

IPPC CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures 27-29 March 2012

Agenda Item 9 (c) - Information from Observers

The following communication, received on 26 March 2012, is circulated at the request of the International Plant Protection Convention secretariat (IPPC).

1. Introduction

1. The Second Expert Working Group on Capacity Development (EWGCD) took place in Montego Bay, Jamaica, on 23-27 May 2011. All FAO regions were represented, except Africa. Two observers, the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), participated in the meeting.

2. At this meeting, the EWGCD considered several initiatives of the short term work plan and prepared the final draft of the Capacity Development Work Plan, as well as the proposal for an oversight structure for IPPC capacity development.

2. Use of the Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation Tool

3. In 2011, the IPPC secretariat staff facilitated the use of the Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation Tool (PCE) in eight developing countries (Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Burundi, Lebanon, Lesotho, Mozambique and Oman). Some countries have developed strategic frameworks from their use of the PCE. Many donors are now requiring a PCE to be performed as a pre-condition in assessing fitness for funding of project proposals submitted for consideration, as had been recommended at CPM-6 (2011). The Capacity Building area of the Codex Alimentarius is evaluating the possibility to develop a similar tool for the same purposes, following guidance from the PCE.

4. Up to the end of November 2011, the secretariat had received 32 requests for facilitation of the PCE application in 2012.

3. IPPC Capacity Development Projects

5. In 2011, the secretariat collaborated with donor agencies and contracting parties in the delivery of technical assistance for capacity building projects, funded through various sources. The secretariat primarily dealt with FAO projects, which are still a major part of the capacity development activities of the secretariat. However, the secretariat is increasingly involved, under a supervisory or implementation agreement, with the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) because of the need to address SPS related issues and the availability of STDF funds.

6. In 2011, 35 different capacity development projects, at the national, regional and global levels, required the participation of the IPPC secretariat. These projects are at various stages of development, funded by different sources and initiatives and require different types of inputs. Among them, and as the product of a focused effort of the EWGCD, a project named: "Global Phytosanitary Manuals, Standard Operating Procedures and Training Kits", was presented to the STDF for funding by Jamaica, Sudan, Cote d'Ivoire and Malaysia, strongly supported by NPPOs and RPPOs around the world. The aim of the project is to increase the ability of developing countries to access basic national documentary procedures for effective implementation of the IPPC and its standards. The project was approved in March 2011, with an STDF contribution of US\$600 000, to be implemented by the IPPC secretariat.

7. Considering multiple requests received to provide tools on pest risk assessment (PRA) in addition to the training course on PRA in the International Phytosanitary Portal (IPP), the secretariat partnered with several other organizations (the Inter-American Development Bank, the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, and the US Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service) to develop a comprehensive training programme on pest risk assessment in Spanish and English, in the form of an E-learning course. This addressed an urgent need for training in PRA in the Latin American and Caribbean region, and has worldwide application. It could be translated into other languages if resources are available. This is the first project of its kind and represents the type of direction the IPPC secretariat wishes to take in the area of capacity development.

4. Phytosanitary Resources

8. The EWGCD agreed to create an inventory of available technical resources in all languages, through a call for resources posted on the IPP, directed to all IPPC contracting parties, RPPOs and relevant organizations. This was undertaken in order to prioritize the technical resources to be developed through the previously mentioned STDF project and avoid overlaps. With this aim also in mind, the EWGCD prepared lists of priorities for the development of manuals and standard operating procedures (SOPs) in different areas of activity of the NPPOs.

9. As of November 2011, nearly 300 manuals, reports, handbooks, guidelines, links, etc, have been received by the secretariat and are being considered by the EWGCD. Further decisions on the upload of these contributions into the Resources page of the IPPC will be made at the 2012 meeting of the EWGCD.

10. To assist with prioritizing the resources to be developed under the STDF project, the EWGCD is proposing to use an independent prioritization tool developed by the STDF, the Multi Criteria Decision Analysis approach. Other sources of information, such as PCE data, the requests received during capacity development activities and specific concerns of the CPM subsidiary bodies (e.g. Standards Committee) and international and regional organizations such as the WTO and RPPOs, could also be considered during this process.

11. These phytosanitary resources are going to be made available on a specific Website (<http://www.phytosanitary.info>) under the following categories: Media library, Training material, Advocacy, Databases and Tools, Upcoming events and Miscellaneous, and will include presentations, photos, videos, E-learning courses, manuals, SOPs, and completed PRAs.

