



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



# ASIA AND PACIFIC PLANT PROTECTION COMMISSION

## STRATEGIC PLAN 2022–2028



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## **Purpose of this document**

This document aims to communicate the work of the Asia and Pacific Plant Protection Commission (APPPC) and its priorities for the coming six years.

Readers will learn more about the APPPC, the work it carries out, what the Commission is intending to achieve, and why it matters. The results of 2021 member survey and the regional workshop on APPPC strategy, which supported the development of this strategic plan, and “benefits, history and past achievements of APPPC” will be available on the APPPC website (<https://www.apppc.org/>) to provide information on the benefits of being an APPPC member, and the history and achievements of the Commission.

The strategic plan will guide the plant health activities of the Commission from 2022 to 2028. It provides a clear roadmap for the APPPC members to understand future direction of the Commission. Effecting change can take many years, so this document will help members keep in mind what they considered important and why. If the Commission changes direction, it will help clarify the reasons for doing so and for building in flexibility to adjust to changes.

## **Structure of this document**

Strategic plans are designed to answer key questions:

- What is the situation that faces us now? – position statement
- What are our aims and objectives? – mission statement and strategic objectives
- How will we reach these objectives? – goals and implementation programme

The sections in this strategic plan are:

1. Position statement – a view of the present environment of the APPPC, some issues we need to address and some challenges
2. Mission statement of the APPPC – the overall purpose of the APPPC
3. Strategic objectives – what we want to achieve during 2022–2028
4. Strategic goals – some direct things we want to accomplish to help achieve our objectives and address the issues we are facing
5. Draft implementation programmes for the first of the next three biennial periods (2023–2024, 2025–2026, 2027–2028), taking into account the preferences of APPPC members and considering the financial and travel constraints since the pandemic (The members will discuss and adopt these programmes at the respective biennium sessions of the APPPC in 2022, 2024, and 2026.)

A brief reminder to members is below.

## **Reminder to members: Ratifying the 1999 amendments to the Plant Protection Agreement for the Asia and Pacific Region**

In 1999, the APPPC amended the Plant Protection Agreement for the Asia and Pacific Region. These amendments removed some requirements that were difficult to fulfil and were preventing new countries from joining the APPPC.

However, these amendments have still not been ratified by all members. For these amendments to fully take effect, we need a certain number of members to ratify them. At the moment, only a few members have done so. If you would like legal support to ratify these amendments, please contact FAO Legal directly or the APPPC Secretariat, who can put you in touch with FAO Legal. FAO Legal and the Secretariat are there to help.

Once the amendment becomes in effect, new countries will be able to join the APPPC. More members means more financial contributions, more technical contributions, more resources and more knowledge, as well as more visibility for our region at the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC). Together, we are stronger and can mitigate risks from more pests, diseases and weeds.

The original agreement was modified for the requirement for measures against South American leaf blight (SALB), which is now included in the APPPC Regional Standard for Phytosanitary Measures No. 7: [Guidelines for Protection against South American Leaf Blight of Rubber](#) (APPPC RSPM 7) to maintain and protect the region from the SALB.

A representative from FAO Legal was invited to the 32nd session in 2022 to talk us through ratifying the amended agreement and answer any questions we may have.



# APPPC Strategic Plan 2022–2028

## **1 Position statement – the current environment of the APPPC**

Increases in global trade, travel and land use, and the changing climate are leading to a greater incidence of introduced pests, as well as new pests and expanding host and geographic ranges. These factors, on their own and in combination, negatively impact the productivity, profitability and sustainability of natural and managed plant systems.

More immediately, the pandemic has affected the way we operate our national plant protection organizations (NPPOs) – from the funding we have available to the operational systems we use.

Other factors will also influence the development of a strategic plan and so need consideration. These include:

- the international trade situation
- current issues
- the work programme and priorities of the IPPC
- the full enactment of the 1999 amendment of the Plant Protection Agreement for the Asia and Pacific Region (ratification by current members)
- Other issues as agreed by APPPC members

### **1.1 The international trade situation**

The pandemic has had a big effect on trading nations. This has been seen in, for example, difficulty issuing phytosanitary certificates, leading to quick but not always secure or efficient alternatives where the electronic phytosanitary certificate (ePhyto) was not already implemented. It has also seen NPPOs experience difficulty and delays for audits and inspections due to movement restrictions and illness, in addition to other trade issues of general container delays and variable availability.

