

## Consequences of not meeting Contracting Parties' IPPC National Reporting Obligations (NROs)

A fundamental aim of the Convention is that contracting parties cooperate with each other to prevent the dissemination of pests and to achieve other strategic objectives. The Convention identifies many specific NROs (including some that are bilateral in nature) that help parties achieve the objectives of the Convention. The reason for having NROs is to ensure a minimum amount of official phytosanitary information is available that can be used as the basis for ensuring safe trade, safeguarding food security and protecting the environment from plant pests. To be most useful this phytosanitary information should be accurate, up-to-date, clearly presented, consistent with IPPC guidance and in a format that is easily accessible and understandable by other members.

When IPPC contracting parties do not meet their NROs, some of the following consequences may occur:

- ◆ The lack of an IPPC contact point isolates contracting parties and prevents them from fully participating in and benefitting from interaction with the international plant protection community – this will indirectly affect trade, food security and the protection of the environment.
- ◆ When countries do not satisfy reporting obligations related to pests or measures, or provide information that is inaccurate, unclear or incomplete, it may be difficult, and even impossible, to come to agreement, or possible agreements may be delayed, on the measures required for safe trade or protecting food security and the environment.
- ◆ Lack of information on pest status or regulated pests could lead to unwarranted protective measures.
- ◆ Unwarranted protective measures, or lack of technical justification for protective measures, resulting from poor or lack of phytosanitary information, could lead to lengthy trade negotiations, limited market access and/or potential disputes.
- ◆ Inaccurate or unclear information about pest status or regulated pests could also result in ineffective measures. Ineffective measures could result in dissemination of pests with negative consequences for agricultural and environmental resources.
- ◆ Some countries perceive official reporting as an indication of successful and efficiently functioning NPPO. If lack of reporting is observed it can lead to a loss of or reduction of trust in non-reporting countries;
- ◆ Not meeting their NROs is perceived by some countries as a possible attempt to hide phytosanitary issues from trading partners or neighbours by the non-reporting countries.

The IPPC invites contracting parties to consider if/how they are meeting their NROs in order to avoid negative consequences described above and other negative consequences that may occur from non-reporting.

A substantial amount of background information on meeting NROs is available on the IPPC website at:  
<https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/information-exchange/nro/>

Where technical assistance and/or capacity development is needed to meet their national reporting obligations, contracting parties should contact [ippc@fao.org](mailto:ippc@fao.org).



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