Egyptian Phytosanitary Policies and the International Commitments

The Central Administration of Plant Quarantine
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The Central Administration of Plant Quarantine

- Staff: 700 (technical and administrative);
- 5 General Administrations;
- Works in 37 check points (seaports, airports and dry ports) and numerous packing stations;
- Established Phytosanitary Policies Unit in 2005;
- Rules and regulations are harmonized with international commitments
- Based its operational and basic principles on the international standards and provisions
Legal Framework

- Agriculture law No. 53/1966.
- Egyptian Plant Quarantine legislation (Decree No. 3007/2001).
- Decrees of Plant Quarantine Works Committees.
- Conditions and standards of relevant international agreements (SPS&IPPC).
- Quarantine conditions of imported countries.
- Regional, bilateral and multilateral agreements
Principles of Egyptian Phytosanitary Policies

WTO-SPS

FAO-IPPC

IPPC-ISPMs
1- Necessity:
Egyptian plant Quarantine takes into account that the adopted phytosanitary measures are necessary to prevent the introduction and/or spread of quarantine pests, or to limit the economic impact of regulated non-quarantine pests.

2- Minimal impact:
Egypt PQ phytosanitary measures represent the least restrictive measures available, and result in the minimum impediment to the international trade.
3- Transparency:
The relevant information of phytosanitary measures are available to other countries through official publishing through the Official Egyptian Gazette, and the WTO-SPS notifications.

4- Harmonization:
With the aim of development of harmonized standards for phytosanitary measures, Egyptian PQ takes into account, as appropriate, international standards when undertaking activities related to IPPC
5- **Non-discrimination**

Phytosanitary measures applied without discrimination between countries as long as they have the same phytosanitary status and apply equivalent phytosanitary measures.

6- **Technical justification:**

Adopted Phytosanitary measures are based on the basis of Risk Assessment.

7- **Equivalence of phytosanitary measures:**

We recognize alternative phytosanitary measures proposed by exporting country as equivalent when those measures are demonstrated to achieve the appropriate level of protection as determined by our regulation.
8- Risk Assessment:

Egypt based its regulations and requirements on the results of Risk Assessment. No phytosanitary measures are required if they are not supported by scientific justification.
1- Harmonization with international provisions:
   Egypt’s regulations and principles are harmonized with the provisions of WTO-SPS and FAO-IPPC.

2- Implementations of ISPMs: *inter alia*
   - ISPM #1 Phytosanitary principles.
   - ISPM #2-11 Guidelines for pest risk analysis.
   - ISPM #4 Requirements for establishment of Pest Free Areas
   - ISPM #5 Glossary of phytosanitary terms.
   - ISPM #7 Export certification system.
   - ISPM #10 Requirements for the establishment of pest free places of production and pest free production sites.
   - ISPM #12 Guidelines for phytosanitary certificates.
ISPM No. 13 Guidelines for the notification of non compliance and emergency action.

ISPM #15 Revised- Regulation of wood packaging material in international trade.

3- Free Trade:
The phytosanitary measures are applied at the least restrictive level, and result in the minimum impediment to the international trade.

4- Market access:
Based on risk analysis results, Egypt allowed the entry of new commodities from new origins.
5- Human Resources:

- Extensive training courses on the WTO and IPPC principles and Risk Assessment methodologies
- New highly educated staff.
- Advanced training courses in developed countries on the daily plant quarantine work
- Efficacy tests for pre-clearance inspection teams to ensure a fair trade
6- Participations in International Events:

- Committee of sanitary and phytosanitary measures (SPS) in Geneva
- Meeting of the international commission for phytosanitary measures (IPPC) in Rome
- Regional workshops for reviewing the drafts of international standards of phytosanitary measures
Future Strategic Goals

For the full harmonization with international standards and provisions, Egypt started a twining project with the European Union for strengthening of Egyptian phytosanitary control system

Current stage: finalizing the assessment report to draft the twining fiche
THANKS