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Organización
de las
Naciones
Unidas
para la
Agricultura
y la
Alimentación

INTERIM COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

Fifth Session

Rome, 7-11 April 2003

Standard Setting (Report of the Secretariat)

Agenda Item 4.2 of the Provisional Agenda

1. The work programme for the establishment of ISPMs suffered from resource limitations in 2002. This resulted in a significant reduction in activities compared with expectations that were reflected in the anticipated work programme adopted by the ICPM at its Fourth Session.
2. The main impacts on the work programme for standard setting were the postponement of three expert working groups: PRA for regulated non-quarantine pests; surveillance for citrus canker; and the revision of ISPM No.1. In addition, printing of new standards in "green book format" and work on manuals was suspended to divert resources to the updated *Guide to the IPPC* and associated brochures.
3. This reduction in work programme activity for standard setting is primarily a reflection of funding and personnel limitations within the Secretariat. The personnel situation is expected to improve in 2003 because visiting experts have joined or are expected to join the Secretariat (one each from Scotland, Canada, and Australia) for periods of six months to one year. However, the funding situation is expected to be much the same as 2002.
4. The Secretariat, in consultation with the Bureau, gave priority to the Working Group on Efficacy of Measures and the Working Group on PRA for Living Modified Organisms. In the case of the former, funding was available from commitments made in 2001. In the case of the latter, funding was made available by the Government of Canada.

Current status of standard setting

5. The ICPM will recall that the following international standards for phytosanitary measures (ISPMs) have been adopted:

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- ISPM Pub. No. 1: *Principles of plant quarantine as related to international trade*, 1993
 - ISPM Pub. No. 2: *Guidelines for pest risk analysis*, 1995
 - ISPM Pub. No. 3: *Code of conduct for the import and release of exotic biological control agents*, 1995
 - ISPM Pub. No. 4: *Requirements for the establishment of pest free areas*, 1995
 - ISPM Pub. No. 5: *Glossary of phytosanitary terms*, 1999 (revised annually)
 - Glossary Supplement No. 1: *Guidelines on the interpretation and application of the concept of official control for regulated pests*, 2001
 - ISPM Pub. No. 6: *Guidelines for surveillance*, 1997
 - ISPM Pub. No. 7: *Export certification system*, 1997
 - ISPM Pub. No. 8: *Determination of pest status in an area*, 1998
 - ISPM Pub. No. 9: *Guidelines for pest eradication programmes*, 1998
 - ISPM Pub. No. 10: *Requirements for the establishment of pest free places of production and pest free production sites*, 1999
 - ISPM Pub. No. 11: *Pest risk analysis for quarantine pests*, 2001
 - ISPM Pub. No. 12: *Guidelines for phytosanitary certificates*, 2001
 - ISPM Pub. No. 13: *Guidelines for the notification of non-compliance and emergency action*, 2001
 - ISPM Pub. No. 14: *The use of integrated measures in a systems approach for pest risk management*, 2002
 - ISPM Pub. No. 15: *Guidelines for regulating wood packaging material in international trade*, 2002 (suspended)
 - ISPM Pub. No. 16: *Regulated non-quarantine pests: concept and application*, 2002
 - ISPM Pub. No. 17: *Pest reporting*, 2002

6. The FAO Conference adopted ISPMs 1-8 prior to the establishment of the Interim Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (ICPM). ISPMs 9-17 have been adopted by the ICPM since 1998. The ICPM also adopted a comprehensive revision of the *Glossary of Phytosanitary Terms* in 1999 and has subsequently adopted annual amendments.

