

**REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL PLANT PROTECTION
CONVENTION SECRETARIAT (IPPC)**

Meeting of 30 June - 1 July 2011

The following communication, received on 27 June 2011, is being circulated at the request of the IPPC secretariat.

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The report covers the period October 2010 - June 2011.
2. Annex 1 provides the link to currently approved International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures.
3. The Committee is invited to note that as of 24 June 2011, there are 177 contracting parties to the IPPC.

II. STANDARD-SETTING WORK PROGRAMME (UPDATE: JUNE 2011)

A. CPM-6 (2011) ADOPTED ISPMs

4. CPM-6 was held from 14 to 18 March, 2011. The Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) adopted three revisions of ISPMs under the regular process and three of annexes of phytosanitary treatments under the special process.
5. The CPM-6 (2011) adopted the following six ISPMs;
 - Revision of ISPM 7. *Phytosanitary certification system*;
 - Revision of ISPM 12. *Phytosanitary certification*;
 - Appendix 1. *Fruit fly trapping to ISPM 26:2006. Establishment of pest free areas for fruits flies (*Tephritidae*)*;
 - Annex 12. *Irradiation treatment for *Cylas formicarius elegantulus* to ISPM 28:2007. Phytosanitary treatments for regulated pests*;
 - Annex 13. *Irradiation treatment for *Eusepeus postfasciatus* to ISPM 28:2007. Phytosanitary treatments for regulated pests*;

- Annex 14. *Irradiation treatment for Ceratitits capitata to ISPM 28:2007. Phytosanitary treatments for regulated pests.*

6. The CPM noted the ink amendments to the use of terms of ISPM 5. *Glossary of phytosanitary terms.*

B. STANDARDS COMMITTEE (SC)

7. The Standards Committee (SC) in May 2011 approved seven draft ISPMs for 2011 member consultation:

- Amendments to ISPM 5. Glossary of phytosanitary terms (1994-001);
- Draft revision to Supplement 1. Guidelines on the interpretation and application of the concept of official control for regulated pests (Not widely distributed) of ISPM 5. Glossary of phytosanitary terms (2005-008);
- Draft Annex 4 to ISPM 11:2004. Pest risk analysis for plants as quarantine pest and consequential changes in core text of ISPM 11:2004 (2005-001);
- Draft revision to Annex 1 of ISPM 15:2009. Approved treatments associated with wood packaging material (2006-011);
- Draft Annex to ISPM 27:2006: *Trogoderma granarium* (2004-006);
- Draft Annex to ISPM 28:2007. Vapour heat treatment of *Cucumis melo* var. *reticulatus* for *Bactrocera cucurbitae* (2006-110);
- Draft Annex to ISPM 28:2007. Heat treatment of wood packaging material using dielectric heat (2007-114).

8. The 2011 member consultation for draft ISPMs (100 days) began 20 June 2011.

9. The SC also approved the following three Specifications:

- Specification 53 for Establishment and maintenance of fruit fly quarantine areas within a pest free area in the event of outbreak detection (2009-007);
- Specification 54 for International movement of seed (2009-003);
- Revised specification for the Technical Panel on Diagnostic Protocols (TPDP).

C. MEMBER CONSULTATION

10. The secretariat, in consultation with the stewards, has prepared and posted background documents and power point presentations for the seven draft ISPMs (see above) for the member consultation 2011.

D. ON LINE COMMENT SYSTEM (OCS)

11. To streamline the process of compiling member comments, the secretariat has developed the IPPC Online Comment System (OCS) and members are strongly urged to use the OCS for submitting their comments on draft ISPMs. Draft ISPMs have been uploaded on the IPP (<http://review.fao.org/ippc/ippc/ippcOCS.html#>) and on the OCS. The secretariat is also planning on using the OCS during the 2011 regional workshops for the review of draft ISPMs for demonstration purposes and ease of sharing workshop comments. The main objectives are to encourage workshop

participants to use the system when they return to their country and to simplify the sharing process and submission of comments to the IPPC secretariat.

E. SEA CONTAINERS STANDARD

12. An expert working group (EWG), which includes representatives from the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Container Owners Association (COA), the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the World Customs Organization (WCO), has begun developing a draft ISPM on the topic of Minimizing pest movement by sea containers and conveyances in international trade (Specification No 51. This EWG and its Steering Committee meets virtually.

F. FOCUS GROUP ON IMPROVING THE STANDARD SETTING PROCESS

13. The IPPC secretariat is organizing the meeting of the Focus group for improving the standard setting process to be held in the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (EPPO) offices, Paris, France from 25-29 July 2011. Representatives from both Codex Alimentarius and OIE have been invited to participate in this review.

