

January 2004

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Organización  
de las  
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Unidas  
para la  
Agricultura  
y la  
Alimentación

## INTERIM COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

### Sixth Session

Rome, 29 March – 2 April 2004

### Report on the Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation Tool

### Agenda Item 11.1 of the Provisional Agenda

1. The Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation Tool (PCE) was developed to assist countries to undertake assessment of the phytosanitary system of their National Plant Protection Organization. It serves as a diagnostic tool for countries to gauge the capacity gap between the current situation and what is needed to meet the requirements of the international standards. The instrument was adopted as a tool for global use at the 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ICPM, and a CD Rom version was commissioned for distribution to member countries. Actions regarding the PCE during the period under review are summarized below.

#### *PCE Development and maintenance*

2. The PCE was comprehensively reviewed, resulting in the amendment of the questionnaires and modification of the instrument in accordance with the decisions made at the meeting of the Working Group in June 24-28, 2002. The current product is now significantly improved and includes provision for listing/prioritising strengths and weaknesses (SWOT Analysis) in each component, and a section with a logical frame matrix to assist with actions to be taken to strengthen national capabilities. Following these improvements:

1. 300 CDs have been produced for distribution to member countries.
2. A User's guide has been published and made available with the CD.
3. The code has been made available to the IPPC Secretariat to permit maintenance and updating of the tool as required.
4. A consultant (Mr Orlando Sosa, Belize) has been recruited for 11 months in the first instance to manage the activities relating to the PCE.
5. The PCE is currently being translated into the official languages of FAO.

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](http://www.fao.org)

### *Application of the PCE*

3. During 2003 three regional workshops were conducted to promote understanding and application of the PCE. The regions covered were:

1. **Central America:** Organismo Internacional Regional de Sanidad Agropecuaria countries (OIRSA) – 12 participants.
2. **Caribbean:** 12 participants.
3. **Near East region:** 10 participants

4. The tool has been applied in a supervised manner in over 30 countries as follows:

1. **Europe:** Estonia.
2. **West Africa:** The Union Économique et Monétaire Ouest Africaine (UEMOA) countries (8), Gabon and Nigeria.
3. **Eastern & Southern Africa:** Zambia, Eritrea, Tanzania and Uganda.
4. **Central America:** OIRSA member countries (7).
5. **Near East Region:** Kyrgyzstan, Syria, Iran, Azerbaijan.
6. **Asia:** Bhutan, Nepal.

It is not known how many countries used the tool independently. However, many pending requests for technical assistance include the application of the PCE as a component.

### *Proposed Actions for 2004*

5. The Facilitators Meeting previously scheduled for February/March 2004 is now scheduled for May/June 2004. This will allow enough time for users to evaluate the new version and provide responses that can be considered in detail at the meeting.

6. A regional training is proposed for the Far East region in June/July.

7. The Informal Working Group on Strategic Planning and Technical Assistance (SPTA) has requested information on the results of the PCE. In 2004 the IPPC Secretariat proposes to conduct an analysis on the results of the application of the tool in terms of:

1. impact on national strategic plans;
2. preparation of projects for funding based on the results of the PCE;
3. access to donor funding for projects prepared using the PCE;
4. trends in priorities resulting from the application of the tool.

It is intended that this analysis will be considered by the SPTA in 2004 and presented to the ICPM in 2005.

8. The ICPM is invited to:

1. *Note and comment* on this report
2. *Endorse* the proposal to conduct an analysis of the application of the PCE.