

January 2005

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

Organización
de las
Naciones
Unidas
para la
Agricultura
y la
Alimentación

INTERIM COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

Seventh Session

Rome, 4 – 8 April 2005

Report of the Secretariat

Agenda Item 4 of the Provisional Agenda

1. The paper provides a brief report on the work of the Secretariat to the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) based on the Strategic Directions endorsed by the Interim Commission on Phytosanitary measures (ICPM). This report was prepared in early January 2005 and reports progress on the work programme since ICPM-6. An update on the work programme will be presented at the ICPM. Future work on a number of issues in this report are dealt with under separate agenda items.

Strategic Direction 1: The development, adoption and monitoring of the implementation of international standards for phytosanitary measures (ISPMs)

2. Expert Working Groups have been held in 2004, after ICPM-6, to develop drafts for the following standards:
 - Revision of ISPM No. 1 (*Principles of plant quarantine as related to international trade*)
 - Revision of ISPM No. 2 (*Guidelines for pest risk analysis*)
 - Revision of ISPM No. 5 (*Glossary of phytosanitary terms*)
 - Consignments in transit
 - Efficacy of measures
 - Inspection methodology.
3. Expert Working Groups are planned for early 2005, before ICPM-7, to develop drafts for the following standards:
 - Guidelines on sampling of consignments
 - Classification of commodities by phytosanitary risk related to level of processing and intended use

For reasons of economy, this document is produced in a limited number of copies. Delegates and observers are kindly requested to bring it to the meetings and to refrain from asking for additional copies, unless strictly indispensable.
Most FAO meeting documents are available on Internet at www.fao.org

- The use of integrated measures in a systems approach for pest risk management of citrus fruit for citrus canker
 - Guidelines for the formatting / drafting of ISPMs
 - Post-entry quarantine facilities.
4. Technical Panels have been held in 2004, after ICPM-6, to oversee the development of draft standards in the following subject areas:
- Pest free areas and systems approaches for fruit flies
 - Diagnostic protocols for specific pests
 - Phytosanitary treatments.
5. These Technical Panels have developed drafts for the following standards:
- Pest free areas for fruit flies
 - Development and content of diagnostic protocols for specific pests
 - Requirements for submission of a phytosanitary treatment for acceptance.
6. The first meeting of the Technical Panel on forest quarantine is planned in early 2005, before ICPM-7.
7. The Standards Committee (SC) was convened in May 2004. The workload of the SC has increased substantially and an additional working group of the SC was convened in July 2004 to deal with the extra work. During 2004, country consultation occurred on five draft standards and on amendments to ISPM No. 5 (*Glossary of phytosanitary terms*). The comments received were considered by a working group of the SC with the help of stewards (one for each draft standard) in early November 2004. These comments were submitted to the SC for its consideration at its November 2004 meeting. The SC recommended 4 draft standards and the amendments to the glossary for adoption by the ICPM. Adoption of draft standards is dealt with under agenda item 7.3.
8. FAO has published the new ISPMs and an updated glossary in the standard “green book” format.
9. Following the decision at ICPM-6, arrangements have started for the development of explanatory documents for ISPMs, under the auspices of the Secretariat, with appropriate review. The following ISPMs constitute the first group of standards for which arrangements have been made and authors found: ISPM No. 11 (*Pest risk analysis for quarantine pests, including analysis of environmental risks and living modified organisms* - 2 explanatory documents, in relation to the supplements on environmental risks and on living modified organisms); ISPM No. 14 (*The use of integrated measures in a systems approach for pest risk management*); ISPM No. 16 (*Regulated non-quarantine pests: concept and application*); ISPM No. 17 (*Pest reporting*); ISPM No. 18 (*Guidelines for the use of irradiation as a phytosanitary measures*); ISPM No. 19 (*Guidelines on lists of regulated pests*); ISPM No. 20 (*Guidelines for a phytosanitary import regulatory system*); ISPM No. 21 (*Pest risk analysis for regulated non-quarantine pests*). In addition, authors have been contacted for ISPM No. 3 and equivalence, subject to approval of the drafts by ICPM.
10. The 2nd meeting of the International Forest Quarantine Research Group (IFQRG) will be held in February 2005 to coordinate forest quarantine research as well as to specifically review new data on treatments for wood packaging. Recommendations will be provided to the Standards Committee. A report on the outcome of this workshop will be presented by the IFQRG Chair at ICPM-7.

