

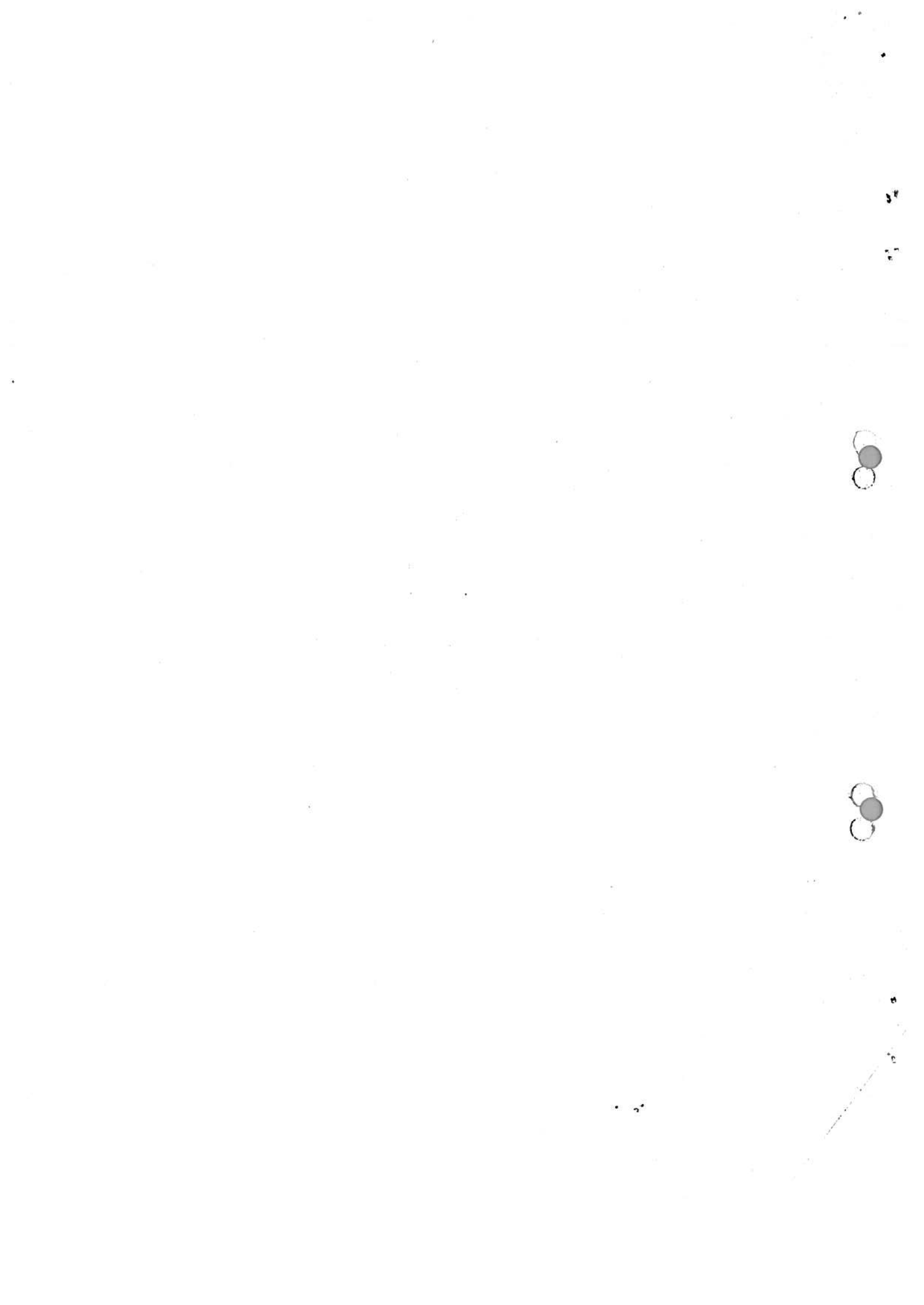


Rome,
Italy,
23-24 May
1994

Sixth technical consultation among regional plant protection organizations

REPORT





Meeting Report
AGP/1994

**REPORT OF THE SIXTH TECHNICAL CONSULTATION AMONG
REGIONAL PLANT PROTECTION ORGANIZATIONS**

Rome, Italy : 23-24 May 1994



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Rome, 1995



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ANNEX I General Statement on the purpose, functions and
structure of the Technical Consultations

APPENDIX I Agenda

APPENDIX II List of Participants

1. OPENING OF SESSION

The meeting was opened by Dr A. Papasolomontos, Director of the Plant Production and Protection Division.

2. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Mr I. McDonell (NAPPO) was elected Chairman.

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The Agenda was introduced and adopted. (Appendix I)

4. FOLLOW-UP TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FIFTH TECHNICAL CONSULTATION

Dr E. Feliu, Plant Quarantine Officer, AGPP, provided an overview of the recommendations from the fifth meeting which included the referral of the *Guidelines for Pest Risk Analysis* (PRA) to the consultation phase and its subsequent discussion at the meeting of the Committee of Experts on Phytosanitary Measures (CEPM) in May 1994 which recommended that it proceed to the approval stage. Regarding the *Requirements for Pest Free Areas* (PFA), the document produced by a Working Group on PFA was recommended to move to the consultation phase and then be referred by mail to the CEPM members before proceeding to the approval phase.

In connection with the revised *Glossary of Phytosanitary Terms*, a Working Group had met recently in Paris, added some terms, and removed and modified others. The document was reviewed by the CEPM which recommended that the *Glossary* be published, once it was finalized by the participants of the Working Group.

The Consultation was advised that the *FAO Global Plant Quarantine Information System* was now ready for release following a series of consultancies to modify the programme and to validate the geographical distribution data for more than 100 key quarantine pests. (Also noted under Item 7)

A Working Group, hosted by NAPPO, met in Villahermosa to consider the feasibility of establishing a Global System on Import Requirements. The report of this meeting, with its recommendations, was submitted to the CEPM for discussion in May 1994. The report described systems whereby import regulations could be available on CD-ROM or via Internet. The IPPC Secretariat indicated that these proposals need further elaboration and exploration of financing resources.

5. FIRST MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES (CEPM) : ROME 16-20 MAY 1994

Dr J. Hedley, Coordinator, IPPC Secretariat, summarized the major subjects discussed during the first meeting of the CEPM.

Key documents discussed were: the *Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure of the CEPM*; the *Principles of Plant Quarantine as Related to International Trade* and the *Glossary of Phytosanitary Terms*; the *Code of Conduct for the Import and Release of Biological Control Agents* (as finalized for further consultation); the *Guidelines for Pest Risk Analysis* (as prepared for approval by COAG, Council and Conference); the *Requirements for Pest the Establishment of Free Areas* (as drafted for consultation) and the IPPC Secretariat Strategic Plan for the next three to five years.

The three-stage process for the approval of standards was described in an IPPC Secretariat policy document; this consisted of preparation, consultation and approval. Reference was made to Appendix A of the report of the Twenty-seventh Conference of FAO which also described this process. It was noted that proposals needed to be ready by the end of 1994 in order to be submitted for approval by FAO Governing Bodies in 1995.

6. BRIEF REPORTS BY RPPoS AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

- ASIA AND PACIFIC PLANT PROTECTION COMMISSION (APPPC)

Dr C.Y. Shen, Executive Secretary of the APPPC, briefly described the activities of the APPPC, including the results of the Eighteenth Session of the Commission, held in Beijing in 1993.

Dr Shen also referred to: the activities on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in rice; the formation of the new IPM Working Group and its projected work plans; the A₁ and A₂ pest lists; the activities in harmonization and the development of a PRA programme. The progress in implementation of the Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides, including the Prior Informed Consent (PIC) procedures, was also described. The Nineteenth Session would be held in Canberra, Australia, in 1995. (Note from Secretariat: now Los Baños, Philippines, 27 November - 01 December 1995)

- COMITÉ REGIONAL DE SANIDAD VEGETAL PARA EL CONO SUR (COSAVE)

The former President of COSAVE, Dr F. Canale, on behalf of the President Mr H. Maia Rocha, gave an account of COSAVE's major activities over the last year which included the formation of seven technical working groups covering critical topics such as biological control, pesticides and phytosanitary measures. The categorization of hosts, according to risks, was also described. A total of 700 products had been classified. The

Consultation was informed that quarantine restrictions are maintained by MERCOSUR (South American Trade Union).

