



## **THE IPPC IN 20 YEARS**

*PAPER SUBMITTED BY NPPO CANADA*

## **The IPPC in 20 years - A Canadian perspective**

This paper summarises the National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO) of Canada's concepts of future possibilities for the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC). It is intended to stimulate discussion and to generate ideas in exploring ways to achieve the IPPC's aims and objectives, and the FAO goal of *Achieving Food Security for All*, which is at risk from plant pests.

### **1. Prospective changes and enhancements to existing activities that could be made in the next 10-20 years to help attain this future state and may merit further analysis**

In addition to pursuing strategic planning approaches to bring about broad changes, it is important to pursue continuous improvement in relation to existing activities during this period. Significant enhancements could be realized through varying degrees of changes to existing activities, including:

#### **Communications, public awareness and advocacy**

- Stakeholders know what important work the IPPC undertakes and achievements it makes, and why such work is important. This could be supported by a collaborative communications and advocacy approach, raising the profile of all three standard-setting organizations (Codex, OIE and the IPPC)
- The economic benefits of the IPPC's work are clearly articulated and communicated (e.g., as is beginning to occur with some studies relating to urban and natural forests and ISPM 15)
- Effective communication and advocacy materials are readily available (e.g., statistical analyses and related information on the benefits of the IPPC and information on the economic impacts of pests). This should include a strategic advocacy package targeted to world leaders and policy makers. Having access to such material could help to obtain political support for the IPPC.
- Leading an annual international plant health week with Regional Plant Protection Organizations, with targeted communications activities tailored to key groups through a variety of media
- An intuitive web portal that responds to "average" users' needs. Standardizing data collection and communication, e.g., by a common risk register model, could also be of value
- Early warning systems approaches are in place, e.g., perhaps by formalizing and adopting as an IPPC tool the ProMED-plant Digest system

#### **Electronic phytosanitary certification and related services**

- Phytosanitary import requirements could be stored centrally, to improve on the current situation within which all exporting countries each maintain individual databases that may contain possibly incorrect or outdated interpretations of import requirements. A centralized import requirements database could be based on information uploaded by each importing country and, further, could automatically pre-populate the electronic phytosanitary certificates where requirements are met
- Based on automatic verification of import requirements, the system should not allow a certificate to be generated unless the consignment meets the import requirements of the importing country
- Each phytosanitary certificate automatically 'verifies' whether the requirements of any applicable ISPMs have been met and indicates this on the certificate
- An integral system for semi-automated notifications of non-compliance and follow-up

#### **Effective organizational administration**

- The IPPC is able to prioritize work on standards effectively, logically and systematically by integrating computerized algorithms and the use of "big data" into decision-making procedures to establish where plant health risks are having, or may have, the biggest impact
- Reprioritization of work can occur promptly, efficiently and logically, based on plant health risks

#### **Sustainable IPPC funding – a fundamental need**

- Nominal fees could apply to electronic phytosanitary certificates, providing large revenues
- Fee-for-service activities could be pursued in areas such as expert advice and dispute resolution
- Assessed contributions could be further considered

### Commodity- and pathway-based standards

- ISPM 15 is the “gold standard” of commodity-based standards, providing protection irrespective of a country’s plant health capacity or import requirements. Similar standards could be developed for other commodities, regardless of origin/destination, leading to a series of standards providing constant plant protection for all countries, irrespective of individual requirements
- Pathway-based standards could address a number of pests rather than individually, reducing the need for individual testing and focusing more on general measures to prevent movement of pests
- The IPPC could more actively encourage implementation of all standards through capacity evaluation/building

## **2. The IPPC of the future: an organization known and recognized on several levels**

Another approach to preparing for planning the future of the IPPC is to imagine how the IPPC could be perceived by stakeholders in 20 years’ time. Ideally the IPPC would:

- Communicate the importance of plant health in relation to economic performance, food security and environmental health and ensures that this importance is widely understood and recognized by all stakeholders (including government representatives, politicians, industry stakeholders, academics and the public)
- Be as well-known and understood, in terms of its work and benefits, as other key international organizations such as Codex, OIE, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the United Nations, the World Trade Organization, the World Health Organization, etc.
- Have ambassadors, advocates, partners and supporters in all sectors of public society, e.g., through networks of government, industry and academic expertise
- Formalize academic linkages and develop syllabi, providing a foundation for university-level plant protection education to prepare the next generation who will help safeguard plant resources
- Achieve trade facilitation activities in the context of its plant health goals, such as housing a well-developed electronic certification network
- Be recognized for its ability to respond to the needs of its members and plant health risks in reasonable time frames, and to prioritize and re-prioritize activities on a logical basis
- Be an appropriately- and sustainably-resourced, effective and efficient organization, with clear goals that are effectively communicated and understood
- Facilitate access to scientific tools and techniques and related software enhancements. In addition to addressing potential trade disputes, this may help support capacity gaps in developing countries and any shortage of experts in given disciplines, as well as result in more efficient resource usage.
- Develop standards that are demonstrated and confirmed to be effective in limiting the spread and introduction of plant pests, and which are recognized as such
- Raise the overall level of international phytosanitary protection (without introducing unnecessary trade impediments) through development and implementation of standards with basic measures for the movement of commodities, providing a constant phytosanitary protection to all countries
- Establish emergency response protocols for key pest-plant combinations
- Increase the capacity of developing countries to protect their plant resources
- Analyze improvements in technology and facilitate implementation of related enhancements to plant protection measures
- Be involved in standardizing plant health-related data gathering internationally and communication of related information
- Capitalize on advances in Information Technology and “big data” usage/analyses. Information could be collected from and shared with other organizations that conduct pest surveys and surveillance, as well as trawling internet sources for pest-related information. Such data usage and analysis could offer an early detection system for other pests.
- Continue to provide a codified, rules-based, multilateral framework that facilitates trade in plant-based commodities while mitigating potential plant protection impacts