



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

2016 IPPC ANNUAL REPORT



**International Plant
Protection Convention**

65
YEARS

Protecting the world's plant resources from pests



2016 IPPC ANNUAL REPORT

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Rome, 2017



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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 2016 Annual Report for the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) Secretariat.

Through 2016, we have seen the ongoing evolution of an integrated IPPC Secretariat in line with the recommendations of the 2014 Enhancement Evaluation that were agreed by the CPM Bureau and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Management. The establishment of cross-Secretariat task forces for resource mobilization and communication has resulted in a more transparent and integrated budget and work plan, as well as a new landing page on the International Phytosanitary Portal (IPP) and strong focus on consistent, clear and informative content. The critical relationship between standard setting and implementation to achieve Convention outcomes has been codified in the draft terms of reference and Rules of Procedure for the proposed Implementation and Capacity Development Committee and will lead to further integration of these functions within the Secretariat.

The IPPC Secretary and his leadership team have engaged closely with FAO to increase the profile of the IPPC, at both a technical and corporate level. This has been assisted by several seminars and other events that have raised awareness of "Plant Health and Food Security", which was the annual theme for 2016. These themes have generated both wide interest and valuable advocacy material that will support the IPPC as it progresses the concept of the International Year of Plant Health (IYPH) in 2020. I look forward to 2017 as the year of "Plant Health and Trade Facilitation" and the opportunity to showcase our ePhyto pilot.

It is a testament to the enthusiasm of a number of countries and individuals that the IYPH concept has been agreed by FAO Council. The inaugural meeting of the IYPH Steering Committee (StC) in November 2016 has established a solid platform for the final push towards approval and proclamation of the year by the United Nations (UN) General Assembly in 2018.

The outcomes that can be achieved by the IPPC are, in the short term, tied to available resourcing. This means that prioritisation is essential so that core functions and critical additional activities that progress the Convention outcomes are appropriately resourced. I acknowledge, with sincere thanks, the successful efforts of the IPPC Secretariat and the commitment of donors, which together have created opportunities

for ongoing and additional resourcing of the IPPC Secretariat.

However, the effective implementation of the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020-2030 will depend on a more predictable and sustainable funding base than the current combination of FAO regular programme, the IPPC trust fund and project funds.

Conversations on the future focus of the IPPC and a sustainable funding model that will pay for it will feature heavily during the next few years.

2020 *International Year of Plant Health*

The outcomes achieved by the activities outlined in this report would not have been possible without the participation and support of the hundreds of people who involved themselves in meetings of the CPM and subsidiary bodies, capacity development activities, IPPC standard setting and information sharing processes including surveys, technical resources and contact points, contribution of resources as cash or in kind, as well as regional and national plant health and protection actions. I encourage everyone to continue working together to ensure that the IPPC is globally respected as the world leader for plant protection.

Finally, I wish to express my appreciation for the commitment and passion of the IPPC Secretary and the Secretariat team. We would not have achieved what we have without them.

FOREWORD FROM THE IPPC SECRETARY



Jingyuan Xia

IPPC Secretary


It is my great pleasure to provide these introductory remarks to the 2016 Annual Report of the IPPC Secretariat.

The year 2016 has been a milestone for the IPPC as it was the first year for the Convention to implement its annual themes towards 2020. This year has also been extraordinary for the IPPC Secretariat as we attained outstanding achievements even with a substantial reduction of human resources. With remarkable support from all relevant stakeholders, the IPPC Secretariat continuously improved its performance and brought a new image to the IPPC.

Noteworthy events within IPPC governance and strategies for 2016 included: dissemination of the IPPC annual theme "Plant Health and Food Security"; establishment of a Focus Group on an oversight body for implementation; and initialization of IPPC strategic planning for 2020–2030. Furthermore, the proclamation of an IYPH in 2020 was greatly promoted, with the establishment of an StC for IYPH and the resolution for IYPH endorsed by the 25th Session of the FAO Committee on Agriculture (COAG) and FAO Council.

Significant achievements were obtained in standard setting and implementation over the year. Forty-four standards significantly progressed, with 16 approved to be submitted for adoption, which is the highest numbers in IPPC's history. Sixteen projects on implementation facilitation advanced, assisting over 15 contracting parties. Seven IPPC Regional Workshops were held, with 212 participants from 144 contracting parties. Five Training Workshops on Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE) were organized, with participation of 40 phytosanitary experts and 21 lawyers from 49 contracting parties.

Encouraging results were also reached within communication and partnerships. A new IPPC homepage and a new Online Comment System (OCS) were released; three IPPC Seminars and two side events were organized; and 177 items of headline and brief news were released, with a 90 percent increase from 2015. Cooperation with the Joint FAO/International Atomic Energy Agency Division of Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture (Joint FAO/IAEA Division) was deepened within standard setting, cooperation on ePhyto was initiated with the World Customs Organization (WCO); and cooperation with UN Environment Programme (UNEP) on biodiversity-related issues was also initiated.



Great progress was made in resource mobilization for 2016. This resulted in the IPPC Multi-donor trust fund (MDTF) reaching over USD 6 million, with a 42 percent increase compared to 2015. Newly approved IPPC projects amounted to over USD 4 million, being the highest in the Convention's history. In addition, IPPC in-kind contributions were valued at over USD 0.7 million, attesting to the efforts of contracting parties to advance the IPPC agenda by directly contributing staff or hosting meetings.

Important actions took place for internal management in 2016. The action plan for the IPPC Secretariat's Enhancement Evaluation was implemented, particularly as regards reshaping the IPPC Secretariat's structure with establishment two technical units (Standard Setting and Implementation Facilitation) and one supporting team (Integration Support). Quality management and standardization of documents were strengthened by developing several standard operating procedures. Team and culture building were promoted through a Team building workshop and a Monitoring & Evaluation training session, as well as by enhancing the cross-Secretariat work through task forces for resource mobilization and for communication and advocacy.

*IPPC annual
theme for 2016:
"Plant Health and
Food Security"*

The year 2016 was memorable for the IPPC and IPPC Secretariat on many accounts and we, "One IPPC", can all be proud of our achievements that have taught us important lessons on the need to innovate, prioritize, coordinate and work together. The year 2017 will be yet another milestone for the IPPC as we will implement the annual theme "Plant Health and Trade Facilitation", and will celebrate the 65th Anniversary of the Convention. I am convinced that with the continued support from all relevant stakeholders we will be able to deliver the IPPC work programme more effectively and efficiently.

In conclusion, I wish to express my sincere gratitude to the IPPC governing and subsidiary bodies for their guidance and oversight, to all contracting parties and regional plant protection organizations for their strong support, to all partners and collaborators for their close cooperation, and to the IPPC Secretariat staff for their dedicated and active contribution to reach our common goals.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The IPPC Secretariat would like to recognize the many experts, members of the CPM governance and subsidiary bodies, technical panels and advisory bodies, as well as the contracting parties that engage 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 2016, the following contracting parties or organizations made or pledged financial contributions to the IPPC Secretariat.

CONTRACTING PARTY/ORGANIZATION	RECEIVED (IN USD)	PLEDGED (IN USD)
Australia	150 000	
Canada		206 000 (2017)
China		2 000 000 (2017-2020)
France	25 000	
New Zealand	38 929	
Republic of Korea	311 126	
United States of America/North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO)	140 000	
European Commission	989 011	
Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF)	1 120 000	

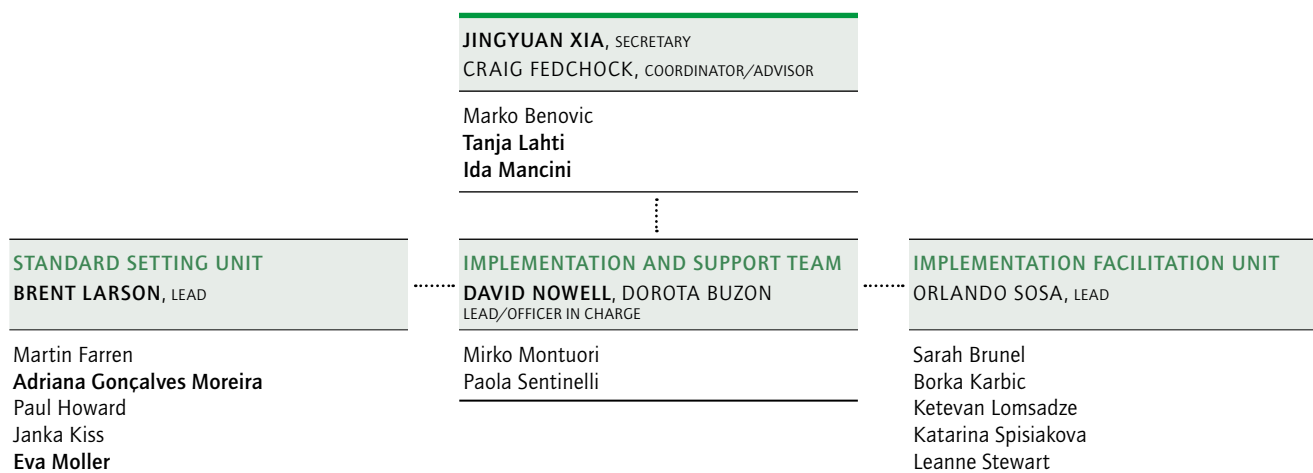
IN-KIND SUPPORT

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 listed below are provided in the IPPC Secretariat Financial report for 2016, presented to CPM-12 (2017).

CONTRACTING PARTY/ORGANIZATION	ACTIVITY (WORK AREA)	TYPE OF CONTRIBUTION
Australia	Standard Setting	Meeting support: Expert Working Group (EWG) on Grain
Canada	Implementation Facilitation, Standard Setting	Staff time: Shane Sela (100%) and Meeting support: Technical Panel for Forest Quarantine (TPFQ)
China	Governance, National Reporting Obligations	Meeting support: CPM Bureau, IPPC Financial Committee (FC) and IPPC workshop on National Reporting Obligations (NRO)
Costa Rica	Implementation Facilitation	Staff time: Magda Gonzales Arroyo (8%)
Estonia	Implementation Facilitation	Staff time: Olga Lavrentjeva (8%)
France	Standard Setting	Staff time: Céline Germain (100%)
Jamaica	Standard Setting	Meeting support: Technical Panel on Diagnostic Protocols (TPDP)
Japan	Standard Setting	Meeting support: Technical Panel on Phytosanitary Treatments (TPPT)
New Zealand	Standard Setting	Staff time: Michael Ormsby (5%)
Republic of Korea	Implementation Facilitation	Meeting support: Capacity Development Committee (CDC), the Pilot project on "Surveillance" and IPPC Regional Workshop
United States of America	Standard Setting	Staff time: Stephanie Dubon (25%)
Viet Nam	Implementation Facilitation	Staff time: Nguyen Thi Thu Huong (8%)
Centre International de Hautes Etudes Agronomiques Méditerranéennes (CIHEAM)	Implementation Facilitation	Meeting support: FAO-IPPC-CIHEAM Workshop on <i>Xylella</i>
European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (EPPO)	Implementation Facilitation	Meeting support: IPPC Focus Group on Implementation
FAO Regional Office for Eastern Europe	Implementation Facilitation	Meeting support: IPPC Regional Workshop
FAO Regional Office for the Near East	Implementation Facilitation	Meeting support: IPPC Regional Workshop
FAO/IAEA Joint Division	Standard Setting	Staff time: Rui Cardoso Pereira (5%)
Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)	Implementation Facilitation	Meeting support: IPPC Regional Workshops

IPPC SECRETARIAT

Acknowledgement is given to the IPPC Secretariat staff for their dedication and commitment to the delivery of the IPPC work programme¹.



¹ Only paid staff employed (on staff or consultancy basis) with, and directly funded by, the IPPC Secretariat for more than six months in 2016, are included. **Bolded names** indicate regular programme funded posts, names not in bold indicate trust funded posts or short-term staff resources.

ACRONYMS

A

- ADG FAO Assistant Director-General
 AG FAO Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department
 APHIS-IS United States Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, International Services Division
 APPPC Asia and Pacific Plant Protection Commission
 AQSIQ Chinese General Administration for Quality Supervision Inspection and Quarantine

B

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

C

- CAAS Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences
 CABI Centre for Agriculture and Biosciences International
 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
 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
 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
 IPP International Phytosanitary Portal (www.ippc.int)
 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
 IYPH International Year of Plant Health

J

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

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
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
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 Canada, European Union, Japan and countries United States of America

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
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
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

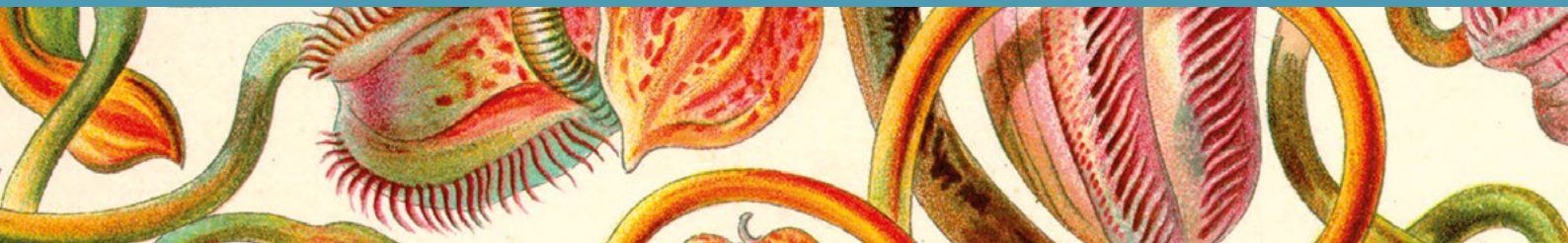
V

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
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

At the end of 2016 the IPPC had 183 contracting parties with the Republic of the Gambia joining IPPC in 2016.

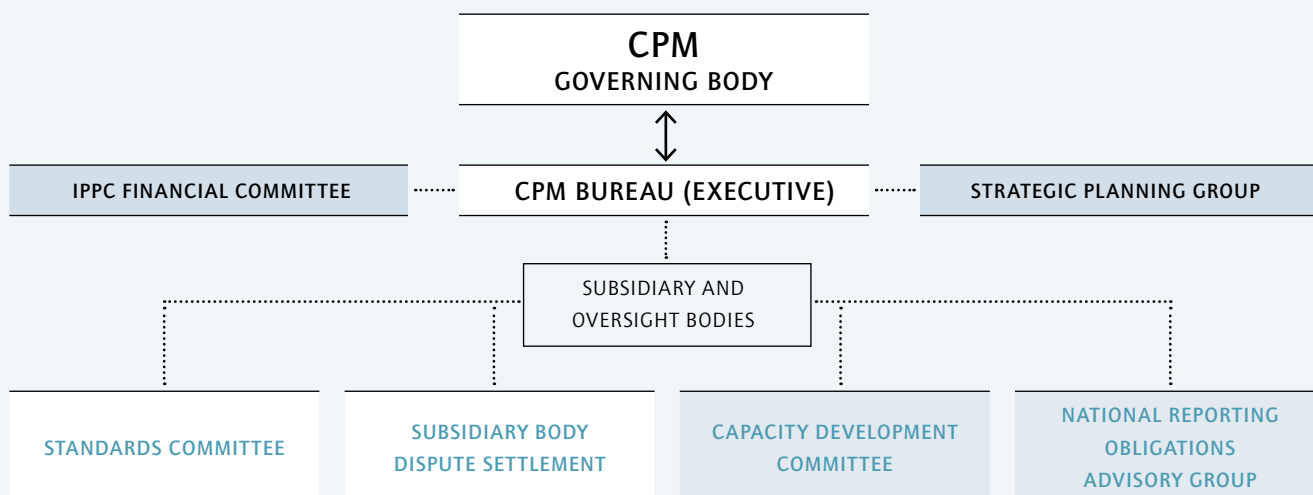
PAST CHAIRPERSONS

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

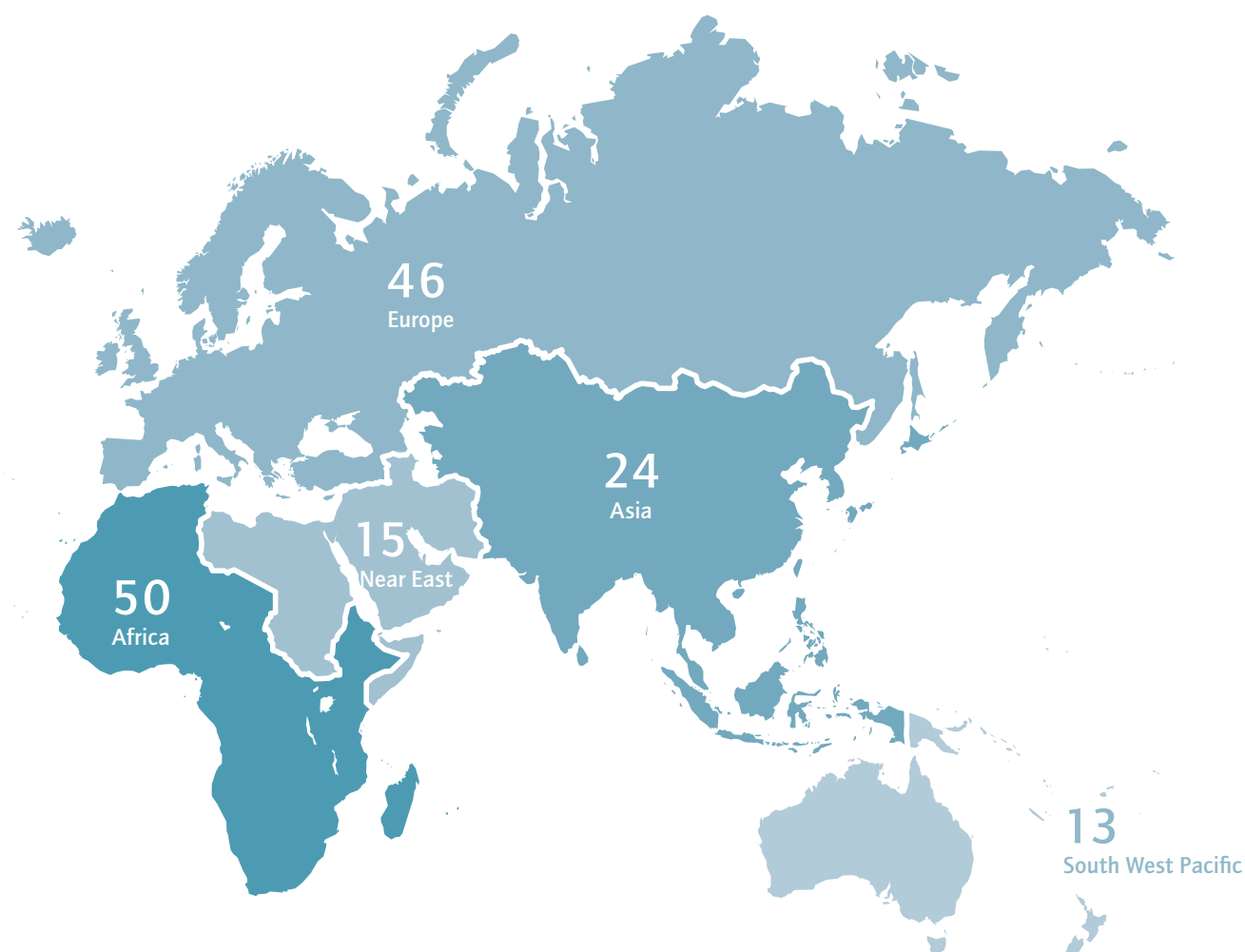
Canada 1953
United States of America 1972

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

CORE ACTIVITIES

In 2016, the IPPC Secretariat provided operational support to the following core activities:

Standard Setting Team

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

Implementation Facilitation

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

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

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

National Reporting Obligations

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

Communication and Advocacy

Raising awareness about the mandate and purpose of the IPPC is crucial to advancing the overall mission of protecting the world's plant resources from pests. To this effect, communication and advocacy material is prepared and published on the IPP such as the IPPC Secretariat annual report, fact sheets, brochures and news items, and seminars or participation in side events are arranged. In addition, manuals and in-depth studies are shared online to help countries gain knowledge on specific topics, just as a strong presence on social media is maintained.

International Cooperation

International cooperation is a cornerstone of the IPPC Secretariat's work. On a daily basis, the IPPC Secretariat works with a wide range of NPPOs, RPPOs, international organizations and UN agencies. There are also many occasions for the IPPC Secretariat to interact with international industry groups. International cooperation is particularly undertaken to meet the goal of facilitating the implementation of the Convention, to solicit input from experts for the development of ISPMs or to mobilize resources. This is in line with the overall FAO direction that sustainable long-term development is only achievable through multi-stakeholder involvement.

