

## Report

# Near East IPP Training Workshop



24- 28 June, 2007

at  
Shepherd Hotel  
Cairo, Egypt

## **WORKSHOP REPORT**

### **Near East Region and Arabic-speaking African Countries IPP Training Workshop Cairo, Egypt, 24- 28 June, 2007**

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## WORKSHOP REPORT

### Near East Region and Arabic-speaking African Countries IPP Training Workshop Cairo, Egypt, 24- 28 June, 2007

**Venue:** Shepherd Hotel, Cairo, Egypt

**Organizers:**

- Secretariat of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC); (<https://www.ippc.int>)
- Arab Society for Plant Protection (ASPP); (<http://www.asplantprotection.org>)

## 1. GENERAL BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Near East Region IPP Training Workshop was jointly organized by the Secretariat of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and the Arab Society of Plant Protection (ASPP). The intended participants in the workshop were Arabic speaking member countries in the Near East region and it was funded by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) through the IPPC Secretariat.

The IPPC Secretariat recalled the relatively ineffective global phytosanitary information exchange procedures that operated in the 1980s-90s, when the IPPC had not been institutionalized appropriately and countries did not have clear responsibilities in this regard. The revision of the IPPC in 1997 more precisely outlined the reporting obligations and responsibilities with regards to information exchange among all parties to this convention. Thus, "information exchange" between contracting parties became a key issue. In this context, one of the IPPC Secretariat's roles is to facilitate information exchange procedures, maintaining and further improving the IPP, and to provide technical assistance to contracting parties if requested.

The 'creation' of the International Phytosanitary Portal (IPP – <https://www.ippc.int>) agreed by the Interim Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (ICPM) in 2001 following a recommendation made by a ICPM working group. The IPP was then established as the mechanism for ensuring that information exchange is based on the technological possibilities of the Internet. The IPP was created as a system integrated into the general FAO information management environment, to ensure reliability and security. It went live in August 2002, incorporating the previous database established by the IPPC Secretariat. Following ICPM recommendations and the approval of the ICPM, an IPP Support Group (IPP SG) was established to advise on the development of the official IPPC website. The IPP SG normally convenes annually to discuss improvements for the IPP and assist in developing the annual information exchange work programme. The IPP is updated regularly based on reported problems and the advice of the IPP SG. The IPPC information exchange work programme is adopted by the CPM (lost the interim status in October 2005 when the revised Convention came into force) annually.

### NPPO Information Exchange Reporting Obligations

The IPPC Secretariat recalled the nature of the **reporting obligations** of IPPC Contracting Parties, which concern:

- Pest reports [Articles IV 2(b) & VIII 1(a)]
- Descriptions of the NPPOs [Article IV 4]
- Phytosanitary restrictions, requirements and prohibitions [Article VII 2(b)]
- Points of entry with specific restrictions [Article VII 2(d)]
- Lists of regulated pests [Article VII 2(i)]
- Emergency actions [Article VII 6]
- Official contact point details [Article VIII 2]

The IPPC Secretariat also referred to **optional reporting** issues, which includes:

- Organizational arrangements for plant protection [Article IV 4]
- Rationale for phytosanitary requirements [Article VII 2(c)] – this refers to PRA

- Pest status [Article VII 2(j)]
- Non-compliance [Article VII 2(f)]

The IPPC Secretariat discussed the difference between official information versus scientific information. While official information falls into clear defined categories as outlined above, whereby particular ISPMs or the IPPC provides detailed guidance on the form and the required information, there are many types and sources of scientific information which need to be examined carefully and possibly verified by the IPPC Contact Point. Official information is often based on scientific information, which is much more diverse in origin and nature, and which can also be reported by NPPOs. However, it was concluded that both *scientific* and *official* information are relevant to agricultural trade, but their accuracy, reliability and accountability are crucial. In this respect, regulators and scientists should recognize and respect their respective roles and work together to achieve this.

The IPPC Secretariat finally noted that those obligatory reports to the WTO (= WTO-SPS Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures) that are also relevant to the IPPC are in principle automatically made available through the IPP. However, the automatic data harvesting procedure based on the common use of keywords is presently getting improved and should be available next year for WTO members under a separate tab.

## 2. OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKSHOP

The overall objectives of the workshop was to increase national capacity through the training of nominated responsible person/s for the exchange of official information (with the responsibility for updating country information in the IPP in order to meet the national phytosanitary information exchange obligations under the IPPC), and how to access official information through the IPP for use in the phytosanitary decision making process. The IPP also ensures that every CPM member has equal opportunity or access to essential official phytosanitary information, the capacity to exchange official information electronically (if allowed by the government), and to meet their obligations under the IPPC to facilitate phytosanitary decision-making by developing and providing:

- access to the official information exchange network of the CPM i.e. the IPP
- providing and facilitating access to up-to-date phytosanitary information on:
  - NPPOs
  - national phytosanitary requirements
  - CPM
  - IPPC
  - RPPOs, and
  - pests of potential phytosanitary importance, via the internet
- provide access to the FAO Biosecurity Portal (IPFSAPH)
- training in the exchange of official phytosanitary information, and information management for phytosanitary decision-making; and
- providing access to basic technical phytosanitary information in support of the above processes.

### Expected outputs:

1. Senior NPPO officers trained in the use of the IPP for the exchange of official phytosanitary information as outlined in the IPPC.
2. Provision of relevant reference materials in support of training workshop(s). A revised IPP users manual, users templates (to facilitate uploading of information), and Information Exchange flowcharts;
3. Participants will be able (and are responsible) to enter relevant information on behalf of their governments into the IPP themselves.

### 3. OPENING WORKSHOP

**Dr. David C. Nowell** from the IPPC secretariat welcomed participants and announced that workshops on IPP training have been ongoing for the past two years; and this workshop is for the Arab speaking countries after undertaking the Arabic translation of the website (completed on February 2007). Participants were encouraged to participate fully, as this workshop is a milestone for this region and its outcome would largely determine the content and structure of future IPP workshops. In addition, he encouraged free discussion and also hoped to improve the actual IPP website, through feedback from participants. Dr Nowell encouraged the participants to make good use of this week in learning how to exchange information through IPP and take what is learned home and spread the information learnt within each of the different countries. Finally, Dr. Nowell thanked ASPP for the excellent organization of the workshop.

**Dr Khaled Makkouk** extended his warmest welcome to the participants on behalf of the Arab Society for Plant Protection (ASPP), which is the co-organizer of this workshop and on behalf of the Society President, Dr Wafaa Khoury. The Executive Committee of ASPP was extremely happy when asked by FAO/IPPC to organize this workshop in Cairo. As a matter of fact the collaboration between IPPC and ASPP started about two years ago, when the society expressed an interest in translating all IPPC documentation into Arabic. To implement that, ASPP established a translation committee of 4 experienced plant protection scientists representing the different Arabic dialects among the Arab countries, and this group is lead by Dr Bassam Bayaa. The main idea behind this is to produce an Arabic translation acceptable by different plant protection groups within the Arab countries. Different schools of translation are present and different terms in Arabic are being used in different Arab countries. ASPP is working hard to unify Arabic terms in plant protection through a variety of activities; the Journal (Arab Journal of Plant Protection) and the Arab and Near East Plant Protection Newsletter published by ASPP, as well as through the Plant Protection Dictionary published recently. Dr Makkouk indicated that this workshop is very important for the people involved in the quarantine services to be able to access all the information they need to make the right decision and he sincerely hoped that all participants during the 5-day training will gain an experience which will prove extremely useful for the quarantine services in their respective countries. He is extremely happy to see FAO, IPPC and ASPP joining hands, and he sincerely hopes that this kind of collaboration will continue beyond this workshop. He hoped that the participants will enjoy this training activities and will contribute actively towards its success. Dr. Makkouk thanked the ICARDA Cairo Office for their logistic support for the workshop.

**The workshop was opened by FAO representative**, Dr Mohamed Mohamud Mirreh (Regional Officer for the Near East, Range Management & Fodder Production Office), with the following inaugural address:

*Dear Colleagues,*

*It gives me great pleasure on behalf of Dr Mohamed Ibrahim Albraithin, Assistant Director General and Regional Representative of FAO for the Near East, to welcome you all to this training workshop on the use of the International Phytosanitary Portal.*

*As you know, the IPP similar to the international standards for phytosanitary regulations, is one of the basic components or elements of the International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs), which is ratified by most countries in the region, who become parties to it, and committed to its resolutions and recommendations, normally issued during the meetings of Member States Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM).*

*The CPM focused during its second meeting, held in Rome from 24-30 March 2007 to urge and encourage convention Member States on using IPP, in order to achieve collaboration among Plant Protection and Quarantine Institutions, through the use of this international electronic gate.*

*This workshop is the first one held in the Near East region, which aims to build and strengthen national capacities of the countries of the Near East region in information exchange through training in the use, and periodic updating of information on member countries of this outlet, and whenever the need arises. In the context of fulfilling the requirements of the International Plant Protection Convention. With this training, each country will be able to obtain and share phytosanitary information with the Member States, and the addition or modifications of any new information related to each country and will greatly facilitate the implementation of the IPPC and enhance transparency in information exchange between Member States.*

*The IPPC Secretariat effort to translate IPP to Arabic is an important achievement. It is now possible for countries in the Arabic-speaking region to exchange information on phytosanitary regulation in this language without resorting to translation, sparing them the burden of translation costs, and at the same time, facilitates communication between countries in the region in phytosanitary matters, which is one of the important objectives of the Near East region, to strengthen cooperation in plant protection activities.*

*I would like to thanks the IPPC Secretariat for their remarkable efforts in this regard and for issuing the Arabic IPP in spite of the financial difficulties experienced, which in turn led to the downsizing of many activities, which have not received adequate funding.*

*I would like also to thank the Arab Society for Plant Protection, which contributed to the organization of this workshop, and this will enhance cooperation between the Society and the Near East Regional Office of the FAO which supported the Society's congresses over the last twenty years, including the 9<sup>th</sup> Arab Congress of Plant Protection, held in Damascus last November, as well as continued collaboration in publishing the Arab and Near East Plant Protection Newsletter.*

*Again, I would like to thank you all and wish you a beneficial training, and a every successful stay in Cairo.*



*Speakers in the opening ceremony of the Near East Region and Arabic-speaking African Countries IPP Training Workshop. From left, are: Dr Mohamed Mohamud Mirreh (Regional Officer for the Near East), Dr David C. Nowell (IPPC, FAO), and Dr Khaled Makkouk (ASPP).*



#### 4. PARTICIPATION

Participants consisted of senior plant protection officers responsible for information exchange in the respective NPPO who already have a background in the management of phytosanitary information. Nine participants from 8 countries attended this workshop, namely Egypt, Jordan, Libya, Morocco, Sudan, Sultanate of Oman, Syria and Yemen ([Appendix 1](#)). Dr. David C. Nowell (IPPC, FAO) was the workshop facilitator; Dr Bassma Bayaa (Syria) and Mr Charles Zarzour (Lebanon) were resource persons, and Dr Safaa Kumari, ASPP served as the workshop rapporteur.



*Participants in the Near East Region and Arabic-speaking African Countries IPP Training Workshop.*

#### 5. WORKSHOP PROGRAM - as in [Appendix 2](#).

#### 6. WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS.

Several papers were presented during the workshop:

- Presentation of the workshop program (IPPC)
- IPP Workshop objectives and expected outputs
- Information exchange under the IPPC
- IPPC Contact Points and the Exchange of Official Information
- The Role and Relationship of Scientific and Official Information
- The IPPC & The SPS-Agreement “Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures”
- Country Presentations on National Information Exchanges Processes
- Official versus scientific information
- How does the SPS-notification system fit into this?
- Introduction to the IPP

Details of the presentations can be found [in Appendix 3](#).

## 7. COUNTRY PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS

Seven countries represented at the workshop (Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Sudan, Sultanate of Oman, Syria and Yemen) gave a brief report on the structure of their respective NPPO, with particular emphasis on information systems for internal and external presentation and exchange of information (e.g. websites).

Details of the reports can be found in **Appendix 4**.

## 8. NAVIGATION EXERCISES

A demonstration on the use of the IPP was conducted by the facilitators, and the portal was extensively tested by the participants.

The participants, with the guidance of the IPPC Secretariat and after explanation of live navigation of the IPP, undertook a series of online navigation exercises, with the aim of finding specific entries or replying to specific questions. This exercise lasted for a whole afternoon and part of following morning. It gave the participants the opportunity to get thoroughly acquainted with the system and its interface and was appreciated by all.

