

# TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR A FOCUS GROUP ON THE SAFE PROVISION OF FOOD AND OTHER HUMANITARIAN AID

(Approved by CPM-16 (2022))

## 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 national plant protection organization (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 Standards Committee (SC) and the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (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 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, and other supplementary tools, 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 Pacific Plant Protection Organization (PPPO) as needed<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> See topic submission from the 2021 IPPC Call for Topics: <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/90195/>

### **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 twelve members, from both recipient and donor NPPOs, 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) from the region that has been recipient of food and other humanitarian aid.
- [8] In addition to the twelve members, up to three invited experts from donor agencies (e.g. World Food Program) should also be invited to participate as observers.
- (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:
- 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 and elements that the standard could contain, in relation to the reference material below and the deliberations of the Focus Group.
  - To analyze the feasibility and potential impediments in implementing such a standard and to contracting parties being able to comply with one.
  - Present the analysis and draft principles and elements to the SC, IC, 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 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 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 and IC 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] This Focus Group will remain effective for up to two years (until the CPM of 2024).