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COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES RECOMMENDATION R-01

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2017

ENG

Recommendation on: LMOs, biosecurity and alien invasive species

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Publication history

This is not an official part of the CPM Recommendation.

1999-10 ICPM-2 established an Exploratory Open-Ended Working Group

2001-04 ICPM-3 adopted CPM recommendation *Living modified organisms, biosecurity and invasive alien species* (R-01).

2016-12 CPM Bureau reviewed and agreed with IPPC Secretariat proposed ink amendments.

2017-04 CPM-12 agreed with the reformatting and incorporating of ink amendments.

Publication history last modified: 2017-04

BACKGROUND

This Recommendation provides guidelines on the role of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (hereafter “Commission”) in regard to living modified organisms (LMOs) and invasive alien species (IAS). The recommendation also provides guidelines for the communication and cooperation with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

ADDRESSED TO

Contracting parties and national plant protection organizations (NPPOs).

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Purpose, Scope and Activities of the IPPC

The Commission *endorses* that:

- (a) The purpose of the Convention is “to secure common and effective action to prevent the spread and introduction of pests of plants and plant products, and to promote appropriate measures for their control” Art. I.1. This is done with the desire to provide a framework for the development and application of harmonized phytosanitary measures and the elaboration of International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs), and taking into account internationally approved principles governing the protection of plant, human, and animal health, and the environment.
- (b) Plants are not limited to cultivated plants and protection is not limited to direct damage from pests. The IPPC definition of a pest is “any species, strain or biotype of plant, animal or pathogenic agent injurious to plants or plant products”. The coverage of the IPPC definition of plant pests includes weeds and other species that have indirect effects on plants. Therefore, the scope of the Convention applies to the protection of wild flora resulting in an important contribution to the conservation of biological diversity.
- (c) The IPPC provides for rights and obligations supported by a system of standards and procedures for identifying pests that threaten plant health, assessing their risk, and determining the strength of measures to be used against their introduction and spread. Under the IPPC, most countries have established regulatory organizations experienced in assessing and managing the risk of pests that threaten plant health.

Although the IPPC clearly has applications to the spread of pests associated with international trade, the Convention is not limited in this respect. International cooperation in many forms falls within the scope of the Convention. The IPPC works collaboratively with other relevant organizations to avoid duplication and encourage harmonization for the implementation of obligations under other instruments.

2. Role of the IPPC Regarding LMOs and Products of Modern Biotechnology

The Commission *endorses* that:

- (a) Consistent with the IPPC mandate to protect plant health, plant pest concerns that may be presented by LMOs and products of modern biotechnology fall within the scope of the IPPC.
- (b) IPPC risk analysis and management systems are appropriate for assessing and managing, if necessary, the direct or indirect risks of pests to cultivated and wild flora and plant products that may be presented by LMOs and products of modern biotechnology.
- (c) IPPC systems and procedures are relevant to, and adequate for, managing the risks posed by LMOs and products of modern biotechnology as they relate to the protection of plant health.
- (d) The existing national mechanisms and structures for phytosanitary systems may form a basis or a model for developing other practical approaches to managing risks associated with LMOs and products of modern biotechnology.

3. Necessity of Drafting SPMs Regarding LMOs and Products of Modern Biotechnology

The Commission *endorses* that:

- (a) Plant pest risks associated with LMOs and products of modern biotechnology fall clearly within the scope of the IPPC.

4. Relationship between IAS and Quarantine Pests

The Commission *endorses* that:

- (a) Species that may be invasive and that directly or indirectly affect plants or plant products or that may be used as biological control agents should be assessed, monitored and managed if necessary according to IPPC provisions and standards.
- (b) Those species that are identified in the following section and that are absent (not present) from an area (or if present, are limited in distribution and subject to official control) should be considered quarantine pests and should be subjected to measures according to IPPC provisions and standards.

5. Role of the IPPC regarding IAS

The Commission *endorses* that:

- (a) The IPPC provides for rights and obligations and has established standards and procedures that are designed to prevent the introduction and spread of pests of plants and plant products, which include IAS.
- (b) The implementation of IPPC including its provisions and standards is directly relevant to the national implementation of Art. 8(h) and other relevant articles and activities of the CBD and the further development of the CBD work programme on alien species. Furthermore, it is directly relevant and overlaps with the intention of the CBD's Guiding principles for the prevention, introduction and mitigation of impacts of alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitats or species¹ (COP 6 Decision VI/23).
- (c) Many provisions and standards of the IPPC are directly relevant to, or overlap with, the apparent scope and intention of these Guiding principles of the CBD. Relevant areas include:
 - providing legal and regulatory frameworks
 - building capacity and technical assistance for developing countries
 - assessing and managing potential plant pest risks
 - protecting areas that may be threatened by plant pests
 - applying measures to prevent unintentional introduction of plant pests
 - certifying that risk management procedures have been applied
 - assessing and managing the intentional introduction of organisms that may be pests of plants including claimed beneficial and biological control organisms
 - exchanging of scientific and regulatory information relevant to plant pests
 - cooperating between countries to minimize the impact of plant pests, and
 - detecting, controlling, and eradicating pests in agricultural and wild flora.

