

February 2006



منظمة الأغذية
والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

联合国
粮食及
农业组织

Food
and
Agriculture
Organization
of
the
United
Nations

Organisation
des
Nations
Unies
pour
l'alimentation
et
l'agriculture

Organización
de las
Naciones
Unidas
para la
Agricultura
y la
Alimentación

E

COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

First Session

Rome, 3 – 7 April 2006

Report on the Informal Working Group on Liaison with Research and Education Institutes

Agenda Item 16.1 of the Provisional Agenda

1. Due to the availability of additional resources toward the end of 2005, the IPPC Secretariat, in consultation with the SPTA, decided to hold a three day working group on liaison with research and education institutes. ICPM-5 (2003) had agreed to the creation of a working group on this subject, but it had not been convened due to priorities and resources.
2. Invitations were sent to eight technical experts working in this area. These experts were selected based on feedback received by the Secretariat from National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs) and Regional Plant Protection Organizations (RPPOs) on appropriate people to contact for the pilot study on liaison with research and education institutions earlier in the year.
3. The meeting was convened in December 2005. Due to the short timeframe involved, it was unfortunately not possible to find replacements for invited experts who could not attend the meeting. As a result, only four experts (plus an IPPC consultant and the Secretariat) were able to attend the meeting and for this reason it was decided to refer to it as an Informal Working Group (IWG).
4. The IWG reviewed the relevant reports of all past discussions on liaison with research and education institutes in the meetings of the ICPM and SPTA, and related this to the various relevant provisions identified in the IPPC.
5. The IWG reviewed the results of the Pilot Project on Liaison with Research and Education Organizations which was undertaken in the first 2 months of 2005. They found the results very encouraging. This indicated that the degree of cooperation would be higher than initially expected, which was in part due to the recognition of the need for this type of phytosanitary liaison by countries contacted.

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

6. At the request of the SPTA, the IWG obtained direct input from the Informal Working on Technical Assistance that had made similar recommendations on the need for liaison with research and education institutes at its meeting in March 2005. As requested, these recommendations were considered and discussed (See also rows 6.3, 6.3.1. and 6.3.2 of the strategic plan, in Annex 1 of CPM2006/15).

Recommendations

7. The IWG :
- a) recommended that, given the provisions of the IPPC, the CPM should actively promote interaction between the phytosanitary regulatory, scientific and other technical communities in order to assist countries to meet the technical requirements of the IPPC.
 - b) recommended that, based on the results of the Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE), and in order to satisfy the technical needs of NPPOs, it is necessary to enlarge the scope of the programme on research and education institutes to include a range of technical service providers wider than originally indicated.
 - c) recommended a change of title to this initiative. A more appropriate title would be *Phytosanitary Research and Education Providers Programme* (PREPP). For an explanation of the term, see Annex 1.
 - d) recognized that there were mutual benefits to be gained by all groups involved in this programme, as outlined under the section on benefits in Annex 1.
 - e) recognized that there are currently no specific resources available to support this programme. However, it was recommended that the Secretariat starts to compile existing information from sources such as technical cooperation projects (TCPs), the International Phytosanitary Portal (IPP), the PCE, working groups and other FAO sources at no additional cost as a matter of routine within the existing work programme.
 - f) requested the CPM to endorse the PREPP so that the Secretariat can seek additional funding sources.
 - g) recommended that the Pilot Project on Research and Education Institutions be used as a basis for future work in this area.
 - h) requested that the CPM recommend NPPOs and RPPOs provide support to the PREPP programme.
 - i) recommended that the Secretariat be requested to investigate the feasibility of a PREPP participation fee.
 - j) recommended that the names and contacts of personnel who have been trained in phytosanitary skills (e.g. personnel who have undergone pest risk analysis (PRA) training by PREPPs or TCPs) be compiled into a database on the IPP.
 - k) recognized that much of the functionality needed for the PREPP exists in the IPP; hence the IPP should be further developed for the specific requirements of this programme. It is essential that resources be made available to meet these objectives:
 - The PREPP needs to have electronic inputs and outputs.
 - It should be built into the IPP as part of the electronic resources component of the website.
 - The PREPP needs to be separated from official information on the IPP (i.e. there needs to be an area developed to hold unofficial information).
 - l) recommended that for data entry into the IPP:
 - each PREPP be responsible for the data that it inputs and that no attempt will be made to evaluate the data that is entered.
 - the data be required to be updated or verified on an annual basis and where it is not it will be automatically deleted from the database.
 - PREPPs who input the data are responsible for its validity and veracity.
 - an obvious disclaimer is posted on the IPP.