- CARIBBEAN PLANT PROTECTION COMMISSION (CPPC)

Dr G.V. Pollard provided a summary of the major activities undertaken since June 1993 following his appointment as Technical Secretary of the Commission. He referred to the Tenth Session of the CPPC held 7-10 December 1993 and briefly mentioned its major recommendations. He advised that St. Vincent and the Grenadines had requested to be a new member. He noted: a one-day workshop on PRA held during the Tenth Session; the proposed formation of a Pesticides Network and the updating required by the CPPC Database.

Activities for 1994 included: a Regional Workshop on Integrated Production and Pest Management for Vegetable Crops to be held 3-7 October 1994 and a Technical Workshop on Integrated Weed Management (10-14 October 1994).

- EUROPEAN AND MEDITERRANEAN PLANT PROTECTION ORGANIZATION (EPPO)

Dr D. McNamara, Assistant Director-General, EPPO, provided a brief description of EPPO's membership and activities. New members include Latvia, Estonia, Slovenia and Croatia.

A description was given of the work of the Working Parties, including the preparation of Specific Quarantine Requirements (SQRs) for various EPPO A₁ and A₂ pests. Reference was also made to the various workshops on plant protection held by EPPO and a brief mention to publications was made (Pest Data Sheets, Reporting Service, and the Summaries of Regulations of member countries).

- INTER-AFRICAN PHYTOSANITARY COUNCIL (IAPSC)

Dr N. Nkouka, Technical Secretary, summarized IAPSC's activities in two major areas: scientific and technical meetings and relations with other RPPOs. With regard to training on phytosanitary skills for national programmes in OAU countries, he referred to short-term courses carried out at INIBAP regional headquarters in Douala and at CARFOP in Dschang in Cameroon. He referred to two regional phytosanitary research networks for plant quarantine in Africa which had recently been created and their new activities.

Reference was also made to joint scientific and technical projects.

Dr Nkouka referred to several publications, including the IAPSC Phytosanitary News Bulletin which is published in English and French, and the Catalogue of African Plant Protection Specialists (to be published soon).

Reference was made to discussions held during the two meetings of the IAPSC held in 1993, i.e. the Sixteenth General Assembly and the Executive Committee, held 21-26 January 1994 in Cotonou, Benin.

- JUNTA DEL ACUERDO DE CARTAGENA (JUNAC)

Mr C. Wandenberg described recent activities of JUNAC, which included the organization of activities on pest risk analysis and crop loss assessments for member countries under Decision N°328. The application of other current quarantine developments, such as harmonization and the removal of trade barriers, was also described. An operations manual in plant quarantine, for use in the region, was mentioned, as well as a system for the training of staff and the possible establishment of pest free areas.

- NORTH AMERICAN PLANT PROTECTION ORGANIZATION (NAPPO)

Mr B. Hopper, Executive Secretary, briefly referred to the recent approval of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) which has substantially influenced NAPPO's policies. Reference was also made to the PRA document, Pest Free Areas document resulting from a meeting of the Working Group in Sonora Mexico, a document being prepared by the Biotechnology Panel for submission to FAO, and the phasing out of methyl bromide as a quarantine treatment.

- ORGANISMO INTERNACIONAL REGIONAL DE SANIDAD AGROPECUARIA (OIRSA)

Dr G.H. Berg, Technical Adviser to OIRSA, advised of OIRSA's membership and activities, which included training, harmonization, treatments, the Code of Conduct (Pesticides), Migratory Pests and a trapping programme for various pests. Among other issues, Dr Berg referred to the successful intervention on cocoa witches' broom in Panama with the assistance of FAO and others. Reference was also made to OIRSA technical assistance programme and publications.

- SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSION (SPC)

Mr S. Pone, Plant Protection Officer, informed the Consultation of the latest developments in the Pacific Sub-region to establish the Pacific Plant Protection Organization (PPPO) which would become the official PPPO for the Pacific. He indicated that, with the assistance of the FAO Legal Adviser, a Resolution to this effect will be presented at the next Conference of Governments, at the end of 1994.

