The IPPC National Reporting Obligations Programme

1. In 2013, CPM-8 agreed to the review of the IPPC Information Exchange Programme and this has been ongoing for the past 2 years.
2. CPM-8 also agreed to focus the IPPC Information Programme on the National Reporting Obligations (NROs) in future and the objective of the current *IPPC Information Exchange Programme* was revised to the *IPPC NRO Programme*.
3. The IPPC NRO Advisory Body (NROAG) was established by CPM-8 in 2013 but took longer than expected to become operational and NROAG met for the first time in July 2014. Mr. Lucien Konan chaired the first meeting as Bureau member tasked with monitoring the NRO programme. Ms Lottie Erikson has now taken over as the Chair of NROAG.
4. The NROAG met for three days and provided advice on:

* Challenges to be addressed
* Contributing global, regional and national factors
* The scope of the new NRO Programme
* NPPO Management challenges that needed addressing
* Advocacy and communications needs - global, regional and national
* Technical issues that need addressing
* National policy support that is needed
* Activities that need to be undertaken, including:
* National reporting through the IPP
* Value added to NRO data
* Synergies with other IPPC programmes and activities
* NPPO Management

1. NROAG continues to work remotely in fulfilling the Terms of Reference as agreed by the CPM Bureau. The draft report of the NROAG meeting can be found at: <https://www.ippc.int/core-activities/information-exchange>.
2. Based on the NROAG advice, the IPPC Secretariat has developed an IPPC NRO Programme based on the format provide by the Working Group on Implementation to develop the “IPPC Implementation Programme on Surveillance”. Appendix 1 contains the proposed NRO programme.
3. NROAG continues to refine this programme and looks forward to the feedback from the SPG. Once finalised by the NROAG, it will be made available for country comment in October/November 2014 before being finalised for consideration during CPM-10.
4. The revised IPPC NRO Programme will only be implemented after CPM has agreed to the Programme, although there are components that are already active as they are existing activities that can be undertaken based on the advice of the NROAG e.g. the Year of the IPPC Contact Points.
5. Further, the Secretariat, with support from NROAG, will be revising all previous decisions made by CPM and ICPM, and will consolidate these into a single document for CPM-10 consideration. Some of those decisions being considered include:

9.1 Ensure obsolete decisions are identified and withdrawn;

9.2 Divide the list of decisions into two components and ensure the following are added to these CPM decision lists:

**A.      *CPM agreed procedures*** (interpretations of the IPPC and ISPMs, or when specific guidance in absent);

i OCP nomination must be reported to Secretary who will make it public on the IPP.

ii Art. VIII.1(a) states that the reporting of pests will be undertaken “… in accordance with such procedures as may be established by the Commission …”.  CPM agrees CPs publish pest reports on the public IPP to meet all reporting requirements;

iii Regulated pest lists should be made available on IPP and public to ensure all provisions of IPPC are met and to eliminate any contradictions;

iv Art.XII.2(d) implies the Secretary receiving Art.VII.2(b) (phytosanitary restrictions etc.) and then making available to all parties - CPM agrees CPs publish these on the IPP to meet all reporting requirements; and

vi For the purposes of the IPPC, the phrases "make available to", "reported to", " submit to", " transmit to" and "communicate to" the Secretary means the Secretary to the IPPC must be notified directly and the preferred mechanism of undertaking this is by publishing on the IPP.

**B.      *Operational decisions****;*

i The primary, and preferred, mechanism of communicating NROs is electronically as this is more efficient than paper communications and substantially reduces resources needed by the Secretariat to process paper;

ii To make optimal use of Secretariat resources and ensure fast and effective communication, posting NRO information on the IPP is considered by CPM to be meeting CP reporting obligations that specifically needs to be send to the Secretary, CPs, NPPOs, RPPOs or any combination thereof;

iii The IPP is the preferred IPPC information exchange mechanism to meet national reporting obligations;

iv Any NRO that needs to be reported to the Secretary to the IPPC, is reported on the IPP and hence public;

v OCPs can nominate editors to assist them in the CP meeting their NROs but this needs to be done by formally notifying the Secretary of such;

vi Providing the necessary legal authority is obtained by the IPPC Secretariat from the CP, the CP can undertake their pest reporting through RPPOs;

