

January 2013

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COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

Eighth Session
Rome, 8 - 12 April 2013
Summary Report of the Twenty-fourth Technical Consultation among Regional Plant Protection Organizations
Agenda item 12.3
Prepared by the Biosecurity Authority of Fiji

1. The 24th Technical Consultation among regional plant protection organizations (TC-RPPOs) was hosted by the Pacific Plant Protection Organization (PPPO) in collaboration with Biosecurity Fiji (BAF). The meeting was held at the Tanoa International Hotel in Nadi, Fiji, from the 27 to 31 August 2012. Present at the Consultation were representatives of the IPPC Secretariat, the CPM Bureau and six RPPOs: Asia and Pacific Plant Protection Commission (APPPC), Comité de Sanidad Vegetal del Cono Sur (COSAVE), European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (EPPO), North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO), Organismo Internacional Regional de Sanidad Agropecuaria (OIRSA), and Pacific Plant Protection Organisation (PPPO).

2. The Andean Community (CA), Caribbean Plant Protection Organization (CPPC), Inter-African Phytosanitary Council (IAPSC), and Near East Plant Protection Organization (NEPPO) were not represented at the meeting.

3. The full report of the meeting is available at:
[https://www.ippc.int/index.php?id=1111027&tx_publication_pi1\[showUid\]=2183109&frompage=1111027&type=publication&subtype=&L=0#item](https://www.ippc.int/index.php?id=1111027&tx_publication_pi1[showUid]=2183109&frompage=1111027&type=publication&subtype=&L=0#item).

I. Review of the RPPO's Activities

4. Each participating RPPO presented their activities over the past year within their region related to the following:

- Standard setting process
- Information exchange

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- Technical assistance
- Dispute issues
- Funding the IPPC and other activities undertaken by RPPOs.

II. Status of the Caribbean RPPO

5. The IPPC Secretariat informed the meeting that the RPPO in the Caribbean is still not functional and the establishment of a new RPPO in the region is not foreseen in the short term.

6. It was decided to delete this item from the Agenda of future TC's. There were also suggestions to FAO and the IPPC Secretariat to reactivate the CPPC using the FAO Regional Officer in the Caribbean; or deactivate the CPPC and encourage Caribbean countries to establish another RPPO.

III. Secretariat Update

7. The IPPC Secretariat provided updates for each of its core activities including standard setting, information exchange (to include reporting to the IPPC through RPPOs), implementation review and support system (IRSS), capacity building, and dispute settlement.

8. With regard to **standard setting**, the TC expressed concern about the size of the current standard setting work program and stressed the need to review and prioritize it.

9. On **information exchange**, the TC recommended that the CPM adopt a progressive program to address the national reporting obligations of IPPC contracting parties, committing to determine time frames to fulfil each obligation.

10. Other recommendations are for RPPOs to add a link to the IPPC contact points of their member countries in their corresponding web pages and for the Secretariat to run an implementation workshop for national reporting obligations at CPM time each year. The process should be preceded by sending a request to confirm details of the contact points before the CPM meeting and link it to the credentials, as to allow confirmation of IPPC contact points.

11. With regard to the **IRSS**, the Secretariat presented a report on the achievements of the IRSS during its first year of operation and emphasized the two major case studies conducted (Aquatic Plants and Internet Trade). The Secretariat also highlighted the IRSS page and the help desk features it provides to the NPPOs. The Secretariat informed that challenges for NPPOs for implementation of ISPMs 4, 6 and 8 were documented and that further studies were on-going for ISPMs 13, 17 and 19.

12. The Secretariat encouraged the RPPOs to utilize the studies conducted on ISPM implementation to develop further actions to assist their members. They were invited to inform the IPPC whenever IRSS studies were used or referenced in activities conducted with their members. In addition, the Secretariat requested RPPOs support to encourage members to respond to IRSS questionnaires, when issued. The RPPOs welcomed the report.

