

Terms of Reference of the Working Party on Plant Protection Products (2018)

Background

The first meeting of the Working Party on Pesticides for Plant Protection (WP PPP) took place in 1971 in Wageningen (NL) and it has met every year since. In 1988 the Working Party was renamed as Working Party on Plant Protection Products. Revised Terms of Reference were adopted for this Working Party in 2003 and a further revision was carried out and approved by the Executive Committee in 2018 to better reflect the activities carried out.

Scope

The WPPP covers Member Countries' activities in the authorisation of plant protection products with regard to efficacy (effectiveness and crop safety), the definition of good plant protection practice and the promotion of integrated pest management. EPPO does not address other aspects which are the responsibility of other bodies, such as the safety of operators, the establishment of maximum residue levels for consumers and ecotoxicology¹.

Tasks

The Working Party reports on the work it oversees to the Executive Committee and Council. Some of the following tasks may be delegated by the Working Party to one or more of the Panels which it oversees, in which case this should be made clear through the Panels' Terms of Reference.

- Oversight of technical Panels within its scope, including considering their reports and recommendations and periodically reviewing their terms of reference
- Making any necessary recommendations to the Executive Committee about the membership of Panels
- Approving relevant sections of the annual Work Programme, including the priority actions for Panels and the Secretariat
- Communicating as necessary with the Working Party on Phytosanitary Regulations in relation to issues within the remit of both Working Parties.
- Development, review, revision and withdrawal of EPPO Standards in these series:
 - o PP1 - Efficacy Evaluation of Plant Protection Products
 - o PP2 - Good Plant Protection Practice
- Establishment of collective views on issues within its remit for representation in global and other regional fora
- Development of strategies for combating the problem of resistance to plant protection products
- Promoting systems for forecasting pest outbreaks and warning of the need to take plant protection measures
- Exchange of information on registered products and uses, and integrated and biological protection systems
- Other work delegated by the Executive Committee or Council

¹ Historically the Working Party has also carried out work on beneficial insects and potential risks for the environment
[footnote added at request of WPPPP, not seen by Council]

Way of Working

All member countries are invited to send representatives to the Working Party. Member countries may decide the size and composition of their delegation. Some continuity in attendance is helpful to the efficient conduct of business.

Invitations and agendas are sent to EPPO's official contact points in the member countries (copied to the specific PPP contact point where one is nominated) and permanent observer organisations at least 2 months before the meeting. Delegates are invited to register at least 1 month before the meeting. Documents are posted on an Extranet where they are available to all registered participants.

Meetings of the Working Party are normally chaired by the Director General, assisted by other members of the Secretariat. Decisions are generally taken by consensus. When consensus cannot be achieved the issue or document concerned is normally referred back to the relevant expert Panel for further technical work. In exceptional cases, where reference back to the Panel is unlikely to resolve the issue, the discussion may be reported to Council along with the recommendation which can be supported by most countries, and statements from countries which object, with their reasons. Where decisions have to be confirmed after a meeting, for example by redrafting a document, consultation of those who attended the Working Party may be carried out by e-mail or teleconference. The Working Party may also provisionally approve recommendations to be presented to Council, delegating final agreement of a text to the relevant Panel which can then be consulted by e-mail or teleconference.

Detailed work on drafting of Standards is not normally undertaken in the Working Party but is delegated to Panels.

Representatives of permanent observer organisations in EPPO participate in Working Party meetings as observers. They may speak in meetings, with the agreement of the Chairman, and contribute to discussion, but do not otherwise take part in the decision making process, whether this is by consensus or voting. Where the Chairman considers this necessary the Working Party may meet for certain agenda items without observers present.

The European Crop Protection Association has the status of a permanent observer organisation on this Working Party, in recognition of the contribution by ECPA experts in Panels and the fact that Standards developed under its guidance are directly applicable by ECPA's member companies. Other organisations may be invited by the Working Party to participate as observers in specific meetings.