

**DEVELOPING COUNTRY PARTICIPATION IN IPPC STANDARD-SETTING**

Statistical Summary Submitted by the IPPC Secretariat for the Committee  
Meeting to be held on 14-15 March 2001

**Introduction**

1. At its 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting in November 2000, certain Members of the SPS Committee expressed their interest in understanding the level of participation by developing countries in standard-setting activities of the international standard-setting organizations recognized in the SPS Agreement. Provided below is a statistical summary and other information prepared by the IPPC Secretariat to describe the level of participation by developing countries in IPPC activities during 2000.

2. From the period 1 December 1999 to 31 December 2000, there were a total of sixteen (16) meetings organized by the IPPC Secretariat. Ten (10) of these were expert working groups directly related to the formulation of international standards for phytosanitary measures (ISPMs). One meeting was a regional consultation on draft standards. The five (5) remaining meetings were associated with business of the Interim Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (ICPM) in areas such as strategic planning, technical assistance, information exchange, and dispute settlement. All of these are included in this summary. The IPPC Secretariat can provide additional information or clarification on request.

**Policies and procedures**

3. FAO and the ICPM have policies and procedures regarding the provision of resources for the participation of individuals in different types of meetings. In particular, a distinction is made between individuals participating as experts and those who represent their governments.

4. Participants in expert working groups are phytosanitary experts nominated by countries or regional plant protection organizations and accepted by FAO for their individual expertise. As a general rule, the IPPC Secretariat attempts to ensure that experts are nominated and selected from different geographic regions. Funding for the travel and subsistence of participants in expert working group meetings is provided by the IPPC Secretariat through the regular programme budget of FAO except when such meetings are funded by a donor. The Secretariat requires that donor-funded meetings follow the same procedures and policies as those applied to expert working group meetings funded by the Secretariat.

5. At its Second Session in 1999, the ICPM adopted a recommendation for developed countries to voluntarily provide resources for the participation of their experts in meetings related to standard-setting. The savings resulting from these voluntary contributions has helped the Secretariat to expand and accelerate standard-setting in the past year and increased the possibilities for funding additional experts from developing countries.

6. Participants in ICPM business meetings and consultations are nominated by governments. They are not necessarily phytosanitary experts and are not confirmed by FAO. The Secretariat encourages broad geographic representation in such meetings, but the final composition is determined by countries depending on the availability of qualified individuals and their level of interest in the material under discussion. Although funding for the travel and subsistence of participants for such meetings is normally the responsibility of the government, it has been the practice of the IPPC Secretariat to ensure that funds are available for developing country participants before organizing such meetings. This funding may be provided from the regular programme budget of the Secretariat or by one or more donors.

### Statistical summary

IPPC Working groups in 2000	16 meetings
Total number of countries represented	47 countries
Total number of participants	157 participants
Participants from developing countries	81 participants
Developing countries represented	31 countries
Percentage of developing country representation in working groups	51.5% based on participants

### Distribution of developing country participants by region

South America	21
Africa	16
Central America and the Caribbean	8
Asia and the Pacific	29
Eastern Europe	5
Near East	3

### Consultation and approval procedures

7. Standard setting procedures of the IPPC were established by FAO in 1993 and modified by the ICPM at its Second Session in 1999. These procedures require that draft standards be reviewed and approved by an international committee of phytosanitary experts, originally known as the Committee of Experts on Phytosanitary Measures (CEPM) and currently known as the Interim Standards Committee (ISC).

8. The ISC is critical in the IPPC standard-setting process because it is responsible for the advancement of standards at two stages in development. The ISC reviews and approves draft standards before they are distributed to countries for comments and they also review comments and amend standards as necessary before draft standards are submitted to the ICPM for adoption. Most of the fourteen (14) ISC Members are nominated by regional plant protection organizations. A few represent countries that are not members of regional plant protection organizations. All experts on the ISC are confirmed by FAO and their participation in the Committee is funded by the Secretariat except where their governments voluntarily waive funding. Eight (8) ISC Members are from developing countries.

9. The standard-setting procedures of the IPPC include a consultation stage for all FAO Members and contracting parties to the IPPC to review and comment on draft standards. The comment period, originally ninety (90) days, was extended by the ICPM in 1998 to one hundred twenty (120) days. In the past, the IPPC Secretariat sent one or two documents for consultation each year. However, due to the recent expansion and acceleration of standard-setting, six draft documents

were sent to Members for consultation in 2000. A total of 119 responses were received from countries, including 62 responses from developing countries.

### **Adoption of standards**

10. Standard setting procedures of the IPPC require that all standards be adopted by the ICPM. The ICPM meets annually at the invitation of the Director-General of FAO and is composed of all FAO Members and contracting parties to the IPPC. Delegations to the ICPM are designated by the Member governments and in many cases include the FAO permanent representation to FAO. Participation by developing countries in the ICPM is not currently funded by the Secretariat but may be funded by donors and in future through a trust fund. Approximately 80 per cent of Members represented in the first meetings of the ICPM (1998 and 1999) have been developing countries.

11. All standards submitted to the ICPM have been adopted by consensus. Provision has been made by the ICPM in its Rules of Procedure to adopt standards by a two-thirds majority vote if necessary, however a vote cannot be requested for the adoption of a standard on the first occasion it is submitted to the ICPM. All official documents of the ICPM, including standards, are translated and made available to Members in the five official languages of FAO: Arabic, Chinese, English, French and Spanish.

### **Conclusion**

12. Procedures and policies established first by FAO and more recently by the ICPM emphasize transparency, participation and geographic representation in the IPPC's standard-setting processes. All countries are provided with numerous opportunities to participate directly in the formulation and adoption of international standards for phytosanitary measures, at minimum through consultation and adoption procedures.

13. Developing country representation in working groups, committees, and consultations associated with standard-setting routinely averages half or more. Funding is provided to ensure the participation of developing country experts or representatives in all IPPC meetings except the ICPM. The ICPM nonetheless enjoys a high level of representation by developing countries.

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