1. In addition, the NROAG and Secretariat have initiated the development of the IPPC NRO Work Plan which is attached for consideration and guidance – see Appendix 2. The detailing of this work plan is however complex and will only be available as a CPM paper i.e. not for SPG discussion due to time constraints. The final formatted version will be in a similar format to the IPPC Capacity Development Work Plan.
2. SPG should note that the implementation of the IPPC NRO Programme will not be possible without an appropriately resourced Secretariat i.e. additional longer-term staff and financial resources in a sustainable manner.The SPG is invited to:

* *consider* the proposed IPPC NRO Programme and *provide* suggestions for improvement and revision;
* *provide* guidance on the level of detail required in the IPPC NRO Work Plan; and
* *provide* guidance on how to manage the list of decisions for CPMs consideration.

**Appendix 1**





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| **Strategic National Reporting Obligations Programme**  **(Draft)** |

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**Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations**

**NRO Programme (2014 – 2023)**

1. **Background**

The National Reporting Obligations of the IPPC (NROs) are outlined in the Convention which was adopted in 1997 and entered into force in 2005. Contracting party (CP) implementation of reporting obligations and the role that the IPPC Information Exchange Programme (initiated in 2001) can play in helping members to meet reporting obligations needed to be reviewed and updated due to the challenges outlined below.

1. **Challenges**

There are a range of challenges but the key challenges are:

1. National Reporting Obligations are not being met consistently by contracting parties.
2. The need to create awareness in CPs and NPPOs to meet and understand their NROs.
3. The need to develop national or regional capacity to address underlying IPPC activities that support NROs, e.g., surveillance, pest identification, and PRA.
4. **Contributing factors**

Many factors contribute to the shortcomings including:

1. Lack of political will;
2. Lack of human and financial resources due to national resource priorities and lack of awareness of the IPPC or its obligations;
3. Large turn-over in NPPO staff;
4. Poor institutional memory regarding the IPPC and national reporting obligations;
5. Lack of underlying capacity in the NPPO to fully support and engage in the IPPC NROs; and
6. Access to internet greatly has expanded since the New Revised Text of the IPPC was adopted in 1997 but limited internet access still persists in some regions / countries.
7. **High-level goal**

A **functional national reporting programme** that contributes to food security, safe trade and the protection of the environment through the prevention of the introduction and spread of pests.

1. **Objective**

CPs meeting NROs, based on the New Revised Text of the IPPC and ISPMs, will contribute to the prevention of the introduction and spread of plant pests and enable more countries to share information on pest status in order to support food security, facilitate trade, and protect the environment.

The pilot IPPC Implementation Programme on Surveillance will enable the IPPC Secretariat, CPM and member countries to address a number of key NRO implementation challenges in a simple, carefully-planned and coordinated manner.

1. **Scope**

Establish a global programme that supports contracting parties in meeting their NROs by:

* Providing clear guidance to CPs about what NROs are and what their purpose is via guidance documents, ISPMs, and awareness raising materials;
* Providing sample templates or best practices examples that demonstrate to CPs how to clearly and consistently publish NRO information;
* Providing technical assistance through the IPPC capacity development programme to CPs who need assistance with underlying capacities like PRA, surveillance and pest identification in order to meet NROs;
* Recognizing and building on existing CP systems and structures that meet NROs; and
* Linking existing CP NRO systems and structures with IPP in clear, coherent and consistent fashion The IPPC NRO programme will cover all NROs covered by both the IPPC (1997) and the ISPMs, supported by the appropriate decisions as and when relevant. At a national level, implementation of specific programs in their country can be initiated by the contracting party.

