



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



International
Plant Protection
Convention

Protecting the world's plant resources from pests

IPPC ANNUAL REPORT

20
22

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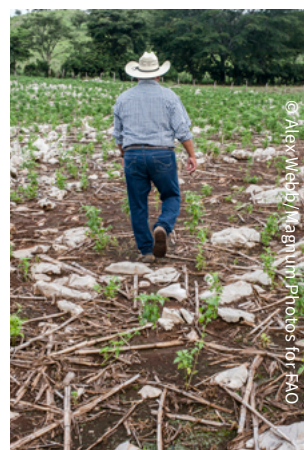
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WELCOME MESSAGE FROM THE

Chairperson of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures

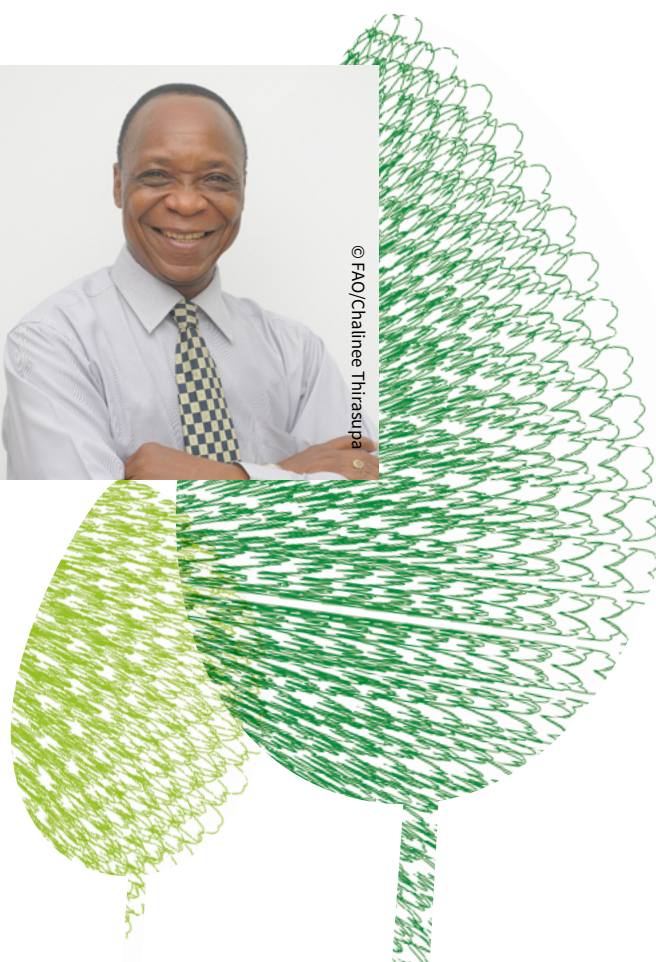
Lucien Kouame Konan

Although we saw improvements compared to preceding years, 2022 remained unpredictable, with many twists and turns due to the constraints and restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, which has forced us to rethink, adapt and reorganize the way we interact and communicate in our personal and professional lives. The IPPC and its 184 national plant protection organizations (NPPO) and 10 regional plant protection organizations (RPPO), as well as its partner organizations – in short, the whole phytosanitary community – have been directly affected by the pandemic.

Despite the enormous challenges and constraints we experienced over the past year, the IPPC Secretariat and contracting parties have managed to remain united, active and effective in the delivery of key phytosanitary services and programmes. This has allowed global trade in plant resources to continue in a safe and orderly manner. We continued to advance the priorities of the IPPC work programme, including standard setting, implementation-related activities and capacity building, as well as various ongoing initiatives like ePhyto, sea container work and pest communications. Ultimately, our efforts to maintain basic phytosanitary programmes at national,

regional and global levels have enabled us to prevent major cross-border pest infestations in unpredictable times due to issues associated with the threat of COVID-19.

Last year, we held the second consecutive virtual Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) meeting. This event, made possible through the careful planning of the secretariat, saw the participation of 119 contracting parties, 6 RPPOs and 10 regional and international plant protection-related organizations.



Following the adoption in 2021 of the new IPPC Strategic Framework 2020–2030, which sets the direction, overall objectives and priorities for the next ten years, CPM members provided effective guidance to the various discussion groups established to guide the Framework's implementation. This included initiatives associated with the development agenda items, such as climate change, communications and the development of a global pest outbreak alert and response mechanism.

We should be pleased that most, if not all, of the IPPC committees, working groups, panels, the CPM Bureau and other bodies have continued to meet, first virtually and then face-to-face for some, to further their work. The Secretariat has been instrumental in organizing, facilitating and enabling us to stay connected and active, and to stay on mission.

In addition to our achievements in implementing the priorities of our IPPC work programme in 2022, we succeeded in organizing the first International Plant Health Day (IDPH) and the International Plant Health Conference (IPHC) as legacies of the International Year of Plant Health (IYPH).

With positive developments in the health situation, I am optimistic that 2023 will be easier, and that we will return to our usual activities and will resume in-person meetings when needed. We know there are many plant health challenges ahead of us. The need to maintain effective biosecurity and safeguard systems remains a key goal. Sea container movement has emerged as a new pathway for pests and contaminants. Climate change is impacting pest biology and the ability of pathogens to spread into new habitats. E-commerce has grown rapidly, creating new opportunities for importing harmful organisms that escape normal trade and inspection channels. We must therefore continue to work together to leverage the plant protection capabilities of all NPPOs to provide a truly global defence against pests.

I also remain confident that the IPPC will continue to serve as a unique and valuable forum where those responsible for plant health can come together to share ideas, develop harmonized approaches and generate strategies to control pests, and safeguard plant health and world plant and food resources. We need to work together to advance our common plant health goals and interests.



FOREWORD FROM THE

Secretary of the International Plant Protection Convention

Osama El-Lissy

In 2022, I had the great privilege and honour to take on the mantle of leadership at the IPPC Secretariat, following my predecessor Jingyuan Xia who now serves as Director of the FAO Plant Production and Protection Division. I wish to thank Director Xia for his excellent work in the IPPC, which I am dedicated to building on as IPPC Secretary.

The year 2022 was a remarkable one for the IPPC community. First, we saw a return to a degree of normalcy as we resumed most in-person meetings and events since the initial outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. While virtual meetings proved useful to soldier on with our essential IPPC work, most would agree on the unparalleled value of face-to-face events that allowed us to discuss, interact and engage with one another once again.

We organized in-person annual meetings of the CPM Bureau and the IPPC Strategic Planning Group (SPG) in Rome. In addition, the IPPC regional workshops in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, the Near East and North Africa, Latin America and the Southwest Pacific were held in person, while the workshop for Europe and Central Asia was held as a hybrid event.

Second, CPM, the IPPC's governing body, adopted International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs) during its sixteenth session in April. These will contribute to reducing the spread of pests, particularly the new ISPM 46, which sets standards for specific commodities. The newly adopted standards will also facilitate the achievement of the IPPC strategic objectives and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on food security, environmental protection and safe trade.



Third, we celebrated the first International Day of Plant Health on 12 May. Our deepest gratitude goes to the relentless advocacy and leadership of the government of Zambia and the support of Finland, Pakistan, the Philippines, the Plurinational State of Bolivia and the United Republic of Tanzania. Thanks also go to FAO for its work to ensure the Day's adoption at the United Nations General Assembly in March 2022.

Finally, we organized the first ever International Plant Health Conference, which sets a precedent on how plant health experts can come together to address the most pressing issues we face.

The mission of the IPPC to protect plant health against invasive pests and facilitate safe trade is one of the noblest missions, and being the IPPC Secretary is an awesome responsibility, one that I and the rest of the secretariat team take very seriously.

We are optimistic that the global plant health community will continue to work together in advancing the IPPC work programme. As we observed the seventieth anniversary of the establishment of the IPPC in 2022, the long-standing Convention is a testament that protecting plants and plant resources must remain an ongoing endeavour. This will ensure that future generations can live in a world where food is available for all, biodiversity and environmental protection are fundamentally embraced, and where trade, economies and livelihoods are protected from the impact of plant pests.

We will not rest on our laurels but will continue to address challenges in protecting plants and agricultural and natural resources. Plant pests remain a threat to food security – they cause up to 40 percent of global trade loss in crops worth USD 22 billion each year. Climate change is allowing invasive plant pests to spread to new areas where managing them becomes harder and costlier. The ease of e-commerce and of international travel create pathways where individuals can unknowingly move plant pests that can wreak havoc on agriculture, the environment, trade and economies.

It is in this light that we jump-started a renewed resource mobilization drive among potential donors in Washington D.C. and Ottawa in the latter part of the year. The need for a global phytosanitary programme requires vast resources in order to address urgent issues at global, regional and national levels.

Our ambitions for global plant health are high because the stakes are even higher – our very lives depend on plants. We need partners with the same vision and a solid commitment towards global plant protection, thereby helping us to collectively achieve the SDGs. Our achievements in 2022 prove that the global plant health community, led by the CPM and the IPPC Secretariat, the CPM Bureau and the subsidiary bodies, remain committed and determined to achieve the objectives set out in the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020–2030.



Acknowledgements

The International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) Secretariat would like to recognize all experts, members of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM), governing and subsidiary bodies, technical panels and advisory bodies, as well as the contracting parties and partners for their active participation in, and positive contribution to, the IPPC work programme.

IPPC Multi-Donor Trust Fund contributions received in 2022

The IPPC Secretariat recognizes the following contracting parties and organizations that have provided financial support to the IPPC Multi-Donor Trust Fund in 2022. These contributions were essential for the IPPC Secretariat to deliver the IPPC work programme in 2022.

Contracting parties and organizations	Amount (USD)
Canada	149 724
Finland	32 258
United States of America/North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO)	200 000
Republic of Korea	160 000
Ireland	140 766
Total	682 748



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In-kind contributions

The IPPC Secretariat wishes to recognize the following contracting parties and organizations for their in-kind contributions in the form of staff, staff time (expertise) or meeting support. These contributions make it possible for the IPPC Secretariat to deliver the IPPC work programme.

