

**REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL PLANT PROTECTION
CONVENTION SECRETARIAT (IPPC)**

Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures - 27-29 March 2012

Agenda Item 3(b)(ii) - Information from Observer Organizations

The following communication, received on 26 March 2012, is being circulated at the request of the IPPC secretariat.

I. INTRODUCTION

1. This report covers the period November 2011 – March 2012.
2. The Seventh Session of Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM-7) took place on 19 -23 March 2012 and the highlights of the outcomes are presented in the current IPPC reports. The activities of Capacity Development and Implementation Review and Support System (IRSS) are presented in separate documents.
3. The Committee is invited to note that as of March 2012, there are 177 contracting parties to the IPPC (the same as reported in October 2011).

II. STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK AND ISSUE SPECIFIC STRATEGIES

A. STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

4. The IPPC Strategic Framework 2012-2019 was adopted during CPM-7 ("[https://www.ippc.int/index.php?id=1110798&frompage=13330&tx_publication_pi1\[showUId\]=2183947&type=publication&L=0](https://www.ippc.int/index.php?id=1110798&frompage=13330&tx_publication_pi1[showUId]=2183947&type=publication&L=0)"), and has four major strategic objectives, namely:
 - (a) protect sustainable agriculture and enhance global food security through the prevention of pest spread;
 - (b) protect the environment, forests and biodiversity from plant pests;
 - (c) facilitate economic and trade development through the promotion of harmonized scientifically based phytosanitary measures; and
 - (d) develop phytosanitary capacity for members to accomplish (a), (b) and (c).
5. These take into account the changing global context and encompass key IPPC initiatives / actions that are designed to support the world's needs and demands for (i) a safe and secure food supply, (ii) a protected environment, (iii) sustainable trade and economic growth, and (iv) a coordinated capacity development programme.

B. ISSUE SPECIFIC STRATEGIES

6. The Capacity Development Strategy was adopted during CPM-5 (March 2010), and the Resource Mobilization Strategy was adopted during CPM-7 (March 2012). CPM has identified the Communication Strategy as a high priority for 2012 as it is essential to complement the IPPC Resource Mobilization Strategy, as well as to increase awareness and the profile of the IPPC.

III. STANDARD SETTING WORK PROGRAMME

A. GENERAL DEVELOPMENT

7. CPM-7 agreed to changes to the IPPC standard setting process to improve efficiency, transparency and member participation. The IPPC reviews its' standard setting process every 4-5 years and in 2011 both OIE and Codex participated in this IPPC process. In response to the recommendations of the IPPC Focus Group, convened in July 2011 to consider ways to improve the IPPC standard setting process, the CPM approved 25 of the 31 recommendations from the Focus Group and adopted a revised standard setting process. These recommendations will be further studied by the IPPC secretariat and phased in over the next year. Some of the more significant changes are the extension of the time for the formal member consultation period as well as the commenting period; the latter focuses on substantial concerns. In addition, the authority to approve diagnostic protocols has been delegated to the Standards Committee and contracting parties to the IPPC agreed that the CPM will no longer hold evening sessions to review comments on draft standards unless exceptional circumstances are presented.

B. ADOPTED ISPMs

8. The CPM-7 (2012) adopted the following standards:

- Integrated measures for plants for planting (2005-002);
- Systems approach for pest risk management of fruit flies (Tephritidae) (2004-022);
- Supplement 1 to ISPM 5. Glossary of phytosanitary terms: Guidelines on the interpretation and application of the concepts of "Official control" and "Not widely distributed" (2005-008);
- Amendments to ISPM 5. Glossary of phytosanitary terms (1991-001);
- Russian language version of ISPM 5. Glossary of phytosanitary terms;
- Diagnostic protocol for Plum pox virus (2004-007);
- Diagnostic protocol for *Trogoderma granarium* (2004-006).

9. All currently approved International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures can be found here: ["https://www.ippc.int/index.php?id=1110798&frompage=13399&tx_publication_pi1\[showUid\]=2181813&type=publication&L=0"](https://www.ippc.int/index.php?id=1110798&frompage=13399&tx_publication_pi1[showUid]=2181813&type=publication&L=0).

10. In addition, the CPM adjusted the list of topics for IPPC standards by deleting ten topics for standards and modifying priorities, and requested the Standards Committee to consider the newly adopted IPPC Strategic Framework and assign the relevant strategic objectives to each topic. The CPM also agreed on a way to move forward on the development of specific phytosanitary treatments that are proposed for inclusion in ISPM 15, which deals with the treatment of wood packaging material.

