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COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

Second Session

Rome, 26 – 30 March 2007

Informal Working Group on Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation Review of the CABI Analysis of the Application of the PCE Tool

Agenda Item 13.2 of the Provisional Agenda

1. The meeting of the Informal Working Group on Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (IWG-PCE) took place in Nairobi, Kenya in December 2006, where it reviewed, among other things, the draft document on the Analysis of the Application of the Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE) Tool prepared by CABI (refer to agenda item 13.1 for the CABI analysis). The report on the review is attached as Annex 1.
2. The IWG-PCE discussed the twelve specific recommendations of the study concerning:
 - an overall technical assistance strategy
 - future development of the PCE
 - tools to support other national plant protection organisation assessment activities including implementation of individual ISPMs
 - long term directions.
3. The final recommendations presented in CABI's report (see CPM 2007/18, agenda item 13.1) were modified in the light of the IWG-PCE discussions, so differ slightly from the recommendations listed here.
4. The CPM is invited to:
 1. *Comment* on the review by the IWG-PCE of the CABI analysis of the application of the Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation tool;
 2. *Discuss and agree as appropriate* the recommendations to the CPM from the IWG-PCE.

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Annex 1

Review by the Informal Working Group on Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation of the Draft CABI Analysis of the Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation Tool

Nairobi, Kenya
3 – 8 December, 2006

I. Background

1. The Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE) tool was developed in 1999 to assess the capacity of NPPOs in relation to implementation of ISPMs and the IPPC. The tool has been revised, expanded and translated based on recommendations of an IWG on the PCE and the experience of over 60 countries that have used it. It has become a significant component of the IPPC's Fourth Strategic Direction "*The development of the phytosanitary capacity of members by promoting the provision of technical assistance*" (Article XX of the IPPC), and its application is built into many of FAO's Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) Projects funded in response to requests from countries for assistance in developing their phytosanitary systems.
2. At its Sixth session in 2004, the ICPM expressed the need for a review of the impact of the tool. The IPPC Secretariat contracted CABI to conduct what initially was to be a regional review, but was changed in 2005 to become a global study.
3. A draft version of the CABI study was submitted to the IWG-PCE, Dec 2006 for its consideration. The IWG discussed the twelve specific recommendations.

II. Outcomes of the IWG-PCE

4. The IWG-PCE reviewed the draft document and congratulated CABI for the excellent quality and objective discussion of the subject.
5. The IWG-PCE provided the following comments and suggestions regarding the recommendations made by CABI in its draft document, taking into consideration that:
 - The document was produced as a result of an independent evaluation, and
 - The document was still a draft and the authors had the right to incorporate the recommendations of the IWG-PCE

Recommendations

6. **Group 1: An overall technical assistance (TA) strategy:**

CABI Recommendation 1

That a strategic plan for TA be developed that addresses the full range of issues. While various subgroups, IWG, focus groups etc may engage in developing and implementing TA, they all must be aware of and working from a single cohesive strategy with timely cross communication. A coordination role must be appropriately assigned.

The IWG-PCE fully supports the recommendation.

CABI Recommendation 2

That the CPM endorses a definition of national phytosanitary capacity that best fits its vision and expectations for all efforts under the IPPC.

The IWG-PCE fully supports the recommendation and proposes that it should be developed in the framework of the IWG-TA

7. Group 2 – Future development of the PCE

CABI Recommendation 3

That the PCE, (minus the information in Recommendation 7 below), be arranged into a stratified framework so that a user may follow the tool on a modular basis, going deeper into detail when more assistance is needed, with provision of links to additional information and guidance.

The IWG-PCE agrees to this recommendation, and suggests modifying the structure of the PCE to include, but not be limited to:

- Grouping the ISPMs into conceptual categories (modules), avoiding the need to create different PCE modules for each ISPM. This means the PCE will require to be updated by categories (conceptual ISPMs) and not necessarily for the full content of the newer ISPMs.
- The PCE should be modified so as not to display further questions when the answer to the lead question precludes the need for further questions on the same area.

CABI Recommendation 4

That the IWG-PCE decides whether this new PCE should be linked to the Performance, Vision, Strategy (PVS) tool developed by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation in Agriculture (IICA) as far as modules/topics or should remain independent of it.

Considering the stated objectives of each tool, the IWG-PCE felt that there was no need for any formal linkage but that recognition of the PVS was adequate. The meeting felt that proposed improvements to the PCE would, in any case, make it more comprehensive and suitable for the purpose for which it is used.

8. Group 3 - Development of other tools:

CABI Recommendation 5

That the Subsidiary Body for Dispute Settlement consider the usefulness of individual ISPM implementation sheets, in the form of check lists, and how these would be developed.

The IWG-PCE felt that this subject fell outside the intended use of the PCE. However the IWG-PCE acknowledged the need for other, more appropriate tools to be developed for this purpose

CABI Recommendation 6

That the IICA PVS be adopted by the IPPC for rapid assessment of national phytosanitary systems, based on expert judgement, and as a starting point for engaging different stakeholders and agreeing priorities.

In view of the comments on recommendation 4, the IWG-PCE felt that there was no need to consider formal adoption of the IICA PVS.

CABI Recommendation 7

That information commonly requested by trading partners, including the existing requirements for information sharing under the IPPC/ISPMs, be integrated into a harmonized template to be posted on the IPP with appropriate access.

The IWG-PCE agreed to this recommendation, noting that templates for reporting obligations were already provided for. Similar provisions could be made to harvest specific PCE information, taking into account confidentiality of specific information and the need to avoid duplication of effort

CABI Recommendation 8

That simple tools, based on spreadsheets for example, be developed to address very specific evaluation objectives such as modelling risks, assessing efficiency of services, cost recovery calculations, investment decision making, etc.

The IWG-PCE fully supported this recommendation and suggested to also include a spreadsheet dealing with the cost benefit of conformity with the international standards

9. **Group 4 - Long term considerations:**

CABI Recommendation 9

That a mechanism for collating information anonymously on NPPO capacity and related issues be designed and presented to the CPM for approval, taking account of confidentiality needs.

The IWG-PCE suggests that this recommendation should be part of a TA policy recommendation (Recommendation 1) rather than a long term objective, but that there might be no need for CPM adoption.

CABI Recommendation 10

That the role of reviewing uses of the information generated from the PCE/PVS and other tools be assigned appropriately, so as to learn of trends, ensure the accurate transfer of information and better communicate the needs and value of plant health to other sectors.

It was suggested that this recommendation should be considered under the TA strategy suggested in Recommendation 1

CABI Recommendation 11

That an initiative on the quality of phytosanitary data should be launched, as a targeted assistance to NPPOs.

The IWG-PCE observed that quality of information put on the IPP was a responsibility of the Contracting parties. The IPPC Secretariat will be working with Contracting Parties to improve the quality of information reported under IPPC obligations.

CABI Recommendation 12

That all of the above systems and tools be reviewed for inclusion of environmental concerns, i.e. protection of domestic plant resources, rather than strictly trade related concerns.

The IWG-PCE felt that the process of incorporating environmental and other concerns was already in place and will be reflected more prominently in the revised PCE.