



International Plant
Protection Convention

35th Technical Consultation

Regional Plant Protection Organisation

**UPDATE FROM FOCUS GROUP ON
SAFE PROVISION OF FOOD AND
OTHER HUMANITARIAN AID**

FG Update by the RPPPO rep – Visoni Timote
25th - 28th October 2023
Bogota, Colombia

OUTLINE



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- Background / Brief Outline
- Examples of pest infested humanitarian consignments
- Way forward



Safe Provision Of Food And Other Aid To Prevent The Introduction of Plant Pests During an Emergency

Brief outline



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CPM-14 (2019)

- approved the draft CPM Recommendation for country consultation

508 comments

- were received during consultation period and have been addressed by the IPPC Secretariat in collaboration with submitting country and recommendation was revised accordingly

2019-12 CPM
Bureau

- considered the points mentioned above along with the responses to comments and was not able to recommend the draft for adoption
- agreed to send for second consultation

2020 APPPC
Regional Workshop

- PPPO Chairman – Dr Dulla was invited to the APPPC RW & he presented the **Safe Provision Of Food And Other Aid To Prevent The Introduction of Plant Pests During an Emergency (2018-026)**.

CPM 15

- The **Safe Provision Of Food And Other Aid To Prevent The Introduction of Plant Pests During an Emergency (2018-026)** was presented under agenda item 10.1.
- Interjection and support from Samoa for it to be elevated and considered as an ISPM together with the inclusion of the appendices.
- Overwhelming support from other contracting parties as well as RPPOs

RPPO support on
call for Topics

- Acknowledge the great team work and SC support from Australia on populating the template for the call of topics that was sent to the RPPO's for considerations, support and feedback.
- The team received feedback and support from the following RPPO's – CARIBBEAN AGRICULTURAL HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY AGENCY (CAHFSA); Near East Plant Protection Organisation (NEPPO); Asia Pacific Plant Protection Convention (APPPC) NPPOs :South Korea, Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, Jamaica

CPM Focus Group on Safe Provision of Food and Other Humanitarian Aid

The Focus Group on Safe Provision of Food and Other Humanitarian Aid was established by the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM-16) in April 2022.

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

(Approved by CPM-16 (2022))

A call for nominations was 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 was encouraged and shall nominate one or more experts from different disciplines to fit some of the skill sets described under “Membership”.



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Composition of the FGSA members:



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Participant role ¹	Name, mailing address, telephone
CPM Bureau representative	Gabrielle Vivian-Smith Australian Chief Plant Protection Officer Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
Standards Committee (SC) representative - (currently SC Chairperson) Vice-Chairperson of the Focus Group	Ms Sophie Alexia PETERSON Director, Pacific Engagement and International Plant Health Australian Chief Plant Protection Office Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment
Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC) representative	Mr Lucien KOUAMÉ KONAN Inspecteur Direction de la Protection des Végétaux, du Contrôle et de la Qualité Ministère de l'Agriculture
Regional Plant Protection Organization (RPPO) representative	Mr Visoni TIMOTE Executive Secretary of the Pacific Plant Protection Organisation (PPPO) Pacific Community (SPC) Pacific Community, Land Resources Division, Private Mail Bag Suva, Fiji
Member (R) - SAMOA	Ms Olive Juliet JAY TO-ALESANA Principal Quarantine Officer
Member (D and R) - KENYA	Mr Thomas Kimeli KOSIOM Principal Plant Health Inspector, Agricultural Regulator
Member (R) – VANUATU Chairperson of the Focus Group	Ms Leisongi MANSES Plant Health Officer
Member (D) - FRANCE	Mr Julian Andres Rodriguez QUIROZ National import phytosanitary control expert
Member (D) - CANADA	Ms Tanya STAFFEN Senior Policy Analyst

Member (R) - VANUATU	Mr Lindon McEnroe TARI Senior Compliance Officer
Member (R) - SYRIA	Mr Ramez Ali DARWISH Head of the Plant Quarantine Center (Jdayda Yabos land border)
Member (R) – COMMONWEALTH OF DOMINICA	Mr Nelson LAVILLE Associate professor (Specialist in Sustainable Production Systems)
Observer/Invited experts – World Food Program (WFP)	Ms Virginia SIEBENROK Chief Food Safety and Quality Officer WFP - Food Safety and Quality Supply Chain Division
Observer/Invited experts – World Food Program (WFP)	Ms Stephanie HEARD Loss Prevention Officer WFP – Operational Risk Mitigation Service
Observer – FAO Plant Protection and Production Division	Mr Shawn McGuire Seed Security Officer Plant Production and Protection Division (NSP) of FAO