In addition to IPPC provisions relevant to the Guiding principles of the CBD, the IPPC also has established standards and operational procedures developed from long experience in managing plant pest risk.

The Commission *strongly* urges:

- (d) NPPOs to communicate the scope and responsibility of the IPPC to officials in their countries involved in the CBD work on IAS (including the CBD's guiding principles for the prevention,

¹ CBD Guiding principles: <https://www.cbd.int/decision/cop/?id=7197>

introduction and mitigation of impacts of alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitats or species (COP 6 Decision VI/23)).

6. Necessity of Drafting International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures regarding IAS

The Commission:

- (a) *endorses* that environmental concerns related to plant pests are specified in ISPM 2 (*Guidelines for pest risk analysis*).
- (b) *notes* that [ISPM 11 \(*Pest risk analysis for quarantine pests*\)](#) provides details for the environmental risks associated with plant pests and helps to clarify the role of the IPPC and assist contracting parties with their rights and obligations.
- (c) *notes* that some countries use IPPC pest risk analysis methodology and management systems for dealing with environmental impacts of plant pests mainly in the horticulture, agriculture and forestry sectors, but in accordance with the IPPC mandate, these systems are used more widely in other countries.
- (d) *agrees* that the Commission continue to consider new topics for standards to ensure that they adequately address environmental risks of plant pests.

The Commission *recognizes* in particular that:

- (e) under the IPPC's existing mandate, to take account of environmental concerns, further clarification is provided in ISPM 11 on the following five points relating to potential environmental risks of plant pests:
 - reduction or elimination of endangered (or threatened) native plant species
 - reduction or elimination of a key plant species (a species which plays a major role in the maintenance of an ecosystem)
 - reduction or elimination of a plant species which is a major component of a native ecosystem
 - causing a change to plant biological diversity in such a way as to result in ecosystem destabilization
 - resulting in control, eradication or management programmes that would be needed if a quarantine pest were introduced, and impacts of such programmes (e.g. pesticides or release of nonindigenous predators and parasites) on biological diversity.

7. Capacity Building regarding IPPC Aspects of LMOs, Products of Modern Biotechnology and IAS

The Commission:

- (a) *urges* contracting parties to identify their phytosanitary capacity-building needs and recognize the special needs of developing countries regarding LMOs and products of modern biotechnology, and IAS.
- (b) *agrees* that IPPC aspects of LMOs and products of modern biotechnology and IAS, and relevant environmental risk issues be included in appropriate IPPC capacity building activities.
- (c) *agrees* to work with CBD and other relevant bodies to develop and deliver appropriate programmes that meet the needs of contracting parties in regard to common areas of interest.

8. Communication and Cooperation regarding LMOs, Products of Modern Biotechnology and IAS

The Commission *recognizes* that:

- (a) LMOs, products of modern biotechnology and IAS are covered by various international agreements and initiatives. As a consequence, the Commission considered it necessary, in order

to reach the objective of coherence and mutual support in the implementation of these agreements, to *strengthen* the cooperation between the IPPC and the CBD.

The Commission *agrees* that:

- (b) when appropriate the IPPC Secretariat invite members of the Commission to attend relevant meetings of other organizations on behalf of the Commission.
- (c) the IPPC Secretariat work closely with the CBD Secretariat and attend relevant CBD meetings, and that the CBD be invited by the IPPC Secretariat to attend relevant IPPC meetings.
- (d) the IPPC Secretariat cooperate with other standard setting bodies to ensure that common areas of interest are adequately covered.
- (e) communication and cooperation issues be addressed as part of the strategic planning process of the Commission.

The Commission *strongly urges*:

- (f) contracting parties to communicate IPPC interests and issues to in-country officials with responsibility for CBD matters, including the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA), and issues dealing with the Cartagena Protocol to ensure that the obligations under the IPPC are understood and considered as appropriate in developing positions. This includes:
 - contacting the appropriate in-country officials
 - informing them of the IPPC and how those objectives are met by countries (legislation, policies, programmes)
 - outlining how and which standards for phytosanitary measures contribute to those objectives
 - assisting in-country preparations for CBD, SBSTTA, Cartagena Protocol and related activities.

RECOMMENDATION(S) SUPERSEDED BY THE ABOVE

CPM Recommendation ICPM-2/1 is superseded.

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IPPC

The International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) is an international plant health agreement that aims to protect cultivated and wild plants by preventing the introduction and spread of pests. International travel and trade are greater than ever before. As people and commodities move around the world, organisms that present risks to plants travel with them.

Organization

- ◆ There are over 180 contracting parties to the IPPC.
- ◆ Each contracting party has a national plant protection organization (NPPO) and an Official IPPC contact point.
- ◆ Nine regional plant protection organizations (RPPOs) work to facilitate the implementation of the IPPC in countries.
- ◆ IPPC liaises with relevant international organizations to help build regional and national capacities.
- ◆ The Secretariat is provided by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

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