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para la
Agricultura
y la
Alimentación

INTERIM COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

Fourth Session

Rome, 11-15 March 2002

Technical Assistance (Report of the Secretariat)

Agenda Item 4.3 of the Provisional Agenda

1. The Third Session of the ICPM noted the technical assistance in plant protection provided through the ICPM (see Report of the Third Session of the ICPM, paragraphs 56-59). The ICPM also noted technical assistance provided by the FAO Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) which is facilitated by the IPPC Secretariat (with staff time funded from the IPPC Secretariat's budget). It recognized that Secretariat staff time devoted to the FAO Technical Cooperation Programme represents a contribution to the ICPM's technical assistance programme, although it is not directly managed or directed by the ICPM (see Report of the Third Session of the ICPM, Appendix XVI, paragraph 10, 1.)

2. In its discussions on technical assistance the Third Session of the ICPM noted ICPM (see Report of the Third Session of the ICPM, Appendix XVI, paragraphs 6 and 7):

"The ICPM serves as a forum for:

- identifying technical assistance needs;
- coordinating the ICPM's global and regional technical assistance initiative; and
- promoting bilateral technical assistance."

And that:

"Coordination includes:

- enhancing awareness by gathering and disseminating information on global and regional forms of technical assistance
- identifying and developing phytosanitary capacity assessment mechanisms; and
- arranging for resources to facilitate attendance of developing country Members to meetings."

3. The ICPM also adopted the Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE) as a mechanism to assist all countries in assessing their phytosanitary capacity. Since the Third Session of the ICPM, Members and the Secretariat have sought to further develop the PCE and to arrange for its transition to FAO. Efforts have also been made to facilitate the attendance of developing country Members to meetings and two Regional Technical Consultations were arranged to provide

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developing countries with the opportunity to review draft ISPMs and develop comments to submit to the Interim Standards Committee.

4. The Informal Working Group on Strategic Planning and Technical Assistance that met December 2001 in Bangkok, Thailand emphasized the importance of technical assistance in the implementation of the IPPC. The meeting noted that it was not in the best position to work on technical assistance except to the extent that strategic considerations were involved. The meeting recommended that discussions on technical assistance be shifted to experts involved with the operational aspects of implementation.

FAO Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP)

5. The Secretariat provides Advisory Technical Services to TCP recipients. These services focus on promoting the implementation of ISPMs by identifying and addressing, where possible, issues which impede implementation.

6. Following is a summary of the status of TCPs coordinated or prepared by the IPPC Secretariat in collaboration with FAO Regional Offices.

7. *Countries for which projects were concluded or currently being implemented during 2001/2002:* Sudan, Tanzania, India, Tunisia, Venezuela, CARICOM Countries (14), Mauritania, Nigeria, Belize, Panama, Costa Rica, East African countries (5), Sri Lanka.

8. *Countries for which projects have been approved for implementation:* Seychelles, Kenya, Estonia, Jamaica, Antigua, Barbados, Suriname, Eritrea, Azerbaijan, Zambia

9. *Countries for which applications are being considered or in the approval process:* Gabon, Mauritius, Iran, Cuba, Pacific Countries, Uganda, Algeria, Tunisia

Special Programmes for Food Security

10. The Secretariat provides support for the preparation and implementation of the Regional Programmes for Food Security, ensuring that appropriate aspects of phytosanitary systems are taken into account in these programmes.

11. During the past year, projects requiring technical services from the Secretariat were approved for the regional groups of UEMOA, CARIFORUM, UMA and the OAU countries. The Secretariat participated in project formulation missions for these countries.

Workshops

12. The Secretariat provided direct technical assistance in response to specific requests and needs. Examples are given below:

- SPS and pest risk analysis workshops in South Africa, Namibia, and Bhutan
- two week workshop on ISPMs, contemporary phytosanitary measures and application of the PCE in developing countries, for twelve potential phytosanitary consultants from the African region
- workshop to modernize and harmonize the phytosanitary legislation of the Arab Gulf Council Countries (GCC).

PCE Application

13. The Secretariat continues to promote the improvement and application of the PCE in developing countries. The PCE has been successfully applied in Sudan, Tanzania, Kenya, and about 11 countries in the Caribbean area including Guyana, Suriname, Belize, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago.

14. The use of the PCE is now a key component of most national projects on phytosanitary capacity building being implemented, or to be implemented through FAO's TCP programme.

Other plant protection technical assistance

15. The Secretariat hoped that it would be possible to summarize other technical assistance projects in plant protection that are being undertaken by other organizations. This has not proven possible due to the lack of information provided to the Secretariat.

16. The ICPM is invited to:

1. *Comment* on the ICPM's technical assistance programme, including the implementation of the PCE.
2. *Comment* on the FAO technical assistance programme.
3. *Bring to the attention* of the ICPM other relevant technical assistance.