

## **PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PLANT QUARANTINE IN THE ASIA AND PACIFIC REGION (Agenda Item 7)**

### **International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs)**

Representatives from 131 member countries, international organizations and NGOs attended the 6<sup>th</sup> Interim Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (ICPM) in Rome, Italy, from 27 March to 2 April 2004. The activities of the Standards Committee, working groups and SPTA were reviewed and related plant protection issues discussed. The meeting adopted three International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs), on the Import regulatory system, PRA for LMOs and PRA for RNQPs, with relatively little discussion.

The problems with ISPM 15 on wood packaging received a thorough discussion and a workshop was arranged to discuss implementation problems with the standard. (This was held in February 2005.)

The changes to the standard setting system were adopted with the consultation period being reduced to 100 days. The ICPM supported the introduction of Technical Panels to oversee the production of specific standards. The Standards Committee was extended to 25 members.

Attended by 130 member countries, the 7<sup>th</sup> Interim Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (ICPM) was held in Rome, Italy, from 3 to 9 April 2005. The meeting adopted three new ISPMs concerning the establishment of areas of low pest prevalence, guidelines for inspection, the determination and recognition of equivalence of phytosanitary measures and adopted the revision of the guidelines for the export, shipment, import and release of biological control agents and other beneficial organisms plus amendments to the glossary. There was considerable discussion of the funding of the IPPC with a further Focus group being set up to consider methods of determining information on funding options. The discussion of the IPPC Business Plan was regrettably brief.

The meeting discussed developments in the areas of pest free areas and low pest prevalence, with relevance to the developments in the WTO SPS Committee, and decided to develop a standard on guidelines for the recognition of the establishment of pest free areas and area of low pest prevalence and to undertake a feasibility study on the international recognition of pest free areas, which would take into account legal, technical and economical factors and assess feasibility and sustainability of such system.

The meeting recognized that the new revised text (NRT) of the IPPC would be coming into force in the near future and that members should be aware of this – if not signatories to the IPPC, should become signatories or they would not be able to take part in the decisions of the CPM. (At the beginning of August 5 acceptances were required for the NRT to come into force and it was reported that that many were already “in the mail”.)

### **Regional Workshop on the International Standards, Pest Risk Analysis and Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE)**

Organized by the Secretariats of IPPC, APPPC and the Department of Agriculture and Agro-Based Industries of Malaysia, the workshop was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from 19-30 July 2004. It was attended by representatives from Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Philippines, Thailand, Viet Nam, the United Kingdom, and CABI. The workshop was part of FAO's programme to promote capacity building in plant

health and to coordinate the implementation of phytosanitary measures as applied to international and regional trade.

The Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE) Tool is designed to assist the member countries to undertake needs assessment of the phytosanitary system of their National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO). The tool helps gauge the capacity gap between the current situation and what is needed to meet the requirements of the international standards.

An additional Regional Training Workshop on Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation was organized for 18 July – 29 July 2005, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Six countries attended the training workshop. Training was provided to enable the participants to: supply the necessary information – country's background on phytosanitary capacity; use the standards to evaluate the NPPO capacity. ISPM No. 6 on Guidelines for Surveillance and ISPM No. 7 on Export Certification were used as examples for these exercises. The participants successfully used PRA with the PCE Tool and expanded their knowledge/information on ISPMs and other phytosanitary matters.

The workshop helped the participating government phytosanitary officials to gain a better understanding of ISPMs and become aware of the importance of PRA and the necessity of PCE for their country. Also, the workshop helped promote further cooperation among the participating countries in enhancing and strengthening their plant quarantine services, capacity building and capabilities to meet new challenges in view of increasing globalization and trade liberalization.

Again in 2005 a Regional Training Workshop on Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation was organized (18 July – 29 July) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia by the IPPC Secretariat and the Department of Agriculture under the Ministry of Agriculture and Agro-Based Industries Malaysia. Six countries attended the training workshop.

#### **DRAFT RSPM NO. 3 AND NO 4.**

During the 23<sup>rd</sup> Session of APPPC held in Kuala Lumpur from 4-8 August 2003, the topics of **“Guidelines for Pest Free Areas for Fruit Flies”** and **“Guidelines for Determination of Non-host Fruit Fly Status”** were identified as priorities for regional standard setting for Phytosanitary measures.

Two specifications for the standards were drafted in late 2003 and early 2004, followed by review among members of the APPPC Standard Committee in May and June 2004. The results were sent to the member countries for review and comments. However, few comments were received in June/September 2004.

The APPPC Working Group Meeting on Draft Regional Standards for Phytosanitary Measures was held in Bangkok from 27-30 September 2004. The meeting continued to discuss the draft standards drawn up by the IPPPC Technical panel on fruit fly pest free areas during its meeting held 21-24 September 2004. The Working Group discussed the standards and revised the former titles of the draft RSPM No. 3 and No. 4 to **“Requirements for the Establishment and Maintenance of Pest Free Areas for Tephritid Fruit Flies”** and **“Guidelines for the Confirmation of Non-host Status of Fruit and Vegetables to Fruit Flies Using Host Status Tests”** respectively.