PROGRESS REPORT



The year 2016 has been a milestone for the IPPC as it was the first year to implement the IPPC annual themes with a view towards 2020. With full support from the IPPC Governing bodies and FAO Senior management, Jingyuan Xia, IPPC Secretary, continued to change the *modus operandi* of the IPPC Secretariat. Key tasks continued to be more focused and operational mechanisms were optimized on an ongoing basis, while an increasing emphasis was being placed on the standardization of operational procedures and processes. The renewal of the IPPC Secretariat continued to build on the good foundations established in 2015, with a focus on moving towards "One IPPC". Strengthened cooperation with NPPOs and RPPOs was also emphasized. During 2016, a number of achievements were attained under the five categories listed below.

The year 2016 has been a milestone for the IPPC as it was the first year to implement the IPPC annual themes with a view towards 2020

1. GOVERNANCE AND STRATEGY

Commission on Phytosanitary Measures

The 11th Session of the CPM took place from 4–8 April at FAO headquarters in Rome, the Republic of Italy, and resulted in a number of significant outcomes including:

1. adoption of and support for five IPPC annual themes: "Plant Health and Food Security" for 2016, "Plant Health and Trade Facilitation" for 2017, "Plant Health and Environmental Protection" for 2018, "Plant Health and Capacity Development" for 2019, and "IYPH" in 2020
2. adoption of four standards and a revised Standard setting procedure to help ensure inclusiveness and transparency in setting standards, and noting the adoption of five annexes to ISPM 27 (Diagnostic protocols for regulated pests) by the Standards Committee (SC) on behalf of the CPM
3. adoption of the terms of reference to form a Focus Group for *Establishing a new IPPC subsidiary body on implementation and capacity development*
4. adoption of the Framework for Standards and Implementation to support the cooperative work on setting and implementing standards
5. endorsement for the development of an ePhyto hub system, and approval of an IPPC implementation pilot project on "Surveillance"
6. agreement on the way forward regarding the concept of a commodity standard
7. adoption of NRO Procedures, and agreement on the IPPC Communication and Advocacy work plan

8. organization of a special topics session on sea containers webcasted worldwide and agreement on the way forward for this topic
9. organization of a set of highly appreciated side activities, such as a pre-CPM training on ISPM 32 (*Categorization of commodities according to their pest risk*), seven side sessions, and the second IPPC photo contest, and
10. discussion of the Enhancement Evaluation of the IPPC Secretariat.

CPM Bureau, IPPC Financial Committee and Strategic Planning Group

The CPM Bureau met four times, in March-April at FAO-HQ, in June in Beijing, the People's Republic of China, in October at FAO-HQ and in December via teleconference. The Bureau meeting in March-April mainly discussed the preparation and agenda for CPM-11. The Bureau in June discussed sustainable funding strategies for the IPPC work programme. A key output from the meeting was that the Bureau agreed to the need for immediate actions for resource mobilization to secure funds for 2016. It also thought that it was essential to fund staff from those resources and to limit the earmarking of contributions to the IPPC MDTF. As this was the first Bureau meeting to take place outside Rome, the Bureau and the IPPC Secretariat took the opportunity to meet with senior officials of the Chinese Ministry of Agriculture; the General Administration of Quality, Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine; the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences; and the Chinese National Agricultural University. The October and December Bureau meetings essentially set the stage for 2017 including finalization of the agenda for CPM-12 (2017), launching the effort for renewing the IPPC strategic framework, and approving the IPPC Secretariat Work Plan and Budget for 2017.

The FC met three times: in March at FAO-HQ; in June in Beijing, the People's Republic of China; and in October again at FAO-HQ. The FC meeting in March discussed mainly the 2015 financial report of the IPPC Secretariat and the financial management of the IPPC Secretariat. The FC meeting in June focused on moving from raising awareness of the weak financial position of the MDTF to concrete steps to deal with the financial situation for both the short and longer term. The issue on establishment of the sustainable funding for the IPPC work programme was discussed in depth in the October FC meeting and was brought to the CPM Bureau and the IPPC Strategic Planning Group (SPG) for further consideration. The FC noted the changing financial situation of the IPPC Secretariat, especially with regard to the IPPC MDTF and proposed that short- and long-term funding options were pursued further. The FC suggested certain improvements to the proposed IPPC Secretariat work plan and budget for 2017 and endorsed the draft for submission and approval of the Bureau.

The SPG agreed on milestones for the development of the IPPC Strategic Framework for 2020-2030 and identified the involvement of as many stakeholders as possible before possible final adoption in 2020. The SPG also discussed a range of topics that included: the immediate funding for emerging issues; short- and long-term funding options; a potential donors conference; developments towards the IYPH in 2020 (including a possible associated ministerial meeting); the IPPC annual themes in 2017 and 2018; the

proposed terms of reference for the new Implementation and Capacity Development Committee; the revision of the existing CPM Recommendations; global plant health and the possibility of an annual phytosanitary conference; phytosanitary treatments (PTs); the next steps on sea containers; progress with the ePhyto project; the updated Framework for Standards and Implementation; and international cooperation, including the relationship with the WCO.

Standards Committee

The SC and the SC working group (SC-7) met in May and the SC met in November, all meetings were held at FAO-HQ. The SC is responsible for overseeing over 100 topics, including five technical panels, regular standards (ISPMs), diagnostic protocols (DPs), PTs, and Glossary terms. Of these, 44 draft ISPMs progressed significantly in 2016 and five new issues were considered. The SC, in their May face-to-face meeting, discussed in detail six draft ISPMs, of which four were approved for consultation (1 July – 30 November). The SC-7 discussed in detail four draft ISPMs, of which three were approved for consultation, and the SC in November discussed in detail six draft ISPMs, of which five were recommended to the CPM for adoption. Through 31 e-decisions held in 2016, the SC recommended 11 PTs to the CPM for adoption, approved five DPs for consultation and 12 DPs for the DP notification period to be adopted on behalf of the CPM. A technical revision to an adopted DP was also approved by the SC. The SC approved the revised version of the Annotated Glossary (explanatory document for ISPM 5), and selected experts for the TPFQ.

Capacity Development Committee

The CDC remained active through 2016 and reviewed 12 technical resources for posting on the phytosanitary resources page. The CDC proposed draft terms of reference and Rules of Procedures for a new oversight body and CPM-11 welcomed the proposal but decided to convene a focus group to discuss the issue further. The CDC met in May 2016 in Incheon, the Republic of Korea, where it discussed the entire IPPC capacity development programme as well as the establishment of the new implementation subsidiary body. The CDC also provided input to the Framework for Standards and Implementation as requested by CPM-11. The CDC met in December for its final meeting of 2016. The CDC discussed current advances in the "Training of Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation facilitators" 401 project, funded by the STDF, IPPC regional workshop outcomes and future topics, and potential capacity development activities and project proposals.

Subsidiary Body on Dispute Settlement

The Subsidiary Body on Dispute Settlement (SBDS) was reconstituted at CPM-11 with Luis Benavides (the Republic of Panama) being elected as the Chairperson. The future of the SBDS is being discussed in terms of possible inclusion in the new IPPC subsidiary body on implementation.

2. STANDARD SETTING

Identification and Prioritization of Topics

The *List of topics for IPPC standards*, posted on the IPP in six languages, was updated twice (January and June). Three new topics were added to the *List of topics for IPPC standards* by CPM-11 and assigned priorities. In November the SC, as requested by CPM-11, reconsidered three topics on commodity standards of which the SC recommended the CPM add two to the List of topics for IPPC standards.

Drafting and Expert Input

Five face-to-face meetings of technical panels and one EWG were organized. The TPFQ met in June, in Victoria, Canada, and discussed the issue of forest tree seeds and the proposed annex to ISPM 15 on Criteria for treatments for wood packaging material in international trade. The TPDP met in July, in Montego Bay, Jamaica, and discussed their work programme consisting of 22 draft DPs and reviewed five draft DPs in detail. The TPPT met in September, in Tokyo, Japan, and discussed their work programme consisting of 12 draft PTs and five topics for treatment requirements, with 11 draft PTs recommended to the SC for adoption. The Technical Panel for the Glossary (TPG) met in December, at FAO-HQ, and reviewed their work programme consisting of 23 terms (10 terms were discussed in detail) and two draft ISPMs for consistency and terminology issues, as well as revised Amendments to ISPM 5 in response to consultation comments. An EWG met in September in Melbourne, Australia, and developed a draft ISPM on the *International movement of grain* (2008-007). Ten virtual meetings for technical panels were organized.

Consultation

Two consultation periods on draft standards were conducted: one from 1 February to 30 June, and the second from 1 July to 30 September. Two DP notification periods and four expert consultations on draft DPs were organized. Consultation comments received during the consultations were compiled and posted on the IPP (except for the expert consultation on draft DPs). In addition, 48 e-decisions were held (31 SC e-decisions and 17 technical panel e-decisions), and 15 online meeting evaluations were completed.

Adoption

Four ISPMs were presented for adoption to CPM-11 and all were adopted; the revised version of ISPM 5 (*Glossary of phytosanitary terms*), ISPM 37 on *Determination of host status of fruit to fruit fly (Tephritidae)* and two annexes to ISPM 28 (phytosanitary treatments). In addition, the CPM-11 noted the adoption of five annexes to ISPM 27 (DPs) by the SC on behalf of the CPM. This exceeded the planned outcomes indicated in FAO's Strategic Objective 4 (SO4). One CPM Recommendation on the *Importance of pest diagnosis* was also adopted. Most publications were posted on the IPP in the six FAO languages. All ISPMs submitted to CPM-11 via the Language Review Group (LRG) process were noted, and all ISPMs adopted at CPM-11 were submitted to the LRG process, with the adjusted ISPMs in Arabic, Chinese, French and Spanish to be presented to CPM-12 (2017). Ink amendments to the currently adopted PTs were also noted by CPM-11. These

ink amendments were translated into all languages and incorporated into the English, French and Spanish versions, and posted. According to the standard setting procedure, the SC adopts DPs on behalf of CPM (January and August), and in 2016 a total of eight DPs were adopted.

Quality Management

The standard setting pages on the IPPC (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 as well as an annotated template for draft PTs were published.

3. IMPLEMENTATION FACILITATION

Capacity Development

Two focus groups were organized; one on the establishment of the new implementation body and the other on the IPPC implementation pilot project on "Surveillance" covering three potential pests. A major workshop on *Xylella fastidiosa* was organized with support from FAO, CIHEAM, EPPO and the Near East Plant Protection Organization (NEPPO). The workshop highlighted the latest efforts to control the pest in the Republic of Italy and covered topics including diagnostics, surveillance, management, legislation, and pest risk analysis (PRA). Six projects were completed, ten remained active and two, intended to have national, regional and global coverage, were in the final approval stages. The STDF project 401 to develop a pool of PCE Facilitators was extended to 2017. Phase 1 of the project was successfully completed, consisting in organizing five two-week intensive trainings for 40 international phytosanitary experts from 36 countries, and 21 lawyers from 13 countries, plus FAO staff. The products, manuals and other technical resources from this project, as well as from its predecessor, STDF project 350, are considered the building blocks of a long-term capacity development strategy for the IPPC.

Implementation Review Support System

The IRSS integrates activities across the work programme of the IPPC Secretariat focusing on challenges and opportunities of contracting parties' implementation of the Convention and ISPMs. Case studies and technical papers on emerging issues related to thematic areas were developed. A study on *Diversion of intended use*, commissioned by the CPM Bureau, was finalized and distributed at CPM-11. An evaluation of biosecurity approaches being applied in various countries was in its final stages. These will contribute to the IYPH and the proposed IPPC flagship publication on the *State of plant health in the world*. IRSS, in close collaboration with the FAO foresight group, are involved in an initiative to develop methods for identifying issues, their impacts and ways to mitigate associated pest risks. Information on current and emerging pest risks were collected from contracting parties during the 2016 IPPC Regional Workshops. The IRSS continued to work on restructuring the IRSS Help Desk to enhance functionality and user experience.

Dispute Avoidance and Settlement

The IPPC Secretariat and the SBDS continue to be active in preparing a number of documents and material to support the IPPC dispute avoidance component. The IPPC Secretariat continues its involvement in phytosanitary dispute avoidance activities, primarily working with the FAO Investment Centre (TCI) on a project.

Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation

The PCE tool was upgraded in time for its application in the first training of the PCE Facilitators. The French, Spanish and Russian versions of the PCE were reviewed. The tool was being applied in at least seven countries in 2016.

e-Phyto

The ePhyto Steering Group (ESG) and the ePhyto Steering Committee met in May in Geneva, the Swiss Confederation to discuss a number of issues including defining the harmonized elements of an electronic phytosanitary certificate, identifying the key business requirements for the generic ePhyto national system (GeNS) and the hub and defining the processes needed for assisting pilot countries in implementing the GeNS when it is ready. The IPPC Secretariat also brought together some of the members of the ESG and the ePhyto Project Advisory Committee in June to discuss the project proposal and how the project could utilize synergies with other international organizations undertaking similar electronic certification initiatives including the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), Codex Alimentarius and others. The ESG also met in November in the Argentine Republic to review the specifications and recommended key changes to simplify the operation of the system and manage the costs of operation.

The IPPC Secretariat participated in a number of electronic certification-related meetings and workshops, including an STDF sponsored eCertification Seminar, which was attended by more than 150 people from a wide range of countries and international organizations. The overall objective of the Seminar was to raise awareness of the opportunities and the challenges related to the implementation of electronic sanitary and phytosanitary standards (SPS) certification systems, mainly in developing countries. The IPPC Secretariat's similarly participated in the UN's Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific (UNESCAP) Workshop on *Implementation of e-SPS certification systems*. The workshop brought together NPPO experts from developing countries to share information on the importance of paperless systems and how best to implement the business, policy, technical and legislative changes required to improve trade flows by adopting electronic certification systems.

The ePhyto Industry Advisory Group (IAG), which provides advice on ensuring that ePhyto has a practical application in facilitating trade, also met in May at FAO-HQ and again in November 2016 in Brussels, the Kingdom of Belgium. The IAG was given an overview of the ePhyto Solution and provided feedback on pilot country selection, data exchange, and key features of the system required to increase industry confidence in the continued access of phytosanitary information required to facilitate trade.

4. INTEGRATION AND SUPPORT

National Reporting Obligation

Following the adoption of General and Specific IPPC NRO Procedures at CPM-11, a new Guide to NROs was prepared by the IPPC Secretariat. Supplementary NRO guidance material (fact sheets and table summaries) was prepared for awareness raising. The monthly educational NRO newsletter "NROs Update" continued being published and distributed concentrating on topics relevant to the NRO years. As a result the number of reports updated by countries on the IPP more than doubled in 2016 while the number of new reports was at a record high with 244 reports. The "NRO Year of Organization of the NPPO" was completed with great success as countries posted or updated their reports in the "Description of NPPO" category. As a result 112 contracting parties posted minimum one report on the IPP regarding the description of their NPPO. A record number of pest reports (98 new reports) were posted by countries on the IPP this year. The automated IPP NRO reminder system, developed by the IPPC Secretariat, became operational.

An NRO Workshop took place in September in Beijing, the People's Republic of China. It was organized together with the Asia and Pacific Plant Protection Commission (APPPC) for countries from the Asian region. It was the first in a new series of NRO Workshops to be held the coming years.

Communications and Advocacy

The IPP homepage was renewed and officially released, which was welcomed and appreciated by all NPPOs and RPPOs. A new OCS was released in cooperation with the Codex Alimentarius Secretariat, resulting in an improved layout and user experience, which led to the record number of 84 IPPC official contact points providing comments on draft standards. The PCE tool and the Phytosanitary resources website were also maintained and improved based on user feedback.

The IPPC annual theme "Plant Health and Food Security" for 2016 was initialized with a keynote address at CPM-11. Three IPPC Seminars and one side event during the 43rd Session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS-43) were successfully organized. With 177 headline and brief news items released, there was a 90 percent increase compared to 2015 of news releases on the IPP. Two IPPC-related news items on CPM and on sea containers respectively were published on the FAO website, and one news item on fruit fly host status was shared on the website of the IAEA. Work on social media was hugely successful, resulting in annual increases in the number of followers of 42 percent for Twitter, 26 percent for Facebook and 44 percent for LinkedIn. The second edition of the IPPC photo contest "Shocking Impacts of Pests" was organized in partnership with the National Geographic Italia, and the winner was announced during CPM-11.

The record number of 1 000 copies of the IPPC Annual Report for 2015, as well as over 500 copies of other IPPC publications (e.g. *List of adopted standards*, factsheets on *Introduction to standard setting* and *Introduction to diagnostic protocols*, and Technical manuals) were distributed along the year. Eight IPPC videos were developed on IPPC links to plant health and food security.

The IPPC Secretariat complemented the promotion of the IYPH 2020 by providing support to the establishment of the IYPH StC, and to the organization of its first meeting held at FAO-HQ. One side event on the development of IYPH 2020 was organized during the 25th session of COAG. The resolution of IYPH 2020 was endorsed by COAG, and following by the 155th session of FAO Council.

IPPC Network

Seven IPPC Regional Workshops were organized in close collaboration with RPPOs and FAO Regional or Sub-regional offices. The workshops were attended by 212 participants from 114 contracting parties across all FAO regions (Near East, Africa, Asia, Pacific, Caribbean, Eastern Europe and Central Asia and Latin America). The workshops served to support contracting parties in building their phytosanitary capacities and raise awareness of IPPC activities. The workshops also focused on strengthening the exchange between contracting parties, RPPOs, FAO offices, cooperation institutions, and the IPPC Secretariat. At present, the IPPC Secretariat initiated the organization of the seven annual IPPC Regional Workshops for 2017, in close collaboration with RPPOs and FAO Regional/Sub-regional offices.

The IPPC Secretariat made significant efforts to strengthen its partnerships with RPPOs, and held a special meeting with representatives of all nine RPPOs at CPM-11. The 28th Technical Consultation (TC) among RPPOs was organized by NEPPO and held in Rabat, the Kingdom of Morocco, where RPPOs agreed on revised roles and functions of RPPOs, which will be presented to CPM-12.

International Cooperation

The IPPC Secretariat continuously strengthened the cooperation with technical-related organizations, especially with the Joint FAO/IAEA Division, specifically for the finalization of ISPM 37 on *Determination of host status of fruit to fruit flies (Tephritidae)* and the reorganization of fruit fly standards. The Joint FAO/IAEA Division conducted a study to understand if populations of *Ceratitis capitata* from different geographical regions of the world responded differently to phytosanitary cold treatments. Based on this study, the TPPT concluded that there is no evidence to support that there are significant differences in cold tolerance among populations of *Ceratitis capitata* from geographically separate regions.

The IPPC Secretariat continues to pay great attention to forging partnerships with a large number of international and regional organizations to strengthen the bilateral cooperation.

The IPPC Secretariat continued to cooperate with the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) through the working group that is drafting the ISO standard ISO/TC 34/SC 16/13484 (WG4), and on issues such as molecular biomarker analysis and general requirements for molecular biology analysis for detection and identification of plant pests. The IPPC Secretariat has an observer status in this working group and continuously followed its activities. In February, the IPPC Secretariat joined a conference call to help ensure this ISO standard is compatible with IPPC standards.

The IPPC Secretariat continuously attended the meetings of the trade-related organizations, such as the Technical Working Group of the WTO-STDF, and the WTO-SPS Committee. The IPPC Secretariat had a meeting with Secretary-General of WCO to strengthen bilateral cooperation. The IPPC Secretariat liaised actively with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and shipping companies regarding the topic of sea containers. Representatives of the IMO and of shipping companies delivered presentations during CPM-11 special topics session, and a document from the IPPC Secretariat providing an update on activities related to minimizing pest movement by sea containers was presented to the IMO Maritime Safety Committee.

The IPPC Secretariat participated in activities of environment-related organizations, such as the Workshop on *Synergies among biodiversity-related conventions* in February in Geneva, the Swiss Confederation, and the Ninth annual meeting of Biodiversity Liaison Group (BLG) in August in Bonn, the Federal Republic of Germany. The IPPC Secretariat engaged with the Ozone Secretariat, in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding on collaboration on issues related to methyl bromide signed in 2012, where contacts were renewed to strengthen collaborations, especially regarding the development of PTs as alternatives to the use of methyl bromide. The IPPC Secretariat liaises with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) to establish stronger links for the management of Invasive Alien Species (IAS), to help conduct risk assessments of living modified organisms (LMOs) and to build synergies with the Global Taxonomy Initiative. The IPPC Secretariat also attended the three governing bodies for the CBD, the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Nagoya Protocol, where consideration was given to developing further measures to help manage IAS to facilitate achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Target 9. The IPPC Secretariat is also increasingly engaging with the UNEP.

