



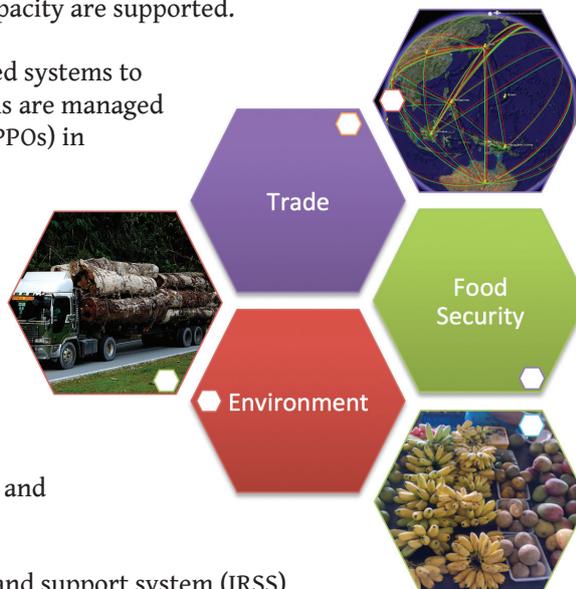
# Implementation Review & Support System (IRSS) [irss.ippc.int](http://irss.ippc.int)

## What is the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)?

The IPPC is a global cooperation agreement among 180 contracting parties to protect the world's plants from pests. Protecting plants from pests is a challenging and dynamic goal. This is especially true today when people and commodities are moving more than ever before and pests can spread rapidly through natural means, travel and trade.

Global cooperation is necessary in order to identify national, regional and global-level actions that protect plants, facilitate safe trade, safeguard food security and protect the environment. Under the Convention, harmonized standards (ISPMs) are produced, countries share pest-related information, and activities to build country capacity are supported.

Contracting parties to the IPPC have established systems to protect national plant resources. These systems are managed by National Plant protection Organizations (NPPOs) in each country. There are also regional systems, called regional plant protection organizations (RPPOs), established around the world.



## How effective is the IPPC framework?

It is important to examine how the agreement is being implemented at a national and regional level and how the systems can be improved. This will strengthen the framework and provide better protection for plants.

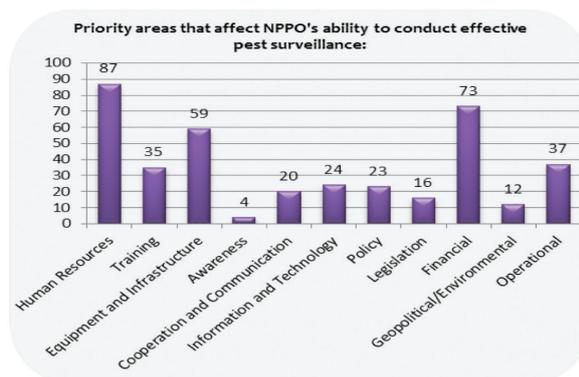
The role of the IPPC's implementation review and support system (IRSS) is to review the extent to which contracting parties and their NPPOs implement the IPPC and its standards and identify ways to support improved implementation.

## How does the IRSS review and support implementation?

The IRSS is implemented on a three-year cycle and involves two components:

1. **Implementation Review** seeks to identify the challenges that limit implementation of the IPPC and ISPMs. So far this has taken place through surveys and desk studies. New approaches for implementation review will be developed over time.

2. **Implementation Support** helps NPPOs address gaps in implementation of the IPPC and its standards. This is achieved through identification and promotion of specific actions or activities to improve implementation.



Example: Feedback from IRSS review of ISPM6:1997 (Guidelines for Pest Surveillance) demonstrated human resources and financial constraints as significant limitations to implementation of surveillance programs.

The **IRSS Helpdesk** is a component of this support system. The Helpdesk is an online platform that includes a Question and Answer Forum, Frequently Asked Questions, and a compilation of practical resources to support implementation. Now that the platform has been created, it's up to you to share your expertise, challenges, successes and resources. Visit it at: <http://irss.ippc.int/helpdesk/>

## How does this help my NPPO?

Your cooperation in the IRSS has already led or contributed to concrete actions such as:

- Development of a series of manuals including one on surveillance
- A repository of technical materials for use by NPPOs
- Informed revision of selected ISPMs up for review
- Informed the review of the framework of IPPC standards.
- Collection of information to help the Subsidiary Body on Dispute Settlement (SBDS) review its role.
- Stimulate discussions and reflection on emerging issues such as aquatic plants, internet trade of plants and implementation.
- An Implementation Review Report will be published in the third year of each IRSS cycle. The report will include recommendations for the future and including ways to build upon existing work.

## Where can I get more information about the IRSS and IPPC?

[irss.ippc.int](http://irss.ippc.int) — The IRSS webpage lists our activities and results and hosts a Helpdesk with a question and answer forum and links to relevant plant protection technical resources

[www.ippc.int](http://www.ippc.int) — The international phytosanitary portal (“the IPP”) stores official IPPC information provided by NPPOs, meeting documents, and news from the IPPC Secretariat

[www.phytosanitary.info](http://www.phytosanitary.info) — the phytosanitary resources page includes useful technical information such as manuals, photos, videos, training materials and more. All contents are screened for relevance.

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