Emerging Issues

*Prepared by CPM Bureau*

Purpose

1. This paper provides SPG with a summary of Bureau discussions in June 2016 to progress establishment of a means within the IPPC for dealing with emerging issues requiring global action, as requested by CPM-11 in April 2016. This function is supported by Article XI of the Convention.
2. SPG is requested to provide feedback to the Bureau on the issue and possible short, medium and long term mechanisms for identifying and dealing with global plant protection issues.

Background

1. The Bureau met in Beijing from 21-24 June 2016. It discussed several agenda items relevant to establishing a means for dealing with emerging issues requiring global action, including funding, following the request by CPM-11 that the Bureau, in consultation with SC and CDC, urgently establish such a means (ref. recommendations agenda item 8.3, CPM report, 2016).
2. The Secretariat advised that the Convention requires the CPM to (ref IPPC ARTICLE XI 2(a): ‘*review the state of plant protection in the world and the need for action to control the international spread of pests and their introduction into endangered areas*’). This indicates both a mandate and potential scope for emergent pest activities under the authority of the IPPC.
3. The Secretariat reported that it regularly receives requests for advice on pest outbreaks. In such cases it is important to be able to respond quickly through access to immediate support mechanisms for emergency activities. This indicated a mechanism beyond side sessions at CPM, or drafting of international standards. Information exchange can be facilitated by the IPPC Secretariat by way of the IPP, in the case of news or pest reports and the phytosanitary resources pages for technical manuals and materials. The RPPOs also hold material and information that could be used to respond to new and emerging pest issues.

Proposed action

1. Given the intent of the CPM to firmly establish the IPPC as a global focal point for plant protection and plant health through Contracting Party (CP) support for the International Year of Plant Health and Secretariat advocacy and resource mobilisation actions, the Bureau agreed that some activities need to be addressed within the short term, but that a principal decision on this matter should fall within the boundaries of the Strategic Framework 2020-2030 and the ministerial CPM planned for 2020.
2. Any role for the IPPC in this area needed to take into account the responsibilities of NPPOs themselves and the capacity of IPPC for providing advice and determining priorities for global, as opposed to regional, national and sub-national action. It also needed to be appropriately resourced and this should be factored into the sustainable funding model.
3. In the short term, the IPPC could assist action on emerging issues through the sharing of information. To progress this, the Bureau agreed that the pilot project on surveillance could serve as test project to establish a framework established as a table to guide the collection, collation and publication of information that may be shared to help CPs address a new or emerging pest. This might include, as relevant, fact sheets, pest information to assist decision-making, available control or regulatory measures, surveillance, diagnostics, other materials, identified gaps to assist research priority setting. The surveillance pilot is collecting information on three significant pests/groups of pests including:
4. *Xylella fastidiosa* subspecies
5. *Bactrocera dorsalis*
6. Tramp ant species
7. Expanding information collection and sharing to assist CPs plan, undertake and report actions and outcomes on more than surveillance is a low cost/low resource action that could be implemented by the Secretariat with materials provided by CPs.
8. To assist the development of a framework for information sharing, the Bureau identified five areas of information that could be shared to support NPPOs identify, prepare for and respond to emerging pests. These are expanded in Attachment 1 and cover:
* Intelligence
* Analysis
* Awareness
* Information sharing
* Response action

Next steps

1. The Bureau is required to report back to CPM-12 in 2017 a means of dealing with emerging issues requiring global action. Neither CDC or SC have yet had an opportunity to consider this matter. Proposed next steps are:
2. SPG considers this paper and the actions requested by the Bureau
3. The Bureau prepares a paper for SC and CDC consideration at their meetings in late 2016
4. Outcomes of discussions from these bodies is consolidated into a paper for CPM, which includes recommendations on short, medium and long term approaches and their resource needs and implications.
5. Aspects for CPM to consider might include:
* What sort of issues require global actions? For what outcome? This could be broader than pests
* What is the IPPC’s role?
* What is the role of the Secretary and/or the Secretariat?
* Who decides what is important and requires action? Do we need criteria and/or rules?
* What responsibilities to CPs have?
* How can/does this connect with FAO foresighting?
* How could it link with agencies that can help with a pest incursion response eg. FAO EMPRES, RPPOs (depending on their terms of reference)
* Who could fund this? Are there international partners who could be involved in this?
* Are there opportunities for cost sharing?
* Are tools needed to assist the identification, analysis and action to emerging issues?
* How could this process identify, establish and support strategic partnerships, think tanks, technical advisory panels, R&D coordination and collaboration

Recommendations for SPG

1. That the SPG:
2. Considers and discusses the proposed short term approach and provides feedback for Bureau, SC and CDC
3. Integrates strategic elements relevant to the detection, analysis and response to emerging issues, that fall within the role and responsibility of the IPPC, into the Strategic Framework 2020-2030
4. Considers mechanisms for funding activities for the detection, analysis and response to emerging issues in the short, medium and long term
5. Includes allowance of sufficient resources for this activity in the sustainable funding model for the IPPC

**Attachment 1**

**Framework for information sharing on emerging pest issues**

**1. Intelligence**

Action:Collect and share information on changing in pest distribution and impact

Outcome:CPs are aware of changes in pest risks

Activities:

* Proactive data collection through Web crawlers, pest notifications track and alert to spread of pests, especially high impact organisms (food production, trade impact, environmentally damaging).
* Set criteria to direct data collection on what we are concerned about and why
* Incursions - notifications through IPPC Contact Point
* Situation updates
* Networks

**2. Analysis**

Action:Analyse intelligence to increase awareness

Outcome: CPs understand the potential impact of the changed pest risk

Activities:

* Underpin decisions for action - national, regional, global
* Economic impacts and other drivers for action
* Delegated focus for action
* Secretariat coordination

**3. Awareness**

Action: Increase awareness to drive action

Outcome: CPs understand impact and actions that may be taken to reduce or prevent impact

Activities:

* Raising and sharing awareness of the pest
* Alerts
* Engagement, communications - material for global use
* Fact sheets - translated

**4. Information sharing**

Action: Enable effective decision-making and action

Outcome: Information to assist decision-making and action is available and can be used by CPs

Activities:

* Call for information using consistent information framework to support decision-making and action
* Publish in a central location (phytosanitary resources page - to assist CP planning, decision-making and effective response, avoid duplication, coordinate information, identify gaps, address them
* Pest pages
* Test using the surveillance pilots
* Workshops (Xylella case study?)
* Emerging pests - red palm weevil, *Tuta absoluta*, Huanglongbing and vectors, Panama disease of bananas
* RPPOs as regional coordinators, connection to NPPOs
* News items, section on the IPP, links to phyto resources page

**5. Response action**

Action: Global, regional and national action is taken

Outcome: Pest impact is reduced

Activities:

* Establish relationship between IPPC Secretariat and FAO EMPRES program
* Capacity development and training
* Workshops - knowledge, action - detection, diagnosis, response, ongoing management, regulation
* Potential donors