CONTRACTING PARTIES AND ORGANIZATIONS	Activities (work areas)	Types of contribution (staff time, meeting support)
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA	IPPC Network	Meeting support for the IPPC Regional Workshop for the Caribbean
AUSTRALIA	Trade Facilitation	Staff time of two officers for ePhyto activities
AU-IAPSC	IPPC Network	Meeting support for the IPPC Regional Workshop for Africa
BRAZIL	Standard setting	Staff time to support Standard Setting Unit (SSU) work on governance, expert working groups, technical panel on diagnostic protocols (TPDP), technical panel on commodity standards (TPCS), the CPM Focus Group on Safe Provision of Food and Other Humanitarian Aid and some development agenda items of the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020–2030. Also, to support the Implementation and Facilitation Unit (IST) on coordinating the CPM Focus Group on Climate Change and Phytosanitary Issues.
CAHESA	IPPC Network	Meeting support for the IPPC Regional Workshop for the Caribbean
CAN	IPPC Network	Meeting support for the virtual IPPC Regional Workshop for Latin America
CANADA	Trade Facilitation and Standard Setting	Staff time for e-Commerce Coordinator (100%) for 12 months and associated travel for the officer and meeting support hosting the expert working group on use of systems approaches in managing the pest risks associated with the movement of wood (2015-004), Annex to ISPM 39 (<i>International movement of wood</i>)
CHILE	Trade facilitation	Staff time of one officer (25%) for ePhyto activities and meeting support hosting the Technical Panel for the Glossary (TPG) meeting (28 November – 2 December)
CHINA	Trade facilitation	Staff time of one officer (25%) for ePhyto activities
COLEACP	Implementation Facilitation	Staff time to edit training material for the e-learning courses on pest risk analysis and inspection Staff time to develop the IT version of the e-learning courses Interpretation into French of the virtual Workshop Series: Fusarium TR4 Diagnostic, Surveillance, Inspection and Simulation Exercises
COSAVE	IPPC Network	Meeting support for the virtual IPPC Regional Workshop for Latin America (travel expenses for OIRSA Member Country representatives)
EGYPT	Trade facilitation	Staff time of one officer (25%) for ePhyto activities
EPPO	IPPC Network and Standard Setting	Meeting support for the IPPC Regional Workshop for Europe and Central Asia Meeting support and host of the IPPC Technical Panel on Diagnostic Protocols (TPDP)
EUROPEAN COMMISSION	Trade facilitation	Staff time of one officer (25%) for ePhyto activities
FAO KENYA	IPPC Network	Meeting support for the IPPC Regional Workshop for Africa
FAO REGIONAL OFFICE FOR AFRICA	IPPC Network	Meeting support for the IPPC Regional Workshop for Africa
FAO REGIONAL OFFICE FOR EUROPE	IPPC Network	Meeting support for the IPPC Regional Workshop for Europe and Central Asia
FAO REGIONAL OFFICE FOR NEAR EAST AND NENA RPPO	IPPC Network	Meeting support for the IPPC Regional Workshop for the Near East and North Africa
FAO SUBREGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE CARIBBEAN	IPPC Network	Meeting support for the IPPC Regional Workshop for the Caribbean
FRANCE	Implementation Facilitation	Staff time of one officer for six months for implementation facilitation and ePhyto Interpretation into French of the IPPC Webinar: Introduction to IPPC implementation: your questions answered, May 2022
ITALY	Standard setting	Meeting support and host of the EWG

Note: For abbreviations and acronyms, refer to the list on page xiii.

JAPAN	IPPC Network	Staff time for IST team
KENYA	Trade facilitation	Staff time of one officer (25%) for ePhyto activities
	IPPC Network	Meeting support for the IPPC Regional Workshop for Africa
KOREA (Republic of)	IPPC Network	Meeting support for the IPPC Regional Workshop for Asia
MOLDOVA (Republic of)	IPPC Network	Meeting support for the IPPC Regional Workshop for Europe and Central Asia
NAPPO	Implementation Facilitation	Interpretation into Spanish of the third session of the virtual Workshop Series: Fusarium TR4 Diagnostic, Surveillance, Inspection and Simulation Exercises
OIRSA	IPPC Network	Meeting support for the virtual IPPC Regional Workshop for Latin America (travel expenses of OIRSA Member Country representatives)
PERU	IPPC Network	Meeting support for the virtual IPPC Regional Workshop for Latin America (meeting room for first day of the workshop)
PPPO	IPPC Network	Meeting support for the IPPC Regional Workshop for the Southwest Pacific
TUNISIA	IPPC Network	Meeting support for the IPPC Regional Workshop for the Near East and North Africa
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	IPPC Network	Staff time of one officer (100%) for one year supporting governance, communication, IYPH legacies and network activities
	Trade Facilitation	Staff time of one officer (50%) for ePhyto activities

Note: For abbreviations and acronyms refer to the list on page xiii.



IPPC projects implemented in 2022

The IPPC Secretariat recognizes the support from donors that made it possible to successfully implement the following projects in 2022.

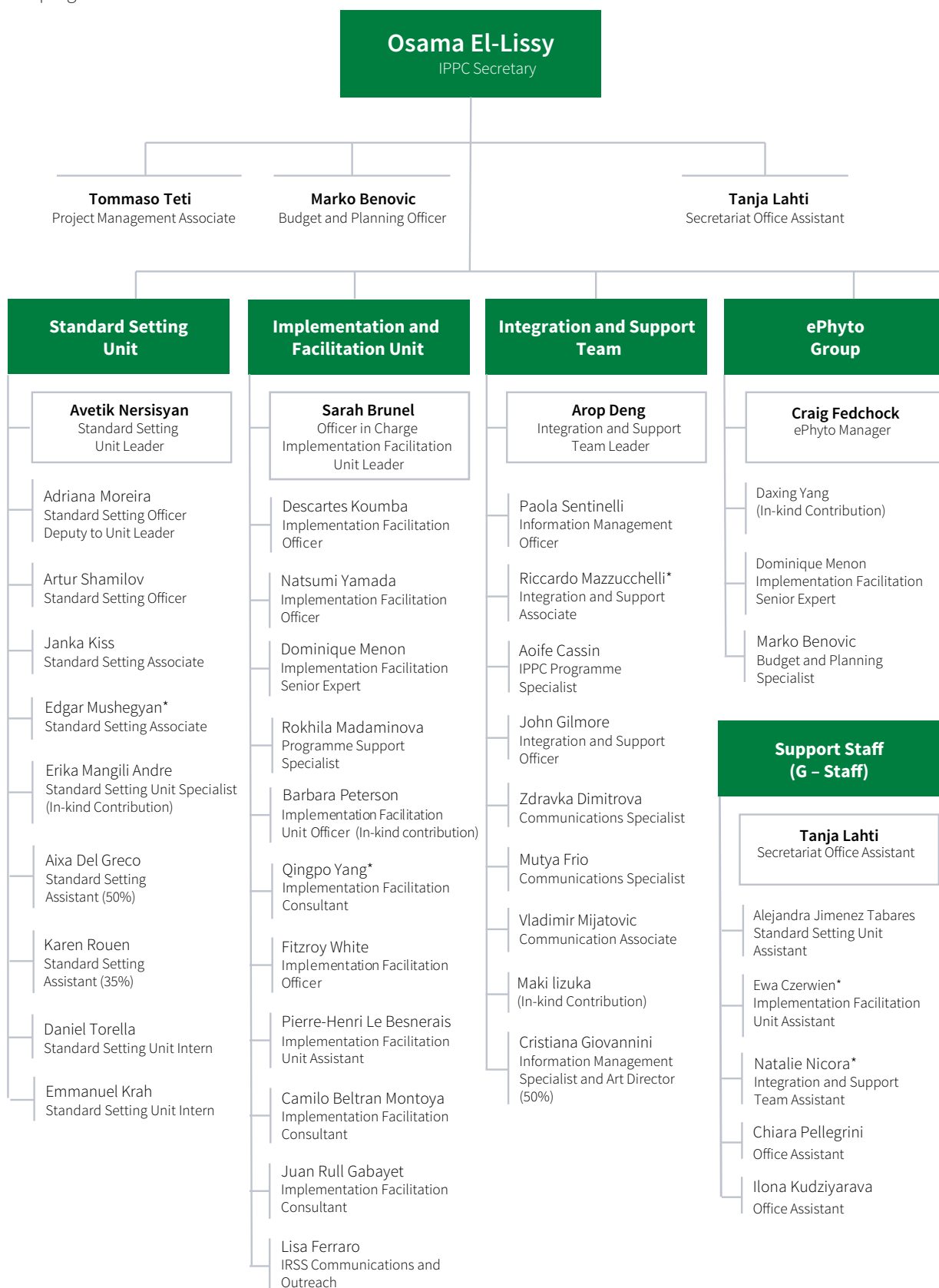
PROJECT TITLE	DONOR	PERIOD	BUDGET AMOUNT FOR 2022 (USD)
Support for implementation of the International Plant Protection Convention	European Commission	1 Jan 2020 – 31 Dec 2023	387 671
Implementation Review and Support System (IRSS) of the IPPC (third cycle)	European Commission	1 Feb 2018 – 31 May 2022	184 191
Commodity and pathways standards, pest outbreak alert and response systems, and ePhyto	European Commission	1 Jul 2020 – 30 Jun 2023	304 687
First International Plant Health Conference	European Commission	1 Jul 2022 – 31 Dec 2022	301 020
Strengthening the capacity of developing contracting parties to implement the IPPC	China	24 Feb 2017 – 31 Dec 2023	424 706
Implementation of a phytosanitary capacity evaluation in Nepal	World Bank	22 Jan 2021 – 30 Jun 2022	12 121
IPPC ePhyto and phytosanitary capacity evaluation	Germany	1 Jan 2022 – 31 Dec 2022	224 203
Total			1 838 599

PROJECT TITLE	DONOR	PERIOD	BUDGET AMOUNT FOR 2022 (USD)
Secondment programme	Japan	1 Oct 2020 – 30 Sep 2025	200 191



The IPPC Secretariat

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



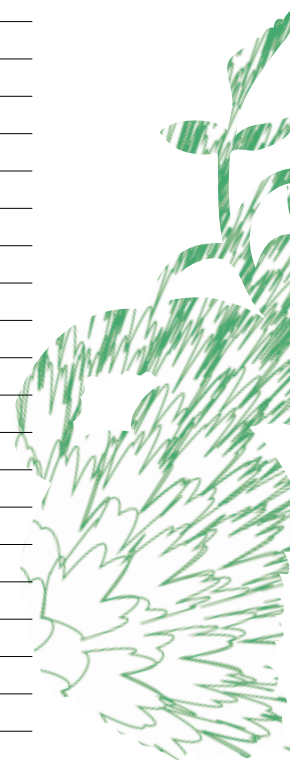
Note: The staff listed covers those who worked in the IPPC Secretariat for at least three months between 1 January and 31 December 2022.