7. Expert working groups organized in 2002 were:

- Glossary Working Group
 - 5-7 February in Paris, France
 - Regular Programme funding with EPPO collaboration
- PRA for living modified organisms
 - 24-27 September in Ottawa, Canada
 - Funding from the Government of Canada with NAPPO collaboration
- Efficacy of measures
 - 24-29 November
 - Regular Programme funding in collaboration with Imperial College, Wye, UK

8. In addition, the work programme in 2002 included the First and Second meetings of the new Standards Committee (SC). The First meeting occurred in May 2002 and resulted in the approval of five documents for distribution to Members for consultation:

- Amendments to the Glossary of Phytosanitary Terms
- Supplement to the Glossary: Guidelines on the understanding of *potential economic importance* and related terms including reference to environmental considerations
- Supplement to ISPM No. 11: Analysis of environmental risks
- Guidelines for the use of irradiation as a phytosanitary measure
- Guidelines for regulated pest lists

9. The First meeting of the SC also approved specifications for standards and made recommendations for the priorities to be given to draft standards under development.

10. The five documents listed above were distributed to Members for consultation in June 2002 with a deadline of 31 October 2002 for comments to be submitted to the Secretariat. The responses from governments were collected and summarized by the Secretariat. The drafts and comments were then reviewed first by the SC Working Group and then by the Standards Committee at its Second meeting in November 2002 when it approved the documents that are provided to the Fifth Session of the ICPM for adoption.

11. The work programme for standard setting currently includes the following standards under development or identified by the ICPM as priorities for development:

- Efficacy of measures (drafted)
- Supplement on PRA for living modified organisms (drafted)
- PRA for regulated non-quarantine pests (drafted)
- Glossary of phytosanitary terms (ongoing)
- Surveillance for citrus canker (redrafting)
- Import regulatory systems (redrafting)
- Revision of ISPM No.1
- Low pest prevalence
- Inspection methodology (redrafting)
- Guidelines for equivalence (following efficacy of measures)
- Revision of ISPM No. 2
- Revision of ISPM No. 3 (being pursued outside of the regular programme)

12. Draft documents that are anticipated for the Standards Committee to review in May 2003 are:

- Amendments to the Glossary
- PRA for living modified organisms
- Efficacy of measures
- PRA for regulated non-quarantine pests
- Import regulatory systems
- Specifications for new standards

(Note: This anticipates the completion of the expert working groups for the Glossary and PRA for regulated non-quarantine pests in February 2003.)

ISPMs for which drafts have been prepared

13. *Guidelines for surveillance for specific pests: citrus canker*

The first draft of this standard was introduced to the Committee of Experts on Phytosanitary Measures (CEPM) at its fourth meeting in October 1997. The CEPM decided to defer detailed discussion on the standard pending consultation with technical experts. At the next meeting of the CEPM in May 1998, it was noted that there were substantial differences in the views of experts regarding many aspects of the standard, but in particular regarding statistical levels for survey. The Secretariat has been unable to resolve these differences and therefore continues to hold the standard. The Interim Standards Committee (ISC) recommended that a small working group be organized to review and revise the standard with the aim of completing a new draft. In 2002, the Standards Committee reaffirmed this recommendation and the Informal Working Group on Strategic Planning and Technical Assistance (SPTA) recommended that priority should be given to the completion of this standard.

14. Some Members, however, have expressed the opinion that a complement of standards associated with citrus canker should also receive a high priority in the work programme. This would include standards on eradication, diagnostics, treatment, systems approaches, etc. Although Members agreed at the Fourth Session of the ICPM to complete the surveillance standard as a stand-alone document, some Members have expressed to the Secretariat their reluctance to adopt the completed standard until the complementary standards are also undertaken. The Secretariat planned to include an expert meeting on this standard in the 2002 work programme but gave this a low priority because of concerns about the possibility that adoption would not be possible.

15. *Guidelines for an import regulatory system*

The CEPM considered the first draft of this standard at its fourth meeting in October 1997. Suggestions for redrafting have resulted in several drafts being prepared and submitted to the CEPM and later to the Interim Standards Committee (ISC). At its fourth meeting in November 2001, the ISC recommended that a small working group of volunteers from the ISC be organized to prepare a suitable revision. The primary issue is the level of detail that the standard will contain as regards structural and operational aspects of import regulatory systems.

