**IPPC LIAISON, COOPERATION AND PARTNERSHIP POLICY**

1. Antecedents

In 2012, the Secretariat presented a paper to the SPG on liaison, cooperation and partnership to the SPG and received the following recommendations:

* An SPG member pointed out that partnerships must be structured, as to identify win-win options. Identifying benefits in partnering with IPPC is paramount for a successful partnership strategy.
* Another SPG member discussed the necessity to think about objectives. It was suggested to start with standards that are currently being developed (sea containers, seeds, grains, etc.), and to add the scientific world in addition to the industry world.
* The SPG also suggested contacting RPPOs and NPPOs to seek guidance on their experience related to partnerships. Liaising with private sector is acknowledged to be a complex issue, but also a potentially productive one.
* There was a suggestion to focus on partners that are involved in current projects. The SPG warned that if the IPPC goes further, there will be a need to find out what industry needs from a plant protection organization, and how much the Secretariat can commit to this effort.
* The SPG further noted that if there is a linkage with industry, there will be a need to be more active, enhance efforts to get results quickly, improve budgeting activities, and meet specific targets on time.
* The SPG suggested building partnerships with universities. It noted that it would be useful if students could get credits for subjects related to IPPC and potentially intern for the Secretariat, as this could also be a source of future staff.

The SPG:

1. *concluded* that, while resources are limited for the Secretariat, the Secretariat should pursue a partnership strategy;

2. *noted* that a significant amount of time is needed in research for developing clear parameters for future partnerships, clearly outlining mutual benefits;

3. *suggested* that research should be undertaken to find partners for the development of specific standards, and to build partnerships with universities.

2. Understanding the different situations

For the purposes of this document, the following concepts will be used:

**Liaison** - communication and contact between groups or units, and **liaison officer** - a person who liaises between groups or units. These definitions apply to the IPPC as personnel of the Secretariat staff frequently act as liaison between the IPPC and other organizations, be they national, international, public or private, and, staff of the IPPC engage in the act of liaison by establishing and maintaining mutual understanding. In the majority of situations in which the IPPC liaises, the activity is focused on maintaining or enhancing mutual understanding, rather than on any specific cooperative activity.

C**ooperation**- the action or process to work with others for mutual benefit and towards the same end. The IPPC rarely engages in cooperative activities, and only after receiving the approval of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures. Not all forms of cooperation require a formalized partnership. Informal cooperation can be an initial step to a partnership.

**Partnership**- Partnerships can range from informal, flexible arrangements to highly defined relationships based on the full sharing of risks, resources and responsibilities. The characteristics and complexity of these partnerships depends on the organizations involved, as well as the objectives, duration and scope of the collaboration in question. Sometimes, partnerships are accompanied by new financing and/or legal arrangements. The types of organizations with which the IPPC may interact should not be limited to any specific form.

1. New developments

In March 2013, FAO presented to the 113th Session of the Programme Committee and 147th Session of the Finance Committee a document on FAO Strategy for Partnership with the Private Sector and a similar document for partnerships with Civil Society Organizations.

The first document establishes among other issues, a risk management system in FAO with 3 steps and a monitoring and evaluation system, and promotes multi –stakeholders approaches as the one used for the IPPC Capacity Development Trust Fund.

1. Procedures

In the IPPC framework, the only procedure related to a partnership adopted till now has been the 3 steps approach adopted at ICPM-7 (2005) for initiating contacts with the OIE and Codex Alimentarius:

a) The Interim Commission Bureau initiates contacts with the OIE and Codex Alimentarius

b) Meetings as necessary between IPPC, Codex Alimentarius and the OIE to identify potential topics and priorities and develop draft procedures for cooperation.

c) Adoption by the Interim Commission of the potential topics, priorities and draft procedures.

This antecedent is not fully applicable to the current situation or for the future actions of establishment of concrete partnerships with industry, research, and teaching and civil society.

The IPPC needs to set a procedure for considering the examination and approval of different levels of agreement with other organizations towards working for issues of its interest.

The current situation is as follows:

Current Situation of IPPC Partnerships

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Organization** | **Level of contact** | **Legal arrangement[[1]](#footnote-1)** | **Work plan** | **Duration** | **Work plan approved by** |
| RPPOs | Partner | Legal recognition by CPM | IPPC WP | On-going | CPM |
| CBD | Partner | MOU and WP | Joint Work plan | Till one of the partners decides so | CPM |
| SPS Agreement | Partner | No | CPM and SPS Committee meetings and SPS Technical Assistance WP | No | No |

Current Situation of IPPC Liaison and Cooperation

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Organization** | **Level of contact** | **Legal arrangement[[2]](#footnote-2)** | **Work plan** | **Duration** | **Work plan approved by** |
| CODEX | Liaison and cooperation for OCS | No | No | No | No |
| OIE | Liaison | No | No | No | No |
| WCO | Liaison | No | No | No | No |
| IMO | Liaison | No | No | No | No |
| IAEA | Liaison and cooperation for standard setting | No | No | No | No |
| IICA | Cooperation for CD | LoA | No | No | No |
| Imperial College | Cooperation for CD | LoA | No | No | No |
| Ozone Secretariat | Cooperation | MoU | No | No | No |

Considering the current situation, the suggestion for CPM approval should be:

* To establish a flexible system of use of models for partnerships, based on the FAO system.
* To approve new partnership agreements on a case by case basis.
* To charge the Bureau and Secretariat to examine and approve each proposed partnership, not included into capacity development projects.

1. Legal arrangements used by FAO are MoU, Partnership agreement and Exchange of letters. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Legal arrangements used by FAO are MoU, Partnership agreement and Exchange of letters. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)