The purpose of the hands-on session was to train participants in the use of the IPP. The first part was to train the participants on the basic functions and navigation of the IPP, and the second part was data entry.

Exercises: Participants were required to browse the IPP (**Appendix 5**)

## 9. DATA ENTRY (EXERCISES)

Participants were required to enter data into the IPP using information they had brought to the workshop for this purpose. On the final day of the workshop, the facilitator examined the webpages put up by the participants and generally commented on their content.

The IPPC Secretariat introduced all reporting obligations to the participants including all related background information and the relevant data-entry-forms which need to be used for entering and maintaining or updating reports/information. Following a thorough introduction and demonstration of examples, the participants with the guidance of the IPPC Secretariat, started to enter information under their respective countries and under the various categories of Reporting Obligations and other headings. They had the option of starting to use data entry templates and then transfer the data into the IPP production site, or use the training site of the IPP. This exercise continued for a day and a half. During this time, participants learned how to use the various data entry forms and how to attach links to files, etc. Participants were all able to upload various types of data themselves and/or add *url*-links from specific pages of other official websites to the corresponding sites under their country in the IPP.

All participants updated their official contact details including their respective official IPPC Contact Points. Participants appreciated the existence of the IPP Training Instance at: <http://193.43.36.96>, and requested that this site should always be available for all IPP Editors. Some countries arrived well prepared with verified (by their country's IPPC Contact Point) official data in electronic format and decided to transfer all information directly onto the IPP production site.

## 10. BUG REPORTS FOR IPPC ARABIC WEBSITE COMMENTS

- National Tabs is not consistently translated into Arabic
- In the bottom of the home page – RPPOs: the name of APPPC organization is not translated to Arabic.
- In the national: Names of countries groups and names of countries are not translated.
- In the national – selected country: the titles of the list are not translated – such as IPP Editor , ... , phytosanitary restrictions.



- The arrangement of the titles in the home page is not correct in the Arabic page which arranged in English as – Home – IPPC – IPPC Publications – National – Calendar while in Arabic page it should be arranged as in English.
- In the bottom of the home page: Contact IPPC Secretariat is not translated.
- In the upper left side of the home page: the title Lowband is not translated.
- In the upper side of the homepage: the language names are not translated.
- In the Calendar: the word "Details" and the sentence "filter events by type" are not translated.
- The "help" in Arabic page is not activated.
- In the search page: the "Type of information" is not complete , "Category" , "Country" , "Region" are not translated.

## 11. FURTHER GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Additional information including suggestions and recommendations have been summarized in the Workshop evaluation in Appendix 6.

- Some participants suggested that a CD-ROM be made available for practice of the IPP. The facilitator explained that without the database/server, this exercise would not be practical. The training site (<http://193.43.36.96>) would be available for practice for the benefit of the participants. The facilitator encouraged the entry of data into the production site (<https://www.ippc.int>) when the participants feel confident enough after sufficient practice on the test site. In addition, participants found the test site practical useful, and requested a guide in the handouts;
- Some participants requested clarification on the type of documents suitable for uploading into the IPP. The facilitator should suggest topics or editorial guidelines. The facilitator clarified that these would be provided for future in the form of an “IPPC Information Exchange Manual” that is being prepared through the IPP Support Group;
- The facilitator does not recommend more than 2 editors for the purpose of data entry, although some countries have as many as 5 editors. It remains the prerogative of countries to nominate as many editors as they believe to be practically required to meet their information exchange obligations through the IPP;
- **Maximum file size:** The ‘maximum file size’ (3MB) should be indicated in the “help” or elsewhere where appropriate. Editors would need to resize their files to meet this requirement;
- The facilitator explained that editors/countries will not be given the option to delete information already put up, to avoid the possibility of manipulation of information and due to the theoretical possibility of legal trade challenges between trading partners based on information contained in the IPP. All deletions have to be done through the IPP Webmaster and will only be undertaken if there is an obvious error e.g. duplication of data. All information can be updated and old information will be automatically archived;
- Participants are encouraged to send any further remarks, e.g. suggestions for new Keywords, notification of errors, etc., to the IPP Webmaster;
- Participants should, on return to their countries, review the data they have entered onto the IPP or the training instance during the Workshop, and make corrections if required.
- Maghreb Countries asked for a one day Workshop to discuss the IPP Website during the Regional WG Workshop;
- Information exchange obligations on IPP must be clear;
- Participants will send provide comments on the workshop draft Report that is available in the IPP;
- Encourage countries to ensure all IPPC contracting parties use the IPP for information exchange;
- Encourage countries to ensure that official IPPC communication & correspondence will be in electronic format;
- Requested more NE and national Workshops to strength the capacity building of IPP editors; and
- Requested the Regional and Sub-Regional Plant Protection offices to follow up on using the IPP in their Region



## **12. CONCLUSIONS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

- Generally, the workshop was carried out in accordance to the scheduled program, and the overall objectives were met. Participants generally benefited from the training, and were ready to contribute to the IPP upon return to their home countries;
- The workshop also noted the above strengths, weaknesses and recommendations put forward by the participants. These will be discussed with the authorities at the Headquarters where decisions will be made for future improvement;
- The facilitator thanked participants for their enthusiasm and persistence, and also thanked the hosts for the excellent hospitality and resources made available for the running of the workshop;
- Participants thanked the ASPP, and Dr Bassam Bayaa in particular, for ensuring the IPP is translated into Arabic so that it is more useful and can be used by a wider range of stakeholders in the Near East region;
- The ASPP was thanked for organizing this workshop that would benefit participant countries in the NE region;
- ICARDA, and Dr Khaled Makkouk and Dr Safaa Kumari in particular, was thanked for making available resources that allowed for this successful workshop; and
- The workshop report was adopted after receiving consensus of all the participants at 12.00 AM June 28, 2007.

### **13. APPENDIXES**

#### **Appendix 1: List of participants**

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## Appendix 2 – Workshop Agenda

<b>24 June 2007 (Sunday)</b>		
<b>Session 1: Opening:</b>		
Chair: Host Institution: Arab Society for Plant Protection		
	9.30 - 10.00	Registration
	10.00- 10.15	Opening: Host Institution and /or RPPO
	10.15 – 10.25	Opening: FAO/IPPC
	10.25- 10.30	Organizational announcements; Nomination of a WS Rapporteur, Chair For sessions IV+V
	10:30- 10:45	Tea/ Coffee
<b>Session II: Introduction to Workshop Programme on Information Exchange Capacity Building</b>		
Chair: Host Institution		
	10.45 – 11.15	Introduction of Participants (incl. brief summary of experience with using IPP
	11.15- 11.30	Presentation of the Workshop Programme (IPPC) – Adoption of Agenda
	11.30- 11.45	Workshop Objectives and expected outputs (IPPC)
	11.45- 12.30	Introduction to information exchange under the IPPC
	12:30-14:00	Lunch
<b>Session III: Country Reports on National Information Exchange process within the IPPC Framework</b>		
Chair: IPPC Secretariat		
	14.00- 17.00	Country Presentation on national Information Exchange Processes -> incl. Pros- and cons about using the IPP in each WS- participating Country.
<b>25 June 2007 (Monday)</b>		
<b>Session IV: Reporting Obligations under the IPPC</b>		
Chair: IPPC Secretariat		
	9.00 - 10.00	Role of IPPC official contact points (IPPC secretariat) & NPPO information exchange obligations (IPPC secretariat &RPPO) -> using the IPP to meet Reporting Obligations.
	10.00- 10.30	Official versus Scientific information
	Tea/ Coffee	
	10.45- 11.20	How does the SPS- notification system fit into this?
	11.20- 12.00	Introduction and demonstration of the IPP (IPPC Secretariat)-> Background information on the IPP
	12:00-13:45	Lunch
<b>Session V: Introduction to the IPP</b>		
Chair: IPPC Secretariat		
	13.45 – 14.15	i. Purpose of the IPP
		ii. Layout of the IPP
		iii. Retrieving Information
		iv. Data Entry
<b>Session VI: Practical session (1)</b>		
	14.15- 17.00	<b>IPP Navigation &amp; Practical exercises</b> i. NPPO contact points ii. NPPO information iii. Standards iv. News v. Events

		vi. RPPO information vii. Meeting papers/ reports viii. Search ix. Advanced search Demonstration how to find answers to given Navigation exercises
<b>Conclusion: reflection on key learning points from Day 2</b>		
<b>26 June 2007 (Tuesday)</b>		
<b>Session VII: Practical session (11)</b>		
	9.00 - 9.30 10.00- 12.30 12:30- 14:00 14.00- 17.00	Summary on retrieving information- Questions- Answers- discussion <b>Data entry</b> – Preparation of information for entry into the IPP using templates Lunch <b>Data entry</b> Reporting Obligations (for NPPOs): 1. Pest reports (Articles IV 2(b) & VIII 1 (a)); 2. Description of the NPPOs (article IV 4); 3. Phytosanitary restrictions, requirements and prohibitions (Article VII 2(b)); 4. Points of entry with specific restrictions (ARTICLE VII 2(d)); 5. List of regulated pest (ARTICLE VII 2(i)); 6. Emergency actions (ARTICLE VII6); 7. Official contact points (ARTICLE VIII2)
<b>Conclusion : reflection on key learning points from Day 3</b>		
<b>27 June 2007 (Wednesday)</b>		
<b>Session VIII: Practical session (111)</b>		
	9.00 - 17.00	<b>Data entry and Navigation</b> Summary on data entry- Questions- Answers- discussion Presentation of data added by each country to their NPPO site in the IPP Open discussion: Questions- answers etc. & workshop Evaluation Form
<b>28 June 2007 (Thursday)</b>		
<b>Chair: Host Institution</b>		
	9.00 – 10.00	Workshop Evaluation
	10.00 – 12.00	Adoption of the report
	12.00 – 12.30	Closing remarks IPPC Representative ASPP Representative

## **Appendix 3 – Workshop Presentations**

### **A3.1. Presentation of the workshop program**

The facilitator presented to the participants a general overview of the workshop program, detailing the role and responsibilities of the participants throughout the five-day program. The workshop proceeded upon consensus of the participants.

### **A3.2. IPP Workshop Objectives and Expected Outputs**

A summary of the presentation as follows:

#### **Awareness**

- Make countries aware of their national IPPC information exchange *obligations*
- Provide background on the exchange of information within the IPPC framework
- Explain the CPM work programme on information exchange (IPPC SD #2)
- Role and functions of an IPPC contact point
- Role and function of the IPPC Secretariat

#### **Use of the IPP**

- Purpose
- Layout / structure
- Data retrieval
- Data entry

#### **Expected Outputs**

Understand:

- information exchange under the IPPC
- national IPPC information exchange obligations
- role of IPPC contact point
- the IPP
- role of the IPP editor

Ability of participants to:

- retrieve data from the IPP
- enter data into the IPP

Identification of:

- improvements in the workshop
  - structure
  - content
- changes necessary to the IPPC information exchange work programme
- suggested changes to the IPP
- general capacity building needs
  - national
  - sub-regional

#### **Format of Workshop**

Structured but informal

- information session
- “hands on” learning
- data entry

Questions and discussion

Evaluation

### A3.3. Information Exchange and the IPPC >>Evolution of the IPPC & IPP<<

#### What is the IPPC?

- A multilateral treaty for international cooperation in plant protection
- The global instrument for the harmonization of phytosanitary measures
- The phytosanitary standard-setting organization named in the WTO-SPS Agreement

#### Purpose of the IPPC

... to secure common and effective action to prevent the spread and introduction of pests of plants and plant products, and to promote appropriate measures for their control.

