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**Conceptual challenges in standards development in terms of
implementation - Commodity and pathway standards**

Agenda item 9.3

Prepared by the IPPC Secretariat

English only

Commodity and pathway standards

A Friends of the Chair meeting was held on 17 April 2018 to define the purpose, benefits and outcomes of commodity and pathway standards. A large number of friends from each FAO region participated in a lively and wide-ranging discussion to better understand the drivers for these types of standards, with reference to existing IPPC standards and those under development. Questions on what we lose or gain from commodity and pathway standards focused discussion on the risks and benefits from pursuing them.

It is clear that there is not a 'one size fits all' solution, and a number of variables will need to be considered when determining whether a commodity or pathway standard is appropriate or justified by the outcome achieved.

The friends proposed to learn from practice and felt that a focus group could be convened to consolidate these lessons in a policy paper to CPM-14 through the Strategic Planning Group (SPG) 2018.

A brief summary of key points discussed follows.

1. What do we gain?

Opportunities to:

- Simplify the phytosanitary regulation of traded goods - consistent, predictable and harmonised risk analysis and the application of risk management measures
- Facilitation of safe trade
- Reduce costs - compliance, intervention
- Deregulate
- Apply equivalence
- Reduce replication, e.g. Risk analysis on the same host, pathway, pest
- Apply other international standards in support of safe trade, e.g. surveillance, diagnostics, systems approaches, pest free areas, treatments, PRA etc.
- Establish baseline risk management practices using common elements to make trade easier

2. What would we lose?

- Credibility for the IPPC

3. Drivers for commodity and pathway standards

- Diminishing resources
- Harmonisation
- Reducing pests moving in trade
- Global problem that cannot be managed by bilateral or regional regulation

4. Moving forward - learn from experience

- Refine benefits, purpose and outcomes from doing

5. Next steps

Further analysis of the purpose, outcomes and benefits of developing the concept of commodity and pathway standards should be undertaken by a small focus group. The group would meet for two or three days in the lead up to the Strategic Planning Group in October 2018 and present the outcomes of discussion at SPG to test their conclusions and scope the paper to CPM-14 in 2019.

The focus group would (i) define the strategic value and purpose of commodity and pathway standards against the IPPC strategic objectives, (ii) capture principles for their development and use and (iii) assess processes used to develop and use them. This would be informed by analysis of practical examples drawn from the following or other options:

1. The development and adoption of commodity standards for mango fruit for consumption and chilli seed by the APPPC
2. Other commodity and pathway standards under development or in use
3. The establishment of production systems that enable exports to multiple markets with harmonised import requirements
4. Identifying and describing common elements from existing import/export conditions or protocols for a number of plant products that are widely traded
5. Integrating new measures into existing pathways for new pests, e.g. control measures for *Tuta absoluta*
6. Replacing existing pest control measures with integrated pest management options for specific or general pests
7. Topics that may be provided in response to the 2018 call for topics for standards and implementation.

6. Other considerations

- When commodity or pathway standards can not or should not apply
- Tension between commodity and pathway standards, sovereign rights, PRA and justification of measures
- Using the concept of commodity or pathway
- Where do they fit in the standards and implementation framework
- What are elements of a commodity or pathway standard that could be harmonised because they have a defined efficacy, wide application, are adopted as international standards or are commonly used, e.g. treatments, clean packaging, verification processes, sampling and inspection, end use considerations, processing (ISPM 32: *Categorization of commodities according to their pest risk*), additional declarations, standard requirements or import conditions

7. Standards Committee questions

The questions posed by the Standards Committee (SC) on commodity standards will be informed by advice to CPM-14 resulting in clear guidance to the SC. Until then, the priority status of draft standards for the international movement of grain (2008-007) and international movement of cut flowers and foliage (2008-005) should be changed by CPM to “pending status”.

The CPM is invited to:

- 1) *Note* the outcomes of the Friends of Chair discussion.
- 2) *Request* the Bureau and Secretariat, in consultation with the Standards Committee (SC) and Implementation Committee (IC), to develop Terms of Reference for a small focus group to be convened adjacent to the October 2018 SPG meeting to (i) define the strategic value and purpose of commodity and pathway standards against the IPPC strategic objectives, (ii) capture principles for their development and use with reference to practical examples and (iii) assess processes used to develop and use them.
- 3) *Request* contracting parties and RPPOs to provide reference materials that may help the focus group with its tasks.
- 4) *Assign* “pending status” to the following topics on the development of standards:
 - International movement of grain (2008-007)
 - International movement of cut flowers and foliage (2008-005).