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منظمة الأغذية
والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

联合国
粮食及
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Unies
pour
l'alimentation
et
l'agriculture

Organización
de las
Naciones
Unidas
para la
Agricultura
y la
Alimentación

INTERIM COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

Third Session

Rome, 2-6 April 2001

Items Arising from the Second Session of the Interim Commission on Phytosanitary Measures Information Exchange

Agenda Item 6.3 of the Provisional Agenda

1. At its second session in October 1999, the ICPM made several recommendations regarding information exchange. Items A-E below summarize the status of these. Item F describes the first steps being taken to develop the ICPM's programme for information exchange.

A. PEST REPORTING

2. The ICPM highlighted the importance of reporting the occurrence outbreak or spread of pests that may be of immediate or potential danger, and recommended that a high priority be given to the development of a standard for pest reporting.

3. A working group organized in September 2000 began developing an international standard for pest reporting. It is anticipated that the draft standard will be submitted to the Interim Standards Committee (ISC) in May 2001 to be approved for distribution to countries for consultation.

B. ELECTRONIC FORMS OF INFORMATION EXCHANGE

4. The ICPM recommended that the Secretariat contact Members to determine their preferences for receiving future communications in electronic format or as printed material.

5. The Secretariat has established a system for sending email to all contact points. This is being used on a trial basis with printed copies also sent by conventional mail until countries notify the Secretariat otherwise.

For reasons of economy, this document is produced in a limited number of copies. Delegates and observers are kindly requested to bring it to the meetings and to refrain from asking for additional copies, unless strictly indispensable.

C. REPORTING OF INFORMATION IN RELATION TO REGULATED PEST LISTS

6. The ICPM recommended that formulation of an ISPM on regulated pest lists include consideration of reporting responsibilities and the importance of disseminating phytosanitary regulations.
7. A working group organized in January 2000 began developing the ISPM for pest listing, taking account of the points noted by the ICPM and others raised in discussions documents provided by the Secretariat and experts. The draft standard developed by the working group was approved by the Interim Standards Committee and distributed to Members for consultation in June 2000. Comments from countries have been collected by the Secretariat and will be reviewed by the Interim Standards Committee at their next meeting in May 2001. It is anticipated that the draft standard will be submitted to the ICPM for adoption in 2002.

D. PEST INFORMATION SYSTEM

8. The ICPM requested that the FAO Global Plant Pest Information System (GPPIS) be continued.
9. Beginning in January 2000, the FAO Global Plant and Pest Information System (GPPIS) migrated into EcoPort (<http://www.ecoport.org>). FAO is a partner with the Smithsonian Institution and the University of Florida in EcoPort. There are currently over 80 institutes and 300 entity editors (with global representation) participating in EcoPort, and over 300 updates/additions are being made per day to the plant and pest records alone. More than 1000 images are being added per month.

E. WORKING GROUP ON INFORMATION EXCHANGE

10. An Ad Hoc Informal Working Group meeting on Information Exchange was called by the Chair in September 2000. This meeting was to respond to concerns raised by the ICPM about the importance of information exchange and the need for the ICPM to undertake initiatives in this regard. The purpose of the meeting was to identify specific areas of interest or concern that could be addressed by the ICPM. Specialists on information exchange management systems, phytosanitary experts from developing countries and the Secretariat participated in the discussions.
11. The meeting considered various aspects of information requirements, including parties responsible for the exchange of certain information, the intended recipient, as well as issues regarding language, liability, timeliness, accuracy, alternate sources, level of obligation, accessibility and cost. The group considered the relevant provisions of the IPPC and listed them under a number of different headings relating to their stage of implementation, i.e. requirements already implemented, requirements easiest to develop, requirements under development, and requirements with no action. The meeting found that several aspects regarding information exchange were unclear.
12. The meeting suggested that further development of an ICPM information exchange programme should include establishment of a working group to consider the conclusions and recommendations of the Informal Ad Hoc Working Group and to develop formal proposals for the ICPM regarding an information exchange programme. The meeting suggested that the working group also take account of the recommendations by the Technical Consultations on Strategic Planning and Technical Assistance.

13. The ICPM is invited to:
 1. *Consider* the recommendations of the Ad hoc Informal Working Group and the Working Group on Information Exchange which followed (ICPM/01/19).
 2. *Encourage* further clarification of the responsibilities of Members, Regional Plant Protection Organizations and the Secretariat regarding information exchange obligations in the context of strategic planning and implementation of the IPPC.
 3. *Propose* information exchange initiatives for the ICPM and/or Members, and
 4. *Recommend* future development of the ICPM information exchange programme, including the means to be used by the ICPM to manage future Information Exchange activities.