

February 2013

E



منظمة الأغذية
والزراعة للأمم
المتحدة

联合国
粮食及
农业组织

Food and
Agriculture
Organization
of the
United Nations

Organisation des
Nations Unies
pour
l'alimentation
et l'agriculture

Продовольственная и
сельскохозяйственная
организация
Объединенных
Наций

Organización
de las
Naciones Unidas
para la
Alimentación y la
Agricultura

COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

Eighth Session
Rome, 08 - 12 April 2013
Implementation Review and Support System (IRSS) - 2012 Report
Agenda item 13.1
Prepared by the IPPC Secretariat

I. Background

1. The Implementation Review and Support System (IRSS) is a crosscutting activity in the IPPC Secretariat and involves close collaboration between all areas of the Secretariat including Standard Setting, Capacity Development and Information Exchange. The primary objective of the IRSS is to facilitate and promote the implementation of both the IPPC and the International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs). The IRSS analyzes the current status of implementation and identifies challenges as well as opportunities for improvement. The project coordinates with other work of the Secretariat to put the lessons learned into action.
2. CPM-3 (2008) adopted the programme for development of the IRSS and the project initiated in 2011 thanks to the generous contribution of the EU. This contribution covers partial financing for the first three-year project and funding cycle which will end in March 2014. Continuation of the project will depend on securing more funding.
3. Global baseline information on implementation of ISPMs is now being collected by the IRSS team. It is expected that this will help to identify and address implementation problems. This process of responding to the specific implementation challenges that have been identified may take place through capacity development activities and other opportunities to support implementation such as strengthening help desk information, facilitating cooperative-based approaches, and other options. The initiative is beginning to improve the ability of the IPPC Secretariat to monitor, encourage and support harmonized implementation of ISPMs within a framework of cooperation and non-confrontation.
4. Results of IRSS Studies feed into future capacity building activities, Standard Setting discussions, and reports of the Triennial Review Group. A set of proposed CPM recommendations (CPM 2013/17) has been proposed based on the findings of two IRSS case studies. The reports from

This document is printed in limited numbers to minimize the environmental impact of FAO's processes and contribute to climate neutrality. Delegates and observers are kindly requested to bring their copies to meetings and to avoid asking for additional copies. Most FAO meeting documents are available on the Internet at www.fao.org

IRSS analyses of surveys, the Help Desk and additional resources and tools will be available shortly on the IRSS page of the IPP.

5. The IRSS project is now in its second year of operation and the project has successfully met its objectives on schedule. A principal challenge remains the funding gap to cover translation costs to ensure that IRSS activities and products are made available in as many UN languages as possible. The IRSS team consists of two technical officers and one administrative support staff, with input from other Secretariat staff.

6. It is essential that CPM members or IPPC Secretariat find future funding to ensure a second cycle of this project.

II. IRSS Activities in 2012

A. IRSS analysis of challenges in the implementation of the IPPC and selected ISPMs

A.1 General IPPC Survey

7. The IRSS developed and launched a general survey on the implementation of the IPPC and its standards. The questionnaire is open for inputs by NPPOs during the period September 2012 to 15 February 2013. The results of the survey will be available online after CPM-8.

8. The results of the study will be extremely valuable as a baseline for future comparison should the IRSS be extended through a second cycle. The results will also contribute to the Implementation Review Response section of the IRSS (see TRG Report below). In addition, the type of data produced by the IRSS should be very useful as part of the new FAO strategic planning processes under which scorecards will be developed to gauge improvements in the general level of implementation of contracting parties. These indicators could also support IPPC resource mobilization efforts and help to ensure strong coordination with other FAO activities.

A.2 ISPM 6:1997 Guidelines for surveillance

9. A survey on challenges and best practices for pest surveillance and implementation of ISPM 6:1997 had been conducted in 2011 and the analysis is available on the IRSS page of the IPP. In 2012, the IRSS followed up on this analysis.

10. The IRSS collaborated with the Asia Pacific Plant Protection Commission (APPPC) to host a symposium on surveillance in November 2012. The symposium used the analysis of the ISPM 6:1997 (*Guidelines for surveillance*) survey results as a basis for developing an outline for manuals on surveillance systems. The symposium included participation from experts within the Asia region and from several other FAO regions.

