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COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

Second Session

Rome, 26 – 30 March 2007

**Announcing the Launch of a Knowledge Networking Programme in
Support of the IPPC – An Initiative under the Auspices of SADC**

Agenda Item 8.3

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Announcing the Launch of a Knowledge Networking Programme in Support of the IPPC — An Initiative under the Auspices of SADC

Information document released during the 2nd meeting of the CPM, March 2007.

Assuming the cardinal role and benefits of the IPPC in trade facilitation, SADC and a selection of partners have initiated a programme to design and establish an open alliance and network of institutions in southern and eastern Africa to support the work of the IPPC. The primary goals of this initiative are to:

- support countries still ‘in transition’ to becoming contracting parties to the IPPC to join and become active members; and to,
- strengthen the effective participation of existing contracting parties to maximize the benefits of IPPC membership as measured by reduced transaction costs and increased trade.

The Table below is compiled from statistics collected, collated and published by the IPPC. It reveals the critical requirement to enable compliance with the fundamental processes and basic reporting obligations of contracting parties to the IPPC. For example, these data illustrate that 62.3% of the Contracting Parties (CP) have not been able to submit descriptions of their NPPOs and 66.7% have not submitted their lists of Regulated Pests.

Sample population size:	All: 193	CP only: 159
<i>Description of the NPPO</i>	31.1	37.7
<i>Emergency actions</i>	2.6	3.1
<i>Entry points</i>	25.9	31.4
<i>List of regulated pests</i>	19.2	23.3
<i>Pest reports</i>	9.8	11.9
<i>Phytosanitary restrictions (Phytosanitary Regulations)</i>	27.5	33.3

Note the marginal difference between Contracting and Non-contracting Parties

Phytosanitary capacity evaluation based on the IPPC PCE tool, will reveal the critical issues and constraints that have to be addressed and overcome. The strategy will be to augment the work of the IPPC and the International Phytosanitary Portal (IPP), by strengthening the preparatory processes that condition and enable individuals and institutions to fulfill their official reporting obligations and responsibilities under the IPPC and the WTO-SPS Agreement. The initiative will also be integrated with broader national and international responsibilities to biosecurity holistically defined; see a prototype at www.africanbiosecurity.net.

A networking approach will be adopted to enable participants to pool their expertise and provide opportunities for reciprocal support in capacity building on a regional basis. The immediate practical goal is to improve the capability and capacity of participants in the network to (a) communicate amongst themselves and with the IPPC; and (b), to establish a communal database for the information required during the preparatory phase of official reporting — a clear example being the scientific information required to compile and use lists of regulated pests. As an incubator and service to enable effective official reporting, an internet-based *IPPC Support Wiki* will be established and supported by the Regional Standards Programme implemented by the ComMark Trust with financial support from DFID.

The network will operate under the auspices of SADC and will be an open-society, open-source initiative and service permitting open membership to

individuals and institutions in all three sectors of society, namely the public and private sectors and civil society organizations. The founding members of the programme are: SADC, ComMark Trust, the University of Pretoria, the Southern Africa Confederation of Agricultural Unions (SACAU) and the EcoPort Foundation.

Acronyms

CP	Contracting Party under the IPPC
CPE	Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation
DFID	Department for International Development
IPP	International Phytosanitary Portal
IPPC	International Plant Protection Convention
NPPO	National Plant Protection Organizations
SACAU	Southern Africa Confederation of Agricultural Unions
SADC	Southern Africa Development Community
SPS	Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures
WTO	World Trade Organization