### **1.2 Current issues**

Some of these are:

- pest distribution, including emerging pests and outbreaks
- increase in use of technology
- the modern form of international meetings

#### **1.2.1 Pest distribution**

Pest and plant distribution, pest epidemiology and pest impacts may change considerably as a result of climate change and crops being grown in new areas. Robust surveillance and monitoring systems are vital at national, regional, and international levels. This should have a considerable effect on the future work of the Commission.

### **1.2.2 Increase in the use of technology**

Increases in electronic data exchange and communication will affect many of the activities of each NPPO at global, regional, and national levels. As a Commission, we need to lead, coordinate, and implement digital changes, and support NPPOs as they develop their systems. Wider use of ePhyto, the IPPC hub for sending phytosanitary certificates electronically, is the beginning of digitalization of more phytosanitary systems.

New technologies to detect and identify pests have been developing rapidly, if such technologies could be applied as or support phytosanitary measures, they may require discussion on how these new technologies can be applied in phytosanitary measures in an internationally harmonized manner.

In addition to new communication tools, NPPOs need transparent, reliable and fast communication between each other and through international and regional organizations.

### **1.2.3 The modern form of international meetings**

The lack of face-to-face meetings caused by the pandemic is changing our approach to meetings and how we work together. It is highly likely that most meetings, especially small or very short meetings, will have a virtual or combined format.

Even though the virtual format has many benefits, such as reduction of travel and budget, increased within-country participation and more frequent meetings, many countries have grave misgivings about it – particularly due to the reduced time for discussion and when the language used is English, which for many is not a first language. There may be greater limitations on the number of interventions possible, and outcomes may be reduced in quality and quantity, in part due to the inability to have casual incidental discussions.

Moreover, continued virtual meetings reduce participation, especially from countries who are not familiar with the system and issues, also there is a general feeling of ‘virtual meeting fatigue’.

However, on the positive side, virtual meetings reduce travel and budget. They increase in-country participation, enable more frequent meetings, and allow small groups to have short meetings more frequently. This can be useful for keeping projects progressing and on track, or for resolving issues and challenges more quickly than waiting for an in-person meeting.

## **1.3 The work programme and priorities of the IPPC**

The IPPC Strategic Framework 2020–2030 sets out the goal of the IPPC that *“all countries have the capacity to implement harmonized measures to prevent pest introductions and spread, and minimize the impacts of pests on food security, trade, economic growth, and the environment.”*

The IPPC Strategic Framework 2020-2030 has three strategic objectives (global food security, environmental protection and trade facilitation) and three core activities (standard setting, implementation and capacity development, communication and international cooperation). The key elements of the development agenda are the following:

- harmonization of electronic data exchange
- commodity and pathway specific International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs)
- management of e-commerce and courier mail pathways
- enabling the use of third-party entities
- strengthening pest outbreak response systems
- assessment and management of climate change impacts on plant health
- global phytosanitary research coordination
- diagnostic laboratory networks

The Commission is already dealing with some of these topics, and a detailed implementation plan would be discussed in the Commission of Phytosanitary Measures (CPM)-17 2023.

## **2 Mission statement**

Our mission as the APPPC is

*to support the common purpose of securing effective action to prevent the introduction and spread of pests of plants and plant products in order to:*

- *protect plant, human and animal health and the environment,<sup>1</sup>*
- *facilitate trade, and*
- *protect the sustainability of agriculture within the Asia and Pacific region.*

## **3 Strategic objectives**

We accomplish our mission by maintaining a regional forum where we can cooperate and promote the full implementation of the *Plant Protection Agreement for the Asia and Pacific Region* through:

- 1) **developing an effective APPPC operation system**
- 2) **developing capacity**, including our capacity to coordinate and train staff
- 3) **developing measures** for plant protection and promoting integrated plant health management (IPHM) and the International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management
- 4) **strengthening information management**
- 5) **coordinating input into international systems** including assisting with the development of ISPMs, promoting and implementing the IPPC ePhyto Solution

It is critical that we monitor and assess the performance of APPPC work programmes and make adjustments as needed to optimise outcomes.

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<sup>1</sup> From the Preamble to the revised Agreement incorporating the Amendments approved in 1983 and 1999

## 4 Strategic goals

From 2022 to 2028, we will focus on the following goals as a way of implementing our objectives and mission.

