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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

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## IPPC IMPLEMENTATION REVIEW AND SUPPORT SYSTEM (IRSS)

MEETING OF 21-22 MARCH 2013

### *Agenda Item 10(b) - Monitoring of the Use of International Standards*

The following communication, received on 11 March 2013, is being 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). The IRSS concept emanated from an IPPC Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) proposal for the establishment of a possible IPPC compliance mechanism. The compliance mechanism concept was reviewed and rejected in 2007 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 IPPC's emphasis on cooperation, harmonization of science-based measures and exchange of information to prevent introduction and spread of pests.

2. Therefore the IRSS program was developed as a proactive means to identify the extent of implementation of the IPPC and its International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs), diagnose challenges to implementation, and offer support to strengthen future implementation, all outside of the context of compliance. The IRSS programme was adopted by CPM in 2008, noting the importance of this programme in the implementation of both the IPPC and the implementation of ISPMs. The programme was initiated in 2011 thanks to generous financial contributions from the European Union.

3. The IRSS is a program unique to the IPPC, now in its second year of implementation, and revolutionising the way the IPPC approaches the provision of support to contracting parties to improve implementation of the IPPC and its standards. The IRSS utilizes a non-confrontational approach based on analysis of implementation status, challenges, and identification of opportunities for improvement. This takes place through a range of interventions including revisions of ISPMs for clarity, strengthening Secretariat information systems based on information gathered through IRSS analyses, and orienting global and national phytosanitary capacity development support to address the specific needs that have been identified.

4. This approach offers clear benefits to the contracting parties, IPPC Secretariat and donors. These benefits include the ability to:

- establish baseline information on implementation of the IPPC and its ISPMs;
- identify technical, policy and other limits to implementation at national, regional and global levels;
- utilize this information on limits to implementation to strengthen capacity development activities directed to the specific challenges that contracting parties face;
- monitor, encourage and support harmonised implementation of the IPPC and its ISPMs;
- identify and address emerging and potential implementation problems;

- identify strengths and gaps in adopted standards (ISPMs) and offer some recommendations for their improvement when they are up for revision.

5. 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 structures of the IPPC (the CPM Bureau, Standards Committee, Subsidiary Body on Dispute Settlement and Capacity Development Committee). A Triennial Review Group has been established comprised of members from the above-named structures and the IPPC Secretariat to review the IRSS work each year and produce a final report at the conclusion of the initial three-year funding cycle.

## 2 UPDATES OF PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

6. 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. The first two years of the cycle will conclude in March 2013. The European Union has indicated support for reduced funding of the second three-year cycle. IPPC contracting parties, bilateral donors, partners and others are invited to support the IRSS program with complementary funding to maintain its operations and momentum. Long term, sustained funding would benefit planning to be able to continue this highly successful initiative.

7. The project has received extensive positive feedback based on its unique approach of analysing implementation and tailoring support solutions to fit contracting parties' identified needs. However, the utility of the IRSS studies face challenges in terms of lack of funds for translation to make the products generated so far more widely accessible to all interested parties.

8. A summary of the major actions, review and support activities completed through the IRSS is included below:

### Implementation Review and Support System - Major actions through March 2013

IRSS Project: Implementation Support Achievements	
Activity	Outcome
<p><b>IRSS Webpage</b> on the International Phytosanitary Portal (IPP) has been developed as a test site and will launch in 2013. The site will include the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Country Profiles Area</b> including phytosanitary-related data on trade of plants and plant products;</li> <li>• <b>Helpdesk and Tools</b> including a discussion area, answers to frequently asked questions, and access to useful databases such as a roster of consultants with phytosanitary expertise, a global database of phytosanitary-related activities, and repository of technical resources;</li> <li>• <b>IRSS activities area</b> including IRSS analyses and a repository of other relevant documents.</li> </ul>	In development; to be launched 2013
<p><b>Proposed CPM Recommendations on aquatic plants</b>— Based on the findings of the IRSS Study on Aquatic Plants, the IRSS team developed a proposed Recommendation for the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures to consider (at CPM-8, 2013). This recommendation would consolidate past CPM decisions on aquatic plants into an easily accessible format and location, facilitating the contracting parties' access to information on the CPM decisions taken on aquatic plants. This would not create additional obligations for contracting parties but would strengthen the ability of national plant protection organizations to clarify the role of aquatic plants in the IPPC framework and clarify the CPM's position for the IPPC Secretariat to be able to liaise with relevant partners.</p>	Published as CPM papers January 2013 for presentation to CPM-8 in April 2013
<p><b>Proposed CPM Recommendation on internet trade of plants and plant products</b> - Based on the findings of the IRSS Study on internet trade, the IRSS team developed a proposed Recommendation for the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures to consider (at CPM-8, 2013). This recommendation would stimulate discussion among contracting parties on how to address these emerging issues within the IPPC framework and provide a clear set of non-binding considerations for national plant protection organizations to consider how to address this emerging issue in a way that is appropriate to their national level of risk.</p>	Published as CPM papers January 2013 for presentation to CPM-8 in April 2013

