IMPLEMENTATION AND REVIEW SUPPORT SYSTEM (IRSS) AND ROLE OF RPPOS

Background

1. The Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC) agreed to establish the IC Sub-group on Implementation Review and Support System (IRSS) to monitor and evaluate the work undertaken under the IRSS project and prepare work plans and reports for the IC review and approval.
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, environmental protection (including climate change) and facilitation of safe trade, among others;
* Define future implementation priorities through a prioritization methodology to be tested during the implementation pilot on surveillance;
* Provide support and assistance to contracting parties seeking help in the implementation of the Convention and ISPMs, through management of the IRSS Helpdesk.
1. To ensure that the national, regional and global perspectives are considered when IRSS activities are undertaken. The IPPC Secretariat seeks the input of contracting parties, regional plant protection organizations (RPPOs), affiliated international organizations and plant health professionals.

Workplan of the IRSS Sub-Group

1. Based on discussions at the IC meeting, a work plan was prepared for the IRSS sub-group. Activities (in summary) include:
* meetings to review suggestions for new topics for IRSS, develop a process for submitting new IRSS topics or proposed changes in priority for IRSS topic
* review and provide input into the terms of reference for priority 1 studies and questionnaires developed for priority 1 surveys.
1. Current IRSSSurveys and Studies
* Revision of previously conducted of IPPC conducted surveys to re-design and develop SOPs for future surveys that are meaningful and generate participation from CPs.
* Consolidated analysis of two previous IRSS surveys (2012-2013 and 2016)
* The third IPPC IRSS general survey
* Survey on the success of implementation of PFAs
* Desk study on the delegation of NPPO functions in the context of third-party authorization
* Desk study to catalogue available phytosanitary treatments and extent of their use
* Analytics support to the Sea Container Task Force for survey design, s implementation and analysis of results report
* Develop baseline measures to monitor the impacts of and record/report benefits of the Strategic Framework 2020-30
1. At the 30th TC-RPPO, the RPPOs agreed to propose desk studies for two priority topics being dealt with by the TC; emerging pests and emergency actions and dispute settlement and avoidance.
2. The IC sub-group on IRSS requested that the RPPOs provide the summaries associated with the new topics. This activity is still outstanding.

Procedure for the submission of new IRSS topics

1. One of the action items identified in the work plan of the IRSS Sub-group was to develop a procedure for the submission of new IRSS topics. This was triggered by the submission of additional IRSS topics during the IC meeting, even though the first year of the 3-year cycle has already elapsed. The group adopted the following procedure:
* A call for IRRS topics is issued to the IC, SC, CPM Bureau, and IPPC Secretariat, within three months from the beginning of a cycle, typically in May-June.
* IRSS topics should be submitted along with the following information:
* Name of the IPPC Body;
* Contact information;
* Topic title;
* Topic summary (scope, purpose, rationale, expected outcome);
* Link to IPPC Strategic Objectives;
* Proposed priority level (from 1 to 4).
* Received topics are reviewed by the IRSS IC Sub-Group via a virtual meeting. A list of topics is prepared, based on merit and relevance to the IRSS project, for submission to the IC at the November meeting.
* The IC reviews and assigns priorities to the topics at its November meeting.
* Topics may be submitted beyond the initial call for topics and may be considered for inclusion in the IRSS work programme by the IC at its May meeting. Criteria for inclusion should include the feasibility to complete the topic within the current IRSS cycle without compromising the progress and completion of other priority 1 topics.

RPPO participation in IRSS activities

1. As partners of the IPPC, the IPPC Secretariat seeks the input of RPPOs when conducting IRSS activities to understand implementation challenges and successes occurring in different regions. This information provides a valuable insight into implementation within and between regions and allows the IPPC Secretariat and the CPM to consider the needs of contracting parties when planning its strategic direction.
2. Considering the importance of understanding regional perspectives, RPPOs are requested to:
* *Provide* information/feedback to the IPPC Secretariat when asked for input into IRSS activities.
* *Suggest* possible activities for the IRSS based on regional implementation issues. In this regard, indicate their interest in continuing with the topic suggested during the 30th TC-RPPO and to submit proposals accordingly
* *Provide* additional suggestions to help improve IRSS activities as necessary.