The APPPC Standards Committee for the Review of Draft RSPMS met in Bangkok, Thailand, from 14-16 February 2005. Supported by fruit fly experts from Thailand and New Zealand,

the committee consisted of experts from Australia, Bangladesh, China, Indonesia, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, and Pakistan. The Standards Committee discussed and reviewed the two draft standards with some amendments. The revised standards were already distributed to APPPC members for their comments in the consultation process. The updated draft standards will be submitted to this session for further review and adoption.

## **REVIEW OF DRAFT International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs)**

### **Fifth APPPC Regional Workshop for the Review of Draft International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures**

Attended by representatives from 20 countries and the IPPC Secretariat, the workshop was held in Bangkok from 23-27 August 2004. This meeting was part of the global series of workshops on reviewing draft ISPMs. It was funded by Australia and the IPPC.

The workshop discussed the draft International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs) developed by the ICPM and future activities in standard setting. The workshop also discussed the roles and responsibilities of the Informal Working Group on Strategic Planning and Technical Assistance (SPTA) as well as the relationship between the IPPC and the Montreal Protocol. They also discussed the potential funding sources to support the strengthening of phytosanitary capacity following a country undertaking a Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE).

The six draft ISPMs reviewed were:

- (1) Guidelines on the concept of equivalence of phytosanitary measures and its application in international trade.
- (2) Guidelines for inspection of consignments.
- (3) Guidelines for the export, shipment, import and release of biological control agents and beneficial organisms.
- (4) Guidelines for consignments in transit.
- (5) Requirements for the establishment, maintenance and verification of areas of low pest prevalence.
- (6) Amendments of ISPM No. 5 (Glossary of phytosanitary terms).

The meeting recommended that the draft standards # (2) and # (5) be sent back to the working groups for redrafting.

On APPPC topics and priorities for new standards, the workshop proposed the following:

- (1) Concept standard for propagative material including plant breeding material and plants for planting.
- (2) Specific standard for accreditation of heat treatment facilities.
- (3) Specific standard for export of table potatoes (for consumption).
- (4) Specific standard for pest free production site for orchids from glasshouses, farms/fields, etc.
- (5) Specific standard for cut flowers from glasshouses, farms/fields, etc.
- (6) Specific standard on the non-host status Longans in relation to fruit flies.
- (7) Specific standard for potato cyst nematode – inspection, diagnostic and pest free areas.
- (8) Concept standard on pest risk analysis for weeds.

- (9) Concept standard on emergency measures.
- (10) Concept standard on post entry quarantine facilities.

Participants were advised on the roles and responsibilities of experts on the Expert Working Groups and that countries should monitor the IPPC website to ensure that they are aware of the formation of new working groups.

## **International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs)**

### **Expert Working Group (EWG) on Formatting Pest and Commodity Specific Standards**

The APPPC Secretariat assisted with the organization of this meeting. The EWG met in Bangkok from 21-25 February 2005 to produce draft standards for formatting pest datasheets and for formatting commodity specific standards. Several major issues emerged which would require action on the part of the Secretariat and ICPM.

Since this meeting the Standards Committee has decided these guidance documents should not be standards but be included in the Administrative Guidelines for the ICPM.

### **Sixth Regional Workshop for the Review of Draft International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs)**

The above regional workshop will be held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 10 to 14 September 2005. The objective is to review the draft International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs) in relation to guidelines for the consignment in transit, revision of ISPM No. 1 (principles for the protection of plant health), diagnostic protocols for regulated pests, requirements for the submission of phytosanitary treatments, and requirements for the establishment and maintenance of pest free areas for tephritid.

Participants will be representatives of National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs) within the Asia-Pacific region.

## **Information Exchange International Phytosanitary Portal Training Workshops**

### **(1) Portal Pilot Workshop**

The Regional International Phytosanitary Portal Pilot Workshop for Asia and the Pacific was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from 17-20 January 2005. Jointly organized by IPPC Secretariat, APPPC, and the Department of Agriculture of Malaysia with funding by FAO, the workshop was attended by specifically invited member countries including Australia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and Vietnam.

The experts attending were responsible for information exchange in their respective National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs) and did the entering of relevant information in the International Phytosanitary Portal (IPP) which was an internet-based information system.

The portal (available at <http://www.ippc.int> for testing) was designed to hold phytosanitary information including pest reports, description of the NPPOs, phytosanitary restrictions, points of entry with specific restrictions, list of regulated pests, emergency actions, official contact point details, non-compliance, organizational arrangements for plant protection, pest status and rationale for phytosanitary requirements.

IPP is a freely accessible portal which gives official phytosanitary information. It can incorporate links to other authoritative official websites. Should any country not have its own website, the official contact points or IPP managers with the password-protected user accounts can upload the information into the IPP.

## **(2) Regional Workshop**

After testing the website and training materials with revisions made, the IPPC Secretariat organized a series of regional and sub-regional workshops in 2005 to support contracting parties. From 3-6 May 2005, the Secretariat together with APPPC and the Department of Agriculture of Malaysia organized a workshop on information exchange capacity building for the Asian region at the Institute of Biological Science, University of Malaya.

