



Easing market access through commodity-specific plant health standards

Globally traded commodities such as wheat, grain and fruits help feed the world. International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs), when applied in the trade of agricultural crops and plants, help prevent plant pests from spreading or entering new areas, thus protecting food security and international trade.

ISPM 46 *Commodity-specific standards for phytosanitary measures* provides guidance on the phytosanitary requirements for importing countries. Commodity standards help countries determine the quality and value of particular commodities, hence facilitating smooth domestic and international trade and promoting market efficiency.



About the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)

The IPPC is a multilateral treaty established to protect the world's plants, agricultural products and natural resources from plant pests.

Established in 1951, IPPC is ratified by 185 countries.

The IPPC Secretariat and community are focusing on eight **development agenda items (DAIs)** to achieve the objectives in the [IPPC Strategic Framework 2020-2030](#).

These agenda items, in various stages of implementation, are:

1. harmonization of electronic data exchange;
2. commodity- and pathway-specific International standard phytosanitary measures (ISPMs);
3. management of e-commerce and postal and courier pathways;
4. developing guidance on the use of third-party entities;
5. strengthening pest outbreak alert and response systems (POARS);
6. assessment and management of climate change impacts on plant health;
7. global phytosanitary research coordination; and
8. diagnostic laboratory networking.

Challenges

- » Lack of uniformity in phytosanitary measures or diagnostic protocols to manage the threat of plant pests hinders the trade of plants and agricultural commodities.
- » The absence of harmonized phytosanitary measures reduces trade efficiency and market access, especially for countries with limited capacity to implement and comply with the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and standards.

Solution

The IPPC, the only standard-setting global entity for plant health, is developing new ISPMs to empower countries to protect internationally traded commodities through better monitoring, prevention, detection and response to threats from plant pest. New standards will also aid in addressing import regulation challenges and other phytosanitary issues. All commodity-specific standards will be included as annexes to ISPM 46, under the oversight of the IPPC Standards Committee and direct coordination of the IPPC Technical Panel on Commodity Standards, with worldwide top experts.

Benefits

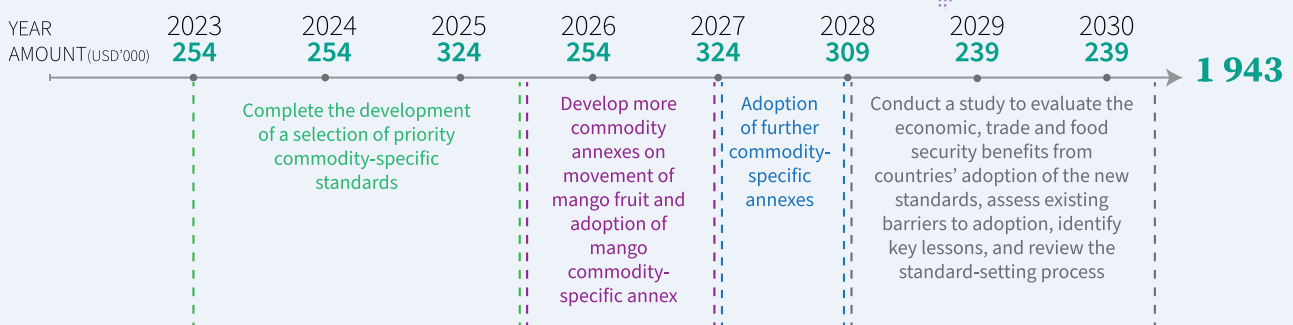
Commodity-specific standards will:

- » facilitate market access, simplify and accelerate trade negotiations, create market opportunities and simplify safe trade in plants and plant products;
- » promote harmonized and technically justified phytosanitary measures and import requirements among IPPC contracting parties;
- » allow developing countries will be able to trade more quickly since harmonized phytosanitary measures will limit restrictions on importation;
- » help national plant protection organizations (NPPOs) optimize the use of their resources;
- » identify and increase awareness of the measures available to manage the pest risk associated with the movement of commodities in international trade; and
- » identify and increase awareness of the commodity-associated pests that are commonly managed by NPPOs.

Current status and opportunity to invest

USD 1.9 million
total budget from 2023–2030

or USD 2.6 million per biennium (current costs to operate and maintain the IPPC ePhyto Solution)



Why your investment matters

- » Your support to the financial and human capital resource requirements in developing and adopting a new standard will greatly impact the process and outcomes of its implementation. Standards setting, which takes two years on average, involves multiple rounds of consultation among countries and regions, with expert working groups and technical panels researching and ensuring the scientific quality of ISPMs. This window provides an opportunity for contracting parties, development partners and donors to support the process.
- » Once the standards are developed, countries may also need support in capacity development to effectively implement the standards.
- » Developing and implementing commodity standards strengthens IPPC's responsiveness to the needs of its contracting parties and the plant health community. It demonstrates the IPPC's significance and legitimacy to current international trade policies and practices.
- » Getting greater market access will help boost economies, especially of developing and least developed countries. This will support achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 8 economic growth, while safeguarding food security and contributing to reduce hunger and poverty.



Funding mechanism

Contact us on how you can contribute financially or in kind by sending an email to ippc-dai@fao.org
For other inquiries, please email Adriana Moreira at adriana.moreira@fao.org.

**Invest in new commodity standards today and help ease
market access and facilitate safe trade.**

CONTACT US

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FIND OUT MORE

[ISPM 46: Commodity-specific standards
for phytosanitary measures](#)

[IPPC Technical Panel on Commodity Standards](#)



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