A.3 ISPM 4:1995 Requirements for the establishment of pest free areas and ISPM 8:1998 Determination of pest status in an area:

11. Short questionnaires were sent to contracting parties in 2011 to collect information for use in the revision of these ISPMs. In 2012, the survey results were analyzed and communicated to the SC. The SC considered the information at its November 2012 meeting. Some technical findings were also communicated to the CDC and presented to the Technical Consultation among RPPOs.

A.4 ISPM 13:2001 Guidelines for the notification of non-compliance and emergency action

12. The Subsidiary Body on Dispute Settlement (SBDS) requested the Bureau at the meeting in March 2012 for support from IRSS to conduct a study on implementation challenges for ISPM 13:2001 (*Guidelines for the notification of non-compliance and emergency action*). The results were expected to support the SBDS in reviewing its role and function in July 2012. Notwithstanding the short timeframe, the IRSS successfully concluded its analysis of data collected through the study within the deadline. However, the SBDS meeting was postponed to 2013. Consequently the IRSS reopened the period for countries to contribute to the study with a deadline of December 2012.

13. The preliminary results based on the initial set of responses indicated that weak exchange of information between countries was a major limiting factor in communication of significant cases of non-compliance, as were difficulties in retrieving phytosanitary import requirements and the frequently ad-hoc nature of responding to cases of non-compliance. Results also indicate that countries interpret ISPM 13:2001 in varying ways, and in doing so potentially set up selective barriers to trade. However, it was found that the framework set out in the ISPM of emphasizing bilateral problem-solving as a first step seems to be working well for contracting parties. The majority of respondents indicated that most problems are resolved at the bilateral level, without any need for a separate dispute settlement system. Preliminary findings of the study were shared with the CDC at its December 2012 meeting. Concrete actions recommended by the CDC based on the results include: planning of workshops/trainings on how to apply ISPM No. 13, with focus on operations and the development of standard operating procedures/guidance materials to address problems of poor notifications. The final analysis of the study is available on the IRSS page of the IPP.

A.5 ISPM 17:2002 *Pest reporting* and ISPM 19:2003 *Guidelines on lists of regulated pests*

14. At its October 2012 meeting the Bureau requested the IRSS programme to analyze ISPMs 17:2002 and 19:2003 based on a request from the EWG-CD. The IRSS team drafted the questionnaires for the two standards and intends to launch these during the period May-September 2013. The questionnaire design was prepared in consultation with the CDC, SC and TRG.

A.6 *Follow-up on IRSS analysis of challenges in implementation of ISPMs (associated paper: CPM 2013/INF/04)*

15. The information from all of the IRSS studies offers a valuable analysis of challenges and best practices to for contracting parties, RPPOs and technical service providers to take into account to improve phytosanitary systems. The IRSS team consolidated the central issues from the findings of all surveys conducted through 2012 and presented this to the CDC (December 2012) along with suggested follow-up actions. The CDC considered this information in developing the IPPC short and long term capacity building work programme (CPM 2013/21). The suggestions for follow up actions based on IRSS analyses are presented in CPM 2013/INF/04.

B. Desk studies and follow up (associated paper: CPM 2013/17)

16. The IRSS programme conducted two studies in 2011-2012: one on aquatic plants and the other on internet trade in plants. The Secretariat presented the findings of the two studies to CPM-7 (2012). Both studies were also presented at the scientific session of CPM-7 leading to a number of suggestions on the next steps. In addition, the findings of both studies contributed to the discussions in a Seminar on International Trade and Invasive Alien Species hosted by the WTO in July 2012. The IRSS has developed proposed recommendations for the CPM to consider as next steps to follow up from these desk studies, and these are presented in CPM 2013/17.

C. IRSS Website Resources

17. An initial pilot of an IRSS webpage was presented during CPM-7. In 2012 IRSS webpage was been further developed and now features many resources. The site is in the process of being launched. A brief summary of the key features follows.

C.1 *IRSS activities*

18. This feature provides contracting parties with details and links to current and past IRSS activities such as the IRSS Surveys and their results, updates on IRSS studies being conducted and a document repository for products of the IRSS developed during its three year implementation cycle (e.g. triennial review reports etc).

C.2 Country profiles area

19. This provides a consolidation of country-specific information of phytosanitary importance. The page includes economic, trade and other relevant statistics for each contracting party. The initial information is taken from publicly available sources. IPPC contact points will be invited to edit the pages to provide more specific and updated information.