Acronyms



APPPC	Asia and Pacific Plant Protection Commission
ASYCUDA	Automated System for Customs Data
BWC	Biological Weapons Convention
CABI	Centre for Agriculture and Bioscience International
CAHFSA	Caribbean Agriculture Health and Food Safety Agency
CAN	Andean Community
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CGIAR	Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research
CIHEAM	International Center for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies
COLEACP	Europe-Africa-Caribbean-Pacific Liaison Committee
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
COSAVE	Southern Cone Plant Health Committee
COVID-19	Coronavirus disease 2019
CPM	Commission on Phytosanitary Measures
CPM-16	Sixteenth Session of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures
CPM-17	Seventeenth Session of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measure
DAI	Strategic Framework 2020–2030 development agenda item
DEFRA	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
EPPO	European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization
EUPHRESKO	European Plant Health Research Coordination
EWG	Expert Working Group
ESG	ePhyto Steering Group
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FAW	Fall armyworm
FG	Focus Group
FG-CCPI	CPM Focus Group on Climate Change and Phytosanitary Issues
FG-COM	CPM Focus Group on Communications
FGFA	CPM Focus Group on Safe Provision of Food and Other Humanitarian Aid
FG-SFDAI	CPM Focus Group on the Strategic Framework 2020–2030 Development Agenda Items
GATF	Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation
GATT	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
GeNS	Generic ePhyto National System
GIZ	German Agency for International Cooperation
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
IAG	Industry Advisory Group
IAPSC	Inter-African Phytosanitary Council
IC	Implementation and Capacity Development Committee
ICD	Implementation and Capacity Development
IDPH	International Day of Plant Health
IFQRG	International Forestry Quarantine Research Group
IFU	Implementation and Facilitation Unit
IICA	Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture
IMO	International Maritime Organization

IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IPHC	International Plant Health Conference
IPPC	International Plant Protection Convention
IRSS	Implementation Review and Support System
ISF	International Seed Federation
ISPM	International Standards for Phytosanitary Measure
IYPH	International Year of Plant Health
MDTF	Multi-Donor Trust Fund
NAPPO	North American Plant Protection Organization
NEPPO	Near East and North Africa Plant Protection Organization
NPPO	National plant protection organization
NRO	National Reporting Obligations
OCS	Online Commenting System
OIRSA	Regional International Organization for Plant Protection and Animal Health
PCE	Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluations
PMRG	Phytosanitary Measures Research Group
PPPO	Pacific Plant Protection Organization
RPPO	Regional plant protection organization
SC	Standards Committee
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SELA	Latin American and the Caribbean Economic System
SFDAI	Strategic Framework 2020–2030 development agenda item
SG-POARS	Steering Group on Strengthening Pest Outbreak and Response Systems
SPG	Strategic Planning Group
SPS Agreement	World Trade Organization Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures
SSU	Standard Setting Unit
STDF	Standards and Trade Development Facility
TC-RPPO	Technical Consultation among Regional Plant Protection Organizations
TPCS	Technical Panel on Commodity Standards
TPDP	Technical Panel on Diagnostic Protocols
TPG	Technical Panel for the Glossary
TPPT	Technical Panel on Phytosanitary Treatments
TR4	<i>Fusarium oxysporum</i> f. sp. <i>cubense</i> Tropical Race 4
TWG	Technical Working Group
UNCTD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNICC	United Nations International Computing Centre
UNODA	United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs
UPU	Universal Postal Union
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WCO	World Customs Organization
WHO	World Health Organization
WOAH	World Organisation for Animal Health
WTO	World Trade Organization



Executive summary

The year 2022, despite all its challenges, was a successful one for the IPPC Secretariat and the IPPC community. It marked the historic first International Day of Plant Health (IDPH) and the first International Plant Health Conference (IPHC), and ensured that standard setting and implementation activities continued in the best possible manner.

Thanks to strong support from all relevant stakeholders, the IPPC Secretariat managed to deliver its services in the highest professional manner and serve its stakeholders globally, regionally and nationally. The year 2023 is expected to bear various challenges in the implementation of the Convention, which can be overcome with the IPPC community's continued support and dedication to the IPPC mission.



© FAO/Fredrik Lemeryd

This report outlines the outstanding achievements of the IPPC Secretariat in 2022.

Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) and subsidiary bodies

The IPPC Secretariat continued to support IPPC governance, despite continuing restrictions on travel and the organization of in-person meetings through the first half of 2022. Held virtually for a second time, the Sixteenth Session of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM-16) allowed the IPPC community to advance the work of IPPC. IPPC contracting parties participated in this historic CPM session on 5, 7 and 21 April 2022, adopting nine standards and one CPM recommendation and approving the 2022–2025 Action Plan for the 2020–2030 Strategic Framework implementation of the development agenda item “Assessment and Management of Climate Change Impacts on Plant Health”, among other achievements. The CPM Bureau met 11 times during 2022, with the support of the IPPC Secretariat, including, in October 2022, its first in-person meeting since the start of the pandemic. The IPPC Secretariat also facilitated the Eleventh Session of the Strategic Planning Group (SPG), which also took place in person following the CPM Bureau meeting in October 2022 in Rome, Italy. The Standards Committee (SC) met five times, with one wholly in-person meeting in November 2022. The

Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC) held four meetings: three virtual meetings (in February, March and May) and one in-person meeting from 21 to 25 November.

CPM Focus Groups. In 2022, there were six active CPM Focus Groups (FGs). Two FGs were established by CPM-16 (2022); one on Sea Containers and the second on the Safe Provision of Food and Other Humanitarian Aid. Four of the Focus Groups are directly related to the implementation of the Strategic Framework 2020–2030 development agenda items (DAIs).

Standard setting. The SC met five times in 2022, significantly progressing its work while ensuring the high quality of the IPPC International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs). The SC met in person at FAO headquarters in November with a fruitful agenda covering the recommendation of three ISPMs to CPM-17 for adoption and the approval of three specifications. The approved specifications were: Specification 73 (Annex International movement of fresh mango (*Mangifera indica*) fruit to ISPM 46 (*Commodity-specific standards for phytosanitary measures*)), Specification 74 (Annex Field inspection to ISPM 23 (*Guidelines for inspection*)) and Specification 75 (Revision of ISPM 26 (*Establishment of pest free areas for fruit flies (*Tephritidae*)*)). The Technical Panel on Commodity Standards (TPCS) started working in 2022 to draft commodity standards that will be annexed to the newly adopted ISPM 46 (*Commodity-specific standards for phytosanitary measures*).



Alex Webb/Magnum Photos for FAO

The work of the Technical Panel on Phytosanitary Treatments (TPPT), the Technical Panel on Diagnostic Protocols (TPDP) and the Technical Panel for the Glossary (TPG) progressed virtually throughout the year. Two expert working groups (EWGs) met to draft text on the Use of Specific Import Authorizations and an Annex to ISPM 38 (*International movement of seeds*). The Standard Setting Unit (SSU) provided close support to the work of the SC and its working groups via eDecisions, opening call for experts, calling for discussion papers, coordinating Language Review Groups, consultation periods on draft ISPMs and Specifications, and publishing adopted ISPMs.

Implementation and Capacity Development (ICD). The IC met four times in 2022 to discuss and advance the issues under its mandate. The IC worked to move forward on implementation issues and priority topics of the ICD list in Topics. Collaboration between the IC and the Implementation and Facilitation Unit (IFU) allowed effective planning and organization of these meetings and events. In 2022, multiple phytosanitary capacity evaluations (PCEs) were undertaken in several countries, including a PCE facilitator-training course in Africa to develop a pool for sustainable capacity development across the continent. IPPC guides on the regulation of wood packaging material, e-commerce and contingency planning were prepared in 2022, and will be published in 2023. The IPPC Secretariat published four e-learning courses in 2022 on pest risk analysis, and surveillance and reporting obligations (both published in May), the phytosanitary export certification system (published in September) and phytosanitary inspection (published in October).

IPPC Networks. Seven IPPC regional workshops were organized in 2022. Workshops took place in person or were hybrid events, with the exception of the Caribbean workshop that took place virtually. The third and final virtual session of the Thirty-third Technical Consultation among RPPOs (TC-RPPO) took place in February 2022. The Thirty-fourth TC-RPPO met four times in 2022; two sessions were in person and two were virtual.

IPPC ePhyto Solution. As of December 2022, nearly three million ePhyto certificates have been successfully exchanged through the Hub by 74 active user countries (up from 62 active user countries at the end of 2021); the total number of registered countries increased from 103 at the end of 2021 to 114 at the end of 2022.

Communications and advocacy. The IPPC Secretariat's visibility and impact were enhanced with the production of 18 IPPC publications, the posting of 68 IPPC news items, 67 announcements, and a number of videos and social media content.

International cooperation. International cooperation was maintained with 47 international and regional organizations.

Resource mobilization. In 2022, the United States of America/ North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO), the Republic of Korea, Canada, Ireland and Finland contributed more than USD 680 000 to the IPPC Multi-Donor Trust Fund (MDTF). Four IPPC projects were funded by the European Union, one by the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), one by the World Bank and one by China. The IPPC Secretariat implemented the phytosanitary components of other FAO projects, such as the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) trade facilitation programme and the project on Strengthening Food Control and Phytosanitary Capacities and Governance.

Internal management. In 2022, the new IPPC Secretary introduced a weekly leadership meeting with unit leads as well as weekly staff meetings, which should gradually lessen the need for mid-year and annual meetings. A number of staff members left the IPPC Secretariat in 2022, administrative staff in particular. A replacement plan was quickly implemented, and new staff members were recruited to help close gaps created by the turnover. The IPPC Secretary also presented a new vision of potential future secretariat initiatives to the CPM Bureau and SPG at their respective meetings in October to solicit their feedback. These new IPPC initiatives include a global phytosanitary programme with special focus on Africa, a phytosanitary trade support team and a centre of excellence, which are strongly aligned to the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020–2030.



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Key achievements

Highlights



New IPPC Secretary appointed - Osama El-Lissy joined as the new Secretary in 2022



70th anniversary of the IPPC



International Day of Plant Health. The International Day of Plant Health (IDPH) was celebrated on 12 May 2022 for the first time to inform and engage the public, policy-makers, academia, media and the private sector about the key role of plant health in achieving the United Nations 2030 Agenda.

Adopted

10 international standards including five phytosanitary treatments

1 Diagnostic protocols (DPs)

1 CPM Recommendation

7 IPPC projects implemented

114 countries registered with the IPPC ePhyto Solution

4 e-learning courses released

682 748 in funding

to the IPPC Multi-Donor Trust Fund (MDTF) received from four contracting parties

USD



© Fera/ David Crossley

International Plant Health Conference coorganized with the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland took place from 21 to 23 September 2022 in London. The three-day conference brought together more than 500 policymakers, academics and experts from all over the world to discuss and address global plant health challenges, including food security, the impacts of climate change, environmental protection and facilitating safe trade.

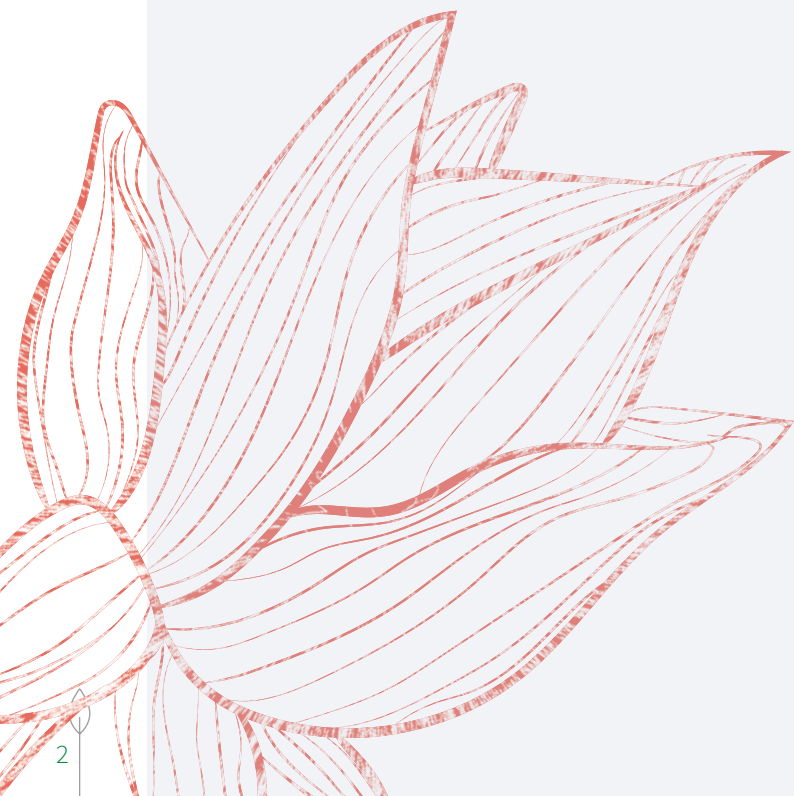
USD 682 748 funding to the IPPC Multi-Donor Trust Fund (MDTF) was received from four contracting parties.



