



IRSS WEBINAR The Story so Far

10 December 2021

Q&A

This document compiles the questions and answers during the IRSS Webinar held on 10 December 2021, 08:30-10:30 CET. Around 85 participants attended the event, representing 31 countries.

The profile of speakers, agenda, presentations and recording of the webinar can be found through this [link](#).

- 1. How does IRSS select ISPMs/topics for review, and how are recommendations of studies being implemented, including at the NPPO level?**

Answer:

The topics are submitted through a call for IRSS topics inviting the CPM Bureau, SC, IC and RPPOs to propose ideas for IRSS topics. The topics are submitted through the representative to the IC Sub-group on IRSS. The topics are reviewed by the Sub-group on IRSS and recommended to the IC, to be added to the list of IRSS topics with a level of priority.

- 2. The gap between developed and underdeveloped countries is large in terms of implementation of IPPC standards. Such issues need to be taken seriously by IRSS.**

Answer:

The IRSS is helping all contracting parties; this is particularly important for developing countries and the IRSS studies provide information which would also help developing countries with implementation. Our Phytosanitary Systems page really bring together all the tools NPPOs will need, sorted by various subjects: <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/capacity-development/phytosanitary-system/>

- 3. How do IPPC surveys work in post-conflict areas where there is absolutely no facility? From Somalia, I think we do not have an IPPC partnership, or it may not work properly. Our country is more vulnerable to attack from invasive pests due to our geographical location, so you may be wondering how the IPPC addresses these problems.**

Answer:

Yes, you have extra challenges which may seem overwhelming and only you can understand the true impact.

Your FAO country office may be able to provide you with some support, it is good for your national contact point for the IPPC (found on the IPP: <https://www.ippc.int/en/countries/somalia/>) to discuss issues with them.

It would also be useful, as a first step, to try to get support to conduct a Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE: <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/capacity-development/phytosanitary-capacity-evaluation/>).

To find funds to carry out a PCE, you may work with your FAO representative, or you may also apply to the STDF (<https://www.standardsfacility.org/funding>) who sometimes fund a PCE. Other donors may also be interested.

- 4. Given challenges with e-mail distributed surveys, are you thinking about other ways to assess the use of IRSS studies, etc.? Any other approaches to implement surveys to improve response rates (e.g., social media, engage RPPOs)? Have you used Google analytics to analyse IRSS downloads, etc.?**

Answer:

We're currently developing the IRSS communications strategy, which includes better promotion of products including surveys. We're planning to do a more targeted distribution of surveys to key target audiences to get higher response rates, as well as for other materials. A focus group discussion with NPPOs and RPPOs are also approaches that will allow us to get substantial, qualitative feedback, apart from Google analytics on news items, survey reports etc.

Response from participant: We're all facing the same challenges on collecting information and data to support M&E efforts. It's been helpful to engage with IPPC colleagues on these issues. Interesting ideas above, and I think a name change will help on several levels, including to increase understanding about what is IRSS.

- 5. Is it possible to introduce these valuable information and other related information to the academic system of NPPOs in order to expand that knowledge area as wide as possible, and to disseminate the plant health educational concepts?**

Answer:

Indeed, we agree with you that adaptation work can be done to integrate the IRSS tool into academic curricula, particularly in terms of mentoring and evaluation. The collaboration with University of Wageningen has, for example, contributed to develop several products such as Theory of Change and M&E Framework.

- 6. What are the IRSS' main achievements at the NPPO level. Who are the IRSS staff or members and how have they been selected?**

Answer:

You would have to ask NPPOs the first question but I hope that NPPOs have been able to use the results of the studies to help them implement the IPPC, ISPMs and CPM Recommendations. The IRSS set up a help desk which has now been transformed into a Phytosanitary Systems landing page on the IPP (<https://www.ippc.int/en/core->

[activities/capacity-development/phytosanitary-system/](#)). We hope this will help NPPOs to understand what resources are available to them to help in implementation.

Staff working on IRSS are selected through the FAO recruitment process.