**Update on the National Reporting Obligations Programme**

1. CPM-8 (2013) agreed that the revised *IPPC Information Exchange Programme* which will be called the *IPPC National Reporting Obligations* (NRO) programme to more accurately reflect the nature of the task and obligation to IPPC contracting parties.
2. This paper provides a brief update on the revision of the NRO programme and plans for the future.
3. Actions initiated since CPM-8 in April 2013:
   1. Reminded all countries of their NROs that have not been updated dated on the IPP for at the past 6 months;
   2. Hired an intern for 2.5 months to work on the NRO programme – initiation of statistical summaries and re-activation of engagement with CPs;
   3. Hired a volunteer to work for 2 months on the NRO programme – WTO-IPPC comparative reporting statistics;
   4. Contacted all contracting parties (CPs) and non-CPs regards the accuracy of their IPPC contact points – response very good with many updates and changes having taken place;
   5. Initiated a detailed statistical analysis of past CP participation in the information exchange programme (now NRO programme);
   6. Completed an analysis of IPPC-related reporting that has taken place through the WTO-SPS process but not reported through the IPPC reporting process;
   7. Started gathering statistics on CPs and non-CPs meeting IPPC reporting obligations and frequency of updates since 2001;
   8. NRO Advisory Group ToRs have been agreed by the CPM Bureau;
   9. Started gathering statistics on the IPPC Information Exchange capacity building programme since 2001;
   10. Updated the IPP manual to include changes relevant to the new software being used to run the IPP;
   11. Completed an IPP editor /NRO training workshop for 11 Central African countries during the last week in June to follow-up on the NRO workshop in November 2012;
   12. Initiated a NRO work plan for the next 18 months – needs to be finalized with the NRO Advisory Group after it has been established;
   13. CPM Bureau agreed on the ToRs and RoP for the NRO Advisory Group (NROAG) – see Annex 1; and
   14. Continued to provided support to countries with queries regards meeting their NROs.
4. Next priorities:
   1. Recruit an NRO officer for a minimum of 11 months (6 month probation);
   2. Finalize a NRO work plan for the next 18 months;
   3. Complete the gathering, and analysis, of statistics;
   4. Obtain nominations for the NRO Advisory Group through the CPM Bureau by 15 July 2013 – this deadline was not met by all Bureau members and is being follow-up;
   5. Establish the NRO Advisory Group as soon as possible with a view to working virtually until a physical meeting can be established in September 2013 – they will be involved in all future activities on the revision of the NRO programme;
   6. A revision of the legal basis for the mechanisms of reporting, including through Regional Plant Protection Organizations (RPPOs), and possible role of the IPPC Secretariat in ensuring the accuracy of data on the IPP – location, format and quality of data;
   7. Whether it is appropriate to prioritize the provision of reporting data as determined by the IPPC;
   8. Collect feedback on NPPOs and RPPOs regarding the review of the NRO system for a view to increasing the number of countries meeting their reporting obligations;
   9. Identify value added services the IPPC Secretariat could provide in addition to those already being developed for reported data;
   10. Identify which mechanisms are needed so that contracting parties can readily provide the same or similar information to other international organizations, such as the WTO and RPPOs and with them to ensure consistency of reporting and reduce duplication;
   11. Identify the most appropriate way of strengthening the role of RPPOs in ensuring CPs meet their national reporting obligations;
   12. Identify the most appropriate way of communicating this reporting to stakeholders, other than NPPOs and RPPOs;
   13. Identify any recommendations that may need to be agreed by CPM to formalize and facilitate this work;
   14. Draft a revised step-wise NRO programme, with milestones and deadlines, to include on outreach component for the next 5 years;
   15. Review the display of national data on the International Phytosanitary Portal (IPP);
   16. Consult NPPOs and RPPOs on this draft programme;
   17. Collect feedback on NPPOs and RPPOs regarding the review of the NRO system before submitting to CPM; and
   18. Establish good practices on exactly how contracting parties CPs can consistently meet their NROs, how data is provided and relevant timeframes.
5. The CPM Bureau (June 2013) requested the TC amongst RPPOs to discuss if it is possible and feasible, for the RPPOS to have a bigger role in facilitating CPs meeting their NROs.
6. The facility to allow RPPOs to report pest reports on behalf is countries is making steady progress with EPPO and it is hoped to start proto-typing this in the immediate future. Once this mechanism is fully operational it will be available to all other RPPOs that have been nominated by countries to undertake pest reporting on their behalf. It is hoped that this process will be operational early in 2014, although it could be early if all the testing goes well.
7. Once pest reporting is fully functional on a global scale, it will be possible to role out this mechanism for all other reporting obligations.
8. The Secretariat always welcomes feedback from the RPPOs to improve the ability of CPs to meet their NROs.