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Standard setting

Technical Panel on Commodity Standards

The Technical Panel on Commodity Standards (TPCS) was established in 2019 by the CPM to support the development of technically justified phytosanitary import requirements to facilitate safe and more streamlined trade to the benefit of contracting parties. With the adoption of ISPM 46 (*Commodity-specific standards for phytosanitary measures*), the TPCS started working in 2022 to draft commodity standards that will be annexed to this new ISPM.

The main topic in the Panel's work programme is to develop the annex to Specification 73 – recently approved by the SC – on the “International movement of fresh mango (*Mangifera indica*) fruit”, which has raised considerable interest as mango fruit is widely traded internationally. Its purpose is to provide guidance on options for phytosanitary measures for NPPOs of countries that are or will be importing or exporting fresh mango fruit for consumption or processing. It excludes processed mango, e.g. dried, frozen and canned.

The TPCS will also discuss the criteria for inclusion of these phytosanitary measures into IPPC standards, as requested by CPM-16 (2022).

As one of the development agenda items in the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020–2030, the development of commodity standards will lay its strategic value and purpose in facilitating safe trade, harmonizing measures, optimizing efficient resource use, supporting and assisting developing countries, and maintaining the relevance and influence of the IPPC. As noted by CPM-14 (2019), the regulation of pests will remain firmly based on pest risk analysis and will be subject to technical justification.

SSU in numbers



66 topics for ISPMs were overseen by the Standards Committee and managed by the IPPC Standard Setting Unit



6 draft phytosanitary treatments progressed in the standard setting process



7 draft diagnostic protocols progressed in the standard setting process



+3000 comments received from contracting parties, regional plant protection organizations and the private sector during ISPM consultations



23 meetings prepared and successfully delivered on the development of international standards and CPM Focus Groups



2 webinars organized



+25 SC members supported



38 technical panel members supported



+50 authors of diagnostic protocols supported



+20 EWG experts participated in the IPPC Standard Setting Process (2021 expert working groups)



18 calls for experts, authors and topics launched and managed



17 e-decisions managed



4 Language Review Groups coordinated (Arabic, Chinese, Russian, Spanish)



10 technical and support staff

Revision and reorganization of the pest risk analysis standards

Pest risk analysis (PRA) is a core process within the scope of the IPPC and an important science-based evaluation tool for NPPOs.

Following the approval of Specification 72, the SC convened an expert working group (EWG) to revise and reorganize the standards related to the fundamental concept of PRA, namely ISPM 2 (*Framework for pest risk analysis*) and ISPM 11 (*Pest risk analysis for quarantine pests*). The EWG delivered the revision during a hybrid meeting that took place in Milan, Italy, from 7 to 11 November 2022. In addition to the work to combine and streamline ISPM 2 and ISPM 11, the EWG provided additional guidance to NPPOs on the third stage of PRA, pest risk management.

IPPC Secretariat webinars with the Standard Setting Unit

Webinar on the Standard Setting Procedure

Organized by the IPPC Secretariat, the webinar on the Standard Setting Procedure was held virtually on 31 March 2022, with the intention of explaining to stakeholders (e.g. NPPO and RPPO staff) the standard setting procedure of each type of standard (e.g. ISPM, DPs, PTs, phytosanitary terms) and gain a better understanding of their roles and how they can provide inputs.



The necessity to organize the meeting arose because many stakeholders have difficulty understanding the whole standard setting procedure despite its transparent and inclusive nature. The panellists were international experts from different regions of the world.

Webinar on Commodity Standards

The webinar on Commodity Standards was organized by the IPPC Secretariat and held virtually on 16 February 2022. The overall objective of the webinar was to familiarize the IPPC community with the commodity standards and the technical panel established by the CPM to develop them, the TPCS. This helped stakeholders have a better understanding of the process and provided an outlook on upcoming work as well as on the IPPC Strategic Framework development agenda item on commodity standards.

Panellists were mainly members of the SC, including the Chairperson and the Vice Chairperson, and was moderated by IPPC Standard Setting Officers.



Implementation and capacity development

In 2022, the IFU managed eight projects with a total value of over USD 8 million. The IPPC Secretariat relies strongly on extrabudgetary funds through projects, and was grateful to receive the generous support of the European Union, China, Japan, the COMESA Secretariat, GIZ, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the World Bank.

To deliver on the extensive project plan with quality products, and to meet procedural requirements, the team grew significantly and now includes, in addition to its usual staff, qualified consultants from all over the world. The Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC) has, to ensure transparency and consistency with the IPPC Secretariat's frequently updated List of topics, been extensively involved in all stages of projects implemented by the IFU. All activities undertaken in the IFU project framework strictly align with the IPPC Secretariat's vision, mission and strategic objectives to the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020–2030.

Key highlights from 2022 are the multiple phytosanitary capacity evaluations (PCEs) undertaken in several countries, including a PCE facilitator-training course in Africa to develop a pool for sustainable capacity development across the continent. Global e-learning courses and guides were also made available to all on major phytosanitary topics such as pest risk analysis, surveillance and reporting obligations, export certification and inspection.

Each individual IFU project now has a dedicated webpage, increasing transparency and clearly describing deliverables, which was noted and appreciated by CPM-16 (2022).



Broadening and establishing a strong e-learning programme

The IPPC Secretariat, in recognition of the recent importance of remote training for capacity building, published four e-learning courses in 2022, available for the whole phytosanitary community to consult, in cooperation with the Europe-Africa-Caribbean-Pacific Liaison Committee (COLEACP) and the FAO elearning Academy. The e-learning courses cover pest risk analysis, and surveillance and reporting obligations (both published in May), the phytosanitary export certification system (published in September) and phytosanitary inspection (published in October). The courses were promoted through a webinar and published on the IPPC Phytosanitary Portal (IPP). As a result, over 1 000 trainees from several regions have already completed these e-learning courses.

A particular thanks goes to the experts who participated in the working groups for their strong support and commitment, and the crucial role they played in developing the high-quality technical content of these training materials.



Growing our training guides and available translations

The interface for published IPPC guides and training materials on the IPP was significantly improved to allow users to clearly see all published IPPC guides and training materials and all language versions that are available. It also provides brief descriptions of each product and links to relevant ISPMs, phytosanitary component pages and related guides and e-learning courses.

The phytosanitary community has been actively working to develop three new IPPC guides in 2022. The products, which will be available early in 2023, are:

- ◆ **Guide to Regulation of Wood Packaging Material:** Understanding the phytosanitary requirements for the movement of wood packaging material in international trade (supporting the implementation of ISPM 15 (*Regulation of wood packaging material in international trade*))
- ◆ **E-commerce:** A guide for plants, plant products and other regulated articles distributed internationally through postal and courier pathways (supporting implementation of CPM recommendation R-05 on *Internet trade in plants and other regulated articles*)
- ◆ **Contingency Planning:** A guide for developing contingency plans for outbreaks of quarantine pests (as per the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020–2030 DAI on *Pest outbreak alert and response systems*)

These guides will provide accurate and easy-to-understand technical information and best practices that can be used to build national phytosanitary capacities, while also providing a basis for developing national legislative frameworks, policies and procedures, and for establishing and operating effective national phytosanitary systems. The new guides will contribute to the comprehensive set of training materials available to RPPOs and NPPOs, and will be used to enhance the phytosanitary system component webpages on the IPP.

Considerable progress was made in translating IPPC guides in 2022. A total of ten translations have been published or will be published in the coming months – five guides in Arabic, three guides in French and two guides in Spanish. The translations depend on support from contracting parties, international organizations and other partners. Potential collaborators are asked to contact the IPPC Secretariat (ippc@fao.org) to discuss their interest in helping to translate a particular guide or training material into other FAO languages





PCE and PCE COMESA project

Phytosanitary capacity evaluation (PCE) is a fully comprehensive NPPO-led, facilitator-enabled, IPPC Secretariat-supported process of multiple phases, with a wide range of benefits, to help countries evaluate their phytosanitary capacities. The PCE process is designed to be carried out in three phases of in-country face-to-face workshops. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the team persevered in carrying out both evaluations that were in progress and the ones that were close to implementation. This was done online, mostly using the Zoom platform. Due to the challenges posed by carrying out a PCE virtually – namely multiple changes of meeting times and unavailability of stakeholders – each PCE took longer than the time budgeted. Despite these challenges, in 2022, PCEs were concluded in Nepal and Saint Lucia.

The value of close collaboration with PCE donors cannot be overemphasized; the IPPC has seen the positive impact donor participation can have on the promotion and implementation of a PCE. World Bank support to the Nepal PCE was instrumental in forging future collaboration with other donors who wish to participate in the PCE process itself. Current collaboration with the COMESA Secretariat in implementing the project GCP/GLO/949/EU (“Strengthening food control and phytosanitary capacities and governance”) is proving to be just as beneficial as the previous World Bank experience. The first phase of the PCE COMESA project – training new PCE facilitators – included both an online component of six online training courses, and a face-to-face component, which took place in December. The third phase of the PCE Facilitator certification will take place next year, with multiple PCEs to be started in COMESA countries.

Transitioning to the IPPC Observatory

The transition from the Implementation Review and Support System (IRSS) to a more sustainable system, called the IPPC Observatory, was confirmed by CPM-16 (2022). The IPPC Observatory is now a system that monitors the implementation of the IPPC, ISPMs and CPM recommendations, identifies challenges and best practices, and provides recommendations to the IPPC governing and subsidiary bodies for follow-up actions. This evaluation system will also gather best practices and identify common challenges faced by IPPC contracting parties through surveys and studies, and will provide an overview of the implementation status of the IPPC and of ISPMs at a global level.

In 2022, one of the IPPC Observatory’s key priorities was to improve communications to increase awareness and understanding within the phytosanitary community. To this end, communication materials were developed (video, fact sheet and visual identity) and IPPC Observatory webpages were redesigned to be clearer.

The IPPC Observatory completed an analysis to improve survey design, data management, resource mobilization and the monitoring of the IPPC Strategic Framework. In addition, four IPPC Observatory publications were published and three more are currently being finalized for publication.

Facilitating safe trade

Trade facilitation – the simplification, modernization and harmonization of export and import processes – has emerged as an important issue for the world trading system.

The IPPC continues to facilitate safe and harmonized trade by providing a platform for the development and implementation of international phytosanitary standards, developing capacity, advocating for the consistent application of internationally approved principles for plant protection in international trade, fostering international cooperation and partnerships, and many other activities. Important work with trade-related topics, such as electronic phytosanitary certification, commodity and pathway standards, e-commerce and sea containers, continues in the IPPC community.

Electronic phytosanitary certificates (ePhyto)

The IPPC ePhyto Solution continues to make great progress in digitizing safe trade in plants and plant products. As of December 2022, nearly three million ePhyto certificates have been successfully exchanged through the Hub by 74 active user countries (up from 62 active user countries at the end of 2021); the total number of countries registered increased from 103 at the end of 2021 to 114 at the end of 2022. There are great expectations for 2023 as the IPPC ePhyto team hopes to have a global seminar next year with a focus on bringing even more countries to the production environment.