<b>IRSS Project: Implementation Review Achievements</b>	
<b>Activity</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
<b>General Survey</b> on the Implementation of the IPPC and ISPMs: This is a survey conducted on the principal obligations of the Convention and a general review of contracting party interpretations of the extent of implementation of the currently adopted standards.	Input received September 2012 – Feb. 2013; data currently under analysis
<b>ISPM 6:1997 (<i>Guidelines for surveillance</i>) Survey</b> prepared, released, results analysed and communicated to the Steward (responsible Standards Committee member) for review of the standard.	Completed March 2012
<b>ISPM 04:1995 (<i>Requirements for the establishment of pest-free areas</i>) Survey</b> prepared, released, results analysed and communicated to the Standards Committee (SC), Capacity Development Committee, and Technical Consultation among Regional Plant Protection Organizations.	Completed March 2012
<b>ISPM 08:1998 (<i>Determination of pest status in an area</i>) Survey</b> prepared, released, results analysed and communicated to the Standards Committee (SC), Capacity Development Committee, and Technical Consultation among Regional Plant Protection Organizations.	Completed March 2012
<b>IRSS Study: Implementation Challenges and Best Practices of ISPM 6 (Surveillance)</b> – Results of ISPM 6 (Surveillance) Questionnaire above were analysed and consolidated with the outcomes of a global series of workshops held in five FAO regions – Workshops included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion on pest surveillance baseline information gathered from questionnaire on ISPM 6 mentioned above;</li> <li>• Collection of examples of best practices from a regional perspective;</li> <li>• Collection of information and examples on existing tools used in the regions to aid implementation of ISPM 6;</li> <li>• Recommendations to improve ISPM 6 as well as ISPM 4:1995 (<i>Requirements for the establishment of pest-free areas</i>) and ISPM 8:1998 (<i>Determination of pest status in an area</i>).</li> </ul>	Completed February 2012
<b>Symposium on Surveillance:</b> The IRSS collaborated with the Asia Pacific Plant Protection Commission (APPPC) to host a symposium on surveillance. The symposium used analysis of the ISPM 6:1997 ( <i>Guidelines for surveillance</i> ) survey results as a basis for developing an outline for manuals on surveillance systems. The symposium included participation from experts within the Asia region and from several other FAO regions.	Workshop completed November 2012
<b>Development of Manual on Surveillance:</b> Based on the outline developed at the Symposium on Surveillance, the IPPC Secretariat is collaborating with the IPPC Capacity Development Committee to develop a technical resource (such as a manual) based on the needs identified by the IRSS survey and global symposium.	Outline presented to IPPC Capacity Development Committee December 2012
<b>IRSS Study: Internet Trade of Plants</b> – 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 UK. Found here: <a href="https://www.ippc.int/index.php?id=1111059&amp;L=0#irssactivities">https://www.ippc.int/index.php?id=1111059&amp;L=0#irssactivities</a>	Completed March 2012
<b>IRSS Study: Aquatic Plants</b> – 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: <a href="https://www.ippc.int/index.php?id=1111059&amp;L=0#irssactivities">https://www.ippc.int/index.php?id=1111059&amp;L=0#irssactivities</a>	Completed March 2012

<b>IRSS Project: Implementation Review Achievements</b>	
<b>Activity</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
<b>Contributions to STDF workshop on Invasive Alien Species</b> - The findings of the IRSS studies on aquatic plants and internet trade of plants contributed to the discussions in a Seminar on International Trade and Invasive Alien Species hosted by the WTO in July 2012.	Completed July 2012
<b>ISPM 13:2001 (<i>Guidelines for the notification of non-compliance and emergency action</i>) Survey</b> - This survey was developed at the request of the IPPC Subsidiary Body on Dispute Settlement (SBDS) to analyse implementation challenges for ISPM 13:2001 ( <i>Guidelines for the notification of non-compliance and emergency action</i> ). The results were analysed, transmitted to the SBDS for its March 2013 meeting, and a report of the results will be made available on the IRSS webpage of the IPP.	Completed March 2013
<b>ISPM 17:2002 (<i>Pest reporting</i>) and ISPM 19:2003 (<i>Guidelines on lists of regulated pests</i>) Surveys</b> – These surveys were originally requested by the IPPC's expert working group on capacity development (the predecessor to the Capacity Development Committee). Questionnaires have been drafted to gather information on the extent of implementation and challenges in implementation of these standards, which have implications for the reporting obligations under the IPPC. The draft is currently under consultation and is planned for release in June 2013.	In progress throughout 2013
<b>Follow-up on IRSS analysis of challenges in implementation of ISPMs</b> - A consolidation of the challenges and best practices for contracting parties that had been identified by all IRSS activities undertaken through 2012 as well as suggested follow-up actions was presented as a paper for the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM-8, 2013). The information contributed to the IPPC's capacity development work program.	Completed February 2013

### 3 ACTIVITIES IN THE THIRD YEAR: APRIL 2013-MARCH 2014

9. Future activities for the IRSS include:

- Launch of the IRSS website and help desk;
- Identification of donors for translation of existing IRSS analyses, tools and resources;
- Identification of donors for the second 3-year cycle of the IRSS;
- Further analyses of country implementation challenges with adopted standards;
- Management of the helpdesk and related support tools;
- Production of a triennial report, Implementation Review Response (IRR), covering the first 2011-2014 IRSS cycle. The IRR will include conclusions from analyses of ISPMs, relevant data from the IPP, and studies such as those on aquatic plants and e-commerce. The IRSS Triennial Review Group (TRG) will provide guidance to develop the IRR.