

Joint Work Plan for Cooperation between the Secretariats of the World Customs Organization and the International Plant Protection Convention

Agreed on 2019-03-18

Article 6 of the Agreement (signed 19 June 2018) between the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) on behalf of the Secretariat of the International Plant protection Convention (IPPC) and the World Customs Organization (WCO) stipulates that a joint workplan will be developed and agreed to by the Secretariats on a regular basis. In Article 6 it is indicated that the workplan covers a one year, if possible, or a two year period; however, the Secretariats have agreed to develop a joint workplan for three years, July 2019 – June 2022. Respective governing bodies will be informed, for the IPPC, the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) and for the WCO, the Policy Commission and the Council.

This joint work plan addresses major activities for bilateral cooperation between the Secretariats of the WCO and the IPPC, and it explores further areas of joint work between the two Secretariats. The two Secretariats will review the progress made in the implementation of this joint work plan and prepare a revised plan, as appropriate, for the next period (July 2022 – June 2025) in the first quarter of the 2022. The plan has been developed and agreed to by the two Secretariats, subject to the availability of resources, and includes seven major activities as well as actions under each of them.

This joint work plan will not be deemed or construed to create, or have been intended to create, legally binding obligations between or among the Secretariats and respective Members.

1. Exploring opportunities to organize joint events especially in the context of Trade Facilitation Agreement implementation

The Secretariats would make efforts to recognize roles and opportunities to facilitate trade at a global level and, to the extent possible, protect each other specific interest in the supply chain, with specific reference to the outcomes directed by the TFA.

No	Action	Time frame
1.1	Organize joint workshops on Coordinated Border Management (CBM), National Committees on Trade Facilitation (NCTFs) and Time Release Study (TRS)	2019-2022
1.2	Cooperate to organize side events during the meetings of their respective governing bodies	2019-2022
1.3	Facilitate the presentation of this agreed joint work plan as well as written reports on activities of relevance to respective governing bodies, as appropriate	On going
1.4	Encourage participation of the IPPC Secretariat and National Plant Protection Organization authorities in the meetings of the WCO Working Group on the TFA	On going



2. Promotion of Communication and Advocacy		
Each Secretariat will promote awareness of the themes that the other one will focus on.		
No	Action	Time frame
2.1	Promote International Year of Plant Health (IYPH) and contribute to the global plant health events and awareness campaigns in 2020	2020
2.2	Promote the WCO's annual theme of the year and Commission on Phytosanitary Measures annual themes	2019-2022
2.3	Make available a webpage, on their respective websites, to include information on the areas of collaboration and provide links to each other's web sites and relevant contact information	2019-2022
3. Cross-Border E-Commerce		
No	Action	Time frame
3.1	Address phytosanitary risks in the E-Commerce	2019-2020
3.2	Facilitate the implementation of the IPPC activities on E-Commerce through collaboration among NPPOs, RPPOs, Customs administrations, commercial operators and any relevant stakeholder	2019-2020
4. Cooperation on Electronic Data Exchange (ePhyto)		
The Secretariats will collaborate on activities related to the implementation of electronic phytosanitary certification when and where possible. Emphasis will be placed on integrating the IPPC ePhyto system with national single windows systems when appropriate.		
No	Action	Time frame
4.1	Facilitate the collaboration of technical experts for the purpose of maintaining periodic interactions to ensure that all developments related to electronic phytosanitary certification are shared, understood, and when appropriate, are collaboratively implemented	2019
4.2	Align the WCO Data Model Derived Information Package (DIP) on E-Phyto in line with International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM) 12 <i>Phytosanitary certificates</i>	2021
5. Sea Containers		
The goal of the collaboration on sea containers related issues is to implement the Complementary Action Plan for Assessing and Managing the Pest Threats Associated with Sea Containers as endorsed by the CPM 12.		
No	Action	Time frame
5.1	Explore the feasibility of enhancing the Authorised Economic Operators (AEO) programme by adding/including requirements that other border agencies may enforce	2019-2020
5.2	Investigate possibilities for the use of the WCO Data Model to facilitate tracking of information related to the cleanliness of sea containers	2019-2020
5.3	Facilitate strengthening collaboration between Customs and NPPOs to optimize risk management and inspection processes	2019-2020
5.4	Raise the awareness of Customs organizations on pest risks associated with and cleanliness of sea containers through the development of targeted communication material	2019-2020



5.5	Facilitate implementation of the CPM endorsed Sea Containers Complementary Action Plan (SCCAP) ¹ through multiyear (2017 -2021) and annual work plans .WCO representative to participate actively in this work.	2019-2021
6. Single Window		
No	Action	Time frame
6.1	Explore the development of a common understanding of the single window environment	2019-2020
6.2	Investigate best practices within a single window environment	2019-2020
7. Promote the use of Time Release Study		
No	Action	Time frame
7.1	Explore the possibility of strengthening NPPO participation in TRS at the national level	On going

¹ CPM-12 (2017) Report, SCCAP, Appendix 05 <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/84387/>