

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

TO : Representatives of Governments and Administrations
Routine Distribution

NO. : 20/19

FILE : PRO 127

DATE : 31 May 2019

**SUBJECT: THE INTERNATIONAL PLANT PROTECTION ORGANIZATION
REGIONAL DRAFT INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS OF PHYTOSANITARY
MEASURES (ISPM) MEETING ON 26–28 AUGUST 2019 AND THE REGIONAL
ePHYTO WORKSHOP ON 29–30 AUGUST 2019 IN NOVOTEL HOTEL, NADI,
FIJI.**

1. The Pacific Community (SPC) invites Governments and Administrations to nominate participants to attend the Regional Workshop for the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) Review of Draft International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs) from 26th – 28th August 2019 and The Regional ePhyto Workshop from the 29th – 30th August 2019 in Nadi, Fiji.
2. The Regional IPPC review of the ISPM drafts have been funded and organized by the Land Resources Division of the Pacific Community - Biosecurity & Trade Support unit in collaboration with the IPPC, FAO and all Pacific Plant Protection Organization (PPPO) member countries. The Regional ePhyto workshop is co-funded by Australia and New Zealand governments and it's coordinated and organized by the Land Resources Division of the Pacific Community – Biosecurity & Trade Support Unit. The technical expertise for the regional ePhyto Workshop is from Australia Department of Agriculture and Water Resources (DAWR), New Zealand Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI), International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), United Nations International Computing Center (UNICC) and all PPPO member countries.
3. The Pacific Plant Protection Organization (PPPO) was founded in October 1994 by the South Pacific Conference (now the Pacific Community Conference) at its 34th Session in Port Vila, Vanuatu. The Biosecurity & Trade Support unit of the Land Resources Division of the Pacific Community (SPC-LRD) is the Executive Secretariat of PPPO and administers its affairs. The PPPO is tasked with coordinating and harmonization of phytosanitary measures and fostering co-operation and collaboration in plant protection services and other phytosanitary matters among its PPPO members and also in developing contacts with and where appropriate, provides input into other global and regional organizations that have authority in such matters.

4. PPPO is one of the regional plant protection organizations recognized by the International Plant Protection Convention and exists to provide advice on phytosanitary measures in order to facilitate trade without jeopardizing the plant health status of the importing members and countries. In particular, PPPO exists:
- To ensure that the views and concerns of South West Pacific (SWP) members are adequately taken into account in the development and implementation of global phytosanitary measures;
 - To assist in the development and implementation of effective and justified phytosanitary measures for its PPPO members at pre-border, border and post-border;
 - To provide a framework for regional and global co-operation in phytosanitary matters consistent with international principles for trade in plants and plant products;
 - To facilitate the flow of information among members and with other regional plant protection organizations;
 - To collaborate with the SPC Plant Protection Service on specific issues, including pesticides and integrated pest management and how best it can serve our region in pest and disease management.
5. This regional IPPC Draft ISPM workshop (3 days) is held every year to ensure that the views and concerns of Pacific members are adequately taken into account in the development and implementation of global phytosanitary measures (i.e: International Standards of Phytosanitary Measures - ISPMs) issued by the IPPC. The 2 days Regional ePhyto Workshop is the first of its kind in the South West Pacific (SWP) region and co-funded by Australia Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) through the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources (DAWR) and New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) through the Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI). The PPPO secretariat and team supports coordination and implementation of this ePhyto program to facilitate implementation and preparedness of Generic ePhyto National System (GeNS) in the country level and a regional plan for the PPPO region.
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6. The participants will also gain a better understanding of the national and regional impact of the proposed International Standards of Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM's) and provide feedback for the development and submission of national comments to the IPPC.
7. The regional ePhyto workshop will give the opportunity for PPPO member countries to learn first-hand how the GeNS is implemented in participating countries and how it would operate and benefit trade facilitation.
8. In addition, the PPPO members also get the opportunity to discuss the activities and progress of the PPPO members and identify resources that can be mobilized to help its members address biosecurity risks at the pre-border, border and post-border.

