



COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

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Implementation Review and Support System (IRSS)

Agenda item 10.3

Prepared by the IPPC Secretariat

I. Background

1. The Implementation Review and Support System (IRSS) has integrated work activities within both the work programme of the IPPC Secretariat and the implementation pilot project on surveillance focusing on challenges and opportunities of contracting parties' implementation of the Convention, International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs) and recommendations of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM).
2. The IRSS is a mechanism to:
 - provide key strategic and analytical support to various IPPC Secretariat Units and the implementation pilot work plan activities;
 - conduct case studies on emerging issues related to thematic areas such as food security, climate change, trade facilitation, among others;
 - define the future implementation priorities through a prioritization methodology to be tested during the implementation pilot project on surveillance;
 - provide support and assistance to contracting parties seeking help in implementation of the Convention and ISPMs, through management of the IRSS Help desk.
3. To facilitate the IRSS work activities a consultant was hired at the beginning of 2015 and will continue to work until the end of its second cycle in April 2017.

II. Work activities

4. The actions of the IRSS across the Secretariat and in support of the implementation pilot project on surveillance that were undertaken in 2016 and are scheduled for completion by the end of the second project cycle include:

- *Launch of the new IRSS webpage*

5. The IRSS helpdesk, located in the International Phytosanitary Portal (IPP), has been in use since 2011 to support contracting parties' implementation of the IPPC and its ISPMs. The helpdesk is an online platform that includes three main features - the Question and Answer (Q&A) Forum, Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and links to the Phytosanitary Resources webpage, where further resources are available. However, use of some of the helpdesk has been limited due to restricted access and a lack of awareness of the features available.

6. An analysis concluded that improvements were needed to enhance user experience and friendliness, access to content, organization and structure of features and ease of navigation to and within the helpdesk. As such, the IRSS helpdesk has been updated with the following improvements:

- Access to the Q&A Forum is now open to all plant health professionals who register for an IPP username and password;
- The IRSS homepage has been re-designed with new introductory text;
- The IRSS Activities webpage has been re-designed with briefs available for each activity;
- The IPP and IRSS FAQs have been amalgamated, reviewed and updated;
- A direct link to the IRSS is now on the new IPP under Projects and it can also be accessed under the Core Activities tab – Standards and Implementation; and
- A 'Help' function, linking to features that help a user gain further information (this appears on all IPP webpages).

7. The updated IRSS webpage was presented at the 2016 IPPC Regional Workshops.

- *2016 IPPC General Survey*

8. The 2016 IPPC General Survey was conducted from 9 September to 18 November and sent to all contracting parties and regional plant protection organizations (RPPOs). The survey was designed to capture information on contracting parties' implementation of the obligations and responsibilities as described in the Convention, implementation of ISPMs and CPM recommendations.

9. There were 104 survey responses received from contracting parties (57% response rate). The results of the 2016 IPPC General Survey will be compared against the first survey in 2012.

10. The survey responses that were received will feed into the strategic planning of the IPPC Secretariat and contribute towards prioritization of work activities to assist contracting parties with their implementation needs, including capacity development activities and technical assistance. In addition to this, survey responses feed into the IPPC standard setting process, in both development of new standards and revision of existing standards. Other uses of the survey information include work to enhance contracting parties' ability to undertake their national reporting obligations and information exchange.

- *Monitoring and Evaluation Framework (including indicators)*

11. The development of a Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) system has been commenced in collaboration with the Centre of Development and Innovation (CDI) of Wageningen University.

12. The IRSS is the IPPC's tool to undertake review activities of contracting parties' implementation of the Convention, and therefore will both complement and feed into the M&E

framework, which is being developed to allow for responsiveness and continuous improvement at three levels:

- Implementation of IPPC frameworks;
- IPPC policies and procedures; and
- IPPC Secretariat work areas.

13. The development of the M&E framework included a needs assessment of the three IPPC levels, a three day training course for all Secretariat staff, preparation of a draft M&E framework with categories of indicators identified and scoping of a proposal for the second phase of the M&E framework, for its implementation.

- *Global emerging issues and FAO foresight initiative*

14. As part of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) organizational foresight group, the IRSS prepared a questionnaire on Plant Health Emerging Issues that was sent to all IPPC Regional Workshop participants. The questionnaire asked participating contracting parties to list the five most important emerging issues related to plant health in the next two to five years.

15. Responses were received from 93 contracting parties and discussed at the 2016 IPPC Regional Workshops. Responses from nine regional plant protection organizations (RPPOs) were received. This information will help the IPPC understand national, regional and global emerging issues and trends between the different geographic levels. It will also contribute to the FAO foresight initiative to understand risks at the higher organizational level. Responses were collated and are available as the IPPC Global emerging issues of 2016.

- IRSS study: *The Biosecurity Approach – A review and evaluation of its application by FAO, internationally and in various countries*

16. The IRSS study - *The Biosecurity Approach – A review and evaluation of its application by FAO, internationally and in various countries* looked at different definitions, principles and the main drivers of biosecurity. Case studies present an insight to challenges and successes of application at the national level. The study concludes with a series of questions to consider and recommendations are offered as a platform for the IPPC and FAO to determine the best approach to biosecurity in the future.

17. In addition to the report of the study, a set of recommendations were provided by the authors for internal discussion by the IPPC Secretariat and other technical departments of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). Further work may be undertaken based on the outcomes of these discussions.

- IRSS study: *Analyzing the benefits of implementing the IPPC*

18. The IRSS study – *Analyzing the benefits of implementing the IPPC*, sought to identify the benefits at the national, regional and global level, while also considering benefits to different stakeholders in the IPPC community. The different aspects considered were in relation to the Convention, ISPMs and achieving the IPPC strategic objectives, but also with a particular emphasis on the economic benefits of implementing the IPPC and ISPMs at the national level.

19. The outcomes of the study illustrate how contracting party implementation of the IPPC provides multilevel benefits, in the form of protecting global plant resources, international cooperation, food security, environmental protection and trade facilitation.

- *Contracting party donor guidance*

20. Contracting party access to funding for implementation of the Convention, ISPMs and CPM recommendations can be challenging and has been identified as an area where contracting parties need

support. The IRSS has previously undertaken work to analyse existing and potential donors who fund plant health activities, under the IPPC Secretariat Resource Mobilization Task Force (RMTF). However, the use of this information has been to fund work of the CPM programme by the IPPC Secretariat.

21. To provide contracting parties with specific guidance for how to access funding both within their countries and externally, the resource mobilization analysis was used to develop Contracting party donor guidance.

- *Global funding support initiative*

22. In an effort to facilitate contracting parties' ongoing implementation of the Convention, ISPMs and CPM recommendations, the IRSS will be supporting an initiative to obtain funding through the Global Environmental Fund (GEF). This included the IRSS organizing a meeting of representatives to discuss and scope a proposal for contracting parties' to access GEF funding.

III. IRSS third project cycle

23. The IPPC intends to commence a third project cycle of the IRSS during 2017 for a further period of three years. A request for funding for the third cycle will be submitted to the project donor for consideration.

24. The CPM is requested to:

- 1) *Note* the 2016 IRSS work activities that will contribute to the success of the IPPC work programme and the implementation pilot project on surveillance.
- 2) *Note* the intention of the IPPC Secretariat to continue the work of the IRSS and seek funding for a third project cycle.
- 3) *Urge* contracting parties to contribute resources and motivate others to contribute resources to ensure that the IRSS project continues.