Strategic Direction 2: Information exchange

11. The Secretariat continues to provide information to Members through the official IPPC contact points where these have been identified. The ICPM is reminded that FAO policies require certain documents such as invitations and correspondence from the Director General of the

Organization to follow a particular distribution that may not include the designated official contact points. Where it is relevant, such material is also provided to official contact points by the Secretariat.

12. Printed material, such as ISPMs and other correspondence, provided by the Secretariat directly to official contact points, is not copied by the Secretariat to other offices in the government of the Member, or to other parties within the country. It is the responsibility of the official contact point to ensure that relevant information is disseminated to officials or others as appropriate within their country.

13. The Secretariat maintains a list of updated official contact point information, when this information is provided by contracting parties. This information is available on the International Phytosanitary Portal (IPP - <https://www.ippc.int>). In addition, a list of contact points is published and made available in printed form at each session of the ICPM. The Secretariat also makes official contact point information available upon request.

14. In addition to normal correspondence, a significant amount of specific correspondence has been generated through the implementation of ISPM No. 15, and the Secretariat undertakes daily correspondence in this regard.

15. The revised International Phytosanitary Portal (IPP - <https://www.ippc.int>), developed with direct input from the IPP Support Group (which met in 20-23 January 2004), was released on 28 September 2004, following an extensive development and testing phase. Stability, navigation and layout have all been improved, while a number of new features have been added. A further improvement to the IPP is that navigation is now available in both French and Spanish.

16. An important part of the modification aims at ensuring that the IPP can be used by countries to fulfil their reporting obligations under the IPPC.

17. IPP CD-ROMs are produced and distributed on a regular basis, and are also used for IPP training workshops. Improvements in the format of the IPP on CD-ROM has also ensured that the CDs are easier and quicker to use.

18. The IPP is a valuable source of information on IPPC issues and is receiving an increasing number of visitors each month (a five fold increase between March and November 2003). Substantial development continues to taken place to provide the services Members require and improve the interface to allow for easier navigation. The stability and performance of the IPP have been improved. Notification of updates or new information on the IPP are being provided as News articles. The use of a email system for warning contact points when new information or documents are added to the site is also being considered. The Secretariat continues to receive substantial queries via the IPP, particularly with regards the implementation of ISPM No. 15.

19. The inclusion on the IPP of information on membership of Expert Working Groups as requested at ICPM-5 has significantly increased transparency on the standard setting process. The Secretariat has been assisting some countries in placing official information on the IPPC in advance of the full implementation of the IPP as a tool for information exchange.

20. Password-protected work areas for Expert Working Groups and other bodies, such as the Standards Committee, have been put in place and are used. They allow distribution of documents and exchange of information between participants, and it is hoped that this will facilitate the operation of these groups.

Strategic Direction 3: The provision of dispute settlement mechanisms

21. The Secretariat has received no requests for assistance in dispute settlement. A meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Dispute Settlement (SBDS) will be convened immediately prior to ICPM-7. An informal report will be given by the Chair of the SBDS at the ICPM.

Strategic Direction 4: The development of the phytosanitary capacity of Members by promoting the provision of technical assistance

22. The Strategic Plan sets a goal to increase assistance in relation to national legislation, and calls upon the Secretariat to develop, by 2007, a guidance document on national legal phytosanitary frameworks building upon existing materials. The Secretariat is reviewing existing materials for the development of this guidance document. These include documents of the FAO legal office and a recently developed Guide to the Development of National Legislation to Implement the Rotterdam Convention on Prior Informed Consent (developed within FAO on behalf of the Secretariat to the Rotterdam Convention). An outline of a possible approach for the guidance document is under consideration. The Secretariat would welcome any specific suggestions from ICPM members in relation to the development of the guidance document.

