



## Submissions for topics for Standards and Implementation

### 1. General information

<b>Submission number</b>	2023-007
<b>Title of Proposal</b>	Certification scheme for date-palm propagation material
<b>Submitted by</b> (Country or Organization)	Regional Plant Protection Organization (RPPO)
<b>IPPC Official Contact Point or RPPO</b>	Near East Plant Protection Organization (NEPPO)
<b>Supported by</b>	NEPPO

### 2. Contact information

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### 3. Summary of proposal

<b>Summary of justification for the proposal</b>	<p>[1] This procedure aims to provide, guidelines to set out practical tools in order to harmonize the implementation of the officially adopted Certification scheme related to the production, control and certification, storage, labeling and marketing of date palm plants deriving from in-vitro propagation (Certification scheme). The procedure should be established and adopted by the OCA, defined in the Certification scheme.</p> <p>[2] A large consultation with partners involved in the process, mainly the date palm in-vitro propagation laboratories, is needed to approve, enhance and facilitate the practical applicability of this procedure.</p> <p>[3] This procedural would provide guidelines for accrediting laboratories involved in in-vitro propagation of date palm plants. The purpose is to ensure that the laboratories meet the requirements of the Certification scheme. The control of accrediting system is managed by</p>
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	Official Competent Authorities (OCA) at central and regional levels, or by authorized entities as specified in the Certification scheme.
<b>Expected outcome of standard / implementation resource</b>	The availability of a standard and guidelines to guarantee a high standard of certification. As certification scheme existence is helping to protect against the spread of pests and diseases, secures sustainable production, promotes global trade.
<b>Contribution to filling gaps in the Framework for Standards and Implementation</b>	There is no guidelines are set clearly in a stand-alone standard of the adopted standards, or recommendations on this topic.

#### 4. Type of proposed material

<b>Proposed material</b>	Standards
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#### 5. Standard/ Implementation

<b>Type of standard</b>	New ISPM or component to an existing ISPM
<b>New ISPM or component to an existing ISPM</b>	ISPM

#### 6. Literature review

<b>Literature review</b>	There are several aspects and regulatory requirements should be considered related to the propagation of seeds and plant material, specifically for date palm. These requirements include listing the laws and decrees related to this, as well as considering the references of the date palm certification scheme, Official Competent Authorities, the procedures relating to the production of vitro-plants. Additionally, accredited, date palm in-vitro propagation laboratories, must meet certain laboratory requirements outlined in the procedure that may include organizational management, personnel, equipment documentation and environmental aspects. The importance of considering archiving system for
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	<p>traceability serves to accurately identify and track the origin of the plant material being used. Archiving is of importance to be exist this is to have an updated personnel files, which should include information about their training and responsibilities. They also need to keep records of each date palm lot production for several years, with enough details to track each lot. All these records should be kept securely and treated confidentially to protect the client's and laboratory's interests. Quality control system should be considered, as the laboratory must set up an internal control system to verify the reliability of the methods used. Monitoring and approval of laboratories, accredited laboratories are subject to regular inspections by the departments concerned. Finally, Suspension, withdrawal and renewal of approval. When the conditions for approval are no longer met by the authorized laboratory. Maintaining compliance with the approval criteria, both with regard to the organizational conditions (for example the effective implementation of the quality system), and to specific technical aspects.</p>
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## 7. Criteria for justification and prioritization of proposed topics

### 7.1. Core criteria

Criteria	Information provided by Submitter
<b>1. Contribution to the purpose of the IPPC as described in article I.1</b>	Adopting legislative, technical, and administrative measures is essential for the contracting parties to work together effectively in preventing the spread and introduction of pests of plants and plant products while promoting control measures. Regulatory requirements should be considered related to the propagation of seeds and plant material. This is highly important for one of the economic crop production (date-palm) which is threaten by the spread of the transboundary insect of red-palm weevil. Existence of harmonized certification scheme, can reduce the risk of pests moving internationally with plants and plant parts.
<b>2. Linkage to IPPC SOs and Organizational results demonstrated</b>	Over the last three decades the weevil has spread rapidly through the Middle East and North Africa, affecting almost every country in the region. In total it has now been detected in more than 60 countries including France, Greece, Italy, Spain and parts of the Caribbean and Central America. For instance, the estimated total loss in Egypt 400 million USD), taking into consideration