11. Standards adopted at CPM-6 (2011) were reviewed by Language Review Groups in French, Russian and Spanish to adjust the standards to take into account language preferences. These versions were noted by CPM-7 (2012) and will replace former versions of these standards.

12. Translation of "should" in French in standards was not resolved and will be considered again at CPM-8 (2013).

13. The main results of the Open-Ended Workshop on the international movement of grain were considered by CPM and the specification on this topic will be further developed and sent for member consultation. Based on the feedback from members, the Standards Committee will develop recommendations to be considered further by CPM.

C. COMMENTING PERIOD PRIOR TO CPM-7 (2012) AND THE ONLINE COMMENT SYSTEM (OCS)

14. The IPPC Online Comment System (OCS) was used to collect substantive comments on draft standards recommended to CPM-7 (2012). This was the first time the system presented draft standards in all FAO languages. The IPPC secretariat has had positive feedback on the OCS, and has now been approached by several other organizations that wish to use the OCS including Codex. It is hoped that synergies will be developed and costs shared which will allow the system to be continuously improved.

15. Many members and international organizations have also expressed interest in cloning the IPPC OCS to be used for their own commenting purposes, and the IPPC secretariat has been investigating this.

D. 2012 WORK PLAN

16. The 2012 budget and work plan for standard setting is in place and includes, in addition to the meetings of the Standards Committee, a meeting of one expert working group (Sea Containers) and meetings of the Technical Panel on Diagnostic Protocols, Technical Panel on the Glossary and Technical Panel on Phytosanitary Treatments. In addition, the IPPC secretariat continues to use web based technology to hold virtual meetings.

IV. INFORMATION EXCHANGE

A. CONTACT POINTS

17. IPPC contact points continue updating their information at least once a year. This means that contracting parties communicating with other IPPC contact points should visit the IPP frequently to ensure they have the latest contact information. In addition, the secretariat continues to work with a small number of countries that need to nominate their IPPC contact points officially.

B. INTERNATIONAL PHYTOSANITARY PORTAL (IPP) [HTTPS://WWW.IPPC.INT](https://www.ippc.int)

18. There continues to be a lot of information being made available by countries through the IPP and the IPPC secretariat. Countries are encouraged to periodically visit the site for updates.

19. The IPP now provides Russian navigation and partial navigation in Chinese - this is being continuously improved.

20. Usage of the IPP continues to increase but it is apparent that this can be improved in certain regions and in certain countries. Internet access/reliability has a role to play in certain countries, but access in many countries is improving.

21. The information available through the IPP has substantially increased the amount of information available to support standard implementation, capacity development and the Implementation Review and Support System (IRSS). This information is being increased continually and is available through:

- (i) IPPC implementation: <http://www.phyto sanitary.info>
- (ii) IRSS: <https://www.ippc.int/index.php?id=1111059&L=0#irssactivities>
- (iii) IRSS Help Desk: <https://www.ippc.int/index.php?id=1111059&L=0#helpdesk>
- (iv) IPPC Projects Database: <http://projects.phyto sanitary.info>

C. PEST REPORTING

22. National pest reporting continues to improve but there is still potential for further improvement. The 2011 reporting year saw a substantial increase in the number of pest reports and 2012 has started with a significant number of reports. The secretariat is working on this information to allow users to access this information in a more constructive and analytical manner.

D. COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY

23. The IPPC secretariat has developed a draft IPPC communications strategy that is now available for comment. The 60th Anniversary of the IPPC in 2012 has provided an opportunity to increase the visibility and profile of the IPPC, particularly in support of the IPPC Resources Mobilization Strategy. The 60th Anniversary is celebrated through: <https://www.ippc.int/60years>. Increasing amounts of electronic material is available for use and download at: <https://www.ippc.int/60years/media>

V. DISPUTE SETTLEMENT

24. The phytosanitary trade dispute between South Africa and the European Union is on-going and further announcements will be made as information becomes available and when appropriate. The IPPC secretariat unfortunately had resources challenges in 2011 that have impacted this process, but this will now be addressed more pro-actively.

25. The IPPC secretariat would like to note the success of informal discussions through the IPPC secretariat and FAO in the past for dispute avoidance and dispute settlement. A number of phytosanitary disputes have been avoided / resolved in this way before becoming formal disputes. Such "dispute avoidance" mechanisms are encouraged and the IPPC secretariat is available to continue facilitating this process.