IPPC Secretariat contact:

IPPC Secretariat Coordinator	Ms Adriana G. MOREIRA Standards Officer (Programme Specialist) / Deputy Lead of the Standard Setting Unit
IPPC Secretariat support	Mr Lorenzo MONTEROSA IPPC Standard Setting intern

FGSA – Cont'd



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- As of September, 2023 the FGSA has met 6 times.
- 5 times virtually
- 1 time face to face – Meeting Held in Nadi, Fiji: 6th – 10th Feb 2023.

In addressing the TOR – there are currently 10 outcomes

Development of a revised draft Specification for an ISPM (**Appendix 2**) is presented for comment and feedback from the Bureau.

- In line with the ToR, this Specification has been revised to address comments and concerns raised by the Taskforce on Topics (TFT) in their review of the 2021 Call for Topics submission.
- It is intended that this feedback will be used to further revise the document prior to submission to CPM-18 for consideration and approval of the specification for country consultation.

CPM Bureau June 2023



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An update was presented to the CPM Bureau in June 2023 (see Bureau 2023-06 meeting report [here](#)). It was reported to the Bureau that the focus group had concluded most of the tasks listed in its terms of reference: *i*) it had revised the draft specification on *Safe provision of food and other humanitarian aid* (2021-020), *ii*) drafted a gap-analysis diagram for the “emergency pathway”, *iii*) and proposed that a webinar be held to raise awareness of the CPM recommendation on *Safe provision of food and other humanitarian aid to prevent the introduction of plant pests during an emergency situation* (R-09).

Furthermore, the focus group had also proposed that the mandate of the focus group be extended and an action plan be developed in collaboration with World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH), the Codex Alimentarius Secretariat and the World Food Programme (WFP).

CPM Bureau June 2023



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The bureau noted the update and that the World Food Programme had only become involved in the focus group since CPM-17 (2023) and so extending the mandate of the focus group would allow time for the Food Programme to engage with the work of the focus group. Thus, the Bureau *supported* an extension to the mandate of the Focus Group on the Safe Provision of Food and Other Humanitarian Aid.

Noting that the focus group had drafted a proposed definition of the term “emergency pathway”, the bureau discussed whether there was a need for such a definition to be included in ISPM 5. The bureau noted that, for this to happen, a contracting party would need to propose the term as a topic during the call for topics. The secretariat advised that the TPG should only be asked to develop a definition if the term was likely to be used in ISPMs and the concept was already secure. The bureau noted that, if the mandate of the focus group was being extended, then developing the concept of “emergency pathway” could be one of the focus group’s tasks. Additionally, it was suggested that the draft specification for a ISPM be revised to reduce the number of tasks for the expert drafting group, so that the tasks were feasible, and that some could be incorporated to the extension of the focus group’s mandate.

Examples of pests in consignments of Humanitarian Aid



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(Paper submitted by Syria)

1- Refused consignments of humanitarian aids imported by World Food Program. "WFP"

Shipment	Number of consignments	year	Origin	source	Weight (Ton)	reason
Lentils	6	2016	Turkey	Turkey	3048	Not meeting the phytosanitary quarantine requirements due to harmful weed seeds from list A2 over the allowed limit according to the regulating rules of phytosanitary quarantine.
Beans	5	2016 2017	Egypt	Egypt	5448	Not meeting the phytosanitary quarantine requirements due to a lot of nematodes and, ditylenchus dipsaci "Quarantine nematodes"
Chickpeas	2	2018	Russia	Russia	1416	Refused by laboratories of Ministry of Internal Trade and Consumer Protection as unfit for consumption of Human Food
Wheat flour	3	2018	UAE	UAE	1452	Refused by laboratories of Ministry of Internal Trade and Consumer Protection as unfit for consumption of Human Food because of yeasts and humidity level increase, fungi, bad smell and rots
Crushed red lentils	1	2019	Egypt	Egypt	230	Not meeting the phytosanitary quarantine requirements in the country as more than a twenty-day difference of the date between the phytosanitary certificate and the way bill. "documents of shipment"
Chickpeas	1	2019	Russia	Russia	500	Refused by laboratories of Ministry of Internal Trade and Consumer Protection due to violation of the Syrian measure specifications and unfit for consumption of Human Food.
Crushed lentils	4	2019 2020	Canada	Canada	1664	Refused by laboratories of Ministry of Internal Trade and Consumer Protection due to violation of the Syrian measure specifications and unfit for consumption of Human Food.



