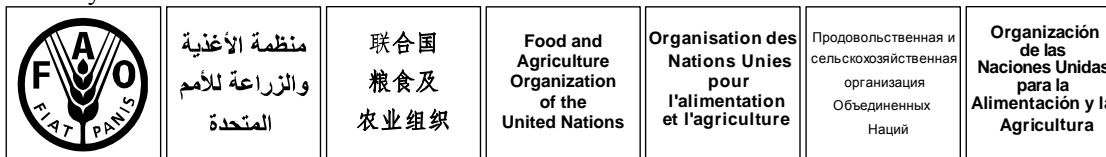


February 2012



# COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

## Seventh Session

Rome, 19 - 23 March 2012

### Report of the Open-ended Workshop on the International Movement of Grain

#### Agenda item 8.1.8 of the Provisional Agenda

1. At the third session of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) in 2008, *International movement of grain* (2008-007) was added to the List of topics for International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) standards.
2. At the CPM-4, based on recommendations by the Standards Committee (SC), the Secretariat presented the List of topics along with proposed adjustments including a proposal to change the priority of the topic, *International movement of grain* (2008-007), from normal to high. A number of members proposed to keep the normal priority, pointing out that there were already too many high priority topics considering the limited resources of the Secretariat. Other members noted, however, that this topic had great importance especially for countries that import high quantities of grain or depend on food aid. Concerns were raised that setting the priority as normal would give a signal that this issue is not important. No consensus could be reached on changing the priority of this topic.
3. During the scientific session of CPM-4 (2009), the CPM agreed that an open-ended workshop on the international movement of grain should be convened, depending on the availability of extra budgetary resources. Terms of Reference for the open-ended workshop were drafted and reviewed by the SC in May 2009, approved by the CPM Bureau in June 2009 and noted by CPM-5 (2010) (see CPM-5 Report Annex 19). The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) offered to organize this workshop and sought support, either financial or in-kind. CPM members expressed support for the workshop and the representative of Germany reported that funding possibilities for the attendance of developing countries were being explored.
4. In the margins of CPM-6 (2011), the regional plant protection organizations (RPPOs) agreed how to move forward on the organization of the Open-ended workshop on the international movement of grain.
5. This issue was further discussed at the Twenty-third Technical Consultation among RPPOs held in Hanoi, Vietnam 28 August to 2 September 2011. It was agreed that the Asia and Pacific Plant

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Protection Commission (APPPC) and the North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO) would collaborate on the organization of this workshop. It was decided that each RPPO would nominate and fund their own regional participants to the workshop.

6. RPPOs and the IPPC Secretariat were requested to submit comments on the draft programme developed by NAPPO. RPPOs were asked to suggest speakers.

7. Generous sponsors of the workshop included: the Federal Republic of Germany, Safe Supply of Affordable Food Everywhere (SSAFE), Cámara de la Industria Aceitera de la República Argentina (CIARA), the Canadian Grain Commission, the Vancouver Grain Terminal Association, Comité de Sanidad Vegetal del Cono Sur (COSAVE) and the North American Export Grain Association.

8. The Open-ended workshop on the international movement of grain took place in Vancouver, Canada, 6 to 8 December 2011 with 48 participants from 20 countries representing NPPOs, RPPOs, international organizations and industry, including participants representing governments from developing countries.

9. Presentations were followed by breakout discussions in small groups. Participants presented the results of their discussions. The main results of the workshop were summarized into seven broad categories (presented in Attachment 1 to this paper). The plenary session concluded that guidance could be offered by developing an International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM), which would target NPPOs, or by developing guidance similar to the *Guide to implementation of phytosanitary standards in forestry*, which was developed by the Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) Forestry Department with input from the IPPC Secretariat; this type of guidance would assist the international grain industry and NPPOs. Additionally, a combination of the two approaches could be considered by the CPM.

10. The full report of this workshop is posted on the International Phytosanitary Portal: (<https://www.ippc.int/index.php?id=1111060>).

11. The CPM is invited to:

- 1) *Thank* the following sponsors who provided support and funding to hold this workshop: the Federal Republic of Germany, Safe Supply of Affordable Food Everywhere (SSAFE), Cámara de la Industria Aceitera de la República Argentina (CIARA), the Canadian Grain Commission, the Vancouver Grain Terminal Association, Comité de Sanidad Vegetal del Cono Sur (COSAVE) and the North American Export Grain Association.
- 2) *Thank* NAPPO for providing the lead and the APPPC, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) and other RPPOs for their support in the organization of this workshop.
- 3) *Discuss* the main results of the workshop.
- 4) *Decide* how to move forward on the topic of the international movement of grain.