#### Membership

- February 2007: 159 Contracting Parties
- Includes most major trading partners (since Oct. 2005 including China and the European Community!)
- Regional plant protection organizations are not members, but governments can belong to RPPOs without being contracting parties to the IPPC

#### Scope of the IPPC

International cooperation in the protection of plants and plant products from harmful pests

- plants include forests and wild flora
- pests include diseases and weeds
- harm includes indirect effects such as those from weeds
- not limited to trade
- Extends to storage places, conveyances, and containers
- Includes biological control organisms
- Provision for research or other purposes
- Other objects or materials capable of harbouring or spreading pests

#### History of IPPC

- 1952 Original IPPC came into force, superseding all international plant protection agreements
- 1979 IPPC (Revised Text of the IPPC)
- Countries provided information to FAO  
e.g. pest reports, legislation, regulations
- FAO disseminated
  - published
    - PPB
    - PQ DB
  - dissemination

#### Challenges

Countries

- Lack of commitment
- Consistency
- Accuracy
- Source

FAO resources

*Essentially a failure*

#### Revision of the IPPC

Modernize IPPC

- trade

Needed consistency with WTO-SPS Agreement

- standard setting

Institutionalization (1992: formalizes Secretariat and standard-setting)

- FAO = IPPC Secretariat (within the Plant Protection Service of FAO)
- national

#### FAO Conference

- adopted in 1997
- 1998: NRT circulated to members for acceptance or adherence
- into force after acceptance by 2/3 contracting parties...
- 2005: 2nd October – NRT entered into force

#### **NRT of the IPPC (1997)**

- No significant changes in obligations
- Changes in emphasis / responsibilities
- More specific
- Primarily an NPPO responsibility
- Secretariat responsibilities
- RPPO responsibilities

#### **Amendments of the IPPC (1997)**

- Harmonization, scientific justification for measures, non discrimination, consistency, and equivalence;
- A global forum for phytosanitary issues
- Technical assistance
- Interim measures

#### **Other Implications**

- Exchange official and scientific information
- Recognize equivalence
- Recognize area and prevalence concepts
- Specific technical competencies and needs
- Trade = free, fair, & *safe*
- Globalization, liberalization, & negotiation

#### **Communication**

The exchange of information is central

3 primary work areas in CPM work programme

- I. Standard setting
- II. Information exchange
- III. Technical assistance

Now information exchange emphasis

#### **Role of the IPPC Secretariat**

Facilitate

Participate through implementation of the CPM work programme

Meet obligations under IPPC

Technical assistance

- all levels

#### **NPPO Obligations**

- Official contact point - *Article VIII 2*
- Description of NPPO and changes - *Article IV 4*
- Non-compliance - *Article VII 2(f)*
- List of regulated pests - *Article VII 2(i)*
- Pest reporting - *Article IV 2(b)*
- Exchange of information on plant pests, particularly the reporting of the occurrence, outbreak or spread - *Article VIII 1(c)*



- Technical and biological information necessary for PRA - *Article VIII 1(a)*
- Specified points of entry - *Article VII 2(d)*
- Organizational arrangements for plant protection - *Article IV 4*
- Emergency action - *Article VII 6*
- Phytosanitary requirements, restrictions and prohibitions - *Article VII 2(b)*
- Adequate information on pest status - *Article VII 2(j)*
- Rationale for phytosanitary requirements, restrictions and prohibitions - *Article VII 2(c)*

#### **Facilitation**

- Informal ICPM Ad Hoc Working Group
  - September 2000
  - initial exploration of obligations under the IPPC
- ICPM working Group
  - January 2001
  - identified obligations and reporting mechanisms
  - identified the need for a global phytosanitary IE system
  - identified basic needs
  - to be undertaken by the Secretariat
- ICPM approval
  - March 2001
  - International Phytosanitary Portal (IPP)
    - electronic system
    - internet-based system
  - IPP Support Group established
  - Development of a prototype
  - March 2001
  - Continued development

#### **Basic Requirements**

- Internet based
  - cannot ignore the needs of those without Internet access
  - highly cost effective
- Reliable
- Secure
- Remote access
  - NPPOs & RPPOs maintain their own information
  - immediate / live response time
- No duplication of data entry
- Freely available
  - CD-ROM version
- Proven FAO information system as the core
- Basic navigation in all FAO languages
  - developed in English
  - extended to French, Spanish and Arabic
  - Chinese to be included soon (2007)

#### **Status**

- Maintaining IPPC / developing IPP in parallel
- Limited capacity
  - synchronisation problems
- Live 1 August 2002 (<http://www.ippc.int>)
  - navigation issues
  - upgrade
    - double page layout

- reduced no. of directories
- reduced bugs
- abbreviated URLs
- Spanish and French

### **Partnerships**

- Introduction of the SG
- Ontology
- NPPOs to test / develop
- RPPOs to test / develop
- Refine
  - functions
  - layout
  - navigation
  - data entry forms

### **Technical Assistance**

- Development costs
  - extra-FAO budgetary funding
- Large TA programme needed
  - initiated end 2005 – 2006, ...ongoing 2007
- All levels
  - training (regional/sub-regional & national)
    - awareness
    - data entry
  - capacity/equipment (national/sub-regional)
    - data entry

## **A3.4. IPPC Contact Points and the Exchange of Official Information**

### **Nomination**

Article VIII: International Cooperation

- Each contracting parties shall designate a contact
- point for the exchange of information connected
- with the implementation of this Convention

### **Role**

- Exchange of official information
- Coordination
  - internal
  - trading partners etc.
- Appropriate response
- Official information
  - verification of unofficial data!?
- Bilateral

### **Functions**

NPPO spokesperson / enquiry point

- Relevant authority
- Official information

Distribution point / “post box”

- Incoming
- Outgoing

Meet information exchange obligations under IPPC

- Central to the functioning of the IPPC

### **Benefits**

- Single contact person on all IPPC issues
- Official status
- Improved reliability
- Improved transparency
- Builds trust
- Improved response time

### **Secretariat**

- copies with formal correspondence
- direct communication
  - only point of contact with government
- notifications
- response to queries

### **A Number of Challenges**

- Nomination
- Updating
  - lack of follow-up to changes e.g. tel. & fax.
  - frequent changes in people & office
- Poor functioning
  - lack of response
  - not aware of role and obligations
  - lack of authority
  - not integrated into national IPPC process

### **Nominations for IPP**

#### IPPC contact points

- busy
- cannot do everything
- who is going to do data entry in IPP?

#### Nomination of IPP “editors”

- formal nomination by IPPC OCP
- responsible for OCP data entry

## **A3.5. The Role and Relationship of Scientific and Official Information**

### **Information Exchange and the IPPC**

- ◆ Article VIII provisions
  - cooperate in the exchange of information
  - provide scientific and technical information for PRAs
  - designate Official Contact Point
- ◆ Article IV provisions
  - surveillance and reporting of pests

### **Scientific vs Official Information**

#### *Scientific Information*

- Biology of the pest:
  - ✓ Distribution
  - ✓ Host range
  - ✓ Vectors
  - ✓ Biological impact
  - ✓ Economic impact

- ✓ Other data
- Sources of scientific information
  - ✓ Refereed journals
  - ✓ Non-refereed journals
  - ✓ NPPO records
  - ✓ Historical records
  - ✓ Electronic documentation

#### *Official Information*

- ✓ Regulatory requirements
- ✓ Surveillance data
- ✓ Regulated pest lists
- ✓ PRAs
- ✓ Pest status reporting
- ✓ Pest outbreaks
- ✓ Restrictions/prohibitions
- ✓ Emergency actions

#### *Source of official information*

Official Contact Point designated by the Contracting Party

#### **Importing Countries may use pest status information to:**

- conduct a PRA on a pest in another country;
- establish phytosanitary regulations;
- and conduct a PRA on a non-quarantine pest in their own territories for purposes of regulating it.

#### **Exporting countries may use pest status information to:**

- comply with import regulations of importing countries;
- and meet requests from other countries for the purposes of PRAs.

#### **Importing and exporting countries may use pest status information to:**

- conduct PRAs;
- plan national, regional and international pest management programs;
- establish national pest lists;
- establish and maintain pest free areas (PFA).

#### **Dispute Settlement**

- Provisions for country consultation under WTO and IPPC
- Use of PRAs in dispute settlement
- Roles of scientific and regulatory experts
- Exchange of information between
  - countries
  - international organizations

#### **The Role of Scientists**

- Research and reporting of results
- Responsibility and accountability
- Understand repercussions and impact of pest reporting
- Accuracy in reporting
- Communication and participation with the regulatory community

#### **The Role of Regulators**

- Identify needs and gaps in knowledge base on pests of quarantine importance
- Support and encourage the activities of scientists in gathering and disseminating scientific information on plant pests
- Emphasise the importance of accurate and reliable information exchange

- Inform scientists on the role, relevance and impact of pest reporting

### **Official Contact Points**

- Required under the (NRT) IPPC
- Used for the transmittal of *official information* within a country
- Used for the transmittal of *official information* between trading partners

Benefits of Official Contact Points:

- Avoid confusion or misinterpretations
- *ACCOUNTABILITY*
- *TRANSPARENCY*

### **Conclusions**

- Both *scientific* and *official* information are relevant to agricultural trade
- Accuracy, reliability and accountability are crucial
- Regulators and scientists must recognize and respect the roles of each

### **A3.6. The IPPC & The SPS-Agreement**

“Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures”

#### **WTO system**

- SPS Agreement: “Members shall notify changes in their sanitary or phytosanitary measures and shall provide information on their sanitary or phytosanitary measures in accordance with the provisions of Annex B.”
- Article VII: Transparency

#### **Relationship to the SPS**

*Art 3 of the SPS (Harmonization)*

- members shall base their SPS measures on international standards or justify deviations
- members shall play a full part in the relevant standard setting organization
- relevant standard setting organizations are CAC, OIE, and IPPC

#### **SPS Measures**

Should be:

- consistent with international standards
- justified based on scientific principles and evidence
- harmonized to the extent possible
- transparent / notified / non-discriminatory
- only to meet the appropriate level of protection

#### ***Enquiry points***

3. Each Member shall ensure that one enquiry point exists which is responsible for the provision of answers to all reasonable questions from interested Members as well as for the provision of relevant documents regarding:

- any sanitary or phytosanitary regulations adopted or proposed within its territory;
- any control and inspection procedures, production and quarantine treatment, pesticide tolerance and food additive approval procedures, which are operated within its territory;
- risk assessment procedures, factors taken into consideration, as well as the determination of the appropriate level of sanitary or phytosanitary protection;
- the membership and participation of the Member, or of relevant bodies within its territory, in international and regional sanitary and phytosanitary organizations and systems, as well as in bilateral and multilateral agreements and arrangements within the scope of this Agreement, and the texts of such agreements and arrangements.

#### ***Notification procedures***

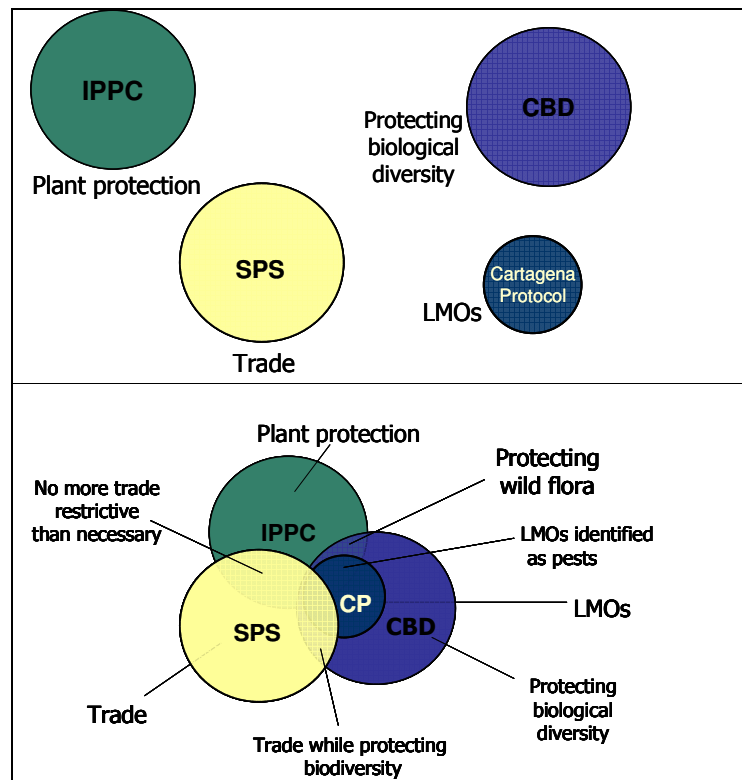
5. ...Members shall notify the SPS-Secretariat:
  - > publish regulations
  - > publish a notice on introduction of new regulations
  - > notification on changes on regulations, and
  - > -on products affected by new regulation, and
  - > -on objective and rational

**The SPS makes provision for phytosanitary protection in a trade agreement...**  
**The IPPC makes complementary provision for trade in a protection agreement.**

### Scope

“The coverage of the IPPC definition of pests of plants includes weeds and other species that have indirect effects on plants. Therefore the scope of the Convention applies to the protection of wild flora resulting in an important contribution to the conservation of biological diversity.” (ICPM 2001; CPM 2006)

### International regulatory framework



### Relationship to the IPPC

- GMOs (LMOs) to the extent that such organisms may be considered pests of plants [CP <-> IPPC]
- Biosafety as it involves Pest Risk Analysis, biocontrol, and the application of phytosanitary measures
- Alien invasive species to the extent that these include *pests* of plants and plant products [CBD <-> IPPC]

### Environmental Hazards

- Expert working group on elaboration of environmental risks
  - Reduction/elimination of endangered or threatened native plant species



- Reduction/elimination of keystone species
- Reduction/elimination of plant species that is a major component of native ecosystem
- Changes to plant biodiversity causing ecosystem destabilization
- Impacts of control programs

**Implementation**

SPS Enquiry Point

- separate from IPPC
- narrower than IPPC

Different process from IPPC

*Overlap*

Need for coordination and cooperation

*Meeting IPPC obligations?!*

## Appendix 4 - Country Presentations/Reports

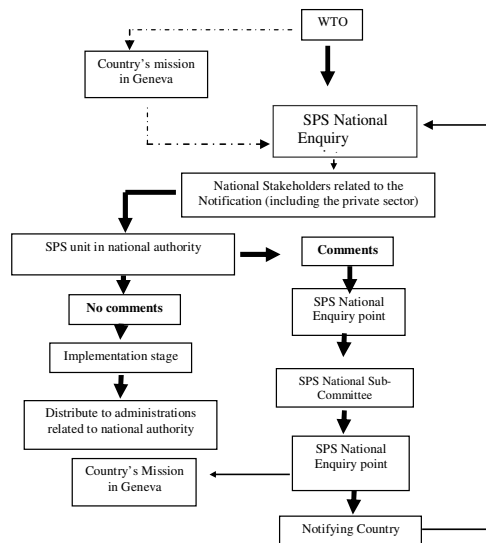
### A4.1 Country IPP Report: Egypt

Egyptian Plant Quarantine is the protecting fence against entrance of any diseases and pests that damage the agricultural wealth of Egypt , it is a package of legislations and technical procedures applied on the exported and imported agricultural consignments in Egypt.

