

Highlights of APPPC-NAPPO Joint workshop on implementation of ISPM 15

10-14 June, 2014, Beijing, China



The joint workshop on the implementation of the International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM) 15, *Regulation on wood packaging in international trade*, organized by the Asia and Pacific Plant Protection Commission (APPPC) and the North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO) and hosted by the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) and the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ) of the People's Republic of China, was held in Beijing, China from June 10-14, 2014.

The meeting included 41 representatives of the regional plant protection organizations and its member national plant protection organizations (NPPO). This is the first joint workshop between APPPC and NAPPO, while a large number of commodities are being trading between both continents through trade partners in countries, which impose big challenges to NPPOs of member countries either in APPPC or NAPPO in complying with IPPC and implementation of International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs).

The meeting provided an opportunity to share experiences and lessons associated with the implementation of ISPM 15, identified constraints, issues and challenges, which provided a clear picture of the status for at least 15 countries in the Asia-Pacific region and North America. Country presentations revealed that each of the 15 countries had implemented ISPM 15 for export, although a few countries had not yet implemented for import.

Based on the summaries provided by some countries on non-compliances, ISPM 15 had significantly reduced the likelihood of the introduction of forestry pests. The majority of non-compliances are associated with wood packaging materials (WPM) without the mark, and infestation is probably higher where WPM is not marked.

There still continue to be a significant number of pest interceptions associated with WPM with the ISPM 15 mark. The number of non-compliance notifications is currently quite low, but the notifications are really important in order to check exporting countries' systems for WPM.

The participants proposed a number of practical suggestions on improvement of implementation of ISPM 15 by collaboration and coordination. These include aspects of improvements to guidance information, the adoption of harmonized procedures and practices by NPPOs and recommendations to the CPM.

ISPM 15 is one of important phytosanitary standards with strong impacts on trade. It was noted that a big difference existed among countries with regard to their capacity of implementation as well as facilities concerned.

The 27th Session of APPPC adopted a work plan in 2011 to establish a working group led by Republic of Korea on implementation of ISPMs. ISPM15 was selected as a priority standard for reviewing implementation status, constraints and challenges of member countries through a survey.

The result of the survey and analytical result were presented at the 28th Session of APPPC in 2013. It was decided that an APPPC/NAPPO joint workshop be organized on ISPM15 by allocation of certain amount of budget, taking into consideration the common interests of both regions and RPPOs as well as similar concerns. The successful implementation of ISPM 15 is critical for safe and uninterrupted bilateral trade between North America and the Asia-Pacific region.







