

# REPORT OF THE THIRTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE ASIA AND PACIFIC PLANT PROTECTION COMMISSION

**Chiang Mai, Thailand  
25-29 November 2019**

## **Executive summary**

The thirty-first Session of the Asia and Pacific Plant Protection Commission (APPPC) was held from 25-29 November 2019 at Shangri-La Hotel in Chiang Mai, Thailand. Eighty-five delegates from 19 member countries of the APPPC (out of 25); one observer country and two like-minded organizations also attended the meeting. The sessions at the meeting:

- updated the members on the work of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) including activities concerning the IPPC strategic framework, ePhyto, emerging pests, sea container hygiene, contaminating pests, E-commerce, Food Aid, commodity and pathway standards and the International Year of Plant Health (IYPH)
- discussed the 1999 amendments to the Plant Protection Agreement for the Asia and Pacific region and the will to pursue acceptance of these amendments with the assistance of Legal Department in FAO
- noted the delivery of APPPC meetings on surveillance information management, ePhyto, phytosanitary irradiation treatment, the management of fruit flies in mangoes and training sessions on the analysis of active ingredients, the management of pesticides and the determination of pesticide residues.
- deliberated on the draft commodity regional standards for phytosanitary measures (RSPMs).

The programme of work for the 2020-21 biennium was confirmed. This included workshops to be held on: pest surveillance (continuing the agreed programme), the categorization of commodities according to pest risk, hands-on training in molecular diagnostics for South American leaf blight (SALB), draft International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs), ePhyto, the chilli seed RSPM, emerging pests, and fall army worm (FAW). There will also be work on forward looking documents for a APPPC Strategic Plan and a plan of action to combat emerging pest and the revision of standard setting procedures concerning commodity standards and the biennial planning meeting. After some discussions, the session agreed to adopt the RSPM on the international movement of fresh mango fruit. This is the first commodity standard for the APPPC. The draft RSPM on Chilli seed will be discussed further. The financial report was presented and a proposed budget agreed to and adopted. The next APPPC session will be hosted by China.

## **Opening session**

### **Welcome address by Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Thailand**

Dr. Juadee Pongmaneerat, on behalf of the Permanent Secretary, emphasised the significance of climate change and the increase in international trade as factors that are affecting incidence of pest and disease outbreaks. This can affect food security and nutrition. The member states (MSs) were encouraged to work together to develop RSPMs, promote integrated pest management (IPM) and the International Code of Conduct for the Distribution and Use of Pesticides (CoC). 2020 is the the year of the International Year of Plant Health (IYPH) and a unique opportunity to raise awareness of plant health

and highlight the importance of NPPOs and RPPOs. APPPC is the lead regional co-operation organization working on quarantine, intensifying co-ordination, One Health and assisting countries towards the SDGs. She expressed appreciation to the Departments of Agriculture; Agriculture Commodities and Food Standards; and Agriculture Extension and industry associations for providing generous support and declared the 31<sup>st</sup> session open.

### **Introductory remarks by Chairperson of Local Organizing Committee**

Dr. Surmsuk Salakpetch, Director General, Department of Agriculture of Thailand said that the purpose was to build closer relationship with the NPPOs apart from finalizing the WP and the budget. Dr. Surmsuk provided an overview of the agenda and emphasised the special session on IPPC activities and encouraged the MS's inputs on key issues such as the IYPH. Two RSPM drafts would be discussed. The participation of likeminded organizations was welcomed especially in the context of the FAW incursion spreading to a number of countries in the region and the need for strong technical networking.

### **Opening remarks by Chairperson of the 30th Session**

Mr. Peter Thomson quoted a Maori saying to underline that plant protection is about and for the people. He recognised the changes at the global level – trade, trans-boundary movements and at regional and national levels and also looked forward to the agenda especially on key issues such as e-Phyto and commodity standards on which the APPPC has been leading the way. Mr. Thomson also requested MSs to contribute ideas on activities that could make a difference and intensify networking to be able to deal with challenges in the region.

### **Welcome address by the Regional Programme Leader, FAO for Asia and the Pacific**

Ms. Xiangjun Yao described how the work of the APPPC is vital for Sustainable Development Goal 2 (SDG2) as food production has to keep pace with population. Sustainable and integrated approaches are important for agriculture to become climate smart. She highlighted the newly elected FAO Director General's Hand-in-Hand Initiative where countries with higher technical capacity can assist those with lower capacity. Ms. Yao also underlined the need explore ways to mobilize resources from donors, development partners or find opportunities for one country to support another. The upcoming International Year of Plant Health 2020 provides a big opportunity for advocacy and resource mobilization.

## **AGENDA ITEMS**

### **Agenda 1. Election of Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and members of Report Drafting Committee**

Thailand was elected as the Chairperson and New Zealand was elected as the Vice-Chairperson. The members of the drafting committee are Australia, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, China, Thailand and the Secretariat.

### **Agenda 2. Secretariat Report on actions taken on the implementation of the work plan adopted by the 30th Session of the Commission**

The Executive Secretary *a.i.* reported on the activities of the APPPC in the current biennium and provided the statement of mandatory contributions. Activities that were not delivered needed to be revisited and included in the work plan for the next biennium.

Korea pointed to three further workshops, which could not be implemented in this biennium (the training on molecular diagnostic of South American Leaf Blight; the workshop on pesticide residue detection; and the IPM workshops on the pests of palms). These were needed to be considered for the next biennium. During the discussion, Papua New Guinea requested FAO for support on FAW.

### **Agenda 3. Developments with the amendments to the Plant Protection Agreement for the Asia and Pacific region 1983 and 1999**

There are two sets of amendments that were proposed and approved in 1999 for the revised Plant Protection Agreement for the Asia and Pacific Region. These amendments bring the Agreement in line with the revised IPPC and the WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures and were adopted in 1999 at the same time as the amendments deleting measures to exclude “South America Leaf Blight of *Hevea*” from the region. An RSPM on the SALB pest risk analysis, guidance materials, contingency plan and training workshops have been completed or are ongoing for SALB. A small number of countries have completed their legal process and accepted the Amendments. One country remains as an observer until the amendments be adopted to become a full member. The carried over workshop on diagnosis should be implemented in early next biennium and will complete the comprehensive folio of work undertaken on SALB. This will allow rubber growing APPPC countries to move ahead regarding agreement on the revisions of APPPC.