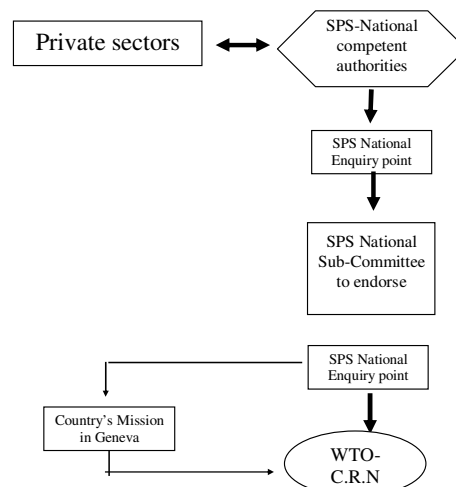
#### National Structure for the Information Exchange:

1. *WTO notifications*: the SPS national enquiry point is responsible to receive the notifications and send it to the national stakeholders related to the notification.
2. *IPPC website*: Phytosanitary team in CAPQ is responsible to receive, study and discuss different information, as well as ISPMs and distribute it to different administrations.

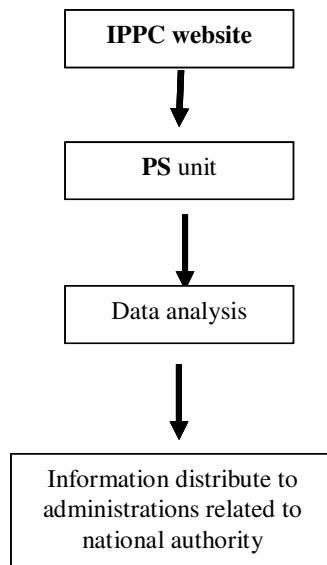
#### Information Exchange Systems in Egypt



#### Outgoing notifications

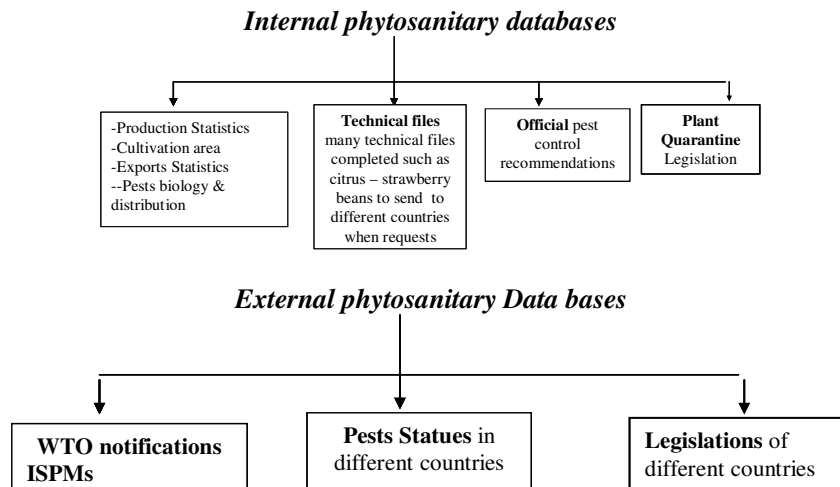


#### Information exchange from IPPC website:



**Data is currently available compared to that which is obligatory under the IPPC.**

- Under the obligation of article (8) of IPPC ( international cooperation) , Egypt cooperate with contracting parties in information exchange on:
  1. Plant pests particularly the reporting of the occurrence, outbreak or spread of pests that may be of immediate or potential danger.
  2. Providing technical and biological information necessary for pest risk analysis.



***Internet Infrastructure in Egypt:***

Web Site of the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation:

[www.agri.gov.eg](http://www.agri.gov.eg)

This website present:

- 1-Economic Charts
- 2-Agriculture Reports

Egypt's Information Portal [www.idsc.gov.eg](http://www.idsc.gov.eg)

This website present many useful items such as:

- 1-Economical , Social Portal and Statistical Report.
- 2-Laws and Legislations.

Benefits of using IPP include:

1-Follow up the updated news and data about all national& international organizations.

Challenges we facing:

1- Lack of trainings on using IPP.

*Bodies of Data collection in Egypt includes:*

- 1- Phytosanitary Unit in EPQ .
- 2- Plant Protection research institution.
- 3- Plant Pathology research institution.
- 4- Horticulture research institution.

***Our Needs:***

1. Develop the internet uses and connect it with strong data bases.
2. Infrastructure includes servers, websites and security tools for data network.
3. EPQ staff training in the following fields:
  - new system web forms
  - using internet browsers and email clients
  - digital signature
  - editing information to publish on the website
4. Establish network between plant quarantine entry points and CAPQ.

**A4.2 Country IPP Report: Jordan**

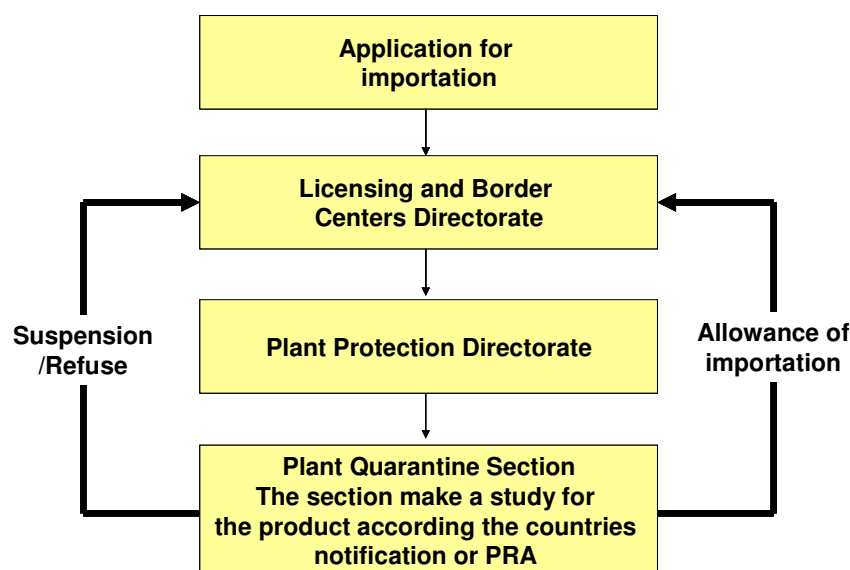
Jordan gives the plant quarantine a special importance, so there is a focus on plant quarantine issues in the agricultural law and in the Agricultural Strategy which is adopted by His Majesty King Abdullah the second.

- Regarding the agricultural law (No. (44) of year 2002) there are twelve Articles of seventy three articles directly related to plant quarantine, seven articles about sanitary and phytosanitary measures which fulfill the requirements of SPS agreement, and the other five articles about plant quarantine.
- The agricultural law assure the continuous updating of these measures according substantial notifications from the countries concerned with these measures and are cosigners of bilateral or international agreements with the Kingdom.

In addition to that followings are regulations (sub-law) in this regard:

- Plant quarantine regulations (No. Zain/2 for the year, 2003) ([www.moa.gov.jo](http://www.moa.gov.jo)).
- Production, importing and exporting of potato seeds (No. Zain/12 for the year, 2003) ([www.moa.gov.jo](http://www.moa.gov.jo)).
- Regulations governing wood packaging materials (No. Zain/4 for the year,2005), (Notification G/SPS/N/JOR/1412, January 2006) ([www.moa.gov.jo](http://www.moa.gov.jo)).
- Regulations governing production and importation of seedlings (No. Zain/2 for the year 2007) ([www.moa.gov.jo](http://www.moa.gov.jo)).
- Regulations for red palm weevil control, (Notification G/SPS/N/JOR/4, 15 Apzzxxril 2003) ([www.moa.gov.jo](http://www.moa.gov.jo)).
- Jordan is a member in EPPO (since 1995) and its plant quarantine regulations are compatible with EPPO regulations, also plant quarantine regulations are published in EPPO website.
- There is a list of quarantine pests, which is now under the process of updating as Jordan E.U partnership program.
- Phytosanitary records:
  - Entry pointsend monthly reports which reflect pests present in the refused/accepted imported consignments. The Jordanian Entry Points (Agricultural Quarantine Centers) are: Amman Customs Center, Queen Alia Airport Center, Aqaba Customs Center (Passengers, cargo), Al-Mudawara Center, Al-Omari Center, Zarqa Free Zone Area Center, Jordanian-Syrian Free Zone Area Center, Al-Ramtha Center (Passengers only), Jaber Border Center, Jordan Valley Center, Al-Karama Center, King Husein Bridge Center, King Abdullah The Second Industrial City Center (Sahab), Prince Hasan Industrial City Center.

- Agriculture directorates send monthly reports which reflect the pest status in the country.
- The next framework represents the mechanism of importation of plant and plant products.



Information exchange capacity building needs, followings are the needs:

- A network: for better data exchange.
- A data base: for updated phytosanitary measures.
- Upgrading of entry points.
- Personnel capacity building.

For detailed information regarding:

- Agricultural Law.
- Plant Quarantine Regulations.
- Ministry of Agriculture Strategy, Regulations.

Please Visit the Ministry Official Website ([www.moa.gov.jo](http://www.moa.gov.jo))

#### **A4.3 Country IPP Report: Morocco**

Because of Moroccan geographical position and importance of its exchanges of plants and plant products, it is constantly subjected to the risks of introduction of quarantine organisms. Facing this risk, Morocco set up since 1927 a phytosanitary system, the objective is to safeguard the national agricultural inheritance and to guarantee the quality of its agricultural products at export. This system which is governed by an arsenal of regulatory texts is applied at import via 11 points of entries (Seaports, airports and Roads), within the country and at export. With this intention and within the framework of the regional and international co-operation, Morocco is signatory of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC/FAO) in 1972 and active member of Regional Plant Protection Organization (European and Mediterranean Organization of Plant Protection (EPPO). Morocco is also a member of WTO since 2005. The phytosanitary exchange information within the central and regional of Moroccan plant protection structures and with the economic operators including the foreign plant health services are done through the normal Internet and letters.

The Near East regional and Arabic speaking African countries IPP training workshop held in Cairo (Egypt) from 24 to 28 June 2007 is intended to provide guidance to IPP editors to ensure they are better able to enter the correct information in the appropriate place and ensure a more consistent

quality of information across countries in the international phytosanitary portal. This system is efficient in information dissemination and many IPPC contracting parties will then meet their obligations. It's also intended to facilitate communication information sharing and transparency between countries and between the IPPC secretariat and the member countries.

#### **A4.4 Country IPP Report: Sudan**

##### **Historical Background & Establishment of the Plant Protection Directorate in Sudan**

The establishment of Plant Protection began when the Anglo-Egyptian colonial government has faced the problem of the desert locust, which threatened the agricultural production causing hunger and disasters to Sudanese people, which affected the stability and execution of the ruling government policies.

