

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

Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures – 10-11 July 2012

Agenda Item 3(b)(ii) - Information from Relevant SPS Standard-Setting Bodies

The following communication, received on 6 July 2012, is being circulated at the request of the IPPC secretariat.

I. INTRODUCTION

1. This report covers the period April – June 2012.
2. The Seventh Session of the 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 of the Implementation Review and Support System (IRSS) are presented in separate documents.
3. 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, as previously reported, was adopted during the seventh session of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) (2012) ("[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)"). The four major strategic objectives, listed below, underscore the broad range of issues covered by the IPPC's activities and take into account the changing global context. The four strategic objectives are:
 - (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. The IPPC intends to use these strategic objectives as a key part of its effort to increase awareness and the profile of the IPPC.

B. ISSUE SPECIFIC STRATEGIES

6. The Capacity Development Strategy was adopted during CPM-5 (2010), and the Resource Mobilization Strategy was adopted during CPM-7 (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. ADOPTED INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS FOR PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES (ISPMs)

7. The ISPMs adopted at CPM-7 (2012), and the ISPMs adopted at CPM-6 (2011), reviewed by the Language Review Groups for French, Russian and Spanish and noted by CPM-7 (2012), have been posted on the IPP webpage under the Adopted Standards section: <https://www.ippc.int/index.php?id=13399>.

B. NEW IPPC STANDARD SETTING PROCEDURE

8. The decisions on improving the standard setting process and the IPPC standard setting procedure adopted by the CPM-7 (2012) were presented to the Standards Committee (SC) at its meeting in April 2012. The SC agreed that flexibility was the key to implement the decisions. The new consultation periods will be implemented progressively (see below for 2012 consultation periods).

C. MEMBER CONSULTATION ON DRAFT ISPMs

9. The following draft ISPMs were approved for member consultation by the SC in April 2012 (see April 2012 SC meeting report, sections 5 and 6: <https://www.ippc.int/index.php?id=13355>):

- The revised Appendix 1 on *Electronic certification, information on standard XML schemes and exchange mechanisms* (2006-003) to ISPM 12:2011 (*Phytosanitary certificates*);
- *Determination of host status of fruits and vegetables to fruit fly (Tephritidae) infestation* (2006-031);
- Draft Annex on *Establishment of fruit fly quarantine areas within a pest free area in the event of an outbreak* (2009-007) to ISPM 26:2006 (*Establishment of pest free areas for fruit flies (Tephritidae)*);
- Draft Annex on *Diagnostic Protocol for Tilletia indica Mitra* (2004-014) to ISPM 27:2006 (*Diagnostic protocols for regulated pests*);
- Draft Annex on *Diagnostic Protocol for Guignardia citricarpa Kiely* (2004-023) to ISPM 27:2006 (*Diagnostic protocols for regulated pests*).

10. The 2012 member consultation period lasts 110 days. It began on 1 July 2012 and ends on 20 October 2012. Comments must be submitted through the IPPC contact point in the IPPC Online Comment System (OCS: <http://ocs.ippc.int/index.html>). The draft ISPMs can be downloaded from the IPPC OCS. The secretariat, in consultation with the stewards, has prepared and posted background documents and power point presentations for these draft ISPMs (<https://www.ippc.int/index.php?id=207803>).

11. The secretariat will also use the OCS during the 2012 regional workshops for the review of draft ISPMs for demonstration purposes and ease of sharing workshop comments. The main objectives are to train workshop participants to help them use the system when they return to their country and to simplify the sharing process and submission of comments to the IPPC secretariat.

D. APPROVED SPECIFICATION

12. The SC approved Specification 55 for *Safe handling and disposal of waste with potential pest risk generated during international voyages* (2008-004) (see April 2012 SC meeting report, section 7: <https://www.ippc.int/index.php?id=13355> and <https://www.ippc.int/index.php?id=24119>).

E. MEMBER CONSULTATION ON DRAFT SPECIFICATIONS FOR ISPMs

13. The following draft specifications were approved for member consultation by the SC in April 2012 (see April 2012 SC meeting report, sections 8.4 and 8.5: <https://www.ippc.int/index.php?id=13355>):

- *International movement of cut flowers and branches* (2008-005);
- *International movement of grain* (2008-007).

14. This consultation period lasts 60 days. It began on 1 June 2012 and ends on 31 July 2012. Comments must be submitted through the IPPC contact point in the IPPC OCS. The draft specifications can be downloaded from the OCS.

F. SUBSTANTIAL CONCERNS COMMENTING PERIOD FOR DRAFT ISPMs:

15. According to the new IPPC standard setting procedure adopted by the CPM-7 (2012), the Working Group or the Technical Panels (TPs) revise the draft ISPMs prior to the CPM meeting, taking into account the comments received during member consultation. Once the SC Working Group or TP recommends the draft ISPM to the SC, the secretariat makes it available to IPPC members for the substantial concerns commenting period and notifies IPPC members.

16. Thus, taking into account the comments that were received during the 2011 member consultation, the following draft ISPMs were reviewed by the SC Working Group in April 2012 and recommended to the SC (see April 2012 SC-7 report: <https://www.ippc.int/index.php?id=13355>):

- Draft Annex on *Pest risk analysis for plants as quarantine pests* (2005-001) to ISPM 11:2004 (*Pest risk analysis for quarantine pests, including analysis of environmental risks and living modified organisms*)
- Revised Annex 1 on *Approved treatments associated with wood packaging material* (2006-011) to ISPM 15:2009 (*Regulation of wood packaging material in international trade*)

17. The secretariat has posted the draft ISPMs in the IPPC OCS and opened the substantial concerns commenting period on 15 May 2012. The 2102 substantial concerns commenting period lasts 135 days and will end on 30 September 2012. All substantial concerns must be submitted by the IPPC contact point in the IPPC OCS. All background documents are posted on the IPP website: <https://www.ippc.int/index.php?id=111115>.