23. The Strategic Plan sets a goal for the Secretariat to provide legal advice on phytosanitary and associated institutional issues to the ICPM on an ongoing basis. Advice has been provided on a number of issues including the implementation of ISPM No. 15, the development and implementation of other ISPMs, technical assistance initiatives, and issues arising under the rules, procedures and operations of the ICPM and its subsidiary bodies.

24. A summary of the technical assistance activities undertaken during the reporting period 2004-2005 is as follows:

FAO-Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP)

- i. FAO technical assistance projects implemented and completed by the Secretariat include:
 - OIRSA member countries (7 countries) - Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation, training in the ISPMs and modernization of the legislation
 - *Belize, Costa Rica, Panama* –Establishment of pest free (med fly free) areas
 - North Africa and the Mediterranean Region (8 countries) – Containment and management/eradication of the peach fruit fly (*Bactrocera zonata*)
 - Eastern Africa - *Uganda, Eritrea* - Phytosanitary capacity building
 - Northern and Western Africa- *Gabon, Tunisia* - Phytosanitary capacity building
 - Asia -*Bhutan* - Phytosanitary and regulatory capacity building
- ii. Ongoing FAO technical assistance projects being implemented by the Secretariat
 - Eastern Africa - *Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania*- Surveillance, containment and identification of phytosanitary options regarding fruit fly (*Bactrocera dorsalis*).
 - Eastern Africa -*Zambia, Eritrea* - Phytosanitary capacity building
 - Northern and Western Africa- *The Gambia* - Phytosanitary capacity building
 - Europe/Central Asia –*Kyrgyzstan, Azerbaijan*- Phytosanitary capacity building
 - Asia - *Nepal*- Phytosanitary and regulatory capacity building
 - Asia Rubber producing countries - PRA for South American leaf blight
 - Middle East- *Syria, Yemen, Oman, GCC States* Phytosanitary capacity building
 - Bahrain - Unilateral Trust Fund (UTF) - Phytosanitary capacity building

Direct Technical Support by the Secretariat

- i. Regional Workshops on PCE, ISPMs and pest risk analysis

• Asia	18-30 July	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
• Africa	18-27 August	Nairobi, Kenya
- ii. WTO-SPS Workshops

• Africa	10-12 February	Maputo, Mozambique
----------	----------------	--------------------

• Near East	04-06 May	Lebanon
• CIS	27-29 July	Vienna, Austria
• Asia	18-20 October	Bangladesh
• S. Asia	30 Nov-02 Dec	Singapore
• Caribbean	16-18 February 2005	Kingston, Jamaica

iii. Regional workshops on draft ISPMs

• Pacific	09-13 August	Nadi, Fiji
• Caribbean	11-16 August	Castries, St Lucia
• SADC (Africa)	12-14 August	Pretoria, South Africa
• Asia	23-26 August	Bangkok, Thailand
• Franco Africa	30 August-3 September	Accra, Ghana
• Near East	04-07 September	Cairo, Egypt
• Latin America	07-10 September	Heredia, Costa Rica

Special Programme for Food Security (SPFS) - Ongoing

UEMOA countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Niger, Senegal, Togo.

25. The proceedings of the Workshop entitled "Invasive Alien Species and the IPPC - An expert consultation of phytosanitary services and environmental protection agencies" held in September 2003 in Braunschweig, Germany have been edited and published jointly by the IPPC and Convention on Biological Diversity Secretariats. Copies of these proceedings will be distributed at ICPM-7.

26. In 2004 the IPPC Secretariat has been involved in the organization of two international workshops. Information on all the workshops is posted on the International Phytosanitary Portal (<https://www.ippc.int>).

- As agreed by ICPM-6 in 2004, the workshop on "The practical application of ISPM 15" is planned to be convened in Vancouver, Canada in 28 February-4 March 2005 to address the practical application of ISPM No. 15, particularly for developing and least-developed countries, and to facilitate national ability to implement this standard. A report on the outcome of this workshop will be presented at ICPM-7.
- An international steering committee continues the planning of the workshop entitled "International Plant Health Risk Analysis" to be convened in Niagara Falls, Canada in 24-28 October 2005. Funding for developing country participation is needed for this workshop.