16. The SC was unable to reconsider the draft at its First meeting in May 2002, but it noted that the draft had changed significantly from its original form. The SC agreed that it would consider the new draft in light of the series of changes since the original was prepared. The Secretariat will ask the SC Working Group in May 2003 to reconsider the standard or recommend next steps for its completion.

17. *Inspection methodology*

The first draft of the standard on inspection methodology was submitted to the CEPM at its second meeting in May 1995. Suggestions were made for revision with the recommendation that the revised draft be again submitted to the CEPM. The revised standard was brought back to the CEPM at its third meeting in May 1996 where further concerns were expressed and it was suggested that additional revision be undertaken. A revised draft was submitted to the fourth meeting of the CEPM in October 1997. After substantial discussion and revision, the standard was approved for distribution to governments for consultation. Comments from governments were considered by the CEPM at its sixth meeting in May 1999. Concerns about the concept of Maximum Allowable Prevalence and the statistical basis for inspection were raised by a substantial number of countries. The CEPM recommended that experts reconsider the standard in light of the comments. The Secretariat has held the standard pending the opportunity to reconvene an expert meeting.

ISPMs that require review and possible revision

18. ISPM Pub. No. 1: *Principles of plant quarantine as related to international trade*, 1995
This standard was adopted before the IPPC (1997) was approved. As a result it is inconsistent with the IPPC. It has been noted that certain aspects of the standard are also not consistent with the SPS Agreement. The standard was referred to the Glossary Group for review in 2000. The Glossary Group considered that the standard could be simply edited for consistency with the IPPC (1997) and SPS Agreement or it could be subjected to a comprehensive review and revision. The Glossary Group recommended a comprehensive revision. The ISC has agreed that a comprehensive revision is necessary. An expert working group was planned for 2002 but postponed because of funding limitations.

19. ISPM Pub. No. 2: *Guidelines for pest risk analysis*, 1996

It was anticipated that this standard would be reviewed and revised to become a new concept standard after the adoption of ISPM No. 11. Certain aspects of ISPM No. 2 are inconsistent with ISPM No. 11 and the standard does not provide any guidance on regulated non-quarantine pests. The ICPM has maintained this revision in the work programme but has not given any priority to its completion.

20. ISPM Pub. No. 3: *Code of conduct for the import and release of exotic biological control agents*, 1995

The Secretariat is aware of a wide variety of concerns regarding this standard and calls for the urgent revision of the standard to make it more relevant to contemporary applications. In particular, it has been noted that much of the terminology is outdated and there are gaps in the scope of its application.

21. The Secretariat was able to take advantage of project funds made available through FAO's Integrated Pest Management Programme to initiate an expert review of ISPM No. 3 to identify the nature and extent of a revision. The expert meeting occurred December 2002 at Imperial College in Wye, UK. It is anticipated that further development can also be funded outside the Regular Programme budget for the IPPC.

22. ISPM Pub. No. 4: *Requirements for the establishment of pest free areas*, was due for review in 2001. ISPM Pub. No. 6: *Guidelines for surveillance*, and ISPM Pub. No. 7: *Export certification system* were due for review in 2002. ISPM Pub. No. 8: *Determination of pest status in an area*, and ISPM Pub. No. 9: *Guidelines for pest eradication programmes* are due for review in 2003. The Secretariat has referred these documents to the Glossary Working Group for its recommendations.

23. In addition to the standards already included in the work programme, the Secretariat has received requests for additional topics to be included as follows:

- PRA for low-mobility pests in consumption commodities (Chile)
- Training and accreditation of inspectors (NAPPO)
- Revision of ISPM No. 11 to include new supplements (expert working group)

24. The ICPM is invited to:

1. *Express* its gratitude to countries and organizations that have provided assistance and resources to the work programme.
2. *Urge* Members to cover the costs for their participation in standard setting and assist the participation of developing country Members wherever possible.
3. *Note* the topics and status of draft standards under development and existing standards requiring review.
4. *Note* specific suggestions received for new topics to be considered for the work programme.
5. *Comment* on the work programme for standard setting.