

February 2012



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Продовольственная и
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Organización
de las
Naciones Unidas
para la
Alimentación y la
Agricultura

COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

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| Seventh Session |
| Rome, 19 - 23 March 2012 |
| IPPC Capacity Development Activities 2011 |
| Agenda item 10.4 of the Provisional Agenda |

I. Introduction

1. The Fifth Session of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM-5) established an Expert Working Group (EWG) to review and refine the phytosanitary capacity development operational plan and assist the Secretariat with developing national phytosanitary capacity.
2. The Secretariat prepared the meeting of the EWG in accordance with the terms of reference approved by CPM-5 (2010) and based on the guidance received from the Bureau (June 2010) on criteria for selecting participants. The first meeting was held at FAO Headquarters in Rome, from 25-29 October 2010.
3. The Second Expert Working Group on Capacity Development (EWGCD) took place in Montego Bay, Jamaica, on 23-27 May 2011. All FAO regions were represented, except Africa. Two observer organizations: the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), participated in the meeting.
4. At this meeting, the EWGCD considered that several initiatives could be undertaken immediately, even before approval of a global work plan by CPM-7 (2012), and selected priorities and activities in the format of a short term work plan. The short term work plan was noted by CPM-6 (2011).
5. The efforts of the EWGCD in preparing the Capacity Development Work Plan and the proposal for an oversight structure for IPPC capacity development have been separately reported. The following report addresses other key 2011 activities.

II. Use of the Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation Tool

6. In 2011, the Secretariat staff facilitated the use of the Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation Tool (PCE) in eight developing countries (Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Burundi, Lebanon, Lesotho, Mozambique and Oman). Some countries have developed strategic frameworks from their use of the PCE. Many donors are now requiring a PCE to be performed as a pre-condition in assessing fitness for funding of project proposals submitted for consideration, as had been recommended at CPM-6 (2011). The Capacity Building area of the Codex Alimentarius is evaluating the possibility to develop a similar tool for the same purposes, following guidance from the PCE.

7. Up to the end of November 2011, the Secretariat had received 32 requests for facilitation of the PCE application in 2012.

III. IPPC Capacity Development Projects

8. In 2011, the Secretariat collaborated with donor agencies and contracting parties in the delivery of technical assistance for capacity building projects, funded through various sources. The Secretariat primarily dealt with FAO projects, which are still a major part of the capacity development activities of the Secretariat. However, the Secretariat is increasingly involved, under a supervisory or implementation agreement, with the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) because of the need to address SPS related issues and the availability of STDF funds.

9. In 2011, 35 different capacity development projects, at the national, regional and global levels required the participation of the IPPC Secretariat. These projects are at various stages of development, funded by different sources and initiatives and requiring different types of inputs. Among them, and as the product of a focused effort of the EWGCD, a project named: "Global Phytosanitary Manuals, Standard Operating Procedures and Training Kits" was presented to the STDF for funding, by Jamaica, Sudan, Cote d'Ivoire and Malaysia, strongly supported by NPPOs and RPPOs around the world. The aim of the project is to increase the ability of developing countries to access basic national documentary procedures for effective implementation of the IPPC and its Standards. The project was approved in March 2011, with an STDF contribution of USD 600 000, to be implemented by the IPPC Secretariat.

10. Considering multiple requests received to provide tools on PRA in addition to the training course on PRA in the IPP, the Secretariat partnered with several other organizations (the Inter-American Development Bank, the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service) to develop a comprehensive training programme on pest risk assessment in Spanish and English, in the form of an E-learning course. This addressed an urgent need for training in PRA in the Latin American and the Caribbean region and has worldwide application. It could be translated to other languages if resources are available. This is the first project of its kind and represents the type of direction the IPPC Secretariat wishes to take in the area of capacity development.

IV. Phytosanitary Resources

11. The EWGCD agreed, during its May 2011 meeting, to create an inventory of available technical resources in all languages, through a call for resources posted on the IPP directed to all IPPC contracting parties, RPPOs and relevant organizations. This was undertaken in order to prioritize the technical resources to be developed through the previously mentioned STDF project and avoid overlaps. With this aim also in mind, the EWGCD prepared lists of priorities for the development of manuals and SOPs in different areas of activity of the NPPOs.

12. As of November 2011, nearly 300 manuals, reports, handbooks, guidelines, links, etc, have been received by the Secretariat and are being considered by the EWGCD. Further decisions on the upload of these contributions into the Resources page of the IPPC will be made at the 2012 meeting of the EWGCD.

13. To assist with prioritizing the resources to be developed under the STDF Project, the EWGCD is proposing to use an independent prioritization tool developed by the STDF, the Multi Criteria Decision Analysis approach. Other sources of information, such as PCE data, the requests received during capacity development activities and specific concerns of the CPM subsidiary bodies (e.g. Standards Committee) and international and regional organizations such as the WTO and RPPOs, could also be considered during this process.

14. These phytosanitary resources are going to be made available on a specific Website under the following categories: Media library, Training material, Advocacy, Databases and Tools, Upcoming events and Miscellaneous and will include presentations, photos, videos, E-learning courses, manuals, SOPs, and completed PRAs.

15. The work of IT design and collection of resources has been carried out through close collaboration in the IPPC Secretariat (Capacity development, Information Exchange and IRSS teams) with inputs from the EWGCD. More information on other activities is provided in the report on the IRSS in the sections related to the implementation support system and capacity development. These are part of the short term work plan proposed by the EWGCD and noted by CPM-6 (2011).

