



International Plant Protection Convention

ToRs and RoPs for IPPC NRO Advisory Group.

Background

The Eighth Session of CPM (2013)¹ agreed to the establishment of an IPPC national reporting obligations (NRO) advisory group (NROAG) to provide assistance to the IPPC Secretariat with the review the IPPC NRO programme and development of a revised stepwise work plan aimed at improving members' capacity to meet their NROs under the IPPC.

Objectives

The NROAG will work with the IPPC Secretariat with the objectives of:

- developing a revised NRO work programme for presentation to CPM-10 (2015), including a suggested prioritized and stepwise approach, and
- specifically working with the Secretariat and contracting parties to ensure increased reporting of pests and lists of regulated pests.

Tasks

1. NROAG will work with the Secretariat to the review of the existing IPPC NRO programme, including:
 - a. the identification of barriers and issues which have been the cause of limited reporting in the past, particularly the limitations inherent in developing comprehensive regulated pest lists;
 - b. the review of background documents and papers submitted by contracting parties (CPs) (e.g. IRSS surveys and conclusions) to ensure consideration of CPs' views, experiences and evolving needs as they relate to pest reporting and developing regulated pest lists;
 - c. providing a report on status of NRO programme to CPM-9.
2. NROAG with the Secretariat to revise the IPPC NRO programme to facilitate CPs to meet their NROs by:
 - a) revising the legal basis for the mechanisms of reporting, including through Regional Plant Protection Organizations (RPPOs), and possible role of the IPPC Secretariat in ensuring the accuracy of data on the IPP – location, format and quality of data;
 - b) revising appendix XV of ICPM-5 (2003) report on NRO provisions in the convention and include all ISPMs adopted since 2002 – this review should identify gaps and possible improvements for existing ISPMs and the IPPC;
 - c) analysing the value of fulfilling obligations and purpose of the convention, including, whether it is appropriate to prioritize the provision of reporting data as determined by the IPPC;

¹ Relevant CPM papers include: CPM 2013/INF/16 and CPM 2013/CRP/11

- d) identifying the underlying competencies and functions required of an NPPO in order for it to effectively fulfil its reporting obligation under the Convention;
 - e) determining how data is provided and relevant timeframes;
 - f) determining value added services the IPPC Secretariat could provide in addition to those already being developed for reporting, including being more proactive;
 - g) reviewing existing and establishing new mechanisms so that contracting parties can readily provide the same or similar information to other international organizations, such as the WTO and RPPOs and with them to ensure consistency of reporting and reduce duplication;
 - h) advising the most appropriate way for CPs to consistently meet their national reporting obligations;
 - i) advise the most appropriate way of strengthening the role of RPPOs in ensuring contracting parties meet their national reporting obligations; and
 - j) advise the most appropriate way of communicating the reported information to stakeholders, other than NPPOs and RPPOs.
 - k) analyze the current justification of each obligation and see whether it is still appropriate given the phytosanitary changes of the past 10 years e.g. regulated pest listing, legislation and regulations i.e. determine the value of the obligations and purpose of the convention.
 - l) determine the feasibility of a bigger role for RPPOs in facilitating countries meeting their NROs and ensure this is also discussed at the Technical Consultation amongst RPPOs.
3. After the review of the current NRO work programme, NROAG will work with the Secretariat and contracting parties to ensure increased reporting of pests and lists of regulated pests.
 4. NROAG will provide advice on a NRO outreach work plan, as a component of the NRO programme, with a view to improving meeting the IPPC NRO by CPs.
 5. NROAG will work with the Secretariat in the development of the NRO report and draft work plan, including priorities and stepwise actions with timeframes, for SPG review in 2014 and subsequent consideration at CPM-10 consideration in 2015. The report will specifically address:
 - a. the benefits of meeting NROs;
 - b. the challenges which have been limiting factors in the implementation of the IPPC NRO provisions and identify areas that possibly need revision if and when the IPPC is next reviewed;
 - c. CP needs for improving pest and regulated pest lists reporting; and
 - d. Possible solutions, with alternatives, to assisting countries meet their NROs, with specific reference to pest and regulated pest listing.
 6. CPM include list of non-active members
 7. Secretariat to follow up on WTO notifications if not reported through IPP.
 8. Consider nature of sanctions or further action required.

Membership

NROAG participants shall be from contracting parties and should have extensive working knowledge of the IPPC, its objectives, its reporting obligations, and ISPMs.

The NROAG will consist of:

- One expert from each of the seven FAO regions (Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, Near East, North America, and Southwest Pacific).
- Members from other bodies: One (1) Bureau member, CDC Chair, SBDS Chair, and SC Chair.
- Experts will be coopted as necessary for specific tasks.

The IPPC Secretariat will consider funding assistance for participants from developing countries with extra-budgetary resources.

The NROAG will work virtually and a physical NROAG meeting is subject to the IPPC Secretariat receiving extra-budgetary funds.

The role of the NRO Advisory Group will be re-considered once the revised NRO programme is finalized.