The plant protection started as a unit, 1904 in Agricultural research, a separate section of Entomology in 1940, and later in 1970 became The Plant Protection Department. With its increasing responsibility of surveying and controlling the national migratory pests and the cotton pests the Plant Protection Directorate developed in 1974 to be the Plant Protection Directorate as one of the important central directorates of the Ministry of Agriculture.

After rearrangement of ministries in Sudan by the central government, the Plant Protection Directorate developed to General Directorate of Plant Protection (PPD) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources in the late 1980' with complete central administrative and financial authorities to all its main stations in Sudan.

In 1997, when the central government adopted decentralization and divided Sudan into 26 States, the General Plant Protection main stations possessed their financial and administrative authorities under the State governments leaving the planning and technical policies to the PPD.

Since the year 1904 to date the Plant Protection General Directorate has gained good reputation nationally and internationally in checking both the national and local pests in Sudan.

##### **Plant Protection Directorate:**

The Administration is concerned mainly with the survey and control of both national and local pests including migratory pests such as locusts, harmful birds, dura andat, mice, etc. Moreover it manages and supervises the plant quarantine stations all over the country, and approves imported chemicals. Together with state protection departments all efforts are integrated to combat plant pests and diseases.

##### **Objectives of the Plant Protection Directorate:**

1. Planning, execution and follow up of national migratory pests control such as desert locust, harmful birds, dura andat and water hyacinth.
2. Monitoring and Evaluation of pests control operations in the States.
3. Provision of pesticides for the control of national and local pests and supervising aerial and ground sprayings.
4. Implementation of legislative law for pest's infestation.
5. Implementation of Phytosanitary legislations to safeguard export and import plant commodities from pests and diseases.
6. Implementation of pesticides and pest's control products legislation.
7. Cooperation and coordination with different international and regional organizations and institutions in all activities of plant protection.
8. Carry out applied field research on chemical and biological pesticides.
9. Provision of integrated services to small-scale farmers.
10. Documentation of information and statistics of pests in Sudan.
11. Training of the technical staff for capacity building.

##### **The PPD consists of five administrative bodies:**



- 1) Pests Control Administration: Responsible for technical supervision of pest's situation including survey and control of pests in coordination with the operations administration.
- 2) Plant Quarantine Administration: Supervision of all Phytosanitary procedures of exports and imports of plant materials at all entry ports of the Sudan and between the States (Interstate Quarantine).
- 3) Pesticides Administration: Secretary of the National Pesticides Council as the registration body. Its responsibility extends to pesticides specifications, inspection and safe use of pesticides.
- 4) Operation Administration: Executes all control operations and responsible for the financial and administrative aspects in PPD.
- 5) Aquatic Weeds & Herbs Administration: Survey and control the aquatic weeds and prevent its spread North of Jebel Awlia dam. The administration also surveys and controls weeds.

### **Plant Quarantine**

Plant quarantine plays an important role in protecting the country from the spread of exotic pests and diseases. On the other hand all exports are subjected to quarantine checks to ensure that they are disease-free and of high quality according to the standards accepted internationally and contracted for. No plant material may be introduced in the country without having acquired a Phytosanitary certificate from the quarantine authorities. It should be noted that the first quarantine act was issued in 1900. The last modification of the law was made in 1998 to keep in line with the Phytosanitary regulations of the GATT Agreement 1994 and the World Trade Organization. The main quarantine station is found in Port-Sudan, in addition to stations within the main airports of Khartoum, Port-Sudan, Halfa, Dongola, Gineina, Nyala, Kela, Nimole and Juba. Smaller stations are also established in all towns connected with the outside world such as Abidiya, Gallabat, Hamart El Sheikh, and Mellit ...etc. Recently a number of quarantine farms have been established to keep introduced plant material and to train the technical personnel and upgrade their abilities. The farms are furnished with documents from FAO and scientific journals and books to enhance the theoretical background of the technical staff.

The competent authority for plant quarantine in Sudan is the Directorate of plant Quarantine under the General Directorate of plant protection which itself is within the federal ministry of Agriculture and forestry.

The General Directorate of Plant protection which itself act as national plant protection organization (NPPO) and it's general director is the focal point of IPPC and through, the exchange of information will be disseminated to the contracting parties.

The exchange of information is very important issue for contracting parties to avoid international trader retardation in Sudan we are wholly dependant on the paper – based exchange information, but as the result of the development and modernization of communications means, the government determine to updates its methods in this area. Electronic Government (E.G) which is intended to be serving as the exchange information pathway nationally as well as internationally is the first step in the updating and the substitute of the old methods of information exchange.

Plant protection Directorate (NPPO) is going on to construct the system for the exchange information and soon it becomes an official portal for the area of Plant Protection. The construction of this site will provide an opportunity to disseminate all the data that concern to the phytosanitary measures.

The development of database is very difficult for us / that refer to the shortage of capabilities, economically and technically, we depend on the published database without any updating or amendment, but our efforts to form data base are going on with the participation of educational institutions and research centers.

### **A4.5. Country IPP Report: Sultanate of Oman**

#### **Agricultural Quarantine**

MAF is dealing with aspects that insure elimination of pathogens, diseases and dangerous pests in imported plant materials. The Department of Plant Quarantine is also concerned with inspection of consignment containing seeds, seedlings, plant parts and segments, organic and chemical fertilizers as well as pesticides

**Certified Plant Quarantines:**

- 1- Sultan Qaboos harbour.
- 2- Salalah harbour
- 3- Seeb International Airport.
- 4- Waggagah.
- 5- Hafeet.
- 6- Mazyounah.
- 7- Khatmat melaha

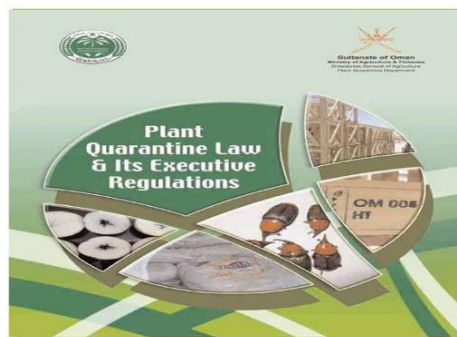
- \* Agricultural Consignments .
- \* Phytosanitary Certificate .
- \* Imported Consignments .
- \* Exported Consignments .
- \* Transit Consignments.
- \* Fees

**Agricultural Consignments**

- Seeds, Seedlings, corms, tubers, etc.
- Fresh and dry vegetable and fruits.
- Grains & pulses.
- Natural wood.
- Green tea, coffee, beans and medicinal plants.
- Soil, Organic fertilizer
- Honey bees, live insects, bacterial and similar cultures.

**Phytosanitary Certificate:**

Official documents issued by authorized members of plant Quarantine officers at entry points for all agricultural consignments (imported exported and transit). Such documents are granted after inspection of material through certain procedures if found disease and/or pests free.



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## Plant Quarantine Law

### Definitions and general rules.

**Article (1) :** The following words and terms shall have the corresponding meanings unless the text prescribes otherwise:

**General Secretariat:** The General Secretariat of the Co operative Council for the Arab States of the Gulf.

**Minister:** The Minister responsible for Agriculture.

**Competent Authority:** The Directorate General of Agriculture in the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

**Point of Entry:** An air or sea port or a border point set as an official point of entry for the import of consignments and/or the entry of passengers.

**Inspector:** A person appointed under article 4(1).

**Consignment:** A lot of plants and/or Plant Products and/or any other material subjected to phytosanitary measures transported from one country to another and covered by one phytosanitary certificate (the consignment may be formed of one lot or more).

**Plant:** Living plants and parts thereof including seeds and germplasm.

**Plants Products:** Non-manufactured materials of plant origin (including grains) and those manufactured products that, by their nature or that of their processing, may create a risk for the introduction and spread of pests in the countries of the co-operative Council for Arab States of the Gulf.

**Regulated Article:** Any organism object or material capable of harboring pests.

**Pest:** Any species, strain or biotype of plant, animal or pathogenic agent injurious to plants or plant products.

**Quarantine pest:** A pest of potential economic importance to the area endangered thereby not yet present there, or present but not widely distributed and being officially controlled and listed in schedule (1).

**Regulated Non-Quarantine Pest:** Non – quarantine pest whose presence in plants for planting affects the intended use of those plants with an economically unacceptable impact and which is therefore regulated and listed in schedule (2).

**Regulated Pest:** A quarantine pest and a regulated non quarantine pest.

**Storage Area:** Any place where plants, plant products, beneficial organisms or regulated articles are kept. Contained or held.

**Beneficial Organism:** Any organism (including fungi, bacteria, viruses, virus – like

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organisms and invertebrates) which is declared by the Minister to be beneficial to the flora or agricultural production in the Sultanate of Oman.

**Container:** A box or bag or other receptacle in which plant products that may carry pests has been or is being transported.

**Conveyance:** Any vessel, aircraft, train, vehicle cart, container, animal or other thing which can convey plant products, pests, beneficial organisms, soil or regulated articles from one place to another.

**Importer:** Any one who, whether as owner, consignor, consignee, agent, broker or otherwise is in possession of or in any way entitled to the custody of any plants, plant products regulated articles, pests, beneficial organisms or soil or packing materials landed or likely to be landed from another country.

**Packing material:** Any material used to pack, contain or keep plants, plant products beneficial organisms, soil or pests.

**Soil:** Material wholly or partly derived from the upper layer of the earth's crust which is capable of sustaining plant life.

**Survey:** An official action to be carried out for determining the gathering features of the pests or determining the species which appear in a certain area.

**Surveillance:** An official process which collects and records data on pest occurrence or absence by survey, monitoring or other procedures.

**Phytosanitary certificate:** A certificate designed to conform with the IPPC model certificate.

**Treatment:** Authorized official measures to destroy, eliminate or sterilize pests.

**Eradication:** Implementation of Phytosanitary measures to eliminate a pest from a certain area.

**Agricultural Land:** Farms, gardens, forests and grazing lands and any location where plants are planted.

**Transit consignment:** Any consignment that arrives in a country and is destined for another country, and which will not be broken into smaller units or have its containers changed in the first country.

**Executive Regulations:** The decisions issued by the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries in implementation of the rules of this law.

**Quarantine Area:** An area within which a quarantine pest is present and is being officially controlled.

**Post Entry Quarantine:** Quarantine applied to a consignment after entry.

**Pest Risk Analysis:** The process of evaluating biological or other scientific and econom-

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ic evidence to determine whether a pest should be regulated and the strength of any phytosanitary measures to be taken against it.

**Phytosanitary Measures:** Any legislation, regulation or official procedure having the purpose to prevent the introduction and/or spread of pests.

**Containment:** Application of Phytosanitary measures in the infected area and its surrounding to prevent the spread of a pest.

**Article (2) :** The purposes of this law are to prevent the introduction and spread of plant pests, to protect the environment and plant resources and to facilitate trade.

### Administration

**Article (3) :** The competent authority shall be responsible for the following duties:

- (1) Declaring any pest to be quarantine pest or a regulated non-quarantine pest and establishing lists of such pests to be issued in the Standard Cooperative Council for the Arab States of the Gulf lists (1\_2) which will be published as annexes to this law.
- (2) Preventing the introduction of quarantine pests from outside the country by regulating the import of plants, plant products, beneficial organisms and regulated articles.
- (3) Regulating the export of plants, plant products, beneficial organisms and regulated articles to meet importing countries requirements in accordance with international agreements.
- (4) Recommending the designation of any place to be a quarantine area.
- (5) Preventing the spread of regulated pests from one country to another and their spread inside the Sultanate.
- (6) Implementing post entry quarantine measures whenever necessary.
- (7) Carrying out pest risk analysis.
- (8) Undertaking regular review and revision of phytosanitary measures with a view to their harmonization.
- (9) Carrying out surveillance of pests present in the country.
- (10) Interacting with international, regional or national plant protection organizations to keep a breast of the latest phytosanitary developments.

- (11) Arranging training programmes for staff and holding workshops, seminars and conference periodically to review the country's pest status and to educate and to increase the awareness of the society through the various media means on the importance of phytosanitary measures.
- (12) Framing guidelines for the import and export of plants, plant products and regulated articles whether for trade or research.
- (13) Recommend establishing plant quarantine stations at such places as it may deem appropriate.
- (14) Meeting international pest reporting obligations
- (15) Dissemination of the information about the regulated pests and how to prevent their introduction, spread and the control measures.
- (16) Undertaking such other activities as may be prescribed for implementing the rules of this law.