### 1) To operate the APPPC operation system effectively:

- a) We will commit to paying our mandatory financial contributions to the Commission's trust fund.
- b) We will ratify and implement the 1999 amendments to the Plant Protection Agreement for the Asia and Pacific Region.
- c) We will facilitate the expansion of the membership of the APPPC.
- d) We will develop sub commissions within the Commission if needed. These could be used for subregional programmes or initiatives.
- e) We will establish an Advisory Group to support the APPPC Secretariat and the members, and manage the APPPC work programme and finance.
- f) We will mobilize extra funding for implementation of the work plan through resource mobilization and establishment of additional accounts according to the APPPC Financial Rules VII.

### 2) To develop capacity, including capacity for coordinating and training staff:

- a) We will continue work on training programmes on IPHM and pesticide management.
- b) We will choose new priority pests for in-depth study to build on the worthwhile results we achieved with the work on SALB information, detection, and measures.
- c) We will deliver programmes to help countries implement high priority ISPMs and initiatives.
- d) We will strengthen pest outbreak and preparedness systems for pests like fall armyworm (FAW), cassava mosaic virus, *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *cubense* tropical race 4 (TR4), wheat blast, brown marmorated stink bug, *Xylella fastidiosa*, and *Tomato brown rugose fruit virus* (ToBRFV).
- e) We will get more members using the ePhyto system. Most countries already use the system. We will assist those not yet within the system.
- f) We will facilitate communication on the diagnostic laboratory networks.

### 3) To develop measures for plant protection:

- a) We will develop three or more Regional Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (RSPMs) including Regional Implementation Guidance (RIG) for plants and plant products. The Commission is conducting ground-breaking work in commodity standard development and this should continue.
- b) We will develop pest management methods, including IPHM and pesticide application protocols, to control specific pests in crops as the crops are growing or for plant products prior to export.
- c) We will develop understanding and encourage NPPOs to establish necessary domestic regulatory frameworks in their countries to regulate and inspect for contaminating pests.

- d) We will encourage communication to prevent pests moving with goods sent as aid, including food.
- e) We will link these programme activities with the activities of the IPPC.

**4) To share pest information:**

- a) We will continue developing effective information management for collecting and sharing pest information among the region. This could be based on the APPPC surveillance systems workshops for members (as led by Australia). Pest information e.g. surveillance information, information from pest alert systems and IPPC pest reports could be collected and collated and shared with members.
- b) We will share information on the management of e-commerce and courier mail pathways. e-Commerce and courier mail pathways present great risk of pest introduction and information sharing needs urgent follow-up for APPPC members using IPPC guidance as a base.
- c) We will share information via profiles and digital systems. We may be able to extend this information sharing to measures used by countries in trade.

**5) To coordinate input into international systems:**

- a) We will continue contributing to the development of ISPMs and holding the regional workshops on ISPM consultation to enhance the regional influence on ISPM development.
- b) We will contribute to the implementation of the development agenda items in the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020–2030 by participating in the Bureau and subsidiary bodies, leading the working group or contributing technical expertise.
- c) We will harmonize electronic phytosanitary certification and facilitate safe trade of plants and plant products by implementing the IPPC ePhyto Solution.

**Table 1. Draft implementation programme for the strategic objectives and goals for 2023–2024**

| Activity   | Cost | Lead/Host                                   | Year          |
|--|------|---|---------------|
| <b><i>Strategic objective 1: Effective operation of the regional system</i></b>  |      |   |               |
| <p>Accept the 1999 amendments to the Plant Protection Agreement for the Asia and Pacific Region.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Secretariat to send out 2010 Circular to all remaining members.</li> <li>• Secretariat to facilitate individual consultation with FAO Legal if needed.</li> <li>• Secretariat to facilitate webinar by FAO Legal with remaining NPPOs' senior leadership team.</li> </ul>  | N/A  | Secretariat<br>All remaining members        | 2023<br>2024  |
| <p>Establish the Advisory Group. The Advisory Group will provide advice to the Secretariat, and support the APPPC work programme management.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Secretariat to coordinate call for members by end of November 2022.</li> <li>• Establish Advisory Group early February 2023.</li> <li>• First meeting of Advisory Group early February 2023.</li> </ul>  | N/A  | Secretariat<br><i>Ex officio</i><br>Members | 2022–<br>2023 |
| <p>Update the APPPC webpage, and consolidate resources on the page to improve access and sharing between members.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Linkage to information IPPC country page.</li> <li>• Regional/national directory on contact points for specific areas e.g. PQ, IPHM, Pesticides management.</li> <li>• Information on APPPC committees, groups, chairs, members.</li> <li>• Advisory Group to work out what information to be published on APPPC website.</li> <li>• Redevelop the APPPC website by consultant.</li> <li>• Upload country report on APPPC website.</li> </ul> | N/A  | APPPC<br>Secretariat<br>Members             | 2023          |

