



REGIONAL IPPC WORKSHOP FOR THE REVIEW OF DRAFT INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS FOR PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES (ISPMs)

SPC, SUVA, 29-31 July 2015

OFFICIAL OPENING

1. PPPO Secretariat welcomed NPPOs and SPC staff then invited PPPO Chair, Ngatoko Ngatoko (Cook Islands Head of Quarantine) to steer the proceedings of the workshop.
2. The opening prayer was said giving thanks to the Lord for all the blessings in getting all travelers safely to Fiji.
3. IPPC Secretariat (Ana Peralta) warmly welcomed NPPO colleagues and SPC and FAO partners to the IPPC workshop and pointed this forum an important one to gather Pacific views and issues to be brought to the attention of the Secretariat. A welcome note from IPPC Secretary, Jingyuan Xia was read out (Annex 1).
4. Dr Ken Cokanasiga, Deputy Director of Land Resources Division delivered the keynote address emphasizing the role of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) in helping reduce spread of pests and facilitate trade. The framework for the development of International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures, ISPMs, helps safeguard plant resources.

“Technical panels develop the draft ISPMs for the IPPC Secretariat, but it is the NPPOs at regional consultations like this that are tasked with the responsibility to refine and contribute to finalizing these standards,” said Dr Cokanasiga.

5. Delegates adopted the workshop agenda as presented with amendments incorporated, followed by election of Chair (Cooks NPPO) and minute taker. Delegates then break for group photo followed by morning tea.

PURPOSE OF WORKSHOP

6. IPPC Secretariat, assisted by meeting chair presented objectives of workshop which focused on three main issues, delegates to learn how to analyse draft ISPMs and how to formulate comments, learn phytosanitary capacity issues and raise awareness on issues related to IPPC, and exchange knowledge at the regional level on biosecurity issues. Refer to letter from IPPC Secretariat to NPPOs (Annex1).

7. IPPC Secretariat as an awareness exercise posed the question to NPPOs if they know who their regional representative is to the Standards Committee, National Reporting Advisory Group and the Capacity Development Committee, and the importance of communicating with them, what they expect from IPPC Secretariat.

IPPC UPDATES

Standard on Sea Container Hygiene

8. Dr John Hedley discussed pest risks associated with movement of sea containers and once empty are left for lengthy periods of time at depots. On average around 17million sea containers are moved around the globe, and NPPOs need to be aware of this very large volume as posing a pest risk. A suggestion to perhaps provide sea container companies an incentive to do inspections at depots and issue a means of verifying that inspection has been done, as a precautionary measure; this is now been discussed in collaboration with World Customs Organisation on certifying sea containers.

9. NPPOs discussed pest risks with movement of sea containers such as giant African snail (GAS) moving to new areas like from Samoa to Fiji. Providing images as evidence of interceptions of GAS under ISPM 13 is adequate. Solomon Island emphasized the need to work with the industry such as ports and other parties where containers pass through. Cook Islands also expressed GAS threat with container movement, having upgraded their interception database linked to NPPO.

Phytosanitary Treatments

10. Bart Rossel opened discussions pointing out when IPPC issues a call for treatments, the Pacific region should recommend phytosanitary treatments relevant to the Pacific. More research is needed to get data on efficacy of proposed treatments that are applicable to the region. The HFTA is one such treatment. The Pacific is encouraged to bring to the Standards Committee recommendations for global treatments. Treatment recommendations for NPPO to further develop include sand and gravel, and waste disposal from cruise ships. Solomon Islands suggested that it would be useful to compile phytosanitary treatments used for trade.

11. Floor discussion opened with Cook Islands pointing of treatment of waste coming off cruise ships, as Cooks receive 3 cruise ships per month. Issue of waste management will be raised at next CPM. With the current increase of arrival of cruise ships and yachts into Vanuatu, the country is looking forward to regional guidelines for waste disposal. French Polynesia said cruise ships have on-board incinerators but are concerned with private yachts. FSM says they don't allow discharge of waste in their waters however they only have occasional cruise ships.

12. Now developing with Samoa a draft Regional ISPM standard on the International movement of waste with relevance to the region once formulated. Samoa to lead with the assistance provided by Australia and New Zealand. It is essential that all NPPOs be involved in formulating the regional draft, and with NZ assistance.

Commodity Standards

13. John Hedley presented on developing safe phytosanitary standards for commodities with unique characteristics and to relook at the need for harmonized measures, for example there are only 19 approved phytosanitary treatments available. It is a challenge to get agreements on a harmonized treatment.

14. Suggested to have Guidance documents for different commodity classes such as wood, seed and cut flower.
15. FAO legal adviser for the region (Miles) discussed the model biosecurity law and under revision to align more with IPPC, CODEX and OIE, and to expand scope to include environmental protection. Discuss national biosecurity legislation in relation to model law.
16. The model law will be relooked at as there are elements not aligned with IPPC such as there no reference to NPPOs as authority on biosecurity issues.
17. Work to begin on national legislations to align with model law and focus initially on the 3 regions.
18. Vanuatu is currently amending their biosecurity bill as a member of WTO.
19. Pacific WTO members are Vanuatu, Samoa, Solomon Island, Fiji and Tonga.

