

Guide to the **International Plant Protection Convention**

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INTRODUCTION

MODERN methods of travel, trade and communications have changed the world, allowing enormous increases in the global movement of people, commodities and conveyances over the past century. Natural and national borders that once were effective barriers to the spread and introduction of unwanted organisms or materials are now under pressure from the volumes of international traffic. As a consequence, the global community has developed cooperative mechanisms to protect people, animals, plants and the environment from pests, diseases, toxins and other hazards that may be detrimental if spread or introduced by human activities. Some of these agreements or other cooperative mechanisms describe desired goals and offer guidelines or recommendations on courses of action: others establish precise rules to be met by governments contracting to the agreement.

There are three major intergovernmental mechanisms setting the standards by which the health of people, animals and plants are protected, particularly from the undesirable

consequences of international movements of people and traded goods. These are:

- International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), which provides international phytosanitary standards on how to prevent the spread and introduction of pests of plants and plant products;
- Codex Alimentarius, which sets sanitary and technical standards for food safety, including food standards for commodities, codes of hygienic or technological practice, limits for pesticide residues in foods, and standards for contaminants and food additives;
- Office International des Épizooties (OIE), which deals with animal health and zoonoses, and sets sanitary standards for the international movement of animals or animal products.

The standards developed under these intergovernmental mechanisms have key features in common:

- They are designed to protect the environment and human health while facilitating international trade and traffic.
- They are designed to be transparent and to harmonize regulations for trade and international traffic so that their application should remove artificial trade

barriers and other causes of trade disputes between countries.

- They are developed on the basis of best scientific knowledge at that time (which implies revision in accordance with developing scientific knowledge).

The international organizations providing the secretariats for these standard-setting mechanisms facilitate international discussion on aspects of plant and animal health and food safety. They have a responsibility to disseminate information relating to their specialist areas.

This document outlines the aims of the International Plant Protection Convention, its organizational structure and the major principles underpinning its implementation. It describes the achievements of the past two decades with the formulation of the first International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures, the nature of some of the standards adopted and the standard-setting process. It discusses the importance of international cooperation in implementing the Convention and the procedures for dispute settlement.

This guide to the IPPC also outlines plans for the future and identifies further sources of information.



Byword Pacific Ltd

Every day around the world, flowers, fruits, vegetables, wood and other plant products are transported for trade in local and international markets. Standards set by the International Plant Protection Convention help to reduce the risk of the spread and introduction of pests of plants and plant products associated with such movements.

THE CONVENTION

THE INTERNATIONAL Plant Protection Convention is an international treaty relating to plant health. In 2001, 117 governments were contracting parties. The Convention has been deposited with the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) since its initial adoption by the Conference of FAO at its Sixth Session in 1951.

The purpose of the IPPC is to secure common and effective action to prevent the spread and introduction of pests of plants and plant products, and to promote appropriate measures for their control. The Convention provides a framework and a forum for international cooperation, harmonization and technical exchange between contracting parties dedicated to these goals. Its implementation involves the collaboration of national plant protection organizations (NPPOs), which are the official services established by governments to discharge the functions specified by the IPPC, and regional plant protection organizations (RPPOs), which may function as coordinating bodies on a regional level for participation in the activities to achieve the objectives of the IPPC.

The full text of the Convention is available in printed form or for download from the Internet (see page 20).

This section outlines:

- history in brief
- main principles
- cooperation by contracting parties
- recent amendments
- international trade
- purpose and practice
- rights and obligations

Some of these aspects are covered in more detail later in this document.

There are 117 contracting parties to the International Plant Protection Convention across seven FAO regions.
(Note: Russian Federation has been included with the Europe group.)

History in brief

The IPPC came into force in 1952, superseding previous international plant protection agreements (see box, page 4: Milestones in international plant protection). The Convention was revised in 1979 and the amendments came into force in 1991.

The IPPC was further amended in 1997. The new wording of the Convention is currently awaiting acceptance by member countries. It will come into force 30 days after acceptance by two-thirds of the contracting parties. (Unless otherwise specified, this document discusses the 1997 revision. References to numbered Articles in the Convention also refer to the latest revised text.)

