**COSAVE DISCUSSION PAPER FOR SPG 2013**

 ***Pests of national concern***

**IPPC Scope**

The International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) is a critical instrument for promoting joint actions, international cooperation and leadership in the plant protection area.

To date, the scope of the IPPC has included the development of international standards and activities related specially to regulated pests, ie those quarantine pests or regulated non-quarantine pests that are regulated by the phytosanitary import requirements after making the corresponding pest risk analysis, as established in the IPPC, Articles VI and VII. This huge work is done through the Standard setting.

However, countries face different situations regarding other pests which often have great economic, social or productive impact in different parts of the country. For instance locusts, Asian soybean rust, ants.

As mentioned in the IPPC, the current world situation "encourages the intensification of the threat of plant pests to plant resources, which is one of the main problems faced by farmers ..." And taking into account only a perspective from the point of view of international trade. However, within countries, the threat to plant resources usually involves pests that are not relevant in international trade, but can seriously affect both food security and sustainability of the production system.

Approval during 2012 of a new IPPC Strategic Framework has expanded its goals with the vision of protecting global plant resources from pests. Four strategic objectives have been established, that lead to fulfilling the mission of the Convention.

The first, "to protect sustainable agriculture and enhance global food security through the prevention of pest spread" refers to the general protection of agriculture, in the sense of "becoming increasingly national and international interest the broader issues of agro-ecosystems".

The countries that implement actions to mitigate the effects of what might be called *pests of national concern*, lead to the implementation of domestic regulations (of domestic application only) demanding great economic, technical and logistical efforts.

It must be clear all along this paper that *pests of national concern* are different than *regulated pests,* and then are not included in Standard setting, but it’s included in the core function “coordinating the development of technical support for national phytosanitary capacity” and then it should be considered as part of relevant IPPC activities.

These pests cause significant crop losses, their management or control; goes beyond farmer’s level or control technologies are not accessible at that level. Thus, there is a need to achieve a sustainable pest management, requiring the involvement of Organizations, which in the framework of the IPPC, are the NPPO.

**New actions**

The scenario described reinforces the need for new elements of international cooperation and technical assistance, to strength national capacities to address *pests of national concern* in affected countries. It should include the best way the NPPOs can share its own expertise in some *pests of national concern* management.

It should be noted in this regard, references in the Convention text regarding that mentioned above:

**Preamble:**

***The contracting parties,***

***- recognizing the necessity for international cooperation in controlling pests of plants and plant products and in preventing their international spread, and especially their introduction into endangered areas***;

**ARTICLE VIII: International cooperation**

***1. The contracting parties shall cooperate with one another to the fullest practicable extent in achieving the aims of this Convention, and shall in particular:***

***(b) participate, in so far as is practicable, in any special campaigns for combatting pests that may seriously threaten crop production and need international action to meet the emergencies;***

**ARTICLE XX: Technical assistance**

***The contracting parties agree to promote the provision of technical assistance to contracting parties, especially those that are developing contracting parties, either bilaterally or through the appropriate international organizations, with the objective of facilitating the implementation of this Convention.***

Thus, it is of great importance to begin actions at international level regarding pests of national concern.

In this sense, some of the activities that could be analyzed are:

1. Cooperation for planning, execution, control and management of control programs for *pests of national concern*.
2. Cooperation for resource mobilization for the execution of control programs for *pests of national concern*.
3. Conformation of an Expert Working Group to identify modes of action on this issue.
4. Conformation of a module within the framework of IPPC Capacity Development activities to implement ad-hoc activities and those under the EWG proposal.
5. Building and maintaining a list of national expert contacts related to a list of *pests of national concern*.

It should be noted that activities to be conducted in relation to *pests of national concern*, under any circumstances will imply that they are regulated pests under IPPC and therefore they cannot be regulated in international trade by IPPC members.

It´s supposed that this kind of deeply cooperative work can give NPPOs more strength in controlling pests and furthermore can give IPPC more strength facing the stakeholders and governments demands.