

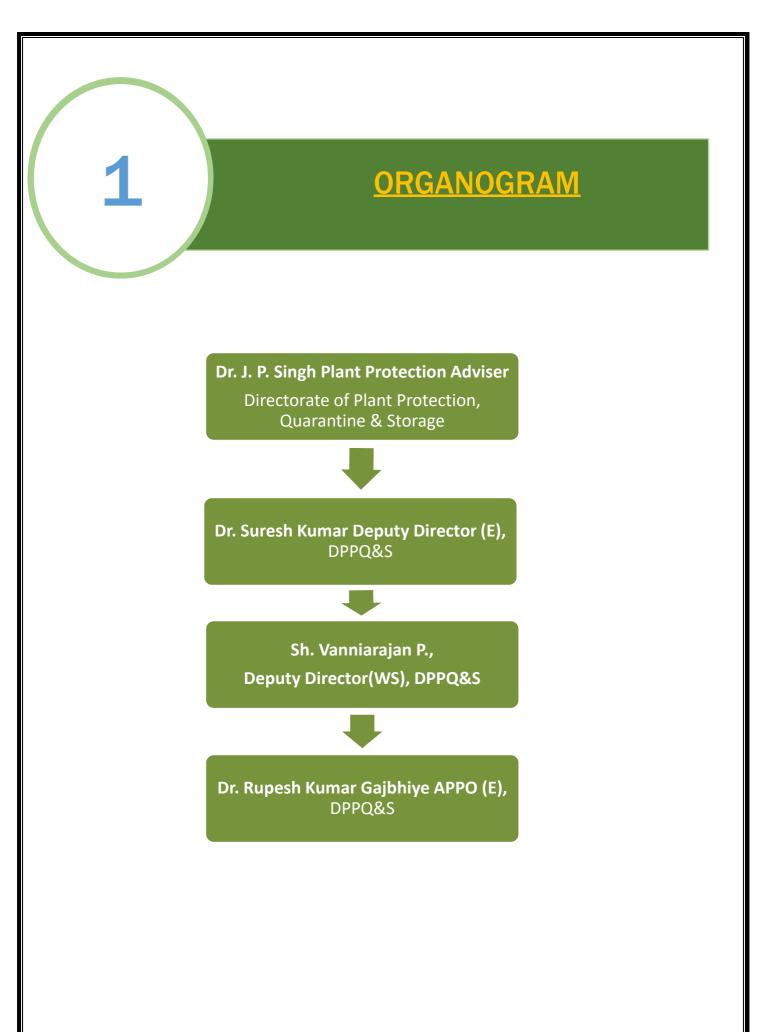
Government of India Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare Directorate of Plant Protection, Quarantine & Storage NH-IV, Faridabad (Haryana)–121001

READY RECKONER

IPPC & Codex Unit DPPQ&S, FARIDABAD

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OFFICERS DETAILS & BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DUTIES

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Sr. No	Name & Designatio n	Address	Contac t Numbe r	E-mail & Mobile No	Phot o
1	Dr. J.P. Singh, Plant Protection Adviser	DPPQ&S, NH-IV, Faridabad	0129-2413985 (O) 0129-2410056 (O) 01292412125 (Fax)	ppa@nic.in	
2	Dr. Suresh Kumar, Deputy Director (E)	Room No. 111 DPPQ&S, NH-IV, Faridabad	0129-2429067 (O) +91 8469553033 (M)	kr.suresh80@gov.in/ ippc-dppqs@gov.in	
3		Room No 111 DPPQ&S, NH- IV, Faridabad	+91 8015957663(M)	pv.rajan@gov.in	
	Rupesh Kumar Gajbhiye APPO(E)	Room No 111 DPPQ&S, NH-IV, Faridabad	+91 9399525257	rupesh.22@gov.in	

BRIEF NOTE ON WTO, SPS, IPPC & CODEX

World Trade Organization(WTO):

- The WTO officially commenced on **1 January 1995** under the Marrakesh Agreement, signed by **123 nations** on 15 April 1994, replacing the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), which commenced in 1948.
- The WTO is the **only global international organization** dealing with the rules of trade between nations.
- WTO agreements are negotiated and signed by the bulk of the world's trading nations and ratified in their parliaments.
- The goal is to help producers of goods and services, exporters, and importers conduct their business.
- India is member country since 1995 and DPPQS / NPPO of India play an important role in Sanitary & Phytosanitary (SPS) related issues.
- The Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement) was formed as part of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations under the auspices of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). The Uruguay Round negotiations took place from 1986 to 1994, and the SPS Agreement was concluded and signed on April 15, 1994.
- The SPS Agreement entered into force on January 1, 1995, along with the establishment of the World Trade Organization (WTO) itself to address concerns related to sanitary and phytosanitary measures in international trade.

