

## **SUMMARY OF THE WORK OF THE INTERNATIONAL PLANT PROTECTION CONVENTION (IPPC) JUNE – OCTOBER 2003**

Statement by the IPPC at the meeting held on 29-30 October 2003

1. The Informal Working Group on Strategic Planning and Technical Assistance (SPTA) met in October 2003. Recommendations from this meeting will be considered at the Interim Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (ICPM) on the future directions for all IPPC activities, including standard-setting, information exchange and technical assistance.

### Standard Setting

2. A Focus Group on Standard Development was convened in July 2003 to review the standard setting process. Recommendations from this meeting were passed on to the October 2003 meeting of the SPTA. The SPTA have reviewed the proposals of the Focus Group on Standard Development and will be proposing to the ICPM some procedural changes to the IPPC's standard setting process to be able to meet the increased demand for new International Standards on Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM).

3. Four Regional Technical Workshops on Draft ISPMs were held for Asian-Pacific, Franco-African, Latin American and Caribbean, and Near East countries. These workshops help to build national capacity in reviewing and preparing comments on draft ISPMs that are circulated for country comments. They provide a good opportunity for countries to be involved in the standard-setting process. Regional comments can then be used as the basis for countries to submit their own comments on these draft ISPMs to the Standards Committee.

4. Two Expert Working Groups (EWG) have already met to draft ISPMs on equivalence and on the use of integrated measures in a systems approach for pest risk management of citrus fruit for citrus canker. Several more EWGs are scheduled to meet over the next few months, including several EWGs which will use an E-mail discussion to work on ISPMs.

5. The IPPC Secretariat has now published the following ISPMs, which are available in green book form or may be down loaded from the International Phytosanitary Portal (IPP) ([www.ippc.int](http://www.ippc.int)):

- ISPM # 11 Rev. 1: Pest Risk Analysis for quarantine pests including analysis of environmental risks
- ISPM # 15: Guidelines for regulating wood packaging material in international trade
- ISPM # 18: Guidelines for the use of irradiation as a phytosanitary measure
- ISPM # 19: Guidelines on lists of regulated pests

6. The country consultation period has just ended for the following three draft ISPMs:

- Guidelines for an import regulatory system
- Pest risk analysis for regulated non-quarantine pests
- Supplement to ISPM No. 11 (Pest Risk Analysis for quarantine pests) on Pest Risk Analysis for living modified organisms

7. Country comments on these draft standards have been compiled by the IPPC Secretariat and the Standards Committee will begin reviewing comments next week.

#### Information Exchange

8. The International Phytosanitary Portal (IPP) is continuing in order to provide the structure for countries to fulfill their reporting obligations under the IPPC for information exchange. The IPPC is also taking an active part in FAO's *International Portal on Food Safety Animal and Plant Health*, which is a joint undertaking among standard setting organizations and WTO .

#### Technical Assistance

9. A workshop on Invasive Alien Species (IAS) and the International Plant Protection Convention was held in September 2003 in Braunschweig, Germany. This workshop was set up to help phytosanitary experts, environmentalists, and regulators exchange ideas and learn how the IPPC and related tools may help in the management of IAS. A diverse group of over 110 participants from developed, developing, and least-developed countries with environmental, phytosanitary, and regulatory backgrounds attended this workshop. The programme addressed some of the most topical issues that are confronting both phytosanitary services and environmental protection agencies with regard to invasive alien species. Presentations and discussions explained the role of the IPPC, ISPMs and systems developed through the IPPC framework, including Regional Plant Protection Organizations (RPPOs), and identified how these systems could contribute to the management and mitigation of risks posed by invasive alien species relevant for plants. The IPPC is grateful to Germany for providing funding for this workshop which also covered the travel expenses of 50 participants from least-developed and developing countries.

10. The close cooperation between the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the IPPC experiences further progress through the development of a Memorandum of Cooperation between the Secretariats of the CBD and the IPPC, which will be signed shortly.

11. In addition, the IPPC continues to provide phytosanitary expertise to FAOs Technical Cooperation Programmes.

#### Budget

12. The IPPC Secretariat would like to remind members that FAO conference will be meeting this December. It is at this meeting that the FAO budget allocation to the IPPC Secretariat will be determined based on FAO members' directions.

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