It was agreed that APPPC members should consider accepting the Amendments through their own domestic legal process. New Zealand proposed that APPPC invites the FAO Legal Office to the next session to provide update on the current status and provide advice to members on way forward. The Republic of Korea supported the suggestion of New Zealand to Secretariat to help countries reach agreement over the amendments through legal advice from FAO and is willing to share Korea’s experience of ratifying the amendments through legal procedures in Korea. It was agreed that the draft amendments will be circulated by the FAO Secretariat with the status of agreement of member countries and the model letter for agreement for comments. The Secretariat asked all members to place requests for legal support as part of the outputs of the 31st session so that they could be conveyed to the FAO Legal Office.

### **Agenda 4. Update on Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) and Bureau activities**

#### **IPPC activities**

Updates on the CPM were provided by New Zealand. The IPPC strategic framework 2020-2030 was endorsed for adoption by the CPM-15 Ministerial segment in 2020. The draft ministerial declaration was circulated for comments and is under discussion by Permanent Representatives in FAO. Contracting parties are encouraged to communicate with the Minister’s office in their countries to request Minister’s participation to the CPM-15. The five-year strategic plan for e-Phyto was approved to transition from project to operation. The E-commerce project work plan and budget was discussed but IPPC Secretariat does not have enough resources to implement the plan. The CPM recommendation on ‘High-throughput sequencing technologies as a diagnostic tool for phytosanitary purposes’ was adopted. New CPM recommendations on ‘Safe provision of food and other aid to prevent the introduction of plant pests during an emergency

situation' and 'Facilitating safe trade by reducing the incidence of contaminating pests associated with traded goods' were agreed to be prepared for CPM-15.

New Zealand introduced the history of the development of the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020-2030 that sets out the mission, vision, goal, objectives, and development agenda for the next decade. New Zealand noted that many APPPC regional priorities will be discussed at the current APPPC session are aligned with the Framework, and encouraged the members to discuss on the choices to be made as a region. Technical assistance activities delivered by the Convention in China, Laos and Sri Lanka were highlighted.

## **Agenda 5. APPPC Priorities**

### **5.1 IPPC Strategic Framework 2020- 2030**

The framework which charges all countries having the capacity to implement harmonised measures to reduce pest spread and minimise the impact of pests on food security, trade, economic growth, and the environment, was discussed. It has three strategic objectives and three core activities. The key elements of the development agenda are the following: harmonisation of electronic data exchange; commodity and pathway specific ISPMs; management of e-commerce and courier mail pathways; enabling the use of third party entities; strengthening pest outbreak response systems; global pest alert system; new phytosanitary treatments; and diagnostic laboratory networks. Some member countries expressed concerns over the delegating of phytosanitary actions to private entities. It was clarified that National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs) will retain oversight and the involvement of well-trained private entities will lighten the workload of the former.

### **5.2 e-Phyto**

Australia introduced the topic and updated the work by the IPPC e-Phyto Steering Working Group. The project aims to provide developing countries with a simple generic system for the production, sending and receipt of electronic phytosanitary certificates (e-Phyto) and to establish a harmonised exchange tool to facilitate the exchange of electronic certificates as an alternative to the current practice of exchanging paper certificates. The development of the e-Phyto project as part of the IPPC strategic five year plan has created opportunities for stronger collaboration with the APPPC and other regional bodies including ASEAN. The GeNS creates an opportunity for countries to exchange e-Phytos in a secure multilateral platform. Industry in participating countries will benefit through the reduction of risk of fraudulent certificates and enable greater transparency into the import/export process.

Australia also updated the e-Phyto development in the Pacific Plant Protection Organisation (PPPO) region. It was noted that all members of PPPO endorsed the IPPC e-Phyto Solution, and issued letter of interest on their preference of implementing the e-Phyto Solution. A working group has been set up to progress the e-Phyto work in the Pacific. New Zealand informed the members interested in exchanging or trialling e-Phyto to send their requests to the generic email [eCertNZ@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:eCertNZ@mpi.govt.nz), or IPPC contact point, or raise with Market Access. All requests will be considered following an internal process currently being developed.

New Zealand also suggested that APPPC as a region should encourage the IPPC Steering Working Group to prioritise work on resolving requirements. Some countries have e.g. United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT) compliance acknowledgements and electronic signatures support the non-repudiation functionality, which is not currently supported by the IPPC Hub.

The ePhyto Hub has been tested by a number of countries with regional workshops conducted in Japan in December 2018 and Fiji in August 2019. The IPPC will continue to manage this project for the next five years and has sought voluntary funding contributions from countries. Collaboration on the e-Phyto initiative will enable to APPPC to:

- work towards implementing bilateral paperless trade, for all SPS commodities, through the use of the IPPC e-Phyto Hub
- to work together to implement e-Phyto solution in the region
- to support the IPPC e-Phyto global symposium in 2020

A number of countries updated their work on e-Phyto, including Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia and Thailand.