| Activity   | Cost   | Lead/Host  | Year   |
|--|--|--|--|
| Resource mobilization for implementation of work programme <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify areas requiring external funding</li> <li>Engagement with donors</li> </ul>   | N/A  | Advisory Group   | 2023<br>2024                                       |
| <b>Strategic objective 2: Capacity development including the coordination and training of staff</b>  |  |  |  |
| Work programme for plant quarantine: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Surveillance workshop (pest free places of production, and pest free areas (ISPM 4))</li> <li>SALB hands-on training on diagnostic, the last workshop on SALB</li> <li>ISPM 32/risk-based inspection workshop</li> </ul>   | 60K USD<br><br>40K USD<br><br>50K USD  | Australia, Indonesia<br><br>Malaysia<br><br>Indonesia, Australia           | May 2023<br><br>2023<br><br>2024, or next biennium |
| Work programme for IPHM: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>IPHM workshop on mango fruit flies</li> <li>IPHM workshop on banana diseases</li> </ul>  | 30K USD<br>30K USD   | India<br>Philippines   | 2023<br>2024                                       |
| Work programme for pesticide management: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Workshop on pesticide application by unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV)</li> <li>Workshop on pesticide residue testing for food safety</li> <li>Implementation of Rotterdam Convention</li> <li>Information exchange on registration and guideline for bio-pesticides</li> </ul> | 35K USD from APPPC, co-funding from China<br><br>30K USD from APPPC, co-funding from China<br><br>Seeking support from Rotterdam Convention Secretariat<br><br>Virtual N/A | China<br><br>China<br><br>Rotterdam Convention Secretariat<br><br>Malaysia | 2023<br><br>2024<br><br>2023–2024<br><br>2023      |

| Activity   | Cost                                   | Lead/Host   | Year  |
|--|--|---|---|
| <b>Strategic objective 3: Development of measures for plant protection</b>   |  |   |   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop criteria for commodity prioritisation.</li> <li>Develop 1–2 RSPMs including RIG, and treatments. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prioritise commodities for RSPM development from the following commodities: coconut, logan, milled rice.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Form Expert Working Group to develop RSPMs and hold first meeting (Bangkok)</li> <li>Call for RSPM/RIG topics for 2025–2026.</li> </ul> | N/A<br><br><br><br><br><br><br>30K USD | Australia, China, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Japan and Singapore | 2023<br><br>2023–2024<br><br>2023<br><br>2024 |
| <b>Strategic objective 4: Sharing pest information</b>   |  |   |   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Webinar on transboundary pests.</li> </ul>  | N/A                                    | FAO Regional Office   | 2023  |
| <b>Strategic objective 5: Coordination of input into international systems</b>   |  |   |   |
| Regional workshops on ISPM consultation.   | Funding from R. of Korea               | Republic of Korea   | 2023, 2024                                    |
| Implement ePhyto, encourage uptake and build capacity in the region. Communication with donors.  | N/A                                    | Advisory Group  | 2023–2024                                     |
| Attend APPPC pre-CPM consultation.   |  | All members   | 2023, 2024                                    |
| Attend Technical Consultations among Regional Plant Protection Organizations (TC-RPPO) and CPM.  |  | APPPC Executive Secretary   | 2023, 2024                                    |
| Lead and participate in IPPC work programmes that are important to the region. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contribute to technical working groups on ISPMs/CPM recommendations/guides (experts and information).</li> <li>Regional workshop on or funding members to participate in one international workshop on IPPC priorities, e.g. sea container cleanness, e-commerce.</li> </ul>   | 60K USD                                | All members<br><br>Advisory Group to recommend                        | 2023, 2024<br><br>2023 or 2024                |



