

IPPC IMPLEMENTATION REVIEW AND SUPPORT SYSTEM (IRSS)

Meeting of 18-19 October 2012

Agenda Item 10(c)

The following communication, received on 15 October 2012, is circulated at the request of the International Plant Protection Convention secretariat (IPPC).

1. Introduction

1. This report provides an update on the activities of the IPPC's Implementation Review and Support System (IRSS), which covers the monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of International Standards of Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs) and the IPPC. The IRSS concept emanated from an IPPC Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) proposal to the Subsidiary Body on Dispute Settlement (SBDS) for the establishment of a possible IPPC compliance mechanism, in 2007. This concept was rejected because there was a belief that a compliance (enforcement) mechanism was not specified in the IPPC and was contrary to the general philosophy of the CPM and FAO. However, the concept was subsequently redefined by the SBDS and a modified programme for the development of an IRSS was adopted by CPM in 2008, noting the importance of this programme in the implementation of both the IPPC and the implementation of ISPMs.

2. The primary objective of the IRSS is to facilitate and promote the implementation of the IPPC and ISPMs. The advantages of the system include the ability to monitor, encourage and support the harmonised implementation of the IPPC and its ISPMs, and to act as a means to identify and address emerging and potential implementation problems before they become disputes. The IRSS utilizes an assistance-based, non-confrontational approach.

3. The IRSS is a cross-cutting activity in the IPPC secretariat and involves close collaboration between the three principal IPPC secretariat units - Standard Setting, Capacity Development and Information Exchange - as well as with the principal governance structures of the IPPC - the CPM Bureau, Standard Setting, Dispute Settlement and Capacity Development. A Triennial Review Group has been established comprising of members from the above structures and the IPPC secretariat.

2. Updates of the project implementation

4. Funding for the three-year cycle of the IRSS was made possible by a total investment of EUR 1.2 million from the European Union (EU). The first year of the cycle was completed early 2012. The IPPC Secretariat continues to encourage other members to contribute to what continues to be a very important part of the IPPC Secretariat's work programme.

5. A summary of the major actions completed by the IRSS is included below:

IRSS Major Actions

IRSS Implementation Support - Achievements	
Activity	Outcome
<p>IRSS Webpage on the International Phytosanitary Portal (IPP) which includes the following features</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Country Profiles Area Helpdesk and Tools including a discussion area, FAQs and access to useful databases IRSS activities area which includes posting of IRSS surveys and documents repository 	Completed March 2012
IRSS Implementation Review - Achievements	
Activity	Outcome
<p>General IPPC Questionnaire on the Implementation of the Convention and ISPMs – Draft survey on Survey Monkey (online survey tool) and release to Contracting Parties (CPs)</p>	Completed April 2012
<p>ISPM 6 Questionnaire prepared, released, results analyzed and communicated to the Steward for review of the standard</p>	Completed March 2012
<p>ISPM 4 Mini-survey prepared, released, results analyzed and communicated to the Standards Committee (SC)</p>	Completed March 2012
<p>ISPM 8 Mini-survey prepared, released, results analyzed and communicated to the Standards Committee (SC)</p>	Completed March 2012
<p>IRSS Study: Implementation Challenges and Best Practices of ISPM 6 – Results of ISPM 6 Questionnaire above were analyzed and consolidated with the outcomes of a global series of workshops held in five FAO regions. Workshops included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion on pest surveillance baseline information gathered from the questionnaire on ISPM 6 mentioned above Collection of examples of best practices from a regional perspective Collection of information and examples on existing tools used in the regions to aid implementation of ISPM 6 Recommendations to improve ISPM 6 as well as ISPM 4 and ISPM 8 	Completed February 2012
<p>IRSS Study: Internet Trade of Plants – Study provides Contracting Parties with a synopsis of the type of trade of plants and plant products being channelled through the internet. Conducted by the IPPC Secretariat with peer-review support provided by the United Kingdom. Found here: https://www.ippc.int/index.php?id=1111059&L=0#irssactivities</p>	Completed March 2012
<p>IRSS Study: Aquatic Plants – Conducted with the objective to provide technical information that can be used as a reference by the IPPC on how it should address the issue of aquatic plants, in relation to the established mandate of the IPPC, and includes recommendations on how to address the issue. Found here: https://www.ippc.int/index.php?id=1111059&L=0#irssactivities</p>	Completed March 2012

3. Activities in the second phase: April 2012-March 2013

6. During the March 2012 meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Dispute Settlement (SBDS), the SBDS requested IRSS support for the SBDS' initiative in reviewing its role and functions. The initiative is intended to respond to the issues raised at CPM6. In this regard, the SBDS needed more information to understand NPPO processes to address issues on implementation of ISPM13, dispute settlement and analysis of the implementation of non-compliance and emergency actions of NPPOs, since these are the logical precursors to any dispute actions by contracting parties. The Bureau agreed that the IRSS would formally review and identify challenges related to ISPM13 implementation and provide an overall baseline analysis report to the SBDS.
