

**SUMMARY OF THE WORK OF
THE INTERNATIONAL PLANT PROTECTION CONVENTION (IPPC)
OCTOBER 2007 – FEBRUARY 2008**

Communication from the IPPC Secretariat

The following communication, received on 20 March 2008, is being circulated at the request of the IPPC.

I. THIRD SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

1. The Third Session of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) will be held on 7-11 April 2008 in Rome, Italy and is open to all contracting parties of the IPPC. non-contracting parties (UN members) may attend as observers. There are over 165 contracting parties to the IPPC.

2. Items to be discussed at the CPM that will be of particular interest to the WTO SPS Committee include:

- the adoption of the draft ISPM: *Establishment of areas of low pest prevalence for fruit flies (Tephritidae)*;
- Procedure and Criteria for Identifying topics for Inclusion in the IPPC Standard Setting Work Programme;
- IPPC Training Material for Pest Risk Analysis;
- Outcome of the Open-ended Working Group on a Possible IPPC Compliance Mechanism;
- Analysis of the Application of the PCE Tool;
- Development of a CPM Technical Assistance Strategy for Phytosanitary Capacity Building; and
- Project-oriented Planning for the Multilateral IPPC Trust Fund.

3. The Bureau of the CPM in collaboration with the CPM working group on Strategic Planning and Technical Assistance (SPTA) has developed an Operational Plan for 2008, which describes (and costs) the activities to be undertaken in 2008 to meet the requirements of the 2007-20011 Business Plan. This should enable increased transparency and accountability of the Secretariat to the CPM.

4. At its Seventh session in 2005, the Interim Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (ICPM) decided that an independent evaluation of the IPPC funding and structures should be initiated, which would include the implications relating to the future transition of the ICPM to the CPM. The evaluation was completed in 2007 and the Evaluation Team presented the report to the FAO Programme Committee at its 98th Session in October 2007. The 60 plus recommendations have been discussed thoroughly by the SPTA who will be making a series of recommendations to the CPM for consideration. Included in the recommendations will be the appointment of a full time Secretary to the CPM.

II. THE DEVELOPMENT, ADOPTION AND MONITORING OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ISPMS

Standards Committee

5. The Standards Committee met in Rome in November 2007 and recommended that the following draft ISPMs be submitted to the Third Session of the CPM for adoption:

- Amendments to ISPM No. 5 (*Glossary of phytosanitary terms*);
- Establishment of areas of low pest prevalence for fruit flies (Tephritidae);
- Replacement or reduction of methyl bromide as a phytosanitary measure; and
- Methodologies for sampling of consignments.

Expert working groups

6. An expert working group met to revise the following ISPMs:

- ISPM No. 7 (*Export certification system*); and
- ISPM No. 12 (*Guidelines for phytosanitary certificates*).

Technical panels

7. Meetings of Technical Panels since October 2007 included:

- The Technical Panel on the Glossary (October 2007) reviewed country comments on draft standards in relation to new and revised terms and definitions, continued discussions on terminology, further developed the draft supplement on terminology of the CBD in relation to ISPM No. 5 and finalized work on the annotated glossary of phytosanitary terms.
- The Technical Panel on Phytosanitary Treatments (December 2007) reviewed 16 new phytosanitary treatment submissions in the topic areas of irradiation, fruit flies and alternatives to methyl bromide for inclusion in ISPM No.15 (*Guidelines for regulating wood packaging material in international trade*).
- The Technical Panel on Pest Free Areas and Systems Approaches for Fruit Flies (December 2007) met to develop an annex to ISPM No. 26 (*Establishment of pest free areas for fruit flies*) on fruit fly trapping procedures.

III. INFORMATION EXCHANGE

The International Phytosanitary Portal

8. Maintaining navigation in the International Phytosanitary Portal (IPP) in English, French, Spanish and Arabic is an ongoing challenge due to resources and the need to track the many changes that take place. Work on the Chinese translation of the navigation text has commenced.

Capacity-building workshop

9. The IPPC Information Exchange Capacity Building Programme was further developed during 2007 to ensure that countries, through their IPP editor:

- had a basic understanding of their information exchange obligations under the IPPC;

- were introduced to the International Phytosanitary Portal (IPP) as the preferred system for the exchange of official phytosanitary information; and
- were trained to upload and maintain their phytosanitary information on the IPP.

10. To date, 288 NPPO editors from 135 countries and 18 RPPO editors have been trained through ten regional and sub-regional IPP training workshops conducted up to the end of June 2007. All regions have now had the opportunity of at least one regional workshop on information exchange under the IPPC. As a direct result of these regional IPP workshops, there has been a substantial increase in the amount of information available through the IPP. The challenge is now to ensure that countries maintain and update this information correctly, and continue to add new information to the IPP as it becomes available. Appendix 1 provides a regional summary of the percentage of countries that have used the IPP to load information related to their IPPC reporting obligations.

IPPC contact points

11. Table 1 provides a summary of the current status of IPPC contact points (contracting and non-contracting parties) and editors for countries and RPPOs.

Table 1: Summary of the number of all NPPO contact points, and editors for NPPOs and RPPOs

Region	Contracting Parties (CPs)		Non-CPs	Editors	
	Official contact point	Unofficial contact point		Information point	CPs and Non-CPs
Africa	38	0	12	62	4
Asia	18	2	8	41	1
Europe	41	4	2	46	1
Latin America and Caribbean	32	1	1	38	8
Near East	11	4	1	16	0
North America	2	0	0	3	1
Southwest Pacific	11	2	3	21	4
Total	153	13	27	227	18
Total	166				

12. The Secretariat would also like to note the improvement in maintenance and updating of IPPC contact point information by some contracting parties and would like to thank them for these efforts – more than 50% of IPPC contact point information is updated in a given year. This contributes substantially to improving communications with the Secretariat and between contracting parties.

IV. THE PROVISION OF DISPUTE SETTLEMENT MECHANISMS

13. In 2007, the Secretariat received two requests for assistance in dispute settlement. One requested was not taken any further but discussions about the second dispute are continuing.

14. The IPPC Dispute settlement Manual is now available in FAO languages and can be found at <https://www.ippc.int/id/144307?language=en>.

Percentage of Contracting Parties per Region with Reporting Information on the IPP

$$= \left(\frac{\text{(number of contracting parties in a region with one or more documents for a reporting category)}}{\text{(total number of contracting parties in the region)}} \right) \times 100$$

	Africa (38)	Asia (20)	Europe (45)	Latin America and Caribbean (33)	Near East (15)	North America (2)	Southwest Pacific (13)
Reporting obligations							
Description of the NPPO	45	35	42	52	7	100	31
Legislation	34	35	47	46	20	100	31
Pest reports	8	5	11	30	0	0	31
Lists of regulated pests	13	15	40	36	0	100	31
Points of entry	40	20	27	49	20	100	46
Emergency action	3	0	2	3	0	100	15
Optional reporting							
Non-compliance	3	10	0	0	0	0	0
Organizational arrangements of NPPO	8	5	2	9	0	0	15
Pest status	0	5	2	3	0	0	15
PRA/rationale for regulations...)	0	0	9	6	0	0	8
Publications	29	25	20	24	13	0	31
Data uploaded by IPPC Secretariat							
Projects	55	85	13	30	47	0	46