



联合国  
粮食及  
农业组织

Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

Organisation des Nations  
Unies pour l'alimentation  
et l'agriculture

Продовольственная и  
сельскохозяйственная организация  
Объединенных Наций

Organización de las  
Naciones Unidas para la  
Alimentación y la Agricultura

منظمة  
الأغذية والزراعة  
للأمم المتحدة

# COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

## Eleventh Session

Rome, 4-8 April 2016

**Contracting Parties Reports of Successes and Challenges of  
Implementation- General Surveillance Framework supports pest status  
determination in Australia**

**Agenda item 13**

**Prepared by Lois Ransom, Susie Collins, Ranjith Subasinghe**

**English only**

1. ISPM 6 (Guidelines for surveillance) states that the information collated through general surveillance may be adequate on its own to develop a report of the pest status of an area, and is specifically applicable in determining pest status in an area as defined in ISPM 8. ISPM 6 states that information from a variety of sources constitutes general surveillance and collectively provides a level of confidence that the pest, if present, would have been detected and notified.
2. While ISPM 6 provides potential sources of information for general surveillance, there is little clarity on what constitutes records of general surveillance or how to define the overall confidence of a system that uses general surveillance either as the sole or partial source of information on pest status.
3. To better define the components that comprise or provide support to general surveillance, Australia has developed a General Surveillance Framework consisting of a set of general surveillance elements.
4. These elements have been grouped into the following components:

*This document is printed in limited numbers to minimize the environmental impact of FAO's processes and contribute to climate neutrality. Delegates and observers are kindly requested to bring their copies to meetings and to avoid asking for additional copies. Most FAO meeting documents are available on the Internet at [www.fao.org](http://www.fao.org)*

- **The biosecurity system:** Australia's biosecurity system includes activities pre-border, border and post-border which contribute to confidence in our knowledge of pest status within the country, jurisdiction or region. The quarantine measures within the biosecurity system reduce the likelihood of a pest entering the country or region and as such, support an overall system that increases confidence that the pest will be reported, accurately diagnosed and rapidly controlled.
- **Pest and/or host specific biosecurity components:** Confidence in information provided by general surveillance is increased if there is sufficient knowledge to detect the pest or its symptoms. In particular, information on whether the pest or its symptoms can be detected visually, by less specialised identifiers/collectors will improve confidence in general surveillance.

5. As many of these elements as possible must be supported with evidence to an agreed minimum standard so that a level of confidence in the system is achieved. Any additional information outside of the general surveillance elements (e.g. targeted surveillance, industry data) provides further assurance that general surveillance accurately portrays the pest status in the defined area.

6. The framework was tested using case studies to evaluate if general surveillance could be used to declare the pest absent. It was determined that general surveillance elements described in the framework would be sufficient but that it should be supported by specific surveys where it is used to claim pest free status during an emergency response phase of an incursion. The threshold of evidence required to fulfil each general surveillance element may vary considerably and depends on the pest in question and the requirements of the potential trading partner. The framework is currently being used in Australia to verify status of key plant pests.