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para la
Agricultura
y la
Alimentación

INTERIM COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

Seventh Session

Rome, 4 – 8 April 2005

Topics and Priorities for Standards

Agenda Item 7.5.1 of the Provisional Agenda

1. The Informal Working Group on Strategic Planning and Technical Assistance (SPTA) considered the topics and priorities for standards setting that were submitted by countries in 2004. The SPTA identified three broad areas that should be given the highest priority (PRA for weeds; propagating material; soil and growing media) and a list of additional topics which they recommended for consideration by the Standards Committee (SC).
2. The SC considered the SPTA's recommendations for topics for standards. It also considered additional topics which emerged from discussions during the SC meeting, including revision of existing ISPMs. In developing a list of topics to be considered by ICPM for addition to the work programme the SC recommended that the development of the draft standards should only start after work on existing draft ISPMs had been completed. The SC further recommended that specifications should be prepared for all topics on the approved work programme. Specific discussions on topics and priorities for standards took place during the SC meeting are recorded in the report of that meeting (ICPM 2005 INF 4).
3. The SC decided to review all existing ISPMs at its April 2005 meeting, in order to develop recommendations on standards that needed revision and should be added to the work programme.
4. The SC recommended the following list of topics for standards be added to the work programme, with priority given to those listed in bold:
 - A. *Concept standards*
 - a. **Soil and growing media**
 - b. **Movement of plants for planting**
 - c. **Post-entry quarantine for plants for planting**
 - d. **Certification programmes for plants for planting**

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- e. **PRA for plants as pests**
- f. Guidelines for pre-inspection / pre-clearance
- g. Guidelines for regulating stored products in international trade
- h. Inspection manual
- i. Import of organic fertilizers

B. Supplements to existing ISPMs

- a. Supplement to ISPM No. 5: Guidelines on the understanding of “not widely distributed”
- b. Supplement to ISPM No. 5: Appropriate level of protection

C. Review of existing ISPMs

- a. Review of ISPM No. 12 (*Guidelines for phytosanitary certificates*): Section 3.3 in relation to transit.

5. Regarding future submissions of topics and priorities the SC recommended that:

- calls for topics should be annual
- it should be made clear that a new list would be compiled every year and
- submissions from previous years would not be used.

6. At ICPM-6, the topic of a concept standard on import of plant breeding material was added to the work programme. In developing the specification, the SC was unable to make a decision on which elements to include in the specification. The SC recommended that ICPM should provide guidance on specific elements to be included in this standard. The SC identified three possible areas the concept standard could address:

- the import of plant material for breeding, research or germplasm
- the production of and trade in nursery stock, or
- the determination of the potential invasiveness of plants.

In seeking further guidance from the ICPM the SC considered that a concept ISPM on the production of and trade in nursery stock, in particular requirements for the production of propagation material such as cuttings, may be the highest priority. However, the SC also recognized that the other two areas were also significant. In providing guidance the ICPM may also need to consider the relationship between this proposed concept standard and the topics proposed at paragraph 4 above.

7. The ICPM is invited to:

1. *Endorse* the action of the Secretariat in facilitating wherever possible the completion of standards that are already in an advanced stage of development.
2. *Endorse* the list of topics for standards recommended by the SC at paragraph 4 above for addition to the work programme.
3. *Provide* guidance on the specific area(s) that should be addressed in the proposed standard on the import of plant breeding material.
4. *Indicate* priorities for the topics added to the work programme.
5. *Adopt* the procedures recommended by SC at paragraph 5 in regard to submission of topics and priorities for standards development.
6. *Invite* NPPOs, RPPOs, the WTO/SPS Secretariat and other organizations to submit proposed topics and priorities for standards to the IPPC Secretariat by 31st July, 2005.