	the cost of replantation, removal of highly infested palms and control operations, in addition to the negative impact on 100 date factories due to reduction in the total amount of dates processed.
<b>3. Feasibility of implementation at the global level</b>	Globally, seedlings are essential for agricultural inputs, playing a critical role in enhancing food security and nutrition, fostering the growth of farmers and rural communities, and promoting sustainable resource utilization while adapting to climate change. The use of certification schemes for seedlings is growing, driven by the increasing demand for high-quality and reliable agricultural inputs. This helps ensure trust and consistency in seed standards. Collaboration among countries, NPPOs, RPPOs and stakeholders through these schemes is necessary to establish a market-oriented regulatory approach to seed certification.
<b>4. Clear identification of the problems that need to be resolved through the development of the standard or implementation resource</b>	Insufficient implementation of phytosanitary standards, lack of an effective preventive strategy and insufficient monitoring of response measures explain the failure in containing the pest. Most importantly, the clean production of propagative materials is a hot spot area to consider. The lack of certification scheme be exist in-place is a challenging aspect for seedling production in general. The availability of standard and guidelines is a promising issue guaranteeing high standards. The certification scheme protects against the spread of pests and diseases, secures sustainable production, promotes global trade. Currently, there is no global standard for phytosanitary testing labs, which are crucial for assessing the plant health. This means that the choice of labs used for these tests is left up to each country, leading to inconsistency. To address this issue, a proposed international standard is being developed to ensure that reliable and competent labs are used consistently. This standardized approach aims to resolve the problems associated with the lack of a universal standard.
<b>5. Availability of, or possibility to collect, information in support of the proposed standard or implementation resource</b>	The economic impact of red palm weevil <i>Rhynchophorus ferrugineus</i> Olivier in Egypt. (2019) Arab J. Pl. Prot. Vol. 37, No. 2. <a href="http://dx.doi.org/10.22268/AJPP-037.2.205205">http://dx.doi.org/10.22268/AJPP-037.2.205205</a> - ISO/IEC standard 17025, 'General Requirements for the Competence of Testing and Calibration Laboratories'. - CODEX Alimentarius Guidelines CXG 27-1997 Guidelines for the Assessment of the Competence of Testing Laboratories Involved in the Import and Export Control of Food CXG 28-1995 Food Control Laboratory

	Management: Recommendations- OECD : Good Laboratory Practice (GLP) - NAPPO RSPM9 Authorization of Laboratories for Performing Phytosanitary Testing
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## 7.2. Supporting criteria

Supporting Criteria	Information provided by Submitter
<b>Practical</b>	Although there is no specific standard covering certification of propagative materials. But the availability of the adopted standards such as ISPM 38 (International movement of seeds), ISPM 47 (Audit in the phytosanitary context), and ISPM 23 (Guidelines for inspection), can be helpful as guidances to consider while developing this draft standard dedicated for date-palm which is not exist as a stand alone standard.
<b>Economic</b>	The laboratory diagnostic test is a useful method for ensuring the plant health, particularly in the case of seeds. Over the past few decades, there has been a substantial rise in the trade volume of plants for planting. This trade is exceeding USD 11.4 billion. Considering the climate change and the stress to produce clean and new variety seed production
<b>Environmental</b>	Certification schemes and laboratory testing serve as a robust and reliable means to safeguard our plants from harmful diseases. By adhering to these methods, we can ensure the integrity of our plant life, both in cultivated fields and in the wild. Rigorous laboratory testing can eliminate diseased seeds, resulting in healthier plants that require fewer chemical interventions which ending up at the end to safe ozone layer for example. This not only benefits the environment but also promotes sustainable agricultural practices.
<b>Strategic</b>	The proposed ISPM aims to create a strong system for diagnostic testing labs in countries. This system will help improve the accuracy of detecting and diagnosing plant diseases, protecting the agricultural sector from potential threats. Thereby safeguarding their agricultural sectors from potential threats. It will also promote consistency and cooperation between countries in diagnostic testing practices, benefiting international trade. The ISPM also highlights the importance of capacity building and knowledge sharing. Countries are encouraged to invest in training programs and resources to improve laboratory personnel's skills and expertise. This focus on continuous

	learning will enhance diagnostic testing capabilities worldwide. Additionally, the proposed standard emphasizes the need for quality assurance and proficiency testing in laboratory diagnostics. By implementing rigorous quality control measures, countries can ensure the reliability and accuracy of test results. Proficiency testing allows labs to evaluate their performance against set standards and make improvements where necessary.
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#### 8. Financial/in-kind resources

<b>Commitment for financial/in-kind resources to support the development of the proposed standards or implementation resource</b>	NEPPO is willing to share with the experts to contribute to the discussions for preparation in developing the draft standard in the experts working group when assigned.
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