



منظمة الأغذية  
والزراعة  
للأمم المتحدة

联合国  
粮食及  
农业组织

Food  
and  
Agriculture  
Organization  
of  
the  
United  
Nations

Organisation  
des  
Nations  
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

### Work Programme for Harmonization ICPM Technical Assistance

### Agenda Item 8.3

1. The Interim Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (ICPM), at its second session in October 1999, was asked to provide guidance to the Secretariat regarding strategies to assist developing countries in fulfilling their obligations under the New Revised Text of the IPPC. The ICPM was also informed of developments regarding a pilot project that was initiated by the Government of New Zealand. The pilot project is based on a questionnaire used for identifying the phytosanitary capacities and needs of countries. It was explained that an additional stage in this initiative involved a survey of donors by the Secretariat to assist in identifying sources of technical assistance and the current state of technical assistance as it relates to phytosanitary capacity building.
2. The ICPM will recall that it endorsed the continuation, improvement and expansion of the pilot project and decided to establish an open-ended working group to:
  1. define possible coordinating roles for the ICPM in the area of technical assistance;
  2. review the results of the New Zealand pilot project; and based on the results of this review,
  3. recommend future activities of the ICPM in technical assistance.
3. The Secretariat convened a Technical Consultation on Technical Assistance in conjunction with the ICPM meeting on Strategic Planning 6-10 March 2000 in Bangkok, Thailand to begin to address the charges identified by the ICPM. The meeting was attended by representatives of national plant protection organizations from: Bangladesh, Australia, Canada, Viet Nam, USA, Uruguay, Thailand, Sweden, South Africa, Nigeria, Indonesia, Japan and New Zealand. Representatives of the APPPC and Comunidad Andina attended as observers. The meeting was chaired by Mr Hedley, Chairperson of the ICPM, and also attended by the IPPC Secretariat.

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.

4. The meeting developed draft statements regarding the coordinating role of the ICPM and future activities. These were also considered in the context of strategic planning. The New Zealand pilot project was reviewed with the result that specific recommendations regarding the further development of the pilot project were provided to the project development team. It was agreed that the project would again be reviewed at a second meeting of the Technical Consultation on Technical Assistance, held 2-6 October 2000. The second meeting was again associated with the meeting on Strategic Planning and included most of the same Members attending the first meeting, with the addition of IICA as an observer. The second meeting considered further developments in the pilot project and finalized its recommendations to the ICPM regarding coordinating roles of the ICPM and future activities of the ICPM in technical assistance.

5. Following is the report of the Technical Consultation to the ICPM.

#### **A. COORDINATING ROLES OF THE ICPM**

6. The objectives of the IPPC will only be realized if all Members are able to participate in global efforts to these ends. The ICPM serves as a forum for:

1. identifying technical assistance needs;
2. coordinating the ICPM's global and regional technical assistance initiatives; and
3. promoting bilateral technical assistance.

These activities are to reinforce the implementation of the IPPC, including in particular the understanding and use of ISPMs.

7. Coordination includes:

1. enhancing awareness by gathering and disseminating information on global and regional forms of technical assistance;
2. identifying and developing phytosanitary capacity assessment mechanisms; and
3. arranging for resources to facilitate attendance of developing country Members to meetings.

#### **B. REVIEW OF THE NEW ZEALAND PILOT PROJECT**

8. The meeting:

1. considered the pilot project and its enhancements;
2. expressed its gratitude to the government of New Zealand and complimented the developers for their efforts;
3. provided specific suggestions for further improvement of the questionnaire;
4. noted that the questionnaire deals directly with aspects of implementing ISPMs, but that the efficacy and sustainability of technical assistance also requires institutional elements of national phytosanitary systems which are often assumed to be present.

9. The meeting recommended:

1. the pilot project be finalized and the questionnaire transferred to the Secretariat as a diagnostic tool for self-assessment by both developed and developing countries to be used to identify needs and also where capacity exists;
2. the questionnaire become known as the Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE);
3. the PCE be further developed to include institutional and regulatory aspects of national phytosanitary systems;
4. the Secretariat undertake to maintain and update the PCE (or make appropriate arrangements for maintaining and updating); and
5. that PCE results be kept as confidential as desired by the particular country.

## C. RECOMMENDATIONS ON FUTURE ACTIVITIES OF THE ICPM TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME

10. The meeting recommended that ICPM:
  1. recognize that Secretariat staff time devoted to the FAO-Technical Cooperation Programme represents a contribution to the ICPM's technical assistance programme (although not managed or directed by the ICPM);
  2. consider a proposal on the possibility of establishing a trust fund specifically for ICPM initiatives regarding technical assistance;
  3. establish an ad hoc Working Group on technical assistance (as needed);
  4. develop a system for determining general priorities (e.g. training program, internet access);
  5. develop a system for meeting priority needs (e.g. ongoing regional workshops on implementing standards with donor funds);
  6. encourage individual Members to utilize the PCE to determine their own needs and priorities, and to formulate national plans for the improvement of their phytosanitary systems and for technical assistance where appropriate;
  7. develop a programme for the promotion of technical assistance in the phytosanitary area;
  8. determine with the Secretariat priorities for the Secretariat's technical assistance activities;
  9. support the development of guidance for countries to use in the evaluation of institutional and regulatory aspects of national systems, including:
    - a) the development of diagnostic tools (PCE) for countries to assess their regulatory and institutional capacity to support technical functions for implementation of the IPPC;
    - b) the exploration of possibilities for a common framework for institutional evaluation and capacity building, within the ambit of the SPS (in particular with OIE), relating to institutional, regulatory, and technical assistance of common interest.
11. The meeting recommended that the Secretariat:
  1. prepare annual reports on ongoing activities regarding phytosanitary technical assistance; and
  2. maintains a list of general phytosanitary technical assistance needs submitted by Members.
12. The ICPM is invited to:
  1. *Endorse* the statements regarding the coordinating role of the ICPM, recognizing that the role of the ICPM in technical assistance is to support regional and global activities whereas technical assistance for individual countries is addressed through donor funded projects.
  2. *Recommend* that the role of the ICPM in technical assistance be fully considered in strategic planning and decisions regarding the work programme.
  3. *Adopt* the recommendations regarding the New Zealand pilot project.
  4. *Endorse* the establishment of a trust fund for ICPM initiatives on technical assistance, taking account other ICPM decisions and FAO policies in this regard.
  5. *Adopt* recommendations 4-9 above regarding future activities of the ICPM in technical assistance.
  6. *Establish* an ad hoc working group with the charge to implement recommendations 4-9.