1. **Duration**

As with the previous information exchange cycle, it is expected this programme will last 10 years, with appropriate adjustments / revisions as and when necessary. The work plan should be categorized into immediate, short-, medium- and long-term goals.

The NRO Programme is ongoing but has specific capacity development issues that need addressing in the long term. Therefore, there will be close coordination and cooperation with the pilot IPPC Implementation Programme on Surveillance.

1. **Activities**
   1. **NPPO Management**

Substantial strengthening of NPPO ability to implement an active and sustainable NRO programme is needed. The nature of support needed will vary substantially between countries. Key management related activities will include:

1. Country-level evaluation of implementation of NRO (global programme develops tools and guidance for the evaluation; CPs conduct and report on the evaluation; global programme encourages, monitors and analyzes the extent of CP delivery)
2. Sustainable resourcing of national programs (human, financial and infrastructure resources) (planning tools, resource mobilization resources, management training).
   1. **Advocacy and communications**

Advocacy and communication needs to be undertaken in a sustainable manner in an ongoing manner due to the fluid movement of staff and structural re-organizations. Key activities include:

1. Create awareness of national reporting obligations in NPPO and senior national decision makers;
2. Advocacy activity on the nature and the purpose of NROs and implications if NROs are not met, support for institutional development of NRO capacities, policies and the resources needed (need to compile evidence, case studies, best practices, success stories);
3. Regional or sub-regional workshops to share experiences if and when resources or opportunities arise; and
4. Develop online advocacy material and training that can be used whenever needed.

**8.3 Technical**

Technical capacity and needs will vary substantially between countries. However, the following activities need to be addressed:

1. Support regional initiatives for development of systems for data collection, management, verification and training on how to report this information to meet NROs;
2. Strengthen information exchange mechanisms between contracting parties, the Secretariat and RPPOs;
3. Developing national and regional expert networks to share information on meeting NROs (including electronic user groups);
4. Develop or review NRO technical manuals and guidelines
   1. General guidance material for NROs (how to report and use the information – understand the multiple uses)
   2. Guidance on collection and validation of NRO information, including how to manage NPPO relationships with RPPOs and other groups (academia, researchers, Plantwise, private sector, etc.) to collect, manage and validate information;
   3. Specific guidance material on pest reporting, list of regulated pests and official contact points; and
   4. Utilize guidance material on surveillance and pest status developed under the pilot IPPC Implementation Programme on Surveillance; and
5. Improvement and alignment of ISPMs related to NROs and identify gaps for standard development.

**8.4 National Policy**

Policy related to NROs should often be included in other official policies e.g. surveillance and pest reporting. However, NRO specific policies are still needed to ensure appropriate resource allocation and national prioritization. Activities will include:

1. Facilitate the creation of national NRO policy and procedures to support countries in their implementation of the IPPC and ISPMs;
2. Support NPPOs to ensure NRO-related tasks (and resources) are included in other appropriate policies e.g. surveillance and pest reporting involving research, extension services, environment and forestry ministries, agencies and bodies; and
3. Support NPPOs and other government bodies to engage relevant resources to support development/updating of national legislative/policy/regulations/procedures.
4. **Indicators of success – how will we know if the programme is making a difference?**

Use available baseline data to describe and establish the current situation (prior to NRO programme implementation) to enable the IPPC Secretariat, RPPOs and NPPOs to measure progress, or lack thereof. Data needs to be collected on an annual basis and reported to CPM.

* 1. **National reporting through IPP**

Increased national activity or meeting NROs will be visible for:

1. Improved frequency and quality of pest reporting (Art. VIII.1a);
2. Improved number, frequency and quality of lists of regulated pests reported (Art. VII.2i);
3. Improved number of and accurate contact information for IPPC Official Contact Points (Art. VIII.2);
4. Improved number and quality of descriptions of the NPPOs (Art. IV.4)
5. Improved number and clarity of phytosanitary requirements, restrictions and prohibitions reported (Art. VII.2b)
6. Improved number and frequency of entry points with restrictions reported (Art. VII.2d)
7. Improved number and frequency of emergency actions reported and updated (Art. VII.6)
8. Increased reporting in FAO languages as stipulated in IPPC Article XIX

**9.2 Tools available to facilitate NROs**

The tools available to facilitate pest reporting will also increase and will be visible as:

1. Establish an annual NRO campaign to raise awareness and increase activity in a specific are of NROs;
2. A substantial increase in support guidance material available and updated;
3. On-line training available;
4. Availability of tools, such as reporting through RPPOs, functional and active.

