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COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

First Session

Rome, 3 – 7 April 2006

Proposed Updates of the Strategic Plan in Relation to Technical Assistance

Agenda Item 12.6.2 of the Provisional Agenda

1. A meeting of an Informal Working Group on Technical Assistance (IWG-TA) took place in Rome in March 2005. The purpose of the IWG-TA was to discuss technical assistance issues, specifically regarding the implementation of the IPPC and the International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs), and to identify strategies to promote the implementation of standards.
2. The informal working group analyzed the results of the application of the Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE) tool in more than 60 countries, which identified major constraints in many developing countries. In particular, lack of an appropriate legislative framework, institutional weaknesses, and inappropriate management structures and skills have been identified as high priority areas of need. In addition, the application of the PCE tool shows that the lack of awareness on the part of policy-makers and the private sector is a major impediment for transforming NPPOs into effective organisations able to comply with the obligations of the IPPC/ISPMs.
3. In order to tailor the technical assistance activities of the ICPM/CPM to the needs identified through the PCE, it was thought that the strategic directions of the ICPM/CPM Strategic Plan should be reviewed. Within this context, Strategic Direction No. 4: *The development of the phytosanitary capacity of members by promoting the provision of technical assistance* was discussed and amendments proposed.
4. In addition, an Informal Working Group on Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation had also met in March 2005 and had made recommendations specifically in relation to the PCE tool.
5. At its seventh meeting in October 2005, the Informal Working Group on Strategic Planning and Technical Assistance (SPTA) reviewed the results and recommendations of the

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IWG-TA and the IWG-PCE. The SPTA considered that the recommendations of the IWG-TA were very extensive. It felt that the time allocated to discuss these subjects in the meeting of the SPTA did not reflect the importance of the subjects. For this reason the SPTA believed that the proposals of the IWG-TA should be presented to CPM-1 and advice be sought from the CPM on how to proceed with the recommendations. Regarding the recommendations of the IWG-PCE, the SPTA proposed that the high priority recommendations be incorporated into the Strategic Plan (they are part of CPM 2006/15).

6. The recommendations from the IWG-PCE and IWG-TA regarding proposed changes to Strategic Direction No. 4 of the Strategic Plan (CPM 2006/15) are presented in Annex 1.

7. The CPM is invited to:

1. *Consider* the recommendations of the IWG-TA and the IWG-PCE to change Strategic Direction No. 4 of the Strategic Plan (Annex 1).
2. *Advise* on how to proceed in this matter.
3. *Envisage* that the IWG-TA, already mentioned in the Strategic Plan (CPM 2006/15), continue to provide guidance in relation to technical assistance.

Annex 1

STRATEGIC DIRECTION NO. 4 - MODIFICATIONS PROPOSED BY IWG-TA AND IWG-PCE

The proposed changes below are presented as modifications to the Strategic Plan (CPM 2006/15). The nature of the change is indicated between square brackets (rewording, or addition of a new goal/subgoal).

Goals	Activity	Priority	Timing	Means
[rewording] 4.1 Methods and tools to evaluate national phytosanitary capacities as well as their needs and demands for technical assistance and assess progress developed and maintained				
[Addition under 4.1] Develop mechanisms including performance indicators for assessing the progress of technical assistance programmes in relation to the IPPC/ISPM implementation	Identify measurable indicators	High		Secretariat, IWG-TA
[Addition under 4.1] Explore, for incorporation into later versions of the PCE Tool, options for incorporating stakeholders' priorities in the PCE Tool		Medium		Secretariat
[Addition under 4.1] Integrate in future versions of PCE an option for e-mailing comments to the ICPM via the IPPC Secretariat		Medium		Secretariat
[Addition under 4.1] Consider development of a model instrument for mutual or bilateral agreements, protocols and audit procedures		Medium		Secretariat
[Addition under 4.1] Enhance the capacity of the PCE Tool for generating appropriate reports or graphs to influence policy and/or decision makers on the capacity development needs and priorities.		Medium		Secretariat
[Addition under 4.1] The outputs of the PCE Tool should remain qualitative in nature for the present, but explore options for making the outputs more quantitative in the future.		Low		Secretariat
[rewording] 4.2.1 Organize a minimum of four regional workshops per year to improve the understanding of the draft standards and promote the implementation of existing standards		High	Ongoing	Secretariat
[rewording] 4.4 RPPOs improved and developed with expanded role in the delivery of technical assistance				

