



 **NC STATE UNIVERSITY**



# NSF Center for Integrated Pest Management



# Brief History of IPPC, the WTO and the SPS

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# The International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)

## World Trade Organization (WTO)

Agreement on the application of sanitary and phytosanitary measures (SPS Agreement)



# Timeline of important plant protection events...

- ▶ 1881: Five countries sign agreement to control spread of Phylloxera
- ▶ 1929: International Convention for the Protection of Plants
- ▶ **1944: Bretton Woods conference**
- ▶ **1947: General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GAAT) signed and established; trade negotiations begin**
- ▶ 1951: UN-FAO adopts International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)
- ▶ 1952: IPPC comes into force
- ▶ 1979: IPPC revised
- ▶ **1986-1994: Uruguay Round: creation of World Trade Organization, SPS Agreement drafted**
- ▶ 1991: IPPC 1979 revision entered into force
- ▶ 1992: IPPC Secretariat established by FAO
- ▶ 1993: The first ISPM is drafted (ISPM No. 1)
- ▶ **1995: WTO established**
- ▶ **1997: IPPC re-revised—supersedes all previous agreements**
- ▶ **2005: IPPC 1997 revision entered into force**

# General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT)

- Multilateral agreement regulating international trade
- **Purpose:** substantial reduction of tariffs and other trade barriers and elimination of preferences, on a reciprocal and mutually advantageous basis

# GATT multilateral negotiations

- Rounds 1-5 (1949-1967) - reducing and removing tariffs (**free trade**)
- Round 6 (1973-79; Tokyo) – aimed at disciplining technical barriers to trade or TBTs (**fair trade**)
- Round 7 (1986-94; Uruguay) aimed at disciplining sanitary and phytosanitary measures (**safe trade**)
- WTO (2001; Doha) establishing single window electronic clearance (**fast trade**) – in process

# GATT multilateral negotiations

## ▶ Uruguay Round (1986-1994)

- Agreements in Agriculture
- Resulted in creation of...
  - The **World Trade Organization (WTO)** and
  - The **Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement)**

# World Trade Organization (WTO)

- Established as a forum for governments to **negotiate** trade agreements, **facilitate** trade between nations and **reduce impediments** to trade
- Only global organization dealing with the rules of trade between nations
- Successor to the GATT





# SPS Agreement

- ▶ Agreement on how governments can apply measures for food safety, animal health and plant health **without unnecessary obstacles to trade**
  - Encourages countries to use international standards, guidelines and recommendations when developing their **SPS measures**
  - **S** = Sanitary = human health and animal health
  - **PS** = Phytosanitary = plant health

# SPS Agreement identifies standard-setting organizations

▶ “The three sisters”

- **Food Safety:** Codex Alimentarius Commission (Codex)
- **Animal Health:** Office international des épizooties (OIE), now the World Organization for Animal Health
- **Plant Health:** International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)

# IPPC-WTO relationship

- Independent organizations linked through the SPS Agreement
- Both are international treaties (Codex and OIE do not have treaty status)
- Different memberships, governance

The **IPPC** is a protection agreement that makes **provision for trade**; whereas the **SPS** is a trade agreement that makes **provision for protection**.

# IPPC History

- ▶ Original IPPC came into force in 1952
- ▶ Amended in 1979 - entered into force in 1991
- ▶ 1997 amendment- entered into force in 2005
  - consistent with SPS principles and
  - formalizes Secretariat and standard-setting

# History of the IPCC



# The New Revised Text of the IPPC (1997)

## ▶ Entry into force

- ▶ The New Revised Text of the IPPC (1997) entered into force on 2 October 2005 (the thirtieth day after it was accepted by two-thirds of the contracting parties to the IPPC - see Article XXI.4 of the New Revised Text). Entry into force of the New Revised Text applies to all contracting parties, including those that had not accepted the new revised text at the time of entry into force.



# IPPC Secretariat

- ▶ Secretariat hosted by FAO and with headquarters in Rome, Italy.
- ▶ Staff consists of a Secretary, a Coordinator and several professional officers and administrative staff.
- ▶ The Secretariat is also complemented by contracting parties providing staff resources through various contributions.
- ▶ Mr. Jingyuan Xia is the Secretary to the IPPC.
- ▶ **Contact Details**  
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# Thank You for Your Attention!

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