The IPPC Secretariat focused on liaison with FAO offices to enhance internal coordination. Work with the Food safety unit and the Codex Alimentarius Secretariat, specifically to better understand the role of IPPC contracting parties may need to play in addressing the issue of antimicrobial resistance and for the implementation and improvements to the OCS. The IPPC Secretariat also worked with the Plant Production and Protection Division, the Trade and Market Division, the Office for Corporate Communication (OCC), the TCI and the Emergency Prevention System for Transboundary Animal and Plant Pest Diseases (EMPRES). The IPPC Secretariat continued to work with FAO decentralized offices and the FAO regional and sub-regional plant protection officers through joint implementation of projects or joint organization of specific activities.

Resource Mobilization

The IPPC Secretariat continued to emphasize resource mobilization due to the very weak financial position of the MDTF. Awareness of the IPPC Secretariat's financial stress was substantially increased through an in-depth analysis of the current financial and resource mobilization situation that was presented to the CPM-11, and discussed by CPM Bureau and FC in March-April, June and October. A sustainable funding mechanism for the IPPC work programmes was proposed and discussed extensively at FC, Bureau and SPG. A series of meetings with traditional (such as QUAD countries) and potential (such as BRICS countries) donors were organized for resource mobilization; and New Zealand and Japan were visited for resource mobilization purposes.

Five existing donors made generous contributions to the MDTF: Australia, the French Republic, the Republic of Korea, New Zealand, and the United States of America. The SDTF 401 project on PCE was successfully extended by one year. The IPPC project on capacity development under the framework of FAO-China South-South Cooperation programme for USD 2 million (for the period 2017–2020) was officially approved by the Chinese Government and FAO. The STDF approved the ePhyto pilot project with an allocation of USD 1.12 million (for 2017–2019). In addition, the United States of America provided financial and in-kind support and Canada provided in-kind staff support. A renewed European Union (EU) project on implementation of the IPPC and ISPMs was formally agreed with EUR 900 000 (for 2017–2019).

5. INTERNAL MANAGEMENT

Implementation of the IPPC Secretariat Enhancement Evaluation

The action plan of the IPPC Secretariat Enhancement Evaluation was improved with the guidance from Senior management, FAO Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department (AG), and was submitted for approval to the Director-General of FAO. In restructuring the IPPC Secretariat, the Standard Setting Unit, Implementation Facilitation Unit and Integration and Support Team were officially established. Accordingly, the Core Team members have been regrouped, and responsibilities of several staff re-assigned.

Operational Management

The development of standard operating procedures for all IPPC Secretariat activities was encouraged, in particular to increase effective communication and raise awareness. Central to this was standardization of agendas and reports for IPPC governing body meetings, of headline news of the IPP websites, and of other documentation produced by the IPPC Secretariat. In addition, the IPPC Secretariat staff made an effort to add as many events into the calendar as possible to provide appropriate information for contracting parties and other IPPC stakeholders.

Planning and Finance

The IPPC Secretariat work plan and budget for 2016 was implemented and monitored closely, in particular the both mid-year and year-end meetings. The work plan and budget for 2017 was developed and approved by the CPM Bureau. The annual work plans for the Task Forces for Resource Mobilization (TFRM) and Communication and Advocacy (TFCA) respectively were initialized, implemented and monitored on a regular basis. The finances of the IPPC Secretariat were well managed with minus or zero deficit.

Human Resources Management

Staff resources were increased with the addition of seven interns and 21 consultancy positions. Not all of these positions were in place simultaneously; a number of them were rotational or for specific projects only. All staff set up their performance and evaluation agreements, and implemented their foreseen activities through timely monitoring and effective communication. At the same time, the IPPC Secretariat saw members of the permanent staff retire, leave or be reassigned resulting in a larger workload for the remainder of the staff. New positions are in the pipeline and are intended to be announced in early 2017.

Team and Culture Building

The 2016 theme for the IPPC Secretariat was settled as "Team and Culture Building" to help the IPPC Secretariat move towards "One IPPC". A workshop on team building was carried out with great success and positive impact. A Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) workshop for the IPPC Secretariat was also organized with a participation of the IPPC Secretariat's staff. The M&E workshop provided an opportunity for all units to collaborate and exchange ideas for working more cohesively, with particular importance placed on streamlining the work of facilitating the development of international standards and supporting their implementation.

The TFRM and TFCA started implementing their inclusive work programmes. The TFRM substantially increased the effectiveness of the IPPC Secretariat's resource mobilization, and the TFCA enhanced substantially the visibility and impact of the IPPC and IPPC Secretariat.

HIGHLIGHTS



THE 11TH SESSION OF THE CPM

CPM-11 was successfully held from 4 to 8 April, at FAO-HQ. CPM-11 was the first meeting of the IPPC towards next five years (2016–2020). The theme for CPM-11 was “Plant Health and Food Security”. Daniel Gustafson, FAO Deputy Director-General (Programmes), delivered opening remarks; Jingyuan Xia, IPPC Secretary, made a presentation on the IPPC towards 2020; and Rudy Rabbinge, Professor from the University of Wageningen (the Kingdom of the Netherlands), gave a keynote speech on “Plant Health and Food Security”. The session was chaired by Kyu-Ock Yim, CPM Chairperson (the Republic of Korea), and attended by over 360 participants from 136 countries, 12 international organizations and four non-governmental organizations.



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CPM-11 meets at FAO-HQ in Rome, the Republic of Italy

IPPC ANNUAL THEME FOR 2016

The IPPC annual theme for 2016 was “Plant Health and Food Security”. The IPPC Secretariat organized a series of activities to highlight the IPPC annual theme, including the keynote address at the CPM-11, two IPPC seminars, one side event during the 43rd Session of the Committee on World Food Security, and one video message from the IPPC Secretary to 2016 IPPC Regional Workshops.



Professor Rudy Rabbinge delivers a keynote address emphasising the crucial role of plant health in food security

IPPC STRATEGIC PLANNING FOR 2020–2030

The Fifth SPG meeting was held from 4 to 6 October at FAO-HQ, with the theme “IPPC’s Contribution to Achieving UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for the 2030 Agenda”. The main objective of the meeting was to start the strategic planning of the IPPC for 2020–2030. The meeting was chaired by Francisco Javier Trujillo Arriaga, CPM Vice-chairperson, and opened by Jingyuan Xia, IPPC Secretary. Over 30 participants attended the meeting, from more than 25 contracting parties, as well as all team leads of the IPPC Secretariat.



SPG participants discuss the IPPC strategy

PROMOTION OF IYPH 2020

An StC for the IYPH 2020 was established, and its first meeting was organized at FAO-HQ. One side event on IYPH 2020 was held during the 25th Session of COAG. The resolution for IYPH 2020 was endorsed by the 25th Session of COAG, and then by the 155th FAO Council.



The side event on IYPH 2020 held during the 25th Session of COAG

A FOCUS GROUP ON IMPLEMENTATION

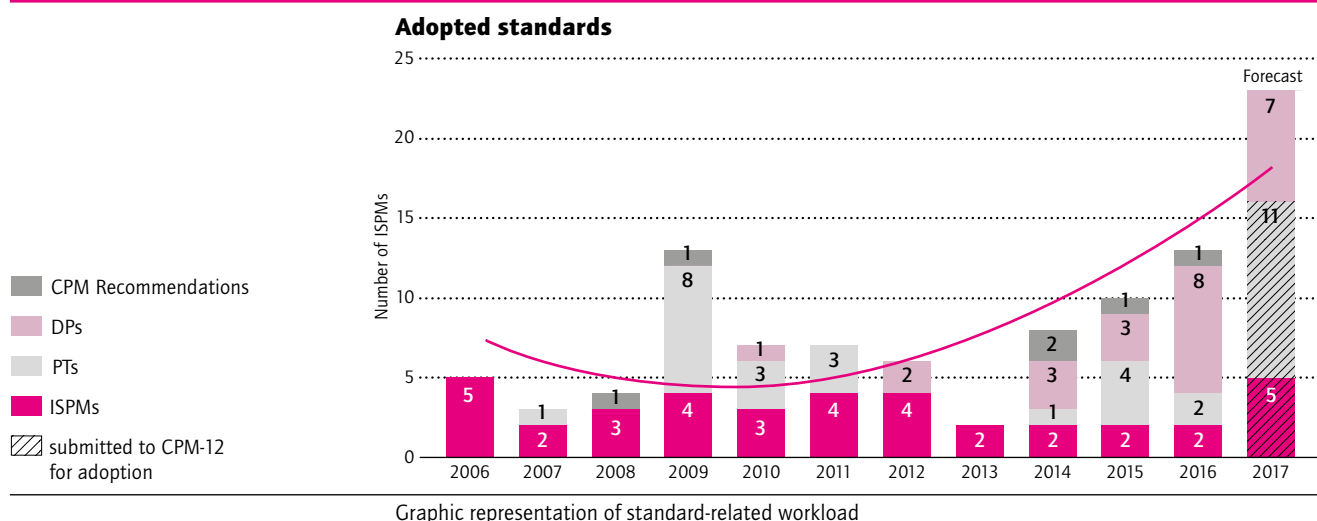
A Focus Group was established to set up a new subsidiary body for implementation. The Focus Group met from 18 to 22 July at the EPPO-HQ in Paris, the French Republic. The main objectives of the meeting were to brainstorm on various elements to establish an oversight subsidiary body on implementation of the IPPC, and to develop the terms of reference for this new body. The Focus Group was chaired by Martin Ward, Director-General of EPPO, and opened by Jingyuan Xia, IPPC Secretary.



International experts gather to redesign CDC

RECORD NUMBER OF PHYTOSANITARY STANDARDS

A total of 12 ISPMs (including DPs, PTs and Glossary terms) were adopted by CPM-11 or by the SC on behalf of the CPM. The type of standards mainly adopted in 2016 were DPs (i.e. annexes to ISPM 27); indication of the immense efforts made by the TPDP, the hundreds of diagnostic experts drafting the DPs, the SC and the IPPC Secretariat. In addition, an unprecedented 28 standards were submitted for adoption.



COLD TREATMENTS AGAINST CERATITIS CAPITATA

The TPPT, based on findings from a study carried out by the Joint FAO/IAEA Division, concluded that there is no evidence to support that there are significant differences in cold tolerance among populations of *Ceratitis capitata* from geographically separate regions. This was a breakthrough for the development and adoption of IPPC cold treatments.



Research on Mediterranean fruit fly tolerance to cold treatments

ALIGNMENT OF ISPM LANGUAGE VERSIONS

The SSU of the IPPC Secretariat translated previously noted ink amendments from English to French and Spanish, incorporated the changes into all the concerned ISPMs and republished them (120 in total) with a new appealing design. Additionally, the work also began to align the Arabic language versions. This was a major milestone to align the language versions between them.



ISPMs aligned in two FAO languages

CPM RECOMMENDATIONS IN ALL FAO LANGUAGES

All adopted CPM Recommendations were made available in six FAO languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Spanish and Russian) on the IPP. In addition, work was carried out to propose ink amendments to the CPM Recommendations to enhance relevance and usability.

List of CPM Recommendations		
The following table shows the list of CPM Recommendations (CPM or ICPM decisions), each of which is attached as Annex 2 to 6 in the adopted presentation form.		
ICPM-2/1999	Recommendations on information exchange	ICPM-2 report, paragraph 20 and Appendix X
ICPM-3/2001	Recommendations on LMOs, biosecurity and alien invasive species	ICPM-3 report, paragraph 34 and Appendix XII
ICPM-7/2005	Recommendations on threats to biodiversity posed by alien species: actions within the framework of the IPPC	ICPM-7 report, paragraph 148
CPM-1/2006	Recommendations on the role of IPPC contact points	CPM-1 report, paragraph 152 and Appendix XVIII
CPM-3/2008	Recommendations on replacement or reduction of the use of methyl bromide as a phytosanitary measure	CPM-3 report, paragraph 80 and Appendix VI
CPM-9/2014 ¹	Recommendations on IPPC coverage of aquatic plants	CPM-9 report, paragraph 115 and Appendix VI
CPM-9/2014 ²	Recommendations on internet trade (e-commerce) in plants and other regulated article	CPM-9 report, paragraph 115 and Appendix VI
CPM-10/2015	Recommendation on sea container	CPM-10 report, paragraph 149 and Appendix VIII
CPM-11/2016	Recommendations on the importance of pest diagnosis	CPM-11 report, paragraph 133 and Appendix XVI



NATIONAL CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

Implementation projects represent one of the crucial activities of the IPPC. They serve to build capacities of contracting parties and support implementation of the IPPC at national levels. In 2016, the IPPC Secretariat was involved in the implementation of seven national level projects in the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Botswana, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, the Republic of Namibia, Palestina, and the Republic of South Sudan.



©NPPO of Azerbaijan

Participants of the inception meeting of the project "Strengthening Phytosanitary Inspection and Diagnostic Services" in the Republic of Azerbaijan

IPPC REGIONAL WORKSHOPS

Seven IPPC Regional Workshops were organized in close collaboration with RPPOs and FAO Regional or Sub-regional offices. The workshops were attended by 212 participants from 114 contracting parties across all FAO regions (Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, Caribbean, Latin America, Near East and Pacific). The workshops served to support contracting parties in building their phytosanitary capacities and raise awareness of IPPC activities.



©PPPO

Participants of the IPPC Regional Workshop in the Pacific

TRAININGS ON PHYTOSANITARY CAPACITY EVALUATION FACILITATORS

The STDF project 401 on development of a pool of PCE Facilitators (Phase 1) was successfully completed; five two-week intensive trainings were carried out for 40 international phytosanitary experts from 36 countries, and 21 lawyers from 13 countries plus FAO staff. The products, manuals and other technical resources from this project, as well as from its predecessor STDF project 350, are considered the building blocks of a long-term capacity development strategy for the IPPC.



Participants of PCE Facilitators Training in the Kingdom of Thailand

IMPLEMENTATION REVIEW SUPPORT SYSTEM

The case studies and technical papers on emerging issues related to thematic areas were developed under the IRSS. A study on Diversion of intended use, commissioned by the CPM Bureau, was finalized and distributed at the CPM-11. An evaluation of biosecurity approaches being applied in various countries was being developed. These studies will contribute to IYPH 2020 and the proposed IPPC flagship publication on the State of plant health in the world.

Implementation Review and Support System

The generous support of the European Commission (EC) has allowed the Implementation Review and Support System (IRSS) to function on a project basis from 2011.

The IRSS is an evaluation tool of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) that focuses on identifying contracting parties' challenges and opportunities for implementation of the Convention and International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs). Identifying challenging areas as well as best practices provides vital input in the strategic development of resources and tools to enhance implementation at the national, regional and global levels. Thus, the objective of the IRSS is facilitating and promoting the implementation of the IPPC and ISPMs, while contributing to the objectives of the IPPC Strategic Framework.

[Read more](#)



Activities



Helpdesk

IRSS page with an active helpdesk

NEW DEVELOPMENTS OF EPHYTO

The CPM supported the continued work of the IPPC Secretariat in advancing the international implementation of electronic phytosanitary certification. The vision is to develop an ePhyto Solution consisting of a hub to facilitate the exchange of electronic phytosanitary certificates and GeNS. Resources provided to the IPPC Secretariat were used to initiate a work agreement with the UN International Computing Centre (UNICC) to commence the development of technical specifications for the hub and GeNS. Countries were selected for the pilot of the ePhyto Solution, and the IPPC Secretariat and ESG members held workshops in the Republic of Ecuador, the Republic of Ghana, the Independent State of Samoa and the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

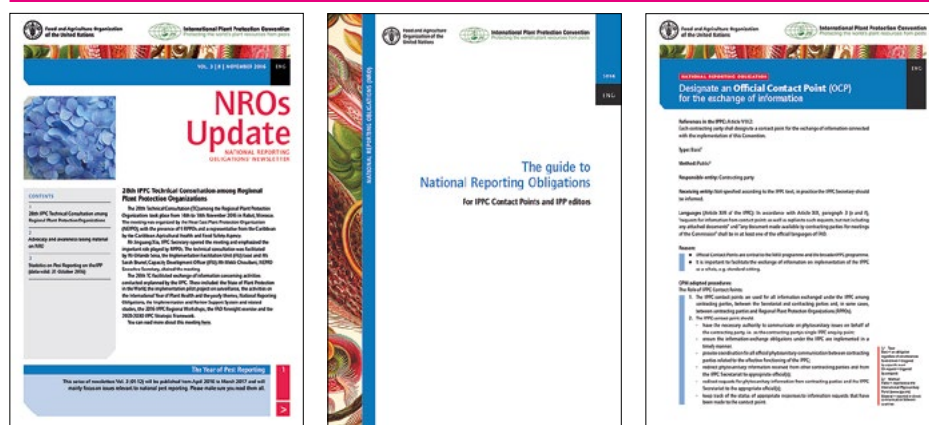


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Participants of the ePhyto Steering Group met in the Argentine Republic

NATIONAL REPORTING OBLIGATIONS

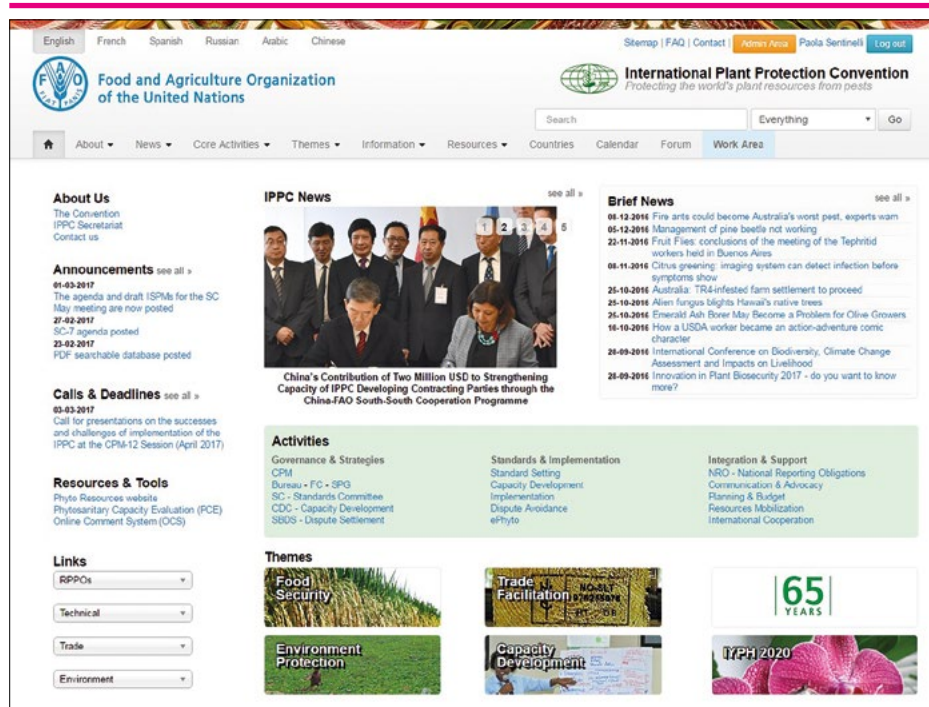
Following the adoption of NRO Procedures at the CPM-11, a new Guide to NROs was made available together with supplementary NRO guidance material. The monthly educational NRO newsletter "NROs Update" continued being published and distributed monthly, and the automated NRO reminder system became operational. Most importantly, the first in a new series of NRO Workshops took place in Beijing, the People's Republic of China from 5 to 9 September 2016.



NRO guidance material prepared in 2016

LAUNCH OF RENEWED IPP HOMEPAGE

A new IPP homepage was launched with a clearer, simplified structure, including all important elements of interest for IPPC stakeholders, and allowing easy access to important documents and information. This has also prepared the ground for the migration under the FAO website as requested by FAO.



The new IPP homepage

APPLICATION OF NEW ONLINE COMMENT SYSTEM

The IPPC Secretariat, in cooperation with the Codex Alimentarius Secretariat, launched a new OCS. Extensive training of the IPPC Official contact points was carried out, which resulted in 84 IPPC Official contact points – providing more than 5 500 comments on 13 draft standards through the system; a 75 percent increase from 2015.

Online Comment System

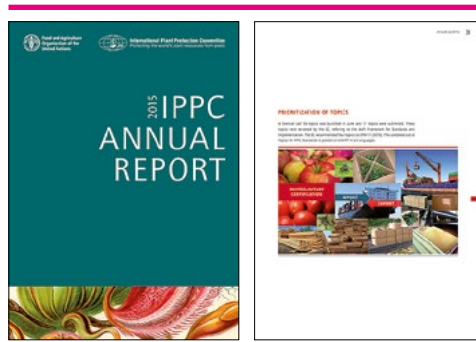
RELEASE OF IPPC NEWS



Headline news item on the IPP

A large number of news was published on the IPP, including 110 headline news and 67 brief news, with an increase of 90 percent from 2015. All these news items were also published by the FAO and IAEA websites. All headline news were shared through the increasingly successful IPPC social media channels on Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter.

