

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

Agenda Item 9.3

Prepared by New Zealand and Australia

Agenda Item 9. Refer to [CPM 2022/23](#) paper prepared by the Standards Committee (SC) and reviewed and approved by the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC).

- New Zealand and Australia thank members of the SC and IC for their consideration of ‘*The safe provision of food and other aid to prevent the international spread of plant pests during an emergency*’ by proposing the CPM the establishment of a Focus Group to consider this topic further.
- New Zealand and Australia have twice been disappointed that this topic has not been recommended for development as a standard, despite the wide support from contracting parties and regional plant protection organisations (RPPOs). The development of the CPM recommendation was a positive starting point but is unlikely to significantly prevent the spread and introduction of pests to vulnerable communities during times of crisis via food and other humanitarian aid.
- New Zealand and Australia support the establishment of a Focus Group on this topic but do not support the Focus Group re-analysing the strategic value and benefits of developing a standard. The wide support from contracting parties¹ and RPPOs² for the PPPO’s proposal is evidence that a standard will be valuable, beneficial, and necessary.
- Because of this, New Zealand and Australia propose that a Focus Group be established, and that the Group concentrates their activities on establishing the principles and other aspects that a standard should contain. We do not support the development of other IPPC materials on this topic before a standard has been adopted.
- New Zealand and Australia recognise that the topic will be challenging but these challenges should not be used as a reason to avoid developing a standard. Without a standard, we cannot hold contracting parties accountable for our obligation to prevent the global spread and establishment of pests through the provision of food and aid during emergencies.
- There have been numerous examples of crises requiring humanitarian aid in different FAO regions since this topic was first proposed by the PPPO in 2019 and proposed again in 2021. The probability of pest incursions resulting from well-intentioned humanitarian aid will only increase as the frequency of climate-related disasters and other crises increase. This is a global issue, and a standard is the essential tool needed to manage pest risks that may be associated with regulated articles, either as aid or with aid. As contracting parties, we need to encourage any party providing aid to comply to avoid unintended economic, environmental, or social consequences occurring.

New Zealand and Australia

¹ NPPOs: Republic of Korea, Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Barbados and Jamaica

² RPPOs: Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency (CAHFSA), Near East Plant Protection Organisation (NEPPO) and Asia and Pacific Plant Protection Commission (APPPC)

- *encourage* other contracting parties to *recognise* the wide support from contracting parties and RPPOs for development as a standard during 2021 Call for Topics.
- *encourage* other contracting parties to *agree* to establish a Focus Group to progress a standard on ‘*The safe provision of food and other aid to prevent the international spread of plant pests during an emergency*’ as soon as practical.
- *propose* revisions (Attachment 1) to the purpose and function of the draft terms of reference for a Focus Group to reflect our position that the topic should be developed as a standard.

ATTACHMENT 1. [PROPOSED REVISION]³[DRAFT] TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR A FOCUS GROUP ON THE SAFE PROVISION OF FOOD AND OTHER HUMANITARIAN AID

A. Background

- [1] The IPPC recognises 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 Humanitarian 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

³ Red underlined text: proposed revision; strikethrough text: proposed deletion.

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.

[6] The purpose of the Focus Group will be to support the objectives of the IPPC strategic framework 2030 to enhance global food security and protect the environment from the impacts of plant pests and, where appropriate, environmental pests by:

- understanding the concerns raised by the task force on topics (TFT) and contracting parties regarding development of a standard on *The Safe Provision of Food and Other Humanitarian Aid* and propose solutions for development of the standard to alleviate the concerns.
- Outlining the key principles, requirements and other aspects that a standard on *The Safe Provision of Food and Other Humanitarian Aid* should contain (including the contents of annexes and appendices);
- Revising the specification for the standard proposed by the PPPO as needed.

C. Membership

[7] The IPPC 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~~
- Document the concerns raised by the TFT and contracting parties and propose potential solutions for consideration for the development of a standard.
- Modify the specification for the standard '*Safe provision of food and other humanitarian aid*' proposed by the PPPO during the call for topics, as needed.
- Draft the principles, requirements and elements that a the 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 SC, Strategic Planning Group (SPG) and 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 phytosanitary risks from aid, the 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 in April 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 for assuring gender and geographical balance. The CPM-Bureau should endeavour to select at least one nominee from each FAO region as the regional representative in the Focus Group, aiming to cover as many 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. A preliminary report and recommendations will be presented to SPG in October 2022 SC in November 2022, and final report and recommendations to CPM-17 (2023) for a decision on whether to proceed with a standard and the priority level to be assigned.

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] The Focus Group will remain effective for one years (until the CPM of 2023).