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COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

First Session

Rome, 3 – 7 April 2006

Report by the Secretariat

Agenda Item 8 of the Provisional Agenda

1. This paper provides a brief report on the work of the Secretariat of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) based on the six Strategic Directions endorsed by the Interim Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (ICPM). This report was prepared in December 2005 and reports on the work programme undertaken during 2005. Further activities to be undertaken will be discussed under separate agenda items.

2. The Seventh Session of the ICPM was held in Rome, 4-8 April 2005. One 116 IPPC Contracting Parties and FAO Members were represented. There were also representatives of the United Nations and specialized agencies and observers from intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations. Funding supplied by the European Community enabled the participation of a number of representatives from developing countries.

I. Strategic Direction 1: The development, adoption and monitoring of the implementation of international standards for phytosanitary measures (ISPMs)

3. Activities that took place to implement the ICPM standard setting work programme are reported below. Work related to several items in this report is dealt with under separate agenda items. In particular, the IPPC standard setting work programme and proposed topics and priorities for standards are presented under agenda item 11.4 (document CPM2006/8).

4. Expert working group meetings were held and drafts were developed for the following standards:

- Classification of commodities by phytosanitary risk related to level of processing and intended use
- Guidelines for the formatting/drafting of ISPMs

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Most FAO meeting documents are available on Internet at www.fao.org

- Use of integrated measures in a systems approach for pest risk management of citrus fruit for citrus canker
- Post-entry quarantine facilities
- Debarking of wood and bark freedom
- Guidelines on sampling of consignments
- Guidelines for regulating potato micro propagation material and minitubers in international trade
- Guidelines for the recognition and establishment of pest free areas and areas of low pest prevalence
- Revision of ISPM No. 2 (*Guidelines for pest risk analysis*).

In addition, the Glossary Working Group met in October.

5. The Technical Panel on Diagnostic Protocols met in December 2005. It reviewed and provided comments on several draft diagnostic protocols which were returned to authors for further drafting. The Technical Panel on Forest Quarantine met in February 2005 and developed the following draft text:

- Proposed modification to the methyl bromide fumigation schedule in Annex 1 of ISPM No. 15 (*Guidelines for regulating wood packaging material in international trade*).

6. The Technical Panel on Pest Free Areas and Systems Approaches for Fruit Flies met in September 2005 and developed the following draft ISPM:

- Requirements for the establishment and maintenance of areas of low pest prevalence for tephritid fruit flies.

7. The Technical Panel on Phytosanitary Treatments met in August 2005 and provided comments to the steward of the draft ISPM *Requirements for the submission of phytosanitary treatments*.

8. It is anticipated that approximately eight draft ISPMs will be ready for presentation to the Standards Committee in May 2006.

9. The Standards Committee (SC) met in April 2005. The workload continued to be substantial and the SC was unable to discuss all agenda items. However it was able to review and submit five draft ISPMs for country consultation through the regular standard setting process. Over 2,200 country comments were received. In addition, the SC agreed to the submission of a modification to the methyl bromide schedule in Annex 1 of ISPM No. 15 for country consultation under the fast track standard setting process. This is the first draft to go through the fast track process. No formal objections were submitted and 11 comments were received.

10. At its meeting in November 2005, the SC working group (SC-7), with the help of stewards (one for each draft standard) considered the country comments received and suggested appropriate revisions to the drafts. The revised drafts and associated comments were then submitted to the SC for consideration. The SC recommended four draft standards and the modification to the methyl bromide schedule in Annex 1 of ISPM No. 15 for adoption by the CPM. The SC also provided comments on the draft ISPM on *Requirements for the submission of phytosanitary treatments* and returned it for redrafting. Adoption of the four draft ISPMs and the modification to the methyl bromide schedule in Annex 1 of ISPM No. 15 are dealt with under agenda item 11.2 and 11.3 respectively.

11. FAO has published all adopted ISPMs in a single volume, replacing the individual “green book” publications. This book of ISPMs will be available at the CPM meeting.

12. The development of explanatory documents for ISPMs, under the auspices of the Secretariat, continued in 2005. One explanatory document, for ISPM No. 20 (*Guidelines for a phytosanitary import regulatory system*), has been published on the IPP.

