



# COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

## Sixteenth Session

Virtual Meeting, 5, 7 and 21 April 2022

**Standards Committee recommendations to the CPM - Discussions on the topic “Food and other humanitarian aid in phytosanitary context” and a proposal for the establishment of a CPM Focus Group**

### Agenda item 9.3

**Prepared by the Standards Committee (SC) and reviewed and approved by the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC)**

## I. Background

1. The ‘*Safe provision of food and other aid to prevent the international spread of plant pests during an emergency situation*’ was proposed by the Pacific Plant Protection Organization (PPPO) as a standard during the 2018 call for topics. The proposal was not recommended as a standard by the Task Force for Topics (TFT) but was instead developed as a Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) Recommendation which was adopted by the fifteenth meeting of the CPM (CPM-15) in 2021.

2. The high priority for the development of the CPM Recommendation demonstrated the importance of the topic but did not fully address the gaps in the framework for standards and implementation identified by the PPPO 2018 submission. As a result, the PPPO revised and resubmitted the topic as ‘*Safe provision of food and other humanitarian aid*’ for a standard during the 2021 call for topics.

3. The TFT analysed the PPPO’s 2021 proposal recognizing the broad support by contracting parties across regions. However, the analysis concluded that the topic was challenging to address as a standard. The main barrier identified to the development of a standard was the extensive scope of regulated articles proposed to be managed. The TFT, Standards Committee (SC) and Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC) representatives discussed the following options to progress the proposal:

- Reducing the scope of the proposed topic to facilitate the development of a standard; or

- Changing the submission from a proposal to develop a standard to a proposal to develop an implementation resource; or
- Changing the topic submission to amend the existing CPM Recommendation rather than developing a standard.

4. No agreement was reached on a suitable option for addressing this topic. However, the SC supported the suggestion for the CPM to consider forming a Focus Group to address barriers to the development of the topic as a standard and the possible way forward. On this, the SC invited the IC to review the paper via a joint e-forum, to be presented to the CPM-16.

5. A draft Terms of Reference for this proposed Focus Group is attached (see Attachment 1 of this document) for consideration by the CPM-16.

6. The IC discussed this issue as an outcome of the discussions from the TFT and concluded to support the establishment of a Focus Group to address this important issue.

## **II. Recommendations**

7. The CPM is invited to:

- 1) *Note* that several regions and individual NPPOs have supported the need for a standard on the Safe provision of food and other humanitarian aid, as demonstrated through the submission to the 2021 Call for Topics.
- 2) *Consider* establishing a CPM Focus Group to discuss the issues and determine a way forward for this topic to be developed as a standard or another option that meets the needs of contracting parties.
- 3) *Consider* the draft terms of reference for the proposed CPM Focus Group.

## **ATTACHMENT 1. [DRAFT] TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR A FOCUS GROUP ON THE SAFE PROVISION OF FOOD AND OTHER HUMANITARIAN AID**

### **A. Background**

- [1] The IPPC recognizes the necessity for international co-operation to prevent the global spread of plant pests. In emergency crisis situations, affected countries can be temporarily constrained in their ability to implement their phytosanitary responsibilities. Contracting parties that are donors of aid do have capacity at that time and thus their commitment to comply with Article IV of the IPPC becomes more critical.
- [2] During an emergency situation, conditions at borders can be very abnormal. Treatment and processing infrastructure may be damaged or inaccessible; water, electricity, manpower and other services are often cut and roads and ports are often destroyed, preventing the use of dedicated facilities and requiring activities to occur outside of declared ports of entry. Staff may be unable to travel to work or may be diverted to emergency tasks; and other government agencies and officials frequently urge the NPPO and other agencies to release goods to people in need without undue delay. Thus, unless appropriately prepared to meet the phytosanitary import requirements of the recipient country prior to export, the provided aid can cause long-term damage to vulnerable people and communities.
- [3] No international standard currently exists to guide countries on the safe movement of aid during the unique pressures and logistical constraints of emergency situations. Given the predicted increase in frequency of natural disasters, potential man-made disasters, and the historical incidence of pest introductions through humanitarian aid, it is timely that an international standard is developed to address this gap in robust phytosanitary processes.
- [4] The SC and IC agreed to recommend to the CPM to establish a Focus Group on *Safe Provision of Food and Other Aid* and have drafted the following terms of reference for a small Focus Group to be convened.
- [5] The proposed purpose, membership, functions, funding, and duration of the Focus Group are described below.

