

**REPORT OF THE IPPC WORKSHOP ON DRAFT STANDARDS  
PACIFIC PLANT PROTECTION ORGANISATION  
9-11 September, Nadi, Fiji**

**1. OPENING SESSION**

PPPO Secretariat welcomed delegates and acknowledged their efforts in making time to travel to Fiji for this important IPPC workshop on ISPM Standards. A prayer then followed.

**Welcome remarks**

PPPO Chair, Mr Ngatoko Ngatoko said a few words of welcome and as one of three Pacific representatives on the Standards Committee, he informed the meeting since the last CPM of name change from ISBM meetings to IPPC workshops.

**Opening Address**

Acting Director LRD, Mr Sairusi Bulai warmly welcomed delegates to Fiji on behalf of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community's Director General, Dr Jimmie Rodgers. He noted the significance of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) regional consultation on the international standards for phytosanitary measures (ISPM).

He said the work of IPPC in protecting cultivated plant resources from pests to help improve trade is in line with one of the pillars of SPC objectives on sustainable environmental development and under our new LRD strategic plan objective on sustainable management of land, agriculture and forestry resources, as well as aligning with MDG 7 to ensure environmental stability; thus, our full support for this Meeting.

In this modern age of speedy international travels, there is a significant increase in volumes of trade crossing borders, and as people and commodities move around the world, living organisms that present risks to plants, travel with them as well.

New pest incursions cost governments, farmers and consumers billions of dollars every year. Once a pest is established, eradication is often impossible or very costly, trade is suspended, and food security can be compromised. On-field pest control and management can add significantly to the production costs, which could make one's operation or industry uneconomical.

Given the very limited resources Pacific island countries have, and also the few produce that we can sell, this is something that we really do not need. You have heard a lot about the experiences of the taro industry in Samoa, and here in Fiji, we are facing challenges with the termites and the American iguana that have been introduced into the country.

He said in the Pacific, no island is self-sufficient in terms of the diversity of its crops and trees. We need to share and exchange plant and animal germplasm to be able to cope with the challenges of climate change, pests and diseases and changes in market demands, and so on.

SPC through the Centre of Pacific Crops and Trees (CePaCT), is assisting its members conserve, develop and distribute crops and varieties that are urgently needed by our countries for food and trade. But for this to work i.e. to ensure these

materials are received and distributed in an efficient and safe manner requires a lot of support from people like you, the NPPOs. Unfortunately, in some cases, some actions, albeit of best intentions, are not assisting our countries get the right kind of planting materials on time that will best support their efforts in food security and trade, especially in the face of climate change.

He noted the PPPO Executive Committee meeting immediately after the IPPC workshop, to focus on budgeting and workplans.

### **Introductions**

Delegates from Tokelau, Niue, American Samoa, French Polynesia, Samoa, Tonga, Kiribati, Nauru, Palau, Fiji, PNG, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Guam, New Zealand, New Caledonia, Tuvalu, Cook Islands, United States, FSM and Australia.

### **Adoption of agenda**

The agenda was adopted.

### **Election of Chair and Rapporteur**

SPC to be meeting rapporteur.

### **Report of the Regional Workshop on Draft ISPMs, September 2012, Nadi, Fiji**

The report was presented to delegates and minor amendments incorporated. The report was then moved and adopted.

### **Purpose of workshop**

Mr Ngatoko provided a brief background on the IPPC workshop which was basically to allow the Pacific region to review draft ISPMs and draft comments to submit to the IPPC. The meeting will also consider phytosanitary measures relating to trade such as the on-line reporting system, and the single windows approach to efficient trade. The PPPO ExCo meeting is being held back to back with the IPPC workshop.

## **2. Updates on CPM8 from IPPC Secretariat, Dr John Hedley**

IPPC with 179 members hold annual meetings in Rome. The Commission assists with financials for members to attend otherwise there will be no quorum. The annual CPM meetings are usually attended by less than 120 member countries. The new procedure for deciding Bureau Chair was explained, with the current chair representing the European countries. Bureau Chair changes every two years. There was mentioned of the standards setting process which is very complicated, it is a highly transparent process thus its inherent complexities.

Information was noted on the improved process for registering the IPPC symbol, as well as adoption of Communications Strategy.

Delegates heard of progress on sea containers, where annually 500 million containers move around globally. As well as discussion on grain and ePhyto.

Discussed a bit on financial position of IPPC with just under 20 countries (including EC) contributing.

Mentioned of FAO re-structuring requiring IPPC reporting direct to Assistant DG. New working relationships being established CBC, CABI, WTO.

