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para la
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y la
Alimentación

INTERIM COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

Sixth Session

Rome, 29 March – 2 April 2004

Report on the International Phytosanitary Portal and the Information Exchange Work Programme

Agenda Item 9.1 of the Provisional Agenda

IPPC advocacy

1. An updated version of the *Guide to the International Plant Protection Convention* has been published in the five official FAO languages. The brochure titled *Quick Guide to the IPPC* continues to be popular and is available in the five official languages of FAO. This brochure is complemented by a series of four leaflets known as Information Notes (also available in the five official FAO languages):

1. *A summary of benefits provided by the IPPC.*
2. *A summary of current ISPMs.*
3. *Key aspects of currently adopted ISPMs, and*
4. *An introduction to the IPPC and the environment.*

Both the *Quick Guide to the IPPC* and the Information Notes were published at the beginning of 2003, and will be updated and new topics added when relevant and as resources are available.

Official contact points

2. The Secretariat continues to provide information to Members through official contact points where these have been identified. The ICPM is reminded that FAO policies require certain documents such as invitations and correspondence from the Director General of the Organization to follow a particular distribution that may not include the designated official contact points. Where it is relevant, such material is also provided to official contact points by the Secretariat.

3. Printed material, such as ISPMs and other correspondence, provided by the Secretariat directly to official contact points is not copied by the Secretariat to other offices in the government of the Member, or to other parties within the country. It is the responsibility of the official contact point to ensure that relevant information is disseminated to officials or others as appropriate within their country.

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

4. The Secretariat maintains a list of updated official contact point information when this information is provided by Contracting Parties. This information is available on the International Phytosanitary Portal (IPP - <http://www.ippc.int>). The list is published and made available in printed form at each session of the ICPM. The Secretariat also makes official contact point information available upon request.
5. The Secretariat notes that many Members have still not designated their official contact point. In addition, a number of Members that have designated official contact points have not provided the Secretariat with updated information where official contact point details have changed (including e-mail addresses). Members are requested to provide such information as soon as practically possible.

Correspondence

6. The ICPM is reminded of the importance of information exchange and reporting for the proper implementation of the IPPC. The Secretariat notes that a limited number of Members have provided information to the Secretariat as specified in the IPPC.
7. The Secretariat continues to accept and encourage the submission of official information in electronic form. However, all official communication between the Secretariat and Members continues to be primarily through printed correspondence with duplicate information provided electronically wherever possible. A few Members have informed the Secretariat that they are willing to accept electronic correspondence as official communication.

IPPC web site

8. A meeting of the IPP Support Group was held in January 2004 and the report of this meeting is available as a Conference Room paper. The Secretariat greatly appreciates the assistance provided by the IPP Support Group, and will continue to develop the IPP with their cooperation and input. Improvements made include navigation, content, stability and the provision of the structure for data entry by NPPOs and RPPOs. An IPP user manual is also in the process of being finalised for utilization in the IPP capacity building programme and to assist people responsible for data entry into the IPP.
9. The IPP on CD-ROM is being distributed approximately every 6 months. It is important to note that this information will rapidly become out of date as new information is added to the IPP. The IPPC web site will always contain the most current information.
10. The ICPM is invited to:
 1. *Urge Members* to provide official contact points or to ensure that information provided on contact points is updated (including e-mail addresses) regularly.
 2. *Remind* Members that official contact points have the responsibility for the dissemination of information as appropriate in their country.
 3. *Recall* the information exchange obligations of Members under the IPPC.
 4. *Urge* Members to provide and update required information as appropriate.
 5. *Comment* on the IPPC advocacy documents and the IPP, and *recommend* modifications, enhancements or new topics.