

**ACTIVITIES OF THE INTERNATIONAL PLANT PROTECTION CONVENTION
SECRETARIAT SINCE JUNE 2004**

Submission by the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)

The following communication, received on 26 October 2004, is being circulated at the request of the IPPC.

The development, adoption and monitoring of the implementation of ISPMs

1. Four expert groups met on:
 - the revision of ISPM 2: *Guidelines for pest risk analysis*;
 - Efficacy of measures;
 - ISPM 8 Glossary; and
 - the review of ISPM 1: *Principles of plant quarantine as related to international trade*.
2. New technical panels have been constituted and met during the period, one on Diagnostics and the other on Fruit flies.
3. The following draft standards were sent out for country consultation on 15 June 2004:
 - Amendments to ISPM 5 (*Glossary of phytosanitary terms*);
 - Guidelines for consignments in transit;
 - Guidelines for inspection of consignments;
 - Revision of ISPM 3 (*Guidelines for the export, shipment, import and release of biological control agents and beneficial organisms*);
 - Guidelines on the concept of equivalence of phytosanitary measures and its application in international trade; and
 - Requirements for the establishment, maintenance and verification of areas of low pest prevalence.

Official comments are now being considered by the Stewards of the individual standards. The comments will be considered by a section of the Standards Committee in November 2004.

Wood Packaging (ISPM 15)

4. Many questions continued to be asked on ISPM 15 on Wood Packaging. The STDF has committed funding for a workshop on wood packaging in early 2005.

Information exchange

5. A new version of the International Phytosanitary Portal was launched in June.

The development of the phytosanitary capacity of members by promoting the provision of technical assistance

6. Regional workshops on draft standards were held for:
- English-speaking Africa (SADC countries) in Pretoria, South Africa;
 - French-speaking Africa in Accra, Ghana;
 - the Pacific Countries in Fiji (with the Pacific Plant Protection Organization);
 - Asian countries in Bangkok, Thailand (in collaboration with the APPPC);
 - Near East in Cairo, Egypt; and
 - the Caribbean in St. Lucia (in cooperation with the CPPC).
7. Finally the IPPC worked closely with IICA on a regional workshop for Latin America which was held in Costa Rica.
8. Regional workshops on Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation were held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and in Nairobi, Kenya.
9. The IPPC Secretariat continued to support technically the implementation of technical cooperation funding that provides assistance to countries to evaluate and establish their phytosanitary infrastructure.

The maintenance of an effective and efficient administrative framework

10. A focus group met in July. A major task of the group was the revision of the IPPC Business Plan and discussion of long term funding options for the IPPC. The focus group met also with representatives of Regional Plant Protection Organizations to draft the recommendations on the roles and functions of RPPOs in their relationships with the IPPC.
11. The 16th Technical Consultation among the Regional Plant Protection Organizations met in Nairobi in September 2004. The Technical Consultation, among other, reviewed the role of RPPOs in the Interim Commission of the IPPC.
12. The informal working group on Strategic Planning and Technical Assistance (SPTA) met in October. It reviewed and made recommendations, in particular, on the Strategic Plan, the Business Plan, budgetary matters, long-term funding priority for standards, and the role of RPPOs in the implementation of the Convention. It also made recommendations on the role of the IPPC in relation to regionalization.

Promotion of IPPC and cooperation with the relevant international organizations

13. Adherence to the Convention:
- There are now 127 parties to the Convention and 59 parties accepted the 1997 amendments.
 - The Secretariat participated in several of the WTO/SPS regional workshops.
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