Implementation pilot on surveillance

20. IPPC Secretariat introduced implementation pilot on surveillance project presented to donors for funding and with a work plan implementation.
21. Is an official process collecting and recording data on pest presence/absence by survey, monitoring or other procedures (ISPM 5).
22. Obligation and responsibility of National Plant Protection Organisation (NPPO).
23. Surveillance collects and records data on pest presence or absence by survey or monitoring is essential for working towards preventing spread and introduction of plant pests.
24. Implementation pilot surveillance collects current resources and develops and uses resources and tools.
25. IPPC encourages all to get involved in the pilot on surveillance such as contributing surveillance resources to the phyto website, promote importance of surveillance, review national surveillance policies, provide financial resources and demonstrate progress at CPM 11.
26. Suggested training of trainers on IPPC processes for the region.

Draft standards Appendix to ISPM 20 on Arrangements for verification of compliance of consignments by the importing country in the exporting country (2005-003)

27. Been around since 2005 and discussed at several SC meetings, and in May 2015 SC approved for member consultation.
26. As background in April 2005 was introduced as Pre-clearance for regulated pests.

27. Now presented for member consultation and help to strengthen the ISPM and to identify any further issues requiring SC consideration.

28. Drafting issues for consideration include terminology used and defined in glossary such as clearance prior to import, document clearance, foreign inspections, others.

29. NPPOs have sole authority to issue phytosanitary certificates.

30. ISPM 20 states through bilateral agreements or arrangement, inspections may be done in the country of origin as a part of a pre-clearance programme in cooperation with NPPO of exporting country.

Avoiding Formal Objections through Active Participation in the Standard Setting Process

31. All draft ISPMs recommended for adoption are subject to a Formal Objection (technically supported).

30. Only contracting parties may make formal objections to IPPC Sec through their official IPPC contact point.

31. But use Formal Objection as a last resort, as the IPPC Standard Setting process is highly inclusive, vigorous and transparent, and one of the best in the world.

32. Contracting Party can only use Formal Objection if they feel their technical concern has not been adequately addressed.

33. There are 4 stages to participate in IPPC Standard Setting Process, and there are many ways for contracting parties to contribute such as submitting a topic, nominating experts, providing comments during consultations, etc.

Country presentations on pest surveillance

34. Australia presented on its surveillance programme covering pre border, border and post border surveillance.

Fiji

35. There are biosecurity challenges with increased volumes of cargo, plus vast area for biosecurity to monitor. Active surveillance for GAS, fruit flies, brown tree snake (BTS), lethal yellowing, TLB, and Borgia disease, sugarcane smut.

Tokelau

36. Active surveillance at high risk areas, community based and targeted (RIFA, TLB); YCA management 1st detected in 2008 at the fuel depot. NZ MFAT current project managing YCA June 2015 – 2019.

FSM

37. Mango fruit fly only. Only 17 quarantine officers, national invasive species strategy and action plan (NISSAP)

Cook Islands

38. Recently intercepted large consignment of fresh produce from French Polynesia for the Constitution celebrations. Priority now for a pest survey to upgrade PLD.

Nauru

39. No current mechanism on pest surveillance, and SPC assisting with establishing a surveillance platform. YCA and FF are special interests; need to increase awareness on invasives.

Palau

40. Division of Biosecurity – good FF surveillance and eradication (IAEA funded projects), limited resources, need good awareness, collection of data and transport.

Guam

41. Fruit fly surveys (monitor melon fruit fly), monitoring for CRB (ports of exit and throughout) to protect neighbouring islands, invasive ants, surveillance for HLB, insects pests in ornamentals and plant nurseries;

New Zealand

42. Presented overview on enhanced general surveillance (0800 calls), surveillance evaluation framework (SurF), combining lures & BMSB trapping, Bayesian pathway exposure modeling, smart phones & apps, UAV's.

Samoa

43. Strengthened surveillance at ports of entry including cargo and containers, general surveillance by Crops Division on the regulated pests, strengthened monitoring and management of CRB (cultural, trapping and biocontrol), FF surveillance ports of entry and orchards, fruit piercing moth, termites, and GAS.

New Caledonia

44. NC on fruit fly surveillance network, and invasives RIFA campaign at airport, seaport and mining ports.

French Polynesia

Surveillance for CRB, LFA, Brontispa and B. xanthodes (only on Austral islands, thus ban on movement of fruits. CRB surveillance program only in Society Islands.

Vanuatu

45. Vila and Luganville, are international ports, SPC have helped conduct plant health surveillance, invasive weed surveillance; this allowed for the PLD to be updated. Access to GEF 6 funds would improve surveillance, developing weed infestation database, awareness raising and capacity building.

