

# ISPM #8-Pest Status in an Area



# Pest Status Definition

Presence or absence, at the present time, of a pest in an area, including where appropriate its distribution, as officially determined using expert judgement on the basis of current and historical pest records and other information.



# Scope of Standard

- describes the content of a pest record;
- the use of pest records and other information in the determination of pest status in an area;
- descriptions of pest status categories
- recommendations for good reporting practices.



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# Purposes of Pest Status Determination

**A pest record** is documented evidence that indicates the presence or absence of a specific pest at a particular location and certain time, within an area, usually a country, under described circumstances

Pest records are used with other information to determine the status of a given pest in an area.



# Importing country use of information

- **conduct a pest risk analysis (PRA) on a pest in another country**
- **establish phytosanitary regulations to prevent the entry, establishment or spread of a pest**
- **conduct a PRA on a non-quarantine pest in their own territory with a view to regulating it.**



# Exporting country use of information

- **comply with import regulations**
- **meet requests for information from other countries for the purpose of PRA on pests in their territory**



# Contents of a Pest Record

- current scientific name of the organism including, as appropriate, strain, biotype, etc.
- life stage or state
- taxonomic group
- identification method
- year, and month if known, recorded; *normally the day will only be required for specific circumstances (e.g. the first detection of a particular pest, pest monitoring)*
- locality, e.g. addresses, geographical coordinates; greenhouse or open production





# Contents of a Pest Record cont'd

- scientific name of host, as appropriate
- host damage, or circumstances of collection (e.g. trap or soil sample), as appropriate
- prevalence, indication of the level of pest presence or pest numbers
- bibliographical references, if any



# Reliability of pest records

## 1. Collectors / Identifiers

- a. Taxonomist specialist
- b. Scientist

## 2. Technical identification-

- a. Discriminating biochemical or molecular diagnosis (if available)
- b. Specimen or culture maintained in official collection, taxonomic description by specialist

## 3. Location and date

- a. Delimiting or detection surveys
- b. Other field or production surveys

## 4. Recording / Publication

- a. NPPO record/RPPO publication (where refereed)



# Pest Status in an Area

**Presence-** A pest is present if records indicate that it is indigenous or introduced

- *Present: in all parts of the area*
- *Present: only in some areas*
- *Present: except in specified pest free areas*
- *Present: in all parts of the area where host crop(s) are grown*
- *Present: only in some areas where host crop(s) are grown*
- *Present: seasonally*
- *Present: but managed / under eradication*
- *Present: subject to official control*
- *Present: at low prevalence.*



# Pest Status in an Area

**Absence** -If there are no records of the presence of the pest in the general surveillance data of an area, it may be reasonable to conclude that a pest is or has always been absent.

- **no pest records**
- **pest eradicated**
- **pest no longer there**
- **pest record invalid or unreliable**



# Pest Status in an Area

**Transience** -Pest status is considered transient when a pest is present but establishment is not expected to occur based on technical evaluation. There are three types of transience:

**Transient: non-actionable** -detected as an individual occurrence or isolated population not expected to survive and no phytosanitary measures have been applied.

**Transient: actionable, under surveillance** - detected and may survive into the immediate future, but is not expected to establish. Appropriate phytosanitary measures, including surveillance are being applied.

**Transient: actionable, under eradication** - detected and may survive into the immediate future and, without phytosanitary measures for eradication, may establish. Appropriate phytosanitary measures have been applied for its eradication.



# Determination of pest status in an area

Determination of the status of a pest is provided by an NPPO. It results in deciding upon the most appropriate description of the pest status in an area based on supporting information. This may include:

- individual pest records
- pest records from surveys
- records or other indication of pest absence
- results of general surveillance
- information from scientific publications and databases
- phytosanitary measures to prevent introduction or spread
- other information relevant to assessing pest absence or presence.



# Recommended Reporting Practices

Accurate reports are an essential part of the international cooperation to facilitate trade. Failure to discover and report pests, or inaccurate, incomplete, untimely, or misinterpreted reports can lead to the establishment of unjustified trade barriers, or to the introduction and/or spread of pests.

