



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



International
Plant Protection
Convention

2024 IPPC REGIONAL WORKSHOP

Draft Annex to ISPM 38: Design and use of systems approaches for phytosanitary certification of seeds to ISPM 38 (International movement of seeds)

IPPC first consultation 1 July to 30 September 2024



History of development

- Topic added to LOT 2018
- Specification approved 2020
[Spec 70 RevISPM38 En 2020-12-02.pdf \(ippc.int\)](#)
- EWG wrote the first draft in 2021
[Report EWG SA 2021 Oct 2022-01-05.pdf \(ippc.int\)](#)
- The draft was presented to the Standards Committee (SC) in May 2022, November 2023, May 2023, where they identified major conceptual issues and formed a Small Group to address them.
[Report SC 2022 May 2022-06 24.pdf \(ippc.int\)](#)
[Report SC 2022 Nov 2023-02 01.pdf \(ippc.int\)](#)
[Report SC-7 2023 May.pdf \(ippc.int\)](#)
- SC approved draft for the first consultation in May 2024.



SPECIFICATION 70

Design and use of systems approaches for phytosanitary certification of seeds

(Approved 2020, published 2020)

Title

Annex. Design and use of systems approaches for phytosanitary certification of seeds (2018-009) to ISPM 38 (International movement of seeds).

Reason for the annex to the standard

As they seek to implement ISPM 38, national plant protection organizations (NPPOs) and the worldwide seed industry are currently exploring the use of systems approaches to manage the pest risk associated with the international movement of seeds. A systems approach could incorporate industry practices that contribute to a reduction in the pest risk associated with seeds. Relevant industry best-management practices and quality systems could be the bases for the design of systems approaches as an alternative option for the phytosanitary certification of seeds. An annex to ISPM 38 could provide a framework for harmonization of systems approaches and provide guidance to NPPOs on recognition and audit of such systems.

Scope

The proposed annex should apply to any seeds moving internationally (including seeds for sale, production, trialling, bulk-up, breeding, or other purposes). The annex should provide a general, standardized framework of requirements for systems approaches, including existing pest management practices used in the seed industry in combination with quality systems that incorporate defined audit and verification procedures. The annex should also define a harmonized process by which NPPOs may recognize conformity with the requirements of the systems approaches. This recognition by NPPOs could form the basis for phytosanitary certification and would provide an alternative to the existing phytosanitary certification of seeds.

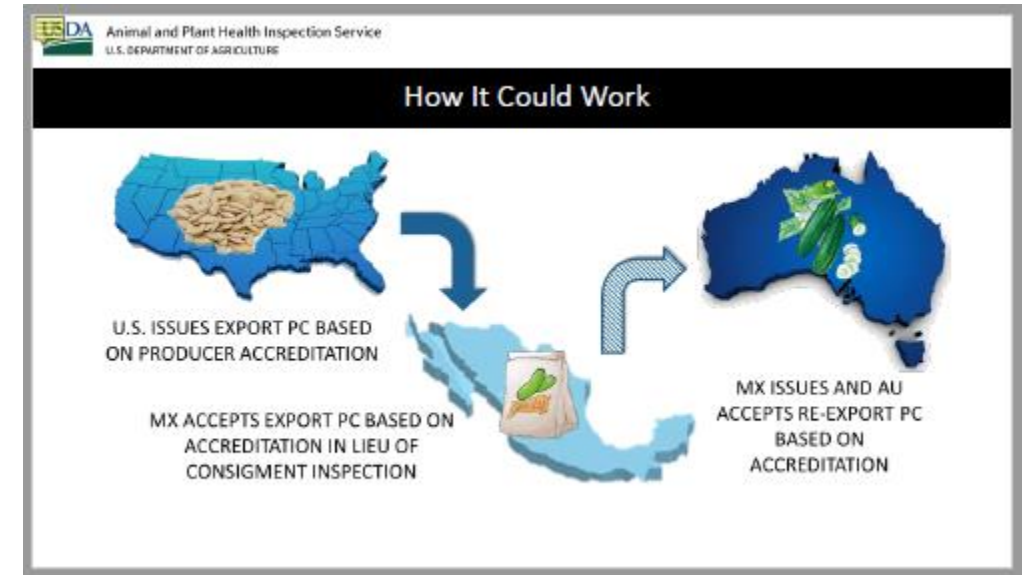
Purpose

Differences in phytosanitary import requirements currently implemented by NPPOs can result in significant complications in the movement of seeds between countries, particularly in re-export situations. This annex will provide standardized guidance for a harmonized alternative to consignment-by-consignment testing and inspection of seeds at export by multilaterally recognizing existing industry measures that minimize the pest risk and incorporating them into systems approaches.



Reasons for the Annex

- Trade in seeds has become global, with different production processes taking place in different parts of the world.
- NPPOs are currently exploring the use of systems approaches (SAs) to manage the pest risk associated with the international movement of seeds.
- A SA developed by NPPOs could incorporate industry practices that contribute to a pest risk reduction in seeds moving internationally.
- A SA can serve as an alternative option for the phytosanitary certification of seeds.

