



Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations

COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES RECOMMENDATION

R-07  
2017

ENG

# Recommendation on: The importance of pest diagnosis

ADOPTED 2016 | PUBLISHED 2017



**International Plant Protection Convention**  
Protecting the world's plant resources from pests

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### **Publication history**

*This is not an official part of the CPM Recommendation.*

2015-03 presented at CPM-10 and submitted for discussion at contracting parties.

2016-04 presented at CPM-11.

2016-04 CPM-11 adopted the CPM recommendation for *The importance on pest diagnosis (R-07)*.

2016-12 CPM Bureau reviewed and agreed with IPPC Secretariat proposed ink amendments.

2017-04 CPM-12 agreed with the reformatting and incorporating of ink amendments.

Publication history last modified: 2017-04

## BACKGROUND

Pest diagnosis is a cross-cutting issue that underpins most International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) activities. In order to take action against a pest, it must be accurately identified. To enable safe trade, pest diagnosis must further be completed quickly and to a high level of confidence. Contracting parties regularly undertake pest diagnoses, for example to support export certification, import inspections and remedial actions where a quarantine pest is found, pest surveillance and eradication programmes. The diagnosis of some pests is particularly challenging because the modernization of taxonomic concepts and the diagnostic opportunities provided by new technologies are not available universally.

The results of the general survey of implementation of the Convention and its standards by the Implementation Review and Support System (IRSS) and other IRSS surveys indicate access to diagnostic support needs to be improved. This would assist some countries to undertake surveillance, determine pest status, undertake pest risk analysis etc. This is a fundamental issue that contracting parties and the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) (hereafter the “Commission”) should address.

In addition to problems within contracting parties, many regions have identified a general trend in reduced expertise in core scientific disciplines, such as the taxonomy of pests, and classical diagnostic skills.

## ADDRESSED TO

Contracting parties and regional plant protection organizations.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

The Commission recognizes that accurate and rapid pest diagnosis underpins export certification, import inspections and the application of appropriate phytosanitary treatments, enables effective pest surveillance and supports successful eradication programs. To increase the capacity and capability of contracting parties to diagnose pests.

The Commission *encourages* contracting parties to:

- (a) *ensure* there are adequate laboratory facilities and expertise to support pest diagnostic and taxonomic activities underpinning phytosanitary activities through sufficient allocation of resources.
- (b) *share* knowledge and expertise with other countries where possible, for example by making places available on training programs, opening access to proficiency testing or publicizing examples of best laboratory practice, encourage diagnostic and taxonomic publications relating to phytosanitary activities in appropriate peer reviewed journals, in particular in open access formats.
- (c) *share* diagnostic protocols used by national plant protection organizations (NPPOs) on the IPPC phytosanitary resources page via links to NPPO resource pages.
- (d) *encourage* and support experts to contribute to the IPPC standard setting processes for diagnostic protocols.
- (e) *consider* strategic needs for expertise in taxonomy of pests and classical diagnostic skills, and, when necessary, pool resources with other NPPOs to ensure sufficient diagnostic capacity and capability is in place to meet future demand.

The Commission *encourages* RPPOs to:

- (a) *support* the development of diagnostic protocols and other resources relevant to their region and share them on the IPPC phytosanitary resources pages.
- (b) *support* the development of guidance on laboratory requirements for pest detection and on the overall management and technical aspects for a diagnostic laboratory.

- (c) *undertake* knowledge exchange and training on diagnostic methods and laboratory capability.
- (d) *work* to enhance expertise and capacity within the region, such as the identification of regional experts.
- (e) *identify* and encourage the development of centres of expertise that NPPOs within the region can access.

**RECOMMENDATION(S) SUPERSEDED BY THE ABOVE**

None.

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## IPPC

The International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) is an international plant health agreement that aims to protect cultivated and wild plants by preventing the introduction and spread of pests. International travel and trade are greater than ever before. As people and commodities move around the world, organisms that present risks to plants travel with them.

### Organization

- ◆ There are over 180 contracting parties to the IPPC.
- ◆ Each contracting party has a national plant protection organization (NPPO) and an Official IPPC contact point.
- ◆ Nine regional plant protection organizations (RPPOs) work to facilitate the implementation of the IPPC in countries.
- ◆ IPPC liaises with relevant international organizations to help build regional and national capacities.
- ◆ The Secretariat is provided by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

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