The Sanitary & Phytosanitary (SPS) Agreement

- The SPS Agreement refers to the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, which is one of the agreements administered by the World Trade Organization (WTO).
- The SPS Agreement sets out the rules and guidelines for the application of sanitary and phytosanitary measures by member countries.
- Sanitary and phytosanitary measures are regulations and standards related to foodsafety, animal health, and plant health that countries implement to protect human, animal, or plant life or health. These measures can include product testing, certification procedures, inspection requirements, and quarantine measures.
- The objectives of the SPS Agreement are to:
 - 1. Protect human and animal health from risks arising from the importation of unsafe food products or diseases carried by animals.
 - 2. Protect plant life and health from risks associated with the importation of pests or diseases that could harm crops, forests, or ecosystems.
 - 3. Ensure that sanitary and phytosanitary measures are not used as unjustifiable trade barriers or disguised restrictions on international trade.
- Under the SPS Agreement, WTO member countries are encouraged to base their sanitary and phytosanitary measures on international standards, guidelines, and

recommendations developed by relevant international organizations such as the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), and the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

• Furthermore, the SPS Agreement promotes transparency and encourages member countries to notify the WTO of their proposed sanitary and phytosanitary measures. This allows other members to review and provide comments on these measures before they are implemented, fostering a more open and predictable trading environment.

International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC):

- The IPPC is governed by the **Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM)**, which was established under Article XII of the New Revised Text of the IPPC, approved in 1997, and serves as the Convention's governing body. India is one of the contracting parties of IPPC.
- IPPC Secretariat is Hosted at FAO headquarters in Rome
- The IPPC serve as a **Multilateral treaty** for international cooperation in plant protection.
- IPPC mainly focuses on setting international standards, guidelines and recommendations for plant health. Only standard setting organization for plant health recognized by the WTO on the application of SPS Agreement
- Makes provision for the application of measures by governments to protect their plant resources from harmful pests (phytosanitary measures) which may be introduced through international trade.
- IPPC has **184** Contracting parties and **10** RPPOs.
- **47** ISPMs adopted (ISPM **30** being revoked), **31** Diagnostic Protocols and **45** Phytosanitary Treatments.

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS:

- Codex Alimentarius Commission, a body that was established in early November 1961 by the FAO and WHO.
- **Codex Alimentarius** or **Food Code** is a collection of standards, guidelines and codes of practice adopted by the CAC

IPPC & Codex Cell

- The IPPC & Codex issues related with SPS notifications were formally addressed by **PQ** division of DPPQ&S.
- The volume of SPS notifications released daily by member countries on the WTO platform is so large that monitoring and taking relevant steps is a difficult effort in and ofitself.
- On July 29, 2022, a distinct cell IPPC & Codex Cell was established to bridge the gap between the NPPO and IPPC by keeping all divisions in the loop.

<u>CORE ACTIVITIES OF</u> IPPC & CODEX CELL, DPPQ&S

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. Accordingly, a separated IPPC & Codex Cell was established in the Directorate of Plant Protection, Quarantine & Storage on 29 July 2022. The core activities are listed below

- 1. IPPC and codex Cell facilitates the **development and adoption** of international standards Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs).
- 2. IPPC and codex Cell, a division of DPPQ&S/NPPO of India **coordinate with IPPC** from time to time and facilitates the information shared among the member countries by the IPPC Secretariat to protect plant resources from pests and diseases.
- 3. India being member of WTO, IPPC & codex Cell serves as the NPPO's **watch cell** were the WTO website is continually monitored and all notifications relevant to SPS issues are analyzed. After a thorough **examination** of the notifications received, they are prioritized and assigned to the appropriate division for inputs. The comments and viewpoints obtained from the various divisions are then examined and transmitted toDA & FW for further needful action.
- 4. Attends and submits proposals to nominate officials for participation in workshops, trainings, webinars, and sessions organized by IPPC, WTO, APPPC, and others from time to time.
- 5. **Nominates specialized experts** from relevant divisions to develop standards and revise ISPMs in accordance with IPPC requirements when they arise.
- 6. Officers are nominated for specific committees such as e-Phyto solutions, Committee for standard setting, CPM bureau committee, diagnostic protocols etc.
- 7. Officers from IPPC and Codex Cell are amongst members of the core team related to SPS/TBT notifications established by Ministry of Commerce who is monitoring WTO notifications and sharing SPS related notifications to IPPC & Codex Cell for comments. From October 2022 to April 2023, Ministry of Commerce has shared 110 SPS related notifications, all of which were analyzed and responded to on time.
- 8. IPPC and codex Cell is a **contact point for SPS declaration** for the 12th WTO ministerial conference which has been laid to recognize the challenges ahead resulting from emerging pressures that may significantly impact international trade in food, animals and plants. There are five themes/groups outlined under this, with DPPQ&S serving as a nodal agency for Group 1 (Global food security and sustainable food systems).

WORK ALLOCATION

1. Dr. Suresh Kumar, Deputy Director (E)

- Overall In-charge of IPPC-CODEX Cell.
- Coordination and correspondence with Dept. of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (DA&FW) & Dept. of Commerce (DoC) on behalf of the Plant Protection Adviser.
- Primary role includes overseeing the IPPC standard setting process to develop international standards (ISPMs) in line with the national standards (NSPMs)
- Correspondence on the development and use of relevant international standards for phytosanitary measures.
- To attend meeting regarding WTO-SPS matters.
- Other works assigned by the PPA.

