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FOOD AND  
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ORGANIZATION  
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UNIES POUR  
L'ALIMENTATION  
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ORGANIZACION  
DE LAS NACIONES  
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LA AGRICULTURA  
Y LA ALIMENTACION

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cc: Van der Graff  
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- 6 JAN 2005

Dear Colleague,

### Information Exchange Activities under the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) during 2005

The International Phytosanitary Portal (IPP) – developed by the IPPC Secretariat and available at <https://www.ippc.int> – is an internet-based information system designed to hold phytosanitary information published in accordance with the Convention, and decisions by the Interim Commission on Phytosanitary Measures.

The system has recently been upgraded - following the recommendations of the system support group - with improved features to allow IPPC contracting parties to use the system to meet their national information exchange obligations under the IPPC.

The system can now accommodate:

1. Pest reports (Articles IV 2(b) & VIII 1(a) of the IPPC New Revised Text);
2. Description of the NPPOs (Article IV 4);
3. Phytosanitary restrictions, requirements and prohibitions (Article VII 2(b));
4. Points of entry with specific restrictions (Article VII 2(d));
5. Lists of regulated pests (Article VII 2(i));
6. Emergency actions (Article VII 6); and
7. Official contact point details (Article VIII 2).

The primary objective of the IPP is to provide contracting parties with a single, freely-accessible portal to meet their obligations to publish official phytosanitary information. However, in cases where a country already publishes information relevant to a particular reporting obligation, the IPP can incorporate links to the relevant authoritative official website.

Data can be entered to the IPP by the Official contact point, or by an officially-nominated information officer. Individual countries should liaise with the IPP manager (see below) regarding the password-protected user accounts required in order to meet their data entry needs.

To support contracting parties, the IPPC Secretariat is arranging a series of regional and sub-regional workshops (as resources allow) during 2005. The purpose of this training will be to explain national phytosanitary information exchange obligations, and to provide basic training to Official contact points (and/or nominated information officers) on how to use the IPP to meet these obligations.

The programme of workshops is still being finalized - invitations will be sent to Official contact points by regional organizations as these workshops are organized.

Should your Government require technical assistance in the area of phytosanitary information exchange, we suggest you make this request through the normal FAO channels. Should you require further information on the IPP – or information exchange in general - I suggest you contact the IPP Manager directly:

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Yours sincerely,



N.A. van der Graaff  
Secretary

International Plant Protection Convention