Main principles

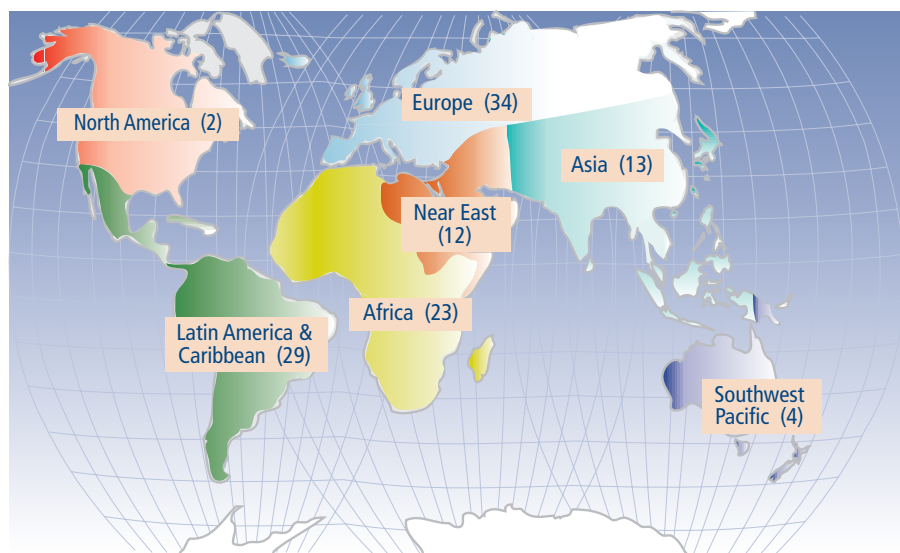
The purpose of the Convention is to secure common and effective action to prevent the spread and introduction of pests of plants and plant products, and to promote appropriate measures for their control.

Its application is much wider than the protection of cultivated plants. The Convention extends to the protection of natural flora and plant products. It includes

both direct and indirect damage by pests (thus including weeds). The provisions extend to cover conveyances, containers, storage places, soil and other objects or material capable of harbouring plant pests.

In agreeing to the rights and obligations of the Convention, contracting parties accept certain principles for phytosanitary measures. Some of the more important principles underpinning the application of

“to secure common and effective action to prevent the spread and introduction of pests of plants and plant products, and to promote appropriate measures for their control”



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phytosanitary measures may be summarized as:

Necessity. Restrictive measures must be applied only when made necessary by phytosanitary considerations.

Technical justification. Phytosanitary measures must be technically justified.

Transparency. Phytosanitary measures must be published promptly by contracting parties and the rationale for such measures made available to other contracting parties if requested.

Minimal impact. Phytosanitary measures must be consistent with the pest risk and the least restrictive measures available. They shall result in the minimum

impediment to international movement of people, commodities and conveyances.

Non-discrimination. Phytosanitary measures must be applied without discrimination between countries of the same phytosanitary status. For a particular quarantine pest, phytosanitary measures must be no more stringent when applied to imported goods than measures applied to the same pest within the territory of the importing contracting party.

Cooperation by contracting parties

Although the IPPC has major implications for international trade, its focus is

international cooperation for plant protection.

Contracting parties agree to publish phytosanitary measures and to supply information on pest risk analysis when requested. They also agree to exchange with other contracting parties their information on plant pests, in particular the reporting of any outbreak or spread of pests.

Contracting parties undertake to cooperate in establishing regional plant protection organizations which, in turn, cooperate with the IPPC Secretariat and the Interim Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (see page 7). A list of contracting parties is available on the IPPC Web site (see page 20).



Plants ...

Living plants and parts thereof, including seeds and germplasm.

Plant products ...

Unmanufactured material of plant origin (including grain) and those manufactured products that, by their nature or that of their processing, may create a risk for the introduction and spread of pests.

Pest ...

Any species, strain or biotype of plant, animal or pathogenic agent injurious to plants or plant products.

Phytosanitary measure ...

Any legislation, regulation or official procedure having the purpose to prevent the introduction and/or spread of pests.

A note on contracting parties ...

The 1997 revision of the International Plant Protection Convention refers to "member organizations of FAO and their member states that are contracting parties". This allows for a group of countries, such as the European Union, to be a contracting party to the IPPC once the New Revised Text comes into force.

