

**MATTERS OF INTEREST ARISING FROM THE WORK OF
OBSERVER ORGANIZATIONS**

Statement by the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)
at the meeting of 10-11 June 2001

1. The representative of the IPPC summarized the outcomes of the Third Session of the Interim Commission on the Phytosanitary Measures (ICPM) held on 2-6 April 2001 at FAO Headquarters in Rome. He noted that ICPM had a heavy but productive agenda including the adoption of three new standards: *Pest risk analysis for quarantine pests*; *Guidelines for phytosanitary certificates*; and *Guidelines for the notification of non-compliance and emergency actions*. Also adopted were amendments to *the Glossary of Phytosanitary Terms* and a supplement to the Glossary on the *Interpretation and application of the concept of official control*. It was noted that the supplement on official control was formulated in direct response to the request of the SPS Committee.
2. In addition, the representative of the IPPC indicated that the ICPM had agreed on the terms of reference and rules of procedure for its Standards Committee, it completed non-binding dispute settlement procedures, and adopted criteria for the recognition of regional plant protection organizations. It also adopted a strategic plan and agreed on a number of new initiatives in particular as regards technical assistance and information exchange. The Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE) was adopted to provide countries with a tool for assessing their phytosanitary capacity as the basis for formulating national strategies for technical assistance. Information exchange initiatives included the establishment of the International Phytosanitary Portal (IPP) as an Internet-based system for countries to share official information. It was noted that this system was to be integrated with the larger information portal system being put in place by FAO for food safety and agricultural health.
3. The ICPM also adopted position statements on the phytosanitary aspects of genetically modified organisms, biosafety and invasive species and added further initiatives for cooperation with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Current activities between the IPPC and CBD were highlighted, including in particular the establishment of a memorandum of cooperation between the organizations.
4. The representative of the IPPC reported that the ICPM had identified five priority topics for new standards: Risk analysis for the environmental hazards of plant pests; Pest risk analysis for regulated non-quarantine pests; Guidelines for evaluating the efficacy of phytosanitary measures; Low pest prevalence, and Irradiation as a phytosanitary treatment. The ICPM also elected a new Bureau with Mr. Felipe Canale (Uruguay) as Chairperson and decided that its Fourth Session will be on 11-13 March 2002.
5. In addition, it was noted that the IPPC's Interim Standards Committee met in May 2001 and had approved several draft standards: *Amendments to the Glossary of Phytosanitary Terms*; *Integrated Measures for pest risk management (systems approaches)*; *Regulated non-quarantine pests - concept and application*; *Pest reporting*; and *Guidelines for regulating wood packing material used in the transport of commodities*. These standards were distributed to governments in June 2001 for review. Comments must be submitted to the IPPC Secretariat before 31 October 2001.