Mr Pone described the plant protection activities in the Pacific which included, among others: plant quarantine, with the assistance of USDA-APHIS and the European Union, and the use of biological control on different major pests.

- REGIONAL OFFICE FOR AFRICA (RAFR)

Dr S.S. M'boob, Regional Plant Protection Officer for Africa, provided an overview of the plant protection activities, which included plant quarantine, Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and pesticides.

He referred to the close cooperation existing between RAFR and the Inter-African Phytosanitary Council (IAPSC). As a specific example, he referred to the establishment in Eastern and Southern Africa of Technical Cooperation Networks (TCNs) in plant quarantine. These were established as a result of joint efforts between RAFR and AGP, and two Regional Technical Cooperation Projects. The TCNs promote cooperation and harmonization in plant protection through the establishment of Working Committees in specified areas. Through the use of new computers, information exchange was being greatly facilitated and the use of the FAO Global Information System now possible. It was noted that the TCNs will greatly assist in the training of staff, identification of quarantine pests and the establishment of sub-regional quarantine pest lists. It was planned to establish TCNs in Western and Central Africa in a similar way.

- REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE NEAR EAST (RNEA)

Dr M.M. Taher, FAO Regional Plant Protection Officer for the Near East, referred to the status of the establishment of the Near East Plant Protection Organization (NEPPO) which is the only region not currently covered by an RPPO. Dr Taher advised the participants that the Agreement for the establishment of NEPPO was signed 14 months ago, but it needed ratification by at least ten countries in the region. Currently two ratifications had been received.

In connection with the activities in plant protection, Dr Taher referred to a Regional Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) which was approved in 1993 and was now operational. This project aimed at strengthening cooperation in plant protection in the region, through the training of senior quarantine officers in the application of current plant quarantine methodologies (eg. pest risk analysis) in the decision-making process. It also aimed at establishing technical cooperation networks in the region for the sharing of technical expertise and exchange of information.

Reference was also made to the establishment of a provisional list of quarantine pests for the region.

- STATEMENT FROM GATT SECRETARIAT

Ms G. Stanton, from the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) provided an update on the GATT negotiations concerning the documents agreed to regarding international trade in plants and plant products. The new World Trade Organization (WTO) would replace the GATT by early 1995 further to a meeting of its governing bodies. Included in the ratification of the final act of the Uruguay Round would were the Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) and the

Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT). It was noted that WTO members would have two choices concerning the SPS standards:

- Use the international standards
- Not use international standards and perform their own risk assessments with the burden of proof on their side to justify and demonstrate that the international standard fails to provide adequate protection.

The benefit for WTO members in using accepted international standards would be that regulations based on such standards would not be challengeable.

The GATT dispute settlement process was briefly described, including submitting claims/reports to an appeals body for legal questions and the appointment of experts as recommended by international organizations.

The requirement for advance notification to GATT on changes of the regulations was described. Contact points would be maintained in each member country.

7. INFORMATION EXCHANGE

Mr F. Pariboni, Chief, ESSB Unit, FAO, presented information on the WAICENT Information System for Network users. He advised that although the system had been available since 1989, it was now finally being brought on line and a contractor would be reviewing the system in September 1994. An experimental run effected in November 1993, using FAO statistics, had been successful.

It is expected that by the end of 1994 all internal users will have a line. The system will also be linked to the FAO Regional Offices and made available to outside users such as RPPOs, the IARCs, other international agencies, as well as universities, technical institutions and other users.

The Consultation was informed that CGNet is FAO's server for loading data into INTERNET.

An innovative system for the collection of import/export requirements, including pest list, used in New Zealand was presented. This system uses "printouts" of quarantine requirements for imports, providing the basic information on hosts and pests, which is needed to conduct an adequate pest risk analysis (PRA) of the import. After discussion, the Consultation concluded that it was advisable to hold another meeting on the issue of the publication of import requirements in 1994, similar to that in Villahermos, Mexico.