Strategic Direction 5: The maintenance of an effective and efficient administrative framework

27. The report of ICPM-6 was distributed to all Members following the meeting. International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs) adopted by the ICPM at its Sixth Session were included in the report and have also been made available to Members through the Secretariat in electronic and hard copy formats.

28. The Secretariat has convened a meeting of the SPTA and a Focus Group meeting. Both these activities are dealt with as separate agenda items.

29. FAO provides the primary source of translation services contracted by the Secretariat. Assistance from other organizations and individuals are also contracted on an as-needed basis. Valuable assistance has been provided by the North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO) which has been contracted for the translation of documents from English to Spanish in 2004-2005. NAPPO draws upon its own expertise and consults widely with phytosanitary

officials and other organizations. The European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (EPPO) provided assistance in finalizing French versions of ISPMs.

30. Maintaining sufficient staffing levels in the Secretariat during 2004 continued to be a problem, particularly in regard to the post of IPPC Coordinator. The situation should improve in 2005 depending on ongoing discussions and the final FAO budget outcome (see separate agenda item).

Significant issues included:

- Action to staff the coordinator post is still ongoing.
- In the absence of a coordinator some of the duties of the coordinator have been undertaken by visiting scientists and consultants on short term appointments.
- A 2 year project post was created for a Standards Officer, funded by the arrears. This post was staffed in January 2004. This position has been facilitating the standard-setting activities, in cooperation with a consultant, a visiting scientist from the USA (salary funded by USA), and an Associate professional officer (funded by Japan).
- A vacancy announcement has been issued for the post of IPPC Standards Officer.
- A two year post has been created to support the technical assistance programme.
- The replacement for the IPPC Secretariat Administration Clerk and occupied the post in January 2005.
- The two year term for the visiting scientist from the USA providing the IPPC with part-time legal council concluded in December 2004.
- Japan's funding of an Associate Professional Officer (APO) ended in February 2005.
- The USA has provided a visiting scientist for 1 year to support the standard setting work programme.
- The IPPC Secretariat has advertised an APO post and whenever possible continues to seek experts to assist the Secretariat through existing FAO programmes such as the APO and visiting scientist programmes.
- A temporary consultant has been hired for 2 months to continue the work previously done by the APO.

31. The IPPC Secretariat has entered into several letters of agreement (LoA) in order to gain the assistance of external organizations, in particular to manage expert working groups and IPP workshops.

32. A LoA with the Scottish Agricultural Science Agency has enabled the Secretariat to gain a part-time staff member to coordinate the work of the Technical Panels.

Strategic Direction 6: Promotion of the IPPC and cooperation with relevant international organizations

33. The Secretariat has been represented at a range of meetings with international and regional organizations including, WTO-SPS, Convention for Biological Diversity (CBD), Cartagena Protocol, Biological and Toxins Weapons Convention (BWC), Southern African Development Community (SADC), and the World Bank. Specific issues relating to cooperation with the CBD are dealt with under a separate agenda item.

34. The Secretariat continues to work closely with the WTO-SPS by attending all formal and some informal WTO-SPS Committee meetings, and by participating in SPS regional and sub-regional workshops.

35. The Secretariat participated in a number of Regional Plant Protection Organization (RPPO) meetings, including:

- Workshop on the implementation of ISPM No. 15 organized by the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (EPPO) for its member countries in Russia,
- General Assembly of the Inter-African Phytosanitary Council (IAPSC) in Senegal,

-
- Annual meeting of the North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO) , and
 - 16th Technical Consultation among RPPOs in Kenya.

36. The Secretariat has also been liaising with CODEX and the OIE on issues relating to capacity building, risk assessment and information exchange. Initial discussions have also taken place on electronic certification.

37. Some initial research has been undertaken on liaison with research and educational institutes as a feasibility study to get a better understanding of future options and improve decision making in this possible area of work.

38. The ICPM is invited to:

1. *Express* its gratitude to countries and organizations that have provided assistance and resources to the work programme.
2. *Note* the information provided by the Secretariat on progress on the ICPM work programme since ICPM-6.