



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

COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

Second Session

Rome, 26 – 30 March 2007

Report by the Secretariat

Agenda Item 6 of the Provisional Agenda

1. This paper provides a brief report on the work of the Secretariat of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) based on the six “Strategic Directions” that were endorsed by the Third Session of the Interim Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (2001). This report was prepared in December 2006 and reports on the work programme undertaken during 2006. Further activities that were undertaken in 2007 will be discussed under separate agenda items. This report also includes for the first time a report on activities undertaken by the FAO Plant Protection Officers in relation with the IPPC.
2. The First Session of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) was held in Rome, 3-7 April 2006. 122 IPPC contracting parties and 8 FAO Members that were not contracting parties were represented. The meeting was also attended by observers from specialized agencies of the United Nations, from intergovernmental organizations and from non-governmental organizations. Funding supplied by the European Community enabled the participation of a number of representatives from developing countries.
3. In 2006, as well as contributions to the Trust Fund for the IPPC (mentioned in other papers) some countries made in-kind contributions, including:
 - The USA funded the two African regional workshops on draft ISPMs
 - The Republic of Korea funded the Asian regional workshop on draft ISPMs
 - The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture assisted with funding the Latin American regional workshop on draft ISPMs
 - The Cook Islands assisted with funding the Pacific regional workshop on draft ISPMs
 - The Netherlands hosted the meeting of the IPP Support Group.
4. In addition, several contracting parties and regional organizations helped to host, organize and in some cases contributed financially to the running of standard setting expert working groups and technical panels.

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.
Most FAO meeting documents are available on Internet at www.fao.org

I. Strategic Direction 1: The development, adoption and monitoring of the implementation of international standards for phytosanitary measures (ISPMs)

5. Activities involved with the implementation of the IPPC standard setting work programme are reported below. Several items are dealt with in more detail under separate agenda items. In particular, information on the IPPC standard setting work programme is presented under agenda item 9.3.
6. The Standards Committee (SC) met in May 2006. The workload continues to be substantial and the SC was unable to discuss all agenda items. However it was able to review and submit five draft ISPMs and amendments to ISPM No. 5 (*Glossary of Phytosanitary Terms*) for country consultation through the regular standard setting process. Over 2,300 country comments were received.
7. In October 2006, the stewards (one for each draft standard) considered the country comments and suggested appropriate revisions to the drafts, which they presented to the Standards Committee Working Group (SC-7) at its November 2006 meeting where further modifications were made.
8. The SC, for the first time conducted a meeting (November 2006) in four languages: Arabic, Chinese, English and Spanish. At that meeting, the SC the revised draft ISPMs and associated comments were further considered. Adoption of the resulting standards is dealt with under agenda item 9.2 (CPM 2007/2).
9. It is anticipated that approximately six draft ISPMs or supplements to existing ISPMs will be ready for presentation to the SC in May 2007. Due to funding constraints the May meeting was originally planned for the SC-7 only, but additional funds have been provided by FAO, which will now enable the SC to meet.
10. Technical panels (TP) continue their work in the subject areas which the SC has added to the IPPC standard setting work programme. Specific details on the work of each TP will be presented under agenda item 9.3. Activities undertaken by the Technical Panels included:
 - The Technical Panel on Forest Quarantine met in June 2006. It started the revision of ISPM No. 15 (*Guidelines for regulating wood packaging material in international trade*).
 - The Technical Panel on Pest Free Areas and Systems Approaches for Fruit Flies met in September 2006. It developed the draft ISPM on systems approach for pest risk management of fruit flies.
 - The Technical Panel for the Glossary met in October 2006. It reviewed country comments on draft standards in relation to new and revised terms and definitions, continued discussions on terminology and developed its work programme.
 - The Technical Panel on Diagnostic Protocols met in October 2006. It reviewed and provided comments on several draft diagnostic protocols which were returned to authors for further drafting. It is anticipated that one diagnostic protocol will be submitted for member consultation in 2007 through the fast track process.
 - The Technical Panel on Phytosanitary Treatments met in December 2006. It reviewed 33 submissions on phytosanitary treatments in the topic areas of irradiation, fruit flies and alternatives to methyl bromide for ISPM No.15 (*Guidelines for regulating wood packaging material in international trade*). As the meeting was organized and partially funded by the International Atomic Energy Agency and the FAO's Joint Division, the panel focused on the irradiation submissions, which is a topic of high priority on the IPPC standard setting work programme. The TPPT recommended some treatments for consideration by the SC and it is anticipated that these will be submitted for member consultation in 2007 through the fast track process. In addition, some submissions needed additional information, and will be reconsidered once this information has been obtained.

