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REPORT

Focus Group on Sustainable Funding of the IPPC ePhyto Solution

**Virtual Meeting
29 June 2022**

IPPC Secretariat

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1. Opening of the meeting

- [1] The IPPC Senior Advisor Craig FEDCHOCK opened the meeting and wished participants the best of success for the session. STDF joined the meeting.

2. Meeting arrangements

- [2] The IPPC Secretariat (hereafter “the Secretariat”) provided the necessary operational and administrative updates prior to the start of the meeting.

3. Adoption of the agenda

- [3] The FG members adopted the agenda as presented in Appendix 1 to this report.

4. General presentations

4.1 IPPC ePhyto Solution Revised Costs estimates

- [4] Tom Butterly and Alejandra Danielson Castillo, in collaboration with the Secretariat, prepared a paper on the Revised cost estimates of the ePhyto solution. They presented the latest estimates for the full operational cost of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) ePhyto Solution up to 2025, based on the current figures provided by the IPPC secretariat. The paper also drew on information contained in the 2018 IPPC ePhyto Solution Business Model “Options and Recommendations, 20 June 2018, Final Formatted”. The paper did not consider possible funding options or models to cover the above costs as this will be considered separately by the Focus Group.
- [5] Discussion followed. Members welcomed the breakdown and noted that costs categories are important – to see what is true cost of the solution. Some members thought Programme assistant costs is too low but it did reflect FAO costs. Discussion on the level of professional post for the ePhyto Manager followed and whether it should be P4 or P3.
- [6] It was noted that the Group’s remit was to provide a solution to sustain a ‘minimum viable product’: how much funding is needed to keep ePhyto going. There was discussion about how much it costs for ePhyto to ‘make sense’ as some members commented that capacity building and awareness raising was an important component of ePhyto’s ongoing update and implementation. Note that capacity building not included in the breakdown provided by Tom and Alejandra.
- [7] **Action:** Tom Butterly and Alejandra Danielson Castillo to update the paper (with basic capacity development cost estimates) for next meeting in collaboration with the Secretariat.

4.2. Defining principles for sustainable funding of the ePhyto system

- [8] Group discussed principles around the sustainable funding initiative. They included efficient administration, equity (fair and impartial - doesn’t give unequal access or rights), transparent (easy to see what costs are included), incentives (no unnecessary barriers to entry), feasibility and other.
- [9] There was a comment acknowledging that some IPPC members may have legislative or other challenges funding contributions to fund a sustainable ePhyto but noted domestic systems and how IPPC members choose to implement internal cost recovery was out of scope for the SPG paper.
- [10] **Action:** Keep defining principles as the work develops.

4.3. Discussion (including proposed action plan / next steps)

- [11] Discussion followed on why we were not successful in the past to make the solution sustainable.
- [12] Following points were discussed:
- Need to be really clear on scope of expenses being included and principles;
 - Need to keep it simple – simple language, simple logic;

- Need to provide clear assessment of options against criteria and a recommendation with rationale (be clear on who should pay and why);
- Consider having some case studies to show what it might look like for different contracting parties, e.g. small developing country vs developed country with lots of trade;
- Be clear on the value of ePhyto and emphasise this - the cost is almost inconsequential (for industry). **How** may be more important than **how much**.

[13] **Actions:** Lisa Winthrop and Peter Nemanis to present draft / outline paper for Group discussion at July's meeting

Group to submit ePhyto sustainable funding paper to SPG by the end of September.

5. Any other business

[14] No other business.

6. Date and arrangements of the next meeting

[15] The next meeting will be held on 26 July 2022.

7. Close of the meeting

[16] The Chairperson thanked the participants for their contributions and the Secretariat closed the meeting.

Appendix 1: Agenda

**COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES
FOCUS GROUP ON SUSTAINABLE FUNDING OF THE IPPC EPHYTO SOLUTION
VIRTUAL MEETING**

	AGENDA ITEM	DOCUMENT NO.	PRESENTER
1.	Opening of the Meeting	--	Chairperson / IPPC Secretary
2.	Meeting Arrangements		Marko BENOVIC
2.1.	Document list	02_ePhyto SF FG_2022_June_Tel	
2.2.	Participant list	Link to Membership List	
3.	Adoption of the Agenda	01_ePhyto SF FG_2022_June_Tel	Chairperson
4.	General Presentations		
4.1	IPPC ePhyto Solution Revised Costs estimates		Tom BUTTERLY/Alejandra DANIELSON CASTILLO
4.2	Defining principles for sustainable funding of the ePhyto system		Chairperson/All
4.3	Discussion (including proposed action plan / next steps)	-	Chairperson/All
5.	Any Other Business		Chairperson
6.	Next Meeting	--	Chairperson
7.	Closing of the Meeting	--	Chairperson

Appendix 2: Membership list

FAO Region	Name, Organization, Country	e-mail account
Africa	VACANT	
Asia	Mr Shigemi TEPPEI Deputy Director Plant Protection Division, Food Safety and Consumer Affairs Bureau Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) Japan	teppei_shigemi780@maff.go.jp
Europe	Mr Samuel BISHOP Head of International plant health policy and risk co-ordination York, UK	sam.bishop@defra.gsi.gov.uk
Latin America and the Caribbean	VACANT	
Near East and North Africa	VACANT	
North America	Mr Ibrahim SHAQIR Associate Deputy Administrator, Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) USA	ibrahim.shaqir@usda.gov
Southwest Pacific <i>Chairperson</i>	Ms Lisa WINTHROP Group Manager, Plant Health Group, MPI, New Zealand	lisa.winthrop@mpi.govt.nz
Southwest Pacific / ESG Rep	Mr Peter NEIMANIS EL2, Director Business Systems Program Plant Export Operations Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment Australia	Peter.Neimanis@awe.gov.au
Industry Advisory Group (IAG) Rep	Ms Alejandra DANIELSON Regional Director for South Asia, U.S. Grains Council	adcastillo@grains.org
CPM Bureau Rep	Mr Peter THOMSON Director Plants & Pathways Biosecurity New Zealand	Peter.Thomson@mpi.govt.nz
UNICC Rep	Mr Venkat VENKATESWARAN Head - Applications Delivery United Nations International Computing Centre (UNICC)	venkat@unicc.org
Observer	Mr Tom BUTTERLY ePhyto Initiative Manager, Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation	Tom.Butterly@weforum.org
Observer	Mr Simon Padilla Economics Affairs Officer STDF	
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