

February 2006



منظمة الأغذية  
والزراعة  
للأمم المتحدة

联合国  
粮食及  
农业组织

Food  
and  
Agriculture  
Organization  
of  
the  
United  
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Organisation  
des  
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pour  
l'alimentation  
et  
l'agriculture

Organización  
de las  
Naciones  
Unidas  
para la  
Agricultura  
y la  
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## COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

### First Session

Rome, 3 – 7 April 2006

### Report on cooperation with relevant organizations

### Agenda Item 16.2 of the Provisional Agenda

#### I. Regional Plant Protection Organizations (RPPOs)

1. The Secretariat was represented at the 17<sup>th</sup> Technical Consultation among RPPOs held in Brazil on 29 August–2 September 2005 (see also agenda point 9). It also attended the annual meetings of the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization and the North American Plant Protection Organization. Cooperation with all RPPOs continued in many areas, in particular standard setting and information exchange. Such cooperation is reflected under various agenda items.

#### II. Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

##### A. Ad hoc Technical Expert Group on Gaps and Inconsistencies in the International Regulatory Framework in Relation to Invasive Alien Species

2. The ICPM Bureau and the IPPC Secretariat were represented at this ad hoc technical expert group held in New Zealand, on 16-20 May 2005. The group identified specific possible actions for addressing the identified gaps and inconsistencies in the international regulatory framework for invasive alien species, and also identified some important considerations relevant to some or all of the gaps. Consequently, the group made a number of general observations and recommendations in addition to developing options for how to address specific gaps and inconsistencies in the international regulatory framework. The full report of this meeting can be found on the CBD website (<http://www.biodiv.org>) and will be made available during CPM.

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)

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## **B. Second Meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (COP-MOP-2)**

3. The ICPM Bureau and the Secretariat were represented at the COP-MOP-2, on 30 May - 3 June 2005. The meeting had to split in order to cover the agenda and the IPPC was represented in both. Substantive issues included:

- notification (options for the implementation of Article 8 with respect to requirements, by a party of export, to ensure notification and the accuracy of information contained in notification by the exporter)
- risk assessment and risk management
- handling, transport, packaging and identification
- liability and redress
- socio-economic considerations
- public awareness and participation
- other scientific and technical issues that may be necessary for the effective implementation of the Cartagena Protocol.

## **C. Global Invasive Species Programme (GISP) Partnership Network**

4. The sixth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP) of the CBD requested its Executive Secretary, in cooperation with the GISP and other relevant organizations, to develop a joint programme of work through the GISP partnership network among the CBD, the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971), the International Maritime Organization, the IPPC and other relevant bodies (decision VI/23, paragraph 26e). In this regard, two workshops took place in 2005 in Montreal, Canada, in which the ICPM Bureau participated.

5. In June 2005, a workshop on the development of a joint work programme on marine and coastal invasive species was jointly convened by the Secretariat of the CBD, GISP and the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) Regional Seas Program. The workshop resulted in a draft joint work plan, which will form the basis for future collaborative efforts between the relevant organizations. The meeting recognized that the IPPC addresses risks to plants and that while the IPPC had historically been applied to terrestrial and sometimes fresh water plants, it could be applied to marine plants and pests affecting marine plants.

6. The report of the workshop was provided to the 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/11/INF/10) in November 2005.

7. In November 2005, a workshop on the development of a joint work programme on terrestrial and fresh water invasive alien species was jointly convened by the GISP and the CBD Secretariat. This workshop also resulted in a draft joint work plan, which will form the basis for future collaborative efforts between relevant organizations (including the IPPC). As with the workshop on marine invasive species, it was recognized that the IPPC could provide much guidance and practical expertise.

8. In addition to identifying elements of a strategy to address gaps and national capacity needs to deal with invasive alien species, the workshop identified a need for improved communication and a need for harmonizing terminology or summarizing differences in terminology. A formal report of the workshop could not be presented to the 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of the SBSTTA but several countries and organizations, including the IPPC, expressed their support for the ongoing collaborative efforts in this area.

#### **D. Third Joint Meeting of the IPPC and CBD Secretariats with Participation of Members of the Bureaus**

9. Representatives from both the Bureaus and Secretariats of the IPPC and CBD met in Montreal, Canada, on 21 October 2005. The 2004 joint work plan was reviewed and a revised work plan developed. Discussions took place on areas for enhanced cooperation including joint work between the governing bodies and areas of mutual interest arising from recent meetings and events. It was agreed that cooperation at all levels was welcome but the difficulties that would be involved in attempting to adopt joint decisions were recognized.
10. The joint work plan contains the following elements:
- mechanisms of collaboration, implementation of CPM decisions
  - development of standards under the IPPC
  - implementation of COP and COP-MOP decisions
  - development of guidance/standards under the CBD and Cartagena Protocol on biosafety
  - terminology
  - capacity-building and technical assistance
  - websites and information-sharing.
11. In particular both the CBD and IPPC will work together to avoid duplication, use each others expertise as appropriate and encourage cooperation at both the international and national levels.

#### **E. International Plant Health Risk Analysis Workshop**

12. The International Plant Health Risk Analysis Workshop was held on 24-28 October 2005 in Niagara Falls, Canada. The CBD Secretariat made two presentations, one related to risk assessment of living modified organisms (LMOs) under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, and the other related to the CBD programme of work on invasive alien species.