PUBLICATION OF 2015 IPPC ANNUAL REPORT



2015 IPPC Annual Report

The 2015 IPPC Annual Report was published and 1 000 copies distributed. Collaboration with OCC has been initiated to align IPPC Secretariat publications to the new corporate communication policies, thus helping to ensure relevance and quality of the IPPC advocacy material.

THE 28TH TECHNICAL CONSULTATION AMONG REGIONAL PLANT PROTECTION ORGANIZATIONS

The 28th TC-RPPOs was held from 14 to 18 November in Rabat, the Kingdom of Morocco. The meeting, which was organized by NEPPO, was the first of its sort to welcome all nine RPPOs and a representative from the Caribbean region. The meeting was chaired by Mekki Chouibani, NEPPO Executive Secretary, opened by Jingyuan Xia, IPPC Secretary, and facilitated by the IPPC Secretariat.



Participants of the 28th TC-RPPO

FAO-IPPC-CIHEAM WORKSHOP ON XYLELLA FASTIDIOSA

The FAO-IPPC-CIHEAM International Workshop on Olive Quick Decline Syndrome was successfully held from 19 to 22 April in Bari, the Republic of Italy. The Workshop was organized by FAO, IPPC and CIHEAM, with support from NEPP0 and EPPO. Over 140 participants attended the Workshop from 36 countries and eight international and regional organizations. Jingyuan Xia, IPPC Secretary, delivered opening remarks.



Workshop on *Xylella fastidiosa* and damage caused by the pest on olive trees

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Over the year, cooperation with the IAEA was deepened on activities within standard setting. Cooperation with the WCO was initiated in regards to ePhyto. Cooperation with the BLG was further strengthened for biodiversity-related issues.



Meetings with WCO and BLG

IPPC MULTI-DONOR TRUST FUND FOR 2016

The TFRM worked actively and closely with IPPC contracting parties to mobilize extra-budgetary resources in particular with Australia, Canada, the French Republic, Japan, the Republic of Korea, New Zealand, the Swiss Confederation and the United States of America. As a result, Australia, the French Republic, the Republic of Korea, New Zealand and United States of America/NAPPO provided the MDTF to support to the IPPC work programme.

<p>AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF AUSTRALIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND WATER RESOURCES AND THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS</p> <p>MTF/GLO/22/MUL "Special International Plant Protection Convention Trust Fund"</p>	<p>ACCORD entre LA FRANCE Le Ministère de l'agriculture, de l'agroalimentaire et de la pêche (MAAP) et L'ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ALIMENTATION ET L'AGRICULTURE (OAA/FAO)</p>	<p>AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS AND THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS</p> <p>MTF/GLO/22/MUL "Special International Plant Protection Convention Trust Fund"</p>
	<p>AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF NEW ZEALAND MINISTRY OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS</p> <p>MTF/GLO/22/MUL "Special International Plant Protection Convention Trust Fund"</p>	<p>AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS</p> <p>MTF/GLO/22/MUL "The Special International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) Trust Fund"</p>

Contribution agreements

IPPC PROJECTS FOR 2016

The TFRM worked actively and closely with both traditional and potential donors to increase the number of IPPC projects, in particular with the Federative Republic of Brazil, the People's Republic of China, STDF and the European Commission. As a result, the European Commission provided funding for a new project on "Implementation of the IPPC"; STDF approved a new IPPC pilot project on "ePhyto"; and the People's Republic of China pledged a new project on "Strengthening the Capacity of Developing Contracting Parties to Implement the IPPC" under the Framework of FAO-China South-South Cooperation Programme.



Participants of the IPPC projects meetings.

RESTRUCTURING OF IPPC SECRETARIAT

The action plan for the Enhancement Evaluation of the IPPC Secretariat was implemented, mainly for reshaping the IPPC Secretariat's structure with the establishment of two technical units (Standard Setting and Implementation Facilitation) and one cross-cutting supporting team (Integration and Support). In addition, quality management and standardization of documents and information materials were strengthened by setting up several standard operating procedures.



The IPPC Secretariat in their 2016 Mid-year meeting

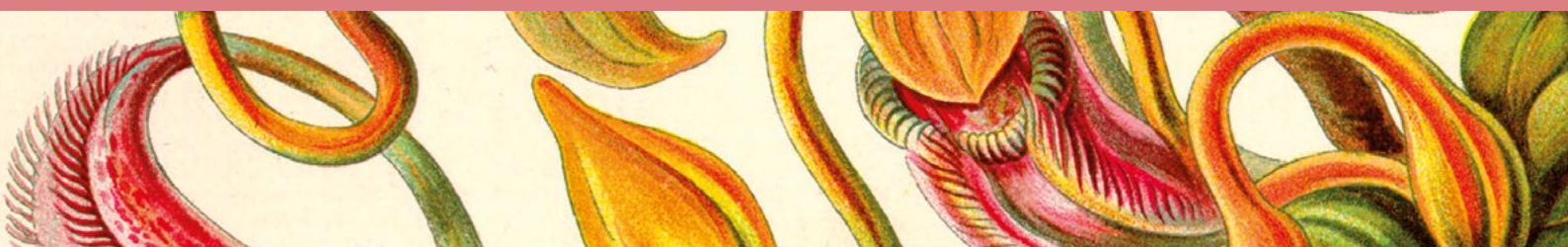
TEAM AND CULTURE BUILDING

The annual theme of the IPPC Secretariat was "Team and Culture Building" and a series of activities were organized to help build an excellent team. These included a team building and M&E workshop. The work of the cross-Secretariat task forces was also strengthened throughout the year.



The IPPC Secretariat participating in the team building and the M&E workshop

CHRONICLE OF EVENTS



JANUARY

12 January

The IPPC Secretariat posted four draft standards in six languages that would be considered by CPM-11 (2016) for adoption. These standards were: a) draft Amendments to ISPM 5 (*Glossary of phytosanitary terms*) (1994-001); b) draft ISPM on *Determination of host status of fruit to fruit flies (Tephritidae)* (2006-031); c) draft PT Vapour heat treatment for *Bactrocera melanotus* and *B. xanthodes* on *Carica papaya* (2009-105) as annex to ISPM 28 (*Phytosanitary treatments for regulated pests*); and d) draft PT Irradiation treatment for *Ostrinia nubilalis* (2012-009) as annex to ISPM 28.

14 January

Jingyuan Xia, IPPC Secretary, held a meeting at FAO-HQ with H.E. Maria Laura da Rocha, Ambassador of the Brazilian Permanent Representation to FAO. The IPPC delegation was composed of Craig Fedchok, IPPC Coordinator, David Nowell, Integration and Support Officer, and Adriana Gonçalves Moreira, Standards Officer. The Brazilian Ambassador was accompanied by Larissa Maria Lima Costa, alternate FAO Representative of the Federative Republic of Brazil. The main objective of the meeting was to strengthen the cooperation between the IPPC Secretariat and the one of the BRICS countries: the Federative Republic of Brazil. The IPPC Secretary identified five areas for possible cooperation: a) human resources; b) South-South Cooperation; c) technical; d) information sharing, and; e) promotion of the IYPH planned for 2020. The Brazilian delegation responded positively and agreed to discuss further in the near future.

15 January

The IPPC Secretariat republished its adopted ISPMs in English, French and Spanish with improved IPPC branding and layout. These new versions were developed following the CPM-10 (2015) decision on "revoking of standards" and contain consequential ink amendments. Previous revoked versions of ISPMs have been made available on the IPPC website on a separate archive page. Additionally, the French and Spanish versions also include ink amendments previously noted by CPM in English. This was a milestone towards aligning the language versions of the ISPMs and was the outcome of months of dedicated and detailed work.

17–27 January

The training of core PCE Facilitators supported by the STDF project 401 was carried out at FAO-HQ. Eight core trainers with varied competencies received an update on the Logical Framework Approach as well as on facilitation techniques in order to transfer knowledge and skills to high standards to candidates who will be trained as PCE Facilitators. In the first part of the project 66 candidates enrolled to be trained from all over the world and were selected against stringent criteria. This two-week intensive encounter was also an opportunity to make the final adjustments to the content of the training for PCE Facilitators, and to design engaging and rich curricula, adapted to adult learning.

22 January

The 2016 Annual meeting of the IPPC Secretariat was held at FAO-HQ. The main objectives of the meeting were to review the IPPC Secretariat's major 2015 achievements, to plan the 2016 core activities, and to strengthen internal management. The meeting was chaired by Jingyuan Xia, IPPC Secretary, with participation of

all IPPC Secretariat staff. Team Leaders Brent Larson, David Nowell and Orlando Sosa, gave briefings on behalf of their respective teams, and Craig Fedchock, IPPC Coordinator, presented an overview of the IPPC Secretariat as a whole. All staff actively shared their views and provided valuable suggestions for improvements of the IPPC Secretariat's work and performance. Finally, the IPPC Secretary made concluding remarks, highlighting three important points: a) eight major achievements for 2015; b) eight key activities for 2016; and c) the theme on "team and culture building" for 2016. To conclude, the IPPC Secretary requested that all staff should work in a cooperative manner so as to bring something new and better to the IPPC as well to its Secretariat.

25–28 January

Craig Fedchock, IPPC Coordinator, represented the Secretariat in a WTO-SPS regional workshop on *The WTO-SPS Agreement for Arab and Middle East countries* in Kuwait City, the State of Kuwait. Representatives from the Kingdom of Bahrain, the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Kuwait, the Lebanese Republic, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Republic of the Sudan, the Republic of Tunisia, and the United Arab Emirates participated in this workshop which touched upon all aspects of the implementation of the SPS agreement. Participants were introduced in detail to IPPC work and had time to discuss a number of practical issues. Among the many things discussed were the use of the *Glossary of phytosanitary terms* (ISPM 5), as well as issues related to import, surveillance, the standard setting process, how to ensure participation of developing countries in the development of standards, and the ePhyto project funded by the STDF. Participants were also urged to actively participate in activities related to the proposed IYPH.

27 January

The Third IPPC Seminar on "Plant Health and Climate Change" was held at FAO-HQ. The Seminar was chaired by Jingyuan Xia, IPPC Secretary, with over 80 participants including representatives from Missions or Embassies of the People's Republic of China, the French Republic and South Africa. FAO provided live streaming of the Seminar. Three internationally recognized speakers made presentations: H.E. Serge Tomasi, French Ambassador to the three Rome-based UN Agencies, presented on achievements and implications of COP 21 on climate

change; Martin Frick, Director of Climate, Energy and Tenure Division in FAO, summarized the implications of the COP 21 agreement for agriculture; and Jingyuan Xia presented on the importance of plant health for mitigation of climate change.

30 January

Three DPs were adopted by the SC on behalf of the CPM: DP 10 (*Bursaphelenchus xylophilus*), DP 11 (*Xiphinema americanum sensu lato*) and DP 12 (Phytoplasmas). These were submitted to the DP notification period in December 2015 and received no formal objections.

FEBRUARY

1 February

The IPPC Secretariat launched an additional first consultation for two draft DPs (1 February–30 June). These were *Anguina* spp. (2013-003) and *Dendroctonus ponderosae* (2006-019). This additional first consultation for draft DPs only.

3 February

The TPFQ met virtually. The meeting was organized and chaired by the IPPC Secretariat. The TPFQ discussed changes made by the steward to the draft ISPM on the *International movement of wood* (2006-029). The meeting participants were informed that International Forestry Quarantine Research Group (IFQRG) would meet immediately after the June TPFQ face-to-face meeting.

8–11 February

The workshop on *Synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions* was held at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, the Swiss Confederation. This was the first joint workshop of CBD, CITES, Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), the Convention on Wetlands (RAMSAR), IPPC, International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGR-FA), and the World Heritage Centre of the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO-WHC). The main objective of the workshop was to develop a set of options for Parties of the various biodiversity-related conventions to enhance synergies and improve efficiency among them. There were over 60 participants from national, regional and global levels present at the workshop from all seven conventions. The

IPPC was strongly represented at the workshop, with the participation of Jingyuan Xia, IPPC Secretary, Ezequiel Ferro (the Argentine Republic), Astra Garkaje (Republic of Latvia), Lucien K. Kouamé (Côte d'Ivoire) and Ralf Lopian (Finland). At the plenary section of the workshop, the IPPC Secretary delivered a speech about IPPC's mission; the IPPC Secretariat's mandate, core activities and effective cooperation with other biodiversity-conventions; the IPPC annual themes for (2016–2020), and perspective for future synergies and coordination with other conventions, especially for the development of IYPH in 2020. The IPPC representatives voiced their consideration that all seven biodiversity-related conventions should cooperate and collaborate in line with the UN Decade for Biodiversity.

10–12 February

Craig Fedchock, IPPC Coordinator, and Shane Sela, ePhyto Project Manager, held a series of meetings with UNICC, STDF, international industry associations and UNCTAD to review ePhyto project components and to support advancing the project plan. A key development during the week was to reach an agreement with the International Grain Trade Coalition (IGTC) to take the lead in establishing an IAG for the ePhyto project.

12 February

Jingyuan Xia, IPPC Secretary, and Craig Fedchock, IPPC Coordinator met with Melvin Spreij, Secretary to the STDF, and Kenza Le Mentec, Programme officer of STDF, at WTO-STDF in Geneva, the Swiss Confederation. The main objective of the meeting was to strengthen the cooperation between the two parties and discuss some issues on current and future projects.

12 February

Jingyuan Xia, IPPC Secretary, and Craig Fedchock, IPPC Coordinator, had a meeting with Gary Martin, President and CEO of the North American Expert Grain Association, Marcel Bruins, Consultant IGTC, and Katy Lee, Acting Secretary of IGTC. The main objective of the meeting was to discuss the cooperation of the IPPC with relevant industry sectors for improved implementation of the STDF project on ePhyto.

10–24 February

The IPPC Secretariat launched four SC e-decisions (open for two weeks). The SC approved one draft DP for first consultation, the "Annotated Glossary" (the

explanatory document for ISPM 5) and two specifications: Specifications 64 (*Use of specific import authorizations*) (2008-006) and Specification 65 (*Authorization of non-NPPO entities to perform phytosanitary actions*) (2014-002).

15–17 February

FAO held an international symposium on *The role of agricultural biotechnologies in sustainable food systems and nutrition*. Brent Larson, Standards Officer and Adriana Gonçalves Moreira, Standards Officer, attended several of the sessions. During the session on *Public policies, strategies and regulations on agricultural biotechnologies*, Brent Larson made an intervention to inform participants that the mandate of the IPPC is to protect plants and their ecosystems, both cultivated and wild, from the spread of organisms that are harmful to plants. It was pointed out that under the IPPC framework, international standards are developed, negotiated and agreed by 182 contracting parties to help countries harmonize their approaches to implement the convention. Specifically, ISPM 11 (*Pest risk analysis for quarantine pests*) was brought to their attention as it provides guidance for assessing the potential risks of LMOs that could affect plants and their ecosystems. It was also emphasized that this risk analysis should be conducted before determining the pest risk management options that are incorporated into public policies, strategies and regulations.

18 February

ISO had a teleconference with the working group ISO TC 34/SC 16/WG 4 on the draft ISO standard ISO 13484: Molecular Biomarker Analysis: General requirements for molecular biology analysis for detection and identification of plant pests. The IPPC Secretariat has observer status in this group and Adriana Gonçalves Moreira, Standards Officer, participated in this teleconference providing comments to the draft standard to help ensure it would be compatible with IPPC standards. It was highlighted that the CPM agreed that ISO standards are not mandatory for the implementation of IPPC standards and that in a phytosanitary context ISPMs take precedence over ISO standards.

29 February–2 March

The Fifth WCO Meeting of the Trade Facilitation Agreement Working Group was held in Brussels, the Kingdom of Belgium. Approximately 180 delegates attended from

various ministries, the IPPC Secretariat, WTO and other international organizations, development partners, academia and industry. In a special panel discussion, Craig Fedchock, IPPC Coordinator, representatives from the private sector and the Brazilian Customs stressed the importance of stakeholder cooperation to achieve both common and specific objectives to facilitate trade.

MARCH

1 March

A bilateral meeting on *Strengthening the cooperation between the IPPC Secretariat and the EU* was held at EU-HQ in Brussels, the Kingdom of Belgium. The IPPC delegation, led by Jingyuan Xia, IPPC Secretary, was composed of Craig Fedchock, IPPC Coordinator, Orlando Sosa, Implementation Officer, and Céline Germain, Standards Consultant. The main objectives of the meeting were to review the previous achievements of this bilateral cooperation, especially from the past five years, and to plan further cooperation for the next five years (2016–2020). The IPPC delegation met first with Jean Luc Demarty, Director-General of Trade, and Sandra Gallina, Director of Agro-Trade, and second with Xavier Prats Monne, Director-General of Health and Food Safety, and Dorothee Andre, Head of Biotechnology and Plant Health. In both meetings the IPPC Secretary presented the main achievements of the past and current IPPC-EU cooperation, the strategic plan of the IPPC towards 2020 and its work related to UN SDGs towards 2030. He concluded touching upon opportunities for strengthening the IPPC-EU cooperation. Both the Director-General of Trade and the Director-General of Health and Food Safety stressed their commitment to plant health and continuous support to the work of the IPPC Secretariat.

3 March

The TPPT had a virtual meeting. The IPPC Secretariat updated the TPPT about the upcoming CPM and SC meeting in May. It was noted that a TPPT progress report of the activities carried out since the SC meeting in May 2015 would be presented to the SC. The TPPT also discussed and revised their instructions to assist NPPOs and RPPOs in dealing with treatment submissions.

4 March

A bilateral meeting on *Promoting the cooperation between the IPPC Secretariat and WCO* was held at WCO-HQ in Brussels, the Kingdom of Belgium. The IPPC delegation was composed of Jingyuan Xia, IPPC Secretary, and Craig Fedchock, IPPC Coordinator. The WCO delegation consisted of Kunio Mikuriya, Secretary-General of WCO, Alan Harrison, Executive Officer of the Secretary-General's Office, and Theo Hesselink, Technical Officer of Compliance and Facilitation. The main objective of the meeting was to explore the possibility of a formal agreement on IPPC-WCO cooperation. During the meeting, the IPPC Secretary briefed the WCO on the history, mission and core activities of the IPPC Secretariat; the IPPC Secretariat's strategic plan towards 2020, its work related to the SDGs towards 2030, and the potential areas of cooperation between the IPPC Secretariat and the WCO. The WCO Secretary-General expressed his appreciation for the IPPC Secretariat's work in the area of trade facilitation, in particular ePhyto. Both delegations agreed that there was a great potential for enhancing the IPPC-WCO cooperation in order to make greater contribution to the SDGs, in particular to SDG 17 (Trade Facilitation) through promotion of safe, fast and efficient trade.

10–24 March

The IPPC Secretariat prepared and launched four SC e-decisions (open for two weeks). The SC approved two draft DPs for notification period, approved one draft DP for first consultation, and selected experts for the TPFQ.

15 March

Jingyuan Xia, IPPC Secretary, met with Jean-Paul Dalies, President of FREDON (a French plant health and environmental preservation company) at FAO-HQ. The IPPC delegation was composed of Orlando Sosa, Implementation Officer, and Céline Germain, Standards Consultant. The President of FREDON was accompanied by Anne Mesas, Managing Director of FREDON, and Marie Guilloire, Counsellor Export of the French Embassy to the Republic of Italy. Based on in-depth discussions, it was agreed that there is a great potential to cooperate in areas of plant health, particularly regarding information exchange, technical consultation and capacity development.

16 March

The TPDP had a virtual meeting. The IPPC Secretariat updated the TPDP about the upcoming CPM and SC meeting in May. It was noted that a progress report of the activities carried out by the TPDP since the SC meeting in May 2015 would be presented to the SC. The TPDP discussed and agreed to ask the SC for a technical revision of DP 7 (*Potato spindle tuber viroid*) to correct a typographic error in the sequence of the internal primer COX F. The TPDP reviewed their work programme, comprising 21 draft DPs of which nine were planned to be submitted for adoption in 2016. The IPPC Secretariat expressed gratitude to the TPDP, noting the sheer volume of DPs, for their hard work and commitment with the development of DPs.

16 March 2016

Jingyuan Xia, IPPC Secretary, and Leanne Steward, IRSS Consultant, had a meeting with Jong-Jin Kim, Director of FAO's South-South and Resource Mobilization Division (TCS), and Zhongwei Liu, Programme Officer TCS. The IPPC Secretary explained the concept note of the proposed project on "Strengthening the Capacity of Developing Contracting Parties to Implement the IPPC" under the framework of the FAO-China South-South Cooperation Programme. The TCS representatives were very supportive of the initiative and proposed project, and provided valuable advice that helped proceed with the concept note.