Niue

46. Only have 2 quarantine staff, surveillance with arriving aircraft, and yachts. Ongoing fruit fly surveillance

American Samoa

47. Staff of 10. Ant surveillance and fruit fly surveillance with 10 sites on Tutuila.

Solomon Islands

48. There is a Biosecurity Act 2013 with surveillance focusing pre-border, border and post-border. Acknowledge AusAid assistance in capacity building, and awareness. Significant pests include kava dieback, citrus canker, Asian honey bee and in February 2015 incursion of CRB. FAO TCP for CRB control.

Tuvalu

49. Plant Protection and Quarantine have three Staff with extension officers in outer islands help with surveillance, surveillance for fruit fly (monitor Niulakita island for *B. xanthode*), YCA kill coconut and land crab (SPC helping with specimen ids), and requesting assistance for eradication;

Kiribati

50. Monitoring for taro beetle, mango fruit fly, yellow crazy ant (NZ DFAT 5 yr project, Building resilience to biosecurity threats from invasive ants throughout the Pacific); Biosecurity Act (2012).

International Year of Plant Health 2020

50. IPPC Secretariat presented, a Declaration by CPM 10, a Contracting Parties Driven Initiative and Activities.

51. To raise awareness of importance of plant health addressing global concern, including hunger, poverty and threats to the environment including climate change.

52. To facilitate trade development through the promotion of globally harmonized scientifically based phytosanitary measures.

53. IPPC calling on the Pacific to voice strong support to UN arena for IYPH 2020, and for PPPO to support promotion of IYPH through national awareness activities and using SPC channels.

Phytosanitary Electronic Certification (ePhyto)

54. IPPC Secretariat on ePhyto is a secured data set (XML) not a copy of a printed phytosanitary certificate that is emailed between NPPO of exporting country and NPPO of importing country. Is equivalent of a paper phytosanitary certificate.

55. Improves security (cuts down fraud), save costs in printing, shipping; expedites communication between NPPOS, and compatible with a 'single window'.

56. IPPC Secretariat will report back to CPM-11 on progress made on ePhyto.

57. The components of the e phyto National systems are procedures for data entry for export certification, and production of the phyto, reception of ephytos and with these data, and verification and extraction of the data and storage.

58. Transfer of ePhytos between NPPOs can be direct exchange (point to point) or via a central hub (ePhyto hub).

59. Benefits of exchange via a global ePhyto hub (cloud based): One to Many; reduce efforts of on-going costly bilateral arrangements; will facilitate trade. There are security and confidentiality issues and the Secretariat is linked to other UN agencies to develop a system that would complement these issues.

60. Use is voluntary (countries can still use paper certificates).

61. There will be a global symposium on ePhyto in South Korea, 9-13 November 2015.

62. Development of a pilot hub in October 2015 (STDF project), a generic system in 2016, and testing in 2016.

63. Resources: www.ippc.int/en/ephyto, <http://ephyto.ippc.int/>

WTO Agreement on Trade Facilitation (ATF)

64. Not only targeting customs but other border regulatory issues, including plant health, concerns raised at CPM 9 on lack of consultations with customs authorities.

65. Concern of overlapping of authorities between existing SPS committee and new Trade Facilitation Committee.

66. As of June 2015 six Contracting Party countries have ratified ATF, and need 2/3rds (108 CP members) of CP members' endorsement to enter into force.

67. Members to get to know their national contact points, refer to website: www.tfafacility.org or www.tfafacility.org/national-contacts-points.

68. Recommendation for NPPOs to review the ATF and ensure that plant health issues should be regulated by the IPPC and the SPS Agreement.

69. NPPOs to consider implications of ATF within NPPOs and to identify their obligations.

70. Definition of trade facilitation, not necessarily just to cut time and cost at the border but to lessen disruption and more importantly to ensure safe trade.

National Reporting Obligations (NROs)

71. Contracting Parties (CP) are legally responsible for meeting the IPPC NROs and to designate a Official Contact Point (OCP) for efficient communication between CPs and the Secretariat.

72. In CPM 10 2015 it was announced for Year of the Organisation of the NPPO leading to CPM 11.

73. If changing OCP or new NPPO new names should be submitted through diplomatic channels such as MAF or Foreign Affairs, it is responsibility of outgoing OCP to designate someone and to use same forms with sign off from higher authority.

74. IPPC face challenge of notification of OCP changes by NPPOs taking a long time sometimes countries already gone through several changes before Secretariat is informed.

75. IPPC disseminates information to NPPOs through a monthly newsletter but very few in the Pacific are aware of this service, so IPPC will try other channels to communicate developments to NPPOs.

76. NPPOs are not fully fulfilling their NROs with regards to descriptions of the NPPOs.

77. NPPOs are required to fulfill their NRO for pest reporting, emergency response and a listing of regulated pests.

78. If you have pest reports already, you are encouraged to have them posted to IPPC.

79. Countries are strongly encouraged to bring their national concerns to IPPC Secretariat for consideration.

80. NPPOs are encouraged to nominate Editors to IPPC for their contribution and a voice of the Pacific in the development of Standards.

ANNEXES

1. WELCOME NOTE FROM IPPC SECRETARY
2. PARTICIPANTS LIST