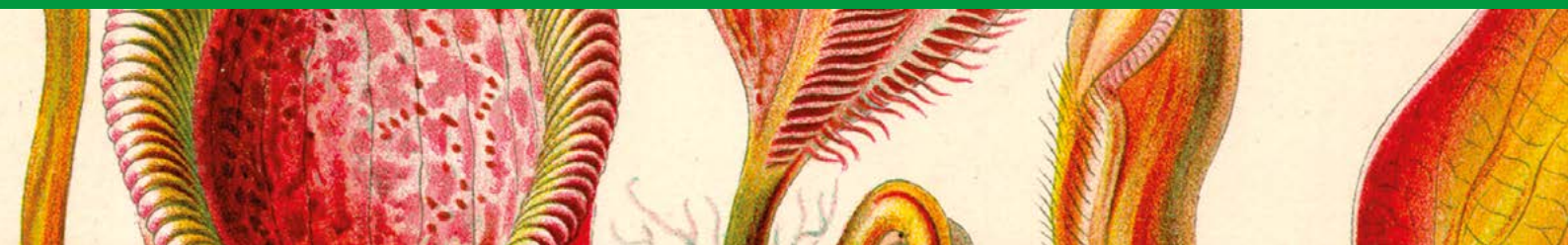
### **Human Resources Management**

FAO Staff's Performance Evaluation Management System (PEMS) were planned, monitored and evaluated. Staff work plans and development plans were implemented and evaluated. Two professional posts have been filled: P4 Integration and Support Team Leader and P5 Standard Setting Unit Leader. TAPs, PSAs and Consultants were recruited for supporting the increased work of the IPPC Secretariat. The IPPC Secretariat generated vacancy announcements with Call for Expressions of Interest for Phytosanitary Technical Specialists and IPPC Governance, Operation and Planning Specialists. The daily management of HR issues were closely followed up based on the various requests.

### **Team and Culture Building**

The annual theme of the IPPC Secretariat for 2017 was set as "Teamwork", where the work for various task forces was greatly promoted. Both TFRM and the TFCA were renewed to further strengthen the teamwork. The RMTF conducted many activities including: planning, monitoring and implementation of resource mobilization, made progress on sustainable funding initiative; and successfully received record amounts of the IPPC Multi-donor trust fund and the IPPC in-kind contribution. The TFCA contributed positively to the visibility IPPC through these substantial achievements: establishment of very efficient working mechanism; coordination of information management work at the IPPC Secretariat level; and enhanced the IPPC communication and support of the IYPH.

# HIGHLIGHTS



## CPM HELD OUTSIDE OF ROME FOR THE FIRST TIME

The twelfth Session of the Commission of Phytosanitary Measures (CPM-12) was successfully held from 5 to 11 April 2017 in Incheon, Republic of Korea. This was the first CPM that was organized outside of Rome in the IPPC history. The meeting was attended by over 250 participants from 126 national plant protection organizations (NPPOs), nine regional plant protection organizations (RPPOs), and more than 20 relevant international and regional organizations.



CPM-12 meets in Incheon, Republic of Korea.

## DISSEMINATION OF 2017 IPPC ANNUAL THEME

A series of activities were organized at the CPM 12 to showcase the 2017 IPPC annual theme “Plant Health and Trade Facilitation”, such as a keynote address delivered by Kunio Mikuriya (WCO Secretary General), a special topic session on e-Commerce, and a side event on Trade Facilitation and ePhyto. Other activities included an IPPC-SPS Side Event on Trade Facilitation in Geneva, two IPPC Seminars on Plant Health and Trade Facilitation, and two videos on the annual theme for the 2017 IPPC Regional Workshops.



Kunio Mikuriya (WCO Secretary General) delivers a keynote address at CPM-12.

## ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW IMPLEMENTATION OVERSIGHT BODY

The IPPC launched, at FAO-HQs, its new implementation oversight body, the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC) in December 2017, which is a milestone event for the IPPC as it signals a greater emphasis towards the implementation of the IPPC and its standards. The core activities of the IC cover, among others: a) Capacity Development; b) IRSS; c) National Reporting Obligation; d) Dispute Avoidance and Settlement; e) Trade Facilitation; f) Emerging pest issues; and g) Resource Mobilization.



The Implementation and Capacity Development Committee meets for the first time in December 2017.



## IYPH ENDORSED BY FAO CONFERENCE

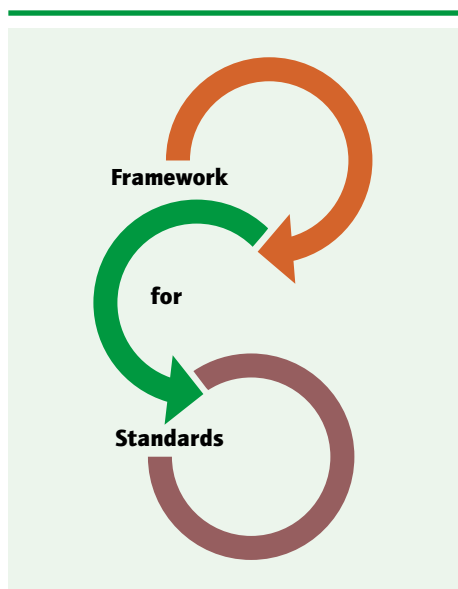
The IPPC Secretariat supported the promotion of the International Year of Plant Health in 2020 by working together with Finland to secure the approval of the draft resolution proclaiming IYPH 2020 by the 40<sup>th</sup> Session of FAO Conference, which took place in July 2017. One video and one factsheet on IYPH were prepared and presented at the reception co-hosted at FAO HQs by the IPPC Secretariat and the Finnish Permanent Representation to FAO.



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The promotion of the International Year of Plant Health by Jingyuan Xia, IPPC Secretary; Andrew Doyle, Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Ireland; Aulikki Hulmi, Director of International Relations at Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Finland; and Ralf Lopian, IPPC Contact Point for Finland.

## ESTABLISHMENT OF A FOCUS GROUP FOR JOINT CALL



Based on decision made at CPM-11 (2016) on the combined call for topics for standards and tools for implementation, CPM-12 (2017) agreed to delay the call so that a joint SC/IC call for topics for standards and issues for implementation can be held, and a focus group met in October 2017 in Rome to review the proposed process and criteria for the call for topics. The SPG reviewed the document asked a joint task force to review it.

## RECORD NUMBER OF STANDARDS ADOPTED

In 2017, 22 ISPMs were adopted, including five regular ISPMs; ten annexes to ISPM 28 (Phytopathological Treatments) and seven annexes to ISPM 27 (Diagnostic Protocols). This number of adopted ISPMs exceeded the planned outcomes indicated in FAO's Strategic Objective 4. Most publications are posted on the IPP in the six FAO languages.

2017: 22 standards adopted

- ✓ 5 ISPMs
- ✓ 10 PTs
- ✓ 7 DPs

**Highest number  
of standards  
ever adopted  
in a year!!!**

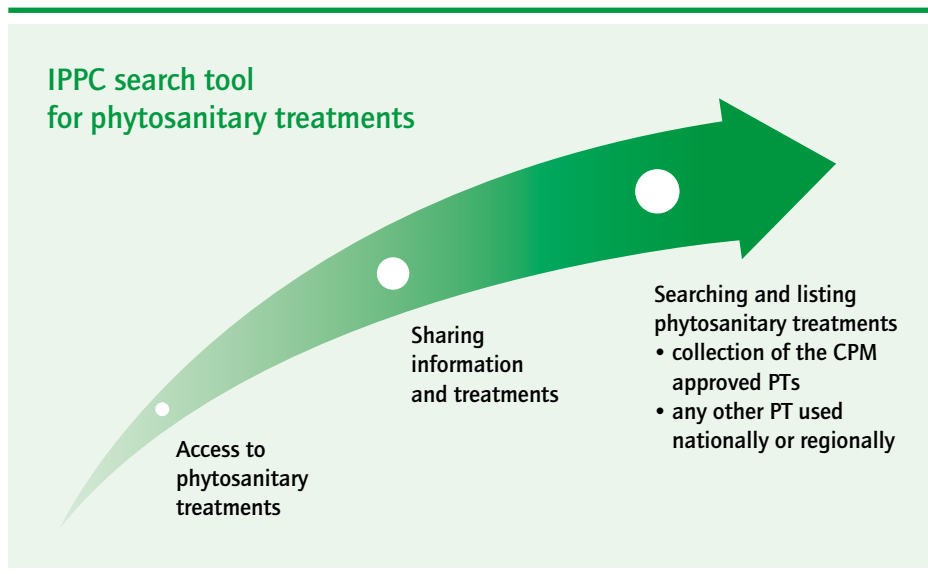
## COMMODITY STANDARDS

The concept of commodity standard remains a hot topic. In 2017, the Standards Committee discussed in depth two draft ISPMs: the International movement of grain and International movement of cut flowers and foliage, and various opinions remain. The CPM Bureau has been engaged in these discussions, and guidance on how to progress will be again sought from the CPM.



## IPPC PHYTOSANITARY TREATMENTS SEARCH FACILITY

This search tool, developed by the IPPC Secretariat in cooperation with the TPPT, would allow for the screening of phytosanitary treatment schedules for a specific commodity and pest combination, helping countries to quickly find treatments that fit their needs. Stakeholders can use the tool to search for specific pests, commodities, treatment types and will be able to sort treatments based on the country that accepts specific trade when a particular treatment has been applied.



## OUTSTANDING TEAMWORK ACHIEVEMENT AWARD BY FAO

The Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department of FAO presented an award for exceptional teamwork to the cross-UN agency team consisting of staff from the Standard setting unit of the IPPC Secretariat and staff from the Joint FAO/International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Division of Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture. This team has, over the past 12 years, worked first to facilitate the development of a suite of fruit fly standards and second to reorganize and ensure consistency of those fruit fly standards in order to enhance countries' understanding and ability to implement. The team from the IPPC Secretariat included Brent Larson, Céline Germain and Eva Moller.



© IPPC Secretariat

The awarded team: Céline Germain, Brent Larson, and Eva Moller.

## PCE APPLIED IN 10 COUNTRIES

The IPPC Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE) is a management tool designed to help a country to identify both strengths and gaps in its existing and planned phytosanitary systems. In 2017, ten countries benefitted from the IPPC PCE training: Barbados, Botswana, Georgia, Guinea, Kenya, Uzbekistan, Madagascar, Namibia, Somalia and Zambia.



© IPPC Secretariat

PCE application at stakeholders training in Botswana within Africa Solidarity Trust Fund Project.

## COMPLETION OF IRSS 2<sup>ND</sup> CYCLE

The 2<sup>nd</sup> cycle of the IRSS project funded by the EU and the Government of Switzerland was completed in 2017. The work of the IRSS has contributed to a number of IPPC initiatives and to the work of its subsidiary bodies.

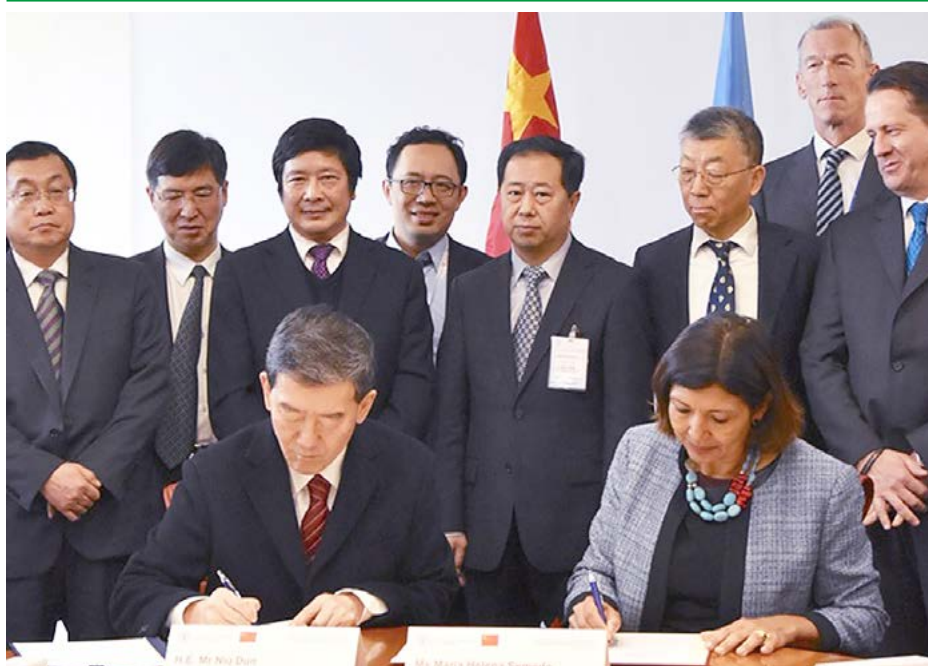


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IPPC M&E focus group consultation in New Zealand in 2017.

## CHINESE PROJECT FOR THE IPPC LAUNCHED

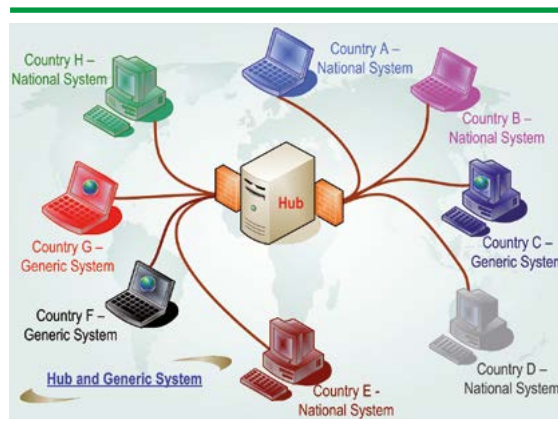
The FAO-China Sixth Annual Consultation Meeting on the South-South Cooperation (SSC) Programme was held at FAO-HQ on 24 February 2017. This included a signature ceremony by Maria Helena Semedo, FAO Deputy Director-General (Climate and Natural Resources), and Niu Dun, the Ambassador of China to FAO. The initiative includes an IPPC-China project, aimed at developing innovative ways and means for strengthening capacity of developing CPs so as to further implementation of the IPPC and its standards. This is a four-year project (2017–2020), with a total budget of 2,000,000 USD.



The project's signature ceremony by Maria Helena Semedo, FAO Deputy Director-General (Climate and Natural Resources), and His Excellency Niu Dun, the Ambassador of China to FAO.

## TANGIBLE PROGRESS ON EPHYTO

The requirements for deployment of the IPPC ePhyto hub and the generic ePhyto national system (GeNS) were finalized in 2017. Testing and demonstration of both IPPC ePhyto solutions were internalized accordingly.



## SEA CONTAINERS TASK FORCE ESTABLISHED

The IPPC Sea Containers Task Force (SCTF) was officially formulated on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2017 on the occasion of its first meeting held in Shanghai, China, from 6 to 10 November 2017, which was jointly organized by the IPPC Secretariat and the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ) of China. The IPPC SCTF is composed of representatives from IPPC contracting parties, CPM Bureau, IPPC Standards Committee (SC), IPPC Implementation and Capacity Deployment Committee (IC) and RPPOs, as well as some international organizations and phytosanitary experts.

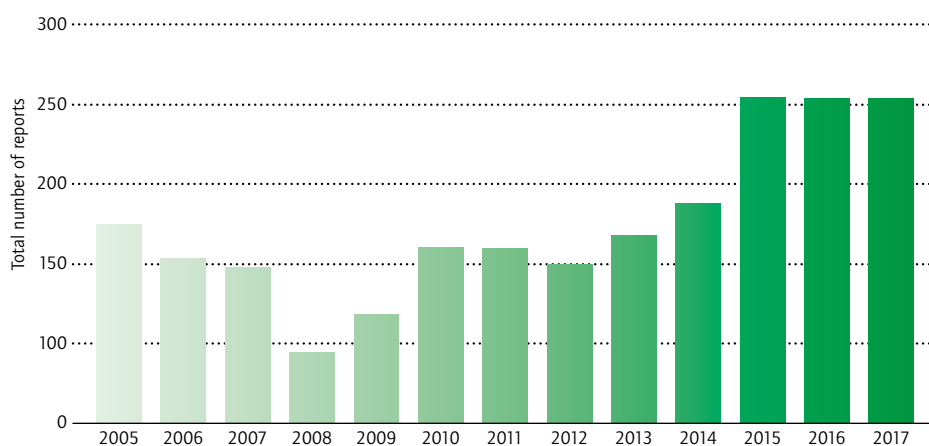


The first meeting of the IPPC Sea Container Task Force in Shanghai, China.

## PROGRESS IN IPPC NATIONAL REPORTING OBLIGATIONS

2017 marked again a record number of reports uploaded by countries to the International Phytosanitary Portal, which was the third year in which a total number of new reports was above 240. An NRO Workshop for the South-West Pacific was held in Nadi, Fiji on 10-11 August 2017, which was supported financially by the FAO-China South-South Cooperation Programme and the Australian AID. 29 participants from 21 countries belonging to the Pacific Plant Protection Organization (PPPO) attended the workshop.

