**Implementation Review and Support System (IRSS) Update**

**Background**

The IPPC entered into an agreement with the EU for the partial financing of the first year of the three year cycle of the IRSS. The amount of funding agreed was the US dollar equivalent of €400,000. The first tranche of the funding (€380,000) was transferred to the IPPC in February 2011 into trust fund GCP/GLO/311/EC – Component A: Funding support for the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) Implementation Review and Support System. The initial start date of the project was projected to be 1 January 2011, however, the actual start date will be adjusted to April 2011 through a budget revision in accordance with FAO procedures. This will allow for the agreement to be modified taking into account the recommendations made by CPM 6 in March 2011. The narrative that follows provides an update of IRSS and related activities.

**A. IRSS General**

The IRSS is a crosscutting activity in the IPPC Secretariat and will involve closer collaboration amount the three principal units, i.e., Standard Setting, Capacity Development and Information Exchange. To oversee this work, an IRSS officer from the IPPC Secretariat has been appointed to manage the project GCP/GLO/311/EC. An additional officer has been hired on a short term basis in a dual role to support the IRSS and IPPC Secretariat’s capacity development efforts. An administrative staff support is yet to be hired but the aim is to have this person employed by August 2011. Additional consultants will be hired as the IRSS programme develops and the tasks become more identifiable.

**IRSS implementation review system**

* Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation: A number of PCE’s are currently being implemented globally using the new version of the PCE. A guidance document for the application of the PCE was developed and is available for circulation. The IRSS will access anonymously PCE data to undertake trends analysis regarding ISPMs implementation globally. The IRSS data will be useful for both the Standard Setting and Capacity development programmes of the IPPC Secretariat.
* IRSS questionnaire: The IRSS questionnaire is being circulated to the EWG Capacity Development members for comments. The questionnaire was circulated to RPPOs for comments, but no comments were received. Consequently, the questionnaire will be finalized following the comments from the EWG, SBDS and circulated to NPPOs and RPPOs.
* International Phytosanitary Portal (IPP): Data contributed to the IPP as part of their basic or additional reporting activities will be analyzed and will assist in the review activity of the IRSS.
* Regional Plant Protection Organizations**:** The IRSS will engage the RPPOs to ensur**e** their members complete the IRSS questionnaire. One region has an ISPM implementation query facility for some years; the IRSS will build on the lessons learned from that activity to enhance the IRSS questionnaire.

**IRSS support system**

The IRSS officer is working closely with the Implementation Officer for the establishment of:

* Projects database: The concept was developed and presented to CPM6. The EWG was involved in providing data to populate the first version of the tool. The information exchange unit will further develop the tool for deployment later in the year.
* Experts roster: The concept is developed and presented to the EWG on capacity development in May 2011. The concept is being finalized and the Information Exchange team will be supporting its development and deployment on the IPP.
* Call for technical resources: The IPPC Secretariat received the approval for a project to develop manuals, standard operation procedures and training kits for use by the global phytosanitary community. The products of this project will be posted on the IPP resource page and will be available to all contracting parties. A call will be issued shortly for NPPOs, RPPOs and technical institutions around the world to contribute material. These will be an invaluable resource for the IPPC Help Desk function of the IRSS.
* Help Desk: the Help Desk will be developed once the functions and processes become more clearly defined.

**B. Interaction with the three principal units of the IPPC Secretariat**

**1. Standard Setting**

* In May 2011, the IRSS officer gave an overview of the IRSS to the Standards Committee. The SC was invited to comment on the IRSS and to provide concrete ideas where the IRSS could enhance the work of the SC. A single proposal was made for the IRSS to investigate challenges faced by countries for review of ISPMs Nos. 6 and 8 so that they can be considered when drafting the specifications. However the final decision of the SC was to focus the IRSS study to ISPMs 4 and 6. The IRSS officer decided to investigate challenges for ISPMs 4, 6 and 8 and to report to the SC through the electronic decision making system before the SC meeting in November.

**2. Capacity Building**

* The IRSS officer provided an overview of the IRSS to the EWG and invited them to brainstorm ideas where the IRSS could enhance the implementation of ISPMs. The EWG agreed the following:
  + The EWG will provide comments on the IRSS questionnaire prepared under the project. The EWG member from the Asia region agreed to contact the APPPC requesting that it shares its experience in a similar activity conducted biannually for its member countries, with a view to improving the questionnaire.
  + A six months case study on “Implementation challenges of ISPM No.6” could be conducted under the IRSS program, on a regional basis, with support of the regional representation in the EWG. The EWG will draft TORs for the conduct of the case study and agreed that this work could complement the future review of this ISPM.
  + The EWG would assist in the implementation of the Help Desk in an advisory capacity, in particular when addressing regional concerns.
* The EWG advised on the modalities for concrete contributions to the implementation of the IRSS program and proposed the following:
  + That the EWG will be the steward of the IRSS programme as there is a direct link between the review and support system and the implementation mandate of the EWG. The EWG considered that the EWG is the natural fit for providing oversight to the IRSS program development.
* Given the proposal of the EWG, the Bureau should give careful consideration to the general supervisory mechanism for the proper execution of the IRSS. The project on the IRSS envisions the establishment of a Triennial Review Group, which could be comprised of members of the subsidiary bodies of the IPPC, the WG on Capacity Development and the IPPC Secretariat.

**3. Information exchange**

The information exchange team of the Secretariat is supporting the IRSS in the following ways:

* The establishment of an IRSS page on the IPP;
* the placement of the Help Desk has yet to be decided by the Secretariat. In the next quarter 2011 this will be worked out and the final mechanism reported to the Bureau in October 2011.
* The establishment of an IPPC resource centre that will support Help Desk functions. The page will include Technical resources, Media, tools, advocacy materials
* Analysis of IPP official contracting party reporting data
* Programming support for the PCE, projects and activities database, experts roster and Help Desk Help Desk utility