Milestones in international plant protection

| | | | |
|------------|--|------------|---|
| 1881 | <i>Phylloxera vasatrix</i> Convention: the first international agreement for plant protection | 1992 | IPPC Secretariat established and begins standard-setting programme |
| 1889 | Berne Convention | 1993 | Conference of FAO at its Twenty-seventh Session approves the first International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM) |
| 1929 | International Convention for the Protection of Plants (Rome) | 1995 | The SPS Agreement becomes operative under the newly established World Trade Organization |
| 1951 | Conference of FAO at its Sixth Session adopts the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) | 1996 | IPPC Expert Consultation draws up the first draft of a New Revised Text of the Convention |
| 1952 | IPPC comes into force, superseding all international plant protection agreements | 1997 | Conference of FAO at its Twenty-ninth Session unanimously adopts the New Revised Text of the IPPC with interim measures |
| 1976 | First amendments to the Convention are undertaken | 1998 | First meeting of the Interim Commission on Phytosanitary Measures |
| 1979 | Revised text of the amended IPPC is approved | 2001 | Establishment of the Standards Committee |
| 1989 | GATT Uruguay Round proposes the IPPC as one of the standard-setting organizations for the future Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (the SPS Agreement) | 2001 | Establishment of the IPPC dispute resolution procedures |
| 1991 | Amendments of 1979 come into force | | |

Recent amendments

The revision of the IPPC approved by the Conference of FAO at its Twenty-ninth Session in 1997 represents a major updating of the Convention. The changes are related primarily to strengthening the IPPC through the provision of a mechanism for developing and adopting International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs). The revision aligns the Convention with the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (the SPS Agreement) of the World Trade Organization (WTO).

The 1997 New Revised Text, which elaborates on systems to promote effective implementation of the Convention:

- emphasizes cooperation and the exchange of information;
- aims for phytosanitary measures to be harmonized as much as possible throughout the world by being based on international standards;
- describes the framework of a Commission on Phytosanitary Measures that develops and promotes the use of International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures;
- formalizes the IPPC Secretariat and the procedures for standard setting.

The revision adds a responsibility that contracting parties agree to promote the provision of technical assistance to other contracting parties – especially those that

are developing countries – with the objective of facilitating implementation of the Convention.

The New Revised Text introduces modern plant protection practices, such as pest risk analysis to support phytosanitary measures, the designation of pest free areas and the phytosanitary security of export consignments after certification.

International trade

From its inception the IPPC has played an important role in international trade of plants and plant products. Contracting parties strive to ensure that their exports are not the means of introducing new pests to the territories of their trading partners and that the measures they have in place for plant protection are technically justified. The Convention allows contracting parties to gain assurance, through phytosanitary certification, that imports are not the means of introducing new pests into their territories.

The IPPC is a legally binding international agreement, but the standards developed and adopted by the Convention are not legally binding under the IPPC. However, WTO members are required to base their phytosanitary measures on international standards developed within the framework of the IPPC. Phytosanitary measures that

conform to the ISPMs are presumed to be consistent with the relevant provisions of the SPS Agreement. Measures that deviate from international standards, or measures that exist in the absence of international standards, must be developed through the assessment of the risk to plant life or health and must be based on scientific principles and evidence.

The IPPC includes dispute settlement provisions for instances where phytosanitary measures may be challenged as unjustified barriers to trade. The dispute settlement process in the IPPC is non-binding, as determined by members. For WTO members, the results of a dispute settlement under the IPPC may be expected to have substantial influence in disputes that may

Agriculture, forestry, environment ...

The International Plant Protection Convention has always been an important intergovernmental agreement for countries trading in agricultural, horticultural or forestry products. The Convention can also provide a framework for measures designed to protect the natural environment from incursions of non-native species.



Byword Pacific Ltd



New Zealand Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry

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reach the WTO level under the SPS Agreement. The dispute settlement provisions are described in more detail later.

Purpose and practice

Growth in the international movement of people and goods poses increasing difficulties for phytosanitary authorities. Continental countries with land borders have always had difficulty monitoring and controlling the movement of pests across their borders. Even island nations are no longer protected by their surrounding oceans as the volumes and speed of modern air and shipping traffic breach their natural defences against pest introduction.

In their day-to-day operation, phytosanitary authorities face many demands: assessment of pest risk, evaluation of control measures and planning for emergency responses to pest outbreaks. One important role of the IPPC is to shift the focus from the national defensive responses to an international joint plan of action.