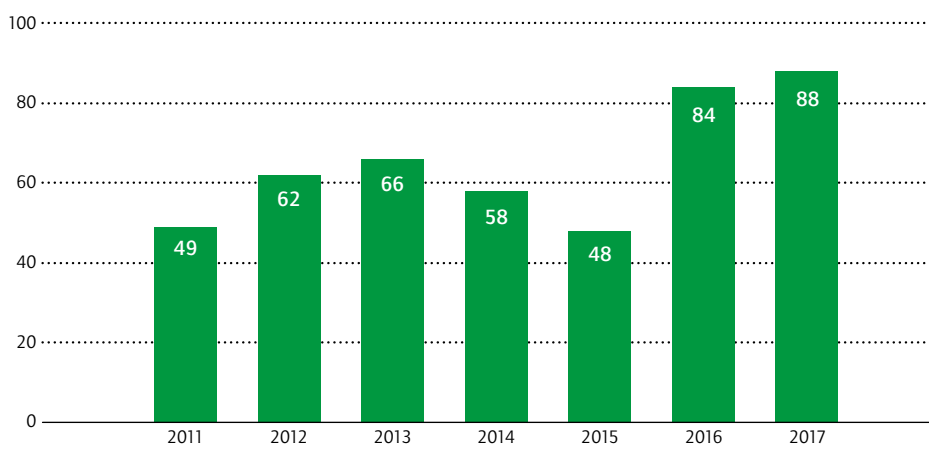
### New reports uploaded on the IPP by countries



## ONLINE COMMENT SYSTEM

2017 marked two records for the IPPC Online Comment System (OCS), the online tool used by IPPC contracting parties and relevant stakeholders to draft, share, and publish comments on documents: on one hand, the record number of users (88) providing comments on IPPC draft texts; on the other hand, the first-time OCS use for consultations on topics other than standards.


### Number of OCS users



## RECORD NUMBER OF IPPC NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

In 2017, 143 news and 81 announcements were published on the International Phytosanitary Portal ([www.ippc.int](http://www.ippc.int)), marking respectively a +30 percent and a +256 percent increase compared to 2016, which is a record for the past 19 years since when IPP news were published and tracked. This has contributed to a +17 percent increase in the number of IPP visits (338.517 compared to 288.970 visits in 2016).

### IPPC News see all >



The IPPC Secretary's Message on the New Year Greetings for 2018

### Announcements see all >

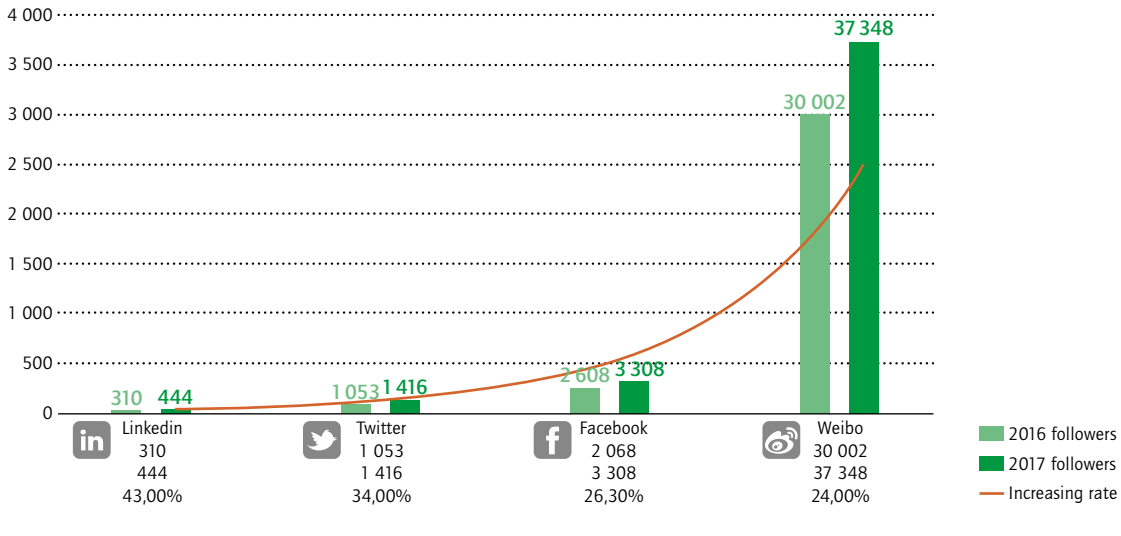
- 01-12-2017 [The Report of the 2017 November Standards Committee meeting is posted!](#)
- 01-12-2017 [29th Technical Consultation among RPPOs Report available now on the IPP](#)
- 29-11-2017 [IPPC videos on FAO YouTube channel!](#)
- 28-11-2017 [Third IPPC IYPH Steering Committee Meeting Report](#)
- 16-11-2017 [Update: 3rd IPPC Global Symposium on ePhyto](#)
- 02-11-2017 [The report of the July 2017 meeting of the Technical Panel on Phytosanitary Treatments is posted!](#)
- 30-10-2017 [IPPC IYPH Steering Committee agenda and papers posted](#)
- 27-10-2017 [Phytosanitary Measures Research Group \(PMRG\) 2017 meeting report available](#)
- 24-10-2017 [NRO leaflets are available now in Arabic](#)
- 24-10-2017 [NRO Guide is available now in Arabic](#)



## IPPC SOCIAL MEDIA EXPANSION

In 2017, the IPPC has substantively increased its presence on social media platforms, which has contributed to a higher IPP traffic and an increased IPPC online community engagement on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and Weibo – the Chinese social media, being used by the IPPC Secretariat since 2017.

### IPPC Social media Annual report



## IPPC SEMINARS

In 2017, the IPPC Secretariat organized three IPPC seminars on the plant health issue, which are part of a series aimed at increasing visibility and understanding of the IPPC work both within and outside FAO. The seminars are addressed to FAO staff, IPPC contracting parties, interested stakeholders, and the general public that can follow the proceedings of the seminars online.



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IPPC Seminar on Plant Health and Trade Facilitation on 10 October 2017 at FAO-HQ.

## HIGHER STANDARDS AND BETTER OUTREACH FOR IPPC PUBLICATIONS

In 2017, the IPPC Secretariat has reorganized its publications policy and procedures in adherence with FAO corporate standards. This has led to a better organization and quality control of IPPC publications, also resulting in their better marketing and outreach. Six new factsheets, four technical manuals and the annual report were published in 2017, along with a wall and table calendar and revised IPPC logos, folders and posters.

### Poster: IPPC Secretariat Supporting IPPC governing bodies and coordinating IPPC work programmes



**Year of publication:** 2017

**Publisher:** FAO

**Pages:** #1 p.

**Job Number:** 17590:

**Agrovoc:** trade; environmental conventions; international agreements;

**Abstract:**

The IPPC poster provide a summary of the IPPC factsheet. 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.

## IPPC 65<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

2017 marked the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ratification of the International Plant Protection Convention. This milestone event was celebrated with two receptions held during CPM-12 in the Republic of Korea and during the SPG meeting in Rome, Italy. In addition, a presentation on major achievements of the IPPC in 65 years was made by the IPPC Secretary at CPM-12, and a summary presentation and a celebratory video were developed and are available on the IPP.



## IPPC REGIONAL WORKSHOPS SUCCESSFULLY HELD IN 7 REGIONS

Seven IPPC Regional Workshops were organized and evaluated with active support from all secretariat units and teams. FAO regional and sub-regional offices, IICA, RPPOs and contracting parties including Georgia, the EU, the Russian Federation and China through the FAO/China South-South Cooperation Programme contributed to the continued success of the workshops. 206 participants from 117 countries benefitted from the workshops.



2017 IPPC Regional Workshop for Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia convenes in Tbilisi, Georgia.

## 28<sup>TH</sup> TECHNICAL CONSULTATION AMONG REGIONAL PLANT PROTECTION ORGANIZATIONS (RPPOS)

The 28<sup>th</sup> Technical Consultation among RPPOs meeting was successfully held in Paris, France from October 30 to November 3, 2017. While the valuable contribution of the RPPOs to standard setting and implementation is without question, the highlight of the meeting was the approval by the TC for the recognition of a new RPPO. If approved at CPM-13, CAHFSA will become the 10<sup>th</sup> RPPO.



The 28<sup>th</sup> Technical Consultation among RPPOs in Paris, France.

## ENHANCED COOPERATION WITH CBD

To further strengthen cooperation between the IPPC and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Secretariats, a joint work plan (2017–2018) was developed, and signed by the Executive Secretary of the CBD, Cristiana Paşca Palmer, and the IPPC Secretary, Jingyuan Xia. The major areas of cooperation include: 1) Participation in Governing Body Meetings; 2) Global Taxonomy Initiative Training; 3) Comparison of Terms Used in the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, the Glossary of Phytosanitary Terms, and Other Relevant Instruments; 4) Expert meetings regarding e-commerce; and 5) Promotion of partnerships and communication.



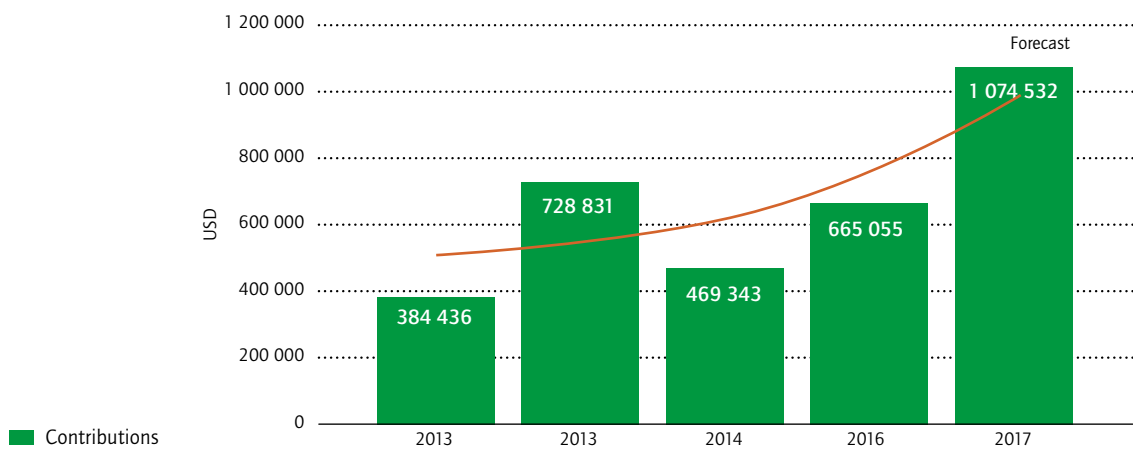
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A joint CBD/IPPIC work plan being signed by Cristiana Paşca Palmer, the Executive Secretary of the CBD, and Jingyuan Xia, IPPIC Secretary.

## RECORD CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE IPPC MULTI-DONOR TRUST FUND

Record amount of contributions were received in 2017 through the IPPC Multi-donor trust fund with 62 percent increase compared to 2016. The major contributors included Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, USA/NAPPO, and International Seed Federation (ISF).

### Contribution to IPPC Multi-donors trust fund, 2013-2017



## CONTINUOUS COMMUNICATION WITH EXISTING AND POTENTIAL DONORS TO THE IPPC PROJECTS

The IPPC Secretariat conducted resource mobilization activities through maintaining and building relationships with donors and partners for the IPPC projects. The major supporters included EU (DG SANTE and DG TRADE), STDF, Australia, Canada, China, France, Japan, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Switzerland, USA, and other international organizations (CBD, WCO, IAEA) and regional organizations.



The IPPC Secretariat meets the European Commission in Brussels, Belgium.

## RE-ORGANIZATION OF IPPC SECRETARIAT

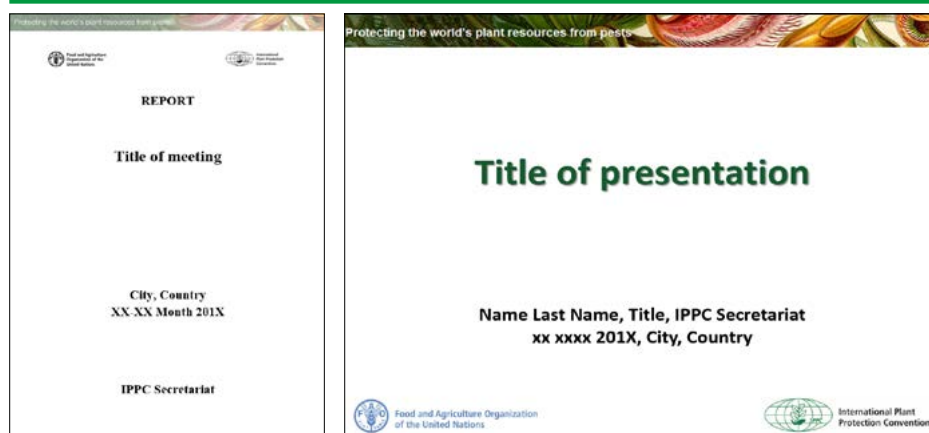
The action plan on the IPPC Secretariat Enhancement Evaluation was continuously implemented by regrouping the staff, with two regular programme posts (P4 and P5 posts) filled, and an improved work plan and budget, now based on a biannual basis. Teamwork and team spirit was promoted through the renewal of Task Forces for Resource Mobilization and on Communication and Advocacy.



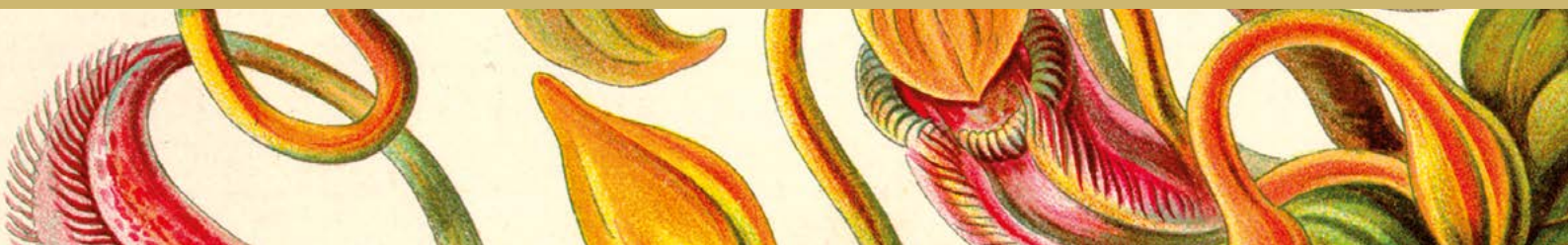
The 2017 Mid-Year meeting of the IPPC Secretariat.

## STANDARDIZED 16 ITEMS ON IPPC COMMUNICATION

2017 saw a boost in the standardization within IPPC secretariat procedures and communication items, covering eight templates, three standard operating procedures, three communication materials, and two internal management issues. These include: new IPPC logo, folder, poster, job titles, I-drive structure, email signature, visiting cards, meeting report cover, meeting agendas, letters, certificates, PPT presentations, evaluation forms, SOPs on publications workflow, news and documents storing and management.



# CHRONICLE OF EVENTS





## JANUARY

### 10 January

Four Standard Committee (SC) e-decisions opened on the 10 January to approve three draft specifications (Audit, Rev ISPM 12 and Likelihood of establishment) for first consultation and to agree to the modifications requested by the SC on their 2016 November meeting to the specification outlining the tasks of the Technical Panel for Phytosanitary Treatments (TPPT) related to reviewing phytosanitary treatments for possible inclusion on the Phytosanitary Resource Page.

### 12 January

Virtual Meeting of the Technical Panel for Phytosanitary Treatments (TPPT) took place on 12 January. The meeting focused on revising the draft International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM): Requirements for the use of fumigation treatments as a phytosanitary measure (2014-004) so it can be presented to the SC meeting in May 2017. Further work through electronic discussion remains to be done on this draft.

### 19 January

The 2017 annual meeting of the IPPC Secretariat was held at FAO HQs, with the theme "Teamwork". The main objectives of the meeting were to review the major achievements of the IPPC Secretariat for 2016, to plan the core activities for 2017, and to strengthen teamwork for moving towards "One IPPC". The meeting was chaired by Jingyuan Xia, IPPC Secretary, and attended by all Secretariat staff. The Team Leaders Brent Larson, Standard Setting Unit (SSU) Lead, Orlando Sosa, Implementation Officer and Implementation Facilitation Unit (IFU) Lead, and Dorota Buzon, Integration and Support Officer and Integration and Support Team (IST) Officer in Charge, made briefings for the respective

teams, while Marko Benovic, Budget and Planning Officer, and Mirko Montuori, Public Information Officer, presented the progress reports on Task Force for the Resource Mobilization (TFRM) and on Task Force for Communication and Advocacy (TFCA), respectively. All staff actively shared their views and provided valuable suggestions on improvement of the Secretariat's work and performance. Finally, the IPPC Secretary made concluding remarks, highlighting three important points: a) ten achievements for 2016; b) ten core activities for 2017; and c) teamwork for "One IPPC". At the end, the IPPC Secretary urged all staff to work together with entire the IPPC community for achieving its mission to protect the world's plant resources from pests.

### 22-28 January

Ketevan Lomsadze, Implementation Facilitation Officer, participated in a joint mission with the World Bank in Lilongwe and Blantyre, in Malawi. The purpose of the mission was to determine Malawi's capacity and needs for effective implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA). Mission outcomes will contribute towards a future technical assistance activity related to the WTO TFA.