The workshop was attended by 14 participants from 11 countries including Cambodia, China, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Laos, India, Nepal, Myanmar, Japan, Singapore and Malaysia.

Both workshops provided the member countries with opportunities to enhance their capacity of phytosanitary information exchange and the quality of their phytosanitary decision making processes. With the IPP, every ICPM member has equal access to essential official phytosanitary information and the capability to exchange official information electronically, to meet their obligations under the IPPC and to facilitate phytosanitary decision making.

## **Publications**

In its efforts to promote information exchange among member countries, APPPC has produced a number of publications including:

1. Report of the Expert Consultation on Coconut Beetle Outbreak in APPPC Member Countries (RAP Publication – 2004/29)
2. Regional Standards for Phytosanitary Measures. Training Requirements for Plant Quarantine Inspectors (RAP Publication – 2004/24)
3. Regional Standards for Phytosanitary Measures. Guidelines for the Development of Heat Disinfestation Treatments of Fruit Fly Host Commodities (RAP Publication – 2004/23)
4. Report of the Twenty-Third Session of the Asia -Pacific Plant Protection Commission (APPPC) (RAP Publication – 2004/05).

In addition, through International Phytosanitary Portal (<https://www.ippc.int/IPP/En/default.jsp>), APPPC has also made available information about RSPMs, including adopted RSPMs and draft RSPMs for country consultation, as well as other relevant reports.

## **Standing Committee on Plant Quarantine**

The meeting was chaired by Dr. John Hedley and was attended by the following delegates:

<b>Australia</b>	:Dr. Brian Stynes, Mr. Robert Schwarz
<b>Bangladesh</b>	:Mr. Md. Abdul Awal
<b>Cambodia</b>	:Mr. Heng Chhun Hy
<b>China</b>	:Ms. Wu Xiaoling, Mr. Wang Yuxi, Mr. Wang Yiyu
<b>FAO</b>	:Mr. Yongfan Piao, Dr. Niek Van der Graff
<b>Fiji</b>	:Mr. Hiagi Munivai Foraete
<b>Japan</b>	:Mr. Hitoshi Ono
<b>India</b>	:Dr P. S. Chandurkar
<b>Indonesia</b>	:Mr. Suparno SA, Mr. Arfany Bastony
<b>Lao P.D. R.</b>	:Mr. Khennavong Vilaysouk
<b>Malaysia</b>	:Ms. Wan Normah Wan Ismail, Mr. Michael Ranges Nyangob, Mr. Yip Kin San, Mr. Ho Haw Leng
<b>Nepal</b>	:Ms. Nabin C. T. D. Shrestha
<b>New Zealand</b>	:Dr. John Hedley, Mr. Gavin Edwards
<b>Philippines</b>	:Ms. Merle B. Palacpal
<b>Republic of Korea</b>	:Mr. Ji-won Hwang
<b>Thailand</b>	:Mr. Udorn Unahawutti, Ms. Puangpaka Komson, Ms. Oratai Eurtrakool, Mr. Sawai Aunsonti, Mr. Surapol Yinasawapun, Dr Walaikorn Rattanadechakul
<b>Tonga</b>	:Mr. Sione Foliaki

### **Programme of Activities for the Next Two Years**

The meeting concentrated on considering items for the next biennial work programme.

#### Regional International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures

The Committee reviewed the lists of topics and priorities prepared by the ICPM and the APPPC ISPM review meeting. The group then prepared a list of possible topics for the APPPC priority list. These were discussed and then the group selected two/possibly three for recommendation to the session for the work programme for the next biennium. The list of possible topics included the following:

- i. Specific standard on a group of pests e.g. scales
- ii. Specific standard, guidelines for micro-propagation material (tissue culture)
- iii. Nematodes – detection in plant products
- iv. Implementation of Plant Quarantine at Border Crossings
- v. Emergency Measures
- vi. Risks associated with non-agricultural items

The two topics selected were Specific standard on a group of pests e.g. scales and Emergency Measures. If additional resources are available for the construction of a third RSPM, the third priority would be Specific standard, guidelines for micro-propagation

material (tissue culture). Australia has agreed to input resources into the standard on scales. China will draft the specification for the standard on Emergency Measures.

#### Review of ISPMs

It is expected that a meetings to review ISPMs will take place in the next biennium. It is likely that monies will be available through the IPPC Secretariat.

#### Training Assistance

The Executive Secretary will arrange further meetings on PRA, the PCE or the IPP if funds become available.

#### Projects

The Executive Secretary will investigate the possibility of working the ASEAN Plant Health Programme.

#### SALB

The Standing Committee noted the progress with the PRA for South American leaf blight (SALB). A meeting is to be held in January to examine the latest information, collected by the expert who visited South America, for input into the SALB PRA. If possible work on the production of the SALB standard will begin. It was noted that the standard would include training programmes for officials regarding detection, identification and control of the organism.

#### Discussions on the Presentation

The convention agreed that there was a need to give more attention to rubber, by improving training facilities and opportunities, as well as follow-ups to standards relating to SALB. Delegates were also informed that emergency procedures of SPS apply to all crops, including rubber.