

Draft ISPM: International movement of seeds (2009-003)

IPPC Member Consultation

1 July to 30 November

2014

Background

- Seeds are moved internationally to be planted for food and ornamentals but also for other uses (research, breeding, seed increase, etc.)
- Challenges include re-export to numerous countries and over an extended period of time.
- Seeds are subject to phytosanitary issues, such as diverse import requirements, diagnostic and inspection methodologies, and measures that cannot be fulfilled retrospectively (e.g. field inspections).

General Considerations

- PRAs should identify the regulated pests associated with seeds and the relationship between the intended use and the potential for quarantine pests to establish.
- Risk of introducing a regulated pest is higher when seeds are for planting.
- Seed-borne pests may be found on the seed internally or externally, and may or may not be transmitted to the plant progeny, and if it does, it may not result in infestation.

General Considerations (2)

- Phytosanitary measures may include seed certification schemes; use of resistant varieties; PFAs; treatments; pest risk management during seed production; PEQ; and prohibition.
- Establishing equivalent phytosanitary measures is particularly important for seeds re-export.
- Because seeds may be stored for many years before export, phytosanitary records should be kept for a minimum of 5 years.

Drafting issues

- Standard applies to true seeds only (botanical seeds).
- Seed as a pathway: seed-borne and seed transmitted pests considered. Definitions added to the standard.
- The standard includes guidance for contaminating pests (e.g. weed seeds).
- The standard distinguishes the intended use between seeds not for planting and seeds for planting.
- Large vs small lots of seeds. Experts considered these and included guidance for both.



Drafting issues

- Only pests identified in the PRA as having potential to lead to establishment after entry should be considered for phytosanitary measures.
- Two areas of concern for phytosanitary certification: harmonization of additional declarations and import requirements for re-exports.
- Equivalency of phytosanitary measures is considered critical for allowing seeds to re-export.
- Some information on coated seeds is included.

Drafting issues

Use of the following terms:

- *seeds vs seed*. *Seeds* refers to the commodity class whereas *seed* is used more in the botanical sense.
- *pest transmitted vs pest transferred*. The text uses “pest that can be transmitted” because it fits better both concepts of seed-borne and seed-transmitted pests.
- *regulated pests* was used in relation to *establishment*, because regulated non-quarantine pests would already be established in the area.
- *devitalized seed* may not fit the glossary definition of seed but the concept was still retained in the draft.

Other relevant information

- A proposed Annex on forest tree seeds will be developed by the Technical Panel on Forest Quarantine and presented separately to the Standards Committee.