2. Sh. Vanniarajan P., Deputy Director (WS)

- Assist in the communication and external cooperation programmes.
- To assist and coordinate with the subordinates for making inputs related to the IPPC and Codex and MRL related issues.
- Coordination with the Plant Protection Adviser on the IPPC & Codex related matters in absence of senior officer.
- To attend meeting regarding WTO-SPS matters in absence of the senior officer.
- Other works assigned by senior officers.

3. Dr. Rupesh Kumar Gajbhiye APPO (E)

- Assisting in preparation of inputs for matters related to the IPPC.
- Assisting in the preparation of comments / inputs for development of ISPMs, RSPMs & NSPMs.
- Assist in preparing the comments on various matters related to the ISPMs adopted standards and other phytosanitary guidelines.
- To attend meetings regarding WTO-SPS matters in absence of senior officers.
- Other works assigned by senior officers.
- Assisting in preparation of inputs for matters related to the APPPC.
- Assisting in the preparation of comments / inputs for development of RSPMs and pest specific phytosanitary measures.
- Preparation of inputs related to webinar, workshop, training etc.
- Other works assigned by senior officers.
- Assisting in preparation of inputs for matters related to the WTO SPS notifications.

- Monitor and assist in the preparation of inputs / comments of weekly WTO SPS notification.
- To coordinate with the PQ and CIBRC Division for preparing the final comments of different WTO-SPS notification.
- Assisting in the preparation of comments / inputs for matters related to SPS-TBT issues of WTO member countries.
- Assist in the preparation of inputs of CODEX related MRL standards.
- Other works assigned by senior officers.

MAJOR ACTIVITIES / ACHIEVEMENTS OF _2022-24

IPPC-APPPC Regional Workshop in Incheon, Republic of Korea:

- Dr. J.P Singh, Plant Protection Adviser participated in the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) Asia Pacific Plant Protection Commission (APPPC) regional workshop held at Incheon, Republic of Korea from 29 August to 02 September 2022.
- The workshop was held in hybrid mode this year, with 27 participants attending in person and 11 participants virtually, from a total of 13 countries in Asia and the Pacific. Participants discussed the six draft standards, especially Revision of ISPM 4



(Requirements for the establishment of pest free areas), Revision of ISPM 18 (Guidelines for the use of irradiation as a phytosanitary measure), and Criteria for evaluation of available information for determining host status of fruit to fruit flies to ISPM 37 (Determination of host status of Fruit to fruit flies (Tephritidae)).

32nd session of the Asia Pacific Plant Protection Commission (APPPC):



• Directorate contributed in the 32nd session of the Asia Pacific Plant Protection Commission (APPPC) which was held from 07.11.2022 to 11.11.2022 at Bangkok, Thailand.

• The participating representative unanimously decided that India would chair the IPM standing committee for the next biennium. Also it has been decided

that India will host IPM Workshop on system approach for management of Mango Fruit Flies.

17th Session of IPPC Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM 17):

• Sh. Ashish Kumar Shrivastava, Joint Secretary (PP) & Dr. J.P. Singh, Plant Protection Adviser represented India in the Seventeenth Session of IPPC Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM 17) held in Rome, Italy during 27-31 March 2023 and

contributed on various phytosanitary matters where in preventing the spread of pest in the international trade discussed and adopted during the session.

Conferences of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions (COP BRS) held at Geneva, Switzerland during May 01 –12, 2023

• The theme of the COPs was

"Accelerating action: targets for the sound management of chemicals and wastes". The Indian delegation was led by Smt. Anshu Singh, Statistical Advisor, MOEFCC.

 Dr. Archana Singh, Joint Director (Chem.) from deputed from MoA&FW as one of the member delegate to participate in the conferences.



Asia Pacific Plant Protection Commission (APPPC) Workshop on Systems Approach for Management of Fruit Flies on Mango in Mumbai, India:



• India hosted the workshop on systems approach for management of fruit flies on mango in Mumbai from June 19th to 23rd, 2023.

• The workshop adopted a hybrid format to enhance engagement with fifteen delegates from thirteen Asia-Pacific countries and two countries joined the workshop virtually, allowing for widespread representation. The Secretariat of APPPC attended in person.

• The workshop was a great success and provided a platform for the participants to share their experiences and knowledge on the systems approach for managing fruit flies in mangoes. The participants also discussed about the ISPMs, importance of GAP and pre-harvest integrated plant health management for mango pests.

 Participants received valuable insights and hands on training on Various post-harvest treatment like Vapour Heat Treatment (VHT), Hot Water Immersion Treatment (HWIT), Irradiation treatment and the traceability system for various fruits & Vegetables, the State department's role in farm registration, and the contribution of the Maharashtra State Agricultural Marketing Board (MSAMB) in the development of Packhouse facilities.