III. INFORMATION EXCHANGE

A. CONTACT POINTS

14. As of 24 June 2011, over 85 per cent of IPPC contact points have updated their information at least once. This means that contracting parties communicating with other IPPC contact points should visit the International Phytosanitary Portal (IPP) frequently to ensure they have the latest contact information.

B. UNOFFICIAL CONTACT POINTS

15. The secretariat continues to work with a small number of countries that still need to nominate their IPPC contact points officially.

C. INTERNATIONAL PHYTOSANITARY PORTAL (IPP) – [HTTPS://WWW.IPPC.INT](https://www.ippc.int)

16. There continues to be a lot of information made available by countries and the IPPC secretariat. Countries are encouraged to periodically visit the site for updates.

17. The IPP now provides Russian navigation and we continue to work with China to provide the site with Chinese navigation.

18. Usage of the IPP continues to increase, but it is apparent that this can be improved in certain regions and in certain countries. Internet access/reliability has a role to play in certain countries.

19. The site is currently being developed to substantially increase the amount of information available to support standard implementation and capacity development.

D. PEST REPORTING

20. National pest reporting continues to improve but there is still potential for further improvement. The 2011 reporting year has seen a substantial increase in the number of pest reports. The secretariat is working on this information to allow users to access this information in a more constructive and analytical manner.

E. COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY

21. The IPPC secretariat continues to develop an IPPC communications strategy that is now greatly facilitated by agreement in CPM on the IPPC strategic objectives.

IV. DISPUTE SETTLEMENT

22. The phytosanitary trade dispute between South Africa and the European Union is on-going and further announcements will be made as information becomes available and when appropriate.

23. The CPM has recently referred concerns regarding ISPM implementation to the Subsidiary Body on Dispute Settlement (SBDS) for discussion and guidance. This mechanism already exists and will now be active for the first time.

24. Given a number of WTO papers on informal discussions to resolve trade disputes, the IPPC secretariat would like to note the success of such discussions through the IPPC secretariat and FAO in the past. It is believed that a number of disputes have been resolved in this way, that before would have become formal disputes. Such "dispute avoidance" mechanisms are encouraged and the IPPC secretariat is available to continue facilitating this process.

V. CAPACITY BUILDING

A. CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY AND RELATED ISSUES

25. CPM-5 (2010) approved a concept paper on national phytosanitary capacity and an IPPC phytosanitary capacity building strategy. CPM-5 (2010) also agreed to create an Expert Working Group (EWG) tasked to review and refine the phytosanitary capacity development operational plan, assist the secretariat with developing national phytosanitary capacity, and consider the need for a permanent CPM body that deals with capacity development.

26. EWG meetings were held 25-29 October 2010 and 23-27 May 2011, and the group is currently active producing initiatives to support the capacity development area of the IPPC. A reviewed proposal of operational plan and associated budget and a document providing an analysis on the possible creation of a CPM Subsidiary Body on Capacity Development, have been prepared and shall be considered in October to be considered at CPM-7, 2012.

27. At the request of CPM-5 (2010) the secretariat developed databases of capacity development projects and activities and compiled a list of contacts able to provide information on phytosanitary capacity development activities. The databases are currently prepared and are going to be made available through the IPP.

B. PHYTOSANITARY CAPACITY EVALUATION (PCE) TOOL

28. The English version of the PCE has been finalised and field tested under a number of field conditions. A few more trials remain before the tool is ready for release to contracting parties. Other language versions will follow as resources allow.

29. Background documents on the PCE can be found on the IPPC website at: https://www.ippc.int/index.php?id=pce&no_cache=1&L=0.

C. PROJECTS

30. The secretariat continued its active collaboration with donor agencies and contracting parties in the delivery of technical assistance for capacity development in projects funded through various sources.

31. The number of projects funded by the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF), by the European Union or FAO (Technical Cooperation Projects - TCPs), in which the IPPC secretariat is involved with different levels of participation, have drastically increased and new strategies and activities need to be put in place to solve the time and staff shortage, as for instance: training of trainers or well defined processes of selection of consultants and mentoring. Many of these initiatives are under way and the advice and work of the EWG on Capacity Development has been central to support the necessary activities in this regard.

32. The secretariat is involved particularly in the implementation of project STDF/PG/350: Global Phytosanitary Manuals, Standard Operating Procedures and Training Kits Project.