**Article (4) :** Minister's right to issue decision:

- (1) The Minister may issue a decision determining the inspectors for the enforcement of the rules of this law in response to the request of the competent authority.
- (2) Appointed or designated inspectors shall have the powers, duties and responsibilities granted or assigned to such inspectors under this law

**Article (5) :** Inspector may undertake the following duties and responsibilities:

- (1) Inspect agricultural land and plants and plant products, beneficial organisms and regulated articles in storage or in transit in order to report the existence, outbreak and spread of regulated pests.
- (2) Inspect consignments of plants, plants products, beneficial organisms and regulated articles destined for import or arranged for export from the Sultanate.
- (3) Require the treatment of consignments of plants, plant products or regulated articles destined for import into or export from the country as well as their containers, packing material, storage places conveyances.
- (4) Ensure the safe disposal of waste from:
  - (a) Conveyances arriving in the country.
  - (b) Premises which process or wash imported plant products.
- (5) Issue phytosanitary certificates.
- (6) Any other assigned duties.



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**Article (6) : Vehicle search without warrant:**

- (1) Any inspector who suspects that any container or conveyance entering or moving within the Sultanate may harbour a regulated pest, may stop and without a warrant search such container or conveyance and seize or detain any plants, plant products, beneficial organisms soil or other thing infected or suspected of being infected with a regulated pest.
- (2) An official receipt must be provided to the owner of any item sized or detained under sub- section (1), and an official report must be provided to the competent authority within the time periods set by the executive regulations.
- (3) Upon instruction from the competent authority, the inspector may order the treatment, destruction or disposal of any item sized under sub – section (1), where the circumstances so warrant...
- (4) If the importer does not carry out or does not agree to the ordered treatment under sub- section (3), the competent authority shall have the right to destroy the items or dispose them according to sub- section (1).
- (5) The costs and responsibility for any action taken under this article shall be borne by the owner.
- (6) All conveyances originating from or transiting through an area deemed to be infested with a regulated pest must be decontaminated if such conveyance is capable of providing a pathway for the introduction of a regulated pest.

**Article (7)** An inspector may, in the performance of his or her functions under this law, seek the assistance of the security and customs authorities.

**Containment and Eradication of pests.**

**Article (8)** H.E. the Minister's Powers:

- (1) If the Minister believes that a quarantine pest may be present on agricultural land or in storage area, he may authorize the competent authority to take the following actions:
  - (a) Enter into such areas.
  - (b) Inspect any plants, plant products, beneficial organisms, regulated articles, storage areas, packing materials and conveyances.
  - (c) Take such samples as he or she may consider necessary.
- (2) The Minister or his representative shall have the right in case they believe that a quarantine pest is present on agricultural land or in any

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other place to take the following actions:

- (a) Declare a quarantine area and where necessary cause a written notice to be served on the owner or occupier of such place and if he or she deems it appropriate on the owner or occupier of any land or premises in the vicinity in order to take whatever measures on their land the Minister or his representative considers appropriate to eradicate, contain or restrict the spread of the quarantine pest.
- (b) Prohibit or restrict the movement of persons, animals, conveyances or other items into or out of the quarantine area.
- (3) If an owner or occupier either fails to or is unable to comply with any term of a notice issued under the above sub – section 2 – a or an urgent action is required because of the level of the risk, the Minister may authorize the person whom he deems appropriate to enter upon the land or premises in question in order to carry out the requirements of the notice.

**Article (9)** The Minister shall regularly review the situation in respect of any quarantine area on meeting either of the following two conditions:

- (1) The relevant quarantine pest is considered no longer to be present, or;
- (2) The Minister is of the opinion that it is no longer appropriate for the quarantine to be maintained in respect of some or all of quarantine area.

All the affected owners or occupiers of land shall be notified about the lift of the quarantine from some or all of the quarantine area.

**Article (10)** In the case of introduction of any quarantine pest into the country, the Minister or concerned authority shall take all necessary measures to secure its eradication and deter its spread to other endangered areas and notify the Secretariat General about such measures and also in the event when they are lifted.

**Article (11)** H.E. the Minister's action during emergency:

- (1) In the case of an emergency or unexpected situation that appears to pose a substantial threat to plant health, the Minister may take immediate measures to reduce or eliminate the threat.
- (2) As soon as the threat has been eliminated or reduced, the Minister shall modify or repeal any measures taken under sub-section (2.b) of Article (8).

**Article (12)** Declaration of Articles entering the country:

- (1) Any person entering the country with regulated articles shall declare such to a customs official at the point of entry, and if required, such cus-
-

toms official may detain such items.

- (2) Any customs official who is notified or who otherwise becomes aware of the arrival in the country of any regulated articles shall have the duty to notify the inspector.
- (3) Any item detained by a customs official under the previous sub-section (1) shall not be released until so authorized by the competent authority.

### **Import and Export.**

#### **Article (13) Import Permit/Phytosanitary Certificate**

- (1) No consignment shall be allowed entry into the country without an import permit and/or a phytosanitary certificate issued by the competent authority of the exporting country.
- (2) The competent authority shall have the right to set required phytosanitary conditions which must be met before shipment of a consignment from the exporting country.
- (3) The competent authority may waive such requirements for certain items based on the level of risk associated with those items.

**Article (14)** Imported shipment of honeybee shall be accompanied by a health certificate issued and certified by the competent authority of the exporting country declaring that it is free of all honeybee pests and diseases.

**Article (15)** Importers shall have a duty to declare all plants, plant products, beneficial organisms and regulated articles immediately upon arrival at a point of entry into the country.

#### **Article (16) Inspection of imported items by the inspector**

- (1) Imported plants, plant products, beneficial organisms and regulated articles shall, upon importation into the country be subject to an inspection by an inspector at the point of entry or if the container is sealed and marked as prescribed by executive regulation, at the final destination or some other place designated by the competent authority.
- (2) Except where prescribed by other legislation, inspections under the previous sub-section (1) shall be carried out during regular business hours, unless the items are in transit or extremely perishable, in which case, on application by the importer and against payment of any fee prescribed by executive regulation, the inspector may carry out an inspection at any other time.

- (3) If, upon inspection carried out under this article para (1) and (2), the imported items presents any risk for the introduction and spread of pests, or does not otherwise satisfy the provisions of this law, the competent authority may require by written notice served on the importer that the imported item shall be subject within one week to one of the following actions:

- (a) Appropriate treatment in order to remove risk.
- (b) Re exportation to the originating country or another country, or
- (c) Destruction by a means specified in the notice.
- (4) The competent authority may forgo notice under sub-section (3) where it determines that destruction of the items is urgently required or the giving of the notice is impracticable.
- (5) If re-export is not possible or if the importer does not agree to the re-export or ordered treatment, the competent authority shall have the right to destroy the items.
- (6) The costs and responsibility for any action taken under this article including the cost of unloading, loading, transport, re-export, treatment and destruction, shall be borne by the importer.

#### **Article (17) Cost of treatment of imported consignment**

- (1) The cost of treatment for consignments if required, shall be determined by executive regulations.
- (2) In the absence of means of treatment at the point of entry the importer at its own expense and under the supervision of the competent authority shall transport the consignment to the nearest point of entry where treatment means are available.

**Article (18)** Importation of sand, soil or untreated or un sterilized organic fertilizers is prohibited.

#### **Article (19) The Minister may:**

- (1) Designate certain places as quarantine stations where plants, plant products or beneficial organisms may be kept for phytosanitary observation, research, inspection, testing, detention, re consignment or destruction.
- (2) Require that imported plants, plant products or beneficial organisms be kept at a plant quarantine station, or at any officially designated location under the supervision of officials of the competent authority, for such time as he or she deems necessary.

- Article (20)** Notwithstanding anything in this law, to protect plant resources and/or the environment of the Sultanate the Minister may:
- Prohibit or restrict the importation, sale, cultivation, propagation or movement of any plant, plant product, pest, beneficial organism, soil or any other item capable of harbouring or spreading a pest.
  - Permit the importation of any plant, plant product, pest, beneficial organism or other things for experimental purposes is subject to such terms and conditions as the Minister may consider appropriate to safeguard public health, agriculture and the environment in the Sultanate
- Article (21)** Items temporarily in territory or territorial waters of the country which are prohibited or restricted to entry for importation under this law are subject to such executive regulations as may be deemed necessary by the Minister to carry out the purposes of this law.
- Article (22)** Plants or plant products entering the country in the possession of travelers and not imported for planting or multiplication purposes, may be exempted from the requirement of a phytosanitary certificate, but shall be subject to inspection.
- Article (23)**
- Transit consignments must be accompanied by required phytosanitary certificates.
  - All applicable provisions of this law shall apply to transit consignments that are found to carry any pest that endangers agricultural land.
  - Where transit consignment is found to cause a risk of the introduction or spread of a pest, an inspector may order the importer at its own expense to place the consignment into packing material that prevents any consequent introduction or spread of pests during transit.
  - The consignment shall not remain in the entry point for more than three days and the competent authority may extend this period as may be deemed necessary and under all circumstances the consignment shall deport the Sultanate's land through the designated pathway for the transport of the consignment within one week from the entry date.
  - The packing of the transit items shall not be opened or changed or re-opened during the transit through the Sultanate's lands.
- Article (24)** Any exporter that desires to export or re-export a consignment conforming with an importing country's requirements shall submit an application to the competent authority in order to obtain a phytosanitary certificate.
- Article (25)** Proper packing, Inspection Cost etc.
- All export consignments must be properly placed into packing materials for export.



**WOOD PACKAGING**  
( ISPM 15 )



**التعبئة الخشبية**  
( المعيار ١٥ )



As long as the Sultanate is a member of WTO since October, 2000 and the ratification of related agreements, and as a part of its obligations towards the implementation of the IPPC approved standards, particularly the ISPM No. 15 which describes the guidelines for regulating wood packaging material in international trade, it will not be allowed to export any commodity packed in wood with thickness exceeding 6mm unless they are treated by heat or fumigated by methyl bromide gas and bears the official recognized stamp by the Ministry or the authorized private companies. This requirement applies also to the imported goods to the Sultanate packed in the same wooden material, which shall not be allowed to enter the Sultanate without being similarly treated, and bear the recognized official stamp.

When wood packaging materials does not carry the required stamp, action may take the form of treatment, disposal or refused entry.

بعد أن أصبحت السلطنة عضواً في منظمة التجارة العالمية في أكتوبر عام ٢٠٠٠م، ومصادفتها للاتفاقية الدولية لوقاية النبات (IPPC)، وكجزء من التزاماتها تجاه تطبيق المعايير الدولية الصادرة عن هذه الاتفاقية وبالتحديد المعيار الدولي لتدابير الصحة النباتية رقم (١٥) والخاص بالخطوط التوجيهية لوضع اللوائح الخاصة بمواد التعبئة الخشبية في التجارة الدولية، سوف لن تسمح السلطنة بتصدير أي سلع في أخشاب خام يزيد سمكها عن ٦ مم ما لم تكن معالجة حرارياً أو بالتبخير بغاز بروميد الميثيل وتحمل الختم المعتمد بالمعيار والذي تقوم به الوزارة وبعض شركات القطاع الخاص المخولة كذلك لن يسمح للسلع الواردة للسلطنة والمعاداة بمثل هذه الأخشاب بالدخول ما لم تكن معالجة بحد المنشأ وتحمل الختم المعتمد. وفي حالة عدم وجود الختم يتم معالجة أو إعادة تصدير أو التخلص من هذه الأخشاب بالطرق المعتمدة أو رفض دخولها.

**Subterranean Termites**



For more information please contact  
Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries  
(Plant Quarantine Department )  
Tel: 24698937

This mark or stamp must appear on wood packing materials to satisfy the requirements of ISPM No. 15.  
هذا الختم يجب أن يظهر على مواد التعبئة الخشبية لتحقيق متطلبات المعيار ١٥



لمزيد من المعلومات الرجاء الاتصال  
بوزارة الزراعة والثروة السمكية  
(إدارة المكافحة الزراعية)  
هاتف: ٢٤٦٩٨٩٣٧

- The international plant protection convention (IPPC) is an international treaty whose focus is to protect plants and plant products and to minimize the spread of their potential pests and diseases effectively. Over 100 countries are members of IPPC and, together through collaboration, produced the international standard for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM) No. 15 adopted in March, 2002.
- Introduced pests (such as viruses, bacteria, fungi, insects) of plants and trees can have a serious negative impact on Oman's plants, including those important in the logging, horticulture and agriculture industries.