13. The following draft explanatory documents are at advanced stages of development:
 - ISPM No. 14 (*The use of integrated measures in a systems approach for pest risk management*)
 - ISPM No. 15 (*Guidelines for regulating wood packaging material in international trade*)
 - ISPM No. 16 (*Regulated non-quarantine pests: concept and application*)
 - ISPM No. 17 (*Pest reporting*)
 - ISPM No. 18 (*Guidelines for the use of irradiation as a phytosanitary measures*)
 - ISPM No. 24 (*Guidelines for the determination and recognition of equivalence of phytosanitary measures*).
14. Arrangements have been made and authors found to write explanatory documents for:
 - ISPM No. 3 (*Guidelines for the export, shipment, import and release of biological control agents and other beneficial organisms*)
 - ISPM No. 5 (*Glossary of phytosanitary terms*) - production of an annotated glossary and relationship between CBD and IPPC terminologies
 - ISPM No. 11 (*Pest risk analysis for quarantine pests, including analysis of environmental risks and living modified organisms* - 2 explanatory documents, in relation to the supplements on environmental risks and on living modified organisms
 - ISPM No. 19 (*Guidelines on lists of regulated pests*)
 - ISPM No. 21 (*Pest risk analysis for regulated non-quarantine pests*).
15. The development of explanatory documents will continue in 2006 as resources allow.

II. Strategic Direction 2: Information Exchange

A. IPPC Advocacy Documents

16. The *Guide to the International Plant Protection Convention* is currently being updated. Following the first session of the CPM, a thorough review will be undertaken and it will be made available in all FAO languages.

B. Official Contact Points

17. The Secretariat notes that some contracting parties have yet to designate an official contact point. In addition, a number of contracting parties have designated official contact points, but contact details (including e-mail addresses) are now out of date and the Secretariat has not been informed of the changes. The maintenance of up-to-date contact point information continues to be difficult due to the number of changes that are not reported to the Secretariat. Contracting parties are requested to provide such information as soon as possible as the Secretariat cannot be held responsible.

C. Correspondence

18. The Secretariat continues to encourage the use of electronic means for correspondence. However, all official communication between the Secretariat and contracting parties continues to be primarily through printed correspondence with duplicate information provided electronically wherever possible. A few contracting parties have informed the Secretariat that they are willing to accept electronic correspondence as official communication, and others are encouraged to inform the Secretariat if they are willing to accept this type of communication.

19. The Secretariat has to deal with an increasing amount of correspondence which results in a diversion of resources from other routine activities. A very large amount of correspondence relating to the implementation of ISPM No. 15 has been received.

D. The International Phytosanitary Portal

20. Upgrading and improvement of the International Phytosanitary Portal (IPP) continued in 2005. Navigation is now available in English, French and Spanish. This transition went well and adjustments were made based on feedback received. As resources are limited, some areas of the IPP have yet to be translated. The programming to accept Arabic and Chinese characters is complete and translation will start as soon as suitable Arabic and Chinese translators are identified, and subject to the availability of funding. The next phase of IPP development will continue to improve access, speed and stability, and will include making the navigation system available in the remaining FAO languages (Arabic and Chinese).

21. Most national plant protection organizations (NPPOs) who participated in the regional information exchange capacity building workshops have now met some of their national information exchange obligations under the IPPC through data entry on the IPP.

22. It appears that IPPC contact points are not able to undertake data entry on the IPP in addition to their other responsibilities. To help overcome this problem, the Secretariat is systematically requesting all official contact points to nominate (if deemed necessary) a person within each NPPO to be responsible for updating country information on the IPP.

23. The IPP Support Group met in March 2005. The Secretariat greatly appreciates the assistance provided by this group and their recommendations have been incorporated. Improvements made include navigation, content, stability and the provision of the structure for data entry by NPPOs and regional plant protection organizations (RPPOs). Additional recommendations were also generated by the series of regional information exchange capacity building workshops.

24. The IPP Support Group considered it essential to designate a webmaster for the IPP within the current year to take overall responsibility for presentation and data quality according to common editorial guidelines (which are currently being finalized). The current lack of resources precludes this, making it a serious challenge for the Secretariat to undertake maintenance, capacity building and development at the same time.

25. In August 2005, a newly-designed IPP CD-ROM with navigation in English, French and Spanish was distributed to all official contact points. CD-ROMs are now also being produced for specific meetings and workshops. The IPP now contains enough data to fill 4 CD-ROMs, making usability and distribution a challenge. The volume will further increase when IPP navigation becomes available in Arabic and Chinese.

E. Capacity-Building Workshops

26. The *IPPC Information Exchange Capacity Building Programme* was initiated at a regional level in 2005 to ensure that countries:

- have a basic understanding of their national information exchange obligations under the IPPC
- are introduced to the IPP as the preferred official phytosanitary information system that helps countries to meet these obligations with minimal costs and efforts
- develop the ability to upload and maintain their own phytosanitary information on the IPP.

27. This programme was developed and supported by the ICPM. Funding for this activity was from arrears payments and will not be available in 2006.