### **5.3 Emerging pests**

New Zealand described some of the discussions at the IPPC on this issue. A paper was presented to CPM-14 on dealing with emerging pests situation. Notification to the IPPC and further communication to countries is important. As IPPC has limited resources to do this, regional communication should be facilitated by the FAO and APPPC. Standard operating procedures (SOPs) are available from the IPPC on carrying out surveillance for a number of pests. Countries which have validated SOPs, delimitation surveys and information on lures and attractants for trapping, initial response can be sent to the IPPC and shared widely through the website. Countries were invited to share their ongoing experience. FAW is a major problem in the region now. Thailand already has a surveillance programme on FAW in place. Cassava mosaic virus (CMV) is another emerging disease and so is Fusarium TR4. Cambodia shared concerns on both CMV and FAW. Countries need support for direct interventions including resistant varieties. In China, 22 provinces are affected by FAW. Eleven countries participated in a regional consultation organized by FAO recently. FAO and the APPPC provided advance warnings. PNG said that countries should be supported to develop early warning systems. The Rhinoceros beetle on coconut and oil palm is also an important pest and has spread to Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. Wheat blast and FAW (both since 2018) are in Bangladesh and are serious threats. Wheat plants were being burnt to limit the spread of wheat blast. A farmer-centric approach was adopted and the use of a biological control agent (nuclear polyhedrosis virus; NPV) was piloted. Australia is concerned about the natural pathways of FAW spread and is preparing for its arrival. FAW could be a pilot pest that the APPPC could build its emerging pest programme on. The brown marmorated stink bug (a hitch hiker pest) and *Xylella fastidiosa* (on olives) are other pests of concern. Nepal has formed a senior level committee to develop a surveillance and management protocol for FAW. IPM centres for the production of biopesticides have been established. Winter maize is relatively less damaged. *Tuta absoluta* in tomato is under control, Viet Nam conducted surveillance and confirmed FAW presence in April 2019. About 20,000 ha are affected. Pakistan has carried out surveillance and but the presence of FAW is yet to be confirmed. The Philippines has reported its worst incidence in June 2019. Cultural and mechanical

measures are being introduced. Sri Lanka has established a task force. Laos PDR confirmed the presence of FAW with assistance of Republic of Korea. About 30,000 ha. of maize is affected. It was noted that support to neighbouring countries and early notification to IPPC is important. Vigilance against re-invasion and a regional approach are critical. The Republic of Korea mentioned that early warning on FAW by FAO and APPPC and timely hosting of workshops by FAO allowed Korea enhance preparedness and border inspection which led to successful early detection and control. This emphasizes the importance of transparent information sharing between countries on issues such as status of outbreak, diagnosis, survey etc. FAW could be a good model case of coordinated work between APPPC, IPPPC, FAO and other relevant bodies to demonstrate a joint response to emerging pests.

#### **5.4 Sea Container Hygiene**

Contaminating pests (formerly known as hitch hiking pests)- giant African snails, egg masses, stink bugs, fire ants- can be moved on the interior or exterior of shipping containers. Sea container hygiene schemes have been used to keep the containers clean and these allow shipping companies to save money by having faster sea container turnaround at ports. An international standard for shipping containers was also proposed to the IPPC but did not progress as the level of risk was not clear to some of the member countries. Australia, China and New Zealand conducted a survey on the situation and a task force was established to examine the issue of developing the standard. A voluntary container cleanliness code has been developed by the International Maritime Organization (IMO). Thailand is conducting a study on the key stakeholders in maintaining cleanliness of containers and analysing the New Zealand model. Australia has joined the scheme with a focus on Pacific countries. Malaysia suggested that this scheme should be extended to animal and fish products to manage sanitary risks. Republic of Korea reported that red imported fire ant (RIFA) was detected in the container yards and alerted the importance of container hygiene. The Busan port authority conducted surveys on empty containers for 2 years; almost 50% of empty containers had problems such as being broken, dirty, infested with insects and bugs etc. The Busan port authority presented this result to the round table meeting of port authorities in October 2019. They are looking for government and international organizations who can enforce regulations to deal with the unsanitary container problem. The Republic of Korea has encouraged member countries to communicate with other authorities who are dealing with containers. Exporting countries should take responsibility for their containers. Japan mentioned the importance of consulting with the Ministry of Transport. New Zealand commented that keeping containers clean to reduce the risk of introduction and spread of contaminating pests requires the collaboration of different organisations, e.g, IPPC and IMO, as well as different government agencies and industries. NZ would like to see international or regional standard developed to reduce contamination of containers pests, seeds, grain, and other unwanted articles.

#### **5.5 Contaminating pests**

Australia introduced the topic. During the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM 14) in April 2019 a draft recommendation titled 'Facilitating safe trade by reducing the incidence of contaminating pests associated with traded goods' was added to the IPPC work plan. CPM-14 approved the establishment of virtual working group to develop a recommendation to support trading partners' actions to reduce the incidence of

contaminating pests in trade. The Strategic Planning Group (SPG) agreed to the recommendations of the group lead including the revision of the title to 'Reduce the incidence of contaminating pests associated with regulated articles and unregulated good to protect plant health and facilitate trade'. A symposium will be held in Sydney, Australia from 3 to 5 March 2020 to explore the issue of contaminating pests in greater detail, including strategies for government and industry to work co-operatively to improve container hygiene globally, and prevent the transportation of contaminant pests between nations. The draft recommendation will also be further refined at the symposium in preparation for CPM15. New Zealand suggested that representatives from the Sea Container Task Force (SCTF) attend this meeting to share and exchange information as there are strong linkages with sea containers. New Zealand also noted the challenges NPPOs facing to manage the pathways of contaminating pests, i.e. NPPOs often don't have the regulatory power to regulate pathways such as export of vehicles, machinery and containers. New Zealand encouraged members to review their legislation so that they can intervene on such pathways to reduce the risks of contaminating pests. The Republic of Korea supported the development of the CPM recommendation on contaminating pest and appreciated Australia's intent to organize the symposium.

### **5.6 E-commerce**

CPM adopted a recommendation in 2014 and called on contracting parties to identify e-commerce traders in their countries and provide information on pathways, additional sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) requirements etc. International companies and consumers need to be informed that countries have SPS requirements; develop a policy with other stakeholders such as the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of wild fauna and flora (CITES); and develop an international tool kit. This is a big challenge considering the large volume of e-commerce products. Indonesia endorsed the need for greater communication. Thailand mentioned that one of the major pathways for Sri Lankan Cassava Mosaic virus (SLCMV) is associated with planting materials that was brought across land borders without declaration through postal channels. The interception of imported, prohibited materials such as seeds through postal channels has also increased with an associated lack of import permits and phytosanitary certificates. In addition, Thailand reported that detection dogs are now being initiated for inspection at a plant quarantine station. Detection dogs are also being used in Japan. Prevention needs more awareness among importers of the materials including farmers. PNG asked for IPPC to establish an e-commerce hub. Cambodia passed a law on ecommerce in October 2019. China shared the main measures and experiences in the management of the cross-border e-commerce. The IYPH would be a good opportunity to share information on the risks. New Zealand updated its participation in multilateral fora e.g. WTO and APEC.

