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REPORT

Focus Group on Safe Provision of Food and Other Humanitarian Aid

**Virtual Meeting
12 October 2022**

IPPC Secretariat

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1. Opening of the Meeting

1.1 Welcome by the IPPC Secretariat

- [1] The Standard Setting Officer, Adriana G. MOREIRA, from the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) Secretariat (hereafter referred to as “the secretariat”), welcomed the participants to the first virtual meeting of the CPM Focus Group on Safe Provision of Food and Other Humanitarian Aid.
- [2] The IPPC Secretary, Osama EL-LISSY, thanked all the experts and members of this focus group and wished success in their work on this important topic. He reinforced the aims of IPPC to protect plants by preventing the introduction and spread of pests, facilitate safe trade and safeguarding agriculture. He also mentioned the importance of international standards for phytosanitary measures and the expectations towards this focus group to provide quality work, which will lean on the support of the secretariat.
- [3] The participants gave a brief self-introduction focused on their professional background and prospects for the focus group.

1.2 Review of the terms of reference (ToR) of the Focus Group

- [4] The secretariat reminded the participants about the Terms of Reference (ToR) to follow, the commitment of the focus group and the current timeline, where it is foreseen that the group will remain active until the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM-18) in 2024.

2. Meeting arrangements

2.1 Election of the Chairperson of the Focus Group

- [5] The focus group members selected Christopher DALE (Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australia) as chairperson of this meeting. The election of the chairperson of the focus group was postponed to the next focus group meeting, when it is expected to have the presence of all members.

2.2 Selection of the Rapporteur

- [6] The focus group members selected Lucien KOUAMÉ KONAN (Ministry of Agriculture, Ivory Coast) as rapporteur.

2.3 Adoption of the agenda

- [7] The focus group members adopted the agenda (Appendix 1).

3. Administrative matters

- [8] The secretariat introduced the participants / membership list (Appendix 2) and invited the participants to notify the secretariat if any changes were needed to the information, as it is reflected in the [FGFA membership list](#) on the International Phytosanitary Portal (IPP – www.ippc.int).
- [9] The secretariat acknowledged that the Standards Committee (SC) representative, Sophie PETERSON and Olive Juliet JAY TO-ALESANA (Samoa) were unable to attend this meeting.

4. Focus Group work programme

4.1. Review of CPM recommendation on “Safe provision of food and other humanitarian aid to prevent the introduction of plant pests during an emergency situation”

- [10] The chairperson presented the CPM recommendation¹ to the focus group members, asking for their comments and experiences regarding the issue. He commented that the countries’ priority is to get people fed when experienced an emergency or disaster and that it is part of the IPPC community task to provide guidance and instructions to all parts involved in this chain, including personnel such as agencies workers, military and other officials, as well as materials (e.g., machinery, containers, etc.). He reported the emergency faced by Tonga in January 2022 due to a volcanic eruption and tsunami and all guidance provided by Australia to the agencies involved on food aid, regarding the aspects mentioned above.
- [11] Some members reported their experiences on receiving food aid that do not complied with phytosanitary requirements as plant products were carrying quarantine pests to the recipient countries, as well as regarding food safety and food quality aspects (e.g. expiration or validity date).
- [12] The chairperson commented that the Pacific Plant Protection Organization (PPPO) developed fact sheets to raise awareness on this issue, which could be shared with the group and the IPPC community in general.
- [13] One member expressed that this is a very important issue and on the lack of resources of some National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs) to provide directions on how to manage the situation.
- [14] One member reported an experience with transboundary shipments due to a drought emergency in Eastern Africa. Some donations were stored in one country waiting to be re-shipped to another country, which could pose a risk of pest introduction, as normally any additional measures are taken in this situation. Another situation reported is the deviation of the intended use of these donations, such as grains and tubercles donated for consumption that are used for propagation, which also could raise the risk of introduction of a quarantine pest into the recipient country.
- [15] Some members also reported examples of pests that have the potential to be introduced and spread over humanitarian aid (e.g., *Spodoptera frugiperda*, *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp cubense (Foc TR4), *Xylella fastidiosa* and many species of fruit flies).
- [16] One member commented that some humanitarian aid is being refused in Syria due to the presence of quarantine pests (mainly stored grains with nematodes).
- [17] Some questions were also posed by the group members. One member questioned what would be the best way to communicate with the donors. Another member asked about the certification of shipments to be donated and how to address this issue.

4.2. Review of the Pacific Plant Protection Organization (PPPO) submission for draft ISPM

- [18] The chairperson presented the submission for draft ISPM proposed by the PPPO in 2021, providing the necessary justification for it. However, the CPM-16 did not reach consensus on this matter and this CPM focus group was created to identify the best way to address the issue (through an ISPM, a guide or other kind of material).
- [19] The group had a brief discussion, and some members reinforced the need to have instruments to raise awareness of the donor countries on the vulnerability of the recipients to identify and address the risks posed by food aid non-compliant with the phytosanitary requirements. They agreed that advocacy on this matter is also extremely important.