28. Eight regional information exchange capacity building workshops for nominated national plant protection/information officers have been completed.

Table 1. Regional information exchange capacity building workshops

FAO Region	Date	Language	Countries	Contracting Parties	NPPO Editors	RPPO Editors
Africa – Anglophone	December 2005	English	19	10	20	2
Africa – Francophone	January 2006	French	23	18	23	3
Asia	January and March 2005	English	15	12	17	1
Caribbean	November 2005	English	12	11	15	2
Central Europe	February 2005	English	11	11	15	2
EPPO*	November 2005	English	11	10	11	
Latin America	November 2005	Spanish	13	13	13	2
Pacific	May 2005	English	15	13	19	3
Total			119	98	133	15

* For European countries other than those represented in the workshop for Central Europe.

29. All general FAO technical cooperation projects (TCPs) on phytosanitary matters developed through the IPPC Secretariat now have an information exchange component.

III. Strategic Direction 3: The provision of dispute settlement mechanisms

30. In 2005, the Secretariat did not receive any requests for assistance in dispute settlement.

31. A meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Dispute Settlement (SBDS) will be convened immediately prior to CPM-1 and a verbal report will be given by the chair of the SBDS at the CPM.

32. During 2005 the SBDS finalized an advocacy document on dispute settlement and a dispute settlement manual. These will initially be distributed electronically in English only and will be finalized and translated into FAO languages, subject to available resources, after the first session of the CPM.

IV. Strategic Direction 4: The development of phytosanitary capacity of Members by promoting the provision of technical assistance

A. TECHNICAL COOPERATION AND OTHER TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE INITIATIVES

33. The projects undertaken under the FAO Technical Cooperation Programme for the period 2001-2005 are listed under agenda item 15.2 (document CPM 2006/INF/10).

B. ISPMs, PHYTOSANITARY CAPACITY EVALUATION (PCE) AND PEST RISK ANALYSIS (PRA)

34. Two workshops (Malaysia and St. Vincent) were held to bring together professionals with relevant experience in national phytosanitary services, phytosanitary systems management and implementation of ISPMs. Opportunity was created for interaction on phytosanitary systems evaluation, capacity-building and phytosanitary measures as applied to international and regional trade.

35. From each workshop, potential Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (TCDC) and national consultants were identified to support the Technical Cooperation Programme. This is consistent with FAO's policy of promoting South-South cooperation. In this regard, these regional workshops provided a core of phytosanitary personnel who should continue to play a vital role in technical assistance for developing countries.

C. REGIONAL PLANT PROTECTION OFFICERS' WORKSHOP ON CAPACITY-BUILDING IN SUPPORT OF THE WORK PROGRAMME OF THE IPPC AND FAO TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAMME

36. A workshop was convened in Bangkok, Thailand, 14-24 November 2005 for all FAO Regional Plant Protection Officers. This workshop provided the opportunity to build officers' capacities so they can take a more active role in the technical assistance programme in their regions.

D. REGIONAL WORKSHOPS ON DRAFT ISPMS

37. Seven workshops were held in various regions to strengthen the country consultation stage of the standard setting process by providing the opportunity for discussion among developing countries on five draft ISPMs and the proposed modification to the methyl bromide schedule in Annex 1 of ISPM No. 15. Funding for the workshops was from arrears payment. The consultation process was facilitated by the Secretariat, members of the Standards Committee and FAO Regional Plant Protection Officers. Australia, Canada, Finland and New Zealand provided technical expertise to complement the Secretariat at the Caribbean, Pacific and Asia workshops. The table below provides some details of each workshop. A total of 114 countries participated in these workshops, reflecting a very high level of interest.

Table 2. Regional workshops on draft ISPMs in 2005

FAO Region	Language	Location	Countries invited	Countries attended
Latin America and the Caribbean	Spanish	Santiago, Chile	19	14 (74%)
Latin America and the Caribbean	English	Port of Spain, Trinidad	14	10 (71%)
Africa (Francophone)	French	Accra, Ghana	28	22 (79%)
Africa (Anglophone)	English	Accra, Ghana	20	18 (90%)
Asia	English	Bangkok, Thailand	28	19 (68%)
Near East	Arabic	Cairo, Egypt	18	16 (89%)
Southwest Pacific	English	Apia, Samoa	19	15 (79%)
TOTAL			146	114 (78%)

E. INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON PEST RISK ANALYSIS

38. An international workshop on PRA was held in Niagara Falls, Canada, 24-28 October 2005. Funding for the workshop was provided by the Standards and Trade Development Facility, Canadian International Development Agency, Canadian Government, United States Department of Agriculture and International Development Research Centre. The workshop was attended by 145 delegates representing 63 different countries, including 50 developing country delegates whose participation was funded by the sponsors.

