



COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

NINETEENTH SESSION

IPPC PLANT HEALTH CAMPUS

AGENDA ITEM 14.1

(Prepared by the IPPC Secretariat)

1. Answering a crucial plant health capacity development need

- [1] Unlike for veterinarians, there is no standardized global training programme for plant health officers within universities or teaching institutions. In addition, many national plant protection organizations (NPPOs) do not have formal training programmes for onboarding new staff, or for continuous learning and skills upgrading of existing staff. Often workers learn how to perform their tasks on-the-job, which can lead to inconsistency in how activities are performed.
- [2] The goal of the IPPC Plant Health Campus is to build national phytosanitary capacity in a sustainable manner. This is being achieved by providing high-quality training materials that can be used to develop or enhance an NPPO's national phytosanitary training programme, as well as to provide training for relevant stakeholders and students. Better-trained NPPO staff are expected to enhance the implementation of international plant health standards and facilitate safe trade.
- [3] The IPPC Plant Health Campus was developed in collaboration with the FAO elearning Academy. It addresses the implementation and capacity development topic, *IPPC plant health officer training curricula* (2017-054) (PHOC, priority 1), while also providing a suite of training materials for Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE) facilitators. The work is funded under the framework of the European Union project, "Strengthening Food Control and Phytosanitary Capacities and Governance" (GCP/GLO/949/EC). This contribution is complemented by other partners, including Canada, the Republic of Korea, and the Committee Linking Entrepreneurship-Agriculture-Development (COLEAD).
- [4] The PHOC working group was established in June 2024 to provide input into the development of the learning platform and the learning pathways tool, and to review the new e-learning courses. The following PHOC deliverables will be publicly available when the project concludes in June 2025:
- the IPPC Plant Health Campus – an e-learning platform hosted on the FAO elearning Academy portal;
 - an online learning paths tool – linking key phytosanitary roles in an NPPO with relevant e-learning courses and IPPC guides;
 - an Onboarding course for NPPO staff;
 - five (5) new e-learning courses based on the following existing guides:
 - *Establishing an NPPO,*
 - *Operation of an NPPO,*
 - *Preparing a national phytosanitary capacity development strategy,*
 - *Managing relationships with stakeholders,*
 - *Resource mobilization: Promoting contracting party partnerships,*

- *Emergency Preparedness: A guide for developing contingency plans for outbreaks of quarantine pests*; and
- an online *Plant pest emergency simulation tool* (2024-002), which will complement the e-learning course on Emergency preparedness and build on IPPC simulation exercises developed for Fusarium TR4 (see **agenda item 14.4**);
- French language versions of two (2) existing e-learning courses and six (6) new e-learning courses; and
- a promotional video introducing the IPPC Plant Health Campus and demonstrating its key features.

[5] This paper provides an overview of the IPPC Plant Health Campus and discusses next steps for promoting its use, increasing the e-learning course offerings, and translating the courses and platform to other FAO official languages.

2. IPPC Plant Health Campus – a portal to learning for NPPO staff and PCE facilitators

[6] The IPPC Plant Health Campus is targeted to plant health professionals, particularly those working with NPPOs. It offers a portal to high-quality e-learning courses and IPPC guides, and supports individuals in developing the skills they need to effectively carry out their functions within an NPPO or as a PCE facilitator.

[7] The IPPC Plant Health Campus is hosted on the FAO elearning Academy site and can be accessed from either the International Phytosanitary Portal or the FAO elearning Academy home pages. The IPPC Plant Health Campus is accessible to anyone, anytime, anywhere in the world, and offers a wide range of e-learning courses, free of charge.

2.1 NPPO Onboarding course – starting with the right foot forward

[8] The NPPO Onboarding course supports new plant health professionals by introducing them to the objectives, responsibilities and operations of an NPPO. It clarifies individual roles, teamwork dynamics and the interaction of various professional profiles within the organization, aligning staff with the NPPO's functions and strategic goals.

2.2 NPPO learning paths – career building

[9] The NPPO learning paths tool helps plant protection professionals identify the knowledge, skills and competencies required for their roles, linking them to relevant learning resources from the IPPC or partners. It supports NPPO staff in understanding their responsibilities, accessing targeted training and exploring career growth opportunities within an NPPO.

2.3 IPPC e-learning courses and IPPC guides - growing the skills of plant health professionals worldwide

[10] Learners will also be able to use the IPPC Plant Health Campus to search the growing library of IPPC e-learning courses and IPPC guides by thematic area (e.g. pest risk analysis, surveillance, market access, emergency response, import and export, inspection and audit, pest pathways, communication and partnerships). It also includes links to the IPPC phytosanitary systems, which bring together relevant technical information on key phytosanitary topics on a single webpage on the International Phytosanitary Portal.

[11] IPPC e-learning courses provide a practical, engaging and effective way of delivering technical knowledge to a large audience. The e-learning courses can be used for self-directed learning, or they can be integrated into national training programmes or used as a component of blended learning approaches. IPPC guides offer more detailed information and guidance related to key phytosanitary systems; they make excellent reference materials that enhance learning, suggest best practices and provide country case studies.

- [12] Learners that successfully complete the IPPC-FAO elearning Academy courses will acquire digital badges. These are verifiable and sharable digital credentials that certify the knowledge and skills acquired by learners and provide recognition of their achievements. The badges can be uploaded to the learner's social media profile and added to their curriculum vitae to clearly demonstrate completed courses.
- [13] The IPPC Plant Health Campus also provides links to other, relevant e-learning courses that have been developed by partner organizations. NPPOs, RPPOs and partner organizations are invited to suggest other publicly available e-learning courses that might be included on the platform.

3. IPPC Plant Health Campus – the path forward

- [14] The IPPC Plant Health Campus is currently available in English. The French version of the site is expected to be launched in 2025, with plans to add other FAO languages (Arabic, Chinese, Spanish and Russian) when funding is available, and more IPPC guides and e-learning courses have been translated to these languages.
- [15] Although a budget of USD 50 000 has been allocated for the translation of some materials to Spanish in 2025, translating these materials has, so far, depended on the generous support of contracting parties, partners and donors. This support either involves providing funds to cover the costs associated with the translation, or by offering the in-kind services of a translator.¹
- [16] Contracting parties are invited to promote the use of the IPPC Plant Health Campus with their NPPO staff, national partner organizations, universities, and the private sector within their countries and regions. NPPOs are strongly encouraged to integrate the IPPC Plant Health Campus into their national training programmes for NPPO staff.

Recommendations

- [17] The CPM is invited to:
- (1) *note* the activities to develop and launch the IPPC Plant Health Campus;
 - (2) *acknowledge* the significant contributions of the European Union, Canada and the Republic of Korea, as well as our partners, the FAO elearning Academy and COLEAD, to the development of the IPPC Plant Health Campus;
 - (3) *encourage* NPPOs to embed the IPPC Plant Health Campus into their national training programmes;
 - (4) *encourage* NPPOs, RPPOs, other international organizations and educational institutions to champion the awareness and use of the IPPC Plant Health Campus within their countries and regions;
 - (5) *note* the translation of most IPPC guides and e-learning courses to French, and the provision of USD 50 000 to translate some materials to Spanish;
 - (6) *encourage* NPPOs, RPPOs and other international organizations to partner with the secretariat to translate all IPPC e-learning courses and guides to Arabic, Chinese, Spanish and Russian; and
 - (7) *encourage* NPPOs to support the continued development of the IPPC Plant Health Campus by sharing phytosanitary training materials that may be included on the platform.

¹ Please contact the secretariat at ippc@fao.org for more information or to discuss how you can help.