16. Using additional resources for capacity development through the FAO regular programme in the last quarter of 2011, the Secretariat contracted CABI to develop one study and prepare two manuals as an advanced approach to the population of the resource page. It was perceived, as a result of WTO-SPS training activities in an advanced level, that more clarity on the use of the concept of equivalence in the plant health area was needed. Justification for this study is provided in the report on the IRSS, since it was considered that this study should fit under the purposes of the IRSS to help contracting parties to implement the IPPC and its standards. Additionally under the same agreement with CABI, two manuals were produced: “A guide to market access negotiations for NPPOs” and “A manual on handling transit of consignments presenting possible pest risks”. Both issues were identified as priority for the development of manuals and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) in different areas of activity of the NPPOs prepared by the EWGCD and repeatedly requested by representatives of developing contracting parties in meetings attended by the Secretariat in 2011.

V. Development of a Separate IPPC Trust Fund for Capacity Development

17. Broadening and strengthening partnerships towards more targeted support for the implementation of the IPPC strategy for building national phytosanitary capacity is a key objective of the IPPC. The principal strategy is to build on the relationships already established with traditional donors such as the EU, Netherlands, USA, Canada and Japan, and to establish new partnerships with non-traditional donors such as the STDF, World Bank, Gates Foundation and other philanthropic organizations of relevance, development banks in various regions of the world and other bilateral donor governments to deliver the strategy outputs.

18. A general trust fund for IPPC capacity development (CD trust fund) was created in December 2011. At every CPM there is a specific call made for extra-budgetary resources to be provided to support important IPPC activities. Despite recognition of the importance of this work, CPs have been reluctant to contribute to the IPPC trust fund, which is the main mechanism to accept voluntary contributions. It is unclear why the CPs are reluctant but at CPM5 members had indicated the need for the Secretariat to provide further explanations on how allocations from IPPC trust funds benefit developing countries. Following the establishment of the Capacity Development Strategy there has been more interest in contributions earmarked for specific purposes. In this regard there was a need to create a new trust fund to accept these contributions since the current General IPPC Trust fund structure and rules do not accommodate them. This separate trust fund allows donors to deposit funds for specific purposes for capacity development and provides a platform for greater accountability on the part of the IPPC.

19. The CD trust fund will accept voluntary contributions from external partners for implementation by the IPPC either alone or in collaboration with others and for specific purposes. In the case of un-earmarked contributions, the CD trust fund may be used for any element or number of

activities outlined in the strategy so long as those activities have been prioritized in consultation with the EWGCD. Contributions that are earmarked for agreed purposes with a donor shall not overlap with traditional FAO projects. The donor may opt to establish a separate agreement with the IPPC for the administration of those funds for what is referred to in the FAO context as “baby projects” under this CD Trust fund or they may be deposited directly into the CD trust fund. Since the IPPC National Capacity Development strategy is broad this provides potential donors, traditional and non-traditional, greater scope to collaborate with the IPPC on a range of topics, knowing that all funding can be tracked and accounted for under a single trust fund or through baby-trust funds associated with it.

20. The Secretariat will provide guidance on which is the most appropriate Trust Fund to use for future contributions.

21. Due to the global nature of the IPPC capacity development strategy, the activities to be supported through the above CD trust fund may be applied to global, regional or national initiatives as long as they do not overlap with FAO funded projects. Preference will be for projects for global application. For projects or initiatives that focus on one or a few countries, the IPPC will ensure that the budget holder responsibilities are retained by the respective FAO offices in the relevant countries for activities that are to be implemented nationally.

22. Types of projects that can be supported under this programme include:

- advisory services (e.g. project reviews, provision of technical opinions, etc.)
- technical backstopping (e.g. supervision of projects, country capacity evaluations project writing etc.), and
- implementation (training, workshops, case studies and other research oriented activities, provision of expert services, project management).

23. The types of projects shall not be limited to the above but should be aligned with the table of activities envisioned by the IPPC national capacity development strategy.

24. The CD trust fund will improve participation, particularly of least developed or developing countries in training and other capacity development activities. The IPPC has established the CD trust fund to encourage donors to support NPPOs in improving their ability to reduce the risks of the global movement of plant pests, particularly in trade, by building capacity at the policy, legislative, organizational and technical levels.

VI. Future Work and Mandate of the EWG on Capacity Development

25. CPM-7 (2012) will discuss the creation of an oversight structure on capacity development. Considering that any new decision will need time for implementation, the Bureau, at its October 2011 meeting recommended that the current EWGCD membership continue through 2012; any new agreed structure and membership would become effective in 2013.

26. The Bureau felt that, considering the existence of concrete tasks under the short term work plan presented at CPM-6 (2011), as well as activities related to projects approved and under design, the mandate of the EWG should stay unchanged. A meeting of the EWG is planned for May 2012 to consider inputs from and to consult with the CPM, SC, SPTA and Bureau.

27. The CPM is invited to:

- 1) *Note* the increased use by donors and contracting parties of the PCE tool prior to developing and implementing phytosanitary capacity development projects.
- 2) *Thank* donors for their support to capacity development projects that would result in outputs and outcomes consistent with the IPPC strategy for building national phytosanitary capacity.
- 3) *Encourage* the EWG on Capacity Development to prepare new projects for getting funds for initiatives of global interest.
- 4) *Note* the current developments in terms of collecting and preparing phytosanitary resources.

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- 5) *Note* the creation of an IPPC Trust Fund for Capacity development and,
 - 6) *Encourage* donors and IPPC contracting parties to provide funds for capacity development activities of global interest and to improve developing countries' national phytosanitary capacities, consistent with the IPPC strategy for building national phytosanitary capacity through the Capacity Development Trust Fund.