DRAFT SPECIFICATION FOR ISPM: New Annex 1 "Field inspection (including growing season inspection)" to ISPM 23 "Guidelines for inspection"

Status box

This is not an official part of the specification and it will be modified by the IPPC Secretariat after approval	
Date of this document	
Document category	
Current document stage	
Major stages	
Steward history	
Notes	

Title

[1] New Annex 1 "Field inspection (including growing season inspection)" to ISPM 23 "Guidelines for inspection"

Reason for the annex to the standard

[2] Field inspection (including growing season inspection) is one of the effective phytosanitary measures, which many countries have adopted as import requirements in order that exporting countries inspect field crops, seed crops, and mother plants in the fields. Some ISPMs (ISPM 10, 12, 20, 36, and 38) describe field inspection (or growing season inspection as a synonym), but do not provide any guideline focusing specifically on field inspection, which causes unharmonized implementation of field inspections by contracting countries.

[3] Under these circumstances, there are cases where some people have understood with confusion about field inspection and specific surveillance. Field inspection is a phytosanitary measure to detect regulated pests that produce visible symptoms and signs on host plants during the growing season. It can directly or indirectly reduce the risk of pests moving internationally with plants (e.g., seedlings, cuttings) and plant parts (e.g., seeds, grafts, fruits). On the other hand, specific surveillance is an official process conducted by NPPOs to determine if pests are present or absent in an area (detection survey), to establish the boundaries of an area considered to be infested by or free from a pest (delimiting survey) or to verify the characteristics of a pest population in an area (monitoring survey). Though field inspection and specific surveillance may be conducted by similar procedures and methods, the concept and objectives of these two are different each other from the phytosanitary perspective.

[4] The Commission on Phytosanitary Measures approved of a plan to develop commodity- and pathway-specific standards as one of the activities under the IPPC Strategic Framework during 2020–2030. Therefore the commodity- and pathway-specific standards may adopt field inspection as a risk management option. Field inspection is likely to be one component for systems approaches for phytosanitary certification of seeds (adopted as Specification 70 "Design and use of systems approachs for phytosanitary certification of seeds" in 2020) because field inspection is often used in the seed industry to ensure international and domestic movement of healthy seeds.

[5] For appropriate interpretation and application of the field inspection among contracting parties, it is necessary to provide the concept and objectives of field inspection as Annex to ISPM 23 "Guidelines for inspection." It will contribute to safe international trade of plants and plant products.

Scope

[6] The proposed annex is to be applied to plants (e.g., seedlings, cuttings) and plant parts (e.g., seeds, grafts, bulbs, fruits) moving internationally for sale, production, breeding, or other purposes. The annex provides guidelines containing general and specific requirements for field inspection (including growing season inspection) if NPPOs use field inspection as a standalone phytosanitary measure or one component of a systems approach and integrated measures. The annex defines a harmonized concept, objective, and process by which NPPOs may recognize conformity with field inspection requirements. This recognition by NPPOs could form the basis for phytosanitary certification issued based on field inspection results.

Purpose

[7] Inspection as phytosanitary measures can contribute to securing common and effective action described in article I.1 of the IPPC to prevent the spread and introduction of pests of plants and plant products and promote appropriate measures for their control. Field inspection (including growing season inspection) is a type of inspection, which many countries have adopted to inspect field crops, seed crops, and mother plants. Private sectors (e.g., the seed and nursery industries) have also adopted field inspections to ensure international and domestic movement of healthy seeds, seedlings, and crops.

[8] Field inspection is an effective method of visually examining apparent signs or symptoms on plants caused by pests in a field during the season when the plants will actively grow. It can directly or indirectly reduce the risk of pests moving internationally with plants (e.g., seedlings, cuttings) and plant parts (e.g., seeds, grafts, bulbs, fruits). For example, field inspection is a pest risk management option applied mainly during the pre-harvest period to detect pests that produce visible symptoms and signs on host plants and harmful plants (weeds, parasitic plants) that are grown among crops in fields. In addition to adapting field inspection as a standalone measure, it may become one component of systems approach or integrated measures for some commodities and pests, i.e., an option during the pre-harvest period.