- The provisions of ISPM No.15 cover wood or wood products(excluding paper products) used in supporting, protecting or carrying a commodity, including dunnage. These wood products are known to harbour and spread serious pests and diseases when moved without adequate treatment.
- As a member of the IPPC, Oman is adopting a set of guidelines for regulating the import of wood packaging materials(ISPM No. 15). To meet our international obligations, Oman has harmonized our import regulations and produced an export certification program compliant with the international standard.

**Measures for Wood Packaging Material Approved measures (Annex I):**

- **Heat treatment (HT).**
- **Methyl bromide (MB) fumigation.**
- Measures should be effective in mitigating pest risks associated with wood packaging material used in transport.
- Wood packaging material subjected to these approved measures should display a specified mark shown in Annex II.
- A universally recognized, non-language specific mark facilitates verification during inspection at the point of export, at the point of entry or elsewhere.



## List No. (1) Quarantine Pests (A1)

القائمة رقم ( ١ ) : الآفات الحجرية ( أ١ )

م	الاسم	الاسم العلمي
1	Apiosporina morbosa	
2	Altemaria mali	
3	Armillaria mellea	
4	Botrytis allii	
5	Ceratocystis fimbriata f. sp. platani	
6	Cercospora capsici	
7	Claviceps purpurea	
8	Coleosporium ipomoea	
9	Colletotrichum graminocolum	
10	Cytospora sacchari	
11	Deuterophoma tracheiphila	
12	Diaporthe helianthi	
13	Diaporthe phaseolorum var. caulivora	
14	Endocronartium karknessi	
15	Fusarium oxysporum f. sp. albedinis	
16	Fusarium oxysporum f. sp. alaeidis	
17	Fusarium oxysporum f. sp. canariensis	
18	Fusarium oxysporum f. sp. cubense	
19	Glomerella gossypii	
20	Guignardia citricarpa	
21	Guignardia bidwellii	
22	Gymnosporangium asiaticum	
23	Gymnosporangium junipers - virginianae	
24	Gymnosporangium fuscum	
25	Puccinia pittieriana	
26	Sclerotium cepivorum Berk	
27	Sclerophthora macrospora	
28	Septoria lycopersici var. malagutii	
29	Spongopora subterranea	
30	Sphaeloma aracidis	
31	Stenocarpella macrospora	

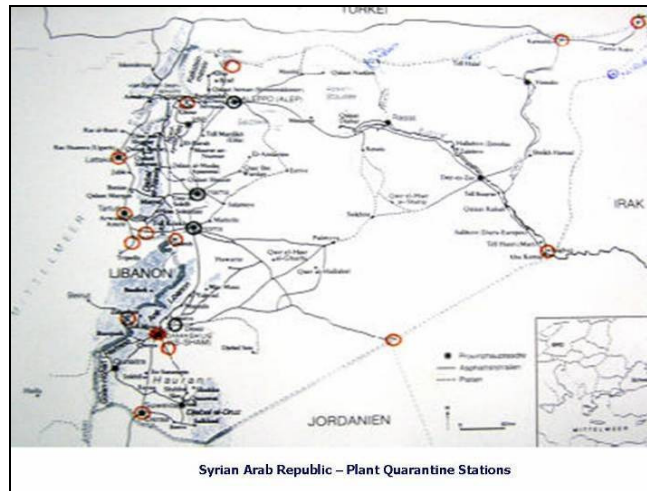
تابع القائمة رقم ( ١ ) : الآفات الحجرية ( أ١ )

32	Stigmata carpophila
33	Synchytrium endobioticum
34	Tilletia indica
35	Tilletia controversa Kuhn
36	Urocystis cepulae Frost
37	Ustilago maydis
38	Ustilago scitaminea
39	Venturia spp.
40	Verticillium albo - atum
41	Verticillium dahliae
42	Monilinia fructicola
43	Mycosphaerella musicola Leach
44	Mycosphaerella fijiensis
45	Puccinia psidii
46	Puccinia melanocephala
( ب ) الآفات النيماتودية	
1	Anguina tritici
2	Aphelenchoides besseyi
3	Aphelenchoides fragariae
4	Bursaphelenchus xylophilus
5	Globodera rostochiensis
6	Globodera pallida
7	Heterodera spp.
8	Meloidogyne chitwoodi Golden
9	Meloidogyne fallax
10	Nacobbus aberrans
11	Pratylenchus coffeae
12	Rhadinaphelenchus cocophilus
13	Xiphinema americanum
14	Xiphinema californicum
( ج ) الآفات البكتيرية	
1	Agrobacterium rhizogenes

Please Visit the Ministry Official Website: [www.maf.gov.om](http://www.maf.gov.om)

#### **A4.6 Country IPP Report: Syria**

##### **Syrian report on the Phytosanitary infrastructure and information exchange**



##### **Introduction**

TCP/SYR/3001 (A) was initiated in October, 2005 with the objective to provide technical assistance to the government of the Syrian Arab Republic to “strengthen the national Phytosanitary capabilities regarding the regulation of import/export trade and the protection of the cultivated and natural plant resources of the country.

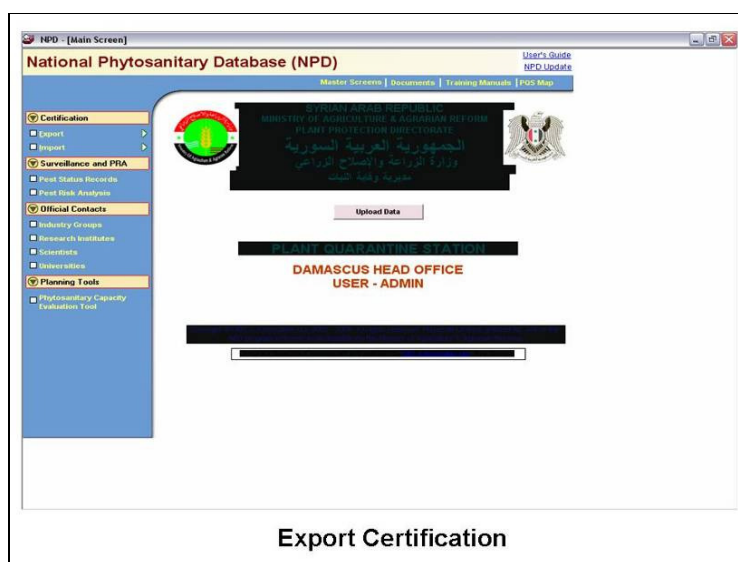
The expected outputs of the project with FAO, as specified in the project document, were to have:

- Modernized Phytosanitary legal frameworks to provide the basis for application of Phytosanitary options as approved by the IPPC.
- Forty-five Phytosanitary personnel trained in internationally acceptable practices and procedures.
- Operations manuals for harmonized application of Phytosanitary procedures.
- A commodity-based pest list and database management tool.
- Strengthened inspection, detection and treatment capabilities at selected ports of entry.
- Re-categorization of regulated pests for consistency with the IPPC.
- Improved management of the national Phytosanitary service.
- Increased capacity for dialogue and trade dispute avoidance/resolution”.

##### **Customization and Installation of the information**

##### **Management System**

It was configured and the base program for certification activities and pest status data entry customized and installed at the Head Office of the Plant Protection Directorate (PPD) in Damascus by GBS consultants. The server was also connected to client PCs establishing a local area network for all staff engaged in Phytosanitary operations and management.



A significant output of the program was the customization and installation of the export certification component of the NPD system for issuing Phytosanitary certificates in English and Arabic in accordance with the relevant international standards for Phytosanitary measures. Since Phytosanitary certificates were issued in plant quarantine check posts in various parts of the country and managed by the provincial directorates of agriculture, the development of a common electronic certification system which harmonized procedures throughout the country and readily enabled data to be uploaded in the central server at the Head Office in Damascus was viewed by the senior PPD.

Details of the national consultants work on the compilation of the national pest status records in pathology, nematology and entomology were in their respective mission reports. All pest data from the various national consultants was merged into a single database and uploaded into the server for use by the staff of PPD for regulatory purposes by GBS consultants. The computerization of the national pest status records using an advanced integrated relational database system now enables PPD managers to readily obtain information on pest status in Syria for use in trade negotiations and for conducting pest risk analysis on imported commodities. The data also enables pest surveillance specialists from the Plant Protection Directorate, provincial directorates of agriculture, research institutes and the Agricultural University to assess gaps in the current records (e.g. identification of pest not to species level, survey details not recorded) and plan for future surveys to improve the information in the database.

More than 1700 pest records for 41 crops were entered into the database compared to about 530 pest records for 12 crops compiled by the national consultants in June 2005.

A preliminary analysis of the data indicated as follows:

- a significant number of fungal and nematode records of pests were not identified to species level probably indicating a lack of high level diagnostic capabilities
- low number of records in virology probably indicating lack of high level diagnostic capabilities,
- low number of pests recorded in many of the crops probably indicating lack of well coordinated national survey programs for all major crops.

### **Pest Risk Analysis Workshop**

An introductory course on pest risk analysis was conducted from 4 – 8 December, 2005, by the Plant Protection Directorate with funding assistance from the Arab Council for Agricultural Cooperation. Twenty five Phytosanitary inspectors from various provincial offices of the Directorate of Agriculture attended the course senior managers of the PPD taking the initiative to organize a pest risk analysis course for their staff of FAO consultants hence optimizing the use of the technical expertise of the FAO consultants to improve the knowledge of Phytosanitary officials in important Phytosanitary disciplines such as pest risk analysis. However, the Team Leader wishes to note that there was no official PRA Team formed to undertake PRA on a regular basis in Syria

## Strategic Issues for Further Discussion

1. Review of the Structure of the National Plant Protection Organization Staff were under the administrative control of the provincial directorates of plant protection. Provincial staff transfer policies may vary which in turn has the potential to frustrate efforts to develop of a highly professional staff to fulfill the mandate as an effective National Plant Protection Organization or NPPO.

The NPPO needs technical specialists and managers at both the provincial and Head Office levels for various phytosanitary activities including national pest surveillance, export certification system, pest risk analysis system, national system for collation and distribution of information on import and export requirements and pest status. The organizational structure of the organization may need to be better aligned with its functions as part of the NPPO.

The issue of how best to develop a highly integrated national phytosanitary service to carry out all the functions of an NPPO needs to be discussed and the current structure needs to be carefully reviewed in the light of emerging needs.

All options should be carefully considered and the most effective and cost efficient options identified for consideration by the Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform and the high level decision makers in the government.

2. Strengthening of all entry/exit points – training of staff and assessment of staff skills (meet minimum professional standards), availability of technical information on pests, good facilities for inspection (equipment) etc.
3. Development and/or strengthening of laboratory facilities for pest identification and training of staff for rapid and accurate diagnosis of pests in all disciplines.
4. Development of well coordinated and integrated national pest surveillance system requires high level coordination with all provincial directorates of plant protection.
5. Review of policies regarding recovery of costs for providing services to importers and exporters so that the funds can be used for improving the service.  
Note: Most developed countries and some developing countries have made the change from heavily subsidized services to recovering fair costs for services provided and the funds generated used for maintaining and improving the service  
– ‘business model’
6. Accreditation of private agencies to undertake some of the functions (e.g. fumigation) under the overall supervision of the NPPO and the need for staff at H/Q and provincial directorates to be skilled in developing standards for accreditation and high level skills in auditing.
7. Need for advanced information management systems to help coordinate all the activities of the NPPO, computerize operations in the front line, serve as an knowledge base and provide real time information to managers on all activities from all offices and quarantine check posts and enabled for information exchange between technical agencies.
8. Development of strategic planning and leadership skills – exposing managers to best practice in other countries.
9. Developing e-government capabilities so that importers and exporters to get relevant information easily and transparently via the internet and to apply online for certificates and permits.