### **5.7 Food Aid**

New Zealand introduced the topic. During the call for proposals in 2018, the PPPO proposed a standard for food aid in view of the increasing number of natural and manmade disasters. With increased food aid, there is increased SPS risk and this could persist long after the disaster and the aid period has ended. A CPM Recommendation on Safe provision of food and aids during emerging situation was approved for country consultation in 2019, to be adopted at CPM-15 in 2020. New Zealand presented a PPPO statement on this topic. While it is noted that the consultation period for the Recommendation has concluded, the PPPO would like to highlight the following updates

for the APPPC's noting at this juncture. PPPO, during the Workshop to review the draft International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs) held in Fiji in August 2019, endorsed the following resolutions:

- i. PPPO is satisfied with the Draft CPM recommendations for now;
- ii. However, the PPPO had recommended for a stand-alone ISPM for the topic to still be pursued as its' preference; and
- iii. In that regard, the PPPO has formed a working group from among its members to draft the standard in support of its recommendation to CPM.

The working group, chaired by New Zealand, with a member from each of the sub-regional groups in the Pacific. The Republic of Korea mentioned that their agencies who were distributing food aid – particularly rice – were using treatment to keep it compliant with SPS requirements. They supported the CPM recommendation on food aid. They also added that as the NPPO is not the major agency for food aid, IPPC consider implementation of the recommendation or an ISPM on this issue.

### **5.8 Commodity and pathway standards**

New Zealand introduced the topic. New Zealand recalled the purpose of developing the international commodity standards, reiterated this is one of the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020-2030 to develop overarching principles and templates. The process of setting a commodity standard is being streamlined with general requirements including procedures of discussion being proposed. This draws on lessons from previous commodity standards, including those concerning the involvement of industry groups in consultations. New Zealand updated the meeting on the outcomes from the second Focus Group meeting, and the concept standard being developed. It was noted that owing to the complexity of the pathways, at this stage only commodity specific standards will be developed. New Zealand informed the members its proposal for a regional/international commodity standards workshop. This had been included in the proposed APPPC work programme for 2020-2030. NZ called for interests from members to co-host the workshop.

### **5.9 International Year of Plant Health 2020**

A presentation was made by Republic of Korea on planned activities of IYPH by IPPC and FAO. RPPOs and countries were urged to make plans to raise awareness of plant health and report to the International Steering Committee. Countries were encouraged to contribute resources to implement planned activities. Philippines listed the activities that are already being done. Australia, China, Japan, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Thailand communicated their plans to observe IYPH. Advocacy material for international passengers was proposed as an APPPC regional activity.

### **Agenda 6. Country reports of significant changes and developments since 2017 from member countries**

The following countries presented their reports – Australia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Fiji, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, New Zealand, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Tonga and Viet Nam as well as Japan as an observer. All reports are in Annex 1.

### **Agenda 7. Progress report on plant quarantine in the Asia and Pacific region**

Australia presented the report. Three meetings have been held, respectively on surveillance information management; e-phyto and phytosanitary irradiation treatment.



The first one focused on the fundamentals of data management, design of the information systems and analysis. These are important in the context of trade access, determination of regional and national biosecurity risks, pest status and meeting international reporting requirements. The e-phyto working group built on the outcomes of the 3<sup>rd</sup> global e-phyto symposium. A technical demonstration was provided to the participants and the infrastructure requirements and challenges were discussed. The third workshop underlined the importance of the non-chemical and non-invasive irradiation technique for phytosanitary and food safety issues. The lack of consumer confidence in irradiated products needs to be addressed by the NPPOs. In addition, other planned activities included two regional workshops on draft ISPMs, post training meeting on SALB, pre-CPM consultation meetings, APPPC SC meeting and planning group meeting were implemented. A new Chair of the Committee needed to be nominated. The report of the Standing Committee on plant quarantine is available in Annex 2.

#### **Agenda 8. Progress report on Integrated Pest Management in the Asia and Pacific region**

Thailand presented a report on the workshop on management of fruit flies in mango. The participants had discussed and observed the use of the sterile insect technique. Fruit fly surveillance and monitoring and farmer training to build capacity for sustainable management was also discussed. A new Chair of the Committee needs to be nominated. The report of the Standing Committee on IPM is available in Annex 2.

#### **Agenda 9. Progress report on pesticides management in the Asia and Pacific region**

China presented the report. The principal points of progress were on improving quality control, detection standards and labelling of regulatory requirements. IPM was also promoted as part of the activities with a view to reduce pesticide overuse. Trainings were delivered in quantitative analysis of active ingredients, management of pesticides (for sustainable agriculture and safeguarding occupational health) and determination of pesticide residues. In the next biennium, the Standing Committee would like to focus on programs to phase out HHPs and new ways of pesticide applications (e.g. drones). The report of the Standing Committee on pesticides management is available in Annex 2.

#### **Update on the activities of the Rotterdam Convention on Prior Informed Consent (PIC)**

FAO delivered the presentation. The Rotterdam Convention is held as the first line of control as it deals with chemicals that are in use; the Stockholm Convention is about phasing out of persistent organic pollutants (POPs); and the Basel Convention is about dealing with waste. COP 9 of the Rotterdam Convention adopted procedures and mechanisms of compliance and listed phorate and HBCD in Annex III of the Convention. On the listing of a number of other chemicals such as carbosulfan and paraquat formulations, consensus could not be reached. The listing does not imply a global plan but the necessity of PIC to the import of the listed chemicals. The listing (16 industrial chemicals and 36 pesticides) protects countries from unwanted trade. COP 14 of the Basel Convention saw a ground-breaking agreement among 187 parties to include plastic waste as a hazardous one and regulated by the Convention. An e-waste technical guideline was adopted as an interim basis. Dicofol and PFOA were added to the Stockholm Convention. The lack of submissions by parties on import responses for Annex III

chemical and the lack of technical capacity to understand and meet obligations are key weaknesses among countries in the Asia-Pacific region.