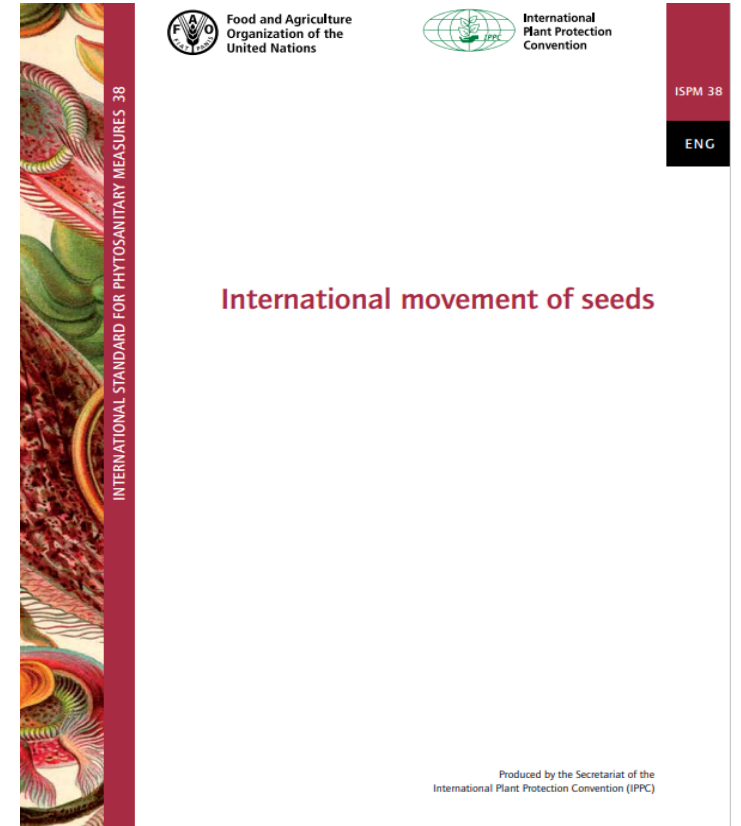


SEEDS



Background and Scope

- This Annex is intended to outline a general framework on designing SAs and setting requirements for using such SAs; it is intended to be applied to any seed.
- The framework should provide guidance to NPPOs in recognizing existing seed industry practices and quality management systems as a part of SAs reducing pest risk.
- Participation in a SA is a voluntary, alternative option to consignment-by-consignment phytosanitary certification of seeds; seed would be certified based on the confidence in the risk management measures applied during the production process.





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Important considerations for the Systems Approaches for seeds

- SA for seeds can provide an additional option for phytosanitary certification while meeting the phytosanitary import requirements of all the NPPOs involved along the seed supply chain.
- Entities interested in participating in the SA for seeds should be authorized by NPPOs before their participation begins.
- Production practices used by participating entities may be included by NPPOs in the SAs if they effectively reduce pest risks.
- SA for seeds can be used to manage pest groups rather than individual pests (concept used in ISPM 36).
- NPPOs can always use testing to verify that regulated pests were eliminated from the seed supply chain.





Critical Control Points (CCP)

- NPPOs are responsible for identifying the CCPs at which measures could be applied.
- NPPOs should evaluate risk management options and production practices for potential inclusion as integrated measures into a SA.
- Number of CCPs along the seed supply chain could vary depending on seed commodity, and usually applied at pre-planting, production, post-harvest, distribution and transport stages.
- NPPOs of the exporting countries should monitor the SA using audits and other verification means to ensure that the system is functioning satisfactorily.





Performance criteria for seed entities

- Establishing performance criteria for seed entities is required prior to the entity entering the agreement to participate in a SA.
- The entity should meet the performance criteria for each measure associated with the SA.
- The entity should have a well implemented and approved quality system, which at minimum should include quality policy, standard operating procedures, systems for training, auditing, issuing corrective actions, record keeping, continuous improvement.
- The most effective production practices of the entity should be evaluated and approved by the NPPO developing the SA for their further integration in the SA.





Responsibilities of NPPOs and seed entities

- NPPOs participating in a SA should develop the list of regulated pests associated with the seed commodity along the supply chain.
- NPPOs participating in a SA should communicate the integrated measures to the entities participating in the SA for implementation.
- Each NPPO should have a method for registering entities participating in SA on their territory.
- If a nonconformity is identified, it should be reported to the NPPO of the exporting country (country of origin or country of re-export).
- Identification of nonconformities should trigger the corrective actions for the participating entities specified in the SA agreement.
- The participating entities should provide all relevant information on production practices and quality systems, including any data related to the effectiveness of the practices in reducing pest risk to allow the NPPO to evaluate these practices for inclusion in the systems approach.





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Thank you

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