G. EXPERT WORKING GROUP (EWG) ON SEA CONTAINERS

18. A EWG meeting on Sea Containers was held in Malaysia from 28 May to 1 June 2012. The EWG developed a draft ISPM on *Minimizing pest movement by sea containers and conveyances in*

international trade and provided input to the development of a technical guidance to be used by industry. Further work continues on the development of a communication plan and an implementation plan.

H. WORK PLAN FOR THE SECOND SEMESTER OF 2012

19. The work plan for standard setting for the second semester of 2012 includes, in addition to the November meeting of the Standards Committee, meetings of the Technical Panels 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

20. A significant number of IPPC contact points have updated their information in the last three months. 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)

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

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

23. Usage of the IPP continues to increase but it is apparent that this can be improved in certain regions and in certain countries. Countries that are reporting certain IPPC obligatory information to the WTO are encouraged to provide this information (minimal modification is necessary) through the IPP to ensure they meet their IPPC reporting obligations.

24. The information available through the IPP has substantially increased the number of information resources 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) Resources in Support of IPPC Implementation: <http://www.phytosanitary.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.phytosanitary.info>;
- (v) eLearning: <http://elearning.phytosanitary.info>.

C. PEST REPORTING

25. 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

26. The IPPC secretariat has developed a draft IPPC communications strategy that is being submitted to the IPPC Strategic Planning Group (SPG) for finalization. Adoption by CPM-8 is anticipated in 2013.

27. The 60th Anniversary of the IPPC is celebrated through: <https://www.ippc.int/60years> and a video on the IPPC is available at: "<https://www.ippc.int/60years/2012/05/video-the-international-plant-protection-convention-at-60/>".

28. Increasing amounts of electronic material is available for use and download at: <https://www.ippc.int/60years/media>

29. The following social media pages for the IPPC are available:

- (a) Facebook: "http://www.facebook.com/pages/International-Plant-Protection-Convention-IPPC/113230338690380?ref=tn_tnmn";
- (b) Twitter: <https://twitter.com/#!/ippcnews>;
- (c) LinkedIn: http://www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=3175642&trk=hb_side_g;
- (d) Flickr: http://www.flickr.com/groups/international_plant_protection_convention/;
- (e) YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/IPPCnews>.

V. DISPUTE SETTLEMENT

30. As noted previously, the phytosanitary trade dispute between South Africa and the European Union is continuing and further announcements will be made as information becomes available and when appropriate. Despite resource challenges within the IPPC secretariat that have impacted this process, efforts are underway to address this issue.

31. 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 the CPM.

VI. RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

32. The secretariat would like to thank all those contracting parties and other donors who contributed to the 2011 budget and activities of the IPPC. The IPPC encourages them to consider future, sustainable contributions. It will be greatly appreciated if donors are able to express their intention for further contributions in order to facilitate planning for the coming year. These donations 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).

33. 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. The Secretary is giving this his highest priority and has initiated discussions with the governing body as well as with traditional and non-traditional partners to improve the situation in the foreseeable future.

34. Under the IPPC Resource Mobilization Strategy adopted in CPM-7 (2012), specific resource mobilization efforts will be made based on operational work plans to be developed.

35. 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 noted that FAO, the organization hosting the IPPC secretariat, continuously faces a severe financial challenge and is seeking cost reduction efforts in most areas; the resources available to the IPPC activities will likely be affected as well.

36. 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. These activities are linked with awareness raising efforts to increase resources available from donors.

37. The secretariat welcomes any discussions with members 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)

38. ePhyto is a high priority for CPM and the revised Appendix 1 (*Electronic certification, information on standard XML schemes and exchange mechanisms* (2006-003)) to ISPM 12:2011 is out for member consultation (See above, section III.C.). The IPPC secretariat has created an ePhyto web page (<http://ephyto.ippc.int/>) on the IPP containing information on codes and schema to be used in ePhytos.

39. The potential development of a common global system for electronic certification (central "hub") was highlighted during the April 2012 SC and June 2012 Bureau meetings. A feasibility study is being considered. The IPPC believes this represents a good opportunity for future collaboration with OIE and Codex.

40. General information on ePhyto can be found on the IPPC Website at: <http://www.ippc.int/index.php?id=1111140> or obtained from the IPPC secretariat (ippc@fao.org).

41. There is an ePhyto workshop planned for November 2012 in Brazil. Information will be made available through the IPP as it becomes available
https://www.ippc.int/index.php?id=1111139&no_cache=1&L=0

VIII. COOPERATION WITH THE WTO STANDARD SETTING ORGANIZATIONS

42. CPM-7 (2012) 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.

43. 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 the IPPC are exploring ways of addressing their IT needs in a more sustainable manner and to share tools and skills when appropriate;
 - (ii) Codex continues to work with the IPPC secretariat to develop the OCS for Codex purposes, taking into account Codex needs in gathering member country comments. OIE is also examining the OCS more closely and may also consider using this system in the future.
 - (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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