### **Agenda 10. Consideration and adoption of draft RSPMs**

Australia introduced the session. The two standards were proposed at the 30<sup>th</sup> session of the APPPC. After the specifications were developed, a call for experts was circulated. The draft RSPM for mango has been used to develop the overarching principles and template for IPPC commodity standard. The APPPC SC had recommended the mango fruit standard for adoption to the 31<sup>st</sup> session while the chilli seed standard requires further development. Thailand presented the updated draft of the standard as they were the steward. Chilli was recommended as a priority among other seeds. It was aimed towards the creation of an annex that provided implementation guidelines for ISPM38. The six sections and annex with four tables was described and delegates were asked to adopt or suggest changes in the structure. The Chair noted that the RSPM is being considered by the Commission although consensus among members of the Standing Committee in Standards is lacking. Indonesia suggested that the list of pests that are known to associate or not associate with chilli seed needed to be more specific and cosmopolitan pest should be reconsidered to be included in this RSPM. Australia expressed that the standard should be put on hold and discussed so as to incorporate some of the biosecurity risks posed by emerging pests are sufficiently dealt with. The key areas for improvement are a more comprehensive list of seed-borne pathogens, more details of pathways of infection, more information on testing, treatment and risk management measures. Vietnam and New Zealand expressed concern the RSPM was duplicating ISPM 38. The Republic of Korea clarified that the RSPM was not being recommended for adoption but for inputs. The key question was whether to go ahead with further development and what should be the format of this standard. New Zealand, based on a comparison of ISPM38 and the annex, proposed that the chilli annex be developed as a regional guidance. The Chair placed two options to the participants – to discuss in person as a small group and agree on principal issues such as the structure; or continue discussions after the end of the 31<sup>st</sup> session. Republic of Korea and New Zealand endorsed the first option. Australia, China and Malaysia also volunteered to join the group. Viet Nam conveyed that technical matters need to be referred to the experts in the country and it would not be possible to agree to the current draft.

New Zealand presented the draft standard on international movement of fresh mango fruit. The wide trade in the commodity and need for harmonized treatments prompted the development of this RSPM. A small group of countries and the IPPC focus group has already reviewed the draft. The IPPC has conveyed that this RSPM could become a template for a concept commodity standard. The APPPC Standards Committee held consultations during 2019 and at the APPPC SC meeting, it was decided to present it at the 31<sup>st</sup> Commission for adoption. The drafting has faced the challenges of the lack of a template for a commodity standard; lack of information sources on pests of concern as well as phytosanitary measures and the criteria for them.

This standard will be presented to IPPC International Standard workshop as a proof-of-concept document. Republic of Korea supported the adoption of the RSPM. Australia and China requested a response from the steward on changes and technical comments. Thailand requested that an additional schedule for the hot water immersion treatment (HWIT), proposed by Thailand be included in Table 4 of the RSPM with the criterion being

their use in trade as the country has exported mangoes to EU and Switzerland using the method. Relevant technical information will be provided as justification. Pakistan supported Thailand's proposal. Cambodia expressed the concern that some of the technical requirements including the proposed HWIT may be out of reach and requested consideration in the RSPM for methods that were more accessible. The Chair clarified that RSPMs will provide options for treatments and not propose a rigid list and the standard could be aligned with one or many alternatives. The Chair proposed that given the general lack of consensus, a small group of countries be convened to respond to the comments made by delegates. Or it could be sent back to the Standing Committee on Standards. The Republic of Korea said that minor and editorial changes could be made but this RSPM had been under country consultation twice with sufficient time provided for comments. Therefore, the RSPM should be adopted in its current form with the door always open for revisions (as a standing item in APPPC's work plan) and bilateral negotiations between countries on treatment methods that are not included in the standard. Australia conveyed that the RSPM was not in the best starting position and the steward could consider talking to countries to develop a consensus during the 31<sup>st</sup> session. New Zealand said that HWIT is referred to in the RSPM and the Standards Committee could take up revisions at any time. The Chair requested the steward to report to the plenary on Friday with a path forward. If minor editorial changes are proposed, it could be adopted with the changes. If the comments are technical, changes should not be incorporated at this point.

## **Agenda 11. The APPPC Programme of work**

### **11.1 Summary of the outputs of the APPPC group meeting on planning for the next biennium**

The Republic of Korea, as chairperson of the working group, introduced the item through a presentation. It was proposed that workshops delayed in the last biennium be included in the next biennium. The possible host country, organizing country and timing of each of these activities and new ones and the indicative budget was to be discussed in the breakout sessions of the three standing committees.

### **11.2 Results of group discussions and summary work plans of the three Standing Committees**

#### **11.2.1 Standing Committee on Plant quarantine**

The Republic of Korea was elected as chair of the Standing Committee on Plant Quarantine, and Thailand was elected as vice chair. Australia was elected as chair of the Standards Committee.

The committee agreed to hold:-

- workshops on Implementation of ISPM 6 Pest Surveillance Programme (workshop #4 Surveillance statistical analysis, mapping, intelligence generation). To be held in 2020. Led is Australia. Host TBD. Indonesia to host workshop #5 in 2021.
- workshop on ISPM32- categorization of commodities according to pest risk. Led by Australia. Indonesia can host if held in 2021.
- workshop on hands on training in molecular diagnostics for SALB. Malaysia to host in 2020.

- APPPC regional workshop on draft ISPMs in September 2020. This would again be supported by the Republic of Korea. The Rep. of Korea will work to host and support this workshop in 2021 also.
- APPPC Workshop on Commodity-based Standards in November 2020. This would be led by New Zealand. Cambodia will host.
- ePhyto workshop in 2021. Led by Australia (ePhyto working group). Host TBD. Mainly for capacity building workshop/training. Recognise there is a IPPC global symposium in 3rd quarter 2020, APPPC may look for cooperation with IPPC global workshop depending on the topic
- development of Chilli seed RSPM is continued.
- workshop on emerging pests with a more forward looking and strategic approach in 2021: How to predict, identify likely pathways, and regulate, prevent and rapidly respond to an incursion. Leverage off some learning from animal health re emergency action Australia, New Zealand and FAO will work together to develop a concept note.
- APPPC Standards Committee to hold separate meeting in 2021.
- APPPC working group for 32nd Session be held in 2021.
- 32nd APPPC Session, Host TBD
- develop a document on benefit and strategic value and opportunity of APPPC and update its strategic plan. A few countries to fund through in-kind contributions.
- support continuous revision of commodity standards with the SC to develop clearer guidelines for adoption of standards and also to consider how to keep commodity standards up to date. SC email discussion to develop guideline and address issues with chilli seed and then have a separate meeting in 2021 to discuss standard and recommend guideline to 2021 Commission meeting.