2- Refused consignments of humanitarian aids imported by International Committee of Red Cross. "ICRC"

Shipment	Number of consignments	year	Origin	source	Weight (Ton)	reason
Lentils	2	2016	Turkey	Turkey	340	Not meeting the phytosanitary quarantine requirements due to harmful weed seeds from list A2 over the allowed limit according to the regulating rules of phytosanitary quarantine.
Lentils	1	2016	Canada	Lebanon	40	Not meeting the phytosanitary quarantine requirements in the country due to alive pests inside sealed bags and no possibility to treatment.
Lentils	1	2016	Canada	Turkey	120	Not meeting the phytosanitary quarantine requirements due to harmful weed seeds from list A2 over the allowed limit according to the regulating rules of phytosanitary quarantine.
Wheat flour	1	2017	Egypt	Egypt	9750	Not meeting the phytosanitary quarantine requirements in the country due to unofficial edit on the phytosanitary certificate.
Peeled rice	1	2017	India	India	1000	Refused by laboratories of Ministry of Supply and Consumer Protection due to violation of the Syrian measure specifications and unfit for consumption of Human Food as well as the sample contains five dead pests of in each two kilos that cross the allowed limit which is thirty pests in each one hundred kilos.



Examples shared by Australia (DAFF team)

2021 examples of National Priority Plant Pest (NPPP) detections - Non-plant commodities

- August 2021 – Detection of *Trogoderma granarium* (khapra beetle) in a consignment of nappies, quilts, and toothbrushes. Larva were found within the cardboard carton corrugation associated with the outer box that held the nappies.
- September 2021 – Detection of *Lissachatina fulica* (giant African snail; GAS) inside shipping container transporting boxes of plastic figures, sunglasses and cables with connectors. The snail was found inside the container feeding on the cardboard packaging of the goods.
- December 2021 – Detection of *Halyomorpha halys* (brown marmorated stink bug; BMSB) inside a full container load of vermicelli noodles. Following treatment of the container, multiple BMSB were collected amongst the pallets of goods.



Pest/Group	Species name	Detection Events - Non-Plant commodities	Goods
Khapra Beetle	Trogoderma granarium (Khapra beetle)	2	Baggage, Shipping container (Tyres)
Invasive Ants	Solenopsis invicta (Red imported fire ant)	1	New machinery
Brown Marmorated Stink Bugs	Halyomorpha halys (Brown marmorated stink bug)	20	Shipping containers (11) - Trailers, Corn grits, Ammonium sulphate, Explosives, Lime extract, Steel sheds, Linen, Ag machinery New vehicles (1) Baggage - (6) Mail parcel - (1) Air cargo parcel (1) Used car parts
Exotic invasive snails	Lissachatina fulica (Giant African snail) Monacha cf. cartusiana (Carthusian snail)	6 1	Shipping containers, Freight of All Kinds (FAK) container New vehicle
Exotic bees	Apis florea (Dwarf honey bee) Apis cerana (Asian honey bee)	1 1	New vehicle Cruise ship
Exotic drywood termites	Cryptotermes sp.	1	Dunnage
Exotic subterranean termites	Coptotermes formosanus (Formosan termite) Coptotermes gestroi (Asian subterranean termite)	1 2	Cardboard boxes (Cards/Toys) Container floor, Beer barrels
Exotic sawyer beetle vectors	Monochamus alternatus (Japanese pine sawyer beetle) Monochamus gallprovinialis (Black pine sawyer beetle)	2 1	Timber packaging Timber packaging

Regional Food and Humanitarian Aid Case Studies in the Pacific



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- Timor-Leste Independence UN Administration (2002 – 2004)
- Solomon Islands Giant African Snail (2000)
- Timor-Leste Khapra Beetle Incursion (2019)
- Tonga Post-Disaster Relief Efforts (2021)

FIGURE 5: Khapra beetle larvae inside cardboard packaging corrugations



FIGURE 6: Heavy infestation under the flooring of a shipping container comprising larvae and larval skins