Dr E. Feliu provided an overview of the FAO Global Plant Quarantine Information System which would be released shortly. The revised edition had been substantially improved, particularly the maps which contain differing categories of geographical distribution (e.g. eradicated, found but not established). A new field had been added to provide users with a "notepad" for inserting specific information on any

pest in the system. The data for at least 100 key quarantine pests had recently been validated by three consultants.

Dr Feliu further reported on the publication of new FAO/IPGRI Technical Guidelines for the Safe Movement of Germplasm, which included guidelines for small fruit, coconut, vanilla and sugarcane.

Ms I. de Borhegyi, Information Officer, AGPP, provided an overview of regularly issued and forthcoming publications, including the FAO Plant Protection Bulletin, the FAO Directory of Regional and National Plant Protection Organizations, and others produced by the FAO Plant Protection Service.

8. PLANT QUARANTINE TRAINING - PRESENT AND FUTURE

Dr G. Berg presented an OIRSA position paper on training policies in plant quarantine for the region. He emphasized the need for training in plant quarantine, particularly in developing countries where facilities and expertise are usually deficient. He referred to the various training approaches such as, in-service, national level and regional training courses in plant quarantine. For the OIRSA region, he stressed the need for a Regional Centre for Plant Quarantine. Dr Berg also referred to the need to include courses in plant quarantine in the curricula of universities in the region, an initiative that is being seriously considered in Panama and Guatemala.

9. PLANT QUARANTINE TREATMENTS - PRESENT AND FUTURE

Dr G. Berg described the activities of OIRSA in the application of quarantine treatments in the region, especially fumigations and insecticidal sprays. He briefly referred to the possible ban of methyl bromide and its likely impact in the region, and indicated that irradiation would be one of the probable alternative treatments to be used. The major obstacle to this treatment is public acceptance of irradiated products in some countries. In the OIRSA region there is an increasing acceptance of irradiated products. Another alternative is hot water treatments for fruits and vegetables.

10. A₁ AND A₂ PEST LISTS FOR REGIONS

Dr D. McNamara introduced this Item by referring to the establishment of A₁ and A₂ Pest Lists by EPPO and the rationale used.

Reference to the principle of "solidarity" caused considerable discussions which centred on a possible conflict with the concept of "quarantine pest" and the removal of unjustified trade barriers. The issues of "quality pests" and "protected areas" were also brought up. This caused the reconsideration of the issue by RPPOs and their members and its possible referral to the CEPF. It was agreed that the IPPC Secretariat would coordinate the responses by RPPOs on this matter.

11. - 12. CATEGORIZATION OF HOST RANGE AND GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF QUARANTINE PESTS

Dr McNamara described EPPO's conception of hosts on two different levels: hosts at risk and hosts as pathways for pests. He clarified that, although in many cases the two categories could be differentiated, in other instances, the distinction was not always clear. Dr McNamara then discussed the categories for geographical distribution devised by EPPO.

13. E-MAIL CONNECTIONS

Dr McNamara advised that EPPO had an E-mail connection. Also, EPPO had a new information officer.

14. ATTENDANCE OF RPPO EXECUTIVE OFFICERS AT OTHER RPPO MEETINGS

Although RPPO executive officers currently attend some RPPO meetings the Consultation noted that the situation could be substantially improved. It was suggested that the meetings be advertised by RPPOs sufficiently in advance in order to plan attendance.

15. FUTURE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE TECHNICAL CONSULTATIONS

The need, scope, timing, duration and attendance of observers was discussed.

There was unanimous agreement on the need to continue the Consultations on a yearly basis. It was agreed that the Consultation is a valuable forum for discussing a wide range of plant protection issues, including harmonization. There was consensus that some Consultations should not be held in Rome but in the regions.

Substantial discussion focused on the scope of the Consultation and its relationship to the CEPM meeting.

Some participants stressed that there was a need to coordinate both meetings in order to allow time for the Technical Consultation to provide inputs to the CEPM meeting. RPPO member countries would be encouraged to submit proposals to the CEPM, through the RPPO concerned or directly for the Committee. A Working Group prepared a general statement on the purpose, functions and structure of the Technical Consultations (See Annex I). Comments on this document should be sent to the IPPC Secretariat before the next Technical Consultation.

