



International Plant Protection Convention
Protecting the world's plant resources from pests

www.ippc.int

Implementation Review & Support System (IRSS)

Available at: <http://irss.ippc.int/>

The Implementation Review and Support System (IRSS) aims to monitor, encourage and support the harmonized implementation of the IPPC and its International Standards on Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs) through an assistance-based and non-confrontational process. Through its Activities, Studies and Helpdesk features, the IRSS is able to establish baseline information on implementation challenges and best practices as well as encourage cooperation and accessibility to support.

The IRSS conducts studies and produces yearly reports throughout its 3-year project cycle. These are summarized in a Triennial Review publication. The main entry point for interaction with the IRSS is through its dedicated webpage on the IPPC's International Phytosanitary Portal. There you will find information on activities on the IRSS including workshops, ISPM review reports and other publications and support products generated under the programme.

The IRSS programme has several interesting features that produce benefits to contracting parties and others in the phytosanitary community. These features include:

A review component:

The IRSS conducts a series of studies annually on ISPM implementation challenges. The principal methodology used to generate baseline information is through online surveys directed at IPPC contracting parties and RPPOs. Recent studies have been conducted on ISPMs 4,6,8, and 13. A general IPPC Survey on challenges for implementation of the IPPC and its International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs) was launched in 2012, the results will be available in 2013.

The IRSS is also involved in analysing potential challenges to implementation of the IPPC and its standards through a focussed approach on some emerging phytosanitary issues. The most recent studies were aimed at the phytosanitary risks associated with internet trade in plants and a study on aquatic plants and its implications to the IPPC.

A few of these studies have been supported by regional workshops as in the case of ISPMs 4, 6 and 8. The results of the IRSS studies are used primarily to make recommendations to CPM and the IPPC Secretariat concerning its work programme actions. For instance, some of the results are used by the capacity development committee to decide on work programme actions while others are made to suggest improvements to existing standards or to improve processes and procedures of CPM subsidiary bodies. Furthermore, these IRSS studies have had a catalytic effect with a few IPPC partners where the results have been used as a basis for capacity development actions. All contracting parties, technical assistance providers and donor agencies are encouraged to use the results to enhance the programmes under their responsibilities.



A support component

A second dimension of the IRSS programme is its support function. This component is not a capacity development function but rather a mechanism to facilitate contracting parties and other stakeholders to obtain support needed to reinforce phytosanitary functions particularly at national level.

The IRSS programme has developed, in close conjunction with the IPPC Secretariat, the following helpful tools:

1. A **Country Profiles** page: This page provides a single reference point for country specific trade-related statistics of phytosanitary importance which is not found anywhere else on the internet. Key statistics are sourced from a centralized Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) data repository and recognized data sources such as the World Bank Databank. Specific phytosanitary data on the page can be updated by IPPC Contracting Party Contact Points.
2. A **Help Desk** page that consists of:
 - A *Question and Answer Forum* and a *Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)* section: Users can ask specific questions to the phytosanitary community or view responses on frequently asked ones.
 - A *Phytosanitary Info webpage*: A separate website to the IPP and accessible from the Help Desk page. This website features contributions from the phytosanitary community such as country phytosanitary manuals, photos, videos, databases, advocacy materials, examples of completed PRAs, pest diagnostic guides and a host of other phytosanitary related materials that can give other CPs ideas to enhance their own NPPO services.
 - A *Country Projects database* and a *Phytosanitary Activities* calendaring tool: The Country projects database seeks to consolidate technical assistance project information for all CPs in a single location. The Phytosanitary Activities calendaring tool seeks to consolidate non-IPPC phytosanitary activities such as courses, seminars, meetings and other such activities offered by Contracting Parties, RPPOs, Universities, Organizations and others in a single location.
 - A *Consultants Roster Tool*: A page where experts with a range of skill sets are featured. CPs, Technical Service Providers and others may use the tool to access technical expertise to address identified needs.

Contact for More Information

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