11. Expert working group meetings developed drafts for the following ISPMs:
- alternatives strategies to methyl bromide
 - appropriate level of protection
 - classification of commodities by level of processing, intended use and phytosanitary risk (second meeting)
 - guidelines for the interpretation and application of the term *not widely distributed* in relation to quarantine pests (supplement to ISPM No. 5: *Glossary of phytosanitary terms*)
 - plants for planting (including movement, post-entry quarantine and certification programmes).
12. With regard to the use and translation of the terms “must”, “shall”, “should” and “may” in ISPMs, the Secretariat has yet to implement two decisions from CPM-1 on the preparation of practical guidelines with examples for the use of the terms in ISPMs, and on an analysis of the translation of these terms in ISPMs in Arabic and Chinese (CPM-1, paragraph 87, decisions 4 and 9). This work will commence in 2007. In order to avoid duplication, the decision on the review and adjustment of the translation of these terms in adopted ISPMs in French and Spanish has been postponed until the review of the adopted ISPMs in English has been carried out, so that all adjustments in translation can be done at the same time.
13. As a result of the Plant Health Risk Analysis workshop held in 2005, the Secretariat continues to be involved in the development of pest risk analysis training materials. The Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) and Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) are the implementing agencies for a project that will develop pest risk analysis (PRA) training materials and conduct a training workshop in India in early 2007. The Secretariat is involved in this project in an advisory capacity and is represented on the international steering committee providing guidance to the project. The training materials being developed use the adopted ISPMs on PRA as a framework, are of a basic level and are international in nature, making them useful for training purposes for most countries in the world. They are designed to be delivered by an instructor with some PRA expertise. The materials will be tested at a pilot workshop in India in early 2007 and once finalized, will be freely available for use.
14. The development of explanatory documents for ISPMs, under the auspices of the Secretariat, has slowed down in 2006 due to the heavy workload of the Secretariat. It will continue in 2007 as resources allow. The following draft explanatory documents are still under development:
- ISPM No. 3 (*Guidelines for the export, shipment, import and release of biological control agents and other beneficial organisms*)
 - ISPM No. 5 (*Glossary of phytosanitary terms*) - production of an annotated glossary
 - ISPM No. 11 (*Pest risk analysis for quarantine pests, including analysis of environmental risks and living modified organisms*) - 2 explanatory documents, in relation to the supplements on environmental risks and on living modified organisms
 - ISPM No. 14 (*The use of integrated measures in a systems approach for pest risk management*)
 - ISPM No. 16 (*Regulated non-quarantine pests: concept and application*)
 - ISPM No. 19 (*Guidelines on lists of regulated pests*)
 - ISPM No. 21 (*Pest risk analysis for regulated non-quarantine pests*)
 - ISPM No. 24 (*Guidelines for the determination and recognition of equivalence of phytosanitary measures*).

II. Strategic Direction 2: Information Exchange

15. **IPPC advocacy** The "Guide to the IPPC" is being updated and when completed will be published in the five official FAO languages. This also applies to the brochure "Quick guide to the IPPC" and the series of information notes.

16. **IPPC contact points** There has been a marked improvement in the accuracy and reliability of the information provided on IPPC contact points. However some contracting parties have still to designate an official contact point or have not provided the Secretariat with updated information when official contact point details have changed. Further details are given under agenda item 11.1.

17. **Correspondence** The Secretariat strongly encourages the dispatch of official information in electronic form. However, official communication between the Secretariat and contracting parties is still primarily through printed correspondence with duplicate information provided electronically. A few contracting parties have informed the Secretariat that they are willing to accept electronic correspondence as official communication. Using strictly electronic correspondence would greatly expedite the process. A document on this topic is presented under agenda item 10.3.2.

18. **The International Phytosanitary Portal** Details on the International Phytosanitary Portal are given under agenda item 11.1. Maintaining navigation in the International Phytosanitary Portal (IPP) in multiple languages is an ongoing challenge due to lack of staff resources and the need to track the many changes that take place. Most IPPC contact points have identified IPP editors to upload official phytosanitary information into the IPP.

19. The meeting of the IPP Support Group (IPP SG) in September 2006 was hosted by the Netherlands and made detailed recommendations for the improvement of the IPP navigation, data retrieval and content. The next phase of IPP development will concentrate on data retrieval.

20. **Capacity Building** The IPPC Information Exchange Capacity Building Programme was further developed during 2006 to ensure countries:

- had a basic understanding of their information exchange obligations under the IPPC;
- were introduced to the International Phytosanitary Portal (IPP) as the preferred system for the exchange of official phytosanitary information; and
- were trained to upload and maintain their phytosanitary information on the IPP.