### **11.2.2 Standing Committee on IPM**

Malaysia was elected as the Chair of the Standing Committee on IPM. There are three workshops being proposed which are: IPM for palm pests, a workshop on Fall Army Worm and a workshop on cassava mosaic virus or banana *Fusarium* wilt. Malaysia agreed that the workshop IPM on palm pest be held in October/ November 2020. The five days workshop is expected to be attended by 30 experts/ researchers and NPPOs of member countries. The proposed budget was USD 35,000. This workshop will focus on palm pests and diseases which include red palm weevil, the coconut beetle (*Brontispa longissima*), Rhinoceros beetle, coconut blackhead caterpillar, bagworm, basal stem rot and cadang-cadang viroid.

The second workshop will be on the FAW and hosted by China in November 2020. The three-day workshop will feature 50 experts/ researchers and NPPOs of member countries and have a budget of USD 50,000.

The third workshop will be a workshop in Cassava Mosaic Virus or Banana *Fusarium* wilt (TR-4), to be confirm by the Thailand (host) and scheduled for November 2021. It will be a three-day workshop with 25 participants. The budget is to be determined.

### **11.2.3 Standing Committee on pesticides management**

The group discussions were chaired by China, and the participants included Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Thailand, China and Rotterdam Convention Secretariat. China introduced the draft work plan of this committee and asked the participants to provide feedback on

the progress report presented the previous day. Nepal mentioned that pesticide quality, residues, occurrence of resistance, management and disposal, as well as the lack of farmer personal protective equipment (PPE) were very important issues in his country. Small and marginal holdings make it difficult to use new ways to apply pesticides (e.g. Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV)), especially under windy conditions. Papua New Guinea stated that, according to the country reports, FAW could become resistant to pesticides and preventive actions were needed before FAW arrived in PNG. Thailand described complaints from farmers to the government because of the restricted use of pesticides, which were related to the food safety issues. Thailand also mentioned that pesticide application knowledge, farmer PPE, pesticide disposal, and pesticide resistance are also the topics of interest in their country.

Keeping in view the concerns raised by the delegates, the standing committee on pesticide management will address two challenging issues for next two years through emphasis on capacity building. The first chemical pesticide residue detection; development of relevant guidelines and standards; and the use of new technologies such as UAVs. The second priority is pesticide risk reduction through intensifying implementation of Rotterdam Convention focusing on information exchange; phasing out Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs); harmonization of compulsory labelling as requested by importing countries; disposal of obsolete pesticides and empty containers; and sustainable alternatives to newly listed and candidate chemicals.

## **Agenda 12**

### **Special topic: Co-operation with like-minded organizations who also manage plant health/biosecurity**

#### **12.1 ASEAN EWG-PS activities**

The Chair of 21st Expert Working Group on Harmonisation of Phytosanitary Measures in ASEAN (EWG-PS) presented the ASEAN Cooperation in Agriculture, Food & Forestry, the Implementation Mechanism and the Plan of Action of the EWG-PS (as in Annex ?). The Chair shared on the activities and sub-activities under the various action programme and highlighted synergies between ASEAN and the APPPC i.e. standard/guidelines setting, capacity building etc. For collaboration with ASEAN, APPPC could also contact existing ASEAN collaboration project process mechanism to put forth any proposed projects. All ASEAN member states (AMSs) with exception of Brunei Darussalam and Singapore are already members of the APPPC. The Meeting noted that the APPPC could link with existing members who are ASEAN member states to provide updates to the development of ASEAN cooperation under the crop subsector i.e EWG-PS as well as for better alignment of work initiatives between ASEAN and APPPC. For future APPPC meetings, an ASEAN session could be added for this discussion.

#### **12.2 International Centre for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT): Diagnostics and monitoring of Cassava Mosaic disease (CMD) and development of resistant varieties**

Cassava (*Manihot esculenta* Crantz) is an important upland crop in Southeast Asia. This clonal propagated crop is mainly grown by small holder farmers, and is key driver for rural livelihoods and economic development. However, two serious diseases, Cassava Witches Broom Disease (CWBD) and Cassava Mosaic Disease (CMD) are spreading through the region. CWBD can cause yield reductions of up to 90%, and affect starch

content and quality and CMD can cause yield reduction between 30-50%. CIAT is working towards a sustainable regional solutions developing new product profiles for commercially viable cassava varieties by incorporating desired traits for disease resistance /tolerance.

Furthermore, CIAT is developing diagnostic protocols, tools, and information platforms to fit for purpose in monitoring, surveillance of the diseases mentioned. Potentially, these technology can be adopted for other diseases in the region. The seed system model with appropriate agronomic practices is also being taken into account. Rapid multiplication of healthy planting material technology will be deployed in the region. CIAT is working with the national partners focussing on increasing the capacity in the region to combat above mentioned diseases. Standard surveillance and diagnostic protocols need to be evaluated and implemented among stakeholders at a global scale, particularly when dealing with diseases caused by a wide range of genetically distinct pathogens that induce similar symptoms in different regions of the world. The work on CMD is an example. The disease is present in Africa and Asia, and is associated to mixed geminivirus infections and recombinant and re-assorted virus strains. The disease has recently been reported in Southeast Asia, and efforts have been made since the first reports to develop standard protocols for disease and pathogen data collection, validation of open source tools for data analysis and communication platforms, in collaboration with partners in order to support regional efforts for early warning, monitoring and manage the disease. A more detailed and timely knowledge of pathogen genetics and its distribution, in combination with the identification and deployment of cassava disease resistant/tolerant varieties, are crucial for effective integrated pest and diseases management strategies for small-holder farmers. Coordinated action with local governments and specialized agricultural development agencies should be strengthened and continued, to ensure small-holder farmers access adequate agricultural extension support.