12. Using additional resources for capacity development through the FAO regular programme in the last quarter of 2011, the secretariat contracted CABI to develop one study and prepare two manuals as an advanced approach to the population of the resource page. It was perceived that more clarity on the use of the concept of equivalence in the plant health area was needed. Additionally under the same agreement with CABI, two manuals were produced: "A guide to market access

negotiations for NPPOs" and "A manual on handling transit of consignments presenting possible pest risks".

5. Development of a Separate IPPC Trust Fund for Capacity Development

13. Broadening and strengthening partnerships towards more targeted support for the implementation of the IPPC strategy for building national phytosanitary capacity is a key objective of the IPPC.

14. A general trust fund for IPPC capacity development (CD trust fund) was created in December 2011. At every CPM there is a specific call made for extra-budgetary resources to be provided to support important IPPC activities. Following the establishment of the Capacity Development Strategy there has been more interest in contributions earmarked for specific purposes. In this regard there was a need to create a new trust fund to accept these contributions since the current General IPPC Trust fund structure and rules do not accommodate them. This separate trust fund allows donors to deposit funds for specific purposes for capacity development and provides a platform for greater accountability on the part of the IPPC.

15. The CD trust fund will accept voluntary contributions from external partners for implementation by the IPPC, either alone or in collaboration with others, and for specific purposes. In the case of un-earmarked contributions, the CD trust fund may be used for any element or number of activities outlined in the strategy so long as those activities have been prioritized. Contributions that are earmarked for agreed purposes with a donor shall not overlap with traditional FAO projects. The donor may opt to establish a separate agreement with the IPPC for the administration of those funds for what is referred to in the FAO context as "baby projects" under this CD trust fund, or they may be deposited directly into the CD trust fund. Since the IPPC National Capacity Development strategy is broad this provides potential donors, traditional and non-traditional, greater scope to collaborate with the IPPC on a range of topics, knowing that all funding can be tracked and accounted for under a single trust fund or through baby-trust funds associated with it.

16. Due to the global nature of the IPPC capacity development strategy, the activities to be supported through the above CD trust fund may be applied to global, regional or national initiatives as long as they do not overlap with FAO funded projects. Preference will be for projects for global application. For projects or initiatives that focus on one or a few countries, the IPPC will ensure that the budget holder responsibilities are retained by the respective FAO offices in the relevant countries for activities that are to be implemented nationally.

17. Types of projects that can be supported under this programme include:

- Advisory services (e.g. project reviews, provision of technical opinions, etc.);
- Technical backstopping (e.g. supervision of projects, country capacity evaluations project writing etc.); and
- Implementation (training, workshops, case studies and other research oriented activities, provision of expert services, project management).

The types of projects shall not be limited to the above but should be aligned with the table of activities envisioned by the IPPC national capacity development strategy.

18. The CD trust fund will improve participation, particularly of least developed or developing countries, in training and other capacity development activities. The IPPC has established the CD trust fund to encourage donors to support NPPOs in improving their ability to reduce the risks of the

global movement of plant pests, particularly in trade, by building capacity at the policy, legislative, organizational and technical levels.

19. During CPM-7, Japan announced a generous contribution to the IPPC CD trust fund, in terms of providing assistance for the work of the new oversight structure for CD.

6. Oversight structure for the IPPC Work on Capacity Development

20. At the Second Expert Working Group on Capacity Development (EWGCD), the discussion on the establishment of a body or specialized structure on CD was addressed, according to the instructions received from CPM-5 (2010).

21. Based on these discussions the CPM Bureau recommended that:

- A more formal structure to provide guidance and oversight of the IPPC capacity development programme was needed;
- The secretariat prepare a proposal to send to the CPM via the Informal Working Group on Strategic Planning and Technical Assistance (SPTA), for the establishment of either a capacity development subsidiary body or for a capacity development group.

Both proposals were presented to CPM-7 for consideration.

22. The CPM addressed first the issue of the working format of the oversight structure for capacity development and decided to select the format of a Technical Committee for two years. After two years the CPM should review the function of the Committee, including whether to establish a subsidiary body.

23. The CPM decided finally to establish an IPPC Capacity Development Committee (CDC), under specific Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure, which should be operational as of 2013. In the meantime, the EWG CD shall continue its work in the area of capacity development.
