



**International Plant Protection Convention Workshop on draft ISPMs for the
South West Pacific region, Suva, Fiji Islands
28-30 July 2014,
Report**

1. Welcome

Pacific Plant Protection Organisation (PPPO) Secretariat welcomed delegates and acknowledged their efforts in making time to travel to Fiji for this important International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) workshop on International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs). A prayer then followed.

2. Opening Address

Ms Sushil Narayan, Land Resource Division (LRD) Finance and Administration Officer, delivered the keynote address on behalf of Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) Director General, Dr Colin Tukuitonga, and LRD Director, Inoke Ratukalou. Special welcome to IPPC Secretariat, Ms Ana Peralta from Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) Rome, and our counterparts from New Zealand, Australia and regional participants. In this age of fast international travel and increased trade moving more people and commodities quicker to their destinations, living organisms that present risk to plants also travel. The IPPC protects cultivated plant resources from pests to help improve trade, and this objective is in line with the SPC pillar on sustainable environmental development as well as LRD strategic plan objective on sustainable management of land, agriculture and forestry resources, and MDG 7 to ensure environmental stability.

This IPPC workshop will review ISPMs designed to protect plant resources. The IPPC Secretariat is part of the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation's global programme of policy and technical assistance in plant quarantine. In this modern age of speedy international travels, there is a significant increase in volumes of trade crossing borders, and as people and commodities move around the world, living organisms that present risks to plants, travel with them as well.

3. Introductions

Delegates from Tokelau, Niue, American Samoa, French Polynesia, Samoa, Kiribati, Nauru, Palau, Fiji, PNG, Guam, New Zealand, New Caledonia, Tuvalu, Cook Islands, United States, FSM and Australia.

4. Apologies

Tonga, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu could not attend.

5. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted.

6. Presentation by Chairman of PPPO

PPPO Chairman, Mr Ngatoko Ngatoko said that ISPMs are the standards, guidelines and recommendations recognized as the basis for phytosanitary measures applied by Members of the World Trade Organisation under the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures. Mr Ngatoko made the presentation on the Standards Committee which consists of 25 members, 7 from the FAO region, and three from the Southwest Pacific. He said the SC meet twice a year to oversee the standards setting process and approve draft ISPMs for member consultation, and review member comments. Currently, there are over 80 topics or subjects at various stages of development on the work programme.

List of topics for IPPC Standards: <https://www.ippc.int/core-activities/standards-setting/list-topics-ippc-standards>

The IPPC Standard Setting Process have four stages and 8 steps, the four stages being developing the list of topics, drafting, member consultation for draft ISPMs and adoption and publication.

A Standard Setting calendar, or periods of consultations was presented, starting with Substantial Concerns Commenting Period beginning June 2014 to member consultation on draft ISPMs starting in July 2015.

For discussion, PPPO members are asked: 1) which stages of the Standard Setting process can NPPOs participate, 2) who from the region are Pacific members to SC, 3) what is member consultation for draft ISPMs

7. IPPC Capacity Development Strategy

Capacity Development (CD) is one area of growing interest for IPPC, after the Strategy was adopted by CPM in 2009; funding and activities are two major activities. A Capacity Development Committee is the steering committee of the project tasked to develop these functional training materials. Foundational training materials are core to strengthen NPPO systems and support implementation; over 20 resources are in progress. The training materials provide a technically correct basis that can be used by NPPOs/RPPOs and adapted for their own use. All partners are involved in pilot testing and feedback of training materials before progressing to on-line publication. Consult these addresses:

IPP: www.ippc.int

Phytosanitary Resources: www.phytosanitary.info

Email: ippc@fao.org

8. Review of documents and discussion on draft ISPMs

The two draft standards were reviewed and comments were recorded.

Countries shared their comments on the draft standards and these were inserted by the Secretariat into the IPPC Online Comment System. Countries were also reminded that they still have opportunity to log on and make their individual comments online when they return to their respective countries.

The participants were grouped in sub regions and discussed the drafts section by section. The following sections capture the main discussion points for each of the ISPMs reviewed.

8.1 Draft ISPM: International Movement Of Used Vehicles, Machinery and Equipment **(Steward Ngatoko Ta Ngatoko)**

Mr Ngatoko gave a presentation on the International Movement of Used Vehicles, Machinery and Equipment.