A large part of the success has been because of collaborative efforts between the Secretariat ePhyto team and the many partners who form an even larger “ePhyto Global Team”. These partners include first and foremost the ePhyto Steering Group and the United Nations International Computing Centre (UNICC), who developed and continue to lead the technical aspects and enhancements of the ePhyto Solution. Implementing the ePhyto Solution could never have happened without contributions from the Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation (GATF), the Industry Advisory Group (IAG) and the World Bank. The GATF has helped facilitate ePhyto onboarding in Madagascar (the first to use the French version of the Generic ePhyto National System (GeNS), Jordan and Senegal, among others, as well as providing the financial resources to translate the GeNS into Arabic for ePayment/eBilling and eSignature.



Improving Safe Trade in Plants and Plant Products

The IAG has taken the lead in setting up a series of seven joint webinars with the Secretariat. These webinars have provided the opportunity for more than 1 000 participants to learn about the ePhyto Solution in Australia, Chile, Colombia, Guatemala, New Zealand, Pakistan, the Philippines and Thailand. The World Bank Group has also launched ePhyto Solution onboarding assistance projects in Côte d'Ivoire, Nepal and Zambia, while working to facilitate connections between the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) Automated System for Customs Data (ASYCUDA) World single windows system and the ePhyto Solution in Fiji.



Countries implementing the ePhyto Solution



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Sea containers

Work on sea containers continued to ramp up throughout 2022. Aside from the work of the CPM Focus Group (FG) on Sea Containers, whose work is further outlined on page 17, an international workshop on reducing the introduction of pests through the sea container pathway was held from 19 to 20 September 2022 in London, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The workshop was attended by 130 participants representing NPPOs, RPPOs international organizations and industry stakeholders such as container owners, shipping lines, container manufacturers, freight forwarders, packers, port authorities, marine terminal operators, shippers, importers and exporters. Following the workshop, the CPM FG discussed workshop outcomes and the type of IPPC guidance that could be developed, taking account of the information presented and exchanged during the workshop. To continue discussions on reducing the introduction of pests through the sea container pathway and to provide input for the CPM FG on Sea Containers, it was agreed to organize a second international Sea Container Workshop in mid-2023.

Work is also ongoing in communication and raising awareness to broader audiences, including stakeholders that are not involved in the trade of plants and plant products.

e-Commerce

The management of e-commerce and the postal and courier pathways is one of eight DAIs in the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020–2030. Work on e-commerce is under the oversight of

the IC, with input from the SC. The CPM Focus Group on the Strategic Framework 2020–2030 Development Agenda Items (FG-SFDAI) was tasked with developing an overarching implementation plan for all IPPC Strategic Framework 2020–2030 DAIs with clear milestones and timelines. The Secretariat, in consultation with the IC Team on e-commerce, contributed to the draft implementation plan by developing a more detailed workplan for e-commerce with clear goals, deliverables and budgets for the next five years. The implementation plan will be presented to CPM-17 (2023) for adoption.

E-commerce: A guide for plants, plant products and other regulated articles distributed internationally through postal and courier pathways is expected to be finalized and published in the first quarter of 2023. Once the e-commerce guide is published, it will be supported by a comprehensive communications plan that is being developed and will include videos, fact sheets and case studies to be published on the IPP, with social media support on IPPC channels, as well as webinars and other virtual events.

The IPPC Secretariat continues to participate as an observer in the World Customs Organization (WCO) e-commerce working group and the Universal Postal Union (UPU) postal security group virtual meetings. As part of the 2023 workplan, an e-commerce study was added to the IPPC Observatory's workplan. The primary intent of the study is to establish a baseline for measuring key e-commerce outcomes, as specified in the Strategic Framework, and to evaluate the extent to which NPPOs and RPPOs have implemented the CPM recommendation R-05 on *Internet trade in plants and other regulated articles*.

Emerging pests



Fusarium oxysporum f. sp. *cubense* Tropical Race 4 (TR4) and fall armyworm

Fusarium oxysporum f. sp. *cubense* Tropical Race 4 (TR4) has been reported in around 20 countries so far; however, there have been no new incursions reported in new countries since the latest detections that occurred in India (2019), Colombia (2019) and Peru (2021). The IC Team on *Fusarium* TR4 and the IPPC Secretariat developed draft prevention, preparedness and response guidelines for *Fusarium* TR4 that will be sent to the IC for approval, and will publish the guidelines by the first quarter of 2023. Twelve contributed resources on *Fusarium* TR4 were posted on the IPP. The IPPC Secretariat, with the support of the IC Team on *Fusarium* TR4, delivered a virtual workshop series on “*Fusarium* TR4 diagnostic, surveillance, inspection and simulation exercises”, consisting of three sessions with people from approximately 125 countries attending each session.

For fall armyworm (FAW), African and Asian countries continue working on management, and countries are implementing the National Integrated Pest Management Strategy for FAW control. The FAO/IPPC technical working group (TWG) on FAW self-assessed the activities it implemented, and concluded that it had fully fulfilled its mandate according to its terms of reference.

Emerging pests are considered more holistically through the implementation of the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020–2030 DAI on *Strengthening pest outbreak alert and response systems*. A Steering Group on Strengthening Pest Outbreak and Response Systems (SG-POARS) was created by CPM-16 to work on establishing a POARS capability, with the Bureau having approved the selection of expert nominees for the SG-POARS as recommended by the IPPC Secretariat. SG-POARS will convene in 2023.

Communication and advocacy

The IPPC Secretariat continued to expand its outreach to various audiences and stakeholders. Milestones such as the inaugural International Day of Plant Health (IDPH) and the first International Plant Health Conference (IPHC) highlight the secretariat's communication initiatives, and were big wins in terms of raising global awareness on plant health.

The **International Day of Plant Health** was declared on 12 May and was celebrated for the first time in 2022. The first IDPH builds on the success of the International Year of Plant Health in 2020–2021 by continuing to inform and engage the public, policymakers, academia, media and the private sector about the key role of plant health in achieving the United Nations 2030 Agenda. A dedicated website is maintained in all six United Nations languages.

Meanwhile, the world's leading authorities on plant health came together for the world's first ever **International Plant Health Conference**, coorganized by the IPPC Secretariat, DEFRA and FAO. More than 500 policymakers, academics and experts from more than 74 countries came together from 21 to 23 September at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre in London, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, to address current and future plant health challenges, including food security, the impacts of climate change, environmental protection, facilitating safe trade, and new pest and disease pathways such as e-commerce.

Across 20 sessions, delegates and more than 120 speakers shared knowledge and discussed global scientific, technical and regulatory issues, together with actions to tackle these existential threats to society, the economy and the environment. The conference report, the recording of main sessions and all presentations are available at the dedicated webpage on the IPP.

In numbers

- ◆ **77** news articles and 69 announcements published
- ◆ **12** monthly newsletters published
- ◆ **362 000** users on social media reached and 1 851 new followers gained, with a steady increase in percentage compared to 2021
- ◆ **1 483 258** visits to the International Phytosanitary Portal (IPP), with the greatest interest in the homepage, ISPMs and country-profile pages
- ◆ **25** videos produced including advocacy messages from FAO Goodwill Ambassadors, the IPPC Observatory and others



Information Management

The IPPC website is maintained and updated in six FAO languages. Significant new developments include user subscriptions to news, announcements and calls, the release of new phytosanitary components and a dedicated FAW web page.

Other IPPC tools, such as the Online Commenting System (OCS) and Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE), are being maintained and updated as needed.

New IPPC Style Guide and brochure

The new IPPC Style Guide was published by FAO in November 2022. Designed to be used in conjunction with the FAO style guide (FAOSTYLE), the IPPC Style Guide provides guidance on content and structure for experts drafting IPPC documents, including draft ISPMs, draft specifications for ISPMs, draft CPM recommendations, IPPC guides, specifications for IPPC guides, high-level reports and advocacy materials. The style guide serves as a quick reference – with its detailed table of contents – for anyone drafting IPPC documents, and helps ensure consistency in style, references and use of terminology across IPPC publications and related documents.

The IPPC brochure was updated and published to reflect the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020–2030 and how the secretariat and the IPPC community are working to achieve the strategic objectives.



IPPC network

IPPC meetings that had been entirely virtual for the past two years of the pandemic gradually returned to hybrid and face-to-face meetings in mid-2022. With a return to in-person meetings, the IPPC Secretariat organized and conducted seven IPPC Regional Workshops in 2022 in collaboration with FAO regional and subregional offices, and with collaborating organizations such as the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), among others.

National reporting obligations

The IPPC Secretariat successfully implemented the 2022 National Reporting Obligations (NROs) workplan under the support and guidance of the IC Team on NROs.

Each official contact point of the 184 IPPC contracting parties and their 226 country editors received support to present and maintain their national information on the IPP through monthly automated emails and with NRO presentations delivered during IPPC regional workshops for seven regions or upon request. The very successful e-learning course on “Surveillance and reporting obligations” was published in May, with more than 400 subscribers between May and September 2022.

The establishment of the IC subgroup on NROs to further develop NRO activities is underway and should be finalized in 2023.

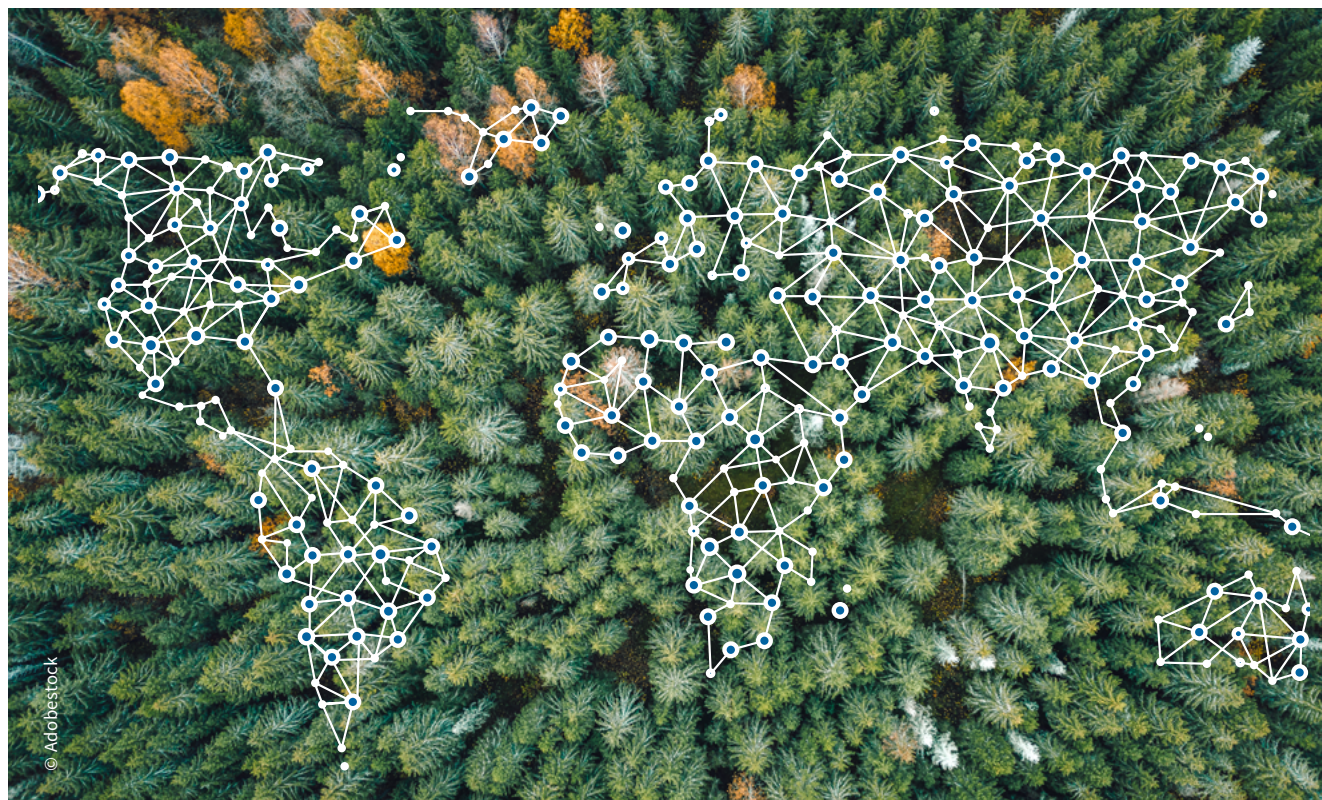
Technical Consultation among Regional Plant Protection Organizations