### 25 January

Jingyuan Xia, IPPC Secretary, Craig Fedchock, IPPC Advisor and Brent Larson SSU Lead attended a Biodiversity Liaison Group (BLG) virtual meeting on Briefing and follow-up of the Convention on Biological diversity (CBD's) COP 13. Several decisions were taken that have a broad impact on biodiversity related organizations such as the IPPC Community. Cooperation on mainstreaming biodiversity, enhancing synergies among biodiversity related organizations as well as the global progress towards achieving the UN's sustainable development goals were discussed.

**26 January**

The Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department of FAO presented an award for exceptional teamwork to the cross-UN agency team consisting of staff from the Standard setting unit of the IPPC Secretariat and staff from the Joint FAO/International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Division of Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture. This team has, over the past 12 years, worked first to facilitate the development of a suite of fruit fly standards (the last of which was adopted in 2016) and second to reorganize and ensure consistency of those fruit fly standards in order to enhance countries' understanding and ability to implement. Brent Larson, Standards Setting Unit Lead, accepted the award on behalf of the team which includes: 1) from the Joint FAO/IAEA Division of Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture: Rui Cardoso Pereira, Entomologist and member of the Technical Panel On Pest Free Areas And Systems Approach For Fruit Flies (TPFF), Walther Enkerlin, Entomologist and former member of the TPFF, and Nima Mashayekhi, Support to the TPFF meetings; and 2) from the IPPC Secretariat: Brent Larson, Standards Setting Unit Lead, Officer and Eva Moller, Standard setting support and Céline Germain, Standards Setting Officer, both supporting the TPFF. It is a great honour to receive this department level team award.

**30 January**

The SC on behalf of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) adopted five more diagnostic protocols (DPs):

1. DP 18 *Anguina spp.* (2013-003)
2. DP 19 *Sorghum halepense* (2006-027)
3. DP 20 *Dendroctonus ponderosae* (2006-019)
4. DP 21 '*Candidatus Liberibacter solanacearum*' (2013-001)
5. DP 22 *Fusarium circinatum* (2006-021)

These DPs have now been added to the suite of adopted diagnostic protocols, annexes to ISPM 27 (*Diagnostic protocols for regulated pests*). The development of these protocols is possible thanks to the dedication and commitment of the DP drafting groups as well as the Technical Panel on Diagnostic Protocols (TPDP) and various experts from around the globe. The final format of the new adopted DPs will soon be available at the Adopted Standards (ISPMs) webpage. In addition, one draft DP for *Tomato spotted wilt virus* (TSWV), *Impatiens necrotic spot virus* (INSV) and *Watermelon silver mottle*

*virus* (WSMoV) (2004-019) received an objection (second time) during the DP Notification Period. These comments will follow the Standard Setting procedure, according to which they will be shared with the Technical Panel on Diagnostic Protocols and submitted to the SC for a final decision.

**31 January**

Jingyuan Xia, IPPC Secretary, Craig Fedchock, IPPC Advisor and Brent Larson, Standards Setting Unit Lead, had a meeting with Braulio Dias, Executive Secretary of Convention of Biodiversity (CBD). Braulio Dias will be leaving the CBD Secretariat in February 2017 and Cristiana Paşca Palmer will be the new CBD Executive Director. The positive impacts of the cooperation between the CBD and IPPC were noted and Braulio Dias highlighted several decisions from the CBD's COP-13 in December 2016 that create opportunities for further collaboration, in particular he noted that the CBD's funding mechanism will be adjusted resulting in GEF-7 which countries may be able to access funds for biodiversity related activities including some of the work mandated by the IPPC.

**FEBRUARY****31 January–3 February**

Sarah Brunel, Implementation Facilitation Officer, participated in the first of three Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation Workshops in Madagascar. The objective of this first workshop was to support Madagascar in conducting a self-diagnosis aimed at identifying the strengths and weaknesses of the Malagasy phytosanitary system. The workshop brought together relevant stakeholders to improve the phytosanitary system including exporters, the Ministry of Agriculture, customs, forestry experts, and researchers. Sarah Brunel was responsible for supporting the facilitation process of newly trained Phytosanitary Capacity evaluation (PCE) facilitator Alphonsine Louhouari, trained under the STDF401 project.

**10 February**

A call for phytosanitary treatments was issued soliciting submissions for phytosanitary treatments to be developed as international standards (annexes to ISPM 28: *Phytosanitary treatments for regulated pest*) and to be posted to the Phytosanitary Resources page (for those already approved by an NPPO or RPPO).

### 12–16 February

Ketevan Lomsadze, Implementation Facilitation Officer, participated in the inception activities for the Uzbekistan project "Support to the Improvement of the National Seed, Plant Variety Protection and Phytosanitary Legislation". The officer participated in meetings related to the current status of the Agricultural sector of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the current institutional and legal framework of the seed and phytosanitary sectors. The meeting participants underscored the importance of becoming a contracting party to the IPPC. The outcomes and outputs of the project were also discussed.

### 13–17 February

The Technical Panel on Diagnostic Protocols (TPDP) successfully concluded their annual meeting at FAO headquarters. The main objective of the meeting was to revise draft DPs, review their work programme and discuss horizontal issues related to DPs. The meeting was chaired by Juliet Goldsmith (Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency (CAHFSA)) and the Rapporteur was Geraldine Anthoine (the French Republic). Seven TPDP members attended the meeting. The TPDP also discussed several horizontal issues related to DPs such as quality assurance, best practices for sequencing, controls options for ELISA tests and molecular tests and the next generation sequencing (NGS) technologies.

### 15–17 February

The 2<sup>nd</sup> IPPC Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Workshop was held at FAO-HQ. The main objective of the workshop was to continuously strengthen staff's capability for the IPPC Secretariat. The workshop was facilitated by Cecile Kusters from the Centre for Development Innovation of Wageningen University in the Kingdom of the Netherlands and attended by all the IPPC Secretariat staff. This workshop focused on progressing the Theory of Change (ToC) schematic and capturing the IPPC work activities and Strategic Framework in relation to the FAO's Strategic Framework and the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Workshop participants discussed the use of the M&E matrix to focus on key information needs and uses. The development of an M&E framework contributes to achieving the internal IPPC Secretariat goal of "One IPPC" and the general goal for the IPPC towards 2020 to increase the overall capacity of contracting parties to implement the IPPC Convention.

### 21 February

The IPPC Secretariat launched a call for experts for the two Expert working groups (EWGs) planned for 2017 (*Authorization of entities to perform phytosanitary actions* (2014-002) and Revision of ISPM 8 *Determination of pest status in an area* (2009-005) and for TPG members with expertise in Arabic, Chinese, and English.

### 22–23 February

Mirko Montuori from the IPPC Integration and Support Team took part in the FAO-REU organized Regional capacity building workshop for IPPC Official Contact Points and NPPOs on Standard Setting, Information Management and National Reporting Obligations of the contracting parties (TCP/RER/3503) that took place in Yerevan, the Republic of Armenia. Twenty participants attended the workshop, including IPPC official contact points, project coordinators and laboratory leads from: the Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine. The IPPC Secretariat presented background, structure, operational mechanisms and work programme of the IPPC. One day was dedicated to the IPPC web tools, including the International Phytosanitary Portal (IPP) and Online Comment System (OCS). In this framework, following live demonstrations, IPPC contact points from the four participating countries uploaded information related to their national reporting obligations on the IPP, and used the OCS for the first time by participating to a test review.

### 24 February

The FAO-China Sixth Annual Consultation Meeting on the South-South Cooperation (SSC) Programme was held at FAO-HQ. Through extensive review and discussion, it was officially confirmed that the Chinese Government is willing to contributing two million USD (2017–2020) for strengthening capacity of the IPPC developing contracting parties through the FAO-China SSC Programme. At the end of meeting a signing ceremony was held, where the arrangement of the IPPC-China project was signed by Maria Helena Semedo, the FAO Deputy Director-General, Climate and Natural Resources, and H.E. Niu Dun, the Ambassador of China to FAO. The signing ceremony was attended by Ren Wang, Assistant Director-General of FAO-AG Department, and Jingyuan Xia, IPPC Secretary, as well as FAO Senior Officers, the China Mission to FAO, and Chinese delegates from the Chinese Ministry of Agriculture. The overall objective of the IPPC-China

project is to bring more innovative ways and means for strengthening capacity of IPPC developing CPs so as to further implementation of the Convention, and covers four work packages.

## MARCH

### 26 February–3 March

Ketevan Lomsadze, Implementation Facilitation Officer of the IPPC Secretariat held a mission to Moldova within the framework of the TCP/MOL/3502 Support for Adaption and Implementation of Integrated Pest Management in Moldova. The project supports the development and implementation of a national programme on adoption and promotion of integrated pest management (IPM). The phytosanitary component of this project, strengthening capacities of the Phytosanitary Service of the National Food Safety Agency (ANSA), was delegated to the IPPC Secretariat. The specific goal was to provide technical assistance for the application of the PCE tool and elaborating of the phytosanitary capacity development strategic plan, and for the identification of necessary tools and equipment for the improvement of the inspection and quarantine service. The phytosanitary component of the project was finalized. Nine PCE modules were applied and the Phytosanitary capacity development strategic plan was developed. The approved strategic plan will be adopted as an official national strategy. It will be available in three languages: Moldavian, Russian and English and shared with international organizations and donors to streamline technical assistance provided to Moldova.

### 1 March

The public agenda for the SC meeting, to be held from 8 to 12 May 2017 in Rome, was posted as well as the draft ISPMs that will be discussed at the SC meeting. They are available for contracting parties (CPs) and the regional plant protection organizations (RPPOs) at the IPP in the restricted area.

### 12–18 March

The ePhyto Steering Group (ESG) and Project Technical Committee met at the World Trade Organization, Geneva, Switzerland from 12 to 18 March to advance development of the ePhyto Solution. The ESG members reviewed the specifications for the ePhyto hub and generic ePhyto national system (GeNS) with the IPPC's service provider,

the United Nations International Computing Centre (UNICC). It is expected that countries with existing national systems which have committed to participating in the pilot will be able to begin exchanges of electronic phytosanitary certificates by the third quarter of 2017. The ESG also worked on finalizing the mapping of phytosanitary certificate information to the proposed electronic certificate based upon the standardized structure in ISPM 12. The ESG also discussed collaboration with CITES, Codex and the World Bank as they embark on electronic certification between competent authorities.

### 20 March

Two SC e-decision closed on the 20 March and the following draft diagnostic protocols (DPs) were considered:

1. Responses to comments and the draft DP for *Phytophthora ramorum* (2004-013) to be submitted to the DP notification period (2017\_eSC\_May\_09); and
2. Draft DP *Puccinia psidii* (2006-018) to be submitted to first consultation (2017\_eSC\_May\_10).

The SC considered the drafts and approved the Draft DP *Puccinia psidii* (2006-018) to be submitted to first consultation, and suggested some additions to the draft DP for *Phytophthora ramorum* (2004-013). These changes were incorporated and will be discussed in a new e-decision.

### 15–17 March

The mission to Kenya to introduce the process for the application of the Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE) tool in Kenya related to the implementation of MTF/GLO/527/STF was undertaken by Orlando Sosa, Implementation Facilitation Unit Leader at the IPPC Secretariat. The mission was a response to discussions with Kenya over the possibility of the application of the PCE. The IPPC Secretariat is currently in the second phase of implementation of the above mentioned project to train PCE facilitators. The IPPC fielded one of the trained PCE facilitators (Mr Mwape) to support the mission. Together with the PCE facilitator, Orlando Sosa held a workshop and planning meeting with officers of the Kenya Plant health inspectorate Service (KEPHIS). The following activities were performed within the mission framework: (i) training on the implementation of the PCE and strategic planning; (ii) the PCE facilitator delivered several core training sessions and validated the training received under the MTF/GLO/527/STF; and (iii) the team agreed on a plan of action for the application of the PCE and in particular to link it to the ongoing strategic planning process of KEPHIS.

**20–22 March**

The mission to introduce the PCE process to Plant Protection experts from Somalia related to the implementation of TCP/SOM/3601 was undertaken by Orlando Sosa, Implementation Facilitation Unit Leader at the IPPC Secretariat. The experts came from Somaliland, Puntland and Mogadishu. The meeting was held in Kenya at the facilities of KEPHIS. The project aims to build capacity of the regulatory authorities in Somalia to address emerging pest risks and to reduce the impact of pests on food security and livelihoods of farmers. The meeting involved providing an overview of the IPPC, international legal framework, and overview of select IPPC standards as well as an overview of the application of the PCE. Manuals were provided to the experts as well as information to source additional materials for capacity development. Somalia is not yet a contracting party to the IPPC. It is hoped that through this project Somalia will be a step closer to becoming a contracting party. The project also envisions providing legal opinion on draft legislation that has been prepared.

**22 March**

An IPPC-SPS side event on trade facilitation was organized at the margins of the 58th Regular SPS committee meeting with the presence of over 60 participants. Kenza Le Mentec, STDF Secretariat representative, chaired the side event. Ketevan Lomsadze, Implementation Facilitation Officer at the IPPC Secretariat, delivered a presentation on the IPPC trade related guides, covering Market access, Transit, Export certification and Import verification. Kenneth Msiska, Head of the Plant Quarantine and Phytosanitary Service of Zambia, shared a success story on market access to South Africa and China. Philip Njoroge, Head of Trade and Standards Division of KEPHIS, presented KEPHIS' experience enhancing compliance of its phytosanitary system, in line with the IPPC requirements.

**22–23 March**

The 68<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting of the WTO–SPS Committee was held at WTO HQ in Geneva, Switzerland. The main objectives and activities of the meeting covered: 1) information sharing; 2) specific trade concerns; 3) operation and implementation of the SPS agreement; 4) technical assistance and cooperation; 5) concerns with private and commercial standards; 6) cross-cutting issue; 7) the future activities; and 8) an IPPC-SPS side event

on the IPPC Guide for Trade Facilitation. Jingyuan Xia, IPPC Secretary, attended the meeting, and briefed the participants about the major activities and achievements of the IPPC for 2016, and the main perspectives of the IPPC for 2017. During the meeting, the IPPC project on ePhyto funded STDF received a great interest by WTO member countries.

**29 March**

The 6<sup>th</sup> IPPC Seminar on “Stop the Red Palm Weevil: Contribution of the IPPC to prevent the spread of this pest” took place in the FAO HQs in Rome. The seminar was chaired by Jingyuan Xia, IPPC Secretary, with opening remarks presented by the Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to the FAO, H.E. Mohammed Ahmed M. Alghamdi. The seminar was attended by over 120 participants, including Permanent Representatives to FAO, government officers, researchers, and FAO staff from various FAO departments. Dr. Michel Ferry (Scientific Director of the Phoenix Research Station) made a presentation on lessons learned from the management of the RPW. Sarah Brunel, Implementation Facilitation Officer, gave a presentation on the IPPC's role in the effective management of the RPW. Dr Fethia Helalli (Plant Protection Expert from the Tunisian NPPO) gave a presentation on the Tunisian experience in managing RPW. Dr. Mekki Chouibani (Executive Director of the Near East and North Africa Plant Protection Organization) presented on the regional perspectives of RPW management in Maghreb countries.

**APRIL****3 April**

A bilateral meeting between the IPPC Secretariat and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency was held at the Oakwood Hotel in Incheon, the Republic of Korea, just before the CPM 12. The delegation of the IPPC, led by Jingyuan Xia, IPPC Secretary, was composed of Craig Fedchock, IPPC Advisor, Brent Larson, Standards Setting Unit Lead, Orlando Sosa, Implementation Facilitation Unit Leader, Shane Sela, ePhyto Project Manager, and Marko Benovic, Budget and Planning Officer. The Canadian delegation, headed by Darlene Blair, Chief Plant Health Officer, also included Marie-Claude Forest, National Manager of Standard Setting, Reem Barakat, Deputy Director, and Dominique Pelletier, Senior Policy Analyst. The main objective of the meeting was to discuss possible

funding from Canada for further support of the IPPC work programme. Based on the conversation, Xia and Blair agreed to cooperate further on ePhyto, standard setting, emergent pest issue, and the Implementation Review and Support System (IRSS).

### **3 April**

The CPM Finance Committee (FC) meeting was held around the 12<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM-12) in Incheon, the Republic of Korea. The meeting was chaired by Marie-Claude Forest, FC Chair, opened by Jingyuan Xia, IPPC Secretary, and attended by Lois Ransom, CPM Chair, Ralf Lopian, FC Member, Craig Fedchock, IPPC Advisor, and Marko Benovic, Budget and Planning Officer. The main objectives and tasks of this FC meeting were to review budget performance of the IPPC Secretariat for 2016, Work Plan and Budget (WPB) of the IPPC Secretariat for 2017, and the resource mobilization of the IPPC Secretariat for 2106; and to discuss a sustainable funding mechanism for the IPPC Work Programme.