### **FAO : Fall Army Worm**

FAO presented an update on the FAW incursion in Asia and the Pacific. The four prongs of the strategy to tackle the spread were surveillance and monitoring; response centred around IPM and sustainable management measures including local ones; farmer education and awareness raising; and engagement with stakeholders in the private sector especially those producing biopesticides and biocontrol agents. Examples of actions in the region and lessons learned from South America (where FAW is endemic) and the Africa were shared. Support through the APPPC to countries to strengthen preparedness, surveillance and monitoring with a view to have reliable and consistent methodologies for data collection was emphasised. It was also underlined that there was no reason to panic given that the other regions have demonstrated that the pest can be suitably managed with reduced or minimal losses.

### **Agenda 10 (contd.) Consideration and adoption of draft RSPMs**

The Chair summarized the situation of the RSPM on the international movement of fresh mango fruit. The Standards Committee had run a good process with more than one consultation and recommended the RSPM for adoption While some countries have concerns with the RSPM, technical changes cannot be discussed at the 31st session. Only editorial changes can be made. The choice was to either adopt the RSPM and or send it back to the Standards Committee. China said that, although the RSPM draft was not

perfect and some technical issues need to be sorted out, China had no objection to its adoption and hoped that the suggestions provided by China be considered when the RSPM is revised in the future. Australia supported the adoption on a 'trial' basis with the next two years being spent on adding more validated methods to the standard. New Zealand proposed that APPPC could set up a technical panel as was done by the IPPC to revise the standard in the future, after adoption at the current session. The Republic of Korea said that at the SC meeting in August the methods included in the RSPM were based on historical trade-related evidence and well-documented use. Other treatment schedules could be included as a future revision of the standard. Thailand proposed the clear defining the criteria for inclusion of new information and treatments and developing a clear procedure for future revisions. This would ensure adoption of the RSPM at the 31<sup>st</sup> session and address concerns of the countries. The Commission agreed that the RSPM could be adopted keeping this proposal as an action point. The RSPM on 'International movement of fresh mango fruit' was adopted by the APPPC. This is the first ever commodity standard prepared and approved by the Commission.

New Zealand reported back on the small group discussions on the RSPM for seed with annex 1 chilli seed. The presentation described the steps required to develop regional implementation guidance from ISPM38 and the procedures to be put in to develop annexes for regional seed commodities. The Commission approved :-

- the concept of generic Regional Implementation Guidance on phytosanitary procedure to implement ISPM 38 for seed for countries producing seed for planting
- the structure of Regional Implementation Guidance
- and its inclusion in APPPC Work Plan for 2020-2021 in the Standards Committee

### **Agenda 13 Draft work plan and budget consolidation**

The plenary session discussed the work plans presented for the biennium by the three Standing Committees. It was agreed that some of the workshops could be consolidated so as to have a plan that could be completely delivered over the next 24 months. Moreover, 2020 was the International Year of Plant Health and would see a number of other activities where NPPOs would be engaged. The Secretariat also mentioned that NPPOs would be suitably informed of technical activities on FAW and other emerging pests that FAO will be implementing through its global programme. Therefore, separate workshops on each emerging pest were unnecessary. The APPPC could therefore focus on developing a normative approach to tackle emerging pests and a single workshop could focus on this important topic. In all, 14 workshops and meetings are planned for the 2020-2021 biennium. In addition, consultations on the RSPM on seed will continue and a draft document that will inform APPPC's work to policymakers and donors and include a 5-year strategic plan will be developed. The draft WP was approved along with a provisional budget (*scroll down to the last page*).

Based on the discussions on the work plan, the following key action points were agreed:

1. Ensure timely transfer of mandatory contributions – all countries
2. Complete budgeting of all activities – APPPC Secretariat
3. Initiate action to agree the amendments of APPPC
4. Finalize calendar of activities – all countries in consultation with the Secretariat

5. Initiate WG discussions on ISPM 38 guidance and annexes for seed commodities – New Zealand and Thailand
6. Initiate APPPC WG on Fall Army Worm – China, Cambodia, Thailand, Vietnam, FAO
7. Develop concept note for normative work on emerging pests and the workshop in 2021 – Australia, New Zealand, Malaysia, China and FAO
8. Explore the possibility of setting up a Trust Fund for APPPC – APPPC Secretariat

### **Financial report of 2018-2019**

The Executive Secretary *a.i.* presented the current status of mandatory contributions and the reported that almost all countries have paid their dues. The Republic of Korea emphasized the importance of financial contribution by all member countries and suggested that the Secretariat provides consultation to communicate with finance authority in the countries upon request of countries. Rep. of Korea also suggested to establish an APPPC trust fund to facilitate contribution from members, requesting the Secretariat to consult FAO headquarters to find way to develop a trust fund at the regional office. This would ease the flow of contributions from countries especially when they would like to commit extra resources directly to the APPPC, commit expenditure on workshops and meetings from a single common source and make it easier to fund travel of delegates from developing countries.

### **Proposed budget for 2020-2021: Consideration and adoption**

The proposed budget of USD 540,000 for delivery of all the planned activities including carry over from the current biennium was agreed and adopted. Mandatory contributions provide about USD 400,000. The Secretariat will provide updated budget figures including the carry over by early 2020. The Secretariat will work with all the countries to seek funding from other sources should there be a deficit in the overall budget.

### **Determination of level of mandatory country contributions**

It was agreed that the level of mandatory country contributions would be maintained at the same level as the 2018-19 biennium.

### **Agenda 14 Announcement of date venue of 32<sup>nd</sup> session of the APPPC**

China announced that they would host the 32<sup>nd</sup> session of the APPPC in 2021 and delivered a brief presentation on the topic. Australia announced that they would host the 33<sup>rd</sup> session of the APPPC in 2023. The statements from both countries were acclaimed by the participants.