26. The IPPC is in the process of reviewing the IPPC Dispute Settlement system and the outcome should be available in 2013 for the Eighth Session of CPM.

VI. RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

27. The secretariat would like to thank all those contracting parties that have contributed to the 2011 budget of the IPPC. The secretariat would also ask that they keep doing so by expressing their intention of further contributions in 2012. Although the IPPC work programme has been significantly reduced due to resource constraints, support from some member countries has been encouraging and will help to ensure the core work programme will be delivered. A full list of in-kind support is made available to CPM each year – ["https://www.ippc.int/index.php?id=1110798&frompage=13330&tx_publication_pi1\[showUid\]=2183770&type=publication&L=0"](https://www.ippc.int/index.php?id=1110798&frompage=13330&tx_publication_pi1[showUid]=2183770&type=publication&L=0).

28. The sustainability of the IPPC secretariat, and hence the work programme of the IPPC, is being addressed as a matter of urgency on an ongoing basis. The current resource allocation (financial and human resources) is simply not sustainable, although slightly improved for 2012. Therefore, the Secretary is giving this his highest priority and has begun discussions with the governing body and some partners to improve the situation in the foreseeable future.

29. Under the IPPC Resource Mobilization Strategy adopted in CPM-7, specific resource mobilization efforts will be made based on operational work plans to be developed.

30. It is essential the IPPC receive regular and predictable contributions to allow appropriate planning and delivery of the core IPPC work programme, i.e. to provide sustainability to the programme. However, it should be also noted that FAO, the organization hosting the IPPC secretariat, has been continuously facing a severe financial challenge and is seeking cost reduction efforts in most areas; the resources available to the IPPC activities may be affected as well.

31. As the year 2012 is the 60th Anniversary of the IPPC, the IPPC secretariat has been organizing celebration activities but within the very limited resources currently available. This should be linked with awareness raising-efforts to increase resources available from donors.

32. The secretariat would welcome any discussions with contracting parties or partner organizations that could provide solutions to the current challenges, particularly in the medium to long term.

VII. IMPORTANT MILESTONE FOR ELECTRONIC CERTIFICATION IN THE IPPC (EPHYTO)

33. ePhyto is a high priority for CPM and the electronic version of ISPM 12: 2011 phytosanitary certificate is nearing completion. This will be a major step forward for the IPPC and will greatly facilitate trade between some trading partners. Should additional resources become available, there is an ePhyto workshop planned for the second half of 2012 in Brazil.

VIII. COOPERATION WITH THE WTO STANDARD SETTING ORGANIZATIONS

34. CPM-7 considered the "Recommendations on Joint Work by WTO-SPS Agreement Standards Setting Bodies" as agreed in the WTO SPS Committee meeting in October 2011 and:

- (i) welcomed the recommendations of the WTO SPS Committee;
- (ii) considered these recommendations by the SPS Committee in the context of the overall work programme, priorities and available resources;
- (iii) agreed these activities are already ongoing in the work programme as agreed by ICPM-7 (2005);
- (iv) requested the IPPC secretariat to provide updates on its activities with Codex and OIE in the IPPC secretariat report to the SPS Committee and actively to exchange information with Codex and OIE on matters of mutual interests; and
- (v) noted that any additional work arising from these activities that are added to the CPM work programme will need to be accompanied by associated additional resources.

35. The IPPC secretariat would like to note on-going formal activities with the "three sisters" since the initial decision of ICPM-7 in 2005, and draw attention to the following current on-going activities with Codex and OIE:

- (i) Codex and OIE were invited to participate in the review of the IPPC standard setting process in July 2011;
 - (ii) Codex and OIE have expressed interest in examining more closely the new on-line comment system (OCS) developed by the secretariat to obtain country comments on draft ISPMs;
 - (iii) Codex, OIE and the IPPC now undertake in-depth consultations on Standard Trade and Development Facility (STDF) activities to understand each other's positions and coordinate activities and responses;
 - (iv) There is ongoing cooperation between the "three sisters" on SPS-related capacity development projects, if and when appropriate;
 - (v) The secretariat has initiated coordination meetings between the "three sisters" to improve coordination and collaboration in SPS Committee meetings; and
 - (vi) Ad-hoc consultations are undertaken as and when subjects arise that are of mutual interest.
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