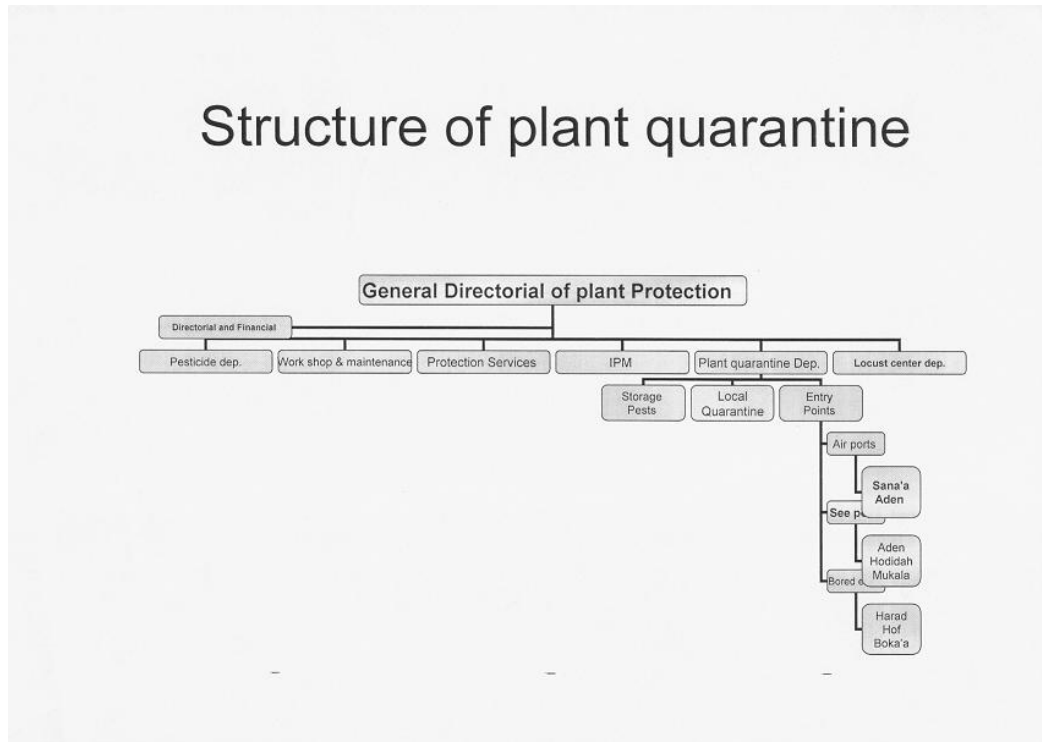
### **A4.7. Country IPP Report: Yemen**

Agriculture Contributes one fifth to the Yemen’s rational GDP and remains the backbone of the country’s economy. Among various sectors in agriculture, horticulture is the major foreign exchange

earner with major exports being horticultural products such as cotton and coffee. This sector continues to grow and Yemen has to expand and gain access to more export markets for these and other export commodities.

Difficulties in marketing of export commodities continue to be a major obstacle to improvement of Yemen's horticulture. The export market is restricted to Arabian countries as attempts to export commodities to other countries has met with rejection due to failure to meet phytosanitary standards. For this reason there is a dire need to improve Yemen's phytosanitary capacity to meet market requirements. Yemen is also required to comply with international phytosanitary standards in order to gain access to the global export market.

# 1. National structure for the exchange of information including responsibility and pathway



The Information exchange activities under the NPPOS it describes the main elements of information exchange and notes some difficulties that have arisen in the regard.

The information exchanges in Yemen (NPPOS) are following these steps:

- Information movement between central department of plant quarantine and other entry points which are belong the Plant Quarantine Department
- Information movement between entry points and the central department of Plant Quarantine.
- Information movement between the IPPC secretariat and contact points of plant quarantine department in Yemen.
- Information movement between the IPPC secretariat or contact points and Regional PPO (NPPOS)

The last time the Ministry of agriculture and irrigation has nominated a person who takes a full responsibility regarding the exchange of information between the IPPC secretariat and other contact points in the Ministry.

In the same time there is a subsidiary contact point with SPS & WTO, located in the department of plant quarantine, another side the department of plant quarantine also has nominated one editor with IPP.

The main pathway is direct reflection or transfer of all information regarding phytosanitary procedures and any new information received from IPPC00SPS or WTO causing agriculture.

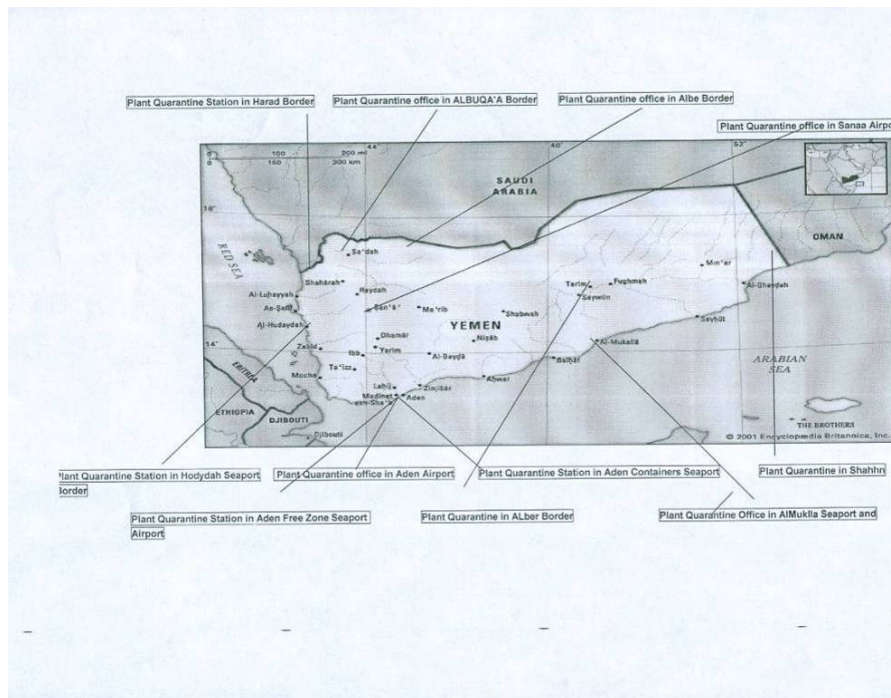
I would like to note that, the contact point and Editor almost had translated and review a lot of documents submitted from IPPC Secretariat.

Since we have vomited editors of IPP, we put in the page of IPP (website) this information.

1. Structure of plant quarantine
2. entry points
3. Requirements of plant quarantine
4. List of regulated pest
5. Draft of plant quarantine law.

Yemen has about 14 entry points (seaports, airports, and borders), and all of these entry points are working under the NPPOS responsibility, and the stuff are also belong the NPPOS.

The internet communication is available for same entry points, but the telephone and fax communication are free and available for all, and monthly every entry points sent a report about his activity to the NPPO (by Fax + telephone + internet) in these reports summary of all activities.



**Entry points in Yemen**



## Appendix 5: Practical Session

### Regional IPP Workshop

### Agenda - Session VI: Practical Sessions (I)

#### Practical Navigation Exercises

1. Find your own country's Contact Point Information and check if the data are correct...
2. Who is the **official contact point** for South Africa and how can I contact this person?
3. What is the **name** of the 'nominated' person for information exchange under the NPPO for **Thailand**?
4. Find the details of **THIS** workshop in the IPP! -> including all **handouts**...
5. How many **IPPC contracting- and non-contracting parties** are there?
6. Your country wants to submit their letter of adherence to the IPPC – which **Model Instrument for Adherence** to the IPPC can be used for this official notification?
7. Find the newest '**statistics**' about the various **data-inputs** done by all NPPOs.
8. Find the French-language '**Nomination**' form to nominate a responsible officer to edit information on behalf of the respective NPPO (**IPP Editor Notification form**).
9. How many nominated **IPP Editors** are listed in the IPP?
10. **IPP introduction letter** sent to all NPPO contact points about '**Information Exchange activities in 2005/06**'.
11. a. Find the latest up-date of the '**Directory of NPPOs and RPPOs**'.
12. b. Find the **form** for notification & submission of **NPPO contact point details**.
13. Electronic copy of the "**Guide**" to the IPPC.
14. Find all the details of **IPPC Secretariat staff** (e.g. Dave Nowell...)
15. What was the major **objective of the revision of the IPPC** (1997) which lead to the New Revised Text (NRT)...
16. Provide a colleague a hand-out in Spanish language explaining the '**Standard-setting-process**' under the IPPC.
17. Find the 2005-**Country comments for the (draft) ISPM**: "**Guidelines for Consignments in Transit**" from Turkey.
18. Find the **Draft ISPM**: "**Phytosanitary treatments for regulated pests**".
19. In preparation for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Commission for Phytosanitary Measures (**CPM**) / **2<sup>nd</sup> CPM** held in FAO/Rome, your official IPPC contact point asked you to prepare a full set of meeting documents...
20. Your NPPO received requests regarding issues related to **ISPM #15**...
21. ...What is the official definition of '**dunnage**', and do we need to treat it according to ISPM #15?
22. ...What are **Lebanon's** authorized companies to use **ISPM # 15** mark?
23. How does the **Certification mark** look like?
24. You want to read all '**Convention-Articles**' relevant for instance for the '**Reporting Obligations**' under the IPPC...
25. What is '**Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation**' (PCE) – find relevant background information in the IPP...
26. What is the **WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures**?
27. Where can I find information about the last 'meeting of the Parties to the **Cartagena Protocol** on **Biosafety**'?
28. Which are the '**Subsidiary bodies**' under the convention...?
29. What is the difference between "emergency action" and "emergency measure"?
30. What is the difference between "regulated"- and "non-regulated" pests?
31. How to prepare '**lists of regulated pests**'?
32. What are the official **websites** of Australia's Quarantine service?
33. How is **Yemen's** NPPO organized / structured? When was **Yemen's** Quarantine law been issued?
34. Need to contact the Phytosanitary Inspection Unit of "Ljubljana" in the **Republic of Slovenia**...
35. What are Vietnam's listed '**Quarantine Pests**'?
36. Does the '**Oriental Thrips**' (*Thrips palmi*) occur in **Serbia**?
37. Which **Pest status** categories shall be considered when reporting under the IPPC?
38. You want to publish incidents of '**non-compliance**' relevant to your NPPO. Which documents should you refer to, and where in the IPP can you find them?
39. What are the **Specifications** ('terms of reference') for the Expert Working Group for '**Pest free areas for fruit flies**'?
40. Can you find **ISPMs** in other than the UN-official languages?

## ***Appendix 6: Workshop Evaluation***

### **Workshop Evaluation Format**

[Please enter a rating of 1 – 5, (5 for highest rating) for each of the boxes provided]

#### **1. Agenda topics and Workshop Program**

##### **1.1 How relevant were the following presentations to the IPP?**

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Rating</b>
Presentation of the workshop program	4.5
Workshop objectives and expected outputs	4.5
Introduction to information exchange under the IPPC	4.5
Official vs. optional provision of information	4.5
SPS agreement	4.0
NPPO information exchange obligations	4.0
Role of IPPC official contact points	4.5
Country Reports on National Information Exchanges processes within the IPPC Framework	4.0
Introduction to the IPP	4.5

##### **1.2 Please list other workshop topics that should be included in the facilitators' presentations:**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Suggested topics</b>
1	Relationship between SPS and IPPC agreements
2	Case study about country
3	PRA workshop
4	Surveillance workshop
5	Phytosanitary treatment workshop
6	Electronic form
7	Online conference

		<b>Rating</b>
1.3	Did you find the handouts useful?	4.5
1.4	Suggestions, additional comments in relation to agenda topics:  - Simultaneous Power Point Presentation in both languages (Arabic & English) - Brief about countries experience in IPP	

#### **2. Practical Sessions**

	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Rating</b>
2.1	Was the duration of the practical sessions sufficient?	4.0
2.2	Suggest a suitable practical sessions duration: ...8/5/1.. hours/days/weeks	
2.3	Was the equipment provided sufficient?	4.0
2.4	Was the venue of the workshop suitable?	4.0
2.5	Were the facilities provided satisfactory?	3.5
2.6	After this workshop, how confident do you feel in your capacity to manage the	4.0



	NPPO information in the IPP?	
<u>General comments on the practical sessions:</u>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The practical was good and useful for us, but we need to continue for their practical</li> <li>- It was necessary to understand the system</li> <li>- Increase Practical Sessions</li> </ul>		

### 3. Problems/ limitations of the workshop

3.1 Please list the problems and limitations you encountered during the workshop:

No.	Problems/ limitations
1	Internet connection
2	Conference room not comfortable

3.2 Please list the strengths and weaknesses of the workshop:

Strengths	weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Excellent presentations</li> <li>- Dedication of the facilitator</li> <li>- Arrangements</li> <li>- Data availability</li> <li>- Training Website</li> <li>- Translation</li> <li>- Venue</li> <li>- Duration</li> <li>- Develop Computer using IPP</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Long day Presentation</li> <li>- Non homogenous computer skill</li> <li>- Limit countries participation</li> </ul>

### 4. Internal arrangements

	Please comment on the following:	Rating
4.1	Accommodations	4.0
4.2	Meals	4.0
4.3	Social events	4.0
<u>General comments on the internal arrangements:</u>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Network problem that limit the practical sessions</li> <li>- Success Workshop</li> <li>- Thanks to Dr. Bassam Bayaa for his contribution &amp; effort in translating the IPP website which facilitated a lot the understanding of information exchange through IPP</li> </ul>		
]		