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GUIDELINES FOR PREPARING A MARKET ACCESS PROPOSAL

Contents

APPROVAL.....	i
REVIEW.....	i
AMENDMENT RECORD	i
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.....	i
INTRODUCTION.....	1
Scope.....	1
Reference.....	1
Definition	1
BACKGROUND.....	1
SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS	2
SUBMISSION OF MARKET ACCESS PROPOSAL	4
RESPONDING TO MARKET ACCESS PROPOSAL.....	4

APPROVAL

This standard was approved by the 71st special meeting of the Council on Trade and Economic Development held in Georgetown Guyana 4-6 October 2017.

REVIEW

CARICOM Regional Phytosanitary standards (CARSPS) are subject to periodic review and amendments. The review of any CARICOM regional standard may be initiated at any time upon the request of a CARICOM member country

AMENDMENT RECORD

Amendment to this standard will be dated and filed with the CARICOM secretariat

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This standard was developed by CAHFSA from an initial list prepared by Jamaica’s Pest Risk Analysis Unit and which was reviewed and approved by the Safeguarding Working group of the Caribbean Plant Health Directors ‘Forum.

INTRODUCTION

Scope

This document provides guidance on the preparation of a market access proposal. It lists information that may be required by importing countries in order to complete a pest risk analysis. While many traded goods can provide a pathway for pest introduction, this guide focuses on plants and plant products traded commercially in international markets.

Reference

FAO 2013. Market Access: A guide to phytosanitary issues for national plant protection organization

Definition

Definitions of phytosanitary terms used in this standard can be found in ISPM 5 (*Glossary of phytosanitary terms*)

BACKGROUND

With the increase in international trade in general, and trade in plants and plant products in particular, there is an increased risk of the introduction and spread of pests harmful to plant species. The challenge for quarantine officials and plant health experts in any country is to facilitate international movement of people, goods and services while minimizing the risk to national plant health.

Gaining market access, in this context of needing to balance the importance of trade with the need to protect plant resources from pests, can be a challenge for any country seeking new markets. Requests for market access are usually subject to a process of pest risk assessment (PRA) and the determination of applicable phytosanitary measures to manage any unacceptable pest risk.

The initiation of the process, whereby a country considers a request for market access, may take the form of a written submission (market access proposal) from the relevant government authority of the exporting country to the counterpart agency of the importing country. The amount of information included in the proposal is at the discretion of the applicant. However, the recipient government authority will assess the information provided and may seek supplementary information that will assist it in identifying any phytosanitary risks that could be associated with the proposed imports.

The information provided in a market access proposal (MAP) assist importing countries to complete a pest risk analysis (PRA) and is therefore important in determining applicable phytosanitary measures. Exporting Member States should therefore consider providing as much relevant information as possible to assist importing countries in promptly completing the PRA

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

Information that countries commonly request and that should be included in a market access proposal are outlined below. This is a fairly inclusive list and not all the listed information will be necessary for all MAPs. It is important that the exporting carefully consider the item(s) for which market access is being sought and provide information as relevant.

1. National or Regional Plant Protection Organization (NPPO/RPPO)

The address, telephone and fax numbers, and email addresses of the NPPO/RPPO of the exporting country. Name and designation of contact person(s)

2. Executive Summary

Provides a summary of the main proposal and is analogous to the abstract of a scientific paper.

3. Proposed Commodity/Plants

- Scientific name, common name, variety/cultivar name of the plant parts, product or by-product of interest
- Brief description of the commodity including biology, means of propagation, cultivation practices, etc.
- Plant part(s) to be exported
- Susceptibility or resistance to pests
- Proposed end use (consumption, processing etc.)

Is the product genetically modified?

4. Production area

- Parish, regions, districts, etc.
- A description and/or map/GPS coordinates of the specific location(s) in the exporting country showing the area of production of the plant, plant parts, product or by-product designated for export.
- Climatic conditions in the areas of production.
 - a. Maximum and minimum temperatures.
 - b. Level of precipitation.
 - c. Relative humidity.

5. Pests associated with the proposed commodity

- Description of the pest associated with the commodity (pest list) including complete scientific names:

- List of pests by stages of development of the crop, emphasizing the important pest related to the part of the plant which is being imported.
- Symptoms/damage, distribution, and economic impact of pests associated with the commodity for export
- Information on the plant part attacked by each pest, the life stages associated with each plant part attacked and the location of the pest on the commodity (in, on with).

6. Current strategies for risk mitigation and management of the crop pest including:

- Overview of agronomic or horticultural management practices used in production of the commodity.
- Specific pest management, surveillance programmes and certification schemes
- Pre-and post- harvest phytosanitary treatments for important quarantine pests.
- Internal phytosanitary regulations of the exporting country related to the crop of interest, or pests if such regulations are present in the country.
- Surveillance and monitoring systems to prevent the outbreak of pests of quarantine importance if such systems are present in the country.
- Infrastructure for the application of recognized quarantine treatment for the pests of quarantine importance.
- Certification schemes, private, regional or international standards applied

7. Natural enemies

List of natural enemies of the pests of quarantine importance, if they exist in the exporting country related to the plant, product or by product of interest.

8. Detailed shipping information which should include:

- Name and address of exporter.
- Quantity and weight/ volume of the proposed importation.
- Method and conditions of shipping.
- Type of conveyance.
- Type packaging and/ or shipping containers.

SUBMISSION OF A MARKET ACCESS PROPOSAL

Once this preparatory work has been completed, a written submission from the relevant government authority in the exporting country is forwarded to the counterpart agency in the importing country requesting market access for the specific commodity.

As part of the submission, a request for early consultation and a commitment to work cooperatively to reach a mutually satisfactory outcome could be added.

RESPONDING TO A MARKET ACCESS PROPOSAL

The initial response by a the NPPO of the importing country to a proposal seeking market access for a commodity, is to consider the need for initiating a Pest Risk Analysis (PRA) on the basis that the importation of the commodity could be a plant pest in its own right, or could be a potential pathway by which plant pests could enter endangered areas in the importing country.

The importing country should respond to the submission, acknowledging receipt of the market access proposal and indicating whether the proposed import was currently authorised (and any phytosanitary requirement) or whether a pest risk analysis (PRA) was needed. The importing country may also request, from the exporting country, any additional information that it deem necessary to assist in the PRA process.