

DRAFT SPECIFICATION FOR ISPM: Annex to ISPM 46 Commodity-Based Standards for Phytosanitary Measures - International Movement of fresh taro (*Colocasia esculenta*) corms for consumption

Status box

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| Notes | This is a draft document submitted for the 2023 Call for Topics |

Title

- [1] ISPM 46: Annex # International movement of fresh taro (*Colocasia esculenta*) corms for consumption

Reason for the annex to the standard

- [2] Taro (*Colocasia esculenta*) is a significant staple food crop across many regions of the world. Taro is critical to food security and is increasingly grown as a cash crop for export.
- [3] At the 2022 Technical Consultation among Regional Plant Protection Organizations (TC RPPOs), RPPOs discussed which commodity-specific standards should be developed as a priority. Due to the importance of taro to food security, the large number of taro producing countries that are developing countries or otherwise limited in their ability to conduct pest risk analyses (PRAs), and the lack of suitable management options for many taro pests once they enter a country, taro was agreed by the TC RPPO as a priority commodity for development as an annex to ISPM 46.

Scope

- [4] The annex should provide guidance for national plant protection organizations (NPPOs) on options, where applicable, for phytosanitary measures for the import and export of fresh taro corms. The annex should identify key pests that are known to be associated with fresh taro corms and provide a suite of minimum phytosanitary measures that may be applied to reduce pest risk.
- [5] This annex should apply to fresh taro (*Colocasia esculenta*) for consumption and should not apply to processed taro (e.g. frozen, chips, cooked).

Purpose

- [6] This annex will provide guidance on options for phytosanitary measures for NPPOs of the countries who currently, or intend to, import or export fresh taro (*Colocasia esculenta*) corms for consumption.

Tasks

- [7] Following the requirements in ISPM 46, the Technical Panel on Commodity Standards (TPCS) should undertake the following tasks:
- [8] (1) Clearly describe the commodity and its intended use. This will include confirming whether the annex should only consider the *Colocasia esculenta* var. *esculenta* variety or whether other varieties and/or species of taro should be included.
- [9] (2) Identify and provide a list of pests or pest groups that are known to be associated with fresh taro corms.
- [10] (3) Identify options for effective phytosanitary measures, including effective combinations of phytosanitary measures, against these pests or pest groups.
- [11] (4) Evaluate potential options for phytosanitary measures for inclusion in the annex and consider whether there is sufficient information on their effectiveness to support their inclusion.
- [12] (8) Liaise with the other technical panels (Technical Panel on Diagnostic Protocols, Technical Panel for the Glossary, Technical Panel on Phytosanitary Treatments) and with the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee as needed.
- [13] (9) Consider implementation of the annex by contracting parties and identify potential operational and technical implementation issues. Provide information and possible recommendations on these issues to the Standards Committee.

Provision of resources

- [14] Funding for the meeting may be provided from sources other than the regular programme of the IPPC (FAO). As recommended by ICPM-2 (1999), whenever possible, those participating in standard setting activities voluntarily fund their travel and subsistence to attend meetings. Participants may

request financial assistance, with the understanding that resources are limited and the priority for financial assistance is given to developing country participants. Please refer to the *Criteria used for prioritizing participants to receive travel assistance to attend meetings organized by the IPPC Secretariat* posted on the International Phytosanitary Portal (IPP) (see <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/>).

Collaborator

[15] To be determined.

Steward

[16] Please refer to the *List of topics for IPPC standards* posted on the International Phytosanitary Portal (IPP) (see <https://www.ippc.int/core-activities/standards-setting/list-topics-ippc-standards>).

Expertise

[17] The TPCS and other experts if deemed necessary. To assist this work there is a considerable network of taro pest and disease experts and risk analysis experts which would be drawn upon from a range of FAO regions through a Call for Expertise.

Participants

[18] To be determined.

References

[19] The IPPC, relevant ISPMs and other national, regional, and international standards and agreements as may be applicable to the tasks, and discussion papers submitted in relation to this work.

Discussion papers

[20] Participants and interested parties are encouraged to submit discussion papers to the IPPC Secretariat (ippc@fao.org) for consideration by the EDG.