### **B. Purpose**

- [6] The purpose of the Focus Group will be to assess the strategic value of a standard supporting safe provision of aid, analyze the feasibility, benefits and potential impediments to developing such a standard and, illustrate the principles and other aspects that a standard or other material should contain. In addition, evaluate if existing ISPMs and CPM Recommendation 09 are adequate to address the risk associated with the provision of Food and Other Humanitarian Aid and needs of contracting parties.

### **C. Membership**

- [7] The CPM Focus Group on *Safe Provision of Food and Other Humanitarian Aid* should be skills- and knowledge based with broad geographical and gender representation. The group should be composed of a maximum of ten members including at least one representative of the Bureau, one of the SC, one of the IC and one from a regional plant protection organization (RPPO).
- [8] In addition, up to three invited experts from donor agencies (e.g. World Food Program) may be invited to participate.
- (1) The members of the Focus Group should have experience and expertise in one or more of the following areas:
- procurement and the supply of humanitarian aid (aid agency and government)
  - plant health policy and risk management regulation

- plant health emergency response/management
  - clearance of imported goods under emergency or disaster constraints
- (2) All members should have knowledge of the IPPC’s mandate, strategic framework, and activities.
- (3) The Bureau will select the members and make-up of the Focus Group.

#### **D. Functions**

[9] The Focus Group will:

- Investigate, identify and analyze the benefits to developing a standard, revising the CPM Recommendation (R-09) or developing guidance through implementation and capacity development material
- Define the strategic value and purpose of each of the options mentioned above against IPPC strategic framework
- Draft the principles and elements that a standard could contain, in relation to the reference material below and the deliberations of the Focus Group
- Present the analysis and draft principles and elements to the CPM for advice and direction

[10] The work of the Focus Group will be informed by examples of pest introductions resulting from aid, current regional and NPPO initiatives to manage the risk from aid, CPM Recommendation 09: *Safe provision of food and other aid to prevent the international spread of plant pests during an emergency situation*, any other relevant CPM Recommendation, the submission of the PPPO to the 2021 IPPC Call for Topics on this issue and other relevant material.

#### **E. Process**

[11] The establishment of the Focus Group will follow a CPM decision on this subject in its 2022 session.

[12] The member selection for the Focus Group shall be carried out according to the following guidelines:

- A call for nominations will be published on the IPPC website by June 2022 to allow contracting parties and regional plant protection organizations to nominate their representatives to be part of the Focus Group. Each region shall nominate one or more experts from different disciplines to fit some of the skill sets described under “Membership”.
- The IPPC Secretariat will review the nominations and submit them to CPM Bureau for selection assuring gender and geographical balance. The CPM-Bureau should endeavor to select one nominee from each FAO region as the regional representative in the Focus Group, aiming to cover as many areas as possible.

[13] The Focus Group will convene virtually for the first time by July 2022 to select its chairperson and discuss its action plan and functions as described in section D. The relevant action plan will be presented to the CPM Bureau and the SPG by October 2022.

#### **F.Funding**

[14] It is expected that the initial meetings for this Focus Group will be virtual. However, where in-person meetings are required, the organization that employs an IPPC meeting participant is responsible for funding the travel and daily subsistence allowance for that person to attend. If the employer is unable to allocate sufficient funds, participants are first encouraged to seek assistance from sources other than the IPPC Secretariat. Where such demonstrated efforts to secure assistance have been unsuccessful, requests for assistance (i.e. travel and subsistence costs) from the IPPC Secretariat may be made. However, any support is subject to available funds. The IPPC Secretariat will consider funding assistance for participants following IPPC criteria for funding. Full details on these criteria can be found on the IPP (<https://www.ippc.int/publications/criteria-used-prioritizing-participants-receive-travel-assistance-attendmeetings>).

## **G. Duration**

[15] This Focus Group will remain effective for two years (until the CPM of 2024).