

**MATTERS OF INTEREST ARISING FROM THE WORK OF THE  
OBSERVER ORGANIZATIONS – ITEM 13**

Submission by the International Plant Protection Convention Secretariat (IPPC)

The following communication, received on 11 October 2007, is being circulated at the request of the IPPC.

Since the last SPS Committee meeting in June 2007, the following IPPC-related activities have been undertaken:

**Technical Panel on Forest Quarantine (TPFQ)**

1. The TPFQ reviews relevant technical and scientific information to provide recommendations to the Standard Committee on development, amendment and revision of standards related to forest quarantine issues.

**Focus Group on the review of IPPC standard-setting procedures**

2. The Second Session of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM-2) decided to convene a Focus Group to review IPPC standard-setting procedures, in particular: the terms of reference and rules of procedure for technical panels; procedures and criteria for identifying topics for inclusion in the IPPC standard-setting work programme; transparency in the standard-setting process; and Annex I of the Rules of Procedure of the CPM on development and adoption of international standards.

**Regional workshops on draft ISPMs**

3. Seven regional workshops were held. At each of these Contracting parties are given the opportunity to discuss the implications, perceived problems, gain clarification, etc., regarding draft ISPMs with their peers, which assists them to formulate their country comments.

**Technical Consultation among Regional Plant Protection Organizations**

4. Under Article IX of the IPPC, Contracting parties undertake to cooperate with one another in establishing regional plant protection organizations (RPPOs) in appropriate areas. The RPPOs function as the coordinating bodies in the areas covered, participate in various activities to achieve the objectives of the Convention and, where appropriate, gather and disseminate information. Regular Technical Consultations of representatives of RPPOs are held to:

- (a) promote the development and use of relevant international standards for phytosanitary measures; and
- (b) encourage inter-regional cooperation in promoting harmonized phytosanitary measures for controlling pests and in preventing their spread and/or introduction.

#### **Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) on a Possible Compliance Mechanism for the IPPC**

5. The OEWG determined that, rather than a conventional compliance mechanism, a comprehensive *IPPC Implementation Review and Support System* specifically designed to take account of the situation of the IPPC would best suit the needs of IPPC Contracting parties. The system developed by the OEWG builds on existing CPM activities, which is considered more efficient and cost effective, and an assistance based and facilitative approach was determined to be more desirable than a mechanism that would include enforcement aspects.

#### **Technical Panel on Diagnostic Protocols (TPDP)**

6. The TPDP:
- produces diagnostic protocols for specific pests
  - proposes flexibility within specific protocols for a range of methodologies for different situations
  - identifies priorities for specific protocols to be developed and submitted to the Standards Committee
  - determines the mechanism for production of protocols and any rules of procedure.

The TPDP discussed diagnostic protocols for *Thrips palmi*, *Liberibacter* spp./*Liberobacter* spp, *Xanthomonas axonopodis* pv. *citri*

#### **Technical Panel on the Glossary (TPG)**

7. The TPG is a technical body that reviews and updates the Glossary of phytosanitary terms (ISPM No. 5). Other matters dealing with the expression of technical issues are also referred to this group.

#### **IPPC-related meetings to be held before the end of the year include:**

8. The **Standards Committee Working Group (SC-7)** will meet to review and discuss country comments on draft ISPMs and prepare revised drafts to be considered by the Standards Committee. Draft standards for consultation include:

- Amendments to the Glossary
- Classification of commodities into phytosanitary risk categories
- Guidelines to reduce/replace the use of methyl bromide
- Debarked and bark-free wood
- Sampling of consignments
- Area of low pest prevalence for fruit flies
- Diagnosis of *Thrips palmi*.

9. The **Standards Committee (SC)** will meet to review and discuss revised draft ISPMs prepared by the SC Working Group (SC-7). They will also consider country comments on a case-by-case basis.

10. The **Technical Panel on Phytosanitary Treatments (TPPT)** is involved with issues relating to phytosanitary treatments including collecting, reviewing and recommending them to be used internationally.

11. The **Technical Panel on Pest Free Areas and Systems Approaches for Fruit Flies (TPFF)** reviews scientific and technical data to establish the technical requirements for the recognition of pest free areas and systems approaches for fruit flies.

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