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Report on National Reporting Obligations (NRO)

Agenda item 10.4

Prepared by the IPPC Secretariat

1. The National Reporting Obligation Programme reached a milestone in April 2016 which was the adoption at CPM-11 of the NRO General and Specific Procedures¹, Quality Control Guidelines² and NRO Work Plan³. The documents were based on recommendations and guidance⁴ of National Reporting Obligations Advisory Group (NROAG) taking into account previous NRO related CPM recommendations and decisions. In 2015 and 2016 National Reporting Obligations Advisory Group (NROAG) continued functioning virtually.

2. Following that and based on the adopted NRO General and Specific Procedures, the series of advocacy and **awareness raising materials** was prepared by the Secretariat:

- The Guide to NRO offering guidance to Official Contact Points and IPP editors on NRO types and methods together with IPP data entry advice.
- Tables listing NROs (all NROs, Public NROs and Bilateral NROs);
- 13 detailed leaflets for each NRO offering concise advice and references. 4 NRO leaflets prepared in 2015 regarding benefits of reporting, consequences of not reporting and networking received a new, improved layout.

¹ See Appendix 9 to CPM-11 Report

² See Appendix 10 to CPM-11 Report

³ See Appendix 11 to CPM-11 Report

⁴ See Report of the First meeting of the NROAG

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3. Materials are available on the IPP (<https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/information-exchange/nro/>) currently in English. The Secretariat is working on other language versions to be released shortly.
4. NROAG established in July 2014 the development of an automated IPP NRO reminders system as one of the short-term goals which was included in the NRO Work Plan. As requested the Secretariat developed the system which became operational in July 2016.
5. NRO automatic reminders have been scheduled to be sent out throughout the year to the email accounts of all IPPC Contact Points with different frequency. Reminders will make references only to Public NROs (to be reported through the IPP), as well as dysfunctional links and IPP editors. In effect, Official Contact Points will receive one automatic reminder every month. For NRO categories which are strictly bilateral (e.g. Rationale for Phytosanitary Requirements or Non-compliance) no automatic reminder will be sent. The users has been asked to provide feedback on the system to be sent to IPPC-IT@fao.org. The feedback is being analyzed successively in order to readjust according to the users' needs.
6. Following NROAG advice the Secretariat has been working on delivering e-learning on NRO. So far the Secretariat prepared scripts for 5 modules:
 - General lesson on NROs;
 - Lesson on NRO: Designation of Official Contact Point;
 - Lesson on: Pest reporting;
 - Lesson on: Pest reporting: data entry;
 - Lesson on: Lists of regulated pests.
7. All lessons address specific learning objectives including learning on who is responsible for reporting, a way and timing of reporting, significance of reporting, contents of reports. Each lesson contains a theoretical part based on the IPPC Convention, relevant ISPMs and NRO Procedures together with practical exercises and learning activities that should help achieving the objectives of each module. The Secretariat will continue to work on e-learning, including testing by users, with the aim of having it released to users as soon as possible.
8. Since April 2016 the NRO Year of Pest Reporting has been taking place. The activities related included:
 - monthly NRO UPDATE, the educational NRO newsletter, has been issued every month in 5 languages concentrating on issues of Pest reporting;
 - the letter signed by the IPPC Secretary was sent out in May 2016 to all Official Contact Point reminding about the importance of Pest reporting;
 - 2 modules on Pest reporting were planned and drafted for NRO e-learning.
9. Regular assistance to Official Contact Points and their IPP editors was offered throughout the year to facilitate reporting through the IPP. Regular registration of new Official Contact Points and archiving was also carried out successively without delay. 41 new Contact Points were registered and updated on the IPP in 2016.
10. The IPPC Workshop, first from the new series of NRO Workshops, took place on 5-9 September 2016 in Beijing, China. It was organized together with the Asia and Pacific Plant Protection Commission (APPPC) for countries from the Asian region. The NRO related topics were presented by the Secretariat, and then discussed by the participants, such as: changes to the IPPC information exchange since 2011; NRO statistics for the APPPC countries; future NRO-related activities to 2020; NRO on-line training material; NRO Year of Pest Reporting; importance of networks. The Workshop also included a hands-on demonstration and training of NROs data entry. During this session participants presented new NRO reports of their countries, uploaded the new NRO reports on the IPP and worked on the development of national NRO work plans towards 2020.

11. This Workshop was the first exercise for the Secretariat to substantially strengthen the communication network on NRO among the IPPC community in the next five years (2016-2020). The Secretariat intends to organize at least one Workshop on NRO for each FAO region within the next five years in cooperation with relevant RPPOs as well as FAO regional and sub-regional offices.

12. The CPM is requested:

- 1) *To note* the update on activities related to National Reporting Obligations (NRO).