

January 2001

E



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 COMMITTEE ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

Third Session

Rome, 2-6 April 2001

Strategic Planning Support for the ICPM Development Strategy (Note from the Chairperson)

Agenda Item 9 of the Provisional Agenda

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The IPPC has been the premier international instrument for the protection of plant health since 1952. Revisions of the Convention adopted in 1997 and the establishment of the ICPM have increased the profile of the IPPC as an active international organization that also has a significant role in international trade and national development. Emphasis on these aspects of the IPPC has come from FAO Members expressed need for:

- the development of international standards for phytosanitary measures;
- strengthening information exchange systems regarding plant pest issues;
- phytosanitary capacity building for developing countries; and,
- assistance in avoiding and resolving disputes regarding phytosanitary measures.

2. The ICPM has the responsibility to provide the leadership necessary to meet these needs and to guide the IPPC in its current and future challenges. A process for deciding the directions, positions and priorities of the ICPM based on systematic consultation and planning is underway. Technical Consultations held in March and October 2000 initiated a strategic planning process for this purpose. These meetings resulted in the formulation of a draft mission statement, draft strategic directions and goals, and proposals for a five-year work programme. Based on discussions in the Technical Consultations, it is clear that the degree to which the work programme is implemented and the level of achievement depends on the commitment and capacity of the ICPM, in particular as regards:

- the capacity of the IPPC Secretariat;
- resources for ICPM initiatives and technical assistance; and,
- appropriate working groups or committees within the ICPM with responsibility for advancing defined areas of its programme.

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.

3. Following are observations and comments regarding aspects of each of these points. This information is provided to help Members with their consideration of questions regarding strategic planning.

II. THE IPPC SECRETARIAT

4. The IPPC Secretariat plays a vital role in coordinating and advancing the work of the ICPM. At the present time, FAO provides the staff, budget and infrastructure for the IPPC Secretariat and most of its activities. The ICPM recommends the work programme and priorities for the Secretariat. The Secretariat implements the work programme taking account of the recommendations of the ICPM and available resources, including staff. The present staff of the Secretariat includes the Secretary, the Coordinator, a Plant Quarantine Officer, an Agriculture Officer, an Information Officer, an Associate Professional Officer (APO), and one clerical staff. The APO appointment provided by the United States since January 1998 ends in June 2001.

5. The Secretary devotes a portion of his time directly to the work programme of the ICPM. The Coordinator manages work programme activities and has primary responsibility for standard-setting. The Plant Quarantine Officer deals almost entirely with Technical Cooperation Projects of FAO in the area of plant quarantine (although this is related to the work of the ICPM in technical assistance, it is not directly managed by the ICPM). The Agriculture Officer has primary responsibility for information exchange, but is also required to spend approximately half of his time with pest management and administrative issues outside the work programme of the ICPM. The Information Officer handles editing, publishing, and filing IPPC documents, maintenance of the IPPC website, and responses to routine requests for information. The APO assists in the range of professional responsibilities within the Secretariat. One clerical position provides administrative support to the staff.

6. The workload of the Secretariat has increased substantially since the establishment of the ICPM. In particular, the increase in standard setting activities has outstripped the capacity of the Secretariat. Accelerating the development of standards and meeting other expectations of the ICPM such as in areas of information exchange, technical assistance, and dispute settlement requires additional financial and human resources for adequate management, technical and clerical support. Summarized below are aspects of these capacities that may be considered.

A. MANAGEMENT CAPACITY OF THE SECRETARIAT

7. The Secretary of the IPPC is the Chief of FAO's Plant Protection Service. Several programmes and a large staff fall under his responsibility. The Secretary's time is devoted to management duties that both directly and indirectly support the IPPC. However, the Secretary does not currently have the possibility to focus exclusively on the work programme of the ICPM. The provision by FAO of additional management resources in the Plant Protection Service is required for the Secretary to devote additional attention to the increasing level of IPPC business.

B. TECHNICAL CAPACITY OF THE SECRETARIAT

8. The addition of professional staff positions within the Secretariat can substantially enhance the ability of the Secretariat to provide technical and logistical support to the ICPM's standard-setting and other activities. One or more professional positions fully dedicated to the IPPC, in particular to support standard-setting, but also to work on information exchange and technical assistance initiatives of the ICPM is critical for providing necessary technical competence.

9. The addition of APO positions has been demonstrated to greatly enhance the technical capacity of the Secretariat and expedite the work of the ICPM without drawing additional resources from FAO. APO expertise in risk analysis, legislation/regulations, and web page design is currently needed. It should be noted that APO positions also provide valuable developmental

experience for national staff. The cost for funding an APO position is currently approximately US\$70,000/yr.

C. ADMINISTRATIVE CAPACITY OF THE SECRETARIAT

10. One half-time clerical person is required to support the administrative functions associated with the work programme of the ICPM, in particular as regards standard-setting.

