



Plant Production and Protection Newsletter

December 2021 - Issue #7

Foreword

Dear readers,

Welcome to the seventh edition of the Plant Production and Protection Newsletter. As we wrap up 2021, we look back at the achievements and successes for the community of the FAO Plant Production and Protection Division (NSP) in disseminating our 2021 annual theme: **“Ensuring food security and nutrition through sustainable plant production and protection”**.

The first meeting of the Steering Committee for the FAO Global Action on Green Development of Special Agricultural Products: “One Country One Priority Product” (OCOP) was held on 26 October to plan for the Global Action’s implementation. The FAO Global

Conference on Green Development of Seed Industries was virtually organized on 4-5 November with presence of over 2 200 participants from 126 Member Nations. We also launched the first-ever NSP Annual Report for 2020. To put an exclamation to this year, I am delighted to congratulate the FAW Global Action Secretariat for receiving One FAO Team Award 2021 for the recognition of their tremendous work.

I thank you for your continued interest in the Plant Production and Protection Newsletter, we hope to bring more good news in 2022!

Dr. Jingyuan Xia

Director, Plant Production and Protection Division (NSP)

Highlights

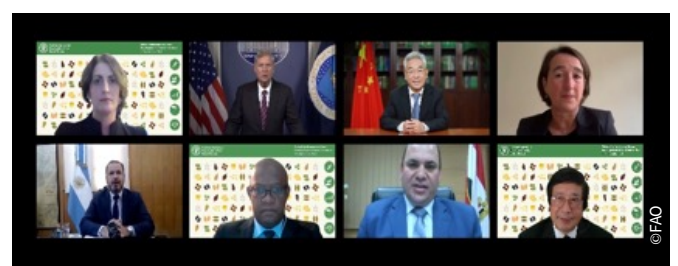


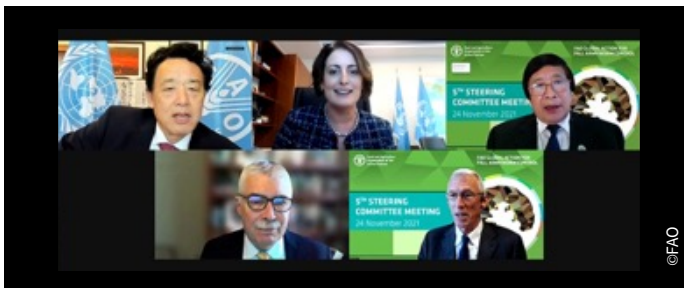
- The first Meeting of the Steering Committee (SC) for the FAO Global Conference on One Country One Priority Product (OCOP) took place on 26 October. The SC meeting was chaired by FAO Director-General (DG) Qu Dongyu, co-chaired by Deputy Director-General (DDG) Beth Bechdol, and supported by the OCOP Secretariat, which is hosted by NSP and led by the NSP Director Jingyuan Xia. At the SC meeting, the terms of reference for the SC were endorsed and the way forward on the OCOP implementation was discussed.

- The FAO Global Conference on Green Development of Seed Industry, opened by the DG Qu Dongyu, was hosted virtually on 4-5 November. The major activities of the Conference included

a keynote plenary session, a high-level Ministerial segment, and eight parallel sessions on four conference themes: advanced technologies, crop varietal development and adoption, conservation of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, and seed systems. Over 2 200 participants from 126 FAO Member Nations took part in the two-day event, which highlighted the role of FAO and the seed sector in achieving the Strategic Development Goals (SDGs).

- The Fifth Meeting of the Steering Committee for the FAO Global Action on Fall Armyworm Control was organized virtually on 24 November, opened by the DG Qu Dongyu and chaired by the DDG Beth Bechdol. The main objectives of the meeting were to summarize key achievements over the past two years, and to plan the core activities for 2022.





- The third NSP seminar: Towards sustainable management of obsolete stocks and pesticide packaging through multi-stakeholder cooperation was organized on 18 November. The seminar was opened by the DDG Beth Bechdol, and moderated by the NSP Director Jingyuan Xia, with the presence of over 260 participants from 85 countries. The importance of multi-stakeholder engagement in approaching waste management globally was highlighted.
- The first edition of the NSP Annual Report for 2020 was published to highlight key achievements of the Division throughout the year 2020, and to showcase NSP's impactful work globally.

Transformation

- **FAO, IFAD, GEF and CIFOR-ICRAF**, launched the first *Science, Practice, and Policy Expert Dialogue on Food Systems and Resilience* workshop. The workshop discussed the crucial elements for developing an advocacy strategy in promoting resilient food systems. Shared experiences from twelve African countries and critical insights from UNFCCC COP26, the UN Food System Summit, and the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration were discussed.
- *General guidelines for developing and implementing a regional Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategy for fall armyworm control in demonstration countries* was published to serve as a framework in developing regional strategies for managing fall armyworm through evidence-based IPM.

Partnerships

- FAO signed a renewed **Memorandum of Understanding with the International Fertilizers Association (IFA)** on 13 December. The signing ceremony, led by FAO DDG Beth Bechdol and IFA Board Chair Svein Tore Holsether, was chaired by Alexander Jones Director of FAO Resource Mobilization and Private Sector Partnerships Division. Jingyuan Xia, the NSP Director and Alzbeta Klein, the IFA Director-General, provided remarks at the event.
- **FAO, on behalf of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and Comité de Liaison Europe-Afrique-Caraïbe-Pacifique (COLEACP)** joined a partnership agreement on 19 November, to promote plant health, through the adoption of new training tools for pest risk analysis and export certification. The DDG Beth Bechdol signed the agreement, and the NSP Director Jinyuan Xia chaired the signing ceremony.
- The fifth FAO-ICARDA Cactus Net webinar: *Nutritional values and medicinal uses of cactus pear and agro-industrial development* took place on 22 November and discussed the cactus pear's nutritional and beneficial health aspects for consumption.
- FAO and IFOAM-Organics International hosted a webinar *How to build sustainability and prosperity in fruits and vegetables food systems* on 2 December. The event, part of the International Year of Fruit and Vegetables, showcased organic and agroecological successful growers' experiences for sustainable food systems.



Actions

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