### **3-4 and 11 April**

The CPM Bureau meeting was held around the 12<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM-12) in Incheon, the Republic of Korea. The meeting was chaired by Lois Ransom, CPM Chair, opened by Jingyuan Xia, IPPC Secretary, and attended by Kyu-Ock Yim (representing Asia), Corné van Alphen (representing Europe), Francisco Javier Trujillo (representing Latin America and Caribbean), Kamal El Din Abdelmohammed Ameen Bakr (representing Near East) and Marie-Claude Forest (representing North America), as well as the Core Team Members of the IPPC Secretariat, including Craig Fedchock, IPPC Advisor, Brent Larson, Standards Setting Unit Lead, Orlando Sosa, Implementation Facilitation Unit Leader, Dorota Buzon, Integration and Support Officer and Lead of IST, and Marko Benovic, Budget and Planning Officer. Pre CPM-12 meeting focused on the organizational arrangements for the CPM-12. Post CPM-12 meeting was dedicated to discussions on issues arising from the CPM-12 requiring future Bureau actions.

### **5-11 April**

The 12<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM-12) was successfully held in Incheon, the Republic of Korea. This was the first CPM in the history of the IPPC that was organized outside of FAO-HQ. Kundhavi

Kadiresan, Assistant Director General of RAP-FAO, delivered opening remarks. Both Jae-Soo Kim, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs of the Republic of Korea, and Jeong-Bok Yoo, Mayor of Incheon City, presented welcome addresses. The opening ceremony of CPM-12 was attended by Kunio Mikuriya, Secretary General of the World Customs Organization, Bong-Kyun Park, Commissioner of Animal and Plant Quarantine Agency of the Republic of Korea, Lois Ransom, CPM Chair, and Jingyuan Xia, IPPC Secretary. Over 250 participants participated in CPM-12, representing 121 contracting parties, nine regional plant protection organizations and 20 observer organizations. In his conclusion remarks, IPPC Secretary highlighted ten major achievements of CPM-12. The Secretary also expressed his sincere gratitude to all participants, the Korean government, all CPM Bureau members, and entire IPPC Secretariat staff, for their active participation, generous support, positive contribution, and fantastic teamwork to make this historical event so successful, fruitful and memorable.

### **5 April**

Kunio Mikuriya, Secretary General of the World Customs Organization (WCO), delivered a keynote address on 2017 IPPC Annual Theme "Plant Health and Trade Facilitation" at CPM-12 held in Incheon, the Republic of Korea. The Secretary General highlighted the timeliness of the IPPC annual theme for 2017 as the WTO Agreement on Trade Facilitation incorporating the provision of border agency cooperation had entered in force in February 2017. The Secretary General affirmed the importance of closer cooperation between Customs and phytosanitary agencies in relation to trade facilitation, and recognized that the WCO and IPPC are similarly involved in standard setting, implementation and information exchange activities. Mikuriya's keynote address was highly appreciated by all participants at CPM-12 as it emphasized the importance of the IPPC mission to protect the world's plant resources from pests and facilitate safe trade in plants and plant products.

### **8 April**

Five side sessions were organized during CPM-12. All side sessions were opened by Jingyuan Xia, IPPC Secretary, and attended by all participants for the CPM-12. The side session on Benefits of the IPPC was presented by Leanne Stewart, Implementation Facilitation Officer, Ron Campbell, representing the Mexican Hass Avocado Importers Association, Luca Tasciotti, representing the

School of Oriental and African Studies, and Elissaios Papyrakis, representing the International Institute of Social Studies of the Erasmus University of Rotterdam. The side session on IPPC ePhyto was presented by Theresa Morissey, representing the World Bank, and Shane Sela ePhyto Project Manager. The side session on IPPC relations with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) was presented by Junko Shimura, representing CBD, and Melanie Bateman, representing Centre for Agriculture and Biosciences International. The side session on the EU plant health regime was presented by Harry Arijis, representing the European Commission. The side session on the IPPC in Asia was presented by Yongfan Piao, representing Asia & Pacific Plant Protection Commission, and Kyu-Ock Yim representing the Republic of Korea.

#### **8 April**

A reception was organized at the Oakwood Hotel in Incheon, the Republic of Korea for celebration of the 65<sup>th</sup> of The IPPC, with presence of all participants of CPM-12. The reception was chaired by Craig Fedchock, IPPC Advisor, and opened by Jingyuan Xia, IPPC Secretary. After Bong-Kyun Park, Commissioner of Animal and Plant Quarantine Agency (APQA), MAFRA of the Republic of Korea, delivered a welcome address, the Secretary presented the Commissioner with an Appreciation Certificate from the IPPC to thank APQA for the generous support to and excellent organization of CPM-12. Ralf Lopian, the IPPC Contact Point of Finland, made complimentary remarks on the great contribution of John Hedley (New Zealand) to the IPPC. Hedley gave a speech on the successful history of the IPPC. After Hedley's address, Lois Ransom, CPM Chair, presented an Appreciation Certificate from the IPPC to Hedley for recognition of his long-term contribution to the IPPC.

#### **10 April**

A Special Topic Session covering the IPPC Recommendation on e-commerce and trade in plant and plant products was organized by the IPPC Secretariat at the CPM-12 in Incheon, the Republic of Korea. The Special Session was opened by Jingyuan Xia, IPPC Secretary, chaired by Craig Fedchock, IPPC Advisor, and attended by over 200 participants of CPM-12. The primary objective of this session was to make known and discuss experiences on e-commerce with regard to existing mechanisms for identifying e-commerce traders and products of concern, promotion

of compliance by customers and traders, strengthening coordination with postal and express courier services and investigating phytosanitary risks posed by distance selling. The Special Session brought together a range of stakeholders associated with e-commerce, including Sarah Brunel, Implementation Facilitation Officer, Marième Fall, representing WTO, Michele Medina, representing WCO, Junko Shimura, representing CBD, Carlos Grau Tanner, representing Global Express Association, Mike Carson, representing e-Bay Regulatory Policy Group, Kim Ritman, the IPPC Contact Point of Australia and Hong-Sook Park, representing NPPO of the Republic of Korea.

#### **12-13 April**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the International Year of Plant Health Steering Committee (IYPH StC) was held in Incheon, the Republic of Korea. The meeting was chaired by Ralf Lopian, opened by Jingyuan Xia, IPPC Secretary, and attended by eighteen participants, including representatives from seven FAO regions as well as the IPPC Secretariat members. The IYPH StC elected Kyu-Ock Yim from the Republic of Korea as the new vice-chairperson and renewed the membership of the working groups on finances and on communications and partnerships. The IYPH StC reviewed the action list arising from the first meeting, and planned ahead for the future steps. The main meeting outcomes included: a new IYPH communications work plan; advancements in the discussion over the IYPH resource mobilization and partnerships; and arrangements for the proposed IYPH side event at the upcoming 40<sup>th</sup> Session of the FAO Conference.

#### **25 April**

The Virtual Meeting of the Technical Panel for Phytosanitary Treatments (TPPT) took place. The TPPT was informed of the outcomes of CPM-12 and that 10 phytosanitary treatments (PT) had been adopted, and one PT received an objection. Comments from contracting parties were considered and the proposed responses to objections on the PT: Heat treatment of wood using dielectric heating (2007-114) were discussed. Preliminary research results comparing the three populations of *Bactrocera dorsalis* for tolerance to Vapor Heat Treatments in mangoes was briefly discussed and how the results would impact the revision of the draft PT: Vapour heat treatment for *Bactrocera dorsalis* on *Carica papaya* (2009-109).

**24–26 April**

The representatives of the IPPC Secretariat and the Regional FAO Office for the Near East and North Africa, participated in the workshop “International Plant Protection Convention, its standards and implementation in relation to the management of the Red Palm Weevil”, held in the Republic of Iraq. The activity was carried out in support of the project TCP/IRQ/3602: Technical Support for surveillance and management of the Red Palm Weevil in Iraq. During the Workshop the IPPC was introduced to participants including, the international legal framework, IPPC Standards, capacity building tools and resources for standards implementation. The meeting was attended by 32 participants from the Iraqi Ministry of Agriculture.

**28 April–2 May**

The first workshop for Barbados’ Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE) was held in Bridgetown, Barbados. Sarah Brunel, Implementation Facilitation Officer and Fitzroy White, PCE Facilitator, facilitated the multi stakeholder workshop, bringing together participants from the Ministry of Agriculture, researchers, and farmer’s representative. Workshop participants were trained in problem and SWOT analysis, and began the initial stages of the PCE gap analysis. Participants were also informed of the PCE process and were tasked with completing PCE modules related to the establishment of an NPPO, and diagnostics.

**MAY****30 April–6 May**

The second stage of the Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE) was conducted in the Republic of Madagascar with the support of Sarah Brunel, Implementation Facilitation Officer, and Alphonsine Louhouari, PCE Facilitator. This activity was part of the IPPC’s intervention in the project “Africa Solidarity Trust Fund (ASTF): Strengthening controls of food safety threats, plant and animal pests and diseases for agricultural productivity and trade in Southern Africa”. Workshop participants were trained in analytical methods, and PCE module outcomes were reviewed. National phytosanitary legislation was also reviewed and discussed.

**2 May**

Four SC e-decisions closed with the following topics considered: 1) approval for the draft diagnostic protocol

DP for *Xylella fastidiosa* (2004-024) to be submitted to first consultation; 2) approval of the responses to comments and the draft (DP) for *Phytophthora ramorum* (2004-013) to be submitted to the DP notification period; 3) approval of the responses to objection and the draft DP for Tomato spotted wilt virus, Impatiens necrotic spot virus and Watermelon silver mottle virus (2004-019) for the DP notification period; and 4) selection of members for the Expert Working Group (EWG) on Authorization of entities to perform phytosanitary actions (2014-002). The Standards Committee (SC) considered and approved the three draft DPs for consultation and DP notification period respectively and the members of the EWG were selected.

**2–5 May**

Orlando Sosa, Implementation Facilitation Unit Leader, together with Leanne Stewart, Implementation Facilitation Officer, participated in the “Tackling Environmental Issues” meeting held in Buenos Aires, the Argentine Republic. The meeting brought together plant health and environmental protection experts to identify ways the IPPC can assist contracting parties to access funding to implement environmental aspects of the Convention.

**8–12 May**

Shane Sela, ePhyto Project Manager, together with World Bank Group’s representatives participated in a series of technical discussions with a number of government ministries in the Independent State of Samoa on the implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA). The team met with officials of the Ministry of Revenue, Customs; the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and Development, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Samoan Quarantine Service, and the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labour. The main focus of the meetings was the specific technical assistance needs of the government on implementing key areas of the TFA, such as understanding between border agencies, improved access to trade requirements and the adoption of a Single Window, as well as on the implementation of the ePhyto Solution and its direct linkages to improving border procedures.

**8–12 May**

The SC, chaired by the newly elected Chairperson Ezequiel Ferro (the Argentine Republic), approved three draft International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs) to be submitted to the 2017 consultation (from



1 July to 30 September). These included the ISPMs on requirements for cut flowers and foliage in international trade, for the use of fumigation treatments as a phytosanitary measure and the 2017 amendments to the Glossary of phytosanitary terms (ISPM 5). The draft ISPM on grain was discussed and the SC agreed that the draft needs further discussion by the SC, both on-line and at the next SC meeting. The SC finalized the selection of experts for two Expert Working Groups who will draft new ISPMs on the authorization of entities to perform phytosanitary activities and on the revision of ISPM 8 (*Determination of pest status in an area*). The SC reviewed and approved the activities of the Technical Panels for the period from May 2016 to April 2017 and further plans for the Panels for 2017. The SC assigned several new stewards to the ISPM topics and also discussed the use of NGS (New Generation Sequencing) in phytosanitary diagnostics, the International Year of Plant Health 2020, interactions between the Standards Committee and the newly established subsidiary body of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures, the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee, and some potential implementation issues for newly adopted ISPMs.

#### **15–19 May**

The SC working group (SC-7), led by the Chairperson, Nico Horn (The Kingdom of the Netherlands), met at FAO-HQs for an intense and fruitful week. Participants had detailed and in-depth discussions on the draft standards that were commented upon by IPPC Official contact points during the first consultation. The SC-7 approved four draft standards for submission to the second consultation period (1 July – 30 September 2017, through the Online Comment System): 1) draft 2016 Amendments to ISPM 5 for Glossary of Phytosanitary Terms; 2) Revision of ISPM 6 for Surveillance; 3) requirements for the use of temperature treatments as a phytosanitary measure; and 4) draft revisions to ISPM 15 (*Regulation of wood packaging material in international trade*) – Annex 1 and 2 for inclusion of the sulphuryl fluoride fumigation phytosanitary treatment of wood packaging material and the revision of the dielectric heating section in Annex 1 of ISPM 15.

#### **15–19 May**

The tenth and final meeting of the Capacity Development Committee was held in Tokyo, Japan. IFU Lead and its team members (Orlando Sosa, Ketevan Lomsadze, and

Leanne Stewart) updated members on the phytosanitary capacity and implementation activities performed at the national, regional and global level. The group discussed the outcomes of the 12th session of the CPM as well as current and future capacity development and implementation activities. Modalities and general preparation activities for the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee were also discussed.

#### **29 May–9 June**

A two-week training course was facilitated by Sarah Brunel, Implementation Facilitation Officer and hosted by CIHEAM-IAM Bari in Italy. The course provided 16 participants with an overview of the IPPC and its standards, in addition to the role and functioning of NPPO, technical training in areas such as plant quarantine, pest risk analyses, and import and export regulations related standards amongst others.

## **JUNE**

#### **1–2 June**

For further strengthening of bilateral cooperation between the IPPC and the European Commission (EC), Jingyuan Xia, the IPPC Secretary, led a delegation from the IPPC Secretariat (composed of Craig Fedchock, IPPC Advisor, Orlando Sosa, Implementation Facilitation Unit Leader, Marko Benovic, Budget and Planning Officer and Tommaso Teti, Project Management Associate) to pay an official visit to the EC headquarters in Brussels, Belgium. The IPPC delegates held a series of the meetings with DG DEVCO, DG TRADE, DG SANTE and DG ENV as well as FAOLOB – FAO Liaison Office in Brussels. The IPPC delegates met with Hans Stausboll, Head of Unit 2 from DG DEVCO, Zoltân Somogyi (Head of Unit 3 from DG TRADE) and Francisco Tristante (Policy Officer at Unit 3 from DG TRADE), as well as Harry Arijs (Deputy Head of Unit G1 from DG SANTE) and Roman Vagner (Policy Officer at Unit G1 from DG SANTE). The IPPC delegates held a meeting with Humberto Delgado Rosa (Director of Directorate D – Natural Capital from DG ENV) and Stefan Leiner (Head of Unit on Biodiversity at Directorate D from DG ENV). Finally, the IPPC delegates met with Cristina Amaral (Director of FAOLOB) and her colleagues Zoé Druilhe, Susana Gaona Saez and Isabel Denis. The topic discussed range from trade (regional trade facilitation, trade standards, sanitary and phytosanitary standards,

and capacity building) to environment (biodiversity conservation, sustainable agriculture, climate change, and ecosystem management).

## 2 June

To strengthen bilateral cooperation between the IPPC and the WCO in order to promote safe and efficient trade in plants and plant products, Jingyuan Xia, the IPPC Secretary, led a delegation (composed of Craig Fedchock, IPPC Advisor, Orlando Sosa, Implementation Facilitation Unit Leader, Marko Benovic, Budget and Planning Officer and Tommaso Teti, Project Management Associate) to pay an official visit to the WCO headquarters in Brussels, Belgium. The IPPC delegate held a meeting with Ernani Checcucci (Director of Capacity Building Directorate), Alan Harrison (Executive Officer in charge of Member Relations), and David Kane (Technical Attaché). The main objective of the meeting was to discuss the Memorandum of Understanding for Bilateral Cooperation between the IPPC and the WCO. Through the meeting, four key areas were agreed for cooperation: 1) e-commerce and ePhyto; 2) single window and big data; 3) Sea Containers and the relevant packaging issues; and 4) communication and advocacy.

## 5 June

The IPPC Secretariat issued a call for phytosanitary treatments in February 2017. Until 05 June 2017, 25 submissions had arrived from Australia, Belgium, China, Czech Republic, Mexico, South Africa, USA, and the New Zealand. The submissions were assigned TPPT members as leads, and they were evaluated in terms of suitability to become international standard and also prioritized based on the Criteria for justification and prioritization of proposed topics. The top priority submissions will be discussed by the TPPT in July 2017, if time allows, other submissions will be reviewed in order of priority and pending on availability of resources.

## 6–10 June

Orlando Sosa, Implementation Facilitation Unit Leader, oversaw the facilitation and training of PCE workshops for Somalia and Kenya in Nairobi as part of the implementation of project MTF/GLO/527STF. PCE facilitator Chiluba Mwape supported the facilitation and training of this workshop as part of the validation process for his training under the stdf401 project "Training of Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE) Trainers". Representatives from Somalia and Puntland were trained

on the method of problem analysis, SWOT analysis and the Logical Framework Approach. Core training components of the PCE were delivered to the Kenyan KEPHIS workshop participants.

## 12–16 June

An Expert Working Group to draft an International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM) on authorization of entities to perform phytosanitary actions took place in Ottawa, Canada. The meeting was hosted by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency and chaired by Gordon Henry (Canada). Eleven participants, including experts from around the world gathered to discuss and deliberate on what elements should be included in this standard. The result was a draft standard that provides a framework to enable national plant protection organizations (NPPOs) to develop and implement a programme for the authorization of entities to perform specific phytosanitary actions.

