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منظمة الأغذية
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INTERIM COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

Sixth Session

Rome, 29 March – 2 April 2004

Topics & Priorities for Standards

Agenda Item 7.3 of the Provisional Agenda

1. The Working Group on Strategic Planning and Technical Assistance (SPTA) considered the topics for standards development presented at the last meeting of the Interim Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (ICPM) in 2003 and additional topics suggested at the Technical Consultation (TC) among Regional Plant Protection Organizations (RPPOs) in Fiji. It was noted that all of the standards recommended for development by the ICPM in 2003 were either in draft form or being actively worked on. The SPTA developed a list of proposed standards for consideration by Standards Committee (SC).

2. The November 2003 SC meeting endorsed the proposal by SPTA but noted that 3 of the proposed concept standards relating to classification of commodities and pests were similar and could be combined. The SC noted that it would be useful if ICPM could provide a proposed work standards development programme covering at least two years but acknowledged that the programme would always be subject to review at each ICPM meeting.

3. It was noted that progress on some standards being developed by email discussion groups was slow and that there were a number of other draft standards that had not been submitted to the Standards Committee. Both the SPTA and the SC endorsed the action taken by the Secretariat to support expert meetings on these standards when this was necessary.

4. Priorities for standards development are dependent on decisions made by ICPM on any changes to the standard setting process. The proposed list of topics and priorities for standards development is:

a) **Concept standards**

1. Alternative strategies to methyl bromide.
2. Classification of commodities by level of processing and intended use and phytosanitary risk.
3. Electronic certification.
4. Import of plant breeding material.

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5. Post-entry quarantine facilities.
6. Research protocols for phytosanitary measures.
7. Sampling.

b) Reference standards

1. Guidelines for the formatting/drafting of commodity ISPMs.
2. Guidelines for the formatting/drafting of pest specific ISPMs.

c) Commodity specific standards

1. Export certification for potatoes.
2. Debarking of wood.

d) Formation of at least 3 Technical Panels – formation dependent on ICPM decisions on standard setting process

1. Technical Panel to develop diagnostic protocols for specific pests.
2. Technical panel on pest free areas and systems approaches for fruit flies.
3. Technical panel on treatments.

5. Recalling the decision by ICPM 4 that topics and priorities for standards submissions for new standards are reviewed by the SPTA. National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs), RPPOs, the IPPC Secretariat and the World Trade Organization/Committee on Sanitary & Phytosanitary Measures (WTO/SPS) Secretariat are invited to propose topics for new standards to the Secretariat by 1st October, 2004. The Secretariat will provide these to the 2004 meeting of SPTA for review and drafting of recommendations to ICPM 7 for new standards development.

6. The ICPM is invited to:

1. *Endorse* the action of the Secretariat in facilitating wherever possible the completion of standards that are already in an advanced stage of development.
2. *Endorse* the list of topics suggested by the SPTA and SC.
3. *Indicate* the priority for development of the endorsed topics.
4. *Invite* NPPOs, RPPOs, the IPPC Secretariat and the WTO/SPS Secretariat to propose topics for new standards by 1st October, 2004.