

*International travel and trade are greater than ever before. As people & commodities move around the world, organisms that present risks to plants travel with them.*

**The International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)** is an international plant health agreement that aims to protect cultivated and wild plants by preventing the introduction and spread of pests.

The Convention came into being in 1951 at the 6<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

Since then, the IPPC has grown into a body that encompasses a worldwide membership of 177 countries as of 01 January 2011.



## How Can I Participate?

Help the IPPC's mission of protecting the world's plant resources from pests by:

- Adhere to the convention if not yet a member country.
- Report and share information through [www.ippc.int](http://www.ippc.int).
- Join standard-setting activities and aid implementation.
- Help build phytosanitary capacity.
- Liaise with regional and national plant protection organizations.
- Participate in CPM and regional meetings.
- Support the IPPC Secretariat through financial or in-kind donations.
- Spread the word about the IPPC!

## Where Can I Find More Information?

Start at our Frequently Asked Questions page at: [www.ippc.int/faq](http://www.ippc.int/faq)

## Contact Us

**Website:** [www.ippc.int](http://www.ippc.int)

**Email:** [ippc@fao.org](mailto:ippc@fao.org)

**Telephone:** +39 06 5705 4812

**Fax:** +39 06 5705 4819

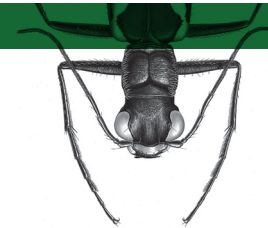
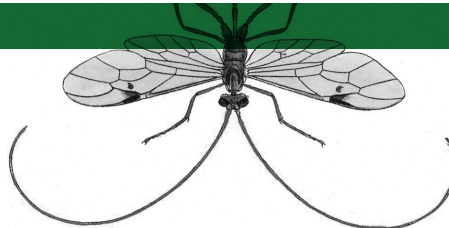
**Address:** IPPC Secretariat, FAO-AGPP, Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Rome, Italy



International Plant Protection Convention

*Protecting the World's  
Plant Resources  
from Pests*





## How the IPPC Helps

By protecting plant resources from pests and diseases, the IPPC helps to:

1. **Protect farmers** from economically devastating pest outbreaks.
2. **Protect the environment** from loss of species diversity.
3. **Protect ecosystems** from loss of viability and function as a result of pest invasions.
4. **Protect industries and consumers** from the costs of pest control or eradication.
5. **Facilitate trade** through Standards that regulate the safe movements of plants and plant products.

**The Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM)** – the meeting of parties to the convention – guides IPPC activities, which are delivered by the IPPC Secretariat, established in 1992 within FAO, Rome, Italy.

**The IPPC Secretariat** facilitates information sharing between member countries, thereby supporting members' efforts to protect their plant resources and trade safely. The Secretariat:

- Facilitates the development and adoption of international standards.
- Helps contracting parties resolve disputes.
- Provides information and technical expertise to national and regional plant protection organizations by hosting and maintaining the [www.ippc.int](http://www.ippc.int) website.
- Helps contracting parties build phytosanitary capacity to protect their wild and cultivated plants, their environments and their food security.
- Organizes meetings & other CPM activities.

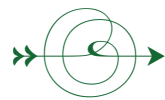
## Phytosanitary Measures & Standards

Phytosanitary measures are any legislation, regulation or official procedure having the purpose to prevent the introduction and/or spread of quarantine pests, or to limit the economic impact of regulated non-quarantine pests.



**International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs)** are internationally agreed upon phytosanitary measures that have been adopted by the consensus of the CPM.

ISPMs cover invasive pests of plants, including weeds that cause indirect damage to plants. The standards covering movement of pests apply to vehicles, ships, aircraft, containers, storage places, soil, wood packaging and other objects that could harbour plant pests. ISPMs facilitate safe trade by providing guidance on procedures, regulations and treatments that can be used to manage pest risks associated with the international movement of goods and conveyances.



**ISPMs are recognised by the World Trade Organization (WTO)** for managing pest risks associated with trade. WTO members are expected to base their phytosanitary measures on international standards developed by the IPPC.

Suggestions for international standards can be made by national or regional plant protection organizations, or by other groups through the IPPC Secretariat. They are developed by technical committees, reviewed by contracting parties and adopted by the CPM.



**There are over 34 ISPMs as of 2010,** covering issues such as plant quarantine and international trade; pest risk analysis; pest free areas; wood packaging material in international trade; and inspection protocols. All ISPMs, including those in draft and consultation stages, are freely available through the IPPC Web site ([www.ippc.int](http://www.ippc.int)) or from the IPPC Secretariat.



## IPPC Partners

**Convention member countries**, to develop phytosanitary measures to manage plant pests.

**Regional plant protection organizations (RPPOs)** to build phytosanitary capacity and address risks associated with movement within and between regions.

**National plant protection organizations (NPPOs)** through governments and local authorities, to respond to plant health risks.



**Technical experts** in contracting party governments, to share information and expertise to strengthen phytosanitary capacity.

**Exporters and importers**, to reduce the movement of pests.



**Producers**, to put in place phytosanitary practices that protect livelihoods, food supply, societies and the environment.

**Civil society**, to build knowledge of phytosanitary capacity to protect biodiversity, ecosystem vitality and conservation.



**Educators**, to promote technical expertise in assessing and managing pest risks, taxonomy, diagnostics and treatment, and to build capacity.

**Media**, to build awareness of the impacts of plant pests, the risks presented by trade and passengers and of everyone's responsibility to manage plant resources for the future.

**Donors**, to fund the creation of programmes that reduce plant pest risks and that promote safe trade in plants and plant products.