## 13 June

A virtual meeting of the Technical Panel for Forestry Quarantine (TPFQ) was held to review the TPFQ work programme for 2017–2018, with the main remaining point being the finalization of the draft revision of ISPM 15 – criteria for treatments for wood packaging material in international trade (2006-010). Discussion on the science that supports this draft will be a topic of discussion at the meeting of the International Forestry Quarantine Research Group (IFQRG) which is scheduled for October 2017.

## 13 June

Four SC e-decisions closed on the approval of the following draft diagnostic protocols (DPs) for consultation: 1) Draft DP: *Bactrocera dorsalis* complex (2006-026); 2) Draft DP: *Conotrachelus nenuphar* (2013-002); 3) Draft DP: Revision of DP 2 *Plum pox virus* (2016-007); and 4) Draft DP: *Ips* spp. (2006-020). After some minor revision, all four draft DPs were approved for consultation.

## 14 June

A successful brainstorming session on plant health and trade facilitation was conducted by the IPPC Secretariat in FAO-HQs. This is one of the activities undertaken within the context of 2017 as the IPPC year of Plant Health and Trade Facilitation, in preparation of the IYPH in 2020. The main objectives of the brainstorming were to

reflect on the importance of plant health for facilitating safe trade, and to collect ideas and information on the topics that will be further addressed at the upcoming IPPC seminars on plant health and trade facilitation. The brainstorming session was chaired by Jingyuan Xia, the IPPC Secretary, and attended by all staff of the IPPC Secretariat. Five keynote presentations were at the brainstorming: a) on the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) and the IPPC; b) on the Promotion of Standard Setting for Trade Facilitation; c) on the Promotion of Standard Implementation for Trade Facilitation; d) on the Promotion of Dispute Settlement for Trade Facilitation; and e) on the Promotion of International Cooperation for Trade Facilitation. The presentations were followed by an open discussion in the context of the IPPC 2017 year of Plant Health and Trade Facilitation.

#### **19–20 June**

Leanne Stewart, Implementation Facilitation Officer, met with Cecile Kusters of the Centre for Development and Innovation, at Wageningen University in the Netherlands, to continue the development of the draft IPPC Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for the Implementation and Support Review System (IRSS). A draft matrix, and Theory of Change diagrams were reviewed and updated. A programme was outlined in preparation for a future stakeholder engagement meeting.

#### **19 June**

CPM Financial Committee (FC) met in Washington DC, USA. The meeting was chaired by Marie-Claude Forest, FC Chair (Canada), and opened by Jingyuan Xia, IPPC Secretary. The participants of the meeting included Lois Ransom (CPM Chair, Australia), Lucien Koume (FC and Bureau member, Côte d'Ivoire) and Corné van Alphen (Bureau member, the Netherlands), as well as of Craig Fedchock, IPPC Advisor, Orlando Sosa, Implementation Facilitation Unit Leader, Marko Benovic, Budget and Planning Officer from the IPPC Secretariat. The main activities of this FC meeting were to review the action points of the last FC meeting, and the progress of Resource Mobilization of the IPPC Secretariat for 2017; and to discuss the work plan and budget (WPB) of the IPPC secretariat for 2018 and 2019, sustainable funding initiative for the IPPC work programme, financial implications of CPM-12 decisions on the IPPC work plan and budget, and other financial issues related to functioning of the Convention.

#### **20–23 June**

The CPM Bureau met for its annual June meeting in Washington DC, USA. The meeting was chaired by Lois Ransom, the CPM Chair, and opened by Jingyuan Xia the IPPC Secretary. The meeting was attended by the Bureau members of Lucien Koume, Marie-Claude Forest, Francisco Trujillo, Corné van Alphen and Kyu-Ock Yim, as well as the IPPC Secretariat core team members of Craig Fedchock, IPPC Advisor, Orlando Sosa, Implementation Facilitation Unit Leader, Brent Larson, Standards Setting Unit Lead, Dorota Buzon, IST Officer in Charge, Marko Benovic, Budget and Planning Officer. The Director of the FAO Liaison Office Vimlendra Sharadan welcomed the CPM Bureau Members and the IPPC Secretariat staff to the premises of FAO Liaison Office in Washington DC. The main objectives and activities of this Bureau meeting were: 1) to update the progress report of the IPPC Secretariat for 2017, review Bureau Report in March, brief CPM Financial Committee meeting in June, and follow up implementation of ePhyto pilot project; 2) to discuss in depth a variety of issues, such as criteria for joint call for phytosanitary issues, IYPH 2020 and International Day of Plant Health, establishment of task force for sea containers and IPPC stakeholder's advisory body, and sustainable funding mechanism for the IPPC work programme; 3) to plan for CPM 13 in 2018, and SPG in October 2017; and 4) to organize a special session on eCommerce.

#### **20–23 June**

The 8th MEA IKM Steering Committee Meeting was held in Montreux, Switzerland, with participation from UNEP, CMS, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, CBD, CITES, International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, RAMSAR, European Commission, FAO, UNITAR. Paola Sentinelli, Information Management Officer, attended the meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to obtain the MEA members' guidance in the context of the further development of InforMEA and the implementation of the InforMEA Phase II project which started implementation since the last Steering Committee Meeting.

#### **21 June**

The first meeting of the AGD/AGF Publishing Advisory Board took place at FAO HQs in Rome. The newly established body, composed of six members including Mirko Montuori, Public Information Officer, as the IPPC Representative,

will be in charge to review all publications in the AGD and AGF Divisions under the FAO Department of Agriculture and Consumers Protection. In the first meeting, the AGA Editorial Board representatives shared their experience, while the new board's Terms of Reference were approved and a new publishing process was established.

### **27 June**

The Language Review Groups (LRGs) established for Spanish, French, Chinese, Arabic and Russian were invited to review the language versions of standards adopted at CPM-12 (2017). LRGs should submit comments through their LRG Coordinators to the IPPC Secretariat within three months and the reviewed ISPMs, along with comments, will be submitted to FAO Translation Services. According to the CPM-12 (2017) revised LRG procedure, the resulting modified ISPMs will be posted on the IPP and the IPPC Secretariat will notify all contracting parties. In the following year, the CPM will be invited to note the specific standards which were adjusted but will no longer be presented to CPM saving a tremendous amount of effort by the Secretariat.

### **27–28 June**

The IPPC ePhyto Industry Advisory Group (IAG) meeting was held in Washington DC, USA. The meeting was chaired by Gerard Meijerink, IAG Chair (International Seed Federation), and opened by Jingyuan Xia, IPPC Secretary, with presence of over 20 participants from IAG organizations, several relevant Embassies in DC, USDA, and the IPPC Secretariat. The meeting for the first day was hosted by the North American Export Grain Association (NAEGA) in Washington DC. The main activities of the meeting were to apprise the IAG of the latest developments in the IPPC ePhyto project, as well as to brainstorm on a number of ideas related to ensuring the success of the effort, including identifying industry business requirements associated with facilitating trade at the border. The meeting for the second day was hosted by the Embassy of Canada in Washington DC. The main activities of the meeting were to brief the importance and progress of the IPPC ePhyto project and to discuss the implementation of the pilot project for the next step by highlighting key role of the government support.

### **29 June**

The IPPC delegation led by Jingyuan Xia, the IPPC Secretary and including Craig Fedchock, IPPC Advisor

and Shane Sela, e-phyto Project Manager, met with the World Bank (WB) team composed of Klaus Tilmes, Director of Trade & Competitiveness Global Practice, Jose Guilherme Reis, Practice Manager of Trade, and William Gain, Global Product Specialist for Trade Facilitation & Border Management. The discussion was focused on the possible cooperation of the IPPC with the WB in the areas of improving border agency collaboration, advancing trade facilitation, and promoting electronic certification and relevant issues in SPS diagnostics.

## **JULY**

### **3 July**

Jingyuan Xia, IPPC Secretary, held a meeting with Melvin Spreij, the Secretary of the Standard Trade Development Facility (STDF) at FAO-HQ, in Rome, Italy. IPPC Implementation Facilitation Unit Leader Orlando Sosa, Implementation Facilitation Officer, Sarah Brunel, and e-Phyto Project Associate, Laura Vicaria participated in the meeting. The meeting's objective was to discuss all IPPC projects funded by the STDF as well as further cooperation between the IPPC with the STDF. The STDF-funded IPPC ePhyto Solution project was discussed with a focus on its progress and potential in trade facilitation. The group also reviewed the current status of the IPPC STDF401 project "Training of Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE) Facilitators". Mr Xia drew the attention to the two planned IPPC Seminars on Plant Health and Trade Facilitation, tentatively scheduled for 11-12 October 2017 during the CPM-SPG meeting. Mr Spreij was pleased to accept the IPPC Secretary invitation to deliver a keynote address to these important IPPC events.

### **4 July**

The Government of Finland and the IPPC Secretariat jointly organized a reception for promotion of an IYPH in 2020 at the margins of the 40<sup>th</sup> Session of the FAO Conference in Rome. Over 80 participants gathered at the reception, including government officials and representatives, FAO management and staff. The reception was chaired and opened by Aulikki Hulmi, Director for International Relations at the Finnish Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. Andrew Doyle, Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Ireland; and Ren Wang, FAO Assistant Director-General, presented keynote addresses, respectively. Jingyuan Xia, IPPC Secretary delivered a

welcome address that was followed by a brief on IYPH in 2020 by Ralf Lopian, IPPC Contact Point for Finland and Chairperson of the IPPC Steering Committee for IYPH, and a demonstration of the IYPH video.

### **5 July**

The 40<sup>th</sup> Session of the FAO Conference, the governing body of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, approved a resolution on declaration of the year 2020 as the International Year of Plant Health (IYPH 2020). During the meeting, several delegations stated that the IYPH 2020 is an indispensable tool to reach several of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Particularly, the global objective to reach zero hunger has been indicated to be correlated with the good plant health situations, in addition, the global economic development and poverty alleviation were considered to be positively influenced by plant health and its effects on safe international trade.

### **5 July**

Jingyuan Xia (IPPC Secretary), together with Tommaso Teti met Maya Federman (Alternate of the Permanent Representation of Israel to the FAO/WFP/IFAD) and David Opatowski (Minister Counsellor Agricultural Affairs of Israel). The objective of this meeting was to evaluate possible collaborations between IPPC and Israel on specific issues and themes, as well as to evaluate a possible funding or technical support from Israel. Follow-up actions on the meeting outcomes will be undertaken by the Permanent Representation, who will examine with the relevant authorities their possible support to the issues discussed in the meeting.

### **6 July**

Jingyuan Xia, IPPC Secretary, held a meeting with Michael Keller, Secretary General of International Seed Federation (ISF) and Dennis Johnson, Seed Health Manager of ISF, at FAO-HQ, in Rome, Italy. IPPC Standards Setting Unit Lead Brent Larson and Integration and Support Officer, Dorota Buzon as well as IPPC Focus Point of Finland, Ralf Lopian participated in the meeting. The meeting's objective was to discuss the possibilities for strengthening the cooperation between the IPPC and the ISF. As results of the discussion, four areas were identified for the further bilateral cooperation as follows: 1) ISF comments on Draft Standards (i.e. Accreditation of entities and Audits); 2) IPPC and ISF jointly organize a special session

to promote the implementation of ISPM 38 during the IPPC Regional Workshops for 2018; 3) ISF supports to the IYPH initiative in several ways, such as financial assistance and participation in relevant IYPH activities;; and 4) IFS will be continuously engaged in supporting IPPC ePhyto through active participation in its Industry Advisory Group (IAG) activities.

### **10-13 July**

The IPPC Secretariat was represented by Adriana Moreira, Standard Setting Officer, at the second meeting of the Phytosanitary Measures Research Group (PMRG) in Wageningen, the Netherlands. The 2017 PMRG meeting had 25 participants from 14 countries. The Secretariat provided presentations and briefings to the participants, highlighting work of the IPPC Technical Panel on Phytosanitary Treatments (TPPT), the IPPC phytosanitary treatments search tool (to be launched soon), the IPPC call for phytosanitary treatments and the standard setting process, and the necessity for new treatments as alternatives to the methyl bromide. The PMRG, an independent group, was initially established at the IPPC Expert Consultation on Cold Treatments (ECCT) in December 2013 to serve as a forum where critical phytosanitary treatment issues can be addressed through discussion and collaborative research.

### **12-13 July**

The 69<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting of the WTO-SPS Committee was held at WTO HQ in Geneva, Switzerland. Jingyuan Xia, IPPC Secretary, was invited to attend the meeting, where he briefed the participants about the major activities and achievements of the IPPC for 2017 first Semester. The presentation focused mainly on the dissemination of 2017 IPPC annual theme on plant health and trade facilitation, standards setting, standards implementation, implementation of STDF pilot project on ePhyto, and development of IYPH initiative. In response to Mr Xia's briefing, IYPH initiative received a great interest by WTO member countries and the EU. He also held a meeting with Secretaries of the WTO-SPS and the STDF for discussion on arrangement of the IPPC-SPS-STDF Seminar on Plant Health and Trade Facilitation to be held on the 11<sup>th</sup> October 2017 in FAO-HQs during the IPPC-SPG meeting, and a meeting with the representatives from OIE and Codex for discussion on cooperation regarding a wider application of ePhyto and Online Comment System (OCS) among "Three Sisters".

**14 July**

The 2017 Mid-Year meeting of the IPPC Secretariat was held at the FAO HQs in Rome with the aims to present the achievements of the first semester, planning for the second semester, and conducting a teamwork exercise. The meeting was chaired by Jingyuan Xia, the IPPC Secretary and attended by all staff of the Secretariat. Team Leaders Brent Larson, SSU lead, Orlando Sosa, Implementation Facilitation Unit Leader, and Dorota Buzon, IST officer in charge, made briefings for the respective teams, while Marko Benovic and Mirko Montuori presented on behalf of the Task Force for the Resource Mobilization (TFRM) and the Task Force on Communication and Advocacy (TFCA), respectively. Hechu Zhu also presented her work as an intern of the IPPC Secretariat for 2016–2017. Finally, the Secretary Mr Xia made conclusion remarks by highlighting ten major achievements for the first semester and eight core activities for the second semester.

**14 July**

A brainstorming session on teamwork and team spirit was organized during the 2017 Mid-year meeting of the IPPC Secretariat. The brainstorming session was chaired by Jingyuan Xia, the IPPC Secretary, moderated by four keynote presenters, Sarah Brunel, Céline Germain, Piotr Wlodarczyk and Alejandra Jimenez Tabares, and attended by all IPPC Secretariat's staff. The brainstorming was started by a presentation "Teamwork and Team Spirit" developed and delivered by the four keynote presenters. The presentation was followed by an exercise, where the IPPC Secretariat staff members were requested to assess their own personality profiles according to a presented model. The assessment allowed to identify the personality profiles of the IPPC Secretariat's team members and showed the variety of personalities in the team. The brainstorming was concluded by Mr Xia, who emphasized on the importance of teamwork and team spirit by showcasing the positive developments that happened in the IPPC Secretariat in recent years. He further explained why, what, how and who to promote the teamwork and team spirit. He urged the entire Secretariat staff to be actively engaged in and positively contribute to the teamwork and team spirit to move toward "One IPPC".

**17–21 July**

The Technical Panel on Phytosanitary Treatments (TPPT) successfully concluded their annual meeting in Vienna, Austria. The main objective of the meeting was to

revise the draft ISPM on the Requirements for the Use of Modified Atmosphere Treatments as a Phytosanitary Measure (2014-006), discuss the remaining two draft phytosanitary treatments (PTs) on the work program and review as many treatment submission from the 2017-02 Call for phytosanitary treatments as time permits. The Standard Setting Unit was present with the Standards Setting Unit Lead, Brent Larson, who opened the meeting and the Secretariat Lead for the TPPT, Adriana Moreira (Standard Setting Officer), and the support of Janka Kiss (Standard Setting Associate). The meeting was chaired by Matthew Smyth (Australia) and the Rapporteur was Mike Ormsby (New Zealand). Ten TPPT members, two host representatives and the TPPT steward attended the meeting as well as the steward of the ISPM on "Modified Atmosphere Requirements" – a total of 16 participants from six countries and two international organizations.

**17–22 July**

Mirko Montuori, Public Information Officer, took part in the 40<sup>th</sup> Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC40) in Geneva, attended by over 700 countries, NGO and IGO representatives. As OCS Project Manager for IPPC and Codex, he presented the Online Comment System to several international organizations, including OIE, which showed interest in acquiring it. He also took part in the International Governmental Organizations panel discussion, which triggered collaboration among the three sisters of the WTO SPS Agreement and other IGOs on a number of issues, including knowledge sharing on respective standard setting processes, innovative tools and hot topics like Antimicrobial resistance and relevant international years and days. The Codex Alimentarius Commission expressed its support for continuing with panel discussions following a more thematic approach.

**19–23 July**

The ISS-STDF Workshop on Implementation of the ISPM 15 was held from 19 to 23 July 2017 at the headquarters of KEPHIS, Nairobi, Kenya. The objective of the Workshop was to review the results of the study entitled "Implementation of the International Standard on Phytosanitary Measures 15 (Regulation of wood packaging material in international trade): an empirical analysis of how the regulation affects the economy of a group of countries in Africa". Four African countries: Botswana, Cameroon, Kenya and Mozambique, participated in a study carried out by Dr Luca Tasciotti,

School of Oriental and African Studies, and Dr Elissaios Papyrakis, Institute of Social Studies (ISS), with funding provided by the Standard Trade Development Facility (STDF). Twenty participants, including representatives from the national plant protection organizations of the four participating African countries as well as representatives from industry, the STDF and the IPPC Secretariat, attended the Workshop.