13. On **capacity building**, the TC was informed about the developments and recent activities in the area of capacity development. The Secretariat discussed possible cooperation activities with the RPPOs attending the 24th TC RPPOs, related to raising awareness of the IPPC national phytosanitary capacity strategy.

14. In general, RPPOs agreed to cooperate on the issues requested and in the case of project STDF 350 specifically, some RPPOs expressed interest in being considered as candidates for preparing some of the planned products.

15. With regard to **dispute settlement**, the Secretariat reported that there were no new developments relating to the formal request for assistance to resolve a phytosanitary trade dispute received last year.

IV. CPM-7 Follow Up

16. **Update on E-certification** - NAPPO and the Secretariat reported on new developments since last CPM.

17. **Update on IRSS activities** - The Secretariat presented a report on the activities to be conducted in the next year, which include:

- 1) a study on implementations challenges on ISPM13;
- 2) a study on implementation challenges for pest reporting ISPM17;
- 3) a study on implementation challenges for pest listing ISPM19; and
- 4) a general questionnaire on implementation of the IPPC convention and its ISPMs.

18. The Secretariat reported that the general questionnaire will be released to NPPOs during the period November 2012 to February 2013 while the questionnaire on ISPM 17 and 19 sometime in June or July 2013.

19. The Secretariat indicated that, for all the studies that have been conducted on implementation challenges, the RPPOs have been specifically contacted to request their support to ensure their members were encouraged to respond to the questionnaires. The Secretariat requested their continued support in this regard for the upcoming studies. Concerning the study on ISPM13, and recognizing that the time frame was very short for a greater number of countries to respond to the questionnaires, and since the SBDS was not expected to meet anytime soon, the Secretariat informed that it would be accepting responses to the ISPM 13 questionnaire through December 31, 2012.

20. In this regard, the RPPOs were invited to:

- 1) review the current draft report on ISPM13 and provide their comments to the Secretariat;
- 2) encourage the members in the region that have not yet done so to respond to the questionnaire on ISPM13;
- 3) complete the questionnaire by December 31, 2012. The questionnaire on ISPM 13 is available on the IPP.

21. The Secretariat also invited the RPPOs to use the studies as a basis to address the gaps already being identified through member directed initiatives. In this regard, the Secretariat acknowledged the current initiative of the APPPC where the results of the IRSS study on implementation challenges of ISPM6 will be further analysed at an APPPC symposium on plant pest surveillance and it is expected that a manual or other technical products might be developed.

V. TC among RPPOs - Work Plan for 2013-2015

22. All RPPOs reported on emerging major pest issues in their region; the detailed Power Point presentations are posted in the IPP.

23. With regards to **pest presence of domestic importance / pests of national concern**, COSAVE presented a paper and a Power Point on the issue for discussion by the TC. The power point presentation on this issue is available in the IPP.

24. There was no agreement on the final statement of the paper, but the RPPOs expressed interest in the idea and will follow up with their member countries. COSAVE agreed to withdraw the final paragraph of the text under discussion.

25. The TC discussed the issue and recommended considering it in the next TC and to prepare a discussion paper for the Bureau and SPG.

26. With regards to **developments for PRA, e.g. climate change and pest introduction potential, invasive species, pathway risk analysis**, NAPPO presented a power point presentation on Climate Change and Pest Risk Analysis and on the IPP.

27. On **emergency response and contingency planning**, EPPO provided information on development of standards related to contingency planning. EPPO is currently working in several future

standards of contingency plans for individual pests. EPPO asked if other RPPOs were currently developing contingency plans. No other RPPO informed to be developing actions on this issue.

28. **Systems approach.** COSAVE presented a Power Point on Systems Approach: concept and application, that was discussed by the TC, as committed to the 22nd TC. The paper and related power point presentations are available in the IPP.

29. **International movement of seeds.** NAPPO presented a Power Point on the International Movement of Seeds and the current development of a regional standard. In this particular stage NAPPO is developing the Annexes of the standard and presented an example of possible contents for the Annexes on seed-borne and seed transmitted pests. NAPPO offered to other NPPOs to keep them in the loop in the development of this standard.