CPM FOCUS GROUP ON FOOD AND OTHER AID IN THE PHYTOSANITARY CONTEXT

Some case studies: Plants Interceptions IN TRANSIT. 2022 ([source TRACES NT-Qlikview](#))

Ex: potatos from UK (GB) - Calais BCP- Ukraine:

– **Nematoda**, ex: *Globodera pallida* (2 interceptions in FR)



Globodera pallida (HETDPA) - <https://gd.eppo.int>



CPM FOCUS GROUP ON FOOD AND OTHER AID IN THE PHYTOSANITARY CONTEXT

Some case studies: **BREXIT PLANT INTERCEPTIONS 2022:**

UK- all destinations via EU

- **609 consignments rejected –UK (GB)-UE** ([source TRACES NT-Qlikview](#))

- **Reasons of refusal: Non-compliance due to documentary and identity check or presence of regulated nematoda in UE or non-regulated pests at non-acceptable level.**

- **Improvements: e-certification UK via TRACES NT, ePhyto.**

**List of humanitarian aid detected with pests in the last 5 years**

Shipment	No. of consignments	Year	Origin	Weight (M/Tons)	Reason for interception.
Sorghum	1	2018	India	20,000	Presence of Harmful organism
Sorghum	1	2018	USA	24,970	Presence of Harmful organism
Sorghum	1	2018	Spain	11,472.6	Presence of Harmful organism
Sorghum	1	2019	USA	12470	Presence of Harmful organism
Sorghum	2	2021	India	450	Presence of harmful organisms
Split peas	1	2021	USA	109.85	Presence of Harmful organism
split pea	1	2021	USA	449.7	Presence of Harmful organism
Sorghum	1	2021	USA	23,800	Presence of Harmful organism
Split peas	1	2022	USA	17.849	Presence of Harmful organism
Split peas	1	2022	USA	536.599	Presence of Harmful organism
Split peas	1	2022	USA	534.722	Presence of Harmful organism
Sorghum	1	2022	Sudan	925	Presence of Harmful organism

Countries in need of humanitarian aid are facing challenging choices of receiving food aid and accepting their associated risks or limiting importation with risks of starvation.

PPPO SAFE FOOD AID PHAMPLETS



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SENDING SAFE AID WITHOUT HARMFUL PESTS AND DISEASES

FACTSHEET
01

For donors sending live plants: nursery stock, propagative or other planting material

Please help us to safeguard our vulnerable environment and communities by ensuring that any humanitarian aid that is sent does not inadvertently introduce harmful pests and diseases



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SENDING SAFE AID WITHOUT HARMFUL PESTS AND DISEASES

FACTSHEET
02

For donors sending seeds for planting

Please help us to safeguard our vulnerable environment and communities by ensuring that any humanitarian aid that is sent does not inadvertently introduce harmful pests and diseases



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SENDING SAFE AID WITHOUT HARMFUL PESTS AND DISEASES

FACTSHEET
03

For donors sending fresh produce and other food items

Please help us to safeguard our vulnerable environment and communities by ensuring that any humanitarian aid that is sent does not inadvertently introduce harmful pests and diseases



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SENDING SAFE AID WITHOUT HARMFUL PESTS AND DISEASES

FACTSHEET
04

For donors sending meat and animal products

Please help us to safeguard our vulnerable environment and communities by ensuring that any humanitarian aid that is sent does not inadvertently introduce harmful pests and diseases



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SENDING SAFE AID WITHOUT HARMFUL PESTS AND DISEASES

FACTSHEET
05

For donors sending new and used building materials

Please help us to safeguard our vulnerable environment and communities by ensuring that any humanitarian aid that is sent does not inadvertently introduce harmful pests and diseases



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SENDING SAFE AID WITHOUT HARMFUL PESTS AND DISEASES

FACTSHEET
06

For donors sending new and used vehicles, machinery and equipment (VME)

Please help us to safeguard our vulnerable environment and communities by ensuring that any humanitarian aid that is sent does not inadvertently introduce harmful pests and diseases



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SPG support to FGSA

- SPG supports the Focus Group requesting CPM for an extension to their time for another 12 months
- SPG supports the FG seeking CPM agreement to the release of the draft specification for country consultation in 2024

FGSA seek to inform 35th TC RPPO's

- FGSA kindly seek support from the 10 RPPO's.
- Any related information/ documents and examples will be much appreciated to support the FGSA move this work forward.

THANK YOU



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