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منظمة  
الأغذية والزراعة  
للأمم المتحدة

# COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

## Thirteenth Session

Rome, 16-20 April 2018

### Implementation Review and Support System (IRSS)

#### Agenda item 9.5

Prepared by the IPPC Secretariat

## I. Background

1. The second project cycle of the Implementation Review and Support System (IRSS) concluded on 31 March 2017 with all planned activities and outputs completed. The activities completed in the second year of the project cycle are included in the second cycle Triennial Review Response report (TRR). The TRR will be published after review this year by the Standards Committee (SC), Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC) and the CPM Bureau.

2. Thanks to the European Union (EU) and the Government of Switzerland, the IRSS project has been operating since 2012, as a tool that is used to identify contracting parties' challenges and opportunities for the implementation of the Convention and International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs). Identifying challenging areas as well as best practices provides vital input in the strategic development of resources and tools to enhance implementation at the national, regional and global levels and facilitating and promoting the implementation of the IPPC and ISPMs, while contributing to the objectives of the IPPC Strategic Framework.

3. In the past six years, the IRSS has undertaken many activities to review contracting parties' implementation, including surveys, desk studies, scanning for emerging issues, technical analyses, provision of a Helpdesk and most recently the development of an IPPC Monitoring and Evaluation Framework.

4. The IRSS project is firmly integrated within the work programme of the IPPC Secretariat and to the implementation pilot project on surveillance, as prioritized by the IPPC governing body, the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM). Within the IPPC Secretariat, the IRSS is a crosscutting mechanism that closely collaborates between the Standard Setting Unit (SSU), the Implementation Facilitation Unit (IFU) and the Integration and Support team. Additionally, the IRSS provides strategic input on implementation needs to the governance structures of the IPPC, including the CPM Bureau, the Strategic Planning Group (SPG), the SC and the IC.

## **II. Content of the third IRSS cycle**

5. The IPPC spent the year lobbying for funding support for a third project cycle of the IRSS. A project proposal was drafted and negotiation with the European Commission (EC) for its financing concluded successfully in December 2017 for further support for a third project cycle from 2018-2020. The work programme for project “GCP/GLO/877/EC: Implementation Review and Support System” agreed with the donor for the third cycle is in Annex 1.

6. The future work of the IRSS is intended to continue to monitor and evaluate contracting parties’ implementation, and pay close attention to global plant health related issues associated with trade facilitation, environmental protection and food security. The aims are to link directly to the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020-2030, to the FAO Strategic Framework (2012-2019) for sustainable agriculture and the UN SDGs (1, 2, 8, 12, 13, 15 and 17).

7. Through the implementation of this three-year project, the major outcome is expected to be the improved contracting parties’ implementation of the IPPC, ISPMs and CPM recommendations. The expected outputs needed to achieve the outcome are:

- Reviewed contracting parties’ implementation of the Convention, ISPMs and CPM recommendations.
- Assistance provided to contracting parties for their implementation needs through use of the IRSS Helpdesk.
- Emerging issues identified at the regional and global level and contracting parties prepared to respond to issues.
- Specific implementation issues analyzed through the conduct of case studies, expert engagement and topics/issues analysis.
- Prepared annual and triennial implementation reports compiled under the M&E framework.

## **III. Transition of IRSS oversight to the IC**

8. The CDC has informally acted as the oversight committee for the IRSS project since its inception in 2011. It had the primary oversight role the responsibility of the Triennial Review Group (TRG) which later was assumed by the CPM Bureau.

9. The TRG was composed of the Chairs or representatives of CPM subsidiary bodies, the IPPC Secretariat and the CPM Bureau Chair or representative. The TRG was initially proposed to supervise the IRSS until a permanent technical body could assist. However, in reality the Bureau undertook the oversight function of the IRSS. The work of the TRG was then re-focused to provide the review function of the IRSS activities as it relates to the Triennial Review Response report (TRR).

10. At CPM 12 it was agreed to establish the new IPPC subsidiary body, the IC, and agreed that the functions and procedures of the TRG and the project oversight role of the IRSS, be transferred to the IC. With the IC now formally established the TRG is dissolved.

11. The role the IC and SC plays in oversight of the IRSS project and the mechanism by which the IRSS function is directed is still to be elaborated by the Bureau. However, the IC in December 2017 agreed to have the IRSS as a standing item on the agenda. Functions that are to be considered include:

- Review of the IRSS annual work plan
- Review of annual donor progress reports
- Provide input to IRSS activities
- Review of IRSS outputs
- Define future implementation priority areas and IRSS related activities

#### IV. IPPC Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Framework

12. Under the IRSS contracting parties' implementation of the Convention and its international standards are monitored in an effort to identify successes and challenges, using various methods. To complement the work of the IRSS an IPPC M&E framework is under development with the aim to cover the three levels below:

- Implementation of IPPC strategic frameworks (e.g. IPPC Strategic Framework, IPPC Capacity development framework, etc.)
- IPPC policies and procedures
- IPPC Secretariat work areas

13. Monitoring these different levels in a structured and coordinated way will allow for responsiveness and continuous improvement in work processes and delivery as well as value for Contracting Parties. In addition to the IRSS, other existing processes and tools used to monitor work will be incorporated into the new framework to formalize an overall IPPC M&E approach.

14. The IPPC M&E system will align with the new IPPC Strategic Framework 2020-2030 with an increased focus on using indicators to measure progress of implementation, IPPC Secretariat work programme and changes in plant health status in a structured way.

15. To seek feedback from contracting parties on the draft IPPC M&E framework, an expert meeting was conducted in Wellington, New Zealand in September 2017 to discuss issues related to the development of the framework and to understand how they undertake M&E in their national situations. Feedback from the expert meeting will be consolidated to support further work on M&E in the IRSS third cycle.

16. Funds from the Government of Switzerland enabled the Secretariat to continue activities outlined on the development of the M&E framework after the project closure in March of the EC funded IRSS project. The support was invaluable to enable continuity into the third cycle of the IRSS project.

17. The CPM is invited to:

- 1) *Thank* the European Union and the Government of Switzerland for their financial support for the Second Cycle of the IRSS.
- 2) *Note* the progress made towards maintaining IRSS activities during 2017.
- 3) *Thank* the European Union for funding the third cycle of the IRSS 2018-2020.
- 4) *Invite* contracting parties to support the activities of the IRSS