18 March 2016

David Nowell, Integration and Support Officer, met with a study group from University of Minnesota (18 post graduate professionals covering public health, animal health and food safety) who were travelling Europe and studying the WTO, World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), Codex Alimentarius and IPPC as intergovernmental organizations relevant to "One Health". David Nowell presented a brief overview of the IPPC, particularly in relation to OIE and Codex. There were many questions and comments relating to the "Three Sisters" working together, relative complexity of plant health compared to animal health, the need to create and engage national and international networks, and the scope of the IPPC relating to the environment and food security, in addition to that of safe trade facilitation. It was a very successful meeting in terms of raising awareness of the IPPC, its scope, *modus operandi* and successes, and the

University suggested this contact be maintained for future study groups and training courses at the University of Minnesota.

21–23 March

The Friends of the CBD workshop on *Mechanisms to support the review of implementation of the Convention* was held in Bogis-Bossey, the Swiss Confederation. The main objective of the workshop was for government and Convention representatives, as well as experts, to contribute their views, experiences and processes in enhancing review of implementation. All seven international biodiversity-related conventions (CBD, CITES, CMS, RAMSAR, IPPC, ITPGR-FA and UNESCO-WHC) were invited to the workshop. Jingyuan Xia, IPPC Secretary, attended the workshop to share the IPPC Secretariat's experiences in capacity development, implementation review support (IRSS), dispute avoidance and settlement, PCE, ePhyto and facilitating NROs. He also met with Braulio Dias, Executive Secretary of the CBD, to discuss the IPPC-CBD joint work plan to provide concrete actions for synergy and coordination among the biodiversity-related conventions.

24 March

Jingyuan Xia, IPPC Secretary, met Laurent Thomas, FAO Assistant Director-General (ADG) of the Technical Cooperation Department (TCD), and Carlos Watson, Team Leader of South-South Cooperation. The IPPC Secretary briefed them on the concept note of the proposed project on "Strengthening the Capacity of Developing Contracting Parties to Implement the IPPC" under the framework of the FAO-China South-South Cooperation Programme. The ADG-TCD expressed his strong support to the project initiative and requested Carlos Watson to follow up on its further development.

29 March

Jingyuan Xia, IPPC Secretary, met Jamie Morrison, Strategic Programme Leader for FAO SO4. After briefing him on the IPPC and its Secretariat, the IPPC Secretary explained the scope of the proposed project on "Strengthening the Capacity of Developing Contracting Parties to Implement the IPPC" under the framework of the FAO-China South-South Cooperation Programme. The SO4 Leader showed a strong interest in the project, expressed his support, and suggested to have more work in the Central Asia through the implementation of this project.

31 March

Jingyuan Xia, IPPC Secretary, met with Clayton Campanhola, Strategic Programme Leader for FAO Strategic Objective 2 (SO2). The IPPC Secretary explained the scope of the proposed project on "Strengthening the Capacity of Developing Contracting Parties to Implement the IPPC" under the framework of the FAO-China South-South Cooperation Programme. The IPPC Secretary focused on the possible contribution of the proposed project to SO2. The SO2 Leader showed a strong interest in the project and expressed his support. He suggested that the IPPC Secretary should discuss cooperation with the Federative Republic of Brazil following the same model.

APRIL**29–31 March and 8 April**

The CPM Bureau met at FAO-HQ to first prepare for CPM-11 (29–31 March) and second review the outcomes from the CPM session. In the first part of the meeting (before the CPM session), the Bureau reviewed the CPM agenda topics and discussed how best to address topics that could become contentious. The CPM Bureau also had the opportunity to meet with Ren Wang, ADG-AG, for a detailed discussion on highlights of the upcoming CPM, an update on key developments within FAO, as well as a good exchange on issues related to agro-ecology and biotechnology. The CPM Bureau expressed its appreciation for the enhanced relationship between FAO and the IPPC Secretariat, in particular expressing their thanks for the ADG's interest in and support to the IPPC. In the second part of the meeting (after the CPM session), the combined CPM Bureau membership (both old and new) met to discuss the annual CPM Bureau planning meeting in June (to be held in Beijing, People's Republic of China) and to plan for the remainder of 2016. Among other things, the Bureau re-allocated areas of responsibilities for each CPM Bureau member and decided on the FC membership. The CPM Bureau also agreed to look at various ideas for both short- and long-term financial resource mobilization.

1 April

The FC met at FAO-HQ. The FC discussed CPM-11 documents on financial matters, resource mobilization and sustainable funding of the IPPC Secretariat. Jingyuan Xia, IPPC Secretary, made a presentation on the current

financial position of the IPPC Secretariat and the FC noted the financial difficulties the IPPC Secretariat was facing. The FC supported the IPPC Secretariat in making a feasibility analysis on voluntary assessed contributions (initial stage) and potential mandatory assessed contributions (at a later stage). The FC also supported the IPPC Secretariat in recent resource mobilization activities and thanked the IPPC Secretariat for preparing the CPM-11 financial documents in line with the guidelines of the FC.

1 April

Jingyuan Xia, IPPC Secretary, and Craig Fedchock, IPPC Coordinator, met with Representatives of QUAD Countries (Australia, Canada, New Zealand, United States of America) at FAO-HQ. The IPPC Secretary expressed his sincere gratitude to the countries for their strong support to the IPPC programme and the IPPC Secretariat work. He then briefed the delegates about the strategic planning of the IPPC Secretariat towards 2020, the renewal of the IPPC Secretariat, and the financial situation of the IPPC Secretariat. All delegates expressed their appreciation for the changes in image of the IPPC Secretariat, and committed to continuously support to the work programme of the IPPC Secretariat.

1 April

Jingyuan Xia, IPPC Secretary, Craig Fedchock, IPPC Coordinator, and Brent Larson Standards Officer, met with representatives of Canada at FAO-HQ. The IPPC Secretary thanked Canada for its ongoing support of the IPPC and in particular its in-kind contributions to standard setting and ePhyto. Canada expressed interest in supporting the IPPC Secretariat further. It was concluded that in general a more stabilized approach to funding the MDTF would be the most effective approach to address the resource shortfalls faced by the IPPC Secretariat.

3 April

The IPPC Secretariat held a pre-CPM-11 training session on ISPM 32 (*Categorization of commodities according to their pest risk*) at FAO-HQ. The training was attended by 95 participants, including representatives from contracting parties, RPPOs and international organizations. The training session was held in English, while discussion was also facilitated in Arabic, French, Spanish and Russian. The IPPC Secretariat introduced ISPM 32 as a key standard for international trade facilitation. Despite its importance, the 2013 IRSS

survey results indicated a low level of implementation of this ISPM by contracting parties. The IPPC Secretariat encouraged improved implementation of ISPM 32, particularly since a number of countries still require phytosanitary certificates for products which have no pest risk (Category 1) according to the standard.

4–8 April

CPM-11 was successfully held at FAO-HQ. CPM-11 was the first major important IPPC meeting towards the next five years (2016–2020). The theme for the CPM-11 was “Plant health and food security”. Daniel Gustafson, FAO Deputy Director-General Operations, delivered the opening remarks; Jingyuan Xia, IPPC Secretary, gave a presentation on the IPPC towards 2020; and Rudy Rabbinge, Professor from the University of Wageningen (the Kingdom of the Netherlands), gave a keynote speech on “Plant health and food security”. The session was chaired by Kyu-Ock Yim, the Republic of Korea, and attended by over 360 participants from 136 countries, 12 international organizations and four non-governmental organizations. CPM-11 completed 18 scheduled agenda items, undertook one pre-CPM-11 training on capacity development, held six side sessions and five focus group meetings. CPM-11 decided that CPM-12, with the theme “Plant health and trade facilitation”, would be held from 5–11 April 2017 in Incheon, the Republic of Korea.

4–8 April

Six (one in two parts) side sessions were held successfully during the week of CPM-11. The following subjects were covered: a) emerging issues in plant health “*Xylella fastidiosa* in the Euro-Mediterranean area”; b) ePhyto; c) DPs and surveillance; d) emerging issues in plant health “Invasive ants: implications for agriculture and control prospects”; e) the new IPPC OCS; and f) plant health in the 21st century: use of drones, Apps, smart phones. Many CPM-11 participants welcomed these side sessions and congratulated the IPPC Secretariat on their success.

6 April

Jingyuan Xia, IPPC Secretary, Orlando Sosa, Implementation Officer, and several IPPC Secretariat staff (Sarah Brunel, Céline Germain, Ketevan Lomsadze, David Nowell and Leanne Stewart) held a meeting with representatives of all nine RPPOs at FAO-HQ. The IPPC Secretary expressed his high appreciation for the strong support from all RPPOs to the IPPC Secretariat. He also urged all RPPOs to

continuously work together to help bring the IPPC up to a new level. All representatives expressed their willingness to work closely with the IPPC Secretariat by strengthening communication, coordination and cooperation.

7 April

A special topic session on sea containers was held at FAO-HQ. Eight speakers delivered presentations on the risks associated with the movement of sea containers, the logistics of movement of sea containers, the IMO/ILO/UNECE Code of Practice for Packing of Cargo Transport Units (CTU Code), and experiences from NPPOs on checking or inspecting sea containers. The session provided an opportunity to enhance the understanding of this complex issue and to hear the views of contracting parties, as well as those of international organizations and stakeholders involved in international shipping. CPM-11 agreed to a way forward regarding the topic of sea containers, considering the difficulties in drafting an ISPM on the topic.

7 April

The 2016 IPPC photo contest “The Shocking Impacts of Pests” was concluded at FAO-HQ. There were 125 photos submitted to the competition from 29 countries representing all FAO regions. The first winner was Tyler Fox, the United States of America, with the beautiful photo depicting a slug-like *Tenthredinidae: Caliroa* pb. *Nyssae* (sawfly larvae) feeding on a leaf, belonging to a deciduous tree (*Nyssa sylvatica*) native to Eastern North-America. The second winner was Sabine Perrone, Australia, with her stunning photo of locust in the Republic of Madagascar. The third winner was Pia Scanlon, Australia, with her macro photo of a female *Ceratitis capitata* (Mediterranean fruit fly) on a mango.

8 April

Jingyuan Xia, IPPC Secretary, and Orlando Sosa, Implementation Officer, accompanied by members of the Task Force for Resource Mobilization (Marko Benovic, Céline Germain and Leanne Stewart) met with representatives from four BRICS countries (Brazil, Russian Federation, India and China) at FAO-QH. The IPPC Secretary warmly welcomed all the delegates for the first informal IPPC Secretariat-BRICS meeting. He briefed the delegates about the strategic planning of the IPPC towards 2020, the renewal of the IPPC Secretariat, and the financial situation of the IPPC Secretariat. He

especially highlighted the importance of strengthening cooperation between the IPPC Secretariat and the BRICS countries. All BRICS delegates fully agreed on further cooperation as proposed by the IPPC Secretary.

12–26 April

The IPPC Secretariat launched five SC e-decisions (open for two weeks). The SC approved one draft DP for first consultation, approved three draft DPs for notification period, and adopted a technical revision to DP 7 (*Potato spindle tuber viroid*).

15 April

The IPPC Secretariat launched expert consultations for two draft DPs. The drafts submitted were *Puccinia psidii* (2006-018) and '*Candidatus Liberibacter*' spp. on *Citrus* spp. (2004-010). Experts worldwide were invited to submit comments on these two draft DPs to help improve the development of them through scientific input and feedback on a global scale.

19–22 April

The FAO-IPPC-CIHEAM international workshop on *Xylella fastidiosa* and the Olive Quick Decline Syndrome was held in Bari, the Republic of Italy, with the support of NEPP0 and EPPO. This was the first international workshop on *Xylella* since this destructive pest was reported on the olive trees in 2013 in Puglia, the Republic of Italy. Over 140 participants attended the workshop, representing 36 countries and eight international and regional organizations. Jingyuan Xia, IPPC Secretary, delivered the opening address on behalf of all organizers and supporting organizations, and made a presentation on ISPMs of relevance to emerging pests such as *Xylella fastidiosa*. Orlando Sosa, Sarah Brunel, Adriana Gonçalves Moreira and Xiaoliang Wang from the IPPC Secretariat also attended the workshop.

21 April

A delegation from the United States Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, International Services Division (APHIS-IS) visited the IPPC Secretariat at FAO-HQ for an exchange of views on a number of topics mutual interest. The APHIS-IS delegation was led by Beverly Simmons, Deputy Administrator for International Services. The IPPC Secretariat was represented by Jingyuan Xia, IPPC Secretary, Craig Fedchok, IPPC Coordinator, and David Nowell, Integration

and Support Officer. A number of diplomats from US Embassies around the world were also in attendance. The discussions included a review of CPM-11, background on the IPPC, as well as an update on issues related to the possible declaration of an IYPH in 2020.

27 April

Craig Fedchok, IPPC Coordinator, delivered a presentation on ePhyto to the annual meeting of CIOPORA – the international community of breeders of asexually produced ornamental and fruit varieties. The presentation was well received by the audience. Several participants raised issues related to the PRA process in a number of countries, both for import and export. Specifically, there were concerns raised about the length of time it takes to have a PRA completed. The IPPC Coordinator explained that each country is responsible for its own PRA process, and that should individuals have concerns regarding the process, they should bring it to the attention of their NPPO. The leadership of CIOPORA was very interested in establishing a relationship with the IPPC Secretariat as well as participating in the IAG for the ePhyto project.

28 April

A teleconference on the proposed FAO-China South-South Cooperation project proposal was held at FAO-HQ. The meeting was chaired by Shengyao Tang, Deputy Director-General of the International Cooperation Department, Chinese Ministry of Agriculture, and Jong-jin Kim, Director of TCS. Jingyuan Xia, IPPC Secretary, attended the meeting and summarized the scope of the project "Strengthening the Capacity of Developing Contracting Parties to Implement the IPPC". The IPPC project concept note was officially approved. The proposed project is for a four-year cycle with a total value of USD 2 000 000. The project has four key components: a) enhance the capacity of developing countries in implementing ISPMs; b) enhance inter-regional cooperation for implementation of the IPPC and its standards to support the People's Republic of China's national strategy of "One Belt, One Road"; c) promote human resource cooperation between the People's Republic of China, the IPPC Secretariat and developing countries; and d) support the key plant health activities of the IPPC Secretariat at the global, regional and national levels. This is the largest amount to financially support the IPPC Secretariat's work that has ever been pledged for a single project.

MAY

2–6 May

Leanne Stewart, IRSS Consultant, attended the CBD's first meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, held in Montreal, Canada. CBD parties discussed draft *modus operandi* for the body, strategic actions to enhance implementation, strengthening means of implementation and capacity development. The outcomes would contribute to the discussions of the IPPC Focus Group to establish a new subsidiary body on implementation to be held in July.

2–6 May

Craig Fedchok, IPPC Coordinator, participated in the meeting of the ePhyto Project Technical Committee (PTC) as well as in the meeting of the ESG, held in Geneva, the Swiss Confederation. The PTC reviewed the process of the ePhyto exchange mechanism, met with UNICC's project staff to go over the project plan and established a proposed timeline (based on the current situation) for the completion of the project. Additional discussion covered the upcoming eCert Seminar being hosted by the STDF. This discussion also included the identification of a need to facilitate a meeting of the ePhyto Project Advisory Committee with the PTC in the margins of the Seminar. The ESG meeting followed the PTC meeting and began with a briefing from the IPPC Secretariat on the results of the recent CPM and CPM Bureau meetings. A lengthy discussion took place on the process for harmonizing codes as well as mapping activities. The ESG also discussed the potential for an African region symposium/workshop on ePhyto as well as initial planning for 2017 and the annual theme of "Plant Health and Trade Facilitation".

9–13 May

The 28th SC meeting was held at FAO-HQ. The meeting was chaired by Jan Bart Rossel (Australia) and attended by 20 out of 25 SC members and by four observers. The SC approved four draft ISPMs for consultation. The SC agreed that the rationale and impact of the options for reorganizing the suite of fruit fly standards would be presented to CPM-12 (2017) for their consideration. The SC also encouraged the IPPC Secretariat to investigate developing a search tool for PTs. The SC agreed to explore the concept of a certificate of compliance that could be used to certify products against established requirements. A small SC group was charged with drafting a proposal to

conduct an IRSS study to gather input from contracting parties on the use of such a certificate. This small SC group would also prepare a proposal for an IRSS survey on commodity standards to help the SC determine the criteria for this type of topics. In addition, the SC provided oversight of the work of the IPPC technical panels and considered how to enhance interaction between the Standard Setting and Implementation Facilitation Units.

13 May

Craig Fedchok, IPPC Coordinator, provided a presentation on the IPPC project on ePhyto to WCO's Information Management Subcommittees in Brussels, the Kingdom of Belgium. The purpose was to provide an update on the most recent developments regarding the ePhyto Global Solution for phytosanitary certification along with engaging in discussions relating to the interface between WCO's data management system, UNCEFACT coding and the future relationship of these two separate technical exchange mechanisms. In addition, the IPPC Coordinator met with Ana Hinojosa, WCO's Director for Compliance and Facilitation, for a discussion on future collaborative efforts between the IPPC and WCO, specifically in the area of sea container safety and cleanliness. The IPPC Coordinator also met with Alan Harrison, Executive Officer of the Secretary-General's Office, for a discussion on developments related to a memorandum of understanding between the two organizations.

13 May

A video conference was held between FAO-HQ and the FAO Regional office for Asia and the Pacific (RAP) to discuss the regional aspects of the proposed FAO-China SouthSouth Cooperation project. The meeting was chaired by Jong-jin Kim, Director TCS, with presence of representatives from RAP, relevant FAO-HQ divisions and FAO Strategic Objective Programmes. Jingyuan Xia, IPPC Secretary, briefed the group on the project proposal, which was fully supported by RAP, and it was agreed that the project would be partially implemented in this region.

13 May

The Fourth IPPC Seminar on "Plant health standards and food security" was held at FAO-HQ. Over 100 participants attended the seminar, including permanent representatives to the three Rome-based UN agencies, members and observers of the SC, as well as the IPPC Secretariat and FAO staff. Jingyuan Xia, IPPC Secretary,

chaired the Seminar and Damien Kelly, First Secretary of the Embassy of Ireland to the Republic of Italy, gave opening remarks. Jan Bart Rossel, Director, International Plant Health Program, Australia, demonstrated how ISPMs enhance food security and directly support four of the SDGs and two of FAO's Strategic Objectives. Ruth Woode, Department Head, Agriculture, Nsawam Adoagyiri Municipal Assembly, the Republic of Ghana, gave an African perspective on food security and the international movement of grain. Lifeng Wu, Division Director, National Agro-Tech Extension and Service Centre, the People's Republic of China, discussed the People's Republic of China's approach to food security through the use of phytosanitary standards. In conclusion, Brent Larson, Standards Officer, highlighted how specific ISPMs contribute to food security, facilitate access to export markets by ensuring imports are safe, and provide guidance on surveillance, diagnosis and treatments.

16–20 May

The SC Working Group (SC-7) met at FAO-HQ. Ezequiel Ferro (the Argentine Republic) and Nico Horn (the Kingdom of the Netherlands) chaired the meeting. All regions were represented in the meeting. The SC-7 reviewed comments on five draft ISPMs from previous consultation periods. The SC-7 requested that the draft revision to Annex 1 and Annex 2 of ISPM 15 (*Regulation of wood packaging material in international trade*), and the revision of the PT sulphuryl fluoride fumigation of wood packaging material (2006-010A and 2006-010B) be sent back to the TPPT for further revision. The other three draft ISPMs were revised and approved for the second consultation period (1 July–30 September). These drafts were: *International movement of vehicles, machinery and equipment* (2006-004), Annex 1 on 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*) and *International movement of seeds* (2009-003).

23–27 May

The Eighth CDC meeting was held in Incheon, the Republic of Korea. In attendance were 13 participants which included CDC members, CPM Bureau members, IPPC Secretariat staff and an observer from IICA. The CDC advised on future promotion of the Phytosanitary Resources page, on the IPPC implementation pilot project

on "Surveillance", and on CPM-11 recommendations. The CDC also discussed future capacity development activities and deliberated on the role and scope of a future implementation and capacity development subsidiary body, proposed by the CDC during CPM-11.

24 May

Jingyuan Xia, IPPC Secretary, had a meeting with H. E. Dun Niu, Permanent Representative of the People's Republic of China to the three Rome-based UN Agencies, as well as the Deputy Permanent Representatives Jianmin Xie and Zhengwei Zhang. The main objective of the meeting was to discuss the design of the IPPC project on "Strengthening the Capacity of Developing Contracting Parties to Implement the IPPC" under the framework of the FAO-China South-South Cooperation Programme". The IPPC Secretary expressed his appreciation to the China Mission for the great support to the initiative, and highlighted some key elements for the project design. The China Mission fully agreed with the proposed design of the project, and expressed their willingness to be involved in following up with implementation of the project.