21. Details of the programme are given under agenda item 11.1.

22. **Electronic certification** The Secretariat was unable to commit staff resources to defining standards in the area of electronic data exchange to support electronic phytosanitary certification systems. However, the Secretariat continues to monitor the work of members that are active in this area.

23. Member countries of the North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO), with assistance from colleagues from the Netherlands, have developed a definition of the elements needed for an electronic phytosanitary certificate, and produced a document which describes a systems architecture for exchanging phytosanitary certificates electronically. These definitions have also been submitted to the UN trade facilitation group UN/CEFACT. A second project is underway with broader aims for general certification of food and agricultural products (to include plant products); it is sponsored by Australia and New Zealand, and also coordinated through UN/CEFACT

III. Strategic Direction 3: The provision of dispute settlement mechanisms

24. The Secretariat did not receive any requests for assistance in dispute settlement in 2006.

25. A meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Dispute Settlement (SBDS) will be convened immediately prior to CPM-2 and a verbal report will be given by the chair of the SBDS at the CPM.

26. The advocacy document on dispute settlement and a dispute settlement manual have been made available electronically in English, and are being translated into the other four FAO languages.
27. The topic of the open-ended working group on compliance is considered under agenda item 12.3 (CPM 2007/17).

IV. Strategic Direction 4: The development of phytosanitary capacity of Members by promoting the provision of technical assistance

28. **Capacity-building workshops** A capacity building workshop for potential resource persons and “Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries” (TCDC) consultants to support the technical assistance programme in the field was held in Nairobi on 15-28 May 2006. Twelve phytosanitary personnel from the African region (including Madagascar and Seychelles) attended.
29. The sub-regional workshop for the Commonwealth of Independent States on the International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures, pest risk analysis and phytosanitary capacity evaluation is scheduled for February 2007.
30. **Workshops on draft ISPMs** The Secretariat facilitated seven regional workshops on draft International Standards on Phytosanitary Measures during 2006. The workshops were well attended and are considered a very important aspect of the standards setting process.
31. **Informal Working Group on Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation** The Informal Working Group on PCE (IWG-PCE) met in Nairobi on 4-8 December 2006. The working group reviewed the report of the PCE assessment study undertaken by CAB-International, and reviewed and updated the current modules of the PCE tool. It considered possibilities for further updates and considered maintenance and updating issues with respect to incorporating new ISPMs and compatibility with the IPP. Further details are given under agenda item 13.1.
32. **International liaison** CAB-International (Africa), Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate and the University of Nairobi participated in discussions and actions towards the establishment of a Regional Centre of Excellence in Kenya. There is ongoing discussion regarding this subject.

V. Strategic Direction 5: The maintenance of an effective and efficient administrative framework

33. The report of the First Session of the CPM was distributed to all Members. The ISPMs adopted by CPM-1 were included in the report and have also been made available to Members in electronic and hard copy format.
34. Mr Niek Van der Graaff, Secretary of the IPPC, retired after more than 30 years service with the FAO. The position of Chief of the AGP Plant Protection Service will be maintained (yet to be filled) and the new incumbent will also be the Secretary of the IPPC.
35. As anticipated at CPM-1, the reduction in Secretariat staff was a problem and a limiting factor to the successful implementation of the 2006 work programme required by the strategic/business plan. Staff requirements will be addressed in more detail under the Business Plan. Some projects intended to be undertaken in 2006 were started late in the year and will be completed in 2007.
36. One direct result from lack of available Secretariat staff was the inability to carry out the request of CPM-1 regarding the preparation of a discussion paper on aquatic plants and the IPPC. Some discussion has been initiated and the issue will be progressed in 2007.

37. The Secretariat convened three meetings of the CPM Bureau and one meeting of the Informal Working Group on Strategic Planning and Technical Assistance (SPTA). The outcomes of the SPTA meeting is reported under agenda item 10.2.1.
38. The position of Standards Officer was filled.
39. The implementation of the process for the review of authentic languages in the Convention was carried out for the Chinese through interaction between FAO translation services and the Chinese authorities (see agenda item 10.3.5). The process for other languages, taking account of existing material, will be carried out in 2007 and be reported at CPM-3 in 2008.
40. FAO provides the primary source of translation services contracted by the Secretariat. Assistance from other organizations and individuals is also sought as needed, especially in relation to ISPMs. Valuable assistance was provided by NAPPO, which was contracted for the translation of draft ISPMs from English to Spanish in 2006. NAPPO draws upon its own expertise and consults widely with phytosanitary officials in Spanish-speaking countries and with other organizations. The Arab Society for Plant Protection was also contracted for translation services in 2006 and gave valuable assistance in translating draft ISPMs from English into Arabic.
41. A Letter of Agreement with the Scottish Agricultural Science Agency has enabled the Secretariat to once again gain a part-time staff member to coordinate the work of Technical Panels.
42. The Secretariat has entered into several Letters of Agreement in order to gain the assistance of external organizations, in particular to manage expert working groups and workshops.