39. The workshop provided an opportunity to:

- explore methods and procedures for applying the IPPC PRA standards
- share experiences on how to use PRA as a decision making tool
- present tools for completing PRAs
- strengthen international PRA expertise and communication
- build a collaborative international PRA network.

40. The overall feedback received from delegates was that the workshop had been highly informative and provided useful information for the conduct of PRA and the implementation of PRA standards and practices. Presentations, working exercises and recommendations from this workshop are posted on the IPP (www.ippc.int/id/58455). Participants and NPPOs are encouraged

to use this material as a resource in developing similar workshops to train those working in PRA at a national or regional level.

F. INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON THE PRACTICAL APPLICATION OF ISPM NO. 15

41. To assess the success of the 2005 IPPC workshop on the practical application of ISPM No. 15, the IPPC Secretariat is monitoring SPS notifications of implementation of the standard. Between March and November 2005, 11 countries had notified that they had implemented or intended to implement the standard. These countries are: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Ecuador, Egypt, Guatemala, Korea (Republic of), Paraguay, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela.

V. *Strategic Direction 5: The maintenance of an effective and efficient administrative framework*

42. The report of the Seventh Session of the ICPM was distributed to all Members. The ISPMs adopted by ICPM-7 were included in the report and have also been made available to Members in electronic and hard copy format.

43. The Secretariat convened two focus group meetings (Focus Group on funding options of the IPPC and Focus Group on the international recognition of pest free areas) and a meeting of the Informal Working Group on Strategic Planning and Technical Assistance. These activities are reported on under separate agenda items.

44. FAO provides the primary source of translation services contracted by the Secretariat. Assistance from other organizations and individuals is also sought as needed, especially in relation to ISPMs. Valuable assistance has been provided by the North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO) which was contracted for the translation of draft ISPMs from English to Spanish in 2005. NAPPO draws upon its own expertise and consults widely with phytosanitary officials in Spanish-speaking countries worldwide and with other organizations. The European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (EPPO) provided assistance in finalizing French versions of ISPMs. The Arab Society for Plant Protection has given valuable assistance in translating draft ISPMs from English into Arabic.

45. Due to additional funding from the arrears payment (only available in 2005), the staffing situation improved, which was reflected in the size and scope of the work programme. The position of Coordinator has been filled and interviews have been held for the position of Standards Officer.

46. A Letter of Agreement with the Scottish Agricultural Science Agency has enabled the Secretariat to once again gain a part-time staff member to coordinate the work of Technical Panels.

47. The IPPC Secretariat has entered into several Letters of Agreement in order to gain the assistance of external organizations, in particular to manage expert working groups and workshops.

48. The USA supplied funds for a visiting scientist who gave valuable assistance in the standard setting work programme.

VI. *Strategic Direction 6: Promotion of the IPPC and cooperation with relevant international organizations*

49. The Secretariat has been represented at a range of meetings with international and regional organizations including the WTO-SPS Committee, Convention on Biological Diversity,

Cartagena Protocol and Biological Weapons Convention. Specific issues relating to cooperation with some organizations are dealt with under agenda item 16.2.

50. The Secretariat continues to work closely with the WTO-SPS by attending all formal and some informal WTO-SPS Committee meetings and by either participating directly or recommending appropriate consultants in SPS regional and sub-regional workshops.

Table 3. WTO-SPS workshops in 2005

Date	Region	Location
16-18 February	Caribbean	Jamaica
1-5 August	Southern Africa	South Africa
3-5 October	Francophone West Africa	Mali
10-12 October	South-East Asia	Thailand
21-24 November	Pacific	Fiji
30 Nov-2 December	Central America	Nicaragua

51. The Secretariat participated in a number of RPPO meetings, including:

- Seventeenth Technical Consultation among RPPOs in Sao Paulo, Brazil
- Annual meeting of the North American Plant Protection Organization
- Annual meeting of the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization

52. The Secretariat has continued to liaise with Codex Alimentarius and the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) on issues of mutual interest, such as electronic certification.

53. In December 2005 an Informal Working Group on Liaison with Research and Education Institutes was held in Rome. This group considered the guidance provided by the ICPM and the SPTA. It developed terms of reference for future work in this area, established a work programme and proposed priorities. The recommendations of the group are detailed under agenda item 16.1.

54. The CPM is invited to:

1. *Express* its gratitude to countries and organizations that have provided assistance and resources to the work programme.
2. *Note* the information provided by the Secretariat on progress on the work programme since ICPM-7.