



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



International
Plant Protection
Convention



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

The IPPC's role in facilitating safe trade

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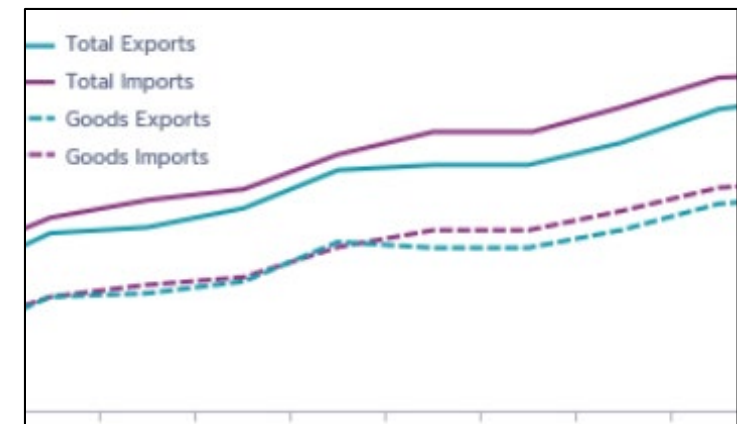
London, 21 – 23 September 2022

International Plant Health Conference



Principles

- Combined objectives of plant protection and facilitating trade may initially seem to be contradictory – in fact they are complementary, with respect to safe trade
- Various International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures cover the movement of most plants and plant products in international trade
- Basic policy test: costs of any policy must not outweigh its benefits
 - Policies and standards are most successful when there is support for, or acceptance of, them among stakeholders, or at least minimal resistance
 - Ensuring that the facilitation of safe trade is part of standard-setting is therefore critical
- Managed risk is unifying principle
- Predictability in a dynamic environment supports economic activity
 - Standards can provide this predictability and a level of stability
 - Businesses can plan and act with more certainty and reduced commercial risks
- Plant protection remains a fundamental objective of any given IPPC standard



Framework within which IPPC guidance operates

Rules-based approaches for international trade relating to plant health include:

- World Trade Organization Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary (“SPS Agreement”)
- The WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement
- International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), New Revised Text – 1997
 - Similar to SPS Agreement on technical justification and minimizing unnecessary impediments
 - Provisions (obligations) for National Plant Protection Organizations
- International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs)
- Individual contracting party legislation regarding import and exports

Back to principles:

- In the IPPC context, developing standards for the movement of plants and plant products can be considered as “discipline” rather than “restrictions”
- As well as preventing the spread of pests, standard-setting may also be viewed as “multilateral regulatory cooperation” and “equivalency”



Convention, standards, intent, implementation

- IPPC convention text (New Revised Text – 1997)
 - Consistent with SPS Agreement
 - Recognises that phytosanitary measures should not be applied in a way that unnecessarily restricts trade
 - In establishing import requirements, certain obligations to minimize interference with international trade and not to unnecessarily impede international trade
 - Includes article on resolving trade disputes
 - And article on supplementary agreements that may promote the Convention, which also highlights the need to avoid unnecessary restrictions to trade
- Facilitating Safe Trade 2019 – 2021 Action Plan
- IPPC Strategic Framework 2020-2030
 - Includes strategic objective to facilitate safe trade, development and economic growth
 - Numerous aspects of the eight development agenda themes support facilitation of safe trade



Two examples of current IPPC work with significant trade linkages

- **Development of Commodity Standards**
- **Sea Containers pathway**



Development of Commodity Standards

- Began with a “safe trade-facilitation focus”
 - Expert group approach then worked on ensuring that plant protection is not compromised while maintaining the trade-facilitation focus
- The standard is based on support importing and exporting countries engaging on new market access
- Facilitates important background risk management through:
 - Identification of commonly regulated pests
 - Identification of commonly used, effective, measures for clearly defined plant-based commodities moving in international trade
- Overall objective is to provide for prompt and easier identification of effective measures that will allow for decisions and implementation of import requirements in reasonable time frames



Sea Containers pathway

- Work began with a plant protection focus
 - Potential impacts on logistics and, therefore, trade very quickly became clear
 - The need to focus on facilitating safe trade facilitation is readily apparent
- Complex, challenging scenario (even more so than was wood packaging)
 - Covid-related supply chain impacts provided stark examples of what negative effects could be like if we get related IPPC guidance wrong
 - A real test of balancing measures against impacts
- IPPC sparing no effort in trying to avoid negative impacts while reducing risks to plant health
 - Sea Containers Task Force
 - International Workshop on Sea Containers
 - CPM Focus Group on Sea Containers
 - IPPC Secretariat engagement with other international organizations
 - Through all of these channels: close engagement with industry to understand challenges, complexity and sensitivity of logistics operations



Next steps

- The **IPPC Strategic Framework** is intended to extend to cover the remainder of the decade
- Facilitating Safe Trade is one of its key strategic objectives
- CPM Mission: protect global plant resources and facilitate safe trade
- Goals include: countries having the capacity to . . . minimize the impacts of pests on food security, trade, economic growth, and the environment
- Recognition that use of effective measures, by reducing the frequency of plant pests moving in trade, will facilitate (safe) trade
- Examples of desired outcomes and plans presented
- Adaptability in its implementation . . .





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Thank you

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