



منظمة الأغذية
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para la
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y la
Alimentación

INTERIM COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

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Work Programme for Harmonization Technical Assistance

Agenda Item 8.3 of the Provisional Agenda

1. A key aspect of the work programme of the Secretariat involves technical assistance and cooperation. This includes technical support for FAO programmes as well as direct technical assistance provided by the Secretariat to countries, regions, and relevant organizations. Activities in this area during 2000 have been substantial and demands continue to grow. The summary below provides highlights. Additional details on specific points may be obtained from the Secretariat.

FAO TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAMME (TCP)

2. Current and recently concluded projects that are for (or include) phytosanitary capacity building under TCP amount to US \$3.0 million for 39 participating countries. A further US\$ 3.5 million is anticipated for current requests from other countries. Trends emerging from this programme are as follows:

1. Requests from Member countries were almost three times the number received for the previous year.
2. There is an increasing demand for the review of national systems and “needs assessments” to form the basis of national plans for phytosanitary capacity building. Areas commonly addressed include the modernization of legal frameworks, management authority, infrastructure, institutional strengthening, information technology (including in particular pest information), and the mobilization of human and non-human resources for efficiency and sustainability. Countries requesting this assistance include Albania, Antigua, Estonia, Iran, India, Malawi, Mauritania, Nigeria, Sudan, Swaziland, Tunisia, Zambia and Zimbabwe.
3. The demand for training in the understanding and implementation of international standards for phytosanitary measures (ISPMs) increased as countries move to adopt approaches consistent with the IPPC and the World Trade Organization Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures. Pest risk analysis and pest

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surveillance continue to be priority areas because of their fundamental importance to technically sound phytosanitary decision making.

4. Requests for establishing and/or maintaining pest free areas also increased primarily related to the Mediterranean fruit fly, the Carambola fruit fly, and the Peach fruit fly. Fruit fly free area projects in Central and South America including Belize, Costa Rica, Panama, El Salvador, Chile, Venezuela, the Middle East and North Africa are under TCP funding, while projects in Nicaragua, Honduras and Guatemala are being funded by USAID.

SPECIAL PROGRAMME FOR FOOD SECURITY (SPFS)

3. The Secretariat has assisted in the preparation of 23 regional SPFS projects ensuring that appropriate aspects of phytosanitary systems are taken account of in any initiative towards achieving regional food security. Each project provides for capacity building in each of the over 100 countries represented. Human resource development, drafting and/or modernization and harmonization of phytosanitary legislation and physical infrastructural and institutional development were identified as critical areas to be addressed in these projects.

DIRECT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY THE SECRETARIAT

4. The Secretariat has provided direct technical assistance to countries through FAO and other projects and also in response to specific requests. Points 1-4 below describe the activities undertaken by the Secretariat since the last meeting of the ICPM:

1. *Assisted in 10 subregional training courses under the Umbrella Programme for Training on the Uruguay Round and Future Multilateral Trade Negotiations in Agriculture.* In particular, the Secretariat:
 - a) provided technical inputs for the development and improvement of training modules;
 - b) delivered training; and
 - c) identified, recruited and trained consultants to assist where Secretariat staff could not be directly involved.

Following are the regions and venues where these workshops were held:

<u>REGION</u>	<u>VENUE</u>
Central and Eastern Europe	Czech Republic (14 countries)
South America and Mexico	Bolivia (11 countries)
Near East/North Africa	Egypt (12 countries)
Middle East (GCC Countries)	Oman (6 countries)
English-speaking Caribbean	Jamaica (19 countries)
Central African Economic Community	Cameroon (12 countries)
South Asia	Nepal (9 countries)
Southeast Asia	Philippines (9 countries)
East and West Africa (English speaking)	Ethiopia (11 countries)
Southern Africa (SADC Countries and Eritrea)	Zambia (13 countries)

2. Assisted in regional workshops, including:
 - a) SPS workshop in India, Namibia and Cote d'Ivoire;
 - b) Pest risk analysis workshops in Brazil, the Netherlands, Russia, and for the SPS Committee;
 - c) Forest Biosecurity workshop in Chile;

- d) Regional Technical Consultation on ISPMs in Thailand for the Asia and Pacific countries;
 - e) Inspection Methodology workshop in Argentina for COSAVE countries.
3. Provided information and promoted technical dialogue between countries concerned with potential trade disputes, including Egypt, Mexico, Thailand, the Dominican Republic, and Brazil.
 4. Reviewed phytosanitary legislation of the Arab Gulf Cooperation Council and the Bahamas.

ASSISTANCE TO REGIONAL PLANT PROTECTION ORGANIZATIONS (RPPOS)

5. The following describes the Secretariat's main activities with RPPOs since the last meeting of the ICPM:
 1. Attended and contributed to meetings of APPPC, EPPO, IAPSC and NAPPO.
 2. Collaborated with the governments of Caribbean countries to promote increasing the capacity and effectiveness of the Caribbean Plant Protection Commission, including assisting the CARICOM Secretariat and IICA in the development of a proposal regarding the establishment of a Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency.
 3. Assisted the APPPC in formulating a regional project to complete a Pest risk analysis for South American Leaf Blight (SALB) as a first step toward the development of a regional standard on which all Members could agree before particular provisions of the revised Agreement can be ratified.

EMERGING ISSUES

6. The nature and number of requests for technical assistance received by the Secretariat provide important insight into the current needs and priorities of countries. Based on recent trends, the Secretariat has identified three types of documents as being most critical for current needs:
 1. Manuals and training guides regarding the implementation of international standards;
 2. Equipment specifications manuals (e.g. for post entry quarantine facilities);
 3. Guidelines for reviewing and drafting national phytosanitary legislation.
7. In addition, the increasing demand for comprehensive reviews of national phytosanitary systems has highlighted the need for diagnostic tools for self-assessment. At its second session in 1999, the ICPM endorsed further development of a pilot project initiated by New Zealand that uses a questionnaire for collecting appropriate data for the self-assessment of phytosanitary systems. This initiative has proven successful in its limited application, and it continues to be expanded and improved as the Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE). Wider use of the PCE by other countries and long-term maintenance of the tool requires support by the ICPM. Specific needs include:
 1. consultants to assist with the collection and evaluation of data, and the formulation of national plans for technical assistance;
 2. translation of the PCE into Members languages;
 3. resources for FAO to maintain and update the database.

8. The ICPM is invited to:
 1. *Comment* on technical assistance activities of the Secretariat.
 2. *Recommend* priorities for technical assistance.