## AUGUST

### 7–9 August

The 2017 IPPC Regional Workshop for the South-West Pacific was held in Nadi, the Republic of Fiji. The Workshop was jointly organized by the IPPC Secretariat and the Pacific Community (SPC), and supported financially by the Australian AID. The Workshop was attended by 29 participants from 21 countries belonging to the Pacific Plant Protection Organisation (PPPO). The Workshop was facilitated by Dorota Buzon, Integration and Support Officer from the IPPC Secretariat. A three day Workshop included a group exercise on commenting on three draft international standards for phytosanitary measures under first consultation: 1) International movement of cut flowers and foliage; 2) Requirements for the use of fumigation as a phytosanitary measure; and 3) 2017 Amendments to ISPM 5 (Glossary of phytosanitary terms). Participants were also made familiar with the Online Comment System for draft standards and the latest developments in 2020 IYPH, a call for Phytosanitary Treatments; Emerging issues questionnaire results; Pilot Programme on Surveillance; Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation and Beyond compliance tool. The official launch of the Biosecurity Information Facility Portal (<http://bif.lrd.spc.int/>) took place on the third day.

### 8–9 August

A validation Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation workshop was hosted by FAO Madagascar and facilitated by Sarah Brunel, Implementation Facilitation Officer, and Alphonsine Louhouari, PCE Facilitator. A proposal for phytosanitary legislation and a phytosanitary capacity building strategy was discussed. It was agreed that FAO and the IPPC would continue to support the implementation of phytosanitary activities in accordance with the priorities agreed with the Government of the Republic of Madagascar. This will include phytosanitary

projects stemming from the national strategy and support for resource mobilization to implement the projects.

### 10–11 August

The IPPC National Reporting Obligations Workshop for the South-West Pacific was held in Nadi, the Republic of Fiji. The Workshop was jointly organized by the IPPC Secretariat and the Pacific Community (SPC), and supported financially by the FAO-China South-South Cooperation Programme and the Australian AID. The Workshop was attended by 29 participants from 21 countries belonging to the Pacific Plant Protection Organisation (PPPO). The Workshop was facilitated by Dorota Buzon, Integration and Support Officer, and Paola Sentinelli, Information Management Officer, from the IPPC Secretariat. During the two day Workshop participants were made familiar with basic information on NROs (Public and Bilateral NROs; General and specific NRO rules and procedures; NRO educational materials) and the latest developments in NROs (NROs UPDATE newsletter; the NRO Year of Phytosanitary legislation; new NRO oversight body; e-learning; NRO automatic reminders; NRO statistics) and were given practical advice based on frequently asked questions. The Workshop included a hands-on training of the IPP data entry and upload of reports brought by participants.

### 15 August

The 45-day diagnostic protocol (DP) notification period closed. Two draft DPs (annexes to ISPM 27) were submitted for the notification period: 1) *Phytophthora ramorum* (2004-013); and 2) *Tomato spotted wilt virus*, *Impatiens necrotic spot virus* and *Watermelon silver mottle virus* (2004-019). As no objections were submitted during the notification period, these two DPs were automatically adopted. The two new annexes are part of the suite of 24 DPs that help countries detect and identify pests to help prevent the entry and establishment of pests through commodities traded globally.

### 17 August

Jingyuan Xia, IPPC Secretary, had a meeting with a delegate from the Chinese Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) during his home leave in Beijing, the People's Republic of China. The MOA delegate was composed of Youquan Cheng (DDG of Crop Production Department), Minyu Ning (Division Director of Crop Production Department), Lijun Zhao (Deputy Division Director

of International Cooperation Department), Yang Yu (Division Director of International Cooperation Center) and Xiaodong Feng (Deputy Division Director of National Agro-tech Extension Center). The Main objective of the meeting was to discuss in details the implementation of IPPC Project on Strengthening Capacity of Developing Contracting Parties under the Framework of FAO-China South-South Cooperation Programme. The meeting enabled both sides to better understand why, what and how to conduct the project.

#### **17 August**

The SC e-decision on the selection of a former Sea Container Expert Working Group (EWG) member to participate in the Sea Container Task Force meeting closed. The participation of Nico Horn (the Kingdom of the Netherlands) was approved by the SC.

#### **18 August**

Jingyuan Xia, IPPC Secretary, had a meeting with a delegate from the Chinese Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ) during his home leave in Beijing, the People's Republic of China. The AQSIQ delegate consisted of Jianwei Li (DG of Department of Supervision on Animal and Plant Quarantine), Chaohua Zhang (DDG of Department of Supervision on Animal and Plant Quarantine), and Junwen Lou (Division Director of Department of Supervision on Animal and Plant Quarantine). The Main objective of the meeting was to discuss in details the cooperation of the IPPC with AQSIQ in the area of Sea Containers. There were four major outcomes of the meeting: 1) AQSIQ is very much interested in Sea Container Issues, including development and implementation of the relevant standards; 2) AQSIQ is willing to provide the in-kind contribution to the Sea Container Task Force (SCTF) for the entire period of next five years (2017–2021); 3) AQSIQ is willing to becoming a member of the SCTF so as to share the Chinese expertise, experience and scheme in the field of Sea Container; and 4) AQSIQ is ready to make all relevant preparation for the first SCTF meeting to be held from 6-10 November 2017, in Shanghai, the People's Republic of China.

#### **21–24 August**

The IPPC Regional Workshop for the Near East & North Africa Region was held in Tunis, Tunisia, with participation of 15 Near East and North Africa countries.

The workshop was organized by IPPC Secretariat and the FAO-RNE, and with support of NPPO of the Republic of Tunisia. The workshop aimed at strengthening phytosanitary capacities for effective enforcement of internationally harmonized standards for phytosanitary measures to prevent the introduction of plant pests to their countries, while facilitating the international trade of plant products. It was facilitated by Shoki Al Dobai, Integration and Support Team Leader and Sarah Brunel, Implementation Facilitation Officer.

#### **31 August**

The 2017 consultation on draft specifications closed. Comments were received on the following draft specifications: Audit in the phytosanitary context (2015-014); Focused revision of ISPM 12 (2015-011); Supplement on Guidance on the concept of the likelihood of establishment component of a pest risk analysis for quarantine pests (2015-010) to ISPM 11. The comments were shared with the stewards of the topics. The comments were shared with the stewards of the topics, who will present revised draft specifications to the Standards Committee meeting in November 2017.

## **SEPTEMBER**

#### **4–8 September**

The IPPC Secretariat representative, Adriana Moreira, Standard Setting Officer, assisted in the delivery of the 2017 IPPC Regional Workshop for Latin America which was held in Cusco, Peru. The Workshop was jointly organized by the IPPC Secretariat and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), the regional plant protection organizations (RPPOs) Comunidad Andina (CAN), Comite Regional de Sanidad Vegetal del Cono Sur (COSAVE) and Organismo Internacional Regional de Sanidad Agropecuaria (OIRSA), as well as the Peru national plant protection organization (NPPO), SENASA Peru. A total of 35 participants from 17 countries were present. It was the first time that all RPPOs of the region (CAN, COSAVE and OIRSA) and a RPPO outside of region, NAPPO, as observer, attended the Latin America Regional Workshop. Adriana Moreira representing the IPPC Secretariat highlighted the objectives of regional workshop, noting that it aims at strengthening phytosanitary capacities for effective enforcement of internationally harmonized standards for phytosanitary measures to prevent the introduction



of plant pests to their countries, while facilitating the international trade of plant products. The participants also actively exchanged their experiences at the regional level with discussion surrounding: a) emerging pests with relevance for the region, such as *Schistocerca cancellata*, *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *cubense* race 4 and *Trogoderma granarium*; b) exchange of information on concerns and activities on the relationship between climate change and emerging and re-emerging pests; and c) success stories of implementation of pest control or management from control programs.

### 3–9 September

IPPC Secretariat representatives Orlando Sosa and Ketevan Lomsadze assisted in the delivery and participation of the 2017 IPPC Regional Workshop for Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia in Tbilisi Georgia. The workshop was organized in cooperation with the FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia and the Subregional Office for Central Asia. Twenty-four participants from 18 Contracting Parties reviewed and analysed three draft IPPC ISPMs during the first 2017 consultation period for draft ISPMs. IPPC Representatives presented on IPPC projects and initiatives. The workshop also served as an inception meeting for the IPPC Capacity Development project under the FAO-China South South Cooperation Programme. The objectives and budget of the project were presented to workshop participants.

### 5 September

Jingyuan Xia, IPPC Secretary, had a meeting with Levan Davitashvili, the Minister of Agriculture of Georgia on the occasion of the 2017 IPPC/FAO Regional Workshop for Eastern and Central Europe and Central Asia (CEECA) held 5-8 September 2017 in Tbilisi, Georgia. The Georgian Minister of Agriculture reiterated his Government's commitment to the IPPC and support as the host for the 2017 IPPC/FAO Regional Workshop for CEECA. He also emphasized that, currently, his country is facing a challenge to address the impact of a newly-introduced pest, the brown marmorated stink bug (BMSB) affecting cultivation of hazelnuts, a key export of Georgia. The IPPC Secretary expressed his great gratitude to the Minister and his Government for the generous support to host the 2017 IPPC/FAO Regional Workshop for CEECA. He also described the work being undertaken in Georgia and highlighted the project on Phytosanitary capacity evaluation. In the face of the challenges to regulate and

control the BMSB in Georgia, the IPPC Secretary urged that the strategic plan being developed under the project be supported to strengthen the Phytosanitary services under the National Food Agency of Georgia. At the end, the IPPC Secretary invited the Minister to contribute an account of the challenges and successes in fighting against the BMSB at the CPM-13 (2018).

### 5 September

A special session was organized to officially launch the Inception of the IPPC Project on Capacity Development under the Framework of FAO-China South-South Cooperation (SSC) Programme during the occasion of the 2017 IPPC/FAO Regional Workshop for Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia (CEECA) held in Tbilisi Georgia, from 5 to 8 September 2017. Jingyuan Xia, IPPC Secretary, delivered introductory remarks on an overview of the IPPC-FAO-China project, with the overall objective to strengthen capacity of IPPC developing CPs to further implementation of the Convention. This is a four-year project (2017–2020), with a total budget of 2,000,000 USD, which is the first time and also biggest amount of financial support to the IPPC from developing CPs. Dr. Kongming Wu, the Vice President of the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS), presented a keynote address on The Contribution of Plant Health to Implementation of the Chinese Initiative "One Belt and One Road". Zhongwei Liu, FAO Programme Officer from the FAO-China SSC Programme, addressed to the participants development and achievements of the FAO-China SSC Programme. The 2017 IPPC/FAO Regional Workshop for CEECA was the first activity partially supported by the IPPC-FAO-China project.

### 5 September

The first version of the phytosanitary treatment search tool is available to stakeholders that can use it to search for specific pests, commodities, treatment types and will be able to sort treatments based on the country that accepts specific trade when a particular treatment has been applied.

### 5–8 September

The 2017 IPPC/FAO Regional Workshop for Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia (CEECA) was held in Tbilisi, Georgia. The workshop received special support through the FAO-China South-South Cooperation (SSC) Programme. The workshop was chaired by Ringolds Arnitis (EPPO/

Latvia), and opened by Jingyuan Xia, IPPC Secretary. Nodar Kereselidze, the Deputy Minister of the Georgian Ministry of Agriculture, presented a welcome address. The workshop was attended by 24 participants from 18 contracting parties of the IPPC, as well as the representatives from the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS), FAO Headquarters, IPPC Secretariat, CPM Bureau, Standards Committee (SC), Implementation Committee (IC), and the Committee for International Year of Plant Health (IYPH). Orlando Sosa, Implementation Facilitation Unit Lead, and Ketevan Lomsadze, Implementation Facilitation Officer, from the IPPC Secretariat assisted in the organization of the workshop.

#### **5–8 September**

Mirko Montuori, Public Information Officer, represented the IPPC Secretariat in a meeting held in Geneva and attended by Public Information Officers of seven biodiversity-related conventions to develop a joint approach and project on cooperation on biodiversity. UN Environment, in cooperation with these conventions, is developing a project aimed at 'realizing synergies on biodiversity'. Output 2 of this project calls for closer engagement of biodiversity related Publication Information Officers in the promotion of biodiversity related issues, and more specifically to jointly develop a biodiversity communications project which can be implemented between now and 2020. While progress has been made on developing the foundations of the project and enhanced communication mechanisms among participating conventions, discussions were also held over the outreach component of InforMEA, the information portal of Multilateral Environmental Agencies.

#### **8 September**

Shoki Al-Dobai, the Integration and Support Team Leader, chaired a meeting held at FAO HQs that gathered Chinese delegation on Food Safety Risk Assessment with representatives of FAO Units related to food safety control "Food Safety Unit, Codex Secretariat, AGPMC and IPPC Secretariat". The Chinese delegation represented the Institute of Food Science and Technology, and the Institute of Quality Standards and Testing Technology for Agro-Products of the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS). The meeting aimed at exchanging the information on expertise, area of work and practices related to food safety risk assessment, and discussing the potential collaboration opportunities between FAO Units

and CAAS institutes. Presentations have been delivered by each of FAO Units and Chinese Institutes to present the background information, organizational structure, mandates, work strategy, capacity building, tools and knowledge sharing activities and normative work of each unit/institute. The Chinese delegation appreciated the FAO and IPPC kind initiative to host them and to familiarize them with FAO work and experience related to the Food Safety Risk Assessment and expressed their interest for more involvement in FAO work, and information and knowledge sharing process.

#### **11–13 September**

IPPC Secretariat representative Leanne Stewart assisted in the facilitation of the 2017 Regional Workshop for Africa in Lome, Togo. The workshop was attended by 22 participants from 14 Contracting Parties. The workshop included discussions and analysis of the three ISPMs under the first 2017 ISPM consultation period. The IPPC Secretariat representative provided presentations on IPPC projects and initiatives. Workshop participants discussed the need for information exchange at the regional level. The detection and official reporting of the presence of the fall armyworm (*Spodoptera frugiperda*) was presented by the FAO regional office for Africa representative. The African RPPO updated workshop participants on its activities and emerging plant pests in the region.

#### **13–15 September**

Nineteen participants from 11 Contracting Parties in the Caribbean region participated in the 2017 IPPC Regional Workshop for the Caribbean in Bridgetown Barbados. The workshop was jointly organized for the FAO Sub-regional Office for the Caribbean, the Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture. The IPPC Secretariat representative Sarah Brunel presented on the workshop objectives, assisted in the facilitation of workshop and updated workshop participants on IPPC projects and activities.

#### **18–23 September**

The Expert Working Group (EWG) meeting on the Revision of ISPM 8 (Determination of Pest Status in an Area) (2009-005) took place in Hanoi, Viet Nam. The IPPC Secretariat members present at this meeting, together with 11 experts from around the world, were Brent Larson, Standard Setting Unit Team Lead, Adriana Moreira, Standard

Setting Officer, and Leanne Stewart, Implementation Facilitation Officer. The meeting was organized by the IPPC Secretariat under the framework of the priorities set by the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM). The EWG reviewed the pest status categories of the standard and agreed there should be only two: "absent" and "present". This meant that the previous category "transient" would now be included in that of "present". In the discussions, the EWG stressed that a pest is only "absent" if surveillance and other information indicate this, so when the NPPO cannot provide such objective information, the pest status should be "undetermined". The group also discussed the quality of pest records because countries need to be able to trust the validity of this information, and provided guidance in the standard on evaluating the reliability of such information. The revised draft ISPM 8 was agreed to by meeting participants via consensus and it will be presented to the SC in its May 2018 meeting.

### **25–28 September**

IPPC Secretariat representatives, Orlando Sosa and Leanne Stewart, facilitated a meeting on IPPC Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) in Wellington, New Zealand. Hosted by the New Zealand Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI), the meeting was attended by ten plant health experts. Meeting objectives were to generate a shared understanding of M&E concepts, obtain feedback from contracting parties on the draft M&E framework developed by the IPPC, and understand the current M&E systems in place by contracting parties. Leanne Stewart presented the draft IPPC Theory of Change (ToC). Meeting participants presented their national M&E processes. Feedback from the meeting was collated towards the improvement of the draft IPPC M&E framework.

### **28 September**

The 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions was held in Rome, Italy and co-hosted by the Secretariats of the ITPGRFA and the IPPC. The meeting was attended by 15 representatives from all seven international biodiversity-related conventions: CBD, CMS, CITES, Ramsar, IPPC, ITPGRFA, and WHC. The meeting was chaired by Kent Nnadozie (Secretary Ad-Interim of the ITPGRFA) and opened by René Castro (FAO Assistant Director-General, Climate, Biodiversity, Land and Water Department). Cristiana Paşca Palmer, Executive Secretary of the CBD, made closing remarks. Jingyuan Xia, IPPC Secretary, attended the meeting, and

underlined how actions undertaken within the framework of the IPPC contribute to protecting biodiversity.