VI. Strategic Direction 6: Promotion of the IPPC and cooperation with relevant international organizations

43. The Secretariat was represented at a range of meetings with international and regional organizations including: Convention on Biodiversity (COP/MOP meetings), International Forestry Quarantine Research Group, International Seed Testing Association, Montreal Protocol, Standards and Trade Development Facility and the WTO-SPS Committee meetings and workshops. Specific issues relating to cooperation with some organizations are dealt with under agenda item 14.2.
44. The Secretariat continued to work closely with the WTO-SPS Committee and attended all formal and informal WTO-SPS Committee meetings. It also participated either directly, or by recommending appropriate consultants, in WTO-SPS regional and sub-regional workshops.
45. The Secretariat hosted the Eighteenth Technical Consultation among RPPOs at FAO headquarters in Rome. Due to lack of available staff or resources, the Secretariat was unable to attend the annual meetings of any of the RPPOs.
46. The Secretariat has continued to liaise with the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and Codex Alimentarius on issues of mutual interest.

VII. IPPC-related activities undertaken by the FAO Plant Protection Officers

47. The FAO Plant Protection Officers are technical field staff responsible for the regional/sub-regional implementation of FAO's plant protection service work programme, including that of the IPPC. Currently there are seven officers involved.
48. IPPC-related activities which the plant protection officers organized or participated in 2006 included:

Workshops

- EPPO/FAO - Invasive alien plants: case study of *Solanum elaeagnifolium* - Tunisia
- IAEA Regional conference on Bayoud disease - Field evaluation of bayoud-resistant date palm mutants - Algeria
- CIHEAM-FAO meeting - The Harmonized programme for the control of Citrus Tristeza Virus and its vector *Toxoptera citricida* in the Mediterranean region -Turkey
- Harmonization of legal framework for Phytosanitary, zoosanitary and food safety components (UTF/UEM/001) - Senegal
- Sub-regional training workshop on pest risk analysis - Egypt
- Second Training workshop on IPP-information exchange - Malaysia
- Regional Workshop on PRA on South American leaf blight on rubber in Malaysia
- Management of black Sigatoka disease of banana and plantain - Jamaica
- Invasive species symposium and meeting of the Caribbean invasive species working group
- Regional workshop on the implementation of ISPM No.15 - Caribbean
- 13th Regional Technical Meeting on Plant Protection - Pacific
- Promotion and Presentation of IPPC - Ninth Round Table Meeting for Pacific Island Countries on WTO and Regional Trade Agreements and Provisions - New Zealand

Regional WTO workshops

- Latin American Countries Regional Conference – Use of public and private sanitary/phytosanitary standards
- Colombia – Presentation of the IPPC

Regional workshops on draft ISPMs

- The plant protection officers were involved in all seven workshops

RPPO meetings/activities

- Inter-African Phytosanitary Council (IAPSC): 22nd General Assembly - Egypt
- Asia and Pacific Plant Protection Commission (APPPC): Standard Committee meeting on review of draft Regional Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (RSPMs) No.5 and No.6 - Thailand
- Pacific Plant Protection Organization (PPPO): Promotion of the IPPC at the 5th Regional Technical Board Meeting - Fiji
- APPPC: Strategic Planning Meeting - Thailand
- APPPC and Caribbean Plant Protection Commission (CPPC): participation in the 18th Technical Consultation among Regional Plant Protection Organizations - Rome
- Meetings with Organismo Internacional Regional De Sanidad Agropecuaria (OIRSA), Comunidad Andina (CA) and Comité de Sanidad Vegetal del Cono Sur (COSAVE)

Projects (including FAO Technical Cooperation Programme -TCP)

- Development of the draft project on *Bactrocera invadens* for West Africa
- Inception meeting and commencement of phytosanitary capacity building - Gambia
- Final workshop of TCP project (TCP/SWA/3004) on phytosanitary capacity building - Swaziland
- Regional pilot consultation on database of country profile of plant protection - Thailand.
- Technical assistance to the implementation of a TCP project on management of citrus greening disease - Bhutan
- FAO backstopping missions in Kiribati, Vanuatu, Tuvalu and Nauru

49. The CPM is invited to:

1. *Express* its gratitude to countries and organizations that have provided assistance and resources to the work programme;
2. *Note* the information provided by the Secretariat on progress on the work programme since CPM-1.