The IPPC Secretariat organized and facilitated the Thirty-fourth Technical Consultation among Regional Plant Protection Organizations (TC-RPPO) in 2022. The TC-RPPO held its annual meeting virtually, and organized face-to-face sessions on the margins of the IPHC on 21 and 22 September 2022 in London, United Kingdom.

The IPPC encourages RPPOs and contracting parties to cooperate on common topics of interest such as important plant pest risks, climate change and plant health, and safe trade. RPPOs often function as coordinating bodies in plant protection matters among contracting parties within and outside of their region, and with regional institutions including FAO regional and subregional offices. Topics discussed during the 34th TC-RPPO included updates from the CPM Focus Group on Climate Change and Phytosanitary Issues (FG-CCPI) and the relevance of this issue to the whole RPPO community, POARS and a draft analysis of the roles of RPPOs therein, as presented in the CPM FG on POARS report entitled Recommendations for an Effective Pest Outbreak Alert and Response System, and a presentation on POARS by the Southern Cone Plant Health Committee (COSAVE) on the Locust Alert System established to contribute to response systems and risk assessments to reduce damage by four species of locust present in South America.



International Cooperation



In 2022, external cooperation was maintained with 47 international and regional organizations.

The IPPC Secretariat continues to collaborate with a diverse group of international institutions. Collaboration improves IPPC work by including diversity in the profiles, engaging the IPPC community on technical topics, and raising awareness and disseminating knowledge globally on the importance and the activities of the IPPC. The secretariat also collaborates to organize additional activities and events in support of IPPC core activities and the implementation of the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020–2030.

The secretariat collaborated with the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), namely in the Biorisk Working Group aiming to bring together policy, normative and technical expertise in harmonizing and further developing a clear understanding of capacities, responsibilities, mechanisms and roles within the United Nations system. The collaboration contributes to strengthening the international community's response to biorisk and to improving the prevention of and preparedness for the deliberate use of biological pathogens.

Collaboration with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) progressed slowly during 2022. However, the IPPC Secretariat closely collaborated via the FAO Biodiversity team and provided input and reports to the CBD on invasive alien species, climate change and sea containers as a pathway for the introduction of pests. During 2022, the IPPC Secretariat actively participated and called upon IPPC contracting parties in the meetings of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA-24) and the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI-3), paving the way to the Fifteenth Session of the CBD Conference of Parties (COP-15).

Other collaborations saw the involvement of the UPU, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the IICA, the WCO, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the Ozone Secretariat and the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

The IPPC Secretariat managed to collaborate with several academic and research organizations such as the University of Florence in Italy, the International Forestry Quarantine Research Group (IFQRG), and the Phytosanitary Measures Research Group (PMRG), European Plant Health Research

Coordination (EUPHRESKO), as well as with stakeholders from civil society and private sector such as the International Seed Federation (ISF), the Centre for Agriculture and Bioscience International (CABI), and the International Center for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM).

The IPPC is one of the “three sisters” in international standards setting recognized by the World Trade Organization Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement), and worked closely with the SPS Committee and the SPS Secretariat in 2022. In addition to providing regular updates to the SPS Committee, the IPPC Secretariat also participated in the SPS Transparency Champions Course by providing its expertise on SPS issues. Moreover, the SPS Secretariat moderated a session during the IPHC, which was also attended by the SPS Committee Chairperson. During the November 2022 SPS Committee meeting, a thematic session on “International Standards and Best Practices in Pest Risk Identification, Assessment and Management” was organized by the SPS Secretariat with the participation of the SC and IC chairpersons. The IPPC Secretary moderated the final session. The IPPC Secretariat, together with the Codex Alimentarius Commission for food safety standards and the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH) had several informal meetings throughout the year to exchange information, ideas and experiences on the implementation and observatory of each “sister” organization.



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Governance and strategy

CPM Bureau: The Bureau of the CPM held 11 meetings in 2022, including an in-person meeting from 17 to 21 October. The Bureau provided guidance and reorganized the IPPC Secretariat's work during the third year of the COVID-19 pandemic and commissioned the organization, largely by virtual means, of the IPPC governing and subsidiary body meetings in 2022. The Sixteenth Session of the CPM was successfully held virtually, and resulted in the adoption of nine standards, one CPM recommendation (R-10) and the establishment of two CPM Focus Groups. The Bureau also reconsidered the established scope of the CPM Bureau's decision-making authority in the time remaining before the next CPM meeting. It also supported the organization of the face-to-face Strategic Planning Group (SPG) meeting that convened in October 2022 and began preparations for the Seventeenth Session of the CPM in March 2023. The Bureau supported the celebration of the first edition of the IDPH and the organization of the first IPHC.

Strategic Planning Group (SPG): The IPPC SPG successfully held its first face-to-face meeting since the onset of COVID-19 pandemic, from 24 to 26 October 2022 in Rome, Italy, to advance strategic discussions on new global priorities and challenges in plant health. The meeting was attended by 27 registered contracting parties including representatives of two RPPOs. The return to an in-person meeting led to productive discussions, and provided opportunities for renewing and strengthening networks within the IPPC community. Discussions focused on the implementation of the eight DAIs of the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020–2030, in addition to deliberations on other key agenda items including sea containers, dispute settlement, observer policy and One Health, among others. The SPG also received updates from CPM subsidiary bodies (SC and IC), the seven established CPM Focus Groups and the IPPC Secretariat, including items on a partnerships framework and regional workshops.

In addition, the IPPC Secretariat presented its 2022 future outlook centred on three new initiatives: a global phytosanitary programme with a focus on Africa, trade facilitation and a centre of excellence. These will be potential opportunities to enhance global collaboration on emerging plant health issues and will be discussed at CPM-17 in March 2023.

CPM Focus Groups: In 2022, there were seven active CPM Focus Groups (FGs).

CPM Focus Group on Sea Containers. Formed by the CPM Bureau in June 2022 with an objective to develop viable options that will contribute to phytosanitary risk management and provide CPM with recommendations (including the option to develop an ISPM). The FG met several times during the second half of 2022, both virtually and in person at FAO headquarters in Rome and, despite the short timeframe, outcomes are already proving to be fruitful. The FG completed a revision of the CPM recommendation on Sea containers (R 06) that will be submitted to CPM-17 for approval to go to country consultation in 2023.

CPM Focus Group on Safe Provision of Food and other Humanitarian Aid (FGFA). Formed by the CPM Bureau in September 2022, the FGFA met virtually in October and December 2022. The group has centred its work programme on the review of its terms of reference and has examined some case studies from personal experiences of members in order to build up the case. The FGFA will meet face-to-face in February 2023 in Nadi, Fiji.

CPM Focus Group on Communications (FG-COM). The FG-COM is working to review and update the IPPC Communication Strategy (2022–2030) to align with the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020–2030, while also continuing to raise awareness of the importance of plant health and the role of the IPPC, and to provide related advocacy. To ensure a robust communication strategy, CPM-16 (2022) agreed to a one-year extension to the group's mandate, postponing the discussion and possible adoption of the IPPC Communication Strategy until CPM-17 (2023). The strategy will serve as a roadmap for the IPPC community's communication and advocacy. The group met seven times in 2022 to work on the draft strategy that was reviewed by both the Bureau and SPG during their respective meetings in October in preparation of the strategy's presentation to CPM-17.

CPM Focus Group on the Strategic Framework 2020–2030 Development Agenda Items (FG-SFDAI). This FG met four times throughout 2022 to develop the detailed implementation plan for each of the DAIs outlined in the Strategic Framework, including proposed sequencing and budgets for each. The full implementation plan will be presented to CPM-17 (2023), at which time the groups's mandate will end as per its agreed terms of reference.

CPM Focus Group on the Sustainable funding of the IPPC ePhyto Solution. This FG was established by CPM-15 (2021) and its members were selected by the Bureau in 2022. The primary role of the FG is to establish an interim phase of funding for the ePhyto Solution that would last until the long-term solution could be implemented as part of the DAI on *Harmonization of electronic data exchange*. The group met several times throughout 2022 to discuss and develop possible solutions; a proposed sustainable funding mechanism is being presented to CPM-17 (2023).

CPM Focus Group on Pest Outbreak Alert and Response Systems (POARS). The FG reported its activities to CPM-16 (2022), which agreed, as an interim measure, to establish a POARS Steering Group to work on establishing a POARS capability. The terms of reference of the POARS Steering Group were agreed by the Bureau who selected 11 members during its October 2022 meeting. The Bureau also recognized the synergies between the work on POARS and the global phytosanitary programme currently being considered by the secretariat, noting that POARS may form the structure through which the new phytosanitary programme is delivered. The Bureau agreed that a contract position (i.e. one drawn from extra-budgetary resources) should be created to support the work of the Steering Group and the development of plans for a global phytosanitary programme. The POARS Steering Group will be set in 2023.

CPM Focus Group on Climate Change and Phytosanitary Issues (FG-CCPI). The FG-CCPI was established by CPM-15 (2021) to implement the DAI on the *Assessment and management of climate change impacts on plant health*. To date, the IPPC Secretariat has coordinated the preparation of 14 FG CCPI meetings to discuss and develop the 2022–2025 IPPC action plan on Climate Change Impacts on Plant Health. Following the CPM-16 (2022) approval of the action plan, FG-CCPI members initiated a discussion around implementation of prioritized activities. The FG-CCPI has also delivered a number of international-, regional- and national-level plant health and climate change-focused information and awareness presentations throughout 2022.

Standards Committee: The SC held five meetings in 2022 in addition to its annual meetings in May and November, all of which were held virtually with the exception of the November meeting held in person in FAO headquarters from 14 to 18 November. With a full agenda, the SC significantly progressed in its work by approving three new specifications and recommending three ISPMs to CPM-17 (2023) for adoption. A new SC chairperson, Sophie Peterson (Australia) was elected in May 2023.