[9] Some ISPMs (e.g., ISPM 10, 12, 20, 36, and 38) describe field inspection but not providing guidelines specifically focusing on field inspection . ISPM 23 has already provided guidelines for all types of phytosanitary inspection in common but there are no unified concepts and objectives of field inspection. In addition to information on ISPM23, the proposed Annex provides beneficial information specialized for field inspection to give a shared understanding of the concept and objectives of this type of inspection among contracting parties and is to be applied to field inspection as phytosanitary measures under appropriate knowledge.

Tasks

[10] The expert drafting group (EDG) should undertake the following tasks:

(1) Consider the requirements for field inspection (including growing season inspection) (hereafter referred to as "field inspection") of the existing standards that are relevant (e.g. ISPM 10 (Requirements for the establishment of pest free places of production and pest free production sites), ISPM 12 (Phytosanitary certificates), ISPM 20 (Guidelines for a phytosanitary import regulatory system), 36 (Integrated measures for plants for planting), and 38 (International movement of seeds).

(2) Review examples of phytosanitary requirements for field inspection from different countries. Examine regional guidance for field inspection if such is available.

(3) Review existing industrial guidance for field inspection if such is available..

(4) Describe, in the phytosanitary context, the purposes, and scopes for field inspection, especially clarifying the difference of the concept and objectives between field inspection and specific surveillance, e.g., detection survey.

(5) Define the general requirements of a field inspection, ensuring technical justification as phytosanitary measures.

(6) Describe the specific requirements specialized for field inspection, such as:

- requirements for inspectors (NPPOs and the third parties)
- field inspection methods,
- characteristics of pests that can be detected by field inspection,
- field Inspection outcome,
- review of field inspection systems

(7) Modifying partially the text of ISPM 23 to link to the Annex (e.g., adding the description for field inspection in "1.1 Inspection objectives" to connect to the proposed Annex).

(8) Consider whether the ISPM could affect in a specific way (positively or negatively) the protection of biodiversity and the environment. If this is the case, the impact should be identified, addressed and clarified in the draft ISPM.

(9) Consider implementation of the standard by contracting parties and identify potential operational and technical implementation issues. Provide information and possible recommendations on these issues to the Standards Committee (SC).

Provision of resources

[11] Funding for the meeting may be provided from sources other than the regular programme of the IPPC (FAO). As recommended by ICPM-2 (1999), whenever possible, those participating in standard setting activities voluntarily fund their travel and subsistence to attend meetings. Participants may request financial assistance, with the understanding that resources are limited and the priority for financial assistance is given to developing country participants. Please refer to the *Criteria used for prioritizing participants to receive travel assistance to attend meetings organized by the IPPC Secretariat* posted on the International Phytosanitary Portal (IPP) (see https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/).

Collaborator

[12] To be determined.

Steward

[13] Please refer to the *List of topics for IPPC standards* posted on the International Phytosanitary Portal (IPP) (see https://www.ippc.int/core-activities/standards-setting/list-topics-ippc-standards).

Expertise

[14] Five to seven experts with a wide knowledge and experience in the following areas: inspection and field inspection for field crops, seed crops, and plants for planning, the development and/or implementation of phytosanitary measures to manage pest risk associated with the production, pest risk analysis (PRA).

Participants

[15] [To be determined.]

References

[16] The IPPC, relevant ISPMs and other national, regional and international standards and agreements as may be applicable to the tasks, and discussion papers submitted in relation to this work.

[17] ISPM 4. 1995. Requirements for the establishment of pest free areas. Rome, IPPC, FAO. ISPM 6. 2018. Surveillance. Rome, IPPC, FAO. ISPM 5. 2018. Glossary of phytosanitary terms. Rome, IPPC, FAO. ISPM 10. 2016. Requirements for the establishment of pest free places of production and pest free production sites. Rome, IPPC, FAO. ISPM 12. 2017. Phytosanitary certificates. Rome, IPPC, FAO. ISPM 20. 2018. Guidelines for a phytosanitary import regulatory system. Rome, IPPC, FAO. ISPM 23. 2016. Guidelines for inspection. Rome, IPPC, FAO. ISPM 36. 2012. Integrated measures for plants for planting Rome, IPPC, FAO. ISPM 38. 2018. International movement of seeds. Rome, IPPC, FAO.

Discussion papers

[18] Participants and interested parties are encouraged to submit discussion papers to the IPPC Secretariat (ippc@fao.org) for consideration by the EDG.