**9.3 Value added to NRO data**

This will primarily be visible through the IPP.

1. Improved user interface for data extraction and particularly data entry;
2. Increase availability and quality of NRO statistics;
3. Automated reminder systems functional and utilized;
4. Increased analysis and display of NRO data.
   1. **Synergies with other IPPC programmes and activities**

Far greater integration and synergies will be visible than in the past. These will include activities such as:

1. Support and integration with the IPPC pilot Implementation Programme on Surveillance i.e. related to collecting, management and reporting of pest related information;
2. Increased feedback into the IPPC Standard Setting Programme e.g. implementation challenges and gaps in ISPMs;
3. Support and integration into the IPPC Capacity development programme e.g. planning and participation in NRO-related activities; and
4. Create linkages within NRO material available on the IPP.

**9.5 NPPO Management**

1. Increased sustainable national support for NPPOs and specifically NRO activities;
2. Increased NRO activities, including reduced response time to queries, improved quality of information; and
3. Availability of on-line material to increase awareness, responsibilities and progress with regards NROs.
4. In an increasing number of CPs, the IPP will serve less as a centralized repository of information because most information related to reporting obligations can be found on CP websites. Countries need to understand the difference and decide what suits their needs.
5. **Challenges and risks to the programme**

The inability to overcome the challenges and deal with the risks associated with this programme could result in failure, or reduced success, of the NRO programme. This will vary substantially between IPPC contracting party and can be divided into a number of general areas:

**10.1 Challenges and risks associated with the CP / NPPOs**

1. A poor understanding of national roles and responsibilities;
2. Decision-makers do not prioritize staff and financial resources to meet NRO and participate in program;
3. Lack of political will;
4. Countries provide information to trading partners on request as required by IPP but do not make bilateral information available globally because of trade concerns;
5. Civil conflict, political instability, natural disasters;
6. Instability of human resources and organization;
7. Poor national organizational arrangements results in limited cooperation and coordination between national stakeholders;
8. Complexity of the issue (for management and communication);
9. Inability to promote the value of the programme (including the lack of availability of information);
10. Capacity development not undertaken or technical assistance not provided when needed;
11. Poor or aggressive response from trading partners;
12. Poor timeliness of response; and
13. Poor accuracy of information i.e. poor verification of information.

**10.2 Challenges and risks associated with the CPM**

1. CPM not able to decide on priorities for IPPC work programme e.g. supporting the standard setting programme at the expense of other IPPC programmes;
2. Lack of funding or making resources available (for a global programme, national needs, and Secretariat); and
3. Inability to promote the value of the programme (including the lack of availability of information).

**10.3 Challenges and risks associated with the Secretariat**

1. Lack of adequate financial and staffing resources to support a sustainable NRO programme;
2. Instability of human resources and organizational arrangements;
3. Limited coordination within Secretariat;
4. Complexity of the issue (for management and communication);
5. Inability to promote the value of the programme (including availability of information and benefits / risks); and
6. Capacity development not undertaken.

**10.4 Challenges and risks associated with the FAO**

1. Inadequate organizational support to the IPPC Secretariat activities;
2. Inadequate resource allocation to the IPPC work programme and support staff; and
3. Undermining of the IPPC work programme through excessive bureaucratic procedures and policy for an Article XIV body with existing extensive global support and a degree of operational independence.

**10.5 Challenges and risks associated with the RPPOs**

1. Not fulfilling RPPO IPPC obligations i.e. facilitation role;
2. Lack of alignment between IPPC, RPPOs and others;
3. Inability to promote the value of the programme (including availability of information); and
4. Capacity development not undertaken by RPPOs.