### **Agenda 15 Other business**

New Zealand presented an update on access to the APPPC webpage within FAO's corporate website and the steps required to access specific documents. The Executive Secretary *a.i.* mentioned that the movement of the separate APPPC webpage to the FAO umbrella site was corporate policy but had not been accomplished. The Secretariat will work with the CIO's office in FAO HQ to make the APPPC webpage more user friendly and which will contain the APPPC reports and RSPMs. The Executive Secretary *a.i.* informed the gathering that the new Senior Plant Protection Officer, FAORAP and the full-time Executive Secretary has been selected and the on-boarding process has begun. It is expected that the Officer will be in place in the first quarter of 2020.

### **Agenda 16 Adoption of report**



The report was unanimously adopted by the participants of the 31<sup>st</sup> Session.

**Agenda 17 Closure of the session**

Dr. Surmsuk Salakpetch, Chairperson of the Organizing Committee and the Director General of the Department of Agriculture, Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Thailand closed the session. Participating countries complimented and thanked the Organising Committee and all members of the Thailand delegation for the excellent arrangements and hosting of the 31<sup>st</sup> session.

### Draft work plan and budget for 2020-21

#	Activity plan	2020	2021	Budget 2020 (USD)	Budget 2021 (USD)	Remarks
<b>Standing Committee on Plant Quarantine</b>						
1	Implementation of ISPM6 Pest surveillance programme 6-year plan, Workshops#4, 5	#4 Led by Australia; host country TBD by 15 January, 2020	#5 Led by Australia; host country Indonesia	50,000	50,000	# 4 was postponed from 2019 to 2020. #6 will be moved to next biennium 2022-2023
2	Workshop on the ISPM32-categorization of commodities according to pest risk;		To be led by Australia and hosted by Indonesia		50,000	Postponed from 2019 to 2021 Concept note ready
3	Hands on training on Molecular diagnostic of SALB	Hosted by Malaysia		30,000		Postponed from 2019 to 2020 Concept note ready
4	APPPC regional workshop on draft ISPMs	Supported and hosted by Rep of Korea Sept 7-11	(Supported and hosted by Rep of Korea)			
5	APPPC Regional Workshop on Commodity-based Standards (IYPH event)	November 2020 led by New Zealand and hosted by Cambodia		50,000		Concept note ready Coordination with IPPC for potential expansion to international level.(NZ Trust fund) Linkages with implementation of mango RSPM
6	ePhyto	Led by Australia (ePhyto working group)		50,000		Communication with International Symposium of IPPC Focus on capacity development; sharing of experiences; demonstration of the Hub and GENS

7	Continued work on RSPM on chili seeds	Lead: Thailand	Lead: Thailand			By electronic means
8	SC meetin		SC meeting led by APPC Secretariat		20,000	Guideline, draft RSPM
9	Meetings of APPPC country officials prior to CPMs 15 and 16	Rome	Rome			
<b>Standing Committee on pesticide management</b>						
10	Workshop on pesticide residue detection	Lead: China Host: Philippines		35,000		postponed from 2019
11	Workshop on pesticide application by unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV)		Lead and host: China		35,000	Guideline development
12	Implementation of Rotterdam Convention (Information exchange, alternatives to newly listed or candidates chemicals)	Lead: Rotterdam Secretariat Host: Thailand				Budget of USD 40,000 made available by the Secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention
<b>Jointly by the three Standing Committees</b>						
13	Workshop on emerging pest	Developing a forward-looking regional approach	Lead: NZ, Australia and Malaysia Host: Malaysia		75,000	2021 wider scope conceptual workshop; incorporates key trans-boundary issues and emerging pests such as palm pest; FAW; TR-4; CMV and any others
14	Working group for 32 session + SC		Bangkok		25,000	

15	32nd session of APPPC		China		60,000	FAO LEGN to be invited to discuss on amendments to the PPA
16	Development of a strategic on the benefits and the value of the work of the APPPC + strategic plan for 5 years	Consultant and/or electronic consultation	Document + brochure		10,000+in kind support	
	<b>Budget</b>			215,0000	325,000	Total budget : 540,000 Mandatory contributions (2020-21): 400,0000 (approx.) Carry over from 2018-19 : TBD Other funding required : TBD

**Status of mandatory contributions (2018-19)**

<b>Member Governments</b>	<b>Outstanding 31-12-18</b>	<b>Contribution due for 2019</b>	<b>Received up to 31-12-19</b>	<b>Outstanding 31-12-19</b>
AUSTRALIA	0.00	43,167.50	43,167.50	0.00
BANGLADESH	0.00	19.62		19.62
CAMBODIA	56.62	19.62	76.24	0.00
CHINA	0.00	43,167.50	43,167.50	0.00
FIJI	0.00	80.50	80.50	0.00
INDIA	0.00	19,826.50	19,826.50	0.00
INDONESIA	13,558.50	13,558.50		27,117.00
KOREA, DPR	498.00	135.00		633.00
KOREA, RP	0.00	43,167.50	43,167.50	0.00
LAO, PDR	19.62	19.62		39.24
MALAYSIA	0.00	8,662.50	8,662.50	0.00
NEW ZEALAND	0.00	7,209.50	7,209.50	0.00
PAKISTAN	2,502.00	2,502.00	4,868.09	135.91
PHILIPPINES	0.00	4,439.00	4,439.00	0.00
SRI LANKA	0.00	834.00	834.00	0.00
THAILAND	0.00	7,828.50	7,828.50	0.00
VIETNAM	2,829.50	1,560.50	4,390.00	0.00
TIMOR LESTE	38.12	19.62		57.74
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>19,502.36</b>	<b>196,217.48</b>	<b>187,717.33</b>	<b>28,002.51</b>

<b>Country</b>	<b>Contributions/year in USD</b>
Australia	43,167
Bangladesh	19.62
Cambodia	19.62
China	43,167
Fiji	18.5
India	19,826
Indonesia	13,558
Korea, DPRK	135
Korea, Rep. of	43,167
Lao PDR	19.62
Malaysia	8662.5
New Zealand	43,167
Pakistan	2,502
Philippines	4,439
Sri Lanka	834
Thailand	7,828
Viet Nam	4,390
Timor Leste	19.62