25 May

Leanne Stewart, IRSS Consultant, contributed to the Conference on *Securing the future of Baladi Bread: How Egyptian public-private cooperation can help deliver tomorrow's food security*, held in Cairo, the Arab Republic of Egypt. The IRSS Consultant delivered the presentation "Pest risk analysis: the basis for regulatory decision". The presentation highlighted the importance of contracting parties basing their selection of phytosanitary measures on the PRA process to ensure that pest risk management is appropriate to the level of protection required by the importing territory. Examples of phytosanitary measures were outlined and the IPPC principles were emphasized. If deemed necessary, IPPC will engage with FAO Cairo and the Egyptian NPPO regarding possible FAO technical assistance.

30–31 May

Orlando Sosa, Implementation Officer, attended the Third Regional Project Technical Committee meeting for the IPPC intervention in the project "Africa Solidarity Trust Fund: Strengthening Controls of Food Safety Threats, Plant and Animal Pests and Diseases for Agricultural Productivity and Trade in Southern Africa". The

Implementation Officer highlighted the progress made in regards to the plant health component of the project, noting that to this date most plant health activities had been conducted with a total project delivery at 38 percent. In addition, PCE had been initiated in five countries. Meeting participants provided updates on the implementation of the project in their countries.

JUNE

6–10 June

The TPFQ met in Victoria, Canada, with twelve participants from the Federal Republic of Germany, the Republic of Ghana, the Republic of Italy, Japan, the Republic of Poland and the United States of America, as well as Brent Larson, Standards Officer, and Mike Ormsby, IPPC Secretariat lead for the TPFQ. The TPFQ recommended text on forest tree seeds to be included in the draft ISPM on the International movement of seeds (2009-003) and a proposed draft annex on Criteria for treatments for wood packaging material in international trade (2006-010) to ISPM 15 (Regulation of wood packaging material in international trade) to the SC-7 via e-mail (for July 2016 consultation) and to the SC meeting in May 2016 respectively. In addition, the TPFQ provided technical input into a proposed scientific paper that is the basis for the proposed annex to ISPM 15. Some guidance was given to IFQRG on future research needs and a short-term work plan was agreed on.

9 June

Jingyuan Xia, IPPC Secretary, met with H.E. Maria Laura da Rocha, Permanent Representative of the Federative Republic of Brazil to the three Rome-based UN Agencies at FAO-HQ. Craig Fedchock, IPPC coordinator, Adriana Gonçalves Moreira, Standards Officer, and David Nowell, Integration and Support Officer, also participated in the meeting. The Brazilian Ambassador was accompanied by Gianina Müller Pozzebon, Alternate Permanent Representative of the Federative Republic of Brazil. The main objectives of the meeting were to explain the scope the IPPC project on "Strengthening the Capacity of Developing Contracting Parties to Implement the IPPC" under the framework of the FAO-China South-South Cooperation Programme, and to follow-up on a previous meeting on strengthening the cooperation between the IPPC Secretariat and the Federative Republic of Brazil.

The IPPC Secretary outlined a proposal for cooperation between the IPPC Secretariat and the Federative Republic of Brazil that included four potential areas: a) to enhance capacity development of developing countries through support to the IPPC Regional Workshops; b) to facilitate the dissemination, demonstration and extension of Brazilian new technologies on phytosanitary measures to relevant contracting parties; c) to promote human resource cooperation between the IPPC Secretariat and the Federative Republic of Brazil; and d) to strengthen the communication and advocacy through support to the main activities on the IPPC themes towards 2020, especially IYPH 2020. The Brazilian delegation responded positively and agreed to discuss this further in the near future.

11–12 June

An Informal Working Group meeting on the *IPPC implementation pilot project on "Surveillance"* was held in Bangkok, the Kingdom of Thailand. Sarah Brunel, Capacity Development Officer, participated in the meeting on behalf of the IPPC Secretariat. Participants reviewed collected materials to identify gaps and tools in surveillance for three pests, selected by the CPM-11, considered as emerging or with wide-ranging geographical impact on agriculture and trade. In doing so, the Working Group confirmed that the three selected pests were relevant for the pilot. The group identified champions for each pest and agreed future activities to be undertaken. The group discussed the collation, presentation and communication of the pilot to contracting parties and agreed to contribute to the content of a framework table on the pilot. Participants also agreed upon a future action list and work plan.

13–17 June

An inception meeting for the project "Nationwide Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation" was carried out in Tbilisi, Georgia. Orlando Sosa, Implementation Officer, and Ketevan Lomsadze, Agricultural Officer, attended the event. In addition, a Legal Officer from FAO participated. The arrangements for the inception meeting and PCE application were confirmed. The PCE was launched at the policy, management and technical levels using three modules of the PCE tool. Steps and follow-up actions were planned and agreed to by representatives of the project, the National Food Agency of the Ministry of Agriculture of Georgia, FAO Georgia, and IPPC Secretariat.

13–17 June

The IFQRG Steering Committee meeting was held in Victoria, Canada, with participation of Brent Larson, Standards Officer. The Steering Committee discussed the future of IFQRG and mapped out a short-term plan which would seek to engage more with the CPM, all subsidiary bodies and all work areas of the IPPC Secretariat. IFQRG terms of reference and rules of procedure were developed, a succession plan for new leadership was agreed upon, and a letter to the CPM Bureau requesting a written partnership agreement was agreed to and submitted to the CPM Chairperson.

15 June

Jingyuan Xia, IPPC Secretary, met with Melvin Spreij, Secretary of the STDF, at FAO-HQ. Craig Fedchock, IPPC Coordinator, Sarah Brunel, Capacity Development Officer, and Marko Benovic, Finance Consultant, also attended the meeting. The main objective of the meeting was to discuss a number of topics related to projects funded by STDF, ongoing projects and potential next steps for moving forward in the relationship between the two organizations. The Capacity Development Officer reviewed the report of the most recent meeting of the CDC and the IPPC Coordinator briefed the participants on the developments related to the STDF funded ePhyto project. Discussions also covered the results of STDF project 350 to develop manuals and training kits, and the current status of STDF project 401 "Training of PCE Facilitators". Both Secretaries exchanged views on the importance of next year's IPPC theme "Plant health and trade facilitation". In this context, they agreed that there was great potential for fruitful joint activities to be undertaken with benefits to both organizations.

20 June

The FC meeting was held in Beijing, the People's Republic of China, which was the first time for such a meeting to be held outside FAO-HQ. The meeting was chaired by Marie-Claude Forest, FC Chairperson (Canada), and opened by Jingyuan Xia, IPPC Secretary, with attendance of all the FC members. The key topics included a briefing on the budget performance and resource mobilization for the IPPC Secretariat in 2016, a discussion related to the IPPC Secretariat work plan and budget for 2017, as well as suggestions for the creation of a special fund for emerging pests and possible approaches to solving both the short- and long-term financial situation of the IPPC Secretariat.

20 June

The IPPC delegation led by Jingyuan Xia, IPPC Secretary, and composed of the IPPC Secretariat's Core team members and the CPM Bureau, held a meeting in Beijing with representatives from the Chinese Ministry of Agriculture, headed by Caiwen He, Deputy Director-General of the Crop production and Protection Department and composed of senior officers from the Chinese International Cooperation Department. The discussion was mainly focused on the importance of and potential for cooperation between the IPPC Secretariat and the People's Republic of China. During the meeting, a review was conducted of the IPPC project on capacity development of developing contracting parties under the framework of the FAO-China South-South Cooperation.

21–24 June

The CPM Bureau meeting was held in Beijing, the People's Republic of China, which was the first time for such a meeting to be held outside FAO-HQ. The meeting was chaired by Lois Ransom, CPM Chairperson (Australia), and opened by Jingyuan Xia, IPPC Secretary, with presence of all the CPM Bureau members. At the opening section, Caiwen He, Deputy Director General of the Crop production and Protection Department, gave a welcome address on behalf of the Chinese Ministry of Agriculture. In his speech, he reconfirmed that the Chinese government had decided to provide the IPPC Secretariat with USD 2 000 000 (for the period 2017–2020) to strengthen the capacity development of developing contracting parties through the framework of the FAO-China South-South Cooperation. The CPM Bureau focussed discussions on IPPC Secretariat budget performance and resource mobilization in 2016 including a sustainable funding mechanism for the IPPC work programme and an immediate support for emergent pests; follow up actions from CPM-11; and the SPG 2016 meeting agenda.

21 June

The IPPC delegation led by Jingyuan Xia, IPPC Secretary, and composed of the IPPC Secretariat's Core team members and the CPM Bureau, held a meeting in Beijing, the People's Republic of China, with the delegation of the Chinese National Agriculture University (CAU) headed by Zhaohu LI, Vice President of the CAU, and composed of several professors of plant health. The Vice President briefly outlined the structure and achievements of the CAU, in particular in relation to plant protection and plant

quarantine. Participants received a tour of the laboratory facilities as well as a presentation of the University and its operations. Participants then engaged in discussions on the best ways to collaborate on different issues, such as establishing an intern program and promoting the IPPC project on "Strengthening the Capacity of Developing Contracting Parties to Implement the IPPC" under the framework of the FAO-China South-South Cooperation by utilizing the University's expertise, laboratories, technology transfer and possible training facilities.

22 June

The IPPC delegation led by Jingyuan Xia, IPPC Secretary, and composed of the IPPC Secretariat's Core team members and the CPM Bureau, held a meeting in Beijing, the People's Republic of China, with the delegation of the Chinese General Administration for Quality Supervision Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ) headed by Wang Wei, Vice Minister of AQSIQ, and composed of other relevant senior officers. AQSIQ gave a presentation on eCertification, which was followed by discussions on a number of subjects including ePhyto. The meeting was concluded with a "real time" virtual inspection of sea containers carried out by AQSIQ inspectors from the port of Shenzhen. AQSIQ indicated that they were already in the process of exchanging some phytosanitary certificates electronically and that they were very interested in playing a key role in the IPPC ePhyto project.

23 June

The IPPC delegation led by Jingyuan Xia, IPPC Secretary, and composed of the IPPC Secretariat's Core team members and the CPM Bureau, held a meeting in Beijing, the People's Republic of China, with the delegation of the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS) headed by Kongming Wu, Vice President of CAAS, and composed of plant health officers. Before the meeting, the IPPC delegation was given a tour of the facilities of the Plant Protection Research Institute of CAAS. During the meeting, CAAS gave a presentation on the development of the Chinese strategy "One Belt, One Road" and the progress in the research in plant health. The discussion was mainly focused on the possible bilateral cooperation to promote the implementation of the IPPC-China project on capacity development, particularly in relation to "One Belt, One Road". CAAS officials noted that they would be working with countries, including the Russian Federation and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, on specific pests

that have the potential to pose significant problems to agricultural production, a component also included in the IPPC-China project.

21–23 June

The 7th Multilateral Environment Agreement Information and Knowledge Management Steering Committee Meeting was held in Montreux, the Swiss Confederation, with participation from CBD, CITES, CMS, EC, FAO, ITPGR-FA, RAMSAR, Rotterdam Convention, Stockholm Convention, UNEP and UN Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR). Paola Sentinelli, Knowledge Management Officer, attended the meeting as an observer. The main objective of the meeting was to analyse the work done and discuss the recommendations for the new phase of the project of creating the cross-cutting database "InforMEA".

28–30 June

The workshop *Better training for safer food for Anglophone Africa* was held in Johannesburg, the Republic of South Africa. David Nowell, Integration and Support Officer, attended the workshop. The focus of the workshop was to strengthen national capacity to participate actively in the work of the IPPC as the only international standard setting body for plant health. The IPPC Secretariat gave a presentation on the internal organization of the IPPC, the relation to FAO and general functioning procedures, responsibilities and obligations of contracting parties. There was considerable discussion among the participants and a number of practical exercises that provided firsthand experience in how to provide comments on draft ISPMs and how these comments were debated and agreed in the SC.

28 June

Craig Fedchock, IPPC Coordinator, and Shane Sela, ePhyto Project Manager, participated in an eCertification Seminar in Geneva, the Swiss Confederation. The Seminar was sponsored by the STDF and attended by more than 150 people from a wide number of countries and international organizations. The overall objective of the Seminar was to raise awareness of the opportunities and the challenges related to the implementation of electronic SPS certification systems, mainly in developing countries. It aimed to identify good practices and avenues for future actions to support the smooth transition from paper-based to automated SPS control systems.

29 June

Craig Fedchock, IPPC Coordinator, and Shane Sela, ePhyto Project Manager, held two meetings in Geneva, the Swiss Confederation: a half-day combined meeting of the ePhyto IAG, ePhyto Project Advisory and Technical Committees; and a half-day meeting of the ePhyto Project Advisory Committee. The first meeting was held to introduce all available external participants and advisors working on the ePhyto project to one another. The meeting of the ePhyto Project Advisory Committee was held for the purpose of establishing the Committee, determining operational procedures and choosing a chairperson. Barbara Cooper (Australia) was selected to be the Chairperson.

30 June

Craig Fedchock, IPPC Coordinator, and the ESG members met with representatives of the UNICC in Geneva, the Swiss Confederation, to clarify the next steps in the ePhyto project once the work agreement would be signed. This included a brief discussion on the details of the schema to be used in the development of the system and included confirmation that the UNICC was ready to begin assessing systems for both the ePhyto hub and the generic system.

30 June

Craig Fedchock, IPPC Coordinator, met with representatives from CBD, World Health Organization (WHO), WTO and STDF in Geneva, the Swiss Confederation, to discuss the possibility of a multi-organizational side session on invasive alien species (regulated pests) at the December 2016 CBD meeting, or, at a minimum, a kiosk presenting materials on invasive alien species.

JULY**27 June – 8 July**

The first IPPC training for PCE Facilitators was held in Ronciglione, the Republic of Italy, bringing together phytosanitary experts from the Middle East, North Africa and Eastern European regions and representatives from the IPPC Secretariat and FAO. The training was organized and facilitated by IPPC Secretariat staff with support from the STDF. Participants received in-depth training on phytosanitary issues and systems, the logical framework approach and facilitation techniques.

The training involved a mix of individual and group work, pre-training exercises and e-learning courses. By enhancing countries' access to suitable PCE facilitators, it is expected that there will be an increase in the number of countries evaluating their national phytosanitary capacity and using PCE results to design national phytosanitary action plans to improve their countries' plant health status.

5 July

The TPPT held a virtual meeting. The IPPC Secretariat informed the TPPT about the work on developing a tool (as recommended by CPM-10 (2015) and encouraged by the SC in May 2016) that will help contracting parties search for PTs in use. It is hoped that this search tool will include both adopted IPPC PTs and those posted on the Phytosanitary Resource page. Also, the preliminary results of the research being conducted by the Joint FAO/IAEA Division on cold tolerance of *Ceratitis capitata* populations were presented, which indicated that there was no difference between various populations' response to cold treatments. These results would impact nine pending draft PTs. The arrangements and draft agenda for the upcoming face-to-face meeting were discussed.

11 – 15 July

The TPDP met in Montego Bay, Jamaica. The meeting was hosted by the Ministry of Industry Commerce Agriculture and Fisheries and organized by the Plant Quarantine Produce Inspection Branch, Jamaica's NPPO. The TPDP meeting was attended by seven TPDP members (Australia, Canada, France, Jamaica, New Zealand, Netherlands and United States of America), as well as the TPDP Steward, one invited expert (EPPO), two representatives from the host organization, and two representatives from the IPPC Secretariat. The TPDP discussed several horizontal issues related to DPs, such as quality assurance, best practices for sequencing including next-generation sequencing, and viability of pests. The TPDP discussed and reviewed in detail four draft DPs. The TPDP reviewed their work programme, which comprised 22 draft DPs; most of which would be submitted for adoption within the next two years. The importance of IPPC DPs was discussed, and the TPDP positively highlighted the fact that CPM-11 (2016) had adopted a recommendation on the importance of pest diagnosis.

15 July

The 2016 Mid-year meeting of the IPPC Secretariat was held at FAO-HQ. The main objectives of the meeting were to review the major achievements of the IPPC Secretariat for the first semester, to plan the core activities for the second semester, and to strengthen team building for moving towards "One IPPC". The meeting was chaired by Jingyuan Xia, IPPC Secretary, with participation of the IPPC Secretariat staff. Craig Fedchock, IPPC Coordinator, and the Team Leads: Brent Larson, David Nowell and Orlando Sosa gave presentations on their teams' work. A team building exercise was facilitated by the IPPC Coordinator where all staff actively shared their views and provided valuable suggestions on how to achieve "One IPPC". The IPPC Secretary highlighted three important points: a) eight major achievements for the first semester; b) eight key activities for the second semester; and c) team building for moving towards "One IPPC". Concluding, the IPPC Secretary stressed that 2016 was an important year for the IPPC Secretariat as it was the first year to implement the IPPC annual themes ("Plant Health and Food Security" for 2016) towards IYPH 2020. He also mentioned that 2016 was important for the IPPC Secretariat as the action plan for the implementation of the Enhancement Evaluation should be carried out. He requested all staff to work together to help bring the IPPC Secretariat to a new level.

18–22 July

The IPPC Focus Group on *Establishment of a new subsidiary body for implementation* met at EPPO-HQ in Paris, the French Republic. The Focus Group was established following a CPM-11 decision and was composed of members from all seven FAO regions, as well as of representatives from the CPM Bureau, the CDC, the SC, RPPOs and the IPPC Secretariat. The Focus Group meeting was chaired by Martin Ward, Director-General of EPPO, and opened by Jingyuan Xia, IPPC Secretary. The Focus Group worked effectively and in a cooperative manner to define the terms of reference, including the purpose, scope, functions of the new body for implementation, its Rules of Procedures, and a proposed name. The results from the Focus Group meeting would be shared with the SPG meeting in October for discussion and refining, before submitting them to the CPM Bureau for their consideration. This Focus Group meeting was a milestone to concretely implement the IPPC Enhancement Evaluation, and to actively contribute to moving towards "One IPPC".

22 July

Jingyuan Xia, IPPC Secretary, and Brent Larson, Standards Officer, had a meeting with Alain Tridon, Deputy-Director of the Phytosanitary Service, NPPO of the French Republic, at the French Ministry of Agriculture, Agrifood and Forestry. The IPPC Secretary expressed his sincere gratitude to the French government for the valuable support to the IPPC work programme, and his strong desire for further bilateral cooperation. Alain Tridon expressed his high appreciation for the IPPC Secretariat's work in particular in relation to standard setting and the quick response to *Xylella fastidiosa*. He also reiterated continuous support of the French Republic to the IPPC work programme through both in-cash and in-kind contributions.

25–26 July

The UNEP Consultative Meeting on *Synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions* was held at the International Environmental House in Geneva, the Swiss Confederation. The meeting was chaired by Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, Director of Environmental Law and Conventions, and representatives from all seven biodiversity conventions participated (CBD, CITES, CMS, IPPC, ITPGR-FA, RAMSAR and UNESCO-WHC). The main objective of the meeting was to follow up on the UN Environment Assembly UNEA-2 Resolution related to synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions, and to discuss the contribution of the biodiversity-related conventions to achieving the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Jingyuan Xia, IPPC Secretary, attended the meeting and delivered a presentation on the IPPC themes for the next five years (2016–2020), the contribution of the IPPC to achieving the 2030 UN Agenda for Sustainable Development, the cooperation with other biodiversity-conventions in particular with CBD and CITES, and the perspective of future synergies and cooperation with other biodiversity conventions, especially in relation to the proposed IYPH in 2020.

AUGUST

8–19 August

The second IPPC training for PCE Facilitators was held in Chang Mai, the Kingdom of Thailand, under the STDF project 401. The STDF project 401 seeks to improve national-level coordination and coherence of plant protection programmes through improved needs assessment and action planning. The aim of the project is to train a pool of individuals to facilitate phytosanitary needs assessments and action planning processes using the PCE tool. Eleven participants from the Caribbean, Asian and Pacific regions were trained on requirements of the IPPC and ISPMs, legislative aspects of phytosanitary systems, the PCE process and modules, as well as on strategic planning tools, facilitation techniques and ethics. Different facilitation techniques used during the training included delivery of presentations, plenary and small group discussions and exercises, individual tasks, a case study and a group simulation of an actual PCE application.

22–26 August

Shane Sela, ePhyto Project Manager, and members of the ePhyto Steering Group attended a meeting with the Samoan Quarantine Division in Apia, the Independent State of Samoa. The objective of the meeting was to discuss the specifications of the proposed ePhyto Solution and the steps required for pilot countries to implement the GeNS. The Independent State of Samoa was one of the countries selected to pilot the GeNS component of the ePhyto Solution which is expected to begin in early 2017. The group worked with Samoan Quarantine Officers and Senior Management to assess their work activities and to identify the business changes required for implementing the GeNS. The group also discussed the development of a detailed country work plan outlining the steps for implementation of the GeNS in the Independent State of Samoa. The assessment is key to ensuring that countries selected for the pilot are prepared to implement the GeNS once ready for installation.

