



## **THE IPPC IN 20 YEARS**

*PAPER SUBMITTED BY AUSTRALIA*

# THE INTERNATIONAL PLANT PROTECTION CONVENTION IN 20 YEARS

*Prepared by Australia*

## **The IPPC**

The International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) is an international agreement on plant health to which 181 signatories currently adhere. It aims to protect cultivated and wild plants by preventing the introduction and spread of pests. The Convention provides a framework for the development and application of harmonized phytosanitary measures and the elaboration of international standards to that effect.

## **International cooperation**

Although contracting parties recognise the necessity for international cooperation in controlling pests of plants and plant products and cooperate with one another to prevent their international spread, and especially their introduction into endangered areas (Article VIII 1b), there is an opportunity for further improvement on a global scale.

The reasons why international cooperation is open for improvement may be due to particular capacity or political constraints. To further strengthen its ability to address capacity constraints, the IPPC is well on the way to expanding its focus to include a comprehensive implementation program to assist all contracting parties with implementing the convention and standards.

However, to achieve further international cooperation political constraints may be harder to address. Furthermore, an underlying factor may be that the level of trust between contracting parties plays a role in limiting international cooperation regarding the facilitation of trade; to a degree this is what the ISPM try to address<sup>1</sup>.

To move forward, one could consider the cause of these political constraints, or alternatively, look at options to increase international cooperation (and trust) though enhancing global transparency on plant pests that may be a significant factor of these political constraints (e.g. perceived negative impact on trade) as well as mechanisms to address these.

## **IPPC Future-Enhancing International Cooperation**

To enhance international cooperation, the contracting parties to the IPPC, through CPM, should consider processes and procedures aimed at increasing global transparency on emerging plant pests. A possible tool to facilitate this could consist of a Global Pest Status Report- providing “live” global pest maps.

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<sup>1</sup> Standards, guidelines and recommendations are recognized as the basis for phytosanitary measures applied in trade by the Members of the World Trade Organization under the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (the SPS Agreement).

This report would be reliant on information aggregated from a variety of sources by a specialised WebCrawler gathering global plant pest information. Additional information could be gathered from a mobile device application, allowing any user to input pest information. Furthermore, in 20 years, satellite technology could allow for global hyper-spectral imaging of all plants and scientific capabilities would be far enough advances to discriminate between healthy and sick plants based on the particular plant spectra recorded (which may be pest specific).

The IPPC Secretariat would play a central role in consolidating and providing quality assurance of this information before putting it up on the IPP (and mobile device apps) as a pest report (State of plant protection -Article XI 2a).

To overcome issues contracting parties may have with the global reporting of pests, the IPPC would need to further increase its mandate to include a stronger focus on not only implementation, but also on direct technical support.

## **IPPC increased mandate**

Contracting parties will need to be confident that the IPPC can provide increased assistance following such pest reports if they are to support this. This confidence can be developed through the coordination of integrated pest management response and NPPO assistance teams (Pest control Article IV 2a Emergency action Article VII 6) to provide technical assistance as required.

CPM should also consider discussing how the IPPC could incorporate national plant protection concepts with a potential global impact such as measures to promote a shared responsibility for biosecurity, *i.e.* not just province of governments, mechanisms for risk creators and protection beneficiaries to participate in decision making and contribute to costs.

To limit any dispute resulting from pest reports, any pest identified would be assessed against the IPPC global pest DNA/genome barcode database.

In 20 years, the IPPC will also provide for the use of generic pest treatments as it will have commissioned the research to support these treatments through its R&D committee.

All these newly mandated functions of the IPPC Secretariat will be captured in an Implementation portfolio and an IPPC curriculum to be delivered throughout the world by participating universities. Scholarships would be made available to high performing NPPO member nominees.

To provide an enhanced funding base to support the aspirations above, the IPPC would transition to an independent organisation (funded by country contributions, E-phytosanitary certification and donors) as well as by absorbing the STDF, the CBD and GEF. With adequate funding the IPPC could then, as a contract manager setting clearly defined performance indicators, draw on the FAO or other specialists' capabilities.