-
- a mechanism be developed by which a PREPP acknowledges responsibility for the data that it has entered.
8. The CPM is invited to:
1. *Consider* the report of the IWG.
 2. *Recommend* changes to the PREPP.
 3. *Adopt* the PREPP as outlined in Annex 1.

ANNEX 1

Phytosanitary Research and Education Providers Programme

The Phytosanitary Research and Education Providers Programme (PREPP)¹ concept has three broad categories of providers: research, education and other service providers. It is recognized that some organisations may fit into all three categories and there will therefore be some overlap.

Objectives: To promote interaction between the regulatory and PREPP communities in order to meet the technical requirements of the IPPC.

Scope: All stakeholders involved in the provision of technical services required for National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs) to meet their IPPC obligations are included. Given the requirements of the Convention, it was considered that the scope of this initiative be broadened beyond that of traditional research and education providers to also address the strengthening and development of the technical basis of the IPPC. In order to satisfy the needs of, NPPOs it is necessary to include a wider range of phytosanitary service providers. It was noted that all of these factors are within the phytosanitary context defined by the IPPC.

Process: The objectives will be achieved by:

1. identifying scientific, research and education expertise and resources,
2. developing appropriate linkages and liaison mechanisms between regulatory, scientific, research and education communities,
3. promoting and/or supporting training and education on phytosanitary matters,
4. encouraging appropriate research to be undertaken on relevant phytosanitary issues,
5. communicating the phytosanitary research and training needs of NPPOs to stakeholders, and
6. making this information available through the International Phytosanitary Portal (IPP - <https://www.ippc.int>).

Benefits: All groups (contracting parties, NPPOs and PREPPs) potentially gain significant benefits from the PREPP. The following list of potential benefits was identified in a general discussion by the Informal Working Group:

Contracting parties potentially gain

1. Improved IPPC implementation through improved reliability of and technical bases for decisions, including:
 - increased technical capacity and efficiency for NPPOs and PREPPs,
 - improved technical capacity to prevent introduction of quarantine pests,
 - improved technically justified management options in relation to regulated pests, and
 - improved capacity for monitoring, diagnostics, surveillance, pest free area establishment and pest eradication.
2. Trade facilitation through improved access to reliable technical information,
3. Improved market access.

¹ The term Phytosanitary Research and Education Providers Programme (PREPP) encompasses three broad areas: research, education and other services. *Research:* Traditional research institutes, universities, technical colleges, government research organisations and expertise. *Education:* Traditional education and training institutes, universities, technical colleges, government research organisations. *Other service providers (organisations or individuals):* Other phytosanitary resources including technical areas, research and training, consultancy services, products (e.g. diagnostics, software, legislative aspects, laboratory equipment, field equipment etc.), industry or NPPOs.

NPPOs potentially gain

1. Improved awareness and understanding of phytosanitary issues,
2. Increased access to phytosanitary technical expertise required for the implementation of the IPPC and ISPMs or to fulfil the phytosanitary requirements of an importing country,
3. Increased capacity for technical bases for application of phytosanitary measures such as improved:
 - technical justification
 - technical training of inspectors
 - diagnostics and identification
 - treatments
 - surveillance, monitoring and pest reporting
 - pest biology information.
4. Improved access to:
 - appropriate educational opportunities (general to specialized) at a local, national, regional or global level,
 - technical information which increases members' awareness of the scope of currently available research and education programmes, and
5. Improved ability to judge the capability of various organisations to provide appropriate phytosanitary education programmes, research projects, or education and research programmes.

PREPPs potentially gain

1. an awareness of needs/focus of NPPOs and access to alternative groups or organizations requiring particular phytosanitary resources,
2. access to clients for phytosanitary research projects and training programmes,
3. potential to access funding resources by joint partnerships between NPPOs and PREPPs,
4. opportunities to develop phytosanitary partnerships or centres of excellence,
5. retention of phytosanitary research and education capacity (at local, national, regional and global levels) based on national needs,
6. improved phytosanitary research and education relevance (at local, national, regional and global levels) based on national needs, and
7. the ability to adapt and provide relevant phytosanitary research and education programmes closely related to relevant agreements (e.g. IPPC, SPS, CBD) in international trade, environment, invasive alien species, biocontrol agents, beneficial organisms and living modified organisms.