### **3. Update on new standard setting process (Sally Jennings)**

Presentation on how to participate in the IPPC Standard Setting Process outlined in four stages: development of the List of Topics for IPPC standards with a call for suitable topics, those submitting topics must include a specification which provides information on practical, economic, environmental and strategic elements. The specification allows the IPPC to ensure they get the right experts to draft the ISPM and provides scope and content to the Expert Drafting Group (EDG).

Once approved for the topics list, the members have the opportunity to comment on the Specification through the consultation period. The Standards Committee (SC) then approves the specifications and a call for experts is made.

Stage two is the drafting of the ISPM; the EDG is initially give a one week meeting to start the drafting process, more work is undertaken using internet etc. Once the draft is completed, it is then reviewed by the SC who will decide whether to approve it for member consultation, return it for more work or put it on hold.

In the third stage consultation on the Standard is undertaken by contracting members and their stakeholders and other interested parties, it lasts for 150 days. The IPPC contact point is then required to submit those comments to the IPPC. If the SC recommends the ISPM will then go out for member consultation for a Substantial concerns commenting period (SCCP).

In the final stage the SC approves the ISPM and all the substantial concerns have been addressed it will be sent to the CPM for final approval. Generally the process for an ISPM development will take around 5 years.

### **4. Information on expert consultation on cold treatments**

Expert Consultation on Cold Treatments held in Argentina 2013. Talked a bit on the history on the development of cold treatments with first paper in 1896 and in 1937 countries started to use broadly the cold treatment for application to fruit during shipment.

Historically, covered main scientific work in development of cold treatments with Hooper in 1907 and De Lima in 2007.

Products mainly using cold treatments against pests such as orange, stone fruit, lemon, mandarin, and the like.

Discuss current process calling for expert consultation on cold treatments. The objective is to provide a forum for researchers to share information, network and discuss methodologies. Three broad sessions: general, operational and efficacy.

### **Review and discussion of standards**

#### **5. 1<sup>st</sup> draft Standard: management of pest risks associated with the international movement of wood (2006-029)**

General comment – the Standard is descriptive in outlining a number of types of wood used. It would be preferable if the standard included the requirements for treatments.

Line 61 – extended Insects to two columns

Line 82 – replace ‘would’ with ‘may’, end of 1<sup>st</sup> sentence.

Line 99 - However, plywood that has not undergone chemical heat treatment associated with manufacturing or processing may still pose a risk.

Line 183 – add to 2<sup>nd</sup> sentence .....because of one or number of the following reasons re-infestation or contamination as.....

**6. 2<sup>nd</sup> draft Standard: Preliminary draft: minimizing pest movement by sea containers (2008-001).** To ensure sea containers are clean for easier access passing through New Zealand or Australia. Referring to the shell not the cargo inside the container. SC reviewed and revised the draft ISPM and modified the scope to cover all sea containers, empty or full, regardless of associated cargo.

line 46: clarification of who’s keeping the documentation on the cleanliness of the container; who is sharing and storing this information;

New Caledonia wanted a checklist for NPPO Accredited Facilities for Sea Containers.

**6. 3<sup>rd</sup> draft standard: Movement of growing media in association with plants for planting in international trade (2005-0004).**

Line 32 – 2<sup>nd</sup> sentence deleted, “particularly soil or soil as a component of media.”

Line 40 – deleted ‘not yet deemed’ and swap with ‘could’

Line 45 – end of 3<sup>rd</sup> sentence delete ‘are all pest free’ and replace with ‘of known pest status’.

Line 55 – recommendation to insert an additional appendix or annex to outline the specific treatments for each type of growing media outline in lines 56-60.

Line 69 – deleted ‘regaining trust in the reliability of measures taken in the exporting country’ and replace with ‘assessing if the exporting country meets the importing country requirements’.

**7. 4<sup>th</sup> draft standard – Phytosanitary procedures for fruit fly (Tephritidae) management (2005-010)**

line 9: replace ‘insecticide’ with ‘conventional cover spray’

line 25: .....an incursion of a fruit fly ‘from getting’ into non-infested...

line 33: clarification needed on ‘Exclusion Strategies’

line 37: ... fruit fly species should be ‘determined’ (ensured) so that... trained personnel to identify ‘larvae and’ adult stages....

line 39: may include life cycle, host(s), ‘fruit seasonality’ sequence....

line 50: deleted ‘phytosanitary procedures such as’ ....., use of resistant varieties, ‘harvest at stage of maturity not susceptible to fruit fly attack’ and trap cropping.

Line 51: ... The effectiveness of orchard sanitation increases when the collection and the disposal of ‘over ripe and’ fallen fruits ‘are picked’ on hosts of the pests continuously ‘in all orchard in the infested area’.

Line 54: 'Bagging of fruit' should be carried out before the fruits become susceptible to fruit fly infestation.

Line 37: added acronym 'SIT'

Suggest adding another section. 3.9. Conventional Cover Spray control method.

