



منظمة الأغذية  
والزراعة  
للأمم المتحدة

联合国  
粮食及  
农业组织

Food  
and  
Agriculture  
Organization  
of  
the  
United  
Nations

Organisation  
des  
Nations  
Unies  
pour  
l'alimentation  
et  
l'agriculture

Organización  
de las  
Naciones  
Unidas  
para la  
Agricultura  
y la  
Alimentación

## INTERIM COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

### Fifth Session

Rome, 7-11 April 2003

### Information Exchange and the International Phytosanitary Portal (IPP) (Report of the Secretariat)

### Agenda Item 4.3 of the Provisional Agenda

#### *The dissemination of official information*

1. The report of the Fourth Session of the ICPM was distributed to all Members following the meeting. International standards for phytosanitary measures (ISPMs) adopted by the ICPM at its Fourth Session were included in the report and have also been made available to Members through the Secretariat and RPPOs in electronic and hard copy formats.
2. FAO has published the new ISPMs in the standard "green book" format, except ISPM No. 15 which is being held pending the establishment of a new certification mark. The ICPM will note in particular that the Glossary of Phytosanitary Terms (2002) has been published in a new format.

#### *IPPC advocacy*

3. An updated version of the *Guide to the International Plant Protection Convention* has been published in the five official FAO languages. The ICPM will recall that the first version of the Guide was available during 2001-2002 in English only. Several thousand copies of the first version were distributed because of its popularity.
4. A brochure titled *Quick Guide to the IPPC* has also been produced and published in the five official languages of FAO. This brochure is complemented by a series of similar brochures known as Information Notes, including:
  - *A summary of benefits provided by the IPPC;*
  - *A summary of current ISPMs;*
  - *Key aspects of currently adopted ISPMs; and*
  - *An introduction to the IPPC and the environment.*

The Information Notes are in the process of being printed in five official FAO languages.

For reasons of economy, this document is produced in a limited number of copies. Delegates and observers are kindly requested to bring it to the meetings and to refrain from asking for additional copies, unless strictly indispensable.  
Most FAO meeting documents are available on Internet at [www.fao.org](http://www.fao.org)

### *Translation*

5. FAO provides the primary source of translation services contracted by the Secretariat. Assistance from other organizations and individuals are also contracted on an as-needed basis.
6. Valuable assistance has been provided by the North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO) in the review, editing, and translation of documents from English to Spanish in 2002. NAPPO has drawn upon its own substantial expertise and also consulted widely with phytosanitary officials and other organizations on Spanish translation issues. As a result, a number of inconsistencies and errors in Spanish translations have been identified. NAPPO has also undertaken a comprehensive review of ISPMs with the aim of recommending modifications to the Spanish texts for consistency and accuracy.
7. The Secretariat notes that similar initiatives may be undertaken for other language versions of ISPMs.
8. The International Phytosanitary Portal (IPP) is currently being translated into French and Spanish.

### *Official contact points*

9. The Secretariat continues to provide information to Members through official contact points where these have been identified. The ICPM is reminded that FAO policies require certain documents such as invitations and correspondence from the Director General of the Organization to follow a particular distribution that may not include the designated official contact points. Where it is relevant, such material is also provided to official contact points by the Secretariat.
10. Printed material, such as ISPMs and other correspondence, provided by the Secretariat directly to official contact points is not copied by the Secretariat to other offices in the government of the Member, or to other parties within the country. It is the responsibility of the official contact point to ensure that relevant information is disseminated to officials or others as appropriate within their country.
11. The Secretariat maintains a list of updated official contact point information. This information is available on the IPP (<http://www.ippc.int>), and the list is published and made available in printed form at each session of the ICPM. The Secretariat also makes official contact point information available upon request.
12. The Secretariat notes that many Members have still not designated their official contact point. In addition, certain Members that have designated official contact points have not provided the Secretariat with updated information where official contact point details have changed. Members are requested to provide such information as soon as practically possible.

### *Correspondence*

13. The ICPM is reminded of the importance of information exchange and reporting for the proper implementation of the IPPC. The Secretariat notes that a limited number of Members have provided information to the Secretariat as specified in the IPPC.
14. The Secretariat continues to accept and encourage the submission of official information in electronic form. However, all official communication between the Secretariat and Members continues to be primarily through printed correspondence with duplicate information provided electronically wherever possible. A few Members have informed the Secretariat that they are willing to accept electronic correspondence as official communication.

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### *IPPC web site*

15. The previous IPPC web site was replaced by the IPP on 1 August 2002. The existing URL (<http://www.ippc.int>) now delivers the IPP. Regular Programme resources for the IPP were severely limited in 2002. Substantial development, however, was made possible through collaboration on the development of a web site for the FAO Inter-Departmental Working Group on Biosecurity.
16. The decision to implement the IPP at an early stage in its development (i.e. without IPP Support Group input) was taken primarily because maintaining two web sites was beyond the human and financial resources available to the Secretariat for this purpose.
17. The IPP offers significant improvements for Members, including:
- the capability for remote updating of official information by Members;
  - the capability to upload information to the IPP or link to existing information;
  - the possibility for Members to create their own web pages;
  - improved access to other Members official information;
  - increased security;
  - search/query capability;
  - database capabilities (e.g. official contact points);
  - discussion and drafting fora; and
  - a global pest reporting and alert system.
18. An anticipated meeting of the IPP Support Group was not held in 2002 because of budget restrictions. The Secretariat greatly appreciates the assistance provided by the IPP Support Group, and will continue to develop the IPP with their cooperation and input.
19. The Secretariat is aware of initial problems in the IPP associated primarily with navigation. Changes are being made to resolve these problems. Further improvements are planned that will involve the IPP Support Group.
20. High priority is being given to making the IPP available as soon as possible in French and Spanish. Documents are currently available in all languages (as in the past), but navigation and introductory text is only in the English.
21. Members should note that that registration for the IPP is done through the IPPC Secretariat. It is recommended that the official contact point for each Member country information be assigned this responsibility.
22. It is anticipated that delegates to the Fifth Session of the ICPM will be provided with a copy of the IPP on CD-ROM. It is important to note that this information will rapidly become out of date as new information is added to the IPP. The IPPC web site will always contain the most current information.

### *Pest reporting*

23. No development has occurred in 2002 on a global Pest Reporting system because of resource constraints.
24. The ICPM is invited to:
1. *Express* its gratitude to NAPPO for their assistance with Spanish translation.
  2. *Urge* Members to assist the Secretariat wherever possible with the translation of official documents.
  3. *Encourage* Members to provide official contact points or to ensure that information provided on contact points is updated.
  4. *Remind* Members that official contact points have the responsibility for the dissemination of information as appropriate in their country.

5. *Recall* information exchange obligations of Members under the IPPC and *urge* Members to provide and update required information as appropriate.
6. *Urge* Members to notify the Secretariat whether they accept electronic correspondence in place of printed material.
7. *Comment* on the IPPC advocacy documents and the IPP, and *recommend* modifications or enhancements.
8. *Urge* Members to support the IPP by providing relevant information and links.