#### **F. Ad hoc Technical Expert Group on Risk Assessment under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety**

13. The IPPC Secretariat was represented at this ad hoc technical expert group held on 15-18 November 2005, in Rome, Italy. The group considered the nature and scope of existing approaches to risk assessment based on national experiences and existing guidance materials. These approaches were evaluated and the pest risk assessment under the IPPC framework was identified for use for a LMO that was identified as being a pest of plants or as having the potential to be a pest of plants. The full report of this meeting can be found on the CBD website (<http://www.biodiv.org>).

#### **G. Subsidiary Body on Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA)**

14. The Bureau was represented at the SBSTTA, on 28 November-2 December 2005, in Montreal, Canada. The agenda included consideration of the report of the ad hoc technical expert group on gaps and inconsistencies in the international regulatory framework in relation to invasive alien species (see paragraph 2 above). The report received wide agreement from the SBSTTA, with only very few substantive suggestions for change, and none related to the role IPPC plays in regards to invasive alien species that are pests of plants. The recommendations from SBSTTA will be submitted to the COP of the CBD, in March 2006.

### **III. WTO-SPS Committee**

15. A representative from the IPPC Secretariat attended all WTO-SPS Committee meetings and informal meetings held in 2005, as well as the meetings held in February and March 2006. The major topics for discussion were equivalence and regionalization. The IPPC was also

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represented in six WTO-SPS regional workshops held in Fiji, Jamaica, Mali, Nicaragua, South Africa and Thailand.

#### **IV. Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF)**

16. The IPPC Secretariat is a member of the STDF working group, which met in September 2005 and February 2006. The purpose of the STDF is to assist developing countries enhance their expertise and capacity to analyze and to implement international sanitary and phytosanitary standards, improving their human, animal and plant health situation, and thus ability to gain and maintain market access. The working group reviews and approves applications for funding.

#### **V. World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)**

17. Informal discussions have been held between members of the Secretariats of the OIE and the IPPC. Outcomes of these have included the invitation of the OIE to take part in the evaluation meeting of the IPPC, and the attendance of an OIE representative at the IPPC working group on electronic certification.

#### **VI. Codex Alimentarius**

18. Informal liaison continued between the Secretariats of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and of the IPPC. One outcome was the attendance of the a Codex representative at the working group on electronic certification.

#### **VII. International Forestry Quarantine Research Group (IFQRG)**

19. The IFQRG met in Victoria, Canada in February 2005 prior to the IPPC workshop on ISPM No. 15. The ICPM Bureau and the IPPC-Secretariat were represented at this meeting, which was also attended by several members of the Technical Panel on Forest Quarantine (TPFQ). Scientific data on methyl bromide fumigation was reviewed and recommendations on adjustments to the methyl bromide fumigation schedule in ISPM No. 15 were given to the TPFQ for its consideration.

20. In December 2005, a second IFQRG meeting was hosted by the IPPC Secretariat in Rome, Italy. The Secretariat and several members of the TPFQ attended this meeting. Results from several scientific studies related to reinfestation and treatment of wood with bark were presented. Recommendations from IFQRG will be posted on its website (<http://www.forestry-quarantine.org>) and will also be presented to the TPFQ.

#### **VIII. International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)**

21. Walther Enkerlin, from the joint FAO/IAEA Division, has participated as a member in the meetings of the Technical Panel on pest free areas and systems approaches for fruit flies (TPFF), including in the second meeting in December 2005. His expertise in fruit fly management and his responsibility in the joint FAO/IAEA Division for developing harmonized approaches to fruit fly control have helped coordination between the TPFF and IAEA programmes.

#### **IX. International Seed Federation (ISF) and International Seed Testing Association (ISTA)**

22. Following proposals in 2005 from the International Seed Federation (ISF) and the International Seed Testing Association (ISTA) to work with the Technical Panel on Diagnostic Protocols (TPDP), representatives of both organizations were invited to participate in a one day session on seed health testing at the second meeting of the TPDP in Penang, Malaysia, in December 2005. The session provided a good opportunity to exchange ideas, and the participants

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agreed to cooperate in the production of relevant diagnostic protocols on pests associated with seed.

## **X. Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)**

23. A representative from OECD met with the IPPC Secretariat to discuss the OECD Consensus Documents. These documents comprise technical information and focus on the biology of organisms. They are updated regularly to take into account new knowledge on the topic. Appropriate consensus documents may be referenced.

## **XI. Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention**

24. The Secretariat attended a meeting of experts of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention, on "*Consideration of the content, promulgation, and adoption of codes of conduct for scientists*". It made a presentation on behalf of the FAO, describing FAO's experience with developing codes of practice.

## **XII. Foresight Initiative**

25. FAO was invited to participate in the UK Foresight Project on the detection and identification of infectious diseases, with the objective of assessing global scientific & technology needs for diagnostics, identification and monitoring for human, animal and plant infectious diseases for the next 15-25 years. Conclusions from this official project will be launched on 26 April 2006. The IPPC Secretariat has participated due to the transboundary nature of many plant infectious diseases and the global perspective of this project. Discussions are continuing with the objective a improving and developing capacity in the area of global monitoring, reporting, diagnostic and rapid response, and developing relevant synergies between plant, animal and human health infrastructure. It is hoped that resource possibilities for capacity building may arise from this initiative.