Sea container complementary action programme

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Purpose

1. This paper proposes that the SPG takes a strategic overview of the sea container complementary programme. This programme contains all the elements of a standard IPPC implementation programme that moves from strategic planning to strategic implementation. It is essential that SPG has confidence in the basic systems used for the implementation of strategic directions. The sea container complementary action programme could serve as a pilot programme to be used as an example for later IPPC programmes eg action to address emerging issues requiring global action programme.

Background

1. The sea container programme is intended to run for five years and provides for the development of a Task Force under the guidance of the IC to supervise activities that includes the:

* development of a joint IPPC/IMO/industry protocol on data generation
* monitoring the uptake of the CTU Code
* verifying the effectiveness of the CTU Code in reducing contamination of sea containers by a survey/monitoring process
* increasing awareness of pest risks associated with sea containers by:
* publishing guidance material
* notifying industry of pest risks and possible international actions by NPPOs
* considering the consistency of regulations with the CPM recommendations on sea containers.

1. It can be seen that this programme contains:

* a management element
* a means of monitoring and verifying the purpose of the programme
* a publicity/training element
* an initial component of a compliance system
* actions to collect and collate information for a further CPM decision.

1. These are the basic components that all programmes will need. The sea container complementary actions programme has the following:

* agreement from CPM to the set of complementary actions
* the management role will be taken up by the Task Force – to be appointed by next CPM
* a number of countries are working to set up survey programmes to monitor the effectiveness of the CTU Code. (Australia, China, New Zealand)
* the IPPC Secretariat is considering the production of publicity material on the risks of pest movement by sea containers
* discussions on a compliance system involving notification of NPPOs is underway with the WCO.

1. However, this programme has some specific characteristics that make it suitable as a pilot programme such as:

* there is increasing global interest in pests carried by passengers and sea containers because of the frequency of movement. And rather than pests of plant products there is concern about pests of random association (ie hitchhikers) that can move with passengers and sea containers.
* the sheer magnitude of the number of sea container movements and the random nature of those movements (ie non-cyclical) around the world.
* many of the major players that would be involved in this programme as already aware of the interest and concerns of the IPPC regarding sea containers eg the industry bodies – COA, WSC, and relevant organisations ie IMO, WCO.
* a number of players who will be impacted by any regulation of sea containers to reduce phytosanitary risks associated with their movement, and who also have a role in promoting container hygiene, are unaware of the risks ie importers and exporters.
* an imperative to inform CPM on further decisions – regarding the need and value of an international standard to harmonise the management of sea container risks.

Recommendations

1. It is recommended that the SPG:
2. Checks the components and progress of the sea container complementary action programme so that SPG members can be assured that implementation programmes can be undertaken and,

*If progress is satisfactory:*

1. Allows future implementation programmes to be noted on the Strategic Framework

If progress is unsatisfactory:

1. Determines whether the problems are specific to the subject under consideration or endemic as part of the establishment of implementation programmes.