### **28 September**

A joint work plan for cooperation between the IPPC and the CBD in 2017–2018 was signed by the Cristiana Paşca Palmer, Executive Secretary of the CBD, and Jingyuan Xia, IPPC Secretary, in occasion of the 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions held in Rome, Italy. This joint work plan identifies major activities to be undertaken in 2017 and 2018 and constitutes a key achievement in order to help address challenges faced by both Conventions. The major activities for cooperation covers 1) Participation in Governing Body Meetings; 2) Global Taxonomy Initiative Training; 3) Comparison of Terms Used in the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, the Glossary of Phytosanitary Terms, and Other Relevant Instruments; 4) Expert meetings regarding e-commerce; and 5) Promotion of partnership and communication.

### **28 September**

The discussion of the Technical Panel on Forest Quarantine (TPFQ) during this virtual meeting concentrated on current issues, which included the request from the TPPT to help provide additional data on the efficacy of the phytosanitary treatment: heat treatment of wood chips (2017-024) and options to get the IFQRG involved in supplying the data, the objection submitted to CPM-12 (2017) to the adoption of the phytosanitary treatment: heat treatment of wood using dielectric heating (2007-114), as well as the review of the TPFQ work plan.

### **30 September**

The consultation period for draft ISPMs closed at the end of September. The IPPC Secretariat solicits comments on draft standards through the IPPC Online Comment System (OCS), from contracting parties and RPPOs. 13 draft standards underwent consultation in 2017 and all together they received 5163 comments. The Secretariat posted the compiled comments from the consultations after the close of the commenting period.

## **OCTOBER**

### **2–6 October**

A second mission for the application of the Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation tool was conducted in Bridgetown

Barbados. PCE Facilitator Fitzroy White facilitated the workshop. The mission served to guide the finalization of the PCE process and prepare for the development of a strategic plan.

#### **2-6 October**

IFQRG-The 14<sup>th</sup> meeting of the International Forest Quarantine Research Group (IFQRG) was held in Rotorua, New Zealand. The meeting was attended by 42 participants from seven countries, including Australia, Canada, China, Germany, New Zealand and Russia and the SSU lead, Mr Brent Larson. IFQRG reviewed scientific issues related to international and regional standards under development and responded to several questions raised at the recent ISPM 15 workshop held in Africa, sponsored by the Standard Trade Development Facility. In addition, IFQRG identified actions to support

#### **4 October**

The Technical Panel on Phytosanitary Treatments (TPPT) had a virtual meeting with seven participants to review four treatments that were submitted in response to the call for treatments. The meeting report will be posted on the IPP and the outcomes will be presented to the Standards Committee (SC) in May 2018.

#### **9 October**

The CPM Financial Committee (FC) meeting was held at FAO-HQs in Rome, Italy. The meeting was chaired by Marie-Claude Forest, and opened by Jingyuan Xia, the IPPC Secretary, with presence of FC members, observers from European Union (EU) and the World Bank (WB), and IPPC Secretariat representatives. The FC discussed mainly the recent resource mobilization efforts of the IPPC Secretariat, the draft document of the IPPC Secretariat Work Plan and Budget for 2018, sustainable funding mechanism for the IPPC work programme, comparison of CPM-12 costs in Republic of Korea to average CPM costs in Rome, and the future ISPM 15 symbol registration renewal costs. The financial position of the IPPC Secretariat and the sustainable funding initiative for the IPPC work programme were discussed in depth and proposed to the CPM Bureau meeting and the IPPC Strategic Planning Group (SPG) for further consideration during the same week. The IPPC FC showed great appreciation to Mr Lopian who resigned from the FC after five years of sophisticated service, expressed sincere gratitude to him for his notable contributions, and wished

him a great success in his shifted focus to promotion of the IYPH initiative in 2020.

#### **9 October**

The meeting of the Focus Group on the Criteria for the Call for Phytosanitary Issues was held in Rome. The Focus Group consisted of members of the IC and the SC. The meeting was chaired by a CPM Bureau member. During this one-day meeting, the participants have developed proposals for the process for the call for topics and for the criteria for the submissions of topics. They also proposed that the call be named: Call for Topics: Standards and Implementation. The Focus Group agreed that a small Task Force be formed to assist the IC and SC in their work on the selection of submitted topics for their inclusion in the work programme. The outcome of the Focus Group was presented to the SPG at their October 2017 meeting.

#### **10 October**

A keynote address on the development and achievements of the IPPC in 65 years was presented by Jingyuan Xia, the IPPC Secretary, on occasion of the 29<sup>th</sup> meeting of the CPM Strategic Planning Group (SPG) held at FAO Headquarters in Rome, Italy, from 10-12 October 2017. In term of *the historical development of the IPPC*, Mr Xia outlined four major stages: 1) the Origin of the IPPC (1881-1951); 2) the Founding of the IPPC (1952-1979); 3) the Expansion of the IPPC (1980-1997); and the Today of the IPPC (1980-present). In terms of *the major achievements of the IPPC*, he stressed that 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. The World Trade Organization Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (WTO SPS Agreement) has recognized the IPPC as the only international standards setting and implementation body for plant health. In terms of *the way forward of the IPPC*, he highlighted that the way of the IPPC forward 2020 is to disseminate the established annual themes related to plant health from 2016 leading up to 2020, the proposed IYPH, and the way of the IPPC after 2020 is under the process of setting up the IPPC Strategic Framework for 2020-2030. In conclusion, the Secretary Xia encourage all IPPC contracting parties and RPPOs to organize some activities to celebrate the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the IPPC so as to increase the presence, visibility and impact of the IPPC at global, regional and national levels.

### 10 October

The IPPC Seminar on Plant Health and Trade Facilitation – the seventh in a series – took place at the FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy. The seminar was chaired by IPPC Secretary Jingyuan Xia, and attended by over 100 participants, including participants of IPPC SPG meeting, permanent representatives to FAO and FAO staff. Sheri Rosenow, Senior Counselor of the WTO presented on the WTO perspective on Plant Health and Trade Facilitation. Melvin Spreij, Secretary of the STDF described the World Trade Organization's SPS Agreement, the development and implementation of SPS measures, and the lessons learnt from the STDF's work towards reducing trade costs and improving health protection. Bill Gain, Global Lead of the Trade Facilitation and Border Management Unity of the World Bank presented on recent lessons on trade facilitation and plant health. Cesar Chaparro Yedro, the World Bank Group's Coordinator for 'Enabling the Business of Agriculture'. Ekaterina Krivonos, Economist of the FAO Markets and Trade Division presented on major links between phytosanitary controls and agricultural trade. The IPPC Secretary Xia highlighted the IPPC perspective on Plant Health and Trade Facilitation in four areas.

### 10–12 October

The 6<sup>th</sup> CPM Strategic Planning Group (SPG) meeting was held at FAO-HQ in Rome, Italy. The meeting was chaired by Francisco Javier Trujillo Arriaga (Mexico), the Vice Chairperson of CPM, and opened by Jingyuan Xia, the IPPC Secretary. The meeting was attended by 43 participants from 35 IPPC Contracting Parties, as well as a representative of the World Bank and IPPC Secretariat staff. Sam Bishop (United Kingdom) was selected as the Rapporteur. The discussion at the SPG meeting focused mainly on the proposed IPPC Strategic Framework for 2020–2030 and sustainable funding mechanism. In addition, several other IPPC-related issues were also discussed, such as the call for phytosanitary issues and outcomes of the ad-hoc Focus Group met on 9 October 2017; International Year of Plant Health (IYPH) in 2020; 2018 IPPC theme on Plant Health and Environment Protection; Promotion of the implementation of e-commerce; Implementation of e-phyto project; IPPC trade facilitation work plan; Industry Advisory Group and stakeholders involvement; Cooperation with International Seed Federation; and Proposal for the International Day for Plant Health (IDPH) and International Phytosanitary Conference.

### 10–13 October

IPPC Secretariat Implementation Facilitation Officer Sarah Brunel participated in the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the World Customs Organization (WCO) Working Group on E-commerce at the WCO Headquarters in Brussels, Belgium. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the opportunities and challenges stemming from growing trade in e-commerce from a trade facilitation and control perspective. The IPPC Secretariat representative provided inputs from the IPPC perspective and familiarized the audience with IPPC actions taken on e-commerce. Ms Brunel presented on the overall objectives, strategies and functions of the IPPC and its standards.

### 11 October

A celebratory reception on the IPPC 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary was held by the IPPC Secretariat at FAO-HQ in Rome, Italy. The reception was officially inaugurated by Maria Helena Semedo, FAO Deputy Director-General for Climate and Natural Resources, and chaired by Jingyuan Xia, IPPC Secretary. The event was attended by Daniel Gustafson (FAO Deputy Director General for programme), Ren Wang (FAO Assistant Director General for Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department), and Davide Bradanini (First Secretary of Italian Permanent Representation to FAO), as well as over 100 people, including FAO staff, FAO Permanent Representatives, SPG participants and IPPC Secretariat staff. Ms. Semedo highlighted the importance of the IPPC in relation to food security, safe trade and environment protection. Davide Bradanini noted Italy's longstanding historical support of the IPPC as one of the first countries to join the IPPC during its establishment. The CPM Vice Chairperson and IPPC Contact Point for Mexico, Javier Trujillo Arriaga, spoke on behalf of the CPM Chair, and conveyed the commitment of national plant protection organizations towards ensuring support to the IPPC mission. Ralf Lopian, IPPC Contact Point for Finland and Chairperson of the IYPH Initiative, highlighted the great vision that the first IPPC signatories had, as well as the importance of cooperation, its inherence to humanity, and towards achieving the mission of the IPPC.

### 9 and 13 October

The CPM Bureau meeting was held at FAO Headquarter in Rome, Italy. The meeting was chaired by Francisco Javier Trujillo Arriaga (Mexico), the Vice Chairperson of CPM, and opened by Jingyuan Xia, the IPPC Secretary. The meeting was attended by all the Bureau members,

except the CPM Chairperson who was excused, as well as the representatives from the IPPC Secretariat. First day of the meeting was spent on updating the IPPC Secretariat's activities, reviewing 2017 June Bureau report, discussing the outcome of the CPM Bureau Finance Committee in October, and preparing for the SPG meeting in October. The last day of the meeting was concentrated on the debriefing from the SPG meeting and planning for CPM-13 to be held in 2018. During the meeting, the Bureau discussed a range of subjects, including: Work plan and budget of the IPPC Secretariat for 2018 and 2019; Sustainable funding mechanism for the IPPC Work Programme; Participation of external observers in future FC meetings; IPPC trade facilitation work plan (ePhyto, ecommerce, sea containers task force, etc.); involvement of industry stakeholders in the IPPC activities; IPPC strategic framework 2020–2030; advancements in IYPH in 2020; International Phytosanitary Conference; Agenda of CPM-13 (2018); and Preparation for IPPC annual theme for 2018 (Plant Health and Environment Protection).

#### **15–21 October**

A final Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation mission was held in Tbilisi Georgia and facilitated by IPPC Implementation Facilitation Officer Ketevan Lomsadze and FAO Legal Officer Carmen Bullon. Ms Lomsadze, Ms Bullon and national stakeholders finalized the PCE application, discussed the draft phytosanitary capacity development strategic plan and the legal review and its recommendations. The officers facilitated a consensus workshop and legal training workshop during the mission. A series of meetings were held with international donors, project staff, officials of the Georgian NPPO and Ministry of Agriculture where elements of the draft strategy were discussed. Actions required to facilitate the implementation of the strategy were also discussed.

#### **20 October**

The wrap up workshop of the TCP/LEB/3502 project on "Fruit Flies Surveillance and Management in Lebanon" was held in Beirut. The workshop was attended by the Integration and Support Team Leader, Shoki Al-Dobai. The project assisted Lebanon in preparing and implementing a national programme for surveillance and management of fruit flies Lebanon, in addition, to develop the capacity of the national plant protection organization, the Lebanese Agriculture Research Institute (LARI) and other partner agencies in fruit flies identification, management,

eradication and enforcement of phytosanitary measures. Around 100 national staff have been trained through the project by nine intentionally recognized experts on "Fruit flies surveillance, identification, management, eradication, biotechnology aspects for identification and management of fruit flies, implementation of the relevant phytosanitary measures, phytosanitary treatments, Pest Risk Analysis, phytosanitary inspections". A Cost Benefit Analysis of Fruit Flies Management Strategies in Lebanon was carried out at end of the project. The project enabled an effective national coordination and partnering among all relevant Government authorities and stakeholders involved in fruit flies management and control, including, NGOs, Academia, Airport and Seaport Security, Customs, Lebanese Aviation Company, etc.

#### **26 October**

Craig Fedchock, the IPPC Advisor, gave a presentation on "IPPC Perspectives on Data Predictive Analysis for Phytosanitary Matters" to a European Commission (EC) Conference on Electronic Official Controls of Food and Plant Products. The event, with more than one hundred attendees, focused on Information Management Systems for Official Controls and was sponsored by the Estonia Presidency of the EC and DG Sante.

#### **26 October**

The SC e-decision closed on the experts to be selected as members of the EWG to develop the draft ISPM on Guidance on pest risk management (2014-001). The participation of Nico Horn (The Netherlands) was approved by the SC. The SC also approved the responses to consultation comments and recommend the draft PT: Vapour heat treatment for *Bactrocera dorsalis* on *Carica papaya* (2009-109) for adoption by CPM.

#### **30 October–3 November**

The 29<sup>th</sup> meeting of Technical Consultation (TC) among RPPOs was held in Paris, France. The meeting was jointly organized by the IPPC Secretariat and the European Plant Protection Organization (EPPO), with the attendance of nine RPPOs, and the Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency (CAHFSA), the proposed RPPO for the Caribbean region. The meeting was chaired by Martin Ward, the EPPO Executive Director, and opened by Jingyuan Xia, the IPPC Secretary. Patrick Dehaumont, the Director General for Food representing the French Minister of Agriculture, Agri-food and Forest, delivered

a welcome address. The IPPC Secretariat representatives updated the meeting on the core activities of the Secretariat, and the CPM Bureau representative briefed on the major work of the IPPC governance. RPPOs presented their recent activities including technical and capacity development achievements, emerging pests and issues of their respective regions, surveillance projects and activities, and proposals for future collaborative efforts. A special highlight from the meeting was the agreement made by RPPOs that the Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency (CAHFSA) should be the RPPO for the Caribbean region. A recommendation supporting CAHFSA as the RPPO for the Caribbean is currently being formulated for presentation during CPM-13 (2018).

## NOVEMBER

### 1–3 November

Ketevan Lomsadze, Implementation Facilitation Officer, participated in the Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures Committee meeting. Ms Lomsadze updated the Committee on activities undertaken by the IPPC during the last half of 2017, including the IPPC Regional Workshops, the IPPC ePhyto project, the IPPC Capacity Development Project under the FAO-China South-South Cooperation Programme, and the IYPH 2020. It was agreed by the SPS Committee that a side session on regionalization would be organized for the next SPS Committee meeting in 2018. The Committee requested the participation of the IPPC Secretariat to present information on IPPC principles related to pest free areas, areas of low pest prevalence and the sharing of best practices.

### 2 November

The discussion of the Technical Panel on Phytosanitary Treatments (TPPT) during this virtual meeting concentrated on evaluation of four treatment submissions in response to the call for phytosanitary treatments and an update on the recent developments on the objection received to the adoption to the Heat treatment of wood using dielectric heating (2007-114) prior to CPM-12 (2017).

### 4–7 November

Shoki Al-Dobai, Integration and Support Team Leader participated in the 12th Arab Congress of Plant Protection that was organized in Hurgada, Egypt from 4 to 10 November 2017 by the Arab Society for Plant Protection

and the Egyptian Agricultural Research Center with support of FAO-RNE. Three presentations were delivered at this Congress to cover these topics: 1) Introduction about the IPPC and its core activities with presentation of the IPPC 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary video; 2) A presentation about the IYPH 2020 to familiarized the audience about the initiative to declare 2020 IYPH, and the progress in the promotion and proclamation processes of IYPH 2020. The Arab Society of Plant Protection decided at the end of the presentation to establish a task force to prepare an action plan for supporting and promoting IYPH in the region; and 3) The status of *X. fastidiosa* in the Arab region and the efforts underway to contain it. The presentation presented the current status of *X. fastidiosa*, achievements of the FAO Regional Project TCP/RAB/3601 and other activities and assistance provided by FAO and IPPC to Near East and North Africa Countries.

### 6 November

The IPPC Sea Containers Task Force (SCTF) was officially formulated on the occasion of its first meeting held in Shanghai, China, held from 6 to 10 November 2017. The IPPC SCTF is composed of representatives from IPPC contracting parties, CPM Bureau, IPPC Standards Committee (SC), IPPC Implementation and Capacity Deployment Committee (IC) and RPPOs, as well as some international organizations and phytosanitary experts who already have an experience relevant to the pest risks on sea containers and their management. The IPPC SCTF is a sub-group of the IC of the IPPC and will operate on a temporary basis for the next five years (2017–2021) to supervise the actions of the Complementary Action Plan through: a) Providing information on pest risks of sea containers and their management; b) Coordinating with contracting parties, regional plant protection organizations (RPPOs), industry and other international organizations; c) Establishing a mechanism for contracting parties to report to CPM on their progress and achievements; d) Providing advice on how the Cargo Transport Unit (CTU) shipping code or any other instrument could be updated; and e) Providing updates through the IC on its activities to be presented annually to the CPM, as well as a final report for presentation to CPM-16 (2021).