33. The purpose of this project is to help those developing countries in which resources are limited for creating the necessary technical resources, to implement the core functions of a National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO). These technical resources are specifically manuals, standard operating procedures (SOPs) and training kits outlining the processes and procedures for implementation of ISPMs.

D. REGIONAL WORKSHOPS ON DRAFT ISPMs

34. In 2011, the draft ISPMs will be reviewed in the following regions:

Region	Date (2011 Tentative)	Venue	Organized by	Other Funding Source
Africa	Postponed	Libreville, Gabon	IAPSC	PANSPSO/EU/AU
Asia	6 - 10 September	Busan City, Republic of Korea	FAO	Republic of Korea/Japan
Caribbean	26 July	Bridgetown, Barbados	IDB/SPS	IDB/SPS
CIS countries and Central Asia	11 -15 July	Bykovo, Moscow Region	FAO-EPPO	FAO
Latin America	Proposals under analysis			
Near East	Proposals under analysis	Cairo, Egypt	FAO	
Pacific	7-14 September	Nadi, Fiji	SPC	Australia

35. The SPS committee is invited to note the dates provided in the schedule above and encourage the appropriate persons in their respective countries to ensure that the ISPMs are reviewed and comments submitted to the IPPC secretariat before the deadline of 30 September 2011. The secretariat will administer a survey to workshop attendees to address the association between workshop attendance and participation in the standards development process.

VI. IMPLEMENTATION REVIEW AND SUPPORT SYSTEM

36. The Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM-3, 2008) adopted the Programme for the Development of the "Implementation Review and Support System" (IRSS). The IRSS programme has begun with funding support for the first year of operation being provided with the generous support of the European Union. The priority action is the establishment of an "IPPC Help Desk" and the development, distribution and analysis of a questionnaire on the implementation of the Convention by the Contracting Parties. The secretariat has initiated a number of steps to resource the "IPPC Help Desk" including:

- the development of a phytosanitary projects and activities database;
- establishment of a roster of phytosanitary experts;
- collection of a number of technical resources; and
- establishment of a resource page on the International Phytosanitary Portal (IPP).

37. The IPPC secretariat is seeking funding to continue the IRSS programme beyond 2011.

VII. RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

38. The sustainability of the IPPC secretariat, and hence the work programme of the IPPC, is being addressed as a matter of urgency. The current resource allocation (financial and human resources) is simply not sustainable. Therefore, the Secretary is giving this his highest priority and has begun discussions with the governing body and some partners to improve the situation in the foreseeable future. An IPPC Resource Mobilization Strategy is under development and this will be one of the primary focus areas during the annual meeting of the CPM Informal Working Group on Strategic Planning and Technical Assistance in October 2011.

39. Although additional resources were found to ensure that the basic work programme for 2011 is possible, early indications are that the budget for 2012 will need similar extra-budgetary resources as for 2011. This includes any extra FAO contributions that may be anticipated. It is essential that the IPPC receive regular and predictable contributions to allow appropriate planning and delivery of the core IPPC work programme, i.e. provide sustainability to the programme.

40. The secretariat would welcome any discussions with contracting parties or partner organizations that could provide solutions to the current challenges, particularly in the medium to long term.

VIII. IMPORTANT MILESTONE FOR ELECTRONIC CERTIFICATION IN THE IPPC (EPHYTO)

41. An Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) on Electronic Certification was held in Seoul, Republic of Korea, from 7 to 10 June 2011. The meeting was attended by participants from 27 countries and 2 regional plant protection organizations.

42. An increasing number of countries are converting from paper systems to electronic certification systems. A global ePhyto standard will greatly facilitate the inter-governmental exchange of phytosanitary certificates with improved security and often large gains in efficiencies. Some background information can be found on the IPPC website (https://www.ippc.int/index.php?id=1110892&no_cache=1).

43. For most countries, this plant health initiative will be integrated into their animal health and food safety electronic certifications systems. Participants agreed to work together to ultimately agree on a global standard for electronic phytosanitary certification based on the International Standard on Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM) 12, probably to be called ePhyto. Three working groups have been established to progress this work with the objectives of having a draft available by the end of 2011 for field testing. Once it is shown to be functional and robust, it will be entered into the IPPC standard setting process, probably for inclusion into ISPM 12 as an Appendix after CPM approval.

ANNEX 1

Adopted International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs)

Texts of adopted ISPMs are available at:

["https://www.ippc.int/index.php?id=1110798&frompage=13399&tx_publication_pi1\[showUid\]=2181813&type=publication&L=0"](https://www.ippc.int/index.php?id=1110798&frompage=13399&tx_publication_pi1[showUid]=2181813&type=publication&L=0)