¹ Safe provision of food and other humanitarian aid to prevent the introduction of plant pests during an emergency situation: <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/89786/>

4.3 Discussions on the work programme of the focus group

- [20] The secretariat presented the next steps for the work program of the focus group. An update on the focus group's activities is expected to be presented to CPM-17 in 2023. For this, the group was asked to bring information to the next meeting, to draft a business case in order to get the expected outcomes.

5. Any Other Business

- [21] There was no other business.

6. Close of the Meeting

- [22] The members agreed to hold the following virtual meeting on 8 December 2022.
- [23] The secretariat and the chairperson thanked the participants for their contributions and closed the meeting.

Appendix 1: Agenda**CPM FOCUS GROUP ON SAFE PROVISION OF FOOD AND OTHER HUMANITARIAN AID****12 October 2022 – Virtual Meeting**

Agenda Item	Document No.	Presenter(s)
1. Opening of the Meeting		
1.1 Welcome by the IPPC Secretariat	--	IPPC Secretary, Mr EL-LISSY /IPPC Secretariat
1.2 Review of the terms of reference (ToR) of the Focus Group	Link to the ToRs (Link to the PM Focus Group on Safe Provision of Food and Other Humanitarian Aid Webpage)	IPPC Secretariat, IPPC subsidiary bodies reps
2. Meeting Arrangements		
2.1 Election of Chairperson of the Focus Group	--	MOREIRA
2.2 Selection of the Rapporteur for the meeting	--	Chairperson
2.3 Adoption of the Agenda	01_FGFA_Tel_2022_Oct	Chairperson
3. Administrative Matters		
3.1 Participants / membership	FGFA membership list	MANGILI
3.2 Connections to Zoom and virtual meetings	Short guideline for participants (work area page)	
4. Focus Group work programme		
4.1 Review of CPM recommendation on “Safe provision of food and other humanitarian aid to prevent the introduction of plant pests during an emergency situation”	Link to CPM Recommendation number 09	Chairperson / IPPC subsidiary bodies reps
4.2 Review of the Pacific Plant Protection Organization (PPPO) submission for draft ISPM	Link to the 2021 IPPC Call for topics PPPO submission: https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/90195/ (it is a zip file composed by 2 files (files also saved in the restricted work area)	Chairperson / IPPC subsidiary bodies reps
4.3 Discussions on the work programme of the focus group: - Main points of concern - Potential main challenges - Other examples of food and other aid in the phytosanitary context	-	ALL
5. Next steps		

Agenda Item		Document No.	Presenter(s)
5.1	Discussions on next steps	-	Chairperson / IPPC Secretariat / all
6.	Any other business	-	Chairperson
7.	Closing of the meeting	-	Chairperson

Appendix 2: Participants list

CPM FOCUS GROUP ON SAFE PROVISION OF FOOD AND OTHER HUMANITARIAN AID

12 October 2022 – Virtual Meeting

A check (✓) in column 1 indicates confirmed attendance at the meeting by the time this paper was posted.

	Participant role	Name, mailing address, telephone	Email address
✓	CPM Bureau representative - (currently CPM Chairperson)	Mr Lucien KOUAMÉ KONAN Inspecteur Direction de la Protection des Végétaux, du Contrôle et de la Qualité Ministère de l'Agriculture B.P. V7 Abidjan, COTE D'IVOIRE Mob.: +22507903754 Fax: (+225) 20 212032	l_kouame@yahoo.fr
	Standards Committee (SC) representative - (currently SC Chairperson)	Ms Sophie Alexia PETERSON Director, Pacific Engagement and International Plant Health Australian Chief Plant Protection Office Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment AUSTRALIA Tel: +61 2 6272 3769 Mob: +61 466 867 519	sophie.peterson@agriculture.gov.au
✓	Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC) representative – (currently IC vice-chairperson)	Mr Christopher John DALE Assistant Director Plant Health Surveillance and Diagnostics Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment 7 London Circuit, Canberra ACT 2601 AUSTRALIA Tel: +61 262725192 / +61 466459129	christopher.dale3@dfat.gov.au
	Regional Plant Protection Organization (RPPO) representative	TBD	--
	Member (Recipient)	Mr Olive Juliet JAY TO-ALESANA Principal Quarantine Officer SAMOA	olive.alesana@maf.gov.ws
✓	Member (Recipient)	Mr Thomas Kimeli KOSIOM Principal Plant Health Inspector, Agricultural Regulator KENYA	tkosiom@kephis.org
✓	Member (Recipient)	Ms Leisongi MANSES Plant Health Officer VANUATU	lbulesulu@vanuatu.gov.vu
✓	Member (Donor)	Mr Julian Andres Rodriguez QUIROZ National import phytosanitary control expert FRANCE	Julian.rodriguez@agriculture.gouv.fr
✓	Member (Donor)	Ms Tanya STAFFEN Senior Policy Analyst CANADA	Tanya.staffen@inspection.gc.ca
✓	Member (Recipient)	Mr Lindon McEnroe TARI Senior Compliance Officer VANUATU	ltari@vanuatu.gov.vu
✓	Member (Recipient)	Mr Ramez Ali DARWISH Head of the Plant Quarantine Center (Jdayda Yabos land border)	ramezali79@gmail.com

		SYRIA	
	Invited experts – World Food Program	TBD	--
	Invited experts – Other donor agencies	TBD	--

IPPC Secretariat:

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