### 6–10 November

The first meeting of the IPPC Sea Container Task Force (SCTF) was held in Shanghai, China. The meeting was

jointly organized by the IPPC Secretariat, and the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection & Quarantine (AQSIQ) of the Peoples' Republic of China, and hosted by Shanghai Inspection and Quarantine Bureau (SHCIQ). Jingyuan Xia, IPPC Secretary, opened the meeting; Marie-Claude Forest, CPM Bureau member, was elected as the Chair of the meeting; John Hedley, Principle Advisor of New Zealand Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI), was selected as the Rapporteur of the meeting; and Mike Downes, Independent Consultant, was named as the Coordinator of the IPPC SCTF. The meeting was attended by most IPPC SCTF members mainly from the contracting parties (Australia, China, Kenya and USA), the CPM Bureau (North America Region), the IC of the IPPC (Jordan), and the RPPO (New Zealand), as well as the invited experts from the shipping industry, the sea container working group, the World Customs Organization (WCO), the World Bank (WB), and the World Shipping Council. There were two observers also present in the meeting coming from the AQSIQ and the (SHCIQ), respectively.

#### **8–10 November 2017**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the IPPC International Year of Plant Health Steering Committee (IPPC IYPH StC) was held at FAO Headquarters in Rome, Italy. Nineteen participants, including the StC members representing the seven FAO regions and the FAO and IPPC Secretariats attended the meeting. This was also the first time when invited stakeholders from FAO and the International Seed Federation attended the IYPH StC meeting. The Chairperson, Ralf Lopian from Finland, reminded that the final step towards the IYPH proclamation is the discussion by the Second Committee of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, which shall take place in November 2018. Shoki Al-Dobai, Integration and Support Team Leader, renewed the strong support of the IPPC Secretariat for the initiative and called on the IPPC community to get actively engaged through their steering committee members. FAO was also strongly represented by Marcela Villarreal, Director of the FAO Partnerships and South-South Cooperation Division (DPS), and Clara Velez Fraga, Chief, Outreach and Promotion Branch, FAO Office for Corporate Communication (OCC). The steering committee progressed substantively on the IYPH communications work plan and the IYPH programme development, whose details will be available in the meeting's report.

#### **12–13 November 2017**

Mirko Montuori, Public Information Officer, represented the IPPC Secretariat in the side event "Stop those pests! Climate change's impact on plant health" at the 23<sup>rd</sup> Conference of Parties (COP23) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), organized by the government of Tonga and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC). This was the first time that a representative of the IPPC Secretariat attended the COP, and the topic of plant health was broadly discussed at a climate change COP. Over thirty participants attended the event, which was also webcast. Speakers of the side event were: Malia Talakai, Climate Change Officer, FAO; Mirko Montuori, Public Information Officer at IPPC Secretariat, FAO; Lois Ransom, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Australia and Chairperson of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (video message); Ralf Lopian, Ministry of Agriculture of Finland and Chairperson of the International Year of Plant Health Steering Committee; Viliami Kami, Ministry of Agriculture, Food, Forestry and Fisheries of Tonga and IPPC contact point; Dean Sione, Climate Change Officer, Secretariat of the Pacific Community. Participants agreed on the dire need to raise awareness of the importance of healthy plants to achieve the Zero Hunger objective. The IYPH in 2020 was mentioned as a key tool to promote this message.

#### **13–15 November**

Ketevan Lomsadze, Implementation Facilitation Officer, participated in a plant protection workshop mission in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. Together with the leading technical officer of the project Hafiz Muminjanov and FAO legal officer Carmen Bullon, Ms Lomsadze facilitated discussions on the international regulatory framework for plant protection and on the results of the national legal analysis and recommendations for updating the draft Plant Protection law. She presented information on the benefits of the IPPC and its capacity development activities. The mission team met with staff of the Main State Inspection on Plant Quarantine of the Republic of Uzbekistan to discuss the status of the draft Plant Protection law, PCE progress and the prospect of Uzbekistan becoming an IPPC Contracting Party. Ms Lomsadze provided further technical information on the main components of the PCE and specific PCE modules. It was agreed that the IPPC Secretariat would provide the inspection unit on plant quarantine a draft paper on the benefits of being a contracting party to the IPPC. The paper is expected to



be utilized as advocacy material to advocate for the IPPC membership process within Uzbekistan.

### 13–17 November

The Standards Committee (SC), with 27 participants, representing all seven FAO regions, at FAO-HQ in Rome, Italy. The SC led by their Chairperson, Ezequiel Ferro (Argentina), had fruitful discussions on topics of major concern to the phytosanitary world. Particularly, a long sought compromise was reached on the reorganization of the suite of fruit fly standards. The reorganization will be presented to the CPM-13 (2018). The reorganization should help countries, especially developing countries, have a better and more logical framework to implement the phytosanitary measures related to fruit flies. The SC reviewed several draft standards and has recommended four to CPM-13 (2018) for adoption. Out of these, the revision of ISPM 6 (*Surveillance*) is especially awaited by many countries as it plays an essential role in the management of pests. Another new standard on the Requirements for temperature treatments will also help countries improve their application of internationally agreed Phytosanitary treatments (annexes to ISPM 28 (*Phytosanitary treatments for regulated pests*)) using temperature and other temperature treatment approved bilaterally. The SC also discussed the two commodity standards pertaining to grain and cut flowers. The SC was divided on the level of requirements required for these commodities which are normally considered low risk. The SC noted several issues that they need direction on and agreed to propose to the Bureau that time be set aside for a thorough discussion on this issue at CPM-13 (2018). The SC approved the Specification 66: *Audit in the phytosanitary context* and proposed that its priority be changed from two to one, as audits are needed to support other phytosanitary actions. This increased priority would allow the IPPC Secretariat to start working on this important topic already in 2018.

### 16 November

The 8<sup>th</sup> IPPC Seminar on plant health standards and safe trade facilitation, was organized at FAO Headquarters on occasion of the meeting of Standards Committee (SC). The seminar was opened and chaired by the IPPC Secretary, Jingyuan Xia, and attended by over 50 participants. The first two speakers, David Kamangira (Senior Deputy Director of Agricultural Research Services in Malawi's Ministry of Agriculture and SC member) and

Masahiro Sai (Head of the Information Analysis Section in the Risk Analysis Division of the Japanese Plant Protection Organization and SC member) presented perspectives of their regions, respectively Africa and Asia. The third speaker, Nico Horn (Senior Officer Plant Health in the Netherlands Plant Protection Organization and SC member) highlighted how the implementation of a global system for the production and exchange of electronic phytosanitary certificates (known as ePhyto) would contribute to the facilitation of safe trade. Finally, Céline Germain (seconded by the French Ministry of Agriculture to the Standard Setting Unit of the IPPC Secretariat) provided concluding remarks and presented potential future perspectives for IPPC standard setting in relation to the facilitation of safe trade.

### 20–24 November

Phytosanitary experts from 5 FAO regions and IPPC Secretariat representatives convened in Rome, Italy to participate in the first Expert Working Group for the development of a Pest Free Area (PFA) Guide. Development of a guide covering Pest Free Areas stems from gaps identified in the IPPC General Surveys for 2012 – 2013, 2016 and the IPPC Framework for Standards and Implementation. Meeting participants conducted a review of a draft guide, reviewed and agreed upon a draft outline, and considered good practices, case studies and relevant resources for inclusion into the guide. The PFA Guide and supplementary resources are scheduled to be ready by the end of 2018. The outcomes of the project will be shared with the IPPC and plant health community in 2019. Meeting participants agreed upon awareness raising activities to promote the guide and its supplementary resources.

### 22–23 November

The IPPC Secretariat represented by Adriana Moreira participated at the Workshop on the use of next generation sequence (NGS) technologies for plant pest diagnostics in Bari, Italy. The workshop was organized by the European Cooperation in Science and Technology (COST), EUPHRESKO and the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (EPPO) and supported by the Istituto per la Protezione Sostenibile delle Piante del Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche of Italy. NGS technologies are very powerful alternatives for detection and identification of organisms. Over 142 participants from various regions worldwide gathered to

share and discuss their experiences on pests discoveries thought the use of these technologies. Concerns were also expressed as in some cases detections and identifications may be associated solely with DNA finds and may not be from living pests or from pathogen organisms, which is where the risk is. The workshop participants had a brainstorming session to develop recommendations or "best practices" on the use of NGS technologies as a tool for plant pest diagnostics.

### **23–24 November**

The Inter-Agency Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species (IAS) met in Brussels, Belgium. To discuss and share activities in order to build synergies and avoid duplication in regards to the management and control of IAS. Representatives from CABI International, the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD), the Food and Agriculture Organization, International Maritime Organization (IMO), International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), World Animal Health Organization (OIE) and the World Customs Organization (WCO) attended this meeting. Brent Larson, Standard Setting Unit Lead, represented both the IPPC Secretariat and FAO. He briefed the group on two main points: Sea Containers and e-commerce. The group was informed of the creation of the IPPC Task Force on Sea Containers which held its first meeting earlier in November and developed a five year action plan. E-commerce was discussed and it was noted that the WCO is leading a sub group, of which the IPPC Secretariat is already actively involved in, other members were invited to join. Discussions on IMO's involvement in Sea Containers (contaminating pests) was discussed as IMO's mandate, which only covers Marine environments, may limit their involvement. The IMO noted their recent launch of the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments and ongoing work of the GloFouling Partnership. OIE continues to slowly consider how they will be involved in the management of IAS, especially those that are harmful to animals. Organizations reviewed the many available databases that are available for the management of IAS and some discussion took place on how to utilize the WCO's Harmonized Codes. The CBD Secretariat is drafting some supplementary guidance for the management of invasive alien species for CBD members and will hold an expert group meeting in Montreal in early December 2017 to refine the draft for presentation to SBBSTA in July 2018. Input was welcomed.

## **DECEMBER**

### **4–7 December**

The IPPC Technical Panel for the Glossary (TPG) meeting was hosted at the Italian national plant protection organization in Rome, Italy. The TPG was attended by eight members representing all six official FAO languages. The meeting was chaired by John Hedley (New Zealand), with Laurence Bouhot-Delduc (France) as Steward and Ebbe Nordbo (Denmark) as Rapporteur. The TPG reviewed the comments on the use of terms and on consistency issues, which were submitted during the 2017 first consultation on the draft ISPM on *Requirements for the use of fumigation as a phytosanitary measure*. The TPG also responded to first consultation comments on the draft 2017 Amendments to the Glossary. They discussed several other Glossary terms (especially the Glossary terms related to commodity classes), which will be compiled in the draft 2018 Amendments to the Glossary. In addition, the TPG reviewed proposed ink amendments related to the use of the term "contamination" across standards and revised their General recommendations on the use of terms in ISPMs.

### **11 December**

IPPC launched, at FAO-HQs, its new implementation oversight body, the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC). The establishment of this new committee is a milestone event for the IPPC as it signals a greater emphasis towards the implementation of the IPPC and its standards. The core activities of the IC will cover, among others: a) Capacity Development; b) IRSS; c) National Reporting Obligation; d) Dispute Avoidance and Settlement; e) Trade Facilitation; f) Emerging pest issues; and g) Resource Mobilization. The IC is composed of seven members from the seven FAO regions, five phytosanitary experts from various regions, and two representatives (one from the Standards Committee and one from regional plant protection organizations). In addition, the IC also includes seven regional alternates. The IPPC CPM Bureau selected and appointed the IC members, taking into account their expertise, experience and geographical representation. The IC members will serve for a term of three years with renewal subject to approval by the CPM Bureau. The IC will meet twice a year with additional meeting held subject to need, availability and financing.

### 11–15 December

The first meeting the IPPC Implementation Capacity and Development Committee (IC) was held at FAO-QHs in Rome, Italy. The meeting was organized and hosted by the IPPC Secretariat. Jingyuan Xia, IPPC Secretary opened the meeting, followed by the election of IC Member Olga Lavrentjeva as the IC Chair, IC Member Dominique Pelletier as the IC Vice-Chair and IC Member and Phytosanitary expert Christopher Dale as the IC Meeting Rapporteur. The meeting was attended by the 12 IC members, representative of the regional plant protection organizations (RPPOs) and the Standards Committee (SC). In addition, the CPM Bureau representative and IPPC Secretariat staff from the Implementation Facilitation Unit (IFU), the Integration and Support Team (IST) and the Standards Setting Unit (SSU) were also in attendance. The main activities and outcomes of the meeting were to: 1) review the recommendations made by the previous Capacity Development Committee (CDC) to the IC; 2) to set the implementation and capacity development strategy; 3) to establish the IC operational framework; 4) to discuss several ongoing implementation, capacity development and communication actions; and 5) to set the IC Bi-Annual work programme for 2018 and 2019.

### 12 December

The CPM Bureau virtual meeting was held with the participation of five Bureau members as well as the representatives from the IPPC Secretariat and FAO legal office. The meeting was chaired by the CPM Chairperson, Lois Ransom (Australia), and opened by Jingyuan Xia, the IPPC Secretary. The main objectives and activities were to: a) review the action points of the June 2017 Bureau meeting; b) update the progress of IPPC strategic framework 2020–2030, the Standards Committee meeting of November 2017, the 29<sup>th</sup> Technical Consultation among RPPOs (TC-RPPOs), the 3<sup>rd</sup> Steering Committee meeting of IYPH 2020, the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the IPPC Sea Containers Task Force (SCTF), and the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC); and c) discuss the IPPC Secretariat Work Plan and Budget for 2019 and Sustainable funding of the IPPC work programme. The draft detailed agenda of the CPM-13 including the side session agenda was also discussed and approved. The Bureau members also endorsed the updated list of observers to be invited to the CPM-13 to accommodate more partner organizations that could be potential supporters and sponsors for IYPH 2020.

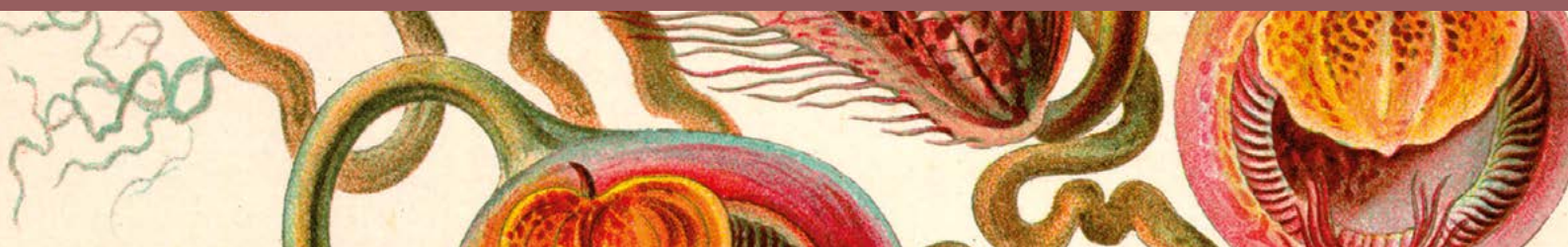
### 12–14 December

Mirko Montuori, Public Information Officer, represented the IPPC Secretariat in the Regional Expert Consultation on Plant Health and Protection in Europe and Central Asia held in Budapest, Hungary. The Regional Expert Consultation was organized by the FAO Regional Office for Europe and attended by representatives of 16 NPPOs in the region, the International Biological Manufacturers Association, the Hungarian Chamber of Professionals and Doctors in Plant Protection, the Szent Istvan University, the Agricultural University of Albania, the Agricultural Institute of Slovenia, and private sector representatives. In addition to sharing the outcomes of project TCP/RER/3503 and planning for a new phytosanitary capacity development project at the regional level, participants gained an understanding of the background and plans for the IYPH proclamation in 2020, and committed to contribute to the survey on the IYPH programme development. Relevant IPPC information and advocacy materials were presented to participants, and were well received. In addition, participants got a deeper understanding of the structure of the International Phytosanitary Portal (IPP) and the functioning of IPPC web tools including the Online Comment System (OCS).

### 13 December

The Standards Committee (SC) agreed via SC e-decision 2018\_eSC\_May\_01 to have the Guidelines for a consistent ISPM terminology incorporated in the TPG section of the IPPC Procedure Manual for Standard Setting. Those guidelines were developed by the TPG in their December 2016 meeting to facilitate the drafting work of the SC and expert drafting groups (EDGs), and to improve transparency around how terminology is developed.

# REFERENCE MATERIAL



## REPORTS

### **CPM**

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

### **Bureau**

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

### **FC**

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

### **SPG**

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

### **TC-RPPOs**

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

### **SC**

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

### **EWG**

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

### **TP**

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

### **CDC**

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

### **SBDS**

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

**IPPC Regional Workshops**

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

**Secretariat Progress Reports**

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

## PUBLICATIONS

**IPPC Advocacy Material**

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

**ISPMs**

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

**Technical Manuals**

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

**Searchable Database**

<https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/standards-setting/searchable-pdf-database/>

**Standard Setting Procedure Manual**

<https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/1086>

**List of CPM Recommendations**

<https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/governance/cpm/cpm-recommendations-1/cpm-recommendations/>

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