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INTERIM COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

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Technical Assistance and PCE (Report of the Secretariat)

Agenda Item 4.4 of the Provisional Agenda

1. Technical Assistance for phytosanitary capacity building continues to be a major part of the work programme of the Secretariat. The Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE), endorsed by the ICPM at its Third Session for wider application, is rapidly becoming a valuable diagnostic tool for national phytosanitary systems. This report is to summarize developments and activities associated with technical assistance activities of the Secretariat during 2002, including recent developments regarding PCE.

FAO Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP)

2. The ICPM will recall that FAO's TCP programme is based on requests from Member governments. During 2002, approximately 38 countries benefited from TCP projects valued at approximately US\$2.5 million. This excludes countries for which projects have already been approved but are pending implementation (approximately US\$1.3 million). Following is a summary of TCP projects for phytosanitary capacity building that have been coordinated or prepared by the IPPC Secretariat in collaboration with FAO Regional Offices:

- a) Countries for which projects are currently being implemented or are approved for implementation:
Tunisia, Kenya, CARICOM Countries (14), Mauritania, Nigeria, Belize, Panama, Costa Rica, Seychelles, Kenya, Estonia, Jamaica, Antigua, Barbados, Suriname, Eritrea, Azerbaijan, Gabon, South-east Asia rubber producing countries, Iran and Mauritius.
- b) Countries for which applications are being considered or in the approval process:
Cuba, Pacific Countries, Uganda, Algeria, Malawi, Zambia, Swaziland, Central American (OIRSA) countries, Kyrgyz Republic, Gambia and Kenya.

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3. The Secretariat provides Advisory Technical Services for most TCP projects. This advice has increasingly focused on promoting the implementation of international standards, identifying and addressing, to the extent possible, issues which impede implementation. Training is provided specifically in:

- international standards for phytosanitary measures (to understanding their implementation);
- Pest Risk Analysis and pest surveillance (to institutionalize these systems);
- the IPPC (to promote understanding of the Convention, to encourage acceptance of the 1997 text, and to recognize its role in global harmonization and cooperation in phytosanitary measures).

4. In addition, the Secretariat may collaborate with the FAO Legal Office to provide assistance regarding:

- legal frameworks to promote conformity with the IPPC; and
- institutional issues for necessary adjustments to management and authority frameworks to update and improve the design of phytosanitary regulatory systems.

Special Programme for Food Security

5. The IPPC Secretariat provided technical inputs for the preparation and implementation of certain aspects of FAO's Special Programme for Food Security. This was primarily to ensure that appropriate provisions were included for national and regional phytosanitary capacity building. Priority regions for such assistance are as follows:

UEMOA – Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinée Bissau, Mali, Niger, Senegal, and Togo. This is a US\$ 4 million project currently being implemented. The IPPC Secretariat conducted a two-week training programme for national and regional consultants on international standards for phytosanitary measures and the use of PCE.

CARIFORUM – Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Dominican Republic, St Kitts/Nevis, The Bahamas, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Guyana, Haiti, Suriname, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago. A formulation mission was completed using TCP resources.

ECOWAS- A formulation mission completed using TCP resources.

African Unity (AU) – A project was formulated using TCP resources.

Regular Programme and Preventing Food Losses (PFL) Funds

6. The ICPM will recall that the work programme of the Secretariat makes provision for one professional staff (the Plant Quarantine Officer) and a small budget to be devoted to technical assistance activities. During 2002 and 2003, this is supplemented by additional funding provided to the Secretariat through the FAO programme for Preventing Food Losses (PFL). The PFL project funds are specifically dedicated to the development and maintenance of the PCE. Following is a summary of activities undertaken in 2002:

- two week workshop (25 Nov-6 Dec 2002) on ISPMs, Pest Risk Analysis and phytosanitary systems evaluation in developing countries. This was attended by 14 potential national phytosanitary consultants from the African region;
- two week training programme on international standards for phytosanitary measures and PCE for 12 national and regional consultants;
- one week workshop (June 2002) for phytosanitary experts and the FAO Legal Office to develop an outline for guidelines on reviewing and updating phytosanitary legislation;
- one week workshop (June 2002) for PCE Facilitators and users to review and update the PCE.

Assistance to Regional Plant Protection Organizations (RPPOs)

7. The following summarizes the Secretariat's main activities with RPPOs since the last meeting of the ICPM:

- attended and contributed to meetings of NAPPO, EPPO, APPPC and IAPSC;
- continued to collaborate with governments of Caribbean countries to establish a regional organization responsible for plant health, animal health and food safety;
- assisted the APPPC in identifying suitable consultants for the implementation of a project to complete a pest risk analysis for South American Leaf Blight (SALB); and
- supported and contributed to the 14th Technical Consultation among RPPOs (December 9-13).

PCE Application

8. The PCE has been applied in a supervised manner in over 35 countries in the Pacific, Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean and the Andean countries. It now forms an integral part of the approach to project formulation and implementation of TCP and other projects. The instrument has been available on the web or through the IPPC Secretariat for approximately two years.

9. The IPPC Secretariat continues to promote its use and review its relevance in light of experiences gained and recognizing the need for periodic updating to take into account new international standards. A more detailed report on the PCE is given under agenda item 8.8.

Challenges

10. The Secretariat is severely limited in its ability to provide necessary technical support to the formulation, implementation and management of phytosanitary capacity building projects. Many projects therefore suffer from inordinately long delays in the processes of formulation, approval, and implementation. Likewise, there is a critical shortage of experts and consultants to support projects. This also creates problems for implementation. The ICPM is advised that the current situation is not sustainable and further increases in capacity building demands will be increasingly more difficult to meet without additional human and financial resources, including the identification and training of phytosanitary consultants.

11. The ICPM is invited to:

1. *Note and comment* on the report of the Secretariat regarding Technical Assistance.
2. *Consider* the priority and means for increasing the Secretariat's capacity to address current and future phytosanitary capacity building demands.