



## Draft specification form for proposed standards

### I. General information

<b>Submitted by</b> (Country or Organization)	Regional Plant Protection Organization (RPPO)
<b>IPPC Official Contact Point or RPPO</b>	Near East Plant Protection Organization (NEPPO)
<b>Supported by</b>	Regional Plant Protection Organization (RPPO)
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### 2. Standard information

<b>Title</b>	Certification scheme for date-palm propagation material
<b>Reasons</b>	Reason for the standard
<b>Provide the reason</b>	This procedure aims to provide, guidelines to set out practical tools in order to harmonize the implementation of the officially adopted Certification scheme related to the production, control and certification, storage, labeling and marketing of date palm plants deriving from in-vitro propagation (Certification scheme). The procedure should be established and adopted by the OCA, defined in the Certification scheme. A large consultation with partners involved in the process, mainly the date palm in-vitro propagation laboratories, is needed to approve, enhance and facilitate the practical applicability of this procedure.
<b>Scope</b>	The purpose of this procedural code is to give guidelines in order to establish requirements for accrediting laboratories involved in the date palm in-vitro propagation for the production of vitro-plants deriving from offshoots or inflorescence, in accordance of the Certification scheme. The control of the establishment and implementation of the date palm laboratories in-vitro propagation accrediting system is ensured by the Official Competent Authorities (OCA), through its services both at central and regional levels or through entities authorized by the OCA, in accordance with the Certification schemes prescriptions.
<b>Purpose</b>	The lack of certification scheme in-place is a challenging aspect for seed production in general. The availability of standard and guidelines is guaranteeing high standards. The certification scheme protects against the spread of pests and diseases, secures sustainable production, promotes global trade. The regulatory framework should consider the following lines:

	<p>I-Legal and regulatory bases</p> <p>The laws and decrees related to the seeds and plant material propagation in general, to phytosanitary and quarantine of date palm, etc, should be listed and to consider the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-The references of the adopted date palm Certification scheme;</li> <li>-The references of the text creating the OCA and its duties;</li> <li>-The references of the quality insurance document, if available;</li> <li>-References of the code of procedure relating to the production vitro-plants deriving from offshoots or inflorescences using in-vitro propagation technique.</li> </ul> <p>II - Laboratory requirements for accreditation</p> <p>The date palm in-vitro propagation laboratories to be accredited must fulfill the requirements stipulated by the present procedure.</p> <p>I-Organization and management</p> <p>The laboratory should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Have a well-defined organization to meet the mission declared, specifying the relationships between management, technical operations, support structures, and the system of quality management within the laboratory;</li> <li>-Have a technical manager having a diploma of agricultural engineer level, or bachelor degree in the field of agriculture or equivalent (i.e. bachelor in biology) and justifying of training and experience the in-vitro propagation technique;</li> <li>-Having appointed a person who is responsible for the management of the quality system within the laboratory; - Be well organized so that each staff member has clear and defined duties within the laboratory, and is aware of the extent and limits of their sphere of responsibility;</li> <li>-Ensure that access to all areas of the laboratory and their use are regulated in a manner suited to their purpose and that the conditions for the admission of persons from outside the laboratory are defined and controlled.</li> </ul> <p>2-Staff</p> <p>The personnel of the laboratory to be accredited must fulfill the following requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-The personnel of the laboratory to be accredited must well trained and having adequate technical and having demonstrated skills and general experience to the duties he is assigned;</li> <li>-For each staff member, a job description is required. This description should include an -outline of key tasks, and the levels of education, training, technical knowledge, and experience required;</li> <li>-The proportion of personal supervising (coaching) with respect to total personnel in charge of executing the duties must be such that adequate and sufficient supervision and coaching is provided;</li> <li>- Each responsible staff or team member should have a copy of up-to-date procedures and work instructions useful for their job, and have access to other appropriate manuals and documents.</li> </ul> <p>3-Environment, equipment, and calibration</p> <p>3.1.Environment and premises:</p> <p>The laboratory must have a correct infrastructure that includes</p>
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	<p>at least:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A room for the preparation of the introduced offshoots or inflorescences;</li> <li>- A local preparation of the culture medium;</li> <li>- Rooms especially designated for the cultivation and transplantation of strains; with access strictly limited to the personnel in charge of this activity;</li> <li>- Speakers of culture with adjustable temperature and brightness;</li> <li>- A specific and equipped local for washing and sterilization of the laboratory material;</li> <li>- Specific facilities (special rooms, greenhouse,) and other annex structures, dedicated specifically to the acclimatization of the date palm vitro-plants (plantlets) deriving from de in-vitro propagation within the accredited laboratory and designated to be certified;</li> </ul> <p>The laboratory must be provided with the necessary equipment and energy sources and must be equipped with the necessary devices for monitorin</p>
<b>Task</b>	<p>The expert drafting group (EDG) should undertake the following tasks: (1)</p> <p>Consider whether the ISPM could affect in a specific way (positively or negatively) the protection of biodiversity and the environment. If this is the case, the impact should be identified, addressed and clarified in the draft ISPM. See the IPPC Style Guide, section 2.1, "Guidance for expert drafting groups on the task pertaining to biodiversity and the environment".</p> <p>(2) Consider implementation of the standard by contracting parties and identify potential operational and technical implementation issues. Provide information and possible recommendations on these issues to the Standards Committee (SC).</p> <p>(3) Review all references to the ISPM under revision in other ISPMs to ensure that they are still relevant and propose consequential changes if necessary.</p>
<b>Expertise</b>	<p>Identify the nature of the expertise required and the number of experts needed to prepare the ISPM. [Seven to ten] experts with a wide knowledge and experience in [phytosanitary actions], including at least one person knowledgeable in [authorization programmes and their elements] and at least one person knowledgeable in [auditing compliance with authorization programmes].</p>
<b>References</b>	<p>[15] The IPPC, relevant ISPMs and other national, regional and international standards and agreements as may be applicable to the tasks, and discussion papers submitted in relation to this work. [16] The economic impact of red palm weevil <i>Rhynchophorus ferrugineus</i> Olivier in Egypt. (2019) Arab J. Pl. Prot. Vol. 37, No. 2. <a href="http://dx.doi.org/10.22268/AJPP-037.2.205205">http://dx.doi.org/10.22268/AJPP-037.2.205205</a>. [17] FAO. 2017. FAO, 2017. Current Situation of Red Palm Weevil in the NENA Region [Current situation of management practices, challenges/weaknesses and available research and technologies for its improvement]. <a href="http://www.fao.org/3/a-ms664e.pdf">http://www.fao.org/3/a-ms664e.pdf</a> [18] FAO, 2020. Red Palm</p>

	Weevil: Guidelines on management practices (Editors: Maged Elkahky and J. R. Faleiro). Rome. <a href="https://doi.org/10.4060/ca7703en">https://doi.org/10.4060/ca7703en</a>
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