Work Programme for the Phytosanitary Research and Education Providers Programme (PREPP)

Topic	Activities	Priority	Indicative input of time	Financial requirements	Outputs	Comments
1. <u>Identify</u> PREPP expertise and resources	<p><i>Questionnaires:</i></p> <p>a. Develop questionnaire to determine availability of skills and resources within PREPP</p> <p>b. Compile names, contacts and data of personnel who have been trained in phytosanitary skills (e.g. those who have undertaken PRA training provided by PREPPs or TCPs or other source, e.g. the Niagara Falls workshop) and place in the IPP PREPP database</p> <p>c. Identify target audiences (e.g. contact points, FAO sources, international societies, RPPOs)</p> <p>d. Extend IPP database</p> <p>e. Maintain data</p>	High	<p>a. 2 months</p> <p>b. Ongoing</p> <p>c. 1 month</p> <p>d. 3 months</p> <p>e. Ongoing</p>	<p>a. Funding required</p> <p>b. Minimal funding required</p> <p>c. Funding required</p> <p>d. Funding required</p> <p>e. Minimal funding</p>	Electronic database of PREPP expertise and resources	<p>It is recommended that this should be developed with the support of the IPP Support Group to ensure functionality and usability</p> <p>PREPP who input data are responsible for its validity and veracity, and are required to update it on an annual basis. A disclaimer should be provided</p>
	<p><i>Capacity building programmes:</i></p> <p>a. utilize feedback from PCE</p> <p>b. Other capacity building programmes – TCP, bilateral programmes</p>	High	<p>a. Ongoing</p> <p>b. Ongoing</p>	<p>a. Additional funding required for programming</p> <p>b. Minimal funding</p>		
	<p><i>Enhancement to Phytosanitary information systems</i></p>	Medium	Ongoing	Additional funding required		

Topic	Activities	Priority	Indicative input of time	Financial requirements	Outputs	Comments
2. <u>Develop</u> appropriate linkages and liaison mechanisms between regulatory, research, scientific and education communities	<p><i>Workshop options:</i></p> <p>a. RPPOs to facilitate workshops</p> <p>b. Secretariat to facilitate workshops</p> <p>c. within existing international scientific meetings: - as side meeting or as part of the general meeting</p> <p>d. within regional/national meetings of heads of institutions: - as side meeting or as part of the general meeting</p>	<p>a. Medium</p> <p>b. Low</p> <p>c. Medium to High</p> <p>d. High</p>	<p>a. Ongoing</p> <p>b. Ongoing</p> <p>c. Ongoing</p> <p>d. Ongoing</p>	<p>a. Additional funding</p> <p>b. Additional funding</p> <p>c. Minimal funding</p> <p>d. Minimal funding</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased awareness and interactions between regulatory and PREPP (technical and scientific) communities • Opportunities for interactions between regulatory and PREPP communities 	
	Seminars to introduce IPPC concepts to PREPPs – tap into existing meetings	High	Ongoing	Minimal funding		
	Joint seminar for PREPPs and NPPOs about IPPC	Low		Additional funding		
	Encourage PREPP participation in regional and/or national meetings on phytosanitary matters	Medium		Additional funding		

Topic	Activities	Priority	Indicative input of time	Financial requirements	Outputs	Comments
	Development of papers on benefits, policies	Medium		minimal additional funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase awareness and interactions between regulatory and PREPP (technical and scientific) communities • Opportunities for interactions between regulatory and PREPP communities • Papers published 	
3. <u>Promote / support</u> training and education on phytosanitary matters	Pilot project for feasibility and conducting training on a specific phytosanitary issue	Medium		additional funding	Co-operative global interaction and training on a phytosanitary issue of global concern	
	Pilot project for feasibility and conducting remote training on a specific ISPM	Medium		additional funding	Remote learning package for a particular ISPM	

Topic	Activities	Priority	Indicative input of time	Financial requirements	Outputs	Comments
	Promote the use by NPPOs of the information developed in database by the questionnaire and feedback etc.	High		No additional funding	Awareness and usage of information obtained through the PREPP programme	
4. <u>Encourage</u> appropriate research to be undertaken on relevant phytosanitary issues	Pilot project on research on phytosanitary issues of global concern (e.g. methyl bromide, diagnostic services)	Medium		Additional funding	Improved cooperative research	
5. <u>Identify</u> the requirements of NPPOs	Encourage NPPOs to identify their research, education and other phytosanitary service requirements (not intended to identify strengths and weaknesses) and encourage them to post these requirements/requests in an area of the IPP related to the PREPP	High		No additional funding	PREPPs can adjust services to meet the requirements of NPPOs	NPPOs to undertake this work without identifying weaknesses of NPPOs