**Appendix 2**

**IPPC National Reporting Obligations Work Plan**

The details of the NRO Work Plan are still being developed. However, the major components of this work Plan are (extracted from the NROAG Report):

The NROAG discussed priorities and goals taking into account different timeframes: immediate- (between 4 July 2014 and CPM-10), short- (up to CPM-11), medium- (year 3 - 4) and long-term tasks (from year 5 upwards). This essentially meant the work programme would last for 5 – 10 years. Some actions will be continuous.

* + - 1. **General Priorities and Goals**

NROAG established the following general priorities as regards NROs:

* Official Contact Points Short-term;
* Pest reporting Short- to medium-term;
* List of regulated pests Long-term;
* Description of NPPO Medium-term;
* Points of entry with restrictions Medium-term;
* Phytosanitary requirements, restrictions and prohibitions Medium-term;
* Awareness Short- to medium-term.
  + - 1. **Activities and Priorities**

1. **Immediate term (between 4 July 2014 and CPM-10):**
2. Official Contact Points - validation and accuracy. 2014/15 is the “Year of the IPPC Contact Point”.
3. Develop /revise a NRO work programme for 2014 - 2023

* revise for NROAG consideration
* submit for SPG /Bureau for advice
* country consultation
* submit to CPM

1. Request revision of ISPM 19 – call for topics & SC; include in standard framework review (representative of NROAG chair to attend)

* write a justification
* request SC (TPG) to review use of measures and regulation
* consistency analysis on terms “Regulated pest list” and “pest list” by TPG (to be included in a TPG agenda – need to send justification to Standard Setting Team).

1. Request SC (TPG) to provide clarity on terminology used in the convention to describe NROs
2. Complete pest reporting through RPPO tool
3. Revise NRO manual
4. Reminder for ALL reporting obligations
5. Transmit strong need for surveillance, PRA and diagnostics capacity development in support of NRO programme, particularly regulated pest lists and pest reporting to CDC and Implementation programme meeting.
6. Write to Bureau and highlight need for a study of all obligations in IPPC as a number are not promoted or dealt with directly.
7. Prepare concept notes for project funding e.g. staffing support, training (virtual and face-to-face), new tools, new software, Apps, on-line training.
8. Develop paper/s for CPM on reporting procedures, hosting on IPP and in particular pest reporting. Consolidate all CPM decisions relating to IE and NROs, in particular inconsistencies.
9. Agree on terminology to use in classifying the various NROs.
10. **Short-term (before CPM-11 2016):**
11. Description of NPPO – reminder of reporting obligation
12. Pest reporting

* develop procedures for CPM consideration Art. VIII 1a
* expand use of reporting through RPPO tool
* change format of reporting and retrieving data (NROAG to test before broader testing & release)

1. Emergency actions: request a study for IRSS to explore constraints to meet emergency action reporting
2. Develop an automated IPP reminder system
3. Training: develop training tools and materials
4. Take advantage of existing synergies with other projects for implementation
5. Submit selected project proposals for funding
6. Develop work plan for CD for emergency action
7. Develop user requirements for the NRO website
8. **Medium-term (year 2017-2018):**
9. Review work of NROAG and make recommendations on its future role, composition and functions
10. Pest reporting

* expand use of reporting through RPPO tool
* change format of reporting and retrieving data (NROAG to test before broader testing & release)

1. Improve reporting of regulated pest lists
2. Emergency actions: address constraints to reporting emergency actions identified by the IRSS study
3. Re-development of the NRO website
4. Optimize the NRO reminder system
5. Finalize NRO training: training tools and materials
6. **Long-term (2019 onwards):**
7. Reporting by all CPs of regulated pest lists – monitoring and evaluation process
8. Optimization of new NRO website
9. Develop new tools for NROs
10. Adjustment of the NRO work programme after mid-term review.