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para la
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y la
Alimentación

INTERIM COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

Fifth Session

Rome, 7-11 April 2003

IPPC Information Exchange Work Programme

Agenda Item 8.7 of the Provisional Agenda

1. The following is a summary proposal by the Secretariat for the work programme on information exchange. This is based on the Strategic Plan (Agenda Item 6) and consideration of current needs of Members. It anticipates an incremental increase in the resources devoted to information exchange (particularly from 2004 onwards) and increased staff capacity (through current and anticipated additional staff, visiting scientists and associate professional officers).

A. TRANSLATION

2. The Secretariat will continue with arrangements for the translation, printing and distribution of ISPMs and relevant meeting documents as required. When feasible, the Secretariat will collaborate with Members and RPPOs that have expressed an interest in assisting with translation.

3. The process of revising and harmonizing ISPMs for Spanish language consistency and accuracy has been initiated by NAPPO with the cooperation of representatives from Spanish-speaking countries. It is expected that this process could last two years, and a NAPPO contact group has been established to deal with this process. The Secretariat wishes to thank NAPPO for undertaking and coordinating this work.

B. DISTRIBUTION OF OFFICIAL INFORMATION

4. The Secretariat will continue with the distribution of official information as in the past, while relying increasingly on the IPP as the primary means for making official information available.

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

5. The Secretariat anticipates that the IPP CD-ROM will be made available to all official contact points in 2003. It is proposed that updates will be made available every six months depending on the availability of trust funds or extra-budgetary resources for this purpose.

C. IPPC ADVOCACY

6. Promotional material was produced during 2002 in the five official FAO languages. Regular revision and updating of this material is envisioned as a priority. It is also anticipated that the series would be expanded as resources allow.

D. WEB SITE

7. The Secretariat proposes that the following be undertaken with the cooperation of Members:

1. *IPP Support Group*: The IPP Support Group has been activated with the help of additional resources made available to the IPPC Secretariat (a visiting expert). This group will be involved in all relevant stages of the IPP development. Although it is anticipated that most work of the IPP Support Group would be done through electronic communications, working group meetings may need to be organized as necessary and depending on funding, to discuss certain critical aspects of IPP developments in a more interactive manner.
2. *Improve design*: A major problem has been the navigation and layout of the IPP. This has been partially addressed and the Support Group is expected to work on this further. It is anticipated most of this work will be undertaken in 2003.
3. *Translation*: The IPP is now available with introductory text in English and is expected to soon be available in French and Spanish. It is the intention of the IPPC Secretariat to expand this to include Chinese in 2003-2004 and Arabic in 2004-2005, if resources allow (this programme could be expedited should significant additional resources be made available to undertake these specific tasks). Once the initial work of developing the whole web site in a specific language has been undertaken, translation is then largely the maintenance of updated information. The IPPC Secretariat is not anticipating the translation of all national information as this needs to be provided in one of the official FAO languages.
4. *Develop specific requirements*: The Secretariat anticipates new specific requirements will be needed to facilitate the implementation of the IPPC and the ICPM work programme, e.g. areas under password for draft ISPM development, and a protected area for the Subsidiary Body on Dispute Settlement. A substantial amount of this special work is anticipated for 2003-2004. Afterwards, such development will be *ad hoc* according to the need and the availability of necessary resources.
5. *Pest reporting*: It is anticipated that this function will be developed once the other functions have been stabilized. The Secretariat anticipates that this system will be fully operational within 18 months.

E. CAPACITY BUILDING

8. It is recognized that a capacity building programme is needed to ensure that Members are able to fully participate and benefit from the information exchange initiatives of the ICPM. The following are proposed activities:

1. *Regional workshops*: There is a need to hold one regional workshop in each FAO region over the next 12 months to raise awareness of national information exchange obligations, the options available through the ICPM information exchange work

programme, perform an assessment of regional needs, and assist the development of regional priorities. The Secretariat anticipates that donors will be needed for these workshops.

2. *Sub-regional workshops*: Sub-regional workshops will also be necessary to specifically address the needs, and facilitate the information exchange process, of existing sub-regional groupings, e.g. regional economic integration organizations and/or regional plant protection organizations. The Secretariat anticipates that donors will be needed for these workshops. This will take place over the next 24 months after the appropriate regional workshop.
 3. *National*: Through the FAO Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP), it will be possible to address a significant proportion of the anticipated technical assistance needs for national information exchange. However, it is likely that most initial national capacity building will take place outside this framework because of other official national priorities for technical assistance. It is estimated that at least 120 countries will need some degree of technical assistance to develop appropriate information exchange capacity within the framework of the IPPC. It is hoped that some of these needs can be dealt with at the regional and sub-regional level. The Secretariat anticipates that this will be addressed through a combination of donors and TCP projects over the next five years.
9. The ICPM is invited to:
1. *Express* its gratitude to NAPPO for their assistance with Spanish translation and *urge* Members and RPPOs to cooperate with NAPPO in this regard.
 2. *Recommend* modifications to the outlined information exchange work programme while ensuring consistency with the IPPC Strategic Plan.
 3. *Urge* Members to assist the Secretariat wherever possible with capacity building for information exchange, particularly with respect to extra-budgetary resources for regional, sub-regional and national capacity building.
 4. *Comment* on the IPP and *recommend* modifications or enhancements.