This draft standard went into production starting in 2006 and is now ready for member consultation 1 July – 30 November, 2014. The standard identifies and categorizes pest risks associated with the international movement of used vehicles, machinery and equipment describing measures that may be applied to used vehicles, machinery and equipment used in agriculture, forestry, horticulture, earth moving, surface mining and waste management and to used military vehicles, machinery and equipment. This standard does not cover vehicles or other conveyances moving under their own motive power over international borders. A number of drafting issues for member consultations was presented.

The group gave recommendations on insertions and deletions to be made on the draft and these were recorded via the Online Comment System.

8.2 Draft ISPM: International movement of seeds

Mr. Bart Rossel gave a presentation on the International movement of seeds.

It was suggested that [Annex 1 from line 180-223](#) be deleted as information contained in it are basic background information and thus not a prescriptive part of the standard.

It was noted that the term “restricted” and “confinement” needs to be clarified all over the text.

A Pest Risk Analysis (PRA) should determine if the seed is a pathway for the introduction and spread of regulated pests and may lead to establishment of regulated pests in the PRA area. The PRA should consider the relationship between the intended use of the seeds (e.g. planting, research, testing) and the potential for pests to establish.

It was agreed that NPPOs have the authority to establish phytosanitary requirements for any size of lots.

NPPOs face challenges associated with international movement of seeds that are distinct from the movement of other forms of planting, specifically, those that are produced in one country and sent to another for processing before before being re-exported to other destinations. These seeds may be subject to various phytosanitary issues.

It was discussed that a plant variety’s level of resistance to different regulated pests may vary depending on the resistance genes present. These will be effective against all or some races or biotypes of the targeted pest but the emergence of new races or biotypes may impact the level of resistance and a pest may be present asymptotically. Therefore, the use of pest resistance as a phytosanitary measure must be assessed on a case- by- case basis. Pest resistance may be a useful measure when used in combination with other phytosanitary measures in an integrated pest management approach.

It was agreed that additional official phytosanitary information can be circulated between importing and exporting NPPOs under specific bilateral agreements to facilitate the process of re-export of seeds. This information should not be circulated under the Phytosanitary Certificate.

Editorial comments and deletions suggested by participants were also noted on the Online Comment System.

8.3 ISPM 5- Draft Amendments to ISPM 5 (2014) Glossary of phytosanitary terms(1994-001)

Mr. John Hedley gave a presentation on the Glossary of the Phytosanitary Terms.

This document was supported by the group and therefore, no changes were made to it.

9. IPPC Matters

9.1 Meeting National Reporting Obligations & IPPC Standard Setting Process

Ms Ana Peralta, a representative from FAO led the discussions on Day 3 of the meeting and presented on Meeting National Reporting Obligations and the IPPC Standard Setting Process. Ms Peralta stated the importance of updating NPPO contact points for the exchange of information connected with the implementation of the Convention. Furthermore, the lack of response and authority due to unawareness of NPPO roles and obligations are among the challenges faced by the IPPC to ensure overall functioning of the convention.

The countries were stressed of the importance of identifying the Standard Committee members in the region. The committee members meet twice a year and oversee the standard setting process. They approve draft ISPMs for member consultation and review member comments. For the South West Pacific region, the members are Mr. Bart Rossel (Australia), Mr. Ngatoko Ta Ngatoko (Cook Islands) and Mr. John Hedley (NZ). It is vital that the countries talk to these members about issues and grievances they may have concerning the IPPC, as they are representatives of the region.

Participants were also made aware of the different stages of the Standard Setting process where NPPOs can participate and were encouraged to be involved as much as possible. All members of the IPPC have the opportunity to be a member of the Standards Committee.

9.2 PRA Exercise

A PRA Exercise was carried out by participants with the objective of communicating to stakeholders, specifically, high level decision makers, about the importance of PRA and the need to have it funded. Presentations were done by groups who were given tasks to complete overnight.

9.3 Foundational IPPC Training Materials, ePhyto & WTO ATF

Ms Peralta also presented on Foundational IPPC Training materials, Electronic Phytosanitary Certification and World Trade Organisation (WTO) Agreement on Trade Facilitation (ATF). NPPOs were reminded of the need to submit their country regulated pest list to the Secretariat. They were also encouraged to be aware of the ongoing ATF review process and to contact their national representative to share views and possible concerns in terms of plant health issues.

Date and location of the next meeting

Participants agreed to have the PPPO Executive Committee to decide in the next 2day meeting.

9.4 Close

Closing remarks were made by Ms Peralta from FAO and PPPO Chairman Mr. Ngatoko Ngatoko who thanked everyone for their participation during the 3 days. Ms Peralta reiterated FAO's support in broader participation in the region and encouraged membership of non contracting members to the IPPC.