

IGTC Policy Team on Phytosanitary Measures



IGTC
International Grain Trade Coalition



Briefing Document
November 2022

The grain trade convenes at IGTC to monitor, analyze, and influence phytosanitary measures impacting the international trade of grain, oilseeds, and other agri-bulks. Principle IGTC activities include developing and sharing expertise on phytosanitary standard setting, and the principles of facilitating safe trade, harmonizing official measures, expediting market access negotiations, and enhancing phytosanitary security. IGTC deploys its network on issues such as pest risk analysis; availability of international guidance and pest lists and measures to mitigate pest risks along the value chain.

Work at the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)

The IPPC is a global standard-setting body that involves 184 governmental contracting Parties and aims to “facilitate safe trade”. The IPPC is one of the “three sisters” along with Codex Alimentarius and the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) i.e., the bodies that support the implementation of the WTO SPS Agreement via the creation of scientifically justified, globally harmonized international standards, guidelines, and recommendations.

At the April 2022 annual Commission for Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) meeting (No.16) the following topics were discussed and recommendations were presented:

Implementation and Capacity Development Committee

Challenges related to the implementation of the (IPPC), International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM) and CPM will be monitored through studies and surveys.

The Sea Containers Task Force (SCTF)

The impact of container cleanliness to help reduce the risk of pest movement internationally was recognized. In response, a Sea Container Focus Group was established to help raise awareness of the issues and various solutions that are needed. Several recommendations to assist the reduction of pests via containers were discussed. A global workshop in 2022 was proposed subject to the availability of resources, aimed to discuss the outcomes of the SCTF with representatives of all stakeholders involved and to discuss the best way forward.

International Standards on Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs)

It was agreed to adopt the ISPM on “Commodity-specific standards for phytosanitary measures (2019-008). As a consequence, it was agreed to remove the draft “2008-007 International movement of grain” as this specification and draft ISPM will require significant revision in future as the topic is too broad in scope.

Emerging Pests activities

Two pests of primary concern for the IPPC Community have been the subject of global efforts. Activities to help address these pests have been incorporated into the IPPC Secretariat’s work plan (Fall Armyworm and Fusarium banana wilt TR4). CPM encouraged contracting parties, NPPOs, RPPOs and stakeholders to participate actively in webinars, workshops, and activities related to emerging pests.

The ePhyto Solution: IGTC is Co-Chair of the Industry Advisory Group (IAG)

As of December 2021, a total of 104 countries had been registered to the IPPC ePhyto Solution, out of which more than 60 countries were exchanging ePhytos as a regular business activity and many were also exchanging completely paperless certificates. Early in 2022 the ePhyto Solution passed the mark of 1,000,000 ePhyto certificates exchanged (In April 2022 it reached over 2million).

Newly appointed IPPC Secretary → Osama El-Lissy, formerly USDA

Focus Groups (FG)

Climate change and phytosanitary issues; IPPC Strategic Framework 2020-2030; Communications strategy (IGTC holds a seat on this FG).

Recommendations and report from the CPM Focus Group on Pest Outbreaks Alert and Response Systems

It was recommended and agreed that the Focus Group should further explore the issues including activities to be considered and report to CPM17. A Friends of the Chair revised the draft TOR.

CPM Focus Group: Implementation of the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020-2030

It was agreed that the Focus Group should continue to operate until the overarching and integrated implementation plan has been developed and approved by CPM, and that this is anticipated to be at CPM17 in 2023.

CPM Focus Group

Climate Change and Phytosanitary issues: The 2022-2025 Action Plan for the implementation of the development agenda item on “Assessment and Management of Climate Change Impacts on Plant Health” was approved.

Proposal for a New Focus Group

Food and other humanitarian aid in phytosanitary context”. An agreement was reached to establish a CPM Focus Group on the Safe Provision of Food and other Humanitarian Aid to discuss the issues and determine a way forward for this topic to be developed as a standard or another option that meets the needs of contracting parties.

IPPC Dispute Settlement Procedures

Agreement was reached to adopt the Dispute Settlement procedures with some wording changes and a request for the IPPC to further consider a simplification of the revised procedures.

International Day of Plant Health (IDPH)

May 12 of every year was proclaimed the International Day of Plant Health. The first International Plant Health Conference (IPHC) occurred on 21-23 September 2022 in London.

IGTC organized a side event during the IPHC to address “Supporting food security through international grain and seed trade and investment”. Our Vice President and Chair of the Plant Breeding Innovation Policy Team represented IGTC on the side event panel. Representatives from the WTO’s Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF), the International Grains Council (IGC), and the International Seed Federation (ISF) joined us.

Date and venue of next session CPM17

27-31 March 2023 was set for the next session of CPM17 in person.

REFERENCES

1. IGTC policy document: <https://bit.ly/3t9NXUX>
2. The IPPC ePhyto Solution is being addressed by the IGTC eDocs Working Group. More than two million ePhytos have been exchanged and you can read more on what’s been going on with the project: <https://bit.ly/3FPWqC2>
3. IGTC submissions in the process of developing the draft ISPM on “Commodity-specific standards” most recent submission: <https://bit.ly/3NhXRvB> and draft ISPM: <https://bit.ly/3wz1PtA>
4. IPPC Dispute Settlement revised procedures 2022: <https://bit.ly/3Mn2iFv>
5. IGTC/WTO’s Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF)/ International Grains Council (IGC)/ International Seed Federation (ISF) September 21, 2022 side event on “Supporting food security through international grain and seed trade and investment”: <https://bit.ly/3gb4PHy>
6. Current work: Provision of trade experience and expertise as the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) decides on a strategy for international phytosanitary commodity standards
7. Policy Team members: 62
8. Policy Team Leads: Adrian Reginato (Cargill Incorporated) and Gerard McMullen, Grain Trade Australia (GTA)

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