23–24 August

The 11th meeting of the BLG was held at the UN premises in Bonn, the Federal Republic of Germany. The meeting was organized by the CBD, and chaired by Bradnee Chambers, Executive Secretary of the CMS. All seven international biodiversity-related conventions were

present at the meeting (CBD, CITES, CMS, RAMSAR, IPPC, ITPGR-FA and UNESCO-WHC). The main objectives and activities of the meeting were to follow up on action items from the 10th meeting of the BLG (2015) and on the progress of various conventions since the last meeting; to review the preparations for the COP 17 of CITES in the Republic of South Africa, the COP 13 of CBD in the United Mexican States, and the World Conservation Congress of the International Union for Conservation of Nature in the United States of America; to discuss the synergies and cooperation among the biodiversity-related conventions; and review the work plan of the BLG for 2016/2017. Jingyuan Xia, IPPC Secretary, attended the meeting. He reported on the strong support of the IPPC governing bodies to the synergies and cooperation among the biodiversity-related conventions, on the progress of the STDF project on ePhyto, and on the recent developments for an IYPH in 2020.

23–26 August

The IPPC Regional Workshop for Latin America was held in Panama City, the Republic of Panama. IICA, Organismo Internacional Regional de Sanidad Agropecuaria (OIRSA), Comité de Sanidad Vegetal (COSAVE), Servicio Nacional de Sanidad Agropecuaria de Panamá and the IPPC Secretariat co-organized and financed the workshop. The IPPC Secretariat facilitated the workshop that had 20 plant health officials from contracting parties, representatives from two RPPOs, and IICA staff attending. The participants reviewed and provided comments on three draft ISPMs, and received facilitated exercises on import verification, diagnostics tools, and surveillance. IPPC Regional Workshops are critical in improving the capacity of developing countries to participate actively in the development of ISPMs, enhancing their capacity to understand and implement ISPMs and allowing them to know about IPPC activities and to exchange experience at the regional level.

SEPTEMBER

29 August – 2 September

Sarah Brunel, Capacity Development Officer, attended a workshop in Tunis, the Republic of Tunisia, on the *FAO Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) project (TCP/RAB/3601)* that aims to develop phytosanitary capacities to prevent the introduction and spread of *Xylella fastidiosa*. The workshop focused on the latest information on the biology of the species, surveillance, diagnostics and management methods. Participants elaborated on national work plans with activities related to: identification and engagement of partners and stakeholders in the contingency plan against *Xylella fastidiosa*; development of capacities of all relevant stakeholders in surveillance, diagnostics and management methods for *Xylella fastidiosa*; implementation of an efficient surveillance plan against this pest; and public awareness and communication activities. Participants were also trained on sampling and monitoring methods for *Xylella fastidiosa*. The role of the IPPC Secretariat in the TCP project, whose beneficiaries are the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Lebanese Republic, Libya, the Kingdom of Morocco, the Republic of Tunisia, and the West Bank and Gaza Strip, is to provide technical support for the activities related to phytosanitary issues and capacity development, and to help create synergies with other IPPC Secretariat activities related to *Xylella fastidiosa*.

29 August – 2 September

The TPPT met in Tokyo, Japan. The meeting was chaired by Matthew Smyth (Australia) with eight TPPT members attending the meeting, and supported by Adriana Gonçalves Moreira, Standards Officer, and Eva Moller, Standard setting support. The TPPT discussed the research results undertaken by the Insect Pest Control laboratories of FAO/IAEA regarding the *Ceratitis capitata* population differences for tolerance to cold treatments and concluded that there was no evidence to support that there may be any differences in cold tolerance of *Ceratitis capitata* populations from different geographical regions. The TPPT noted that differences apparent from the literature might instead be due to differences in methodology. This was groundbreaking progress for the international harmonization of cold treatments, which is an important phytosanitary measure used worldwide to prevent the entry and spread of regulated pests and diseases. The

TPPT also discussed possible cultivar/variety differences influence tolerance to cold. The TPPT approved a total of 12 draft PTs and the responses to previous objections or responses to consultation comments, and recommended the PTs to the SC for adoption by CPM.

5 – 8 September

The IPPC Regional Workshop for the Near East and North Africa, organized by the IPPC Secretariat in collaboration with the FAO regional office and NEPPO, was held in Algier, the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria. Sarah Brunel, Capacity Development Officer, facilitated the workshop that had over 30 participants from 16 countries, the FAO regional office and NEPPO. Participants were introduced to the new OCS by providing comments on three draft ISPMs. Interactive presentations were delivered on the latest IPPC information: the import verification manual; the IRSS Helpdesk; the phytosanitary resource page; and the IPPC survey on emerging plant health issues. The participants were invited to brainstorm and to provide their ideas on how their country could concretely contribute to the IPPC implementation pilot project on "Surveillance" and to the IYPH. The FAO regional office and NEPPO gave presentations on their activities. An extra session was organized on emerging pests in this region (*Parthenium hysterophorus* and *Dactylopius opuntiae*).

5 – 9 September

The IPPC workshop on *NROs for Asia* took place in Beijing, the People's Republic of China. The workshop was jointly organized and supported by the IPPC Secretariat and APPPC. Twenty-five participants from 16 countries of the Asian region attended. David Nowell, Integration and Support Officer, and Dorota Buzon, NRO Officer, from the IPPC Secretariat as well as Yongfan Piao and Yusof Othman from the APPPC/RAP were present at the workshop on behalf of the organizers. The workshop was opened by Tianrun Zhong, Deputy Director General of the National Agricultural Technology Extension and Science Service of the Chinese Ministry of Agriculture. During the workshop, NRO-related topics were discussed: changes to the IPPC information exchange since 2011; NRO statistics for the APPPC countries; future NRO-related activities towards 2020; NRO online training material; NRO Year of Pest Reporting; and the importance of networks. General IPPC topics were also discussed, such as the latest IPPC achievements; IYPH in 2020; and the IPPC communication and advocacy activities. Participants presented new NRO

reports of their countries and worked on the development of national NRO work plans towards 2020. The workshop also included a hands-on demonstration and training on NRO data entry. APPPC members developed national NRO and APPPC action plans addressing actions for at least the next two years.

9 September

Jingyuan Xia, IPPC Secretary, paid his first official visit to New Zealand's Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI). During the visit, the IPPC Secretary met with Martyn Dunne, Director-General of MPI, and with MPI staff members Chris Carson, Director of International Policy, John Hedley, Principal Adviser of International Policy, and Stephen Butcher, Manager Import and Exports (Plants). The IPPC Secretary expressed his desire to deepen the bilateral cooperation with New Zealand, in particular concerning emerging pests, ePhyto, sea containers and commodity standards. In response Martyn Dunne expressed his appreciation for the IPPC Secretariat prioritizing its work, and hoped that more countries would step up to assist in solving the IPPC Secretariat resource constraints. The IPPC Secretary also delivered a presentation on perspectives of the IPPC to a number of MPI staff.

12–14 September

The IPPC Regional Workshop for South-West Pacific was held in Nadi, the Republic of Fiji. The workshop was jointly organized by the IPPC Secretariat, the Pacific Plant Protection Organization (PPPO) and the FAO sub-regional office, and supported financially by the Australian AID. The workshop was attended by over 40 participants from 13 PPPO members, Australia and New Zealand. Ken Cokanasiga, Deputy Director for Agribusiness and Trade, Secretariat of the Pacific Community, and Jingyuan Xia, IPPC Secretary, were present at the workshop, and delivered, respectively, a welcome address and a keynote speech. The major objectives and activities of the workshop were to reinforce the capacity of contracting parties to formulate productive comments on draft ISPMs; to promote the implementation of the IPPC and its standards; and to move together from ideas to action for facilitation of implementation.

13–15 September

The IRSS meeting on *The study "Analysing the benefits of implementing the IPPC"* took place in Washington DC, the United States of America. The meeting was chaired by Leanne Stewart, IRSS Consultant, with support by Orlando Sosa, Implementation Officer, and was attended by seven selected experts from the fields of plant health, trade, international economics and environmental protection. This IRSS study seeks to identify the benefits of implementing the IPPC at the national, regional and global levels, while also considering benefits to different stakeholders in the IPPC community. The different aspects to be considered are in relation to the Convention, ISPMs and achieving the IPPC strategic objectives, with a particular emphasis on the economic benefits of implementing the IPPC and ISPMs at the national level. Discussions focused on the categories of benefits, beneficiaries and other relationships and an outline and defined scope of the study.

13–15 September

The 2016 IPPC Regional Workshop for the Caribbean was held in Christ Church, Barbados. The workshop was co-organized with the IICA, and hosted by the Government of Barbados. Thirteen participants from 12 countries. Michael James (Barbados) chaired the workshop with the support of Carol Thomas, IICA representative, Stephanie Dubon, IPPC Secretariat representative, and Ezequiel Ferro, representative of the SC. Esworth Reid, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Food, Fisheries and Water Resource Management, opened the workshop, and further opening remarks were made by Katja Svensson, Programme Manager for Regional Cooperation and Trade Section, Delegation of the EU, Eastern Caribbean Countries, OECS and CARICOM/CARIFORUM, and Vyjayanthi Lopez, Plant Production and Protection Officer, FAO Sub-Regional Office for the Caribbean. The objectives of the workshop were to learn how to analyse draft ISPMs and to formulate productive comments; build phytosanitary capacity and raise awareness on all activities related to the IPPC and to exchange experiences at the regional level.

14–16 September

The IPPC Regional Workshop for Africa was held in Addis Ababa, the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia. The workshop was attended by 23 participants from 16 countries, the African Union Commission, the Inter-

African Phytosanitary Council (IAPSC), and facilitated by David Nowell, Integration and Support Officer. The meeting was opened by Mezui M'Ella, Director General of IAPSC. Mamba Mamba (the Democratic Republic of the Congo) chaired the meeting. FAO, the IPPC Secretariat and IAPSC identified their key achievements of the past year and highlighted current important activities. Discussions focused on the draft ISPMs and comments were collected from the region. Awareness raising exercises identified potential areas of focus and collaboration at national, regional and global levels. The exercises undertaken resulted in the identification of regional phytosanitary needs and regional emerging pests, greater understanding of import verification, and concrete actions for the IPPC implementation pilot project on "Surveillance". The participants expressed concerns about the threats they face from a number of emerging pests, while needing to maintain their current work programmes, highlighting that this would increase the challenges of capacity and resources in the foreseeable future.

15 – 16 September

Jingyuan Xia, IPPC Secretary, and Craig Fedchock, IPPC Adviser, visited the Japanese Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) as well as the Yokohama Plant Protection Station. The IPPC delegation met with Takeharu Imashiro, Director General for Food Safety and Consumer Affairs of MAFF, and with Hiroshi Ono, Director General of the Yokohama Plant Protection Station. The IPPC Secretary briefed both Directors General on the progress of the IPPC and the IPPC Secretariat, and expressed his desire to broaden the bilateral cooperation with Japan, in particular in relation to emerging pests, ePhyto, NRO workshops, sea containers and commodity standards. In response, both Director General Imashiro and Director General Ono expressed their deep appreciation for the IPPC Secretariat prioritizing work on implementation of standards, safe and efficient trade, and emerging pest issues. They expressed their interest in supporting the IPPC Secretariat activities within implementation, ePhyto, and NRO workshops. The IPPC Secretariat also delivered a presentation on the *Developments and Perspectives of the IPPC* to a number of MAFF staff.

19 – 23 September

The EWG on the *International movement of grain* (2008-007) met in Melbourne, Australia. The meeting was facilitated by Brent Larson, Standards Officer, and Eva Moller, Standard setting support, was chaired by Bill Magee (Australia) and David Heinrich (Australia). In total, 15 participants from the Argentine Republic, Australia, Canada, the People's Republic of China, Jamaica, New Zealand and the United States of America, as well as three industry representatives attended the meeting. The experts worked to find consensus on requirements for the international movement of grain and designed a draft standard to highlight the issues that need to be addressed as grain flows through the system from production, to export, import and final processing. The experts were not able to conclude the draft ISPM and decided to continue their work through forum discussions.

19 – 30 September

The third IPPC training for PCE Facilitators was held in Ronciglione, the Republic of Italy, bringing together eight carefully selected phytosanitary experts from Anglophone Africa and the Near East, and four staff of the FAO legal division. The training was facilitated by Sarah Brunel, Capacity Development Officer. The participants were trained to broaden and enhance their expertise in facilitating the application of the PCE tool. This two-week intensive training was conducted in an effort to improve existing or planned phytosanitary capacity systems, and was supported financially by the STDF. Participants received an in-depth training on phytosanitary issues and systems, the logical framework approach and facilitation techniques. The training involved a mix of individual and group work, pre-training exercises and e-learning courses.

26 – 30 September

The 25th session of COAG was held at FAO-HQ. Of the 129 Members of the Committee, 114 were present together with 17 international and civil society organizations, with over 400 participants in total. More than 15 high-level delegates participated, including seven ministers. Jingyuan Xia, IPPC Secretary, attended the session where also the establishment of the IYPH in 2020 was discussed. The proposal was welcomed and received overwhelming support from the Members and civil society. The Committee endorsed the proposed IYPH 2020, which marked a milestone towards realizing an IYPH in 2020.

27 September

A side event on the establishment of the IYPH 2020 was held during the 25th session of COAG at FAO-HQ. This event marked the successful start of the campaign to establish an IYPH in 2020. The event was chaired and opened by Jingyuan Xia, IPPC Secretary. Ren Wang, ADG-AG, delivered a keynote address expressing his strong support for the initiative. Ralf Lopian, Director of Plant Health of the Finnish Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, made a presentation on the global and regional perspectives of an IYPH 2020. Eric Robinson, Alternate Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of Canada to FAO, presented a national level perspective and Veli-Pekka Talvela, Director General of Finnish Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, gave a speech on government perspectives. In his concluding remarks, the IPPC Secretary urged the global plant health community to work cooperatively to achieve an IYPH in 2020.

27 September

The TPDP held a virtual meeting to discuss the objection received during the DP notification period in July 2016 for the draft DP on *Tomato spotted wilt virus*, *Impatiens necrotic spot virus* and *Watermelon silver mottle virus* (2004-019). The TPDP resolved the objection and the draft DP would be resubmitted to the SC for approval for submission for adoption.

28 September

The TPFQ held a virtual meeting to discuss implementation issues related to the draft ISPM on the *International movement of wood* (2006-029). The TPFQ recommendations would be forwarded to the SC for their consideration.

OCTOBER**3 October**

The FC meeting was held at FAO-HQ. The meeting was chaired by Lois Ransom, CPM Chairperson (Australia), and opened by Jingyuan Xia, IPPC Secretary. The FC discussed mainly the recent resource mobilization efforts of the IPPC Secretariat, the draft IPPC Secretariat work plan and budget for 2017, a sustainable funding mechanism for the IPPC Secretariat, financial aspects of the IYPH 2020, progress on ISPM 15 symbol cost reimbursement, and plans for a donor conference in 2020. The establishment

of a sustainable funding for the IPPC work programme was discussed in depth and proposed to the CPM Bureau and the SPG for further consideration during the same week. The FC proposed some improvements to the draft IPPC Secretariat work plan and budget for 2017 and endorsed it.

4–6 October

The Fifth SPG meeting was held at FAO-HQ, with the theme “IPPC Contribution to Achieving SDGs for 2030 Agenda”. The meeting was chaired by the CPM Vice-chairperson, Francisco Javier Trujillo Arriaga (the United Mexican States), and opened by Jingyuan Xia, IPPC Secretary. Over 30 participants attended the meeting from more than 25 IPPC contracting parties and in addition all Team Leads of the IPPC Secretariat attended. The IPPC Secretary, made a keynote address on the IPPC’s contributions to achieving the SDGs for the 2030 agenda. This resulted in an in-depth discussion on the direction of the IPPC towards 2030. The SPG split up in two smaller groups to work on the IPPC Strategic Framework for 2020–2030 and the prioritization of the IPPC Secretariat core activities. The SPG agreed on milestones for the development of the IPPC Strategic Framework for 2020–2030 and identified a number of stakeholders that should become involved in the process, before the adoption in 2020. The SPG also discussed a range of other topics that included: the immediate funding for emerging issues; short- and long-term funding options; a potential donor conference; developments towards the IYPH in 2020; the IPPC annual themes for 2017 and 2018; the proposed Implementation and Capacity Development Committee’s terms of reference; the proposed amendments to existing CPM Recommendations; global plant health and the possibility of an annual phytosanitary conference; PTs; the next steps on sea containers; progress with the ePhyto project; the updated Framework for Standards and Implementation; and international cooperation (including the relationship with the WCO).

4 and 7 October

The CPM Bureau held a meeting spread around the annual SPG meeting, at FAO-HQ. The meeting was chaired by Lois Ransom, CPM Chairperson (Australia), and opened by Jingyuan Xia, IPPC Secretary. The meeting was attended by almost all the CPM Bureau members (except North America) as well all Team Leads of the IPPC Secretariat. Ren Wang, ADG-AG, briefly attended the Bureau meeting

to provide an update on developments in FAO relevant to the work of the IPPC and address feedback on the reorganization of the IPPC Secretariat. The CPM Bureau discussed a range of subjects, including: the outcomes of the SPG; the outcomes of the FC; CPM-12 to be held in the Republic of Korea; the proposed amendments to existing CPM Recommendations; possible awareness raising activities; the development of webpages for "sea containers" and an "IPPC 65th Anniversary" on the IPP; the establishment of the IC, NRO Advisory Group and the SBDS; the endorsement of the Framework for Standards and Implementation; identification of possible reductions to the IPPC work programme as an adjustment for the reduced amount of funding available through the MDTF.

3-7 October

The ESG met at the offices of SENASA in La Plata, the Argentine Republic. The meeting was chaired by Nico Horn, ESG Chairperson (the Kingdom of the Netherlands), and was attended also by staff of UNICC. Shane Sela, ePhyto Project Manager, participated in the meeting to advance the technical design of the ePhyto hub and GeNS. The ESG worked with UNICC staff to refine the design to ensure that it meets the phytosanitary needs of all countries. The work included defining exactly how the hub will operate in exchanging electronic certificates between NPPOs and defining the detailed work flows involved in the ePhyto certification process. The ESG also worked on mapping the system elements of the phytosanitary certificate for export and the phytosanitary certificate for re-export.

3-7 October

A second workshop for key stakeholders under the FAO Project TCP/SSD/3502 "Development of Phytosanitary Legislation and Capacity Development Strategy in South Sudan" was held in Kampala, the Republic of Uganda. Sarah Brunel, Capacity Development Officer, took part in the meeting. The project aims at drafting phytosanitary legislation and a strategy for phytosanitary capacity development for the Republic of South Sudan through the implementation of the PCE tool. The participants defined a vision and mission of the future NPPO, proposed a structure and discussed the content of the future phytosanitary legislation. Relevant stakeholders involved in the strategic planning process were also identified. This work sets the basis for defining a future

project that could help in establishing a functional NPPO that engages with stakeholders at local, national, regional and international levels; setting administrative and technical requirements to effectively deliver the mandate of the NPPO; and training administrative and technical staff of the NPPO.

14 October

The IPPC Secretariat launched an expert consultation for two draft. The drafts submitted were *Bactrocera dorsalis* complex (2006-026) and *Xylella fastidiosa* (2004-024). Experts worldwide were invited to submit comments on these two draft DPs to help improve the development of them through scientific input and feedback on a global scale.

17 October

Jingyuan Xia, IPPC Secretary, and Brent Larson, Standards Officer, had a meeting with Liang Qu, Director of the Joint FAO/IAEA Division, and Rui Pereira Cardoso, Technical Officer Joint FAO/IAEA Division, to discuss further bilateral cooperation. A multi-year arrangement was envisioned (2017-2021) and some concrete activities proposed, including: a) support for and hosting of the 2017 TPPT meeting; b) development of guidance for the implementation of fruit fly ISPMs (dependent on CPM-12 decisions); c) development of a fact sheet on the IPPC-IAEA bilateral cooperation and a possible fact sheet and video outlining how to implement the ISPMs on fruit flies; and d) IAEA involvement and contribution to the IYPH 2020.

17-28 October

The fourth IPPC training for PCE Facilitators was held in Ronciglione, the Republic of Italy. The training was facilitated by Sarah Brunel, Capacity Development Officer, with participation of eight selected phytosanitary experts from Francophone Africa and two lawyers. The participants were trained to broaden and enhance their expertise in facilitating the application of the PCE tool. This two-week intensive training was conducted in an effort to improve existing or planned phytosanitary capacity systems, and was supported financially by the STDF. Participants received an in-depth training on phytosanitary issues and systems, the logical framework approach and facilitation techniques. The training involved a mix of individual and group work, pre-training exercises and e-learning courses.

