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para la
Agricultura
y la
Alimentación

INTERIM COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

Fourth Session

Rome, 11-15 March 2002

Standard Setting (Report of the Secretariat)

Agenda Item 4.1 of the Provisional Agenda

1. The work programme for the establishment of ISPMs continues to benefit from financial savings that result from countries covering the expenses of their experts participating in standard-setting activities. These savings have made it possible for the Secretariat to continue organizing two meetings of the Interim Standards Committee each year. One meeting is organized in May for approving draft standards to send to governments for consultation. The second meeting is set for October or November to review comments and amend standards for submission to the ICPM for adoption. This arrangement has made it possible for the Interim Standards Committee to approve as many as five documents each year as opposed to only two or three as was done previously. Members have commented positively on this arrangement, in particular the establishment of a routine for consultation.
2. As in the past, ad hoc financial contributions from governments have been important for funding certain meetings. The work programme in 2001 has also benefited for the first time from resources provided by another organization, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).
3. An Associate Professional Officer funded by the United States for the past three years continues to provide significant support to the work programme, in particular to standard setting.
4. Following is a list of standard-setting activities for 2001:

Working Group on Wood Packaging
February 2001 in Mexico City, Mexico
Collaboration with NAPPO

Glossary Working Group
March 2001 in Paris, France
Collaboration with EPPO

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Working Group on Risk Analysis for the Environmental Hazards of Plant Pests
August 2001 in Vienna, Austria
Collaboration with EPPO

Regional Technical Consultation on Draft ISPMs (Asia and the Pacific)
August 2001 in Bangkok, Thailand
Partial funding provided by New Zealand

Open-ended Working Group on Specifications for Standards on LMOs
September 2001 in FAO, Rome
Partial funding provided by the United States

Regional Technical Consultation on Draft ISPMs (Near East)
November 2001 in Cairo, Egypt
FAO funded

Working Group on Irradiation as a Phytosanitary Treatment
November 2001 in Mexico City
Collaboration with SAGAR and ININ
Full funding provided by IAEA

5. In addition, the work programme included the Third and Fourth Meetings of the Interim Standards Committee. The Third Meeting occurred in May 2001 and resulted in the approval of five documents for distribution to Members for consultation:

- Amendments to the Glossary of phytosanitary terms
- Regulated non-quarantine pests: concept and application
- Guidelines for regulating wood packaging material in international trade
- Pest reporting
- Integrated measures for pest risk management (Systems Approaches)

6. The Third Meeting of the ISC also approved the first seven specifications for standards and made recommendations for the completion of the standard on import regulatory systems.

7. The five documents listed above were distributed to governments for consultation in June 2001 with a deadline of 31 October 2001 for comments to be submitted to the Secretariat. The responses from governments were reviewed by the Interim Standards Committee at its Fourth Meeting in November 2001 when it approved the documents that have been provided to the Fourth Session of the ICPM for adoption. In addition, the Fourth ICPM is provided with a detailed specification for a standard on risk analysis for living modified organisms (LMOs) that resulted from the open-ended expert working group meeting in September 2001.

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

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, 2001

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

9. FAO Conference adopted ISPMs 1-8 prior to the establishment of the ICPM. ISPMs 9-13 have been adopted by the ICPM since its first meeting in 1998. The ICPM also adopted a comprehensive revision of the Glossary of phytosanitary terms in 1999.

10. The following summarizes ISPMs that are currently under development and their status:

Guidelines for an import regulatory system

11. The first draft was considered by the Committee of Experts on Phytosanitary Measures (CEPM) at its Fourth Meeting in October 1997. Suggestions for redrafting have resulted in several additional drafts being prepared and submitted to the CEPM and later to the ISC. At its Fourth Meeting in November 2001, the ISC recommended that a small working group of volunteers from the ISC be organized to reorganize and revise the draft. The primary issue is the level of detail that the standard will contain as regards structural and operational aspects of import regulatory systems.

Guidelines for surveillance for specific pests: citrus canker

12. The first draft of this standard was introduced to the 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, the CEPM and the Secretariat noted substantial differences in the views of experts regarding many aspects of the standard, but in particular as regards statistical levels for survey. The Secretariat has been unable to resolve these differences and therefore continues to hold the standard. The ISC has recommended that a small working group be organized to review and revise the standard with the aim of completing a new draft.

Guidelines for listing regulated pests

13. The first draft of this standard was submitted to the ISC at its First meeting in May 2000, where it was approved for distribution to governments for consultation. The consultation process resulted in diverse comments. The Secretariat judged the comments to be too difficult for the ISC to reconcile in the limited time available and therefore did not put the standard forward for consideration at the Second meeting of the ISC in November 2000. The draft and comments are being held by the Secretariat pending the opportunity for further discussion regarding the comments. The ISC has recommended that the Secretariat refer the draft and comments to a steward to facilitate further discussion among experts.

Inspection methodology

14. 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 a Maximum Allowable Prevalence and the statistical basis for inspection were raised by a substantial number of countries. The CEPM recommended that the standard be reconsidered by experts in light of the comments. The Secretariat has held the standard pending the opportunity to reconvene an expert meeting.

Risk analysis for the environmental hazards of plant pests

15. The Expert Working Group for this standard met August 2001 and has developed a draft that is designed to be a supplement to ISPM 11. It is anticipated that the draft will be submitted to the Standards Committee at its first meeting in May 2002.

Irradiation as a phytosanitary treatment

16. The Expert Working Group for this standard met November 2001. A draft has been formulated that represents the first standard done by the IPPC on a specific treatment. It is anticipated that the draft will be submitted to the Standards Committee at its First Meeting in May 2002.

17. In addition, the following ISPMs require review and revision:

ISPM Pub. No. 1: Principles of plant quarantine as related to international trade, 1995

18. This standard was adopted before the New Revised Text of the IPPC 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.

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

19. It was anticipated that this standard would be reviewed and revised to become a new concept standard after the adoption of ISPM 11. Certain aspects of ISPM No. 2 are inconsistent with ISPM 11 and the standard does not provide any guidance on regulated non-quarantine pests.

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

20. 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 the standard has outdated terminology and gaps in the scope of its application.

21. ISPM Pub. No. 4: *Requirements for the establishment of pest free areas*, became due for review in December 2001. ISPM Pub. No. 6: *Guidelines for surveillance*, and ISPM Pub. No. 7: *Export certification system, 1997* are due for review in 2002. The Secretariat has received no specific comments regarding issues for review in these standards.

22. 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. *Comment* on the work programme for standard setting.