30. EPPO informed that they are going to create a set of diagnostic protocols for seed pests. The TC considered this issue very relevant.

31. The RPPOs supported COSAVE suggestions regarding the Annexes in the draft NAPPO standard to be more specific in references, quoting the authors of the original reference and not just databases and years. There was also mention to the need to clearly define what is understood as seed. There was general interest by the RPPOs and a suggestion to NAPPO to circulate the Annexes to RPPOs, prior to country consultation, for comments.

VI. Brainstorming on Topics for Future CPM Scientific Sessions

32. The TC decided to put forward the following proposals which are not in any particular order of priority:

- PRA developments at regional level: express PRA, risk management and pathway PRA, regional guidelines on PRA.
- Global experiences in the use of e-Phyto.
- Lessons learned from jurisprudence: revisiting the role of science in phytosanitary disputes at the WTO.
- Use of technologies to improve phytosanitary inspection in points of entry (for instance X-ray technologies and canine units).

VII. Other Business

33. **Issues raised by the Bureau in June 2012.** The TC addressed the following requests of opinion coming from the June 2012 Bureau meeting: Priorities and constraints to fill contracting parties' obligations on Information Exchange and surveillance of pests. Regarding how to overcome the constraints, the TC recommended that:

- CPM adopt a progressive program to address the national reporting obligations of IPPC contracting parties, establishing determined time frames to fulfil each obligation;
- the Secretariat conduct an implementation workshop for national reporting obligations at CPM time each year. The process should be preceded by sending a request to confirm details of the contact points before CPM and link it to the credentials to allow confirmation of IPPC contact points;
- support systems are set to increase reporting through RPPOs with a firm commitment of the Secretariat to work on this issue.
- an incentive system is set up for NPPOs to report and also obligations to review the information before coming to CPM;
- the title of the subject area is changed from Information Exchange to Fulfilment of Reporting Obligations.

34. With regard to the **identification of the utility of IPPC diagnostic protocols**, the RPPOs expressed caution on taking decisions on the usefulness of future diagnostic protocols, based on the limited number of IPPC protocols approved by CPM currently.

35. All RPPOs considered that diagnostic protocols are useful tools, especially for developing countries.
36. RPPOs need to consult on the issue in their regions asking if the IPPC protocols are used, by whom and for which use. RPPOs committed to send the answers to the Secretariat before the end of September.
37. A new process to establish priorities and select the protocols to be developed need to be put in place, allowing broad consultation to NPPOs and RPPOs. One of the RPPOs stated that if resources are not available for the production of IPPC diagnostic protocols, it should be possible to post ready available protocols in the phytosanitary resources page.
38. On the **feasibility to draw up a list of priority pests**. (National, Regional, Global) and under which modalities, the TC considered that it was appropriate to develop for CPM approval, criteria for assessing whether RPPOs continue to meet their obligations as RPPOs. in the IPPC framework.
39. On the procedure to set these criteria, the TC recommended that the IPPC Secretariat and the FAO Legal Office put together a proposal for the next TC
40. The TC also considered it would be advisable to establish mentoring programs for RPPOs that wish to be more active in order to maintain or regain the RPPO status
41. Concerning the **IPPC financial mobilisation**, OIRSA proposed to discuss ways to increase IPPC funding to support IPPC activities including generation of funds and donations.
42. The TC recommended that OIRSA take this forward to the Financial Committee

VIII. Location of the Twenty Fourth TC - RPPOs

43. The TC-RPPOs agreed that the next TC-RPPO would be held during the period of 26th – 30st August- 2013, in Colonia del Sacramento, Uruguay. The TC thanked COSAVE for offering to host the meeting. NAPPO and EPPO shall assist COSAVE with organization of the meeting.
43. The following rotation for hosting TCs was provisionally agreed: 2014 – OIRSA, 2015 - NAPPO, 2016 - NEPPO/IAPSC (under consultation, 2017- EPPO).
44. CPM is requested to:
- 1) *note* the report.