MEETING OBJECTIVES

9. The principle objective of the IPPC workshop is to review the draft standards issued by the International Plant Protection Commission. This will be standards will be available on line.

10. The ePhyto Workshop will look at what ePhyto is all about and get the opportunity to see the impacts of ePhyto on pilot countries and how it can be scaled and rolled out to PPPO member countries.

DATE AND VENUE

11. The Regional IPPC Draft ISPM review workshop will from the 26th – 28th August 2019 followed by the Regional ePhyto Workshop 29th – 30th August 2019. Both workshops will be held at Novotel Hotel in Nadi, Fiji.

MEETING PROGRAMME

12. The detailed Programme for the IPPC Regional Draft ISPM Workshop will be circulated close to the date's workshop as for the regional ePhyto workshop is attached [Annex 2a].

SPONSORS/ORGANISERS

13. The workshop will be organized by the Pacific Community - Land Resources Division – Biosecurity and Trade Support unit and with funding support from Australia DAWR, New Zealand MPI, FAO, IPPC.
14. Technical expertise will be from the Australia DAWR, New Zealand MPI, IPPC, FAO, UNICC and from various PPPO members.

PARTICIPANTS

15. **One representative** is invited from each member country and territory, preferably of senior level and responsible for their country's Phytosanitary service (NPPO) to attend the Regional IPPC Draft ISPM. As for the regional ePhyto workshop, only **one senior** level member from the NPPO is invited to attend the regional ePhyto Workshop from selected countries. Additionally, the officers nominated should be familiar with the International Plant Protection Convention and ISPMs and at least some relevant works on ePhyto and its applications.
16. Representatives of partner agencies and relevant regional and international and non-government (NGOs) organizations are also invited to participate.

NOMINATION OF PARTICIPANTS

17. Governments and administrations of member countries and territories are invited to complete the attached Nomination and registration Forms [IPPC Draft ISPM Workshop - Annex 1(a) & Regional ePhyto Workshop - 1(b)] for your representative's and send it to reach the Biosecurity & Trade Support unit, Land Resources Division, SPC by **28th June, 2019**.

TRAVEL AND FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

18. The Pacific Community is only able to provide funding for the nominated representative's from member Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs). All other participants to the meeting will need to organize their own funds for attendance.

19. The Secretariat will meet the costs listed below for the sponsored participants, representing member governments or administrations:
- Return air fares (economy class) or excursion fares, if available, by the most direct route between the representative's country and Nadi, Fiji;
 - Per diem allowances at the prevailing SPC rates for the nights necessarily spent in transit to and from Nadi, Fiji and for the duration of the meeting.
20. An E-ticket for confirmed travel will be arranged by SPC for the nominated representative and forwarded to the Government/Administration concerned. Alternatively bookings will only be made at the expense of the Government/Administration concerned. Governments and Administrations should arrange transit accommodation, relevant visas and other travel arrangements for their delegates.
21. In order to facilitate communications, agreement is sought for the Secretariat to correspond directly with intending delegates once their nominations are received. Unless we are advised otherwise, we will assume that this arrangement is acceptable.

ACCOMODATION

22. Accommodation for the meeting sponsored participants will be arranged at the Novotel Hotel, Nadi, Fiji.
23. For non-sponsored participants, they should indicate in their completed registration forms if they wish to have their accommodation arranged in advance by the Secretariat.

INTERPRETATION

24. The workshop will be conducted in English.

VISA REQUIREMENT

25. Participants should enquire with their travel agents the requirements for a visa to enter Fiji including those required for transit travel.

INSURANCE

26. It should be noted that SPC does not insure participants whilst attending or travelling to and from the meeting and will not be responsible for any expenses arising out of sickness injury, other disability or loss of life.

FURTHER INFORMATION

27. Enquiries for further information on arrangements for the meetings should be addressed to:

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Attach

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