With regard to the duration, it was recommended that forthcoming meetings last three to five days.

It was recommended that the timing of the Consultation, in relation to the CEPM meeting, should be planned allowing at least three months between one meeting and the other in order to facilitate inputs to the CEPM.

16. OTHER BUSINESS

The ban on the use of methyl bromide (MB) as a quarantine treatment

Mr B. Hopper (NAPPO) referred to the Fourth Technical Consultation and its recommendation on the above subject and suggested that the Consultation take a more active stance on methyl bromide.

This position was supported by the Consultation and it was suggested that a Resolution be drafted to include the three basic components addressed in the recommendations of the Fourth Technical Consultation, covering the:

- consequences of the withdrawal of methyl bromide as a quarantine treatment;
- current evidence on methyl bromide as an ozone depletant;
- need for suitable alternatives to methyl bromide.

After considerable discussion, it was proposed and accepted that a Working Group could prepare a position paper, taking into consideration the above factors and submit it to the IPPC Secretariat for possible submission to FAO's COAG, Council and Conference. It was also agreed that the document be sent to the Montreal Protocol for possible inclusion in its agenda for the meeting scheduled for early 1995.

17. VENUE AND DATE OF THE SEVENTH TECHNICAL CONSULTATION AMONG REGIONAL PLANT PROTECTION ORGANIZATIONS

Further to discussions on this point, it was agreed that the above Consultation will take place in Rome, Italy in September 1995 for three to five days. (Note from the Secretariat: following an invitation from the South Pacific Commission to host the next Technical Consultation in Noumea, New Caledonia (to mark the formation of the Pacific Plant Protection Organization in October 1994) and positive responses from a number of RPPOs, received by Mr Semisi Pone (SPC Plant Protection Officer), in answer to his proposal that the next Consultation be held in Noumea. The Seventh Technical Consultation will take place in Noumea from 4 to 8 September 1995)

APPENDIX I

SIXTH TECHNICAL CONSULTATION AMONG REGIONAL PLANT PROTECTION ORGANIZATIONS

Rome, Italy: 23-24 May, 1994

A G E N D A

1. Opening of the Consultation
2. Election of Chairman, Rapporteur and Drafting Committee
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Follow-up to the recommendations of the Fifth Technical Consultation: *IPPC Secretariat*
5. First Meeting of the Committee of Experts on Phytosanitary Measures (CEPM): *IPPC Secretariat*
6. Brief reports by RPPOs
7. Information Exchange: *IPPC Secretariat*
8. Plant Quarantine Training: *OIRSA*
9. Plant Quarantine Treatments-present and future: *OIRSA*
10. A₁ and A₂ Pest Lists for Regions: *EPPO*
11. Categorization of host range of quarantine pests: *EPPO*
12. Categorization of geographical distribution of quarantine pests: *EPPO*
13. E-Mail connections between RPPOs/ Sources of illustrations for data sheets: *EPPO*
14. Attendance of RPPO executive officers at other RPPO meetings: *EPPO*
15. Future arrangements for the Technical Consultations: *EPPO*
16. Other business
17. Closure

SIXTH TECHNICAL CONSULTATION AMONG REGIONAL PLANT
PROTECTION ORGANIZATIONS
Rome : 23-24 May 1994

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Technical Consultation among Regional Plant Protection Organizations

Purpose

In order to advance the objectives of the IPPC, the Technical Consultation will coordinate specific activities of mutual interest to RPPOs; and to make recommendations on phytosanitary matters to the FAO/IPPC Secretariat, to RPPOs and to governments.

Functions

Formulate policy statements on phytosanitary matters for related international organizations such as the GATT (WTO)

Suggesting the priorities of the IPPC Secretariat with respect to the development of standards.

Discussing and resolving general RPPO concerns.

Gathering, harmonizing and disseminating various objectives of IPPC.

Structure

Regional Plant Protection Organizations

Other countries as observers

Other international organizations as observers (e.g. GATT)

Frequency of Meetings

Annually and at least three months from the CEPM meeting.

Duration of Meetings

Three to five days, depending on the Agenda.