Implementation and Capacity Development Committee: In 2022, the IC held four meetings including one in-person meeting from 21 to 25 November at the FAO headquarters.



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About the IPPC

The Convention

The IPPC is an international plant health treaty that aims to protect cultivated and wild plants by preventing the introduction and spread of pests. The IPPC currently has 184 contracting parties.

To read the full IPPC text see:

www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/governance/convention-text

VISION

The spread of plant pests is minimized and their impacts within countries are effectively managed.

MISSION

Protect global plant resources and facilitate safe trade.

The IPPC has several mechanisms for fostering cooperation among contracting parties.

These include:

- ◆ developing ISPMs
- ◆ fostering information exchange
- ◆ developing capacity
- ◆ providing legal and policy guidelines

The IPPC's strategic objectives for 2020–2030

- ◆ **enhance** global food security and increase sustainable agricultural productivity
- ◆ **protect** the environment from the impacts of plant pests
- ◆ **facilitate** safe trade, development and economic growth

The WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement) recognizes the IPPC as the international standard setting body for plant health. It is on par with Codex Alimentarius, responsible for food safety standards, and the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH), responsible for animal health standards.

IPPC annual themes 2022–2026

2022
Plant health
innovation for
food security

2023
Plant health and
environmental
protection

2024
Plant health
and biodiversity
conservation

2025
Plant health
and trade
facilitation

2026
Plant health
and capacity
development

A brief history of the IPPC

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

The next major step in plant protection was the International Convention for the Protection of Plants, signed in Rome in 1929. FAO adopted the IPPC in 1951.

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



Governing bodies

The IPPC is governed through the CPM, which meets annually to review the IPPC work programme and take strategic decisions, including adopting new ISPMs. The CPM Bureau is the CPM's seven-member elected executive branch. The CPM Bureau provides guidance to the IPPC Secretariat on activities, particularly those related to financial and operational management, between sessions of the CPM. The SPG provides a strategic perspective on the work of the IPPC and supports improvements by offering recommendations and advice to the CPM on any issues that have been referred to and any other issues related to the functions of the SPG. The Financial Committee provides advice on financial matters and resource mobilization issues to the CPM through the CPM Bureau.

The SC is composed of 25 members from seven regions and is mainly responsible for overseeing the IPPC standard setting process and developing ISPMs.



The IC is composed of 12 members, plus one RPPO representative and one SC representative. It provides technical oversight to activities that enhance the capacity of contracting parties to implement the IPPC and meet its strategic objectives.

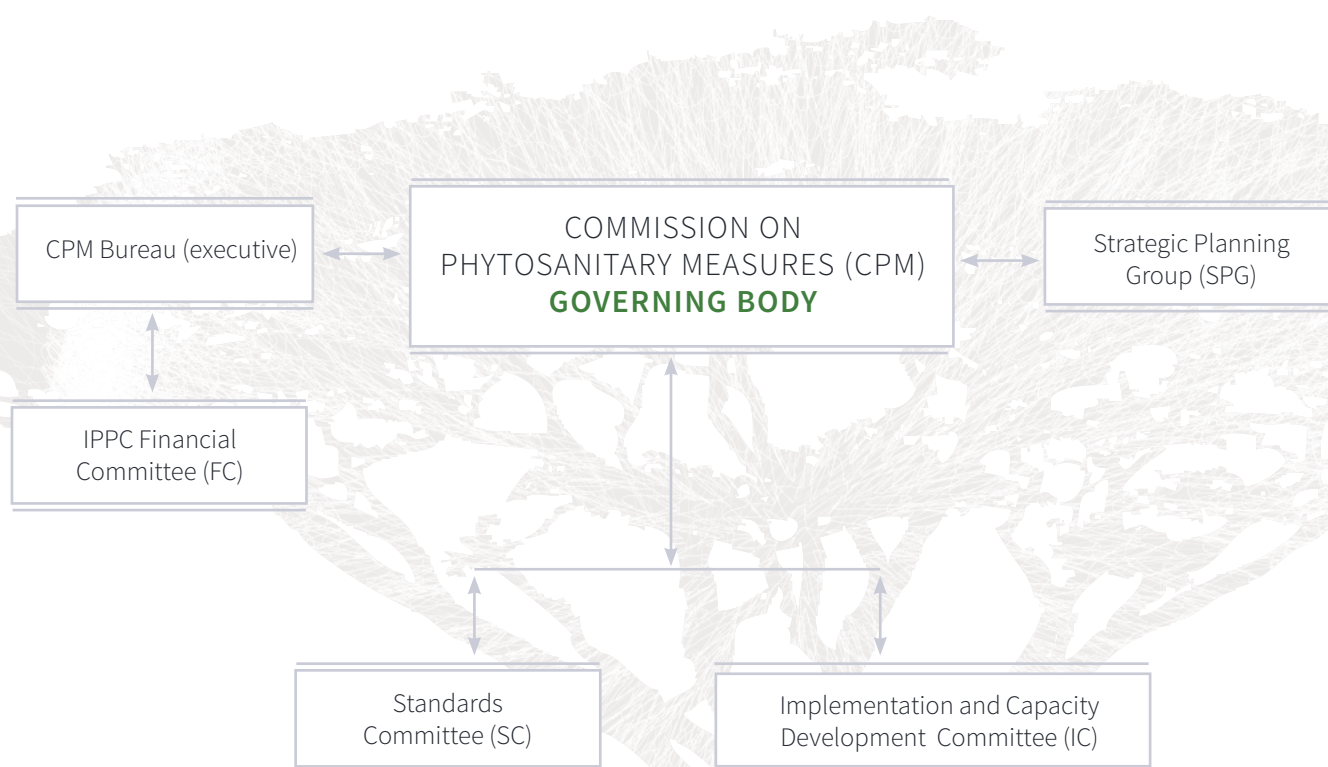


Figure 1. Structure of IPPC governing and subsidiary bodies.

The IPPC Secretariat

The IPPC Secretariat coordinates the core activities of, and provides operational support to, the IPPC work programme. It is hosted at FAO headquarters in Rome, Italy.

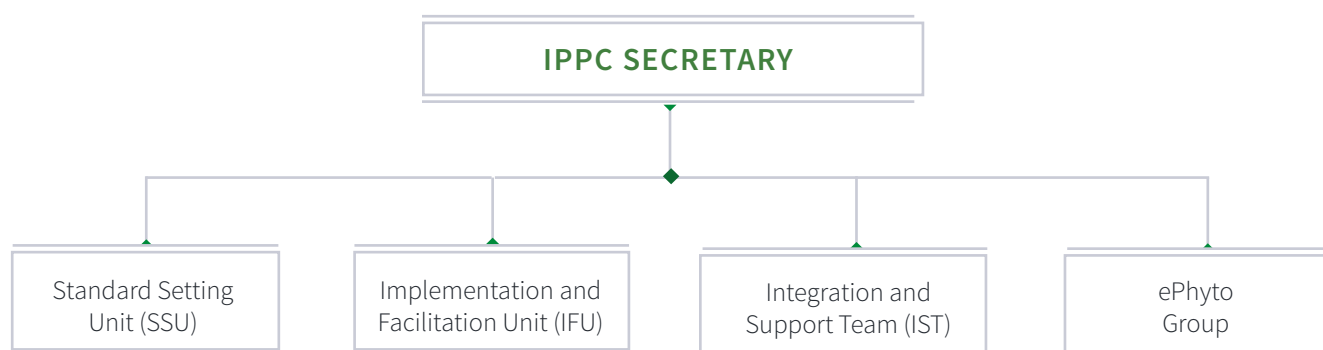
The Standard Setting Unit (SSU) coordinates and facilitates the processes behind setting ISPMs and CPM recommendations.

It also provides technical support for the implementation of the IPPC's strategic framework. It supports the SC and several expert subgroups, such as the drafting groups for developing standards, including those responsible for translating and publishing ISPMs and CPM recommendations.

The Implementation and Facilitation Unit (IFU) coordinates and facilitates the implementation of the IPPC, the ISPMs and CPM recommendations. It supports the IC and its subgroups and teams to facilitate implementation and capacity development activities by supporting contracting parties to implement the IPPC, ISPMs and CPM recommendations.

The Integration and Support Team (IST) supports the governance, technical, strategic planning, partnership, and communication and advocacy activities of the IPPC Secretariat. For example, it organizes the CPM, the CPM Bureau and SPG meetings. It coordinated the IPPC Secretariat's advocacy for the delivery of the International Year of Plant Health 2020 and efforts towards the proclamation of the International Day of Plant Health. The IST is responsible for the IPPC website, the NRO platform, the Online Comment System and a host of other online tools. It also supports IPPC activities related to emerging pests and other plant health issues.

The ePhyto Group is responsible for the global implementation of the IPPC ePhyto Solution, coordination of the ePhyto Steering Group's (ESG) work, and for ensuring, along with the UNICC, the sustained and smooth operations of the ePhyto Solution. It liaises with several partners and provides support to onboarding countries.



The IPPC community

The IPPC boasts a network of international partners from all over the world. These include ten RPPOs working to secure plant health and environmental protection in their regions. The IPPC specifies the functions of RPPOs as:

- ◆ **coordinating** NPPOs and participating in activities to promote and achieve the objectives of the IPPC;
- ◆ **cooperating** with other regions to promote harmonized phytosanitary measures;
- ◆ **gathering** and disseminating information, in particular in relation to the IPPC; and
- ◆ **cooperating** with the CPM and the IPPC Secretariat in developing and implementing International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures.

Each RPPO has its own action plan and programme. However, each year the IPPC Secretariat organizes a TC-RPPO where all RPPOs gather to discuss common challenges, share information and look for synergies.

The current RPPOs of the IPPC are: the Andean Community (CAN); Asia and Pacific Plant Protection Commission (APPPC); Caribbean Agriculture Health and Food Safety Agency (CAHFSA); European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (EPPO); Inter-African Phytosanitary Council (IAPSC); Near East Plant Protection Organization (NEPPO); North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO); Pacific Plant Protection Organisation (PPPO); Regional International Organization for Plant Protection and Animal Health (OIRSA); and Southern Cone Plant Health Committee (COSAVE).

At the national level, IPPC-related activities are primarily coordinated and implemented by NPPOs.



IPPC partners

The IPPC Secretariat cooperates with 47 external partners and organizations to create synergies and to achieve common goals.