The application of insecticides using appropriate equipment to suppress population of fruit flies in an infested area. The insecticides are usually applied thoroughly on all parts of plants, especially foliage and in orchards to kill fruit flies that are present on the crop.

## **8. DRAFT AMENDMENTS TO ISPM 5: GLOSSARY OF PHYTOSANITARY TERMS (1994-001)**

These amendments include some additions, some revisions, some deletions and a short note on the understanding of the term 'plants' in the IPPC and its ISPMs. Additions are 'exclusion' and 'production site'. Revisions: point of entry, systems approach, suppression, eradication, containment, and control, quarantine station, area of low pest prevalence, etc. Deletions: occurrence, organism, naturally occurring restriction, protected area, controlled area and contaminating pest.

## **9. National Reporting Obligations (NROs)**

One of 3 pillars of the International Framework for Protection of Plants from Pests. Primary reporting responsibilities are the NPPOs. Discussed benefits of NROs to IPPC such as trade and communications/awareness. NROs to CBM and WTO. The basis of NRO is a single IPPC contact point, thus allowing the Secretariat to support countries and RPPOs. Reporting obligations to include description of NPPO, points of entry (restrictions for plant and plant products), list of regulated pests, and emergency actions.

## **10. IRSS helpdesk ([www.irss.int](http://www.irss.int)) and provision of answers to IRSS questionnaire (John Hedley)**

Primary objective of IRSS project is to facilitate and promote the IPPC and ISPMs. This is EU funded and ending in March 2014. Operates through two components: Component 1, the Implementation Review System (IRS); and Component 2, the Implementation Support System (ISS). There was explanation on how IRSS help NPPO. Pointed out the IRSS webpage with direct access to useful resources found on the International Phytosanitary Portal. Similar to the Irdhelpdesk, the on-line platform question and answer service. NPPOs were kindly asked to comment on their experiences with IRSS, to respond to the IRSS survey, and how IRSS project can help NPPOs.

## **11. Invasive Alien Species and IPPC**

NPPOs have the authority and responsibility to regulate IAS/pests. Regulation of pests/IAS based on the IPPC science-based framework are recognized by the WTO/SPS. CBD COP 11 encouraged members to strengthen collaboration on managing IAS. It was clearly pointed out of how IPPC have some clear advantages for dealing with IAS with its mandate to protect plants from pests, its international recognition and regional networks. There was discussion of when does a pest become IAS and the NPPOs responsibilities relating to IAS include: surveillance – a key first step for pests and IAS; pest risk analysis (including environmental impact); decide what pests to regulate, based on risk; report on pest outbreaks, including communication with neighboring countries. Pointed out ISPM 5 and 11 relating to IAS. Mentioned of three recommendations of the 2012 STDF Seminar on international trade and IAS. Requested NPPOs to get to know CBD and work with national mechanisms for closer integration with IAS.

SPC pointed out of several regional groupings handling IAS such as SPREP with environment related IAS like rodents, mynah bird and SPC with agricultural weeds, plant pests and invasive ants. The Pacific Island Invasive Partnership and

the Pacific Island Initiative are the two regional forums address this issue for the Pacific.

## **12. Update on electronic certification**

ePhyto update: not mandatory but an option in issuing phytosanitary certificates. It ensures consistent data interpretation and conformity, and guards against fraud. It is appended to ISPM 12 now under review for adoption at CBM 9 (2014). The Standard ensures all messaging from partners have the same consistent structure. Comments close in October 2013.

## **13. Update on use and management of the phytosanitary ([www.phytosanitary.info](http://www.phytosanitary.info)) resources page.**

This is a useful resource on phytosanitary matters available to contracting parties and to the general public. Developed as an output for the support component of the IRSS system. In 2011 nearly 400 manuals, guidelines, reports, handbooks, links have been received by IPPC and available on the website. The materials are professionally vetted but with a disclaimer the resources are not endorsed by CPM. Outlined procedure to review technical resources, and NPPOs are encouraged to contribute resources. Also available is a newly launched Roster of Consultants (on-line database on service providers on phytosanitary issues, and e-learning course on pest risk analysis). The IPPC encourage all IPPC contracting parties, RPPOs and relevant organizations to Contribute with phytosanitary technical resources (in any language); review the data for their countries and update the projects and activities databases regularly; encourage your country's best expertise to upload their profile to the Roster of Consultants; to use the Roster of Consultants.

