

Establishing global phytosanitary research coordination

Research is a vital component in advancing the science of plant protection. International research collaboration among countries, institutions and disciplines leads to higher scientific quality, efficient resource use, better outcomes and wider adoption of results.

The benefits of collaborating can be realized through mutual interest and common goals, effective leadership, facilitation of processes and structure and funding for both research and collaborative activities. Synergistic collaboration can be achieved by balancing both strategic and applied research.



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 for 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

- » Plant health issues are complex, encompassing issues such as forecasting, early warning and prevention and management of plant pests. A well-coordinated, harmonized and multi-actor response is needed.
- » The sensitivity of trade-related issues at national levels hinders communication and transparency among plant health authorities and other stakeholders call for a harmonized phytosanitary research and shared information.

Benefits

Improved international coordination of plant health research will help to:

- » avoid overlap in research activities, advance plant health research more quickly, and utilize research resources in the most efficient and effective manner;
- » identify important issues around plant health and form the basis for generating more attention and resources towards plant protection;
- » avoid fragmentation and duplication of research activities;
- » ensure rapid and regular identification of common priorities, allocation of funds and commissioning of projects, especially when emergencies occur;
- » provide a means to empower national organizations and funding systems by taking advantage of transnational and global research on regulated plant pests;
- » narrow the divide between high- and low-income countries with regards to research investments and allow them to optimize resources to manage the increasing risks to plant health.
- » use human and financial resources more efficiently and effectively;
- » bring various players to collaborate more closely, break national isolation and reduce the discipline boundaries that have traditionally dominated the plant health sector; and
- » ensure that information is accessible to all members of the global network.



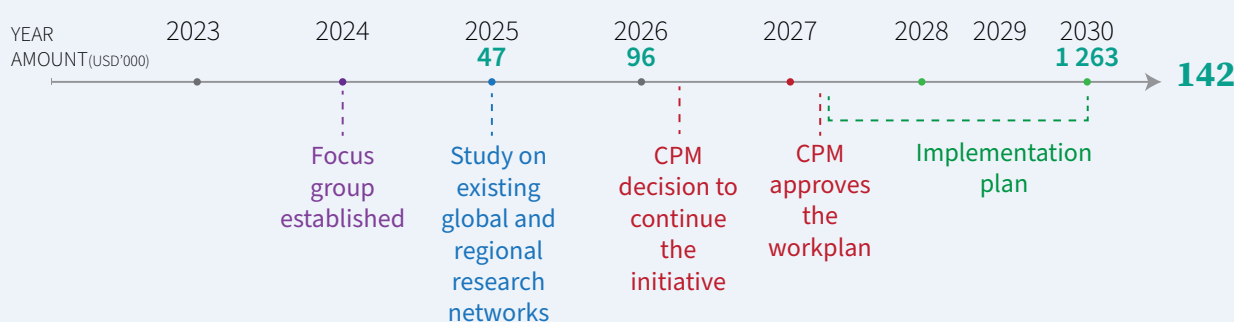
Solution

The 17th session of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures approved in 2023 the establishment of a global phytosanitary research coordination mechanism to allow regular identification of common plant health research priorities, eliminate duplication of research activities and to facilitate efficient use of financial and human resources.



Current status and opportunity to invest

USD 142 000
total budget from 2023-2030



To understand the benefits of developing a global phytosanitary research coordination structure, a study will be carried out to explore current international and regional phytosanitary research structures.

The Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM), the IPPC's governing body, will establish a CPM Focus Group to determine if a gap needs to be filled or an improved mechanism should be established.

The Focus Group will start by 2024 and its continuation would be subject to a CPM decision for the following key performance indicators:

- » Investigation of existing networks and presentation of an update or final report (proposal for research coordination) for CPM decision by March/April 2026.
- » Approve the proposed implementation plan for global phytosanitary research coordination by April 2027.

Why your investment matters

Supporting the scoping study on international and regional phytosanitary structures and areas of study will help reveal any gaps and determine whether a global coordination structure will provide value.

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 Arop Deng at arop.deng@fao.org.



**Invest in the global phytosanitary research
coordination mechanism today.**

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[Science diplomacy for plant health](#)
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