



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 Information Exchange

Agenda Item 8.2 of the Provisional Agenda

1. The ICPM is provided with ICPM 01/6 regarding information exchange items arising from the second session of the ICPM. The following is to report on other information exchange activities of the Secretariat.

A. THE DISSEMINATION OF OFFICIAL INFORMATION

2. The report of the Second Session of the ICPM was distributed to all Members within sixty days following the meeting. ISPMs adopted by the ICPM at its Second Session (ISPM 10 and the revised Glossary of Phytosanitary Terms) were published in "green book" format shortly afterwards and have been made available to Members through the Secretariat and RPPOs.

3. The Secretariat notes that although the standards adopted in the report of the ICPM are considered to be final, the published standards may vary slightly from those adopted in the report. This is normally to correct minor editing, formatting and translation problems before publication. The ICPM will be notified by the Secretariat if any of these changes involve more than formatting or the correction of errors.

B. TRANSLATION

4. Internal FAO systems are utilized for the translation, printing and distribution of reports and other official printed matter by the Secretariat. Due to the technical nature of many documents such as ISPMs there are often problems with inconsistencies. Certain terms and concepts are not easily translated in some languages. In other cases, the phytosanitary community has expressed its preference for terms or expressions that may be inconsistent with general translation. As a result, translation can be complicated and in some cases may require considerable effort. The Secretariat strives to ensure the best possible translation within the available time and resources. Members may assist where possible.

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.

5. Comments received on draft ISPMs through the consultation process have proven helpful for identifying specific issues to highlight for translation. In addition, valuable assistance has been provided by the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (EPPO) and the North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO) in the review, editing, and informal translation of documents into French and Spanish, respectively. The FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific has also been helpful with editing Chinese documents. The review of technical material in Arabic is not yet as rigorous as with the other languages. The Secretariat would welcome assistance that could be provided for this purpose.

C. OFFICIAL CONTACT POINTS

6. The Secretariat continues to provide information to Members through official contact points, where these have been identified. However, the ICPM is reminded of two important points:

- FAO policies require certain documents such as invitations and other correspondence from the Director General of the Organization to follow a particular distribution that may not include the designated contact points. Where it is relevant, such material is also provided to official contact points by the Secretariat.
- Printed material, such as ISPMs and other correspondence, provided by the Secretariat directly to official contact points is not copied by the Secretariat to other offices in the government of the Member, or to other parties within the country. It is the responsibility of the official contact point to ensure that information is disseminated to officials or others as appropriate within their country.

7. The Secretariat maintains a list with updated contact point information. The Secretariat is now adding e-mail and website addresses to the NPPO and contact point information where this is provided. This information is available on the IPPC website and the list is published and made available in printed form at each session of the ICPM. The Secretariat also makes contact point information available at any time upon request.

8. The Secretariat notes that many Members have not designated their contact point and certain Members that have designated contact points have not provided the Secretariat with updated information where contact point details have changed.

D. INFORMATION EXCHANGE OBLIGATIONS IN THE CONVENTION

9. The Secretariat expresses its gratitude to Members that have provided information to the Secretariat as specified in the IPPC. This refers in particular to details regarding:

- the official contact point (Article VIII.2);
- the structure of the National Plant Protection Organization (Art IV.4);
- lists of regulated pests (Article VII.2i); and
- specified points of entry (Article VII.2d).

The Secretariat notes that very little of this information has been provided to date.

E. COMMUNICATION IN ELECTRONIC FORMAT

10. Communications between Members and with the Secretariat increasingly rely on the use of electronic media, in particular the use of email and the Internet. Most Members and RPPOs now correspond routinely by e-mail and an increasing number also have Internet access and websites. The Secretariat actively encourages and, to the extent possible, assists with the provision of appropriate equipment, training and support for national plant protection organizations lacking the capability for electronic communication.

11. The Secretariat accepts and encourages the submission of official information in electronic form. However, all official communication between the Secretariat and Members continues to be primarily through printed correspondence with duplicate information provided

electronically wherever possible. Members have been requested to indicate whether they will officially accept electronic correspondence in the place of printed correspondence.

F. THE IPPC WEBSITE

12. The Secretariat continues to develop and improve the IPPC website (<http://www.ippc.int> or <http://www.fao.org/WAICENT/FAOINFO/AGRICULT/AGP/AGPP/PQ/Default.htm>). Information from the Secretariat is made available through the website or by email as soon as practically possible. This frequently results in information being available electronically before it is distributed in print. In addition, certain language versions of official documents may be available electronically before others as translation times vary.

13. Revision and upgrading of the IPPC website is underway. It is anticipated that this work will be completed in 2001. This upgrade will result in:

- the website being available in at least 4 languages (English, French, Spanish and Arabic);
- improved and simplified navigation capabilities.

14. Members with or without restricted Internet access, or who do not wish to use electronic information systems, can have information from the IPPC website provided to them in printed form by request to the Secretariat.

15. The ICPM is invited to:

1. *Urge* Members to assist the Secretariat to improve the translation of official documents by providing specific comments where appropriate based on review and consultation.
2. *Express* its gratitude to NAPPO and EPPO for their continued assistance with translation.
3. *Urge* Members to identify their official contact points, or where these contact points have been established, to ensure that contact point details are updated as appropriate.
4. *Remind* Members that their contact points have responsibility for the dissemination of information as appropriate in their countries.
5. *Urge* Members to notify the Secretariat whether they accept electronic correspondence in the place of printed material.
6. *Comment* on the IPPC website and recommend modifications or enhancements to further meet the needs of Members.