## **14. Single windows and other approaches for efficient trade**

### **Refer to presentation**

Global Trade: our world depends on trade – for economic growth, food security, and more. Trade is growing in volume and complexity. Challenge of commodities going through ‘multiple-windows’ such as customs, plant health, animal health, food safety, fumigation certificate, and many more. There are overlaps between many agencies and ministries; logistical inefficiencies are bad for business, and inefficiencies increases prices. Thus are significant barriers to trade with WTO interested to increase efficiency. This approach brings together the many ministries and agencies involved in export certification and import verification. Desired result is reduce duplication of work (such as inspections); reduce delays to import/export of goods; avoid unnecessary increases in costs for trade. Each country's approach would be different depending on trade priorities, governance structure, extent of high-level commitment for cooperation between ministries and agencies, regulatory concerns. The single windows becomes a one-stop centre for imports and exports documentation and inspection; integration of manual or digital certification systems. The global trade system is changing and countries' systems will adapt; NPPOs need to adapt to reality while maintaining their responsibilities of pest risk to plants still a central concern; preventing pest intro and spread remains the NPPO's responsibility – stay involved in the import/export processes even if they are changing in your country! Is integration of customs and other regulatory agencies being discussed in your country?

## **15. Online Comment System (OCS)**

The Online Comment System (OCS) was established by the IPPC in 2011 as the information exchange platform for NPPO contact points. It is internet based, simple, effective and a user-friendly reporting system that allows IPPC stakeholders to submit comments on draft standards. While the Contact Points are the designated users to submit

comments, the system also allows different user categories that assist the Contact Points compile, edit, verify and share comments submitted by each contracting party. The OCS is a dynamic tool allowing contact points to manage users, manage documents and assign the lead, assistants and reviewers to assist with draft documents and/or standards for submission to the IPPC Secretariat and thus allows each NPPO to effectively participate to the international standard setting process.

Delegates were demonstrated how to use the system on-line including a video on how to submit comments.

#### **16. Draft regional standard: minimizing pest movement by soil, rock, gravel, sand, clay, peat and water from any country moved in international trade.**

Summary by Kiribati; concerned with risk posed by aggregate as importing from Fiji and Samoa; with no fumigation facilities on Kiribati and concerned with weeds not kill by fumigation process. Have one quarantine staff attached to Fiji BAF to observe biosecurity measures. Kiribati is importing aggregate for two large projects: wharf and road. To review risk assessment by RPPO for reporting in the next IPPC workshop.

Query to include water as part of the draft standard.

Tuvalu same situation with Kiribati, and have done a PRA on import of aggregate. Discussion on fumigation and viability of weeds with Fiji experience doing fumigation before exporting aggregate.

Recommend to refer to PPPO Standard Setting process to follow to submit a regional standard. The PPPO Standard Setting process was shown for review of procedures. All NPPOs have received the standard setting that introduced to PPPO 2012, and will be raised at the next PPPO ExCo meeting this week.

**17. Draft regional standard: preclearance procedures (eg used vehicle, machinery and equipment)** – The steward for this standard is Cook Islands. The Draft Standard will be submitted to SC in 2014; presently collating the comments. There was discussion around movement of military equipment and machinery who have their own code of conduct. Expert Working Group will review Code of Conduct as well. Cook Islands to send draft to PPPO Members for comments,

**18. Draft Standard on Management of Waste arriving in Vessels.** For consideration by PPPO ExCo. Samoa leading. Submitted draft paper to group. The movement and disposal of waste material is a potential pathway for the introduction and spread of quarantine pests. Waste that is subject to phytosanitary measures is referred to as ‘quarantine waste’.

**19. Draft Standard on Freezing treatment.** Introduced by PHAMA and will be further reviewed at PPPO ExCo if deemed necessary to develop a Standard.

#### **20. Regional Priorities for capacity development activities in the Pacific region.**

It is imperative that countries fill in the IRSS surveys to help form priorities for capacity development activities in the region. This is especially important in regard to implementation issues. Regional activities in the future will focus on hands-on training, so often presentations are given but to really help the information stick a more practical approach is

needed. The CDC delegate, SPC and FAO Sub-regional office will work together to develop capacity development activities specifically targeted to Pacific needs.

Current CDC projects which will benefit the Pacific region are:

1. Development of Phytosanitary manuals, operating procedures and comprehensive training kits which incorporate all these elements.
2. Training PCE trainers and in the future key individuals identified through this training will be further trained so they can then train the trainers. This is to ensure a wide coverage of trained people and future sustainability of the PCE.
3. Various courses are being developed, eg:
  - How to establish and operate an NPPO.
  - NPPO Management Course
  - Guidelines for core phytosanitary activities eg: inspection, surveillance and pest reporting.
  - RPPO training in how to run meetings, and how to participate in the IPPC.
  - Orientation programmes held at CPM to up skill participants new to CPM.

FAO expressed support on having information resources available to help NPPO in their work and calling on members to submit training needs or regional projects to support the work of PPPO.



Australian Government

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

**Regional workshop for the review of Draft  
International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs)**  
9 – 11 September 2013 Tanoa International Hotel, Nadi, Fiji

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