



The Role and Relationship of Scientific and Official Information

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Information Exchange and the IPPC

◆ Article VIII provisions

- cooperate in the exchange of information
- provide scientific and technical information for PRAs
- designate Official Contact Point

◆ Article IV provisions

- surveillance and reporting of pests

Scientific vs Official Information

Scientific Information

➤ Biology of the pest:

- ✓ Distribution
- ✓ Vectors
- ✓ Economic impact
- ✓ Host range
- ✓ Biological impact
- ✓ Other data

➤ Sources of scientific information

- ✓ Refereed journals
- ✓ NPPO records
- ✓ Electronic documentation
- ✓ Non-refereed journals
- ✓ Historical records



Scientific vs Official Information

Official Information

- ✓ Regulatory requirements
- ✓ Regulated pest lists
- ✓ Pest status reporting
- ✓ Restrictions/prohibitions
- ✓ Surveillance data
- ✓ PRAs
- ✓ Pest outbreaks
- ✓ Emergency actions

Source of official information

Official Contact Point designated by the Contracting Party



Importing Countries may use pest status information to:

- conduct a PRA on a pest in another country;
- establish phytosanitary regulations;
- and conduct a PRA on a non-quarantine pest in their own territories for purposes of regulating it.



Exporting countries may use pest status information to:

- comply with import regulations of importing countries;
- and meet requests from other countries for the purposes of PRAs.



Importing and exporting countries may use pest status information to:

- conduct PRAs;
- plan national, regional and international pest management programs;
- establish national pest lists;
- establish and maintain pest free areas.



Dispute Settlement

- ◆ Provisions for country consultation under WTO and IPPC
- ◆ Use of PRAs in dispute settlement
- ◆ Roles of scientific and regulatory experts
- ◆ Exchange of information between
 - countries
 - international organizations



The Role of Scientists

- ◆ Research and reporting of results
- ◆ Responsibility and accountability
- ◆ Understand repercussions and impact of pest reporting
- ◆ Accuracy in reporting
- ◆ Communication and participation with the regulatory community



The Role of Regulators

- ◆ **Identify needs and gaps in knowledge base on pests of quarantine importance**
- ◆ **Support and encourage the activities of scientists in gathering and disseminating scientific information on plant pests**
- ◆ **Emphasise the importance of accurate and reliable information exchange**
- ◆ **Inform scientists on the role, relevance and impact of pest reporting**





Official Contact Points

- ◆ Required under the NRT
- ◆ Used for the transmittal of *official information* within a country
- ◆ Used for the transmittal of *official information* between trading partners

Benefits of OCPs:

- ★ Avoid confusion or misinterpretations
- ★ **ACCOUNTABILITY**
- ★ **TRANSPARENCY**





Conclusions

Both *scientific* and *official* information are relevant to agricultural trade

Accuracy, reliability and accountability are crucial

Regulators and scientists must recognize and respect the roles of each