**Annex 1**

**ToRs and RoPs for NRO Advisory Group.**

**Background**

The Eighth Session of CPM (2013)[[1]](#footnote-1) agreed to the establishment of an IPPC national reporting obligations (NRO) advisory group (NROAG) to provide assistance to the IPPC Secretariat with the review the IPPC NRO programme and development of a revised stepwise work plan aimed at improving members’ capacity to meet their NROs under the IPPC.

**Objectives**

The NROAG will work with the IPPC Secretariat with the objectives of:

* developing a revised NRO work programme for presentation to CPM-10 (2015), including a suggested prioritized and stepwise approach, and
* specifically working with the Secretariat and contracting parties to ensure increased reporting of pests and lists of regulated pests.

**Tasks**

1. NROAG will work with the Secretariat to the review of the existing IPPC NRO programme, including:
   1. the identification of barriers and issues which have been the cause of limited reporting in the past, particularly the limitations inherent in developing comprehensive regulated pest lists;
   2. the review of background documents and papers submitted by contracting parties (CPs)(e.g. IRSS surveys and conclusions) to ensure consideration of CPs' views, experiences and evolving needs as they relate to pest reporting and developing regulated pest lists;
   3. providing a report on status of NRO programme to CPM-9.
2. NROAG with the Secretariat to revise the IPPC NRO programme to facilitate CPs to meet their NROs by:
   1. revising the legal basis for the mechanisms of reporting, including through Regional Plant Protection Organizations (RPPOs), and possible role of the IPPC Secretariat in ensuring the accuracy of data on the IPP – location, format and quality of data;
   2. revising appendix XV of ICPM-5 (2003) report on NRO provisions in the convention and include all ISPMs adopted since 2002 – this review should identify gaps and possible improvements for existing ISPMs and the IPPC;
   3. analysing the value of fulfilling obligations and purpose of the convention, including, whether it is appropriate to prioritize the provision of reporting data as determined by the IPPC;
   4. identifying the underlying competencies and functions required of an NPPO in order for it to effectively fulfil its reporting obligation under the Convention;
   5. determining how data is provided and relevant timeframes;
   6. determining value added services the IPPC Secretariat could provide in addition to those already being developed for reporting, including being more proactive;
   7. reviewing existing and establishing new mechanisms so that contracting parties can readily provide the same or similar information to other international organizations, such as the WTO and RPPOs and with them to ensure consistency of reporting and reduce duplication;
   8. advising the most appropriate way for CPs to consistently meet their national reporting obligations;
   9. advising on the most appropriate way of strengthening the role of RPPOs in ensuring contracting parties meet their national reporting obligations; and
   10. advising on the most appropriate way of communicating the reported information to stakeholders, other than NPPOs and RPPOs.
   11. analyzing the current justification of each obligation and see whether it is still appropriate given the phytosanitary changes of the past 10 years e.g. regulated pest listing, legislation and regulations i.e. determine the value of the obligations and purpose of the convention.
   12. determining the feasibility of a bigger role for RPPOs in facilitating countries meeting their NROs and ensure this is also discussed at the Technical Consultation amongst RPPOs.
3. After the review of the current NRO work programme, NROAG will work with the Secretariat and contracting parties to ensure increased reporting of pests and lists of regulated pests.
4. NROAG will provide advice on a NRO outreach work plan, as a component of the NRO programme, with a view to improving meeting the IPPC NRO by CPs.
5. NROAG will work with the Secretariat in the development of the NRO report and draft work plan, including priorities and stepwise actions with timeframes, for SPG review in 2014 and subsequent consideration at CPM-10 consideration in 2015. The report will specifically address:
   1. the benefits of meeting NROs;
   2. the challenges which have been limiting factors in the implementation of the IPPC NRO provisions and identify areas that possibly need revision if and when the IPPC is next reviewed;
   3. CP needs for improving pest and regulated pest lists reporting; and
   4. Possible solutions, with alternatives, to assisting countries meet their NROs, with specific reference to pest and regulated pest listing.
6. CPM include list of non-active members
7. Secretariat to follow up on WTO notifications if not reported through IPP.
8. Consider nature of sanctions or further action required.

**Membership**

NROAG participants shall be from contracting parties and should have extensive working knowledge of the IPPC, its objectives, its reporting obligations, and ISPMs.

The NROAG will consist of:

* One expert from each of the seven FAO regions (Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, Near East, North America, and Southwest Pacific).
* Members from other bodies: One (1) Bureau member, CDC Chair, SBDS Chair, and SC Chair.
* Experts will be coopted as necessary for specific tasks.

The IPPC Secretariat will consider funding assistance for participants from developing countries with extra-budgetary resources.

The NROAG will work virtually and a physical NROAG meeting is subject to the IPPC Secretariat receiving extra-budgetary funds.

The role of the NRO Advisory Group will be re-considered once the revised NRO programme is finalized.

1. Relevant CPM papers include: CPM 2013/INF/16 and CPM 2013/CRP/11 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)