18 October

The IPPC Secretariat and the Department of Australian Agriculture and Water Resources jointly organized a side event on *"Stop those pests!" Plant health's essential role in eradicating hunger and eliminating poverty* during the 43rd Session of the CFS at FAO-HQ. The side event was attended by over 60 participants. Jingyuan Xia, IPPC Secretary, chaired the side event and the following five experts made presentations: Kim Ritman, Department of Agriculture and Water Resources, Australia; Washington Otieno, Centre for Agriculture and Biosciences International (CABI)/Plantwise; Maria Saponari, Italian National Research Council – Institute for Sustainable Plant Protection and CIHEAM; Rui Pereira Cardoso, Joint FAO/IAEA Division; and Craig Fedchock, IPPC Advisor. In their presentations, the five panellists demonstrated that surveillance underpins all plant-health related activities and is essential to protect plants from economically harmful pests. They highlighted the crucial need to prevent the entry and spread of devastating pests because many of these pests cannot be eradicated and the costs are very significant. They also explained how governments are supported through the normative work carried out under the auspices of the IPPC to develop harmonized surveillance programmes and measures.

19 October

Jingyuan Xia, IPPC Secretary, Craig Fedchock, IPPC Adviser, and Marko Benovic, Finance Consultant, met with Alwin Kopse, Head of International Sustainable Agriculture of the Swiss Federal Department of Economic Affairs, Education and Research, to discuss deepening the bilateral cooperation between the IPPC Secretariat and the Swiss Confederation. The IPPC Secretary expressed his gratitude to the Swiss Confederation for its strong support to the IPPC Secretariat work programme, including contribution to the MDTF and IPPC projects such as IRSS. He suggested increased cooperation within the areas of emerging pests, ePhyto, IRSS and IYPH. In response, Alwin Kopse expressed his appreciation for the work of the IPPC Secretariat, and his willingness to provide continued support to the IPPC Secretariat in areas of common concern such as safe trade.

24 – 28 October

A meeting on the *Technical operation of the GeNS* was held at Pokuase, the Republic of Ghana. The meeting was facilitated by Shane Sela, ePhyto Project Manager,

and supported by Josiah Syanda, member of the ESG. A project team also attended from the Plant Protection and Regulatory Services Directorate of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture of the Republic of Ghana. The objectives of the meeting were to review the ePhyto Solution and to determine the Republic of Ghana's preparedness for implementation of GeNS. The meeting participants started developing a detailed country work plan outlining the steps leading to deployment of the system in the Republic of Ghana. They also finalized their analysis of the Republic of Ghana's current certification processes, which would allow them to fully analyse the business-process changes needed to implement the ePhyto Solution. The participants also discussed how the the Republic of Ghana team should undertake stakeholder engagement to ensure that clients and relevant agencies would be ready for the implementation the ePhyto system.

26 October

The TPPT had a virtual meeting. The TPPT members were updated on SPG discussions of interest to the TPPT, and on the status of the TPPT work programme. The main agenda point was the discussion on the draft ISPM on *Requirements for the use of fumigation treatments as a phytosanitary measure* (2014-004). The TPPT discussed major issues that that should be addressed to facilitate the preparation of the draft for presentation to the SC meeting in May 2017. Because of time constraints the TPPT agreed that the discussion on this draft ISPM would continue in the December TPPT virtual meeting.

27 – 28 October

The 67th Regular Meeting of the WTO-SPS Committee was held at WTO-HQ in Geneva, the Swiss Confederation. The IPPC Secretariat was invited to attend the meeting as it is one of the "Three Sisters" under the SPS Agreement. The IPPC Secretariat was represented by Jingyuan Xia, IPPC Secretary, and Ketevan Lomsadze, Capacity Development Officer. The main objectives of the meeting were to: a) share information, knowledge and experiences; b) review implementation of the SPS Agreement; c) discuss issues on specific cross-cutting trade matters, technical assistance and cooperation, and private and commercial standards; and d) plan future activities. The IPPC Secretary updated the WTO-SPS Committee on the IPPC Secretariat's major activities and achievements from 2016, and main perspectives of the IPPC Secretariat for 2017.

NOVEMBER

17 October – 4 November

The Advanced Course on the SPS Agreement took place at WTO-HQ in Geneva, the Swiss Confederation. The objective of the course was to enable government officials to better implement the SPS Agreement on food safety, animal and plant health measures. The course was held in French and represented the highest level of training ("level 3"). It was attended by 25 government officials from WTO members and observers working with SPS. Sarah Brunel, Capacity Development Officer, participated in the course and gave a presentation on the history of the IPPC, its functions and the challenges it currently faces. Participants were particularly interested in the IYPH 2020 and the PCE tool, and were invited to further consult the IPP and the Phytosanitary resources website. One and a half day of the course was dedicated to the "Three Sisters": IPPC, Codex Alimentarius, and OIE.

31 October – 4 November

The second phase of the Nationwide PCE was initiated in Tbilisi, Georgia, under the framework of the TCP project TCP/GEO/3601/C1. Ketevan Lomsadze, Capacity Development Officer, and Carmen Bullon, FAO Legal Officer, conducted a series of technical and awareness raising meetings with stakeholders. During these meetings the ongoing PCE application process, a legal report on the review of the Georgian phytosanitary legislation and weaknesses of the phytosanitary system identified during the first phase of the PCE were discussed. The Georgian phytosanitary system was benefiting from the application of the PCE by raising awareness of the requirements of various ISPMs.

1 – 3 November

The Asian workshop on *Implementation of e-SPS certification systems* was hosted at UNESCAP-HQ in Bangkok, the Kingdom of Thailand. The workshop was attended by Shane Sela, ePhyto Project Manager, and Kenza LeMentec, STDF Programme Officer. The eleven countries from the Asian region and experts from the CITES Secretariat, UNCTAD and several authorities in electronic phytosanitary certification were also represented. The participants worked on identifying challenges and benefits in implementing systems like ePhyto and determined what activities were required to support a move to electronic data transfers in facilitating trade.

9 – 11 November

The first meeting of the IYPH StC took place at FAO-HQ, resulting in the development of concrete steps to pursue the proclamation of IYPH 2020. The IYPH StC was established to plan and oversee the implementation of support activities towards IYPH 2020. The meeting was opened by Jingyuan Xia, IPPC Secretary, and attended by eleven IYPH StC members or alternates. Ralf Lopian (Finland) was selected as the StC Chairperson, Akiko Nagano (Japan) as the StC Vice-chairperson. In his opening remarks, the IPPC Secretary highlighted the important initiative of IYPH 2020, the important mission of the IYPH StC, and the important tasks of this first StC meeting. The IYPH StC members analysed current plans and expected outputs, and came up with an initial plan for programme development. They also agreed on the establishment of two working groups: one on "financial strategies"; and another on "communication and partnerships". Additionally, StC members developed an initial list of potential partners and donors to be further expanded, and agreed on the most relevant advocacy tools to be used until the IYPH proclamation.

10 November

Brent Larson, Standards Officer, met with representatives from the Codex Alimentarius Secretariat and the FAO Food safety division to discuss and plan participation of the IPPC Secretariat in the upcoming Codex Alimentarius meeting on *Antimicrobial resistance*. Several Codex members had specifically requested participation by the IPPC Secretariat in order to understand IPPC's role in helping to address the issue on antimicrobial resistance.

10 November

The second meeting of the IPPC ePhyto IAG met in Brussels, the Kingdom of Belgium. Various international plant and plant product industry associations participated. The objective of the meeting was to provide advice to the IPPC Secretariat on the development of an ePhyto Solution. The group was provided with an overview of the project progress to date including a detailed overview of the proposed Solution operation. The group discussed legal obligations for countries operating under the system and agreed to work with the IPPC Secretariat in finding appropriate options for facilitating ePhyto operation without the need for establishment of cumbersome individual country-country agreements for participation.

14 – 18 November

The 28th TC-RPPOs was held in Rabat, the Kingdom of Morocco. The meeting was organized by NEPPO, and all nine RPPOs and a representative from the Caribbean region were present for the first time in history. Mekki Chouibani, NEPPO Executive Secretary, chaired the meeting, and Jingyuan Xia, IPPC Secretary, opened the meeting. The meeting was facilitated by Orlando Sosa, Implementation Officer, and Sarah Brunel, Capacity Development Officer. The participants discussed the state of plant protection in the world; the IPPC implementation pilot project on "Surveillance"; the activities for the establishment of an IYPH and the IPPC annual themes; NROs; IRSS and related studies; the 2016 IPPC Regional Workshops, the FAO "foresight" exercise; and the 2020–2030 IPPC Strategic Framework. The RPPOs made proposals to work on emerging pest issues common to the regions, and agreed on revised roles and functions of RPPOs.

14 – 18 November

The 29th SC meeting was held at FAO-HQ. The meeting was chaired by Jan Bart Rossel (Australia), and attended by 22 of the 25 SC members and by four observers from contracting parties. The SC approved five ISPMs to be presented to the CPM for adoption thanks to the efforts of SC members who worked in small groups outside the plenary meeting and to the whole SC managing to find a way forward on controversial topics such as the international movement of wood and the international movement of growing media. These two draft ISPMs had both been presented to the CPM for adoption previously. The SC also considered several resubmissions of topics for commodity standards, and recommended two new topics to the CPM for inclusion on the *List of topics for IPPC standards*.

15 November

The IPPC Secretariat launched an expert consultation for one draft DP. The draft submitted was *Conotrachelus nenuphar* (2013-002). Experts worldwide were invited to submit comments on this draft DP to help improve its development through scientific input and feedback on a global scale.

18 November

The IPPC Secretariat met with William John Gain, Global Program Manager for the Trade Logistics Advisory Service, World Bank, at FAO-HQ. All teams of the IPPC Secretariat were represented in the meeting, just as all TFRM members participated. The IPPC Secretariat presented IPPC Secretariat achievements within standard setting, implementation, communication and advocacy. The meeting addressed a wide range of possible cooperation activities between the two organizations in relation to trade facilitation. This meeting was particularly important as the IPPC Secretariat is planning activities for the 2017 annual theme "Plant Health and Trade Facilitation".

21 – 23 November

The formulation workshop on *The IPPC project on "Strengthening the Capacity of Developing Contracting Parties to Implement the IPPC"* under the Framework of the FAO-China South-South Cooperation programme took place at FAO-HQ. The workshop was organized by the IPPC Secretariat and TCS. The workshop had over 30 participants from BRICS countries (Brazil, India, China, and South Africa), project countries (Pakistan), four RPPOs (PPPO, IAPSC, APPPC and NEPPO), the FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia and various FAO divisions. Jingyuan Xia, IPPC Secretary, opened the workshop, Carlos Watson, Team Lead of TCS gave a welcome address, and Craig Fedchock, IPPC Advisor, chaired the workshop. The first part of the workshop included Chinese officials, regional and national participants and FAO technical officers sharing information on their activities that contribute towards implementation of the IPPC and its standards, and where they saw the need for capacity development. The second part of the meeting included review and commenting on the draft project document. Four work packages were supported with a total budget of USD 2 000 000 for the period 2017–2020.

23 November

The IPPC Seminar on "Plant Health and the One Belt, One Road initiative" was held at FAO-HQ, in the context of the formulation workshop of the IPPC project for "Strengthening the Capacity of Developing Contracting Parties to Implement the IPPC". The Seminar was chaired by Jingyuan Xia, IPPC Secretary, and attended by over 70 participants. Ren Wang, ADG-AG, made introductory remarks on strengthening the importance of plant health in promoting food security, and the important role of

plant health in enhancing the “One Belt, One Road” initiative. H.E. Ambassador Nadeem Riyaz, Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to FAO, gave an opening address highlighting the importance of plant health for the FAO-China South-South Cooperation and its participating countries. Kongming Wu, Vice President of the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS), gave a presentation on contributions of plant health in promoting food security in the People’s Republic of China. Fanghao Wan, Director of the Invasive Alien Species Centre of the Plant Protection Institute, CAAS, also gave keynote address on the important role of plant health in implementing the “One Belt, One Road” initiative in the People’s Republic of China.

28 – 30 November

An M&E workshop for the IPPC Secretariat took place at FAO-HQ. The workshop was facilitated by Cecile Kusters from the Centre for Development Innovation of Wageningen University, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, with participation of IPPC Secretariat’s staff. The workshop provided an opportunity for all units of the IPPC Secretariat to collaborate and exchange ideas on how to work more cohesively, with particular importance placed on streamlining the work on facilitating the development of international standards and supporting their implementation. The three-day M&E workshop was designed to give the IPPC Secretariat an improved understanding of planning, monitoring and evaluation processes, managing for impact, and effective communication. The workshop included a combination of theoretical lectures, practical exercises and group discussions designed to enable learning. The development of an M&E framework will help to achieve the internal IPPC Secretariat goal of “One IPPC” and the general IPPC goal towards 2020 to increase the overall capacity of contracting parties to implement the Convention.

28 November – 2 December 2016

An IPPC delegation composed of Craig Fedchock, IPPC Advisor, with administrative support from Tanja Lahti Programme Assistant, and Katarina Spisiakova Team Assistant, visited the CPM-12 meeting locations in Incheon, the Republic of Korea. The main objectives of the mission were to review the site in detail, ensure adequate hotel facilities, and work out details regarding host country and IPPC Secretariat responsibilities. The visit involved: a) meetings with the Korean NPPO

team, responsible for local preparations, which entailed detailed discussions with the NPPO staff related to the set-up and actual carrying out of the event; b) visiting venues for the plenary and side sessions as well as possible accommodations, and c) determining the venues for specific site visits, including a visits to the NPPO-HQ and the Korean National Biodiversity Center.

DECEMBER

30 November – 2 December

Brent Larson, Standards Officer, attended Codex Alimentarius’ Physical Working Group on Antimicrobial resistance, which was held in London, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Codex members and observers noted that antimicrobial resistance has become a global issue that needs to be addressed. The Standards Officer noted that currently the IPPC Secretariat and NPPOs do not play an active global role in addressing this issue. However, consideration will need to be given to the NPPOs’ role in helping to ensure that the selection and application of phytosanitary measures do not contribute to increased antimicrobial resistance. He recognized that these issues may also be pertinent to the work of the IPPC Secretariat, as there are plans to issue a call for new PTs in 2017. In the future it will become necessary to raise awareness on this global threat among the IPPC community and identify any potential risks before including new PTs into the work programme.

5 December

The IPPC Secretariat launched an expert consultation for one draft DP. The draft submitted was *lps* spp. (2006-020). Experts worldwide were invited to submit comments on this draft DPs to help improve its development through scientific input and feedback on a global scale.

5 – 9 December

The 155th session of FAO Council was held at FAO-HQ. FAO Council endorsed a draft resolution on the observance of 2020 as the IYPH. This constituted a major milestone in the path towards the proclamation of the IYPH in 2020. It was also an encouraging signal that the awareness about the role of plant health in achieving the SDGs is growing. The endorsed resolution will be submitted to the 40th FAO Conference (3–8 July 2017) for adoption.

5–9 December

The 9th meeting of the CDC was held in Rome, the Republic of Italy. The meeting was chaired by Sally Jennings, CDC Chairperson (New Zealand), and opened by Jingyuan Xia, IPPC Secretary. The meeting was attended by six CDC members from six of the seven FAO regions, a representative from the CPM Bureau, observers from the STDF and from IICA, and for the first time, a representative from RPPOs. Key areas of discussion included the status of the Phytosanitary Resources page, further advances in projects related to PCE, current and future capacity development activities, and a number of strategic issues pertinent to the CDC. The CDC discussed future capacity development activities including the role of RPPOs, advances with the ePhyto project, and the IPPC-China project on South-South Cooperation.

5–9 December

Brent Larson, Standards Officer, attended the UN Meeting on *Biodiversity* held in Cancun, the United Mexican States, which included meetings of the three governing bodies for the CBD, the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Nagoya Protocol, respectively. At this 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD, consideration was given to developing further measures to be taken to help manage invasive alien species to facilitate achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Target 9. Of particular interest to IPPC contracting parties were discussions focused on managing e-commerce of live species and the use of biological control agents against invasive alien species. Through interventions by the Standards Officer, specific references to relevant ISPMs were retained in CBD's guidance. Parties to the CBD called for greater action in addressing invasive alien species in order to protect biodiversity and human well-being from their impacts.

6 December

The CPM Bureau held its annual year-end teleconference, which was chaired by Lois Ransom, CPM Chairperson (Australia), and opened by Jingyuan Xia, IPPC Secretary. The CPM Bureau discussed two key topics: 1) the review and approval of the IPPC Secretariat work plan and budget for 2017; and 2) the agenda for CPM-12 to be held from 5 to 11 April 2017 in Incheon, the Republic of Korea. The Bureau also received oral updates on a number of issues including the ePhyto project, and the most recent meetings of the SC, of the TC-RPPOs, and of the StC for IYPH. The IPPC Secretariat also demonstrated to the CPM Bureau the proposed new IPPC website as it would look when it is migrated under the FAO's website.

8 December

The TPPT had a virtual meeting. The TPPT members were updated on the SC November discussions on issues relevant to the TPPT. The TPPT focused on drafting the ISPM on *Requirements for the use of fumigation treatments as a phytosanitary measure* (2014-004). Because of time constraints, the work was not completed, but the TPPT members agreed to try to finish the draft for the SC meeting in May 2017 regardless of the tight deadlines. The TPPT would further review the draft ISPM in their virtual meeting scheduled for January 2017.

12–15 December

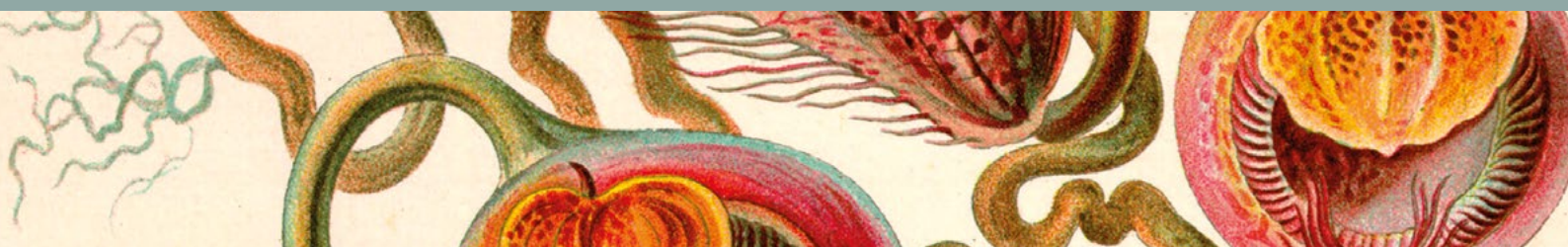
The TPG meeting was held at FAO-HQ. The meeting was opened by Brent Larson, Standards Officer, and was chaired by John Hedley (New Zealand). All eight TPG members, representing the six official FAO languages, participated in the meeting, including the TPG Steward, Laurence Bouhot-Delduc (the French Republic). Nico Horn, the ePhyto Steering Group Chairperson (the Kingdom of the Netherlands), participated in part of the meeting to discuss product names and descriptions used on phytosanitary certificates and the fact that these may not be fully aligned with the ISPM 5 terms and definitions. The TPG felt that practical usage for products and product descriptions should prevail over the

Glossary terms and definitions, and that it was essential to link the product descriptions to the "intended use" of the commodity. The interaction between the ePhyto Steering Group and the TPG was an excellent and useful example of cross-thematic collaboration under the IPPC framework. Among other tasks, the TPG also reviewed two draft ISPMs (Revision of ISPM 6 *Surveillance*, and draft ISPM on *Requirements for the use of temperature treatments as a phytosanitary measure*), responded to comments from the first consultation on the draft 2016 Amendments to the Glossary and revised their General recommendations on terms.

21 December

A delegation from the IPPC Secretariat composed of Jingyuan Xia, IPPC Secretary, Brent Larson, Standards Officer, and Dorota Buzon, Paola Sentinelli and Mirko Montuori from the Integration and Support Team, met with OCC, with the presence also of Mia Rowan, AG Communication Officer. The main objective of the meeting was to discuss the current status and next steps of the IPP migration under FAO.org. The IPPC Secretariat noted the overall appreciation of the new template, but also pointed out some concerns related to IPPC branding, maintaining a structure similar to the current homepage, and avoiding confusion with sections in the FAO header and footer. The OCC noted the reservations and agreed to address them at the extent possible in compliance with current FAO policies. A basic timeline was agreed on, starting the work in January 2017, showing some preliminary work at CPM-12, and concluding the migration of IPP public pages by July 2017. This would allow for some training activities to be carried out during the 2017 IPPC Regional Workshops.

REFERENCE MATERIAL



REPORTS

CPM

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Bureau

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

FC

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SPG

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TC-RPPOs

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

SC

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EWG

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TP

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CDC

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SBDS

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PUBLICATIONS

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ISPMs

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