Goals	Activity	Priority	Timing	Means
[addition under 4.4] Facilitate and assist members and RPPOs to compile and access information on experts on phytosanitary matters	Develop an effective mechanism for storage and dissemination of information on phytosanitary experts	Medium		Secretariat, IWG-TA
[addition under 4.4] Encourage RPPOs to organize regional workshops on the discussion of draft ISPMs		High	Ongoing	Secretariat
[addition under 4.4] Assist RPPOs to increase Members' technical capacity to implement the IPPC (e.g. conduct PRAs, establish surveillance programmes etc)	Provide technical support for regional workshops on emerging phytosanitary issues related to IPPC implementation			
[addition under 4.4] Encourage technical cooperation among RPPOs in order to assist in the development of less developed RPPOs		Medium	Ongoing	Secretariat
[addition of a new goal] 4.6 Increase knowledge and awareness of the IPPC/ISPMs and their potential impact on trade in the phytosanitary Community (policy makers, private sector, general public) to facilitate modernization of the phytosanitary systems (linked to Strategic Direction No. 1)				
[addition] 4.6.1 Organize training for policy makers, NPPO top level managers, public and private stakeholders	Organize a minimum of four regional trainings	High		Secretariat
[addition] 4.6.2 Produce publication series with study cases regarding the use and application of ISPMs in support of international trade	Produce and distribute a minimum of eight conceptual papers Develop interactive software applications to increase awareness on IPPC/ISPMs	High High		Secretariat, IWG-TA Secretariat, IWG-TA

Goals	Activity	Priority	Timing	Means
[addition] 4.6.3 Produce a series of phytosanitary concept papers addressing critical issues relating to phytosanitary legislation and organizational aspects of NPPOs (e.g. sustainable financial management options such as cost recovery, organizational structure, accreditation and/or authorized systems for phytosanitary services)	Produce and distribute a minimum of eight conceptual papers	High		Secretariat / IWG-TA
[addition of a new goal] 4.7 ISPMs integrated into National Programmes and systems in accordance with the obligations under the IPPC to facilitate safe trade in plants, plant products and other regulated articles				
[addition] 4.7.1 Assist members to set up and institutionalize national phytosanitary programmes through implementation of programme specific ISPMs (e.g. ISPM relating to surveillance, eradication, export certification system, import regulatory system, pest risk analysis)		High	Ongoing	Secretariat
[addition of a new goal] 4.8 Members have improved access to scientific, educational and/or technical support at regional and global levels (linked to strategic direction 6.3)				
[addition] 4.8.1 Identify and promote centres and/or sustainable initiatives (including distance education) coordinating mechanisms for the provision of services and advanced training in phytosanitary matters at the regional and global levels (e.g. surveillance, PRAs, pest diagnostics, phytosanitary management)	Formulate a concept paper to provide justification and guidelines for centres in strategic areas (including distance education initiatives)	High		Secretariat / IWG-TA
[addition of a new goal] 4.9 Members have updated legal frameworks that confirm to the principles of the IPPC (1997)				
[addition] 4.9.1 Maintain assistance for the establishment, revision and updating of national legislation	Ongoing	High	Ongoing	Secretariat, FAO Legal
[addition] 4.9.2 Provide legal advice on phytosanitary, legal and associated issues to the ICPM	Ongoing	High		Secretariat, FAO Legal
[addition of a new goal] 4.10 Members have modernized NPPO management systems to fulfil their obligations under the IPPC				
[addition] 4.10.1 To identify, promote and assist in the implementation of change management initiatives for NPPOs (including sustainable financial management options e.g. cost recovery, accreditation systems) to function effectively and efficiently	Produce a minimum of two conceptual papers	High		Secretariat / IWG-TA

Goals	Activity	Priority	Timing	Means
[addition] 4.10.2 To assist NPPOs to establish documented systems (including operational manuals) for the operation of their system in line with the ISPMs and quality assurance procedures	Identify the format and content of the operational manual system Produce a minimum of five operational manuals	High		Secretariat, IWG-TA
[addition] 4.10.3 Promote among NPPOs the adoption of integrated phytosanitary information management systems		Medium	Ongoing	Secretariat, IWG-TA