

The Benefits of IPPC Reporting

A fundamental aim of the Convention is that contracting parties cooperate with each other to prevent the dissemination of pests and to achieve other strategic objectives. The Convention identifies many specific NROs (including some that are bilateral in nature) that help parties achieve the objectives of the Convention. The reason for having NROs is to ensure a minimum amount of official phytosanitary information is available that can be used as the basis for ensuring safe trade, safeguarding food security and protecting the environment from plant pests. To be most useful this phytosanitary information should be accurate, up-to-date, clearly presented, consistent with IPPC guidance and in a format that is easily accessible and understandable by other members.

The IPPC National Reporting Obligations Advisory Group (NROAG) believes the advantages of IPPC contracting parties meeting their NROs, include:

- ◆ A functional **IPPC Official Contact Points (OCPs)** network is central to all information exchange under the IPPC;
- ◆ An OCP that acts as the single official IPPC point of contact for all countries;
- ◆ The establishment of an **effective information exchange system** which should make it easier to meet phytosanitary conditions of the importing country in a more sustainable manner;
- ◆ The official and verified information that becomes available will:
 - facilitate **trade** and increase **market access**;
 - facilitate the **protection of cultivated and wild plants** by preventing the introduction and spread of pests;
 - enable importing countries to more accurately **determine phytosanitary requirements**;
 - allow countries to ensure increased **protection of the world's biodiversity, environment and ensure food security**;
 - result in increased accuracy, reliability, timeliness and improved quality of data, together with regular data updates;
 - build a reliable and official phytosanitary database over time;
- ◆ The official phytosanitary information that becomes available during the national import and export certification processes (e.g. surveillance results such as pest reports and pest status):
 - should contribute to a decrease in the number of **interceptions and rejections** of (non-compliant) consignments;
 - facilitates the **resolution of instances** of non-compliance between countries through an agreed non-compliance feedback system (as described in the ISPM No. 13);
 - should positively contribute to the **avoidance of phytosanitary disputes**; will establish transparent communication which will facilitate cooperation and coordination between IPPC contracting parties;
- ◆ It should **build** trust in bilateral relationships between IPPC contracting parties over time;
- ◆ It provides an indication of an **establishment and functioning NRO programme/NPPO**
 - some countries believe that this is a good indicator of NPPO functionality.

The IPPC invites contracting parties to consider if/how they are meeting their NROs in order to take advantage from benefits described.

A substantial amount of background information on meeting NROs is available on the IPPC website at: <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/information-exchange/nro/>.

Where technical assistance and/or capacity development is needed to meet their national reporting obligations, contracting parties should contact ippc@fao.org.



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