**Attachment 1****Main Results of the Open ended Workshop on the International Movement of Grain**

*Vancouver, Canada, December 2011*

The key discussion points, grouped into general categories, are as follows:

**1. Quality versus quarantine issues**

- Quarantine issues are the responsibility of the National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO) whereas quality issues are mainly the responsibility of the industry
- Need to clearly distinguish between quarantine issues and quality issues, food safety issues and approved Living Modified Organisms (LMOs that have not been deemed to be a pest) to focus certification on phytosanitary issues
- Quality systems may assist in achieving quarantine requirements

**2. Pest Risk Assessment (PRA)**

- Variable capacity among countries to conduct PRAs
- Phytosanitary measures need to be based on PRAs or other scientific data. Current phytosanitary measures for grains are not always technically justified and not consistent with risk.
- Intended use of the grain should be considered in the PRA process and requirements for seeds need to be clearly distinguished from those for grains
- Consider developing focused guidance for conducting PRAs for grains

**3. Pest Risk Management**

- 3 “tick” approach
  - √ registration of the facility
  - √ inspection of the conveyance
  - √ inspection of the commodity
- Possibility to define global risk management procedures for different categories of pest
- Explore the possibility to liaise with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) for cleanliness of conveyances
- Zero pest detection in a sample does not always mean zero infestation
- Zero tolerance in case of some pests e.g. weeds is sometimes impossible
- Development of risk management alternatives for the presence of weeds
- Industry and government play complementary roles in pest risk management
- Importers and exporters play an important role in pest risk management
- Some importing countries have difficulty controlling the intended use of imported product
- Managing risk at origin may be more effective than at destination, and can help alleviate the burden of pest risk management in developing countries where there may be deviation from the intended use
- Importing countries may have to safeguard transport to storage and processing facilities
- Equivalent internationally accepted sampling procedures in the export and importing countries are needed for grain
- Traceability may not be practical nor feasible
- Flexibility to adapt to dynamic industry practices e.g. just in time loading, electronic data transfer, high throughput elevators
- Guidance for situations in cases of potential deviation from intended use is needed

- Guidance is needed on phytosanitary measures to mitigate pest risk for the international movement of grains
- Treatments
  - Mandatory treatment requirements by some countries are not technically justified
  - Mandatory treatments are sometimes required by contracts that may exceed the phytosanitary requirements
  - Methyl bromide has been identified an ozone depleting substance and is being phased-out
  - Required treatments need to be technically justified and economically viable
  - In-transit fumigations are difficult to certify and there are human safety concerns associated with this type of treatment
  - Recognition of industry practices or that contribute to the management of risk
  - Recognition of post entry mitigation in the case of pest detection

#### 4. Surveillance

- Surveillance is important for providing data for a PRA conducted by the importing country and is the basis for phytosanitary certification by the exporting country

#### 5. Non-compliance

- Quick and timely notification of non-compliance is important in order for the exporting country to take proper corrective action and inform the NPPO of the importing country of the outcome

#### 6. Capacity development needs

- Increased PRA capacity is needed to help improve the knowledge and expertise to conduct PRAs
- Practical guidelines on phytosanitary measures to mitigate pest risk for the international movement of grains are needed

#### 7. Communication/Transparency

- Trading partners should be notified of changes to import requirements in a timely manner preferably in line with WTO-SPS notification requirements
- NPPOs should provide single source (IPPC Contact point) of phytosanitary import requirement

#### Outcomes

There was general agreement in the above conclusions that identified the various issues related to the international movement of grain. After some discussion, it was clear that the participants had varying opinions on the concept of facility registration and whether an ISPM was needed on this topic or if guidance could be provided on how to use existing ISPMs. It was decided that these points could be further considered by the CPM and the participants agreed that the following three options could be considered:

- 1. Develop an ISPM according to the CPM adopted List of topics for IPPC standards: *International movement of grain* (2008-007)
- 2. Develop a 'best practices' type document which could include industry practices, outline the roles and responsibilities of NPPOs and explain the applicability of existing ISPMs; or
- 3. A combination of both 1 and 2.