14 United Nations organizations

- ◆ Biological and Toxic Weapons Convention (BWC)
- ◆ Codex Alimentarius Commission
- ◆ Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- ◆ Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)
- ◆ International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)
- ◆ International Maritime Organization (IMO)
- ◆ International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA)
- ◆ Ozone Secretariat of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- ◆ Technology Services Industry Association (TSIA)
- ◆ United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)
- ◆ United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- ◆ United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- ◆ Universal Postal Union (UPU)
- ◆ World Health Organization (WHO)

13 International organizations

- ◆ Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)
- ◆ Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC)
- ◆ European Food Safety Agency (EFSA)
- ◆ Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation (GATF)
- ◆ Inter-Agency Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species (IALG on IAS)
- ◆ Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)
- ◆ International Organization for Standardization (ISO)
- ◆ International Seed Testing Association (ISTA)
- ◆ Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF)
- ◆ World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH)

- ◆ World Bank (WB)
- ◆ World Customs Organization (WCO)
- ◆ World Trade Organization (WTO)

14 Academic and research organizations

- ◆ Centre for Agriculture and Biosciences International (CABI)
- ◆ *Centre international de hautes études agronomiques méditerranéennes* (CIHEAM)
- ◆ Entomological Society of America (ESA)
- ◆ Erasmus Mundus Programme of Masters in Plant Health
- ◆ European Phytosanitary Research Coordination (Euphresco)
- ◆ Global Taxonomy Initiative of the CBD (GTI/CBD)
- ◆ Imperial College
- ◆ International Pest Risk Research Group (IPRRG)
- ◆ International Association for the Plant Protection Sciences (IAPPS)
- ◆ International Forestry Quarantine Research Group (IFQRG)
- ◆ International Society for Plant Pathology (ISPP)
- ◆ La Sapienza University of Rome
- ◆ Phytosanitary Measures Research Group (PMRG)
- ◆ University of Florence

6 Industry and non-governmental organization (NGO) partners

- ◆ Container Owners Association (COA)
- ◆ Europe-Africa-Caribbean-Pacific Liaison Committee (COLEACP)
- ◆ Global Express Association (GSA)
- ◆ International Grain Trade Coalition (IGTC)
- ◆ International Olive Council (IOC)
- ◆ International Seed Federation (ISF)

Contribution to the United Nations Agenda for Sustainable Development



Adopted standards – Standard Setting Unit

International standards for phytosanitary measures are international standards adopted by the FAO Conference, the Interim Commission on Phytosanitary Measures or the CPM established under the IPPC. They aim to harmonize the phytosanitary measures applied in international trade.

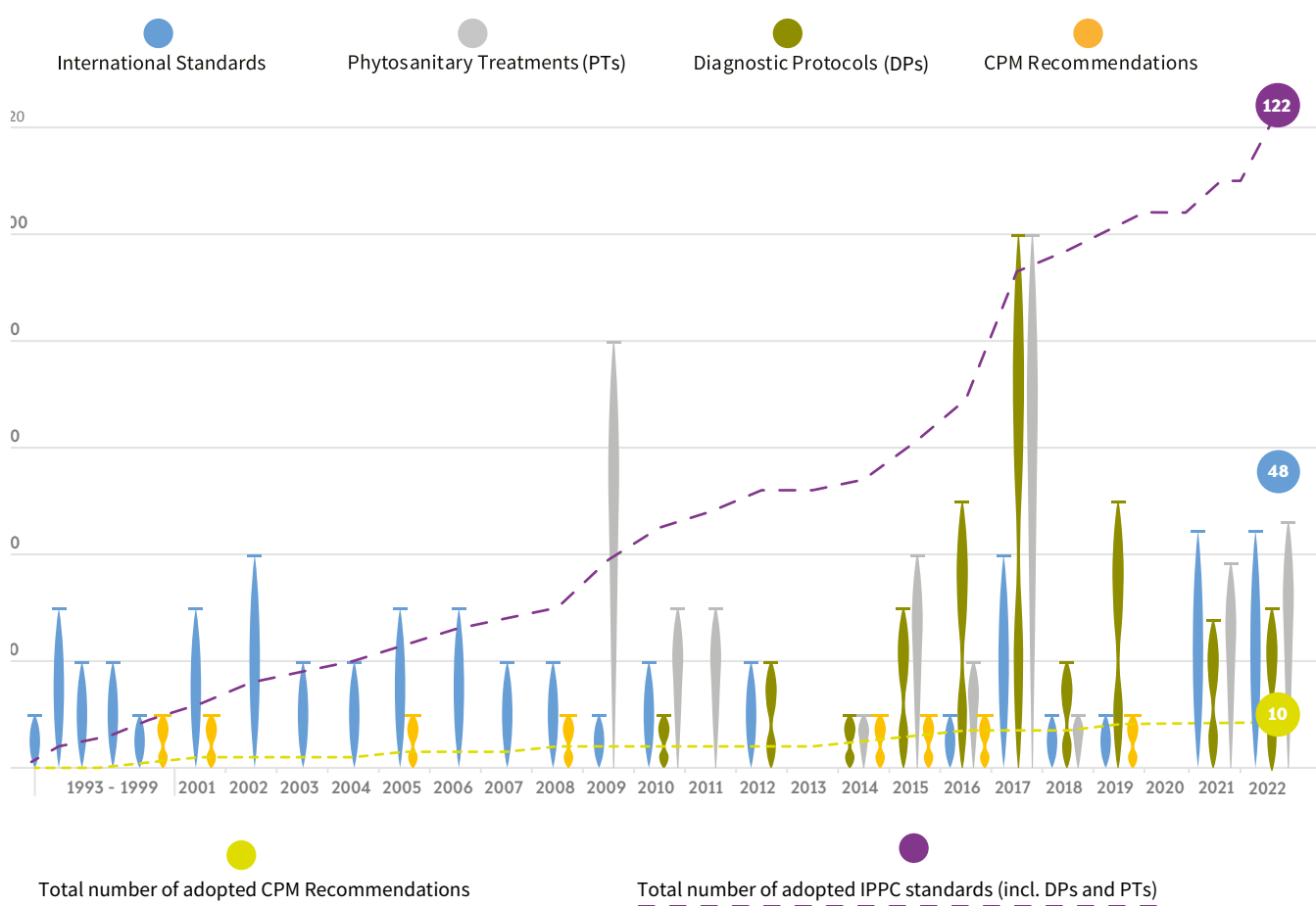


Figure 2. Adoption of the international standards and CPM recommendations

The way forward

Looking at the year ahead, our collective achievements in 2022 will serve as a springboard from which the IPPC community can further build on to protect the world's plants and plant resources.

We are keenly aware of the challenges: more people are going hungry and are food-insecure every year. Invasive species are becoming established in new areas due to a changing climate. Biodiversity loss due to plant pests remains the biggest threat to the environment. Phytosanitary risks from the trade of plants and plant products continue to jeopardize economies.

However, we are confident that the 184 contracting parties to the IPPC are fully on board, and the governance and subsidiary bodies' structures are in place through the CPM, CPM Bureau, the Strategic Planning Group, the Standards Committee and the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee.

We are also cognizant of the proactive and important role of the IPPC community to develop tangible and innovative solutions to address the fundamental challenges we are facing today.

In 2023, we look forward to discussing new initiatives at the Seventeenth Session of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM-17) that will allow us to strategically address the most urgent global phytosanitary issues. We also anticipate the adoption of new standards to further prevent the spread of pests, as well as the global IPPC Communications Strategy 2022–2030 that will spur more proactive multi-way communication among members of the IPPC community, stakeholders, partners and cooperators.

We will continue implementing in various phases the eight development agenda items under the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020–2030, namely harmonizing electronic data exchange, commodity-specific ISPMs, management of e-commerce and postal and courier pathways, developing guidance on the use of third-party entities, strengthening pest outbreak alert and response systems, the assessment and management of climate change impacts on plant health, global phytosanitary research coordination, and diagnostic laboratory networking.

In the pipeline are new guides and training materials, procedure manuals, analytical studies and e-learning courses to further build the capacity of NPPOs. We are restructuring the International Phytosanitary Portal to provide a web experience that is intuitive and user responsive, catering primarily to the needs of NPPOs. We will also continue and forge new partnerships with important stakeholders to enhance international cooperation.

On behalf of the IPPC Secretariat, I wish to thank all our donors, partners and stakeholders who remain steadfast leaders and supporters of our work. The IPPC Secretariat is as committed and as focused as ever. We are confident that 2023 will usher in new initiatives, approaches and innovative tools that will drive even greater advances towards the global protection of plants.

Osama El-Lissy
IPPC Secretary



Further reading

2022 Reports and publications

- ◆ Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) reports
www.ippc.int/en/cpm-sessions/
- ◆ CPM Bureau reports
www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/governance/bureau/
- ◆ Strategic Planning Group (SPG) report
www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/governance/strategic-planning-group/
- ◆ Financial Committee (FC) reports
www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/governance/bureau/ippc-financial-committee-fc/
- ◆ Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC) and subgroup reports
www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/capacity-development/capacity-development-committee/
- ◆ Standards Committee (SC) reports
www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/standards-setting/standards-committee/
- ◆ CPM Focus Groups reports
www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/governance/cpm/cpm-focus-group-reports/
- ◆ Technical Panel on Phytosanitary Treatments (TPPT) reports
www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/standards-setting/expert-drafting-groups/technical-panels/technical-panel-phytosanitary-treatments/
- ◆ Technical Panel on Diagnostic Protocols (TPDP) report
www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/standards-setting/expert-drafting-groups/technical-panels/technical-panel-diagnostic-protocols/
- ◆ IPPC Regional Workshop reports
www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/capacity-development/regional-ippc-workshops/
- ◆ IPPC ePhyto Solution reports
www.ippc.int/en/ephyto/
- ◆ FAO/IPPC Fall Armyworm (FAW) TWG reports
www.ippc.int/en/the-global-action-for-fall-armyworm-control/faoippc-faw-technical-working-group/
- ◆ Report on the analysis to support the transition to a sustainable Implementation Review and Support System (IRSS)
www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cc0799en
- ◆ Final report of the Sea Containers Task Force
www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cb9533en

e- learning 2022

- ◆ E-learning course: Export certification
<https://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?id=860>
- ◆ E-learning course: Surveillance and reporting obligations
<https://training.coleacp.org/login/index.php>
- ◆ E-Learning course: Phytosanitary Inspection
<https://training.coleacp.org/login/index.php>
- ◆ E-learning course: Pest Risk Analysis
<https://training.coleacp.org/course/index.php?categoryid=207>

Key resources

- ◆ **The International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) text**
www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/governance/convention-text/
- ◆ **Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM)**
www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/governance/cpm/
- ◆ **Adopted standards (ISPMs)**
www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/standards-setting/ispms/
- ◆ **CPM recommendations**
www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/governance/cpm/cpm-recommendations-1/cpm-recommendations/
- ◆ **Standard setting procedure manual**
www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/ippc-standard-setting-procedure-manual/
- ◆ **Capacity development and technical manuals**
www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/capacity-development/guides-and-training-materials/
- ◆ **International Day of Plant Health website**
<https://www.fao.org/plant-health-day/en>

Website and social media

- ◆ **IPPC website**
www.ippc.int/en/
- ◆ **Facebook**
www.facebook.com/ippcheadlines/
- ◆ **LinkedIn**
www.linkedin.com/groups/3175642/
- ◆ **Twitter**
twitter.com/ippcnews
- ◆ **Flickr**
<https://www.flickr.com/people/182442121@N04/>

New videos on YouTube

- ◆ 70 years of International Plant Protection Convention
- ◆ Plant Health and Climate Change
- ◆ Plant Health and E-Commerce
- ◆ What are National Plant Protection Organizations and why are they important?
- ◆ Pest risk analysis: Why we do it and why it is important
- ◆ IPPC Observatory
- ◆ Message from the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee chairperson
- ◆ FAO Goodwill Ambassador Jonathan Drori on the importance of plant health
- ◆ FAO Goodwill Ambassador Diarmuid Gavin on plant health and travel



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