C.3 Help Desk

20. The Help Desk features of the IRSS website offer opportunities for collaboration and greater efficiency in access to and exchange of information by IPPC contact points. Specific features include:

- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs): This consolidates all the FAQs on the IPP into this section on the IRSS pages. The section includes general and specific help responses compiled from historical archives of the IPP.
- Discussion Forum: This is a platform where questions can be raised by Contact Points during the pilot phase (December 2012 – March 2013). After CPM-8 the platform will be opened to the general phytosanitary community and public for submission and discussion of responses. The IRSS team will moderate the forum and will use this as a mechanism to strengthen the FAQ section of the Help Desk.
- Tools: The IRSS Help Desk website is strongly supported by a “Tools” feature. Those available or soon to be available include:
 - Projects database: The database catalogues phytosanitary projects and interventions in a searchable format complete with a map feature. The data comes from a variety of recognized project information sources including FAO, USDA, EU, World Bank, STDF and a host of other technical assistance and donor sources.
 - Activities database: This includes past, current and future events and activities whether national, regional or global. This is intended to complement the IPPC events calendar and will include events (e.g. symposia, meetings, etc.) and activities (training courses, workshops etc.) from contracting parties.
 - Technical resources: This is a centralized repository of resources (including a media library) for easy access by the phytosanitary community. This section is expected to expand over the next two years and is a valuable resource for the IRSS Help Desk.
 - Phytosanitary consultants’ roster: This will provide access, in a searchable format, to a database of consultants with phytosanitary expertise in a variety of fields.
 - Other tools: Links to other IPPC tools are provided such as the phytosanitary capacity evaluation, On-line Comment System, e-learning modules.
 - Donor priorities table: a catalogue of donors clearly indicating the countries and the activities they support. This is being developed and will be updated over time.

III. IRSS Interactions

21. The Bureau agreed to the establishment of a Triennial Review Group comprising members of the subsidiary bodies of the IPPC (SC and SBDS), the CDC and the IPPC Secretariat. A first meeting was held in March 2012 and a second will be held in April 2013.

22. The IRSS works closely with the IPPC Implementation Officer and the CDC. Technical input into the design of IRSS questionnaires is particularly valuable. IRSS recommendations are beginning to feed into capacity building activities and resources.

23. The Secretariat’s Information Exchange team supports the IRSS in the development of an IRSS webpage and provides programming support. The Information Exchange team has been asked to analyse IPP official contracting party reporting data to provide the IRSS with additional data to review implementation of the Convention and identify possible gaps.

24. The IRSS participated in the 2012 TC-RPPO meeting and suggested follow up actions from IRSS activities including analyses of implementation of specific standards (ISPM 4:1995, ISPM

6:1997 and ISPM 8:1998), case studies (aquatic plants and internet trade), and findings related to comments made during the workshop on the practical implementation of ISPM 15 held in Vancouver, Canada in 2005. RPPOs were requested to participate fully in IRSS activities and to encourage their members to provide feedback when requested.

25. The IRSS provided data and support for the APPPC's symposium on plant pest surveillance held in 2012. In addition, the findings of both the aquatic plants and internet trade in plants studies contributed to the discussions held in a Seminar on International Trade and Invasive Alien Species July 2012 hosted by the WTO.

IV. The Implementation Review Response (IRR) Report

26. The IRSS plans to produce a report - the Implementation Review Response (IRR) - every three years. This will include conclusions from analyses of ISPMs, relevant data from the IPP, and studies such as those on aquatic plants and e-commerce. The IRSS Triennial Review Group (TRG) will provide guidance to develop the IRR. The TRG met prior to CPM-7 and proposed a content outline for the IRR, which is expected to be finalized by March 2014. The Secretariat has begun to compile content for the IRR in accordance with the format proposed by the TRG.

27. The CPM is invited to:

- 1) *note* the recent developments of the IRSS programme;
- 2) *encourage* contracting parties to participate in the IRSS activities and in particular the surveys in a timely manner;
- 3) *encourage* contracting parties to use the help desk and provide the IPPC Secretariat with feedback for its improvement;
- 4) *provide* further resources to ensure that the IRSS can benefit all contracting parties in FAO languages;
- 5) *encourage* contracting parties to provide further funding to ensure a second cycle of the IRSS (2014-2017).