D. CAPACITY SCENARIOS FOR THE SECRETARIAT

11. Current staffing levels allow for:

- the development of two ISPMs per year;
- one session of the ICPM and of the Interim Standards Committee;
- one meeting on ICPM business (e.g. dispute settlement);
- one Technical Consultation (e.g. RPPOs).

Substantially more was accomplished during 2000 primarily due to:

- savings realized when countries voluntarily pay for their participants to attend meetings;
- the rescheduling of the ICPM;
- the addition of extrabudgetary and in-kind resources by Members;
- the assistance of an APO; and
- an extraordinary effort by the Secretariat.

However, this level of activity is not sustainable in the future without additional core staffing and funding. The draft strategic plan envisions an ongoing work programme that includes:

- the development of 4-6 standards per year;
- one session of the ICPM and two sessions of the Interim Standards Committee;
- two meetings on ICPM business (dispute settlement, information exchange, strategic planning, etc.);
- one to four Regional Consultations on ISPMs; and
- one to four Technical Consultations (RPPOs, contemporary issues, etc.).

12. Meeting these expectations will require continued savings from voluntary contributions, continued extrabudgetary resources, and additional staff resources. The staffing level will depend on what the ICPM expects to accomplish.

13. To meet work programme projections described above, the ICPM may anticipate that its Secretariat will require a full-time Secretary, two or more additional professional positions, one to four APOs and at least one half-time administrative assistant. This would be in addition to the present staff and would cost a further US\$600,000-700,000. A number of intermediate scenarios with greater or lesser capacity may also be constructed with appropriate costing.

III. CONTRIBUTION OF FUNDS

14. FAO Conference approved the New Revised Text of the IPPC in 1997 with the understanding that the amendments did not result in any new obligations, including financial obligations for Members. The ICPM must respect this understanding despite the increasing importance of the IPPC in agriculture, horticulture, forestry – in biosecurity and food security – in trade, its role in biological diversity and the growing need to provide technical assistance. Because of this, the infusion of additional resources to support the work of the ICPM must come from an internal redirection of resources within FAO and/or through contributions from individual Members or organizations.

A. PROVISION OF ADDITIONAL FAO RESOURCES

15. The addition of funds and/or staff to the IPPC Secretariat by FAO requires the internal redirection of resources taking account of the resources available to the Organization and priorities for all programmes within the Organization. ICPM Members affect this process by ensuring that their representatives in FAO governing bodies support changes based on recommendations of the ICPM. The Bureau will report on recent developments in this regard.

B. CONTRIBUTIONS FROM MEMBERS OR ORGANIZATIONS

16. Contributions can take many forms. There can be specific targeted contributions that can be directed to funding staff positions, sponsoring working group meetings, defraying the costs of technical experts from less developed countries, defraying costs of IPPC-related training events, etcetera. There can also be general contributions that are placed in trust funds to be used for any area of ICPM work or for a designated purpose.

17. Specific contributions provided by an ICPM member are managed by the Secretariat. Such contributions are used to support particular meetings or activities nominated by the fund provider (e.g. working groups to draft standards, regional consultations to discuss standards). In the past, these funds have been used primarily ensure the attendance of developing country experts.

18. General contributions are deposited by Members or organizations into multi-donor trust funds administered by FAO. Such funds may be used to support general activities of the ICPM or may be designated for specific areas of need such as travel for developing country Members.

19. The ICPM may wish to follow a system based on both specific contributions (as is done already) and trust funds. It may be appropriate for the ICPM to establish more than one trust fund for different types of contributors or purposes (e.g. a trust fund dedicated to technical assistance initiatives of the ICPM). If the ICPM agrees with this proposal, the Bureau and Secretariat can initiate arrangements for the establishment of such funds with FAO.

IV. DEVELOPMENT OF ICPM COMMITTEES OR WORKING GROUPS

20. There has been a general reluctance by some member countries to create committees or working groups for specific areas of ICPM business (as versus expert working groups to prepare draft standards). However, if the work programme of the ICPM is to advance as envisioned, the ICPM needs to consider the level of Member involvement desired for ensuring participation and transparency in the conduct of ICPM business. This includes the formulation of standards as well as initiatives for technical assistance, information exchange, dispute settlement and other areas the ICPM may wish to address as either ad hoc or permanent activities within its work programme.

21. The work of the strategic planning group this last year has shown what Members can achieve with a more active role in the management of the ICPM. The ICPM may consider whether the distribution of work through a committee structure would allow Members to contribute to the development of the ICPM and provide opportunities for various kinds and levels of participation by Members. Not all of the groups or committees set up by the ICPM would be required to meet on a regular basis.

V. CONCLUSION

22. The work accomplished by the ICPM in 2000 demonstrates the potential for the Commission to achieve a level of activity that is commensurate with its international status and the responsibilities of contracting parties of the IPPC. Members are invited to consider aspects of

the development, funding and organization of the ICPM that have been discussed here as they decide on a work programme and corresponding capacity appropriate for the ICPM in the future.