In prompting nations to cooperate to combat the spread and introduction of pests and to adopt control measures, the

IPPC may be presenting a difficult challenge but it is supporting joint efforts to control trans-boundary pests and to extend pest free areas. Shared information, technically justified measures and non-discrimination encourage contracting parties to the Convention to work together on assessing and solving pest problems.

The IPPC has always been an important agreement to countries that trade in agricultural, horticultural and forestry products. As governments become more concerned by the adverse impact of weeds and other invasive organisms, not only on commercial crops but also on biodiversity and natural habitats, the Convention is developing an increasingly important role as a framework that can be applied to matters of environmental protection.

Rights and obligations

Contracting parties to the IPPC accept both rights and obligations. The 1997 revised text states these rights and obligations more clearly than the previous versions of the Convention.

The Convention recognizes that countries have sovereign authority to use

phytosanitary measures to regulate the entry of plants and plant products and other objects or material capable of harbouring plant pests. Countries can refuse entry, require treatment or specify other requirements for regulated material.

Countries have the right to take emergency action on the detection of a pest posing a potential threat to their territories, but emergency measures should be imposed only temporarily. To be legitimately maintained, such measures must be reviewed as soon as possible for their scientific justification and modified accordingly.

In applying phytosanitary measures, contracting parties have obligations to comply with the Convention's principles of necessity, technical justification and transparency (referred to earlier). For example, phytosanitary requirements must be scientifically justified, consistent with the risk, must be the least restrictive measure available, and result in the minimum impediment to international trade and traffic. They must also be modified if conditions change. All relevant information must be made available to any affected contracting parties on request.



Growth in the international movement of people and goods poses increasing difficulties for plant protection authorities.

ADMINISTRATION

EFFECTIVE implementation and development of an international agreement such as the IPPC demands a strong administrative framework providing support and direction. For the IPPC, the most important administrative and development work is conducted by the IPPC Secretariat and the (Interim) Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM). Critical to successful implementation of the Convention is the continuing cooperative efforts of the contracting parties and regional organizations.

The principal organizations administering and implementing the IPPC are:

- ICPM (preceding the CPM)
- IPPC Secretariat
- FAO
- NPPOs
- RPPOs

This section outlines how these bodies administer or implement the Convention.

The implementation of the IPPC does not occur in isolation but is affected by developments in other international agreements and the programmes of other organizations. Organizations and Conventions of particular significance to the IPPC include:

- trade organizations and agreements;
- environmental organizations and agreements.

This section also briefly outlines how some of these organizations and agreements interact with the Convention.

ICPM (preceding the CPM)

The 1997 amendments to the IPPC include provision for a Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) to promote the full implementation of the objectives of the Convention. Until the 1997 revision comes into force, the proposed commission is preceded by the Interim Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (ICPM). The first meeting of the ICPM was held in 1998.

Currently the ICPM's membership is open to all FAO members and contracting parties. When the 1997 revision of the Convention

comes into force, the commission's membership will be open only to contracting parties to the IPPC.

The ICPM meets annually to implement the objectives of the Convention. Special sessions can be convened if requested by at least one-third of members. Contracting parties try to reach agreement by consensus on matters under discussion. As a last resort, decisions can be taken by a two-thirds majority of the contracting parties present and voting.

The commission is served by the IPPC Secretariat. As its main tasks, the ICPM:

- reviews global plant protection needs;
- develops and adopts International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs);
- establishes procedures for the resolution of disputes;
- promotes the provision of technical assistance to develop the phytosanitary capacity of contracting parties;
- cooperates with RPPOs and other relevant international organizations on matters relating to the Convention.

The establishment of the ICPM is a major development for the Convention. It provides a global forum for discussion of phytosanitary issues and allows a wide representation of contracting parties in work programmes and strategic planning.

Basic funding and resources for the work programme of the commission are currently provided by countries mainly through the FAO budget. Additional funds have been provided by contracting parties to support a particular meeting or programme. As part of the Convention's technical assistance, some of these funds from FAO and the contracting parties are used to allow attendance at meetings by representatives from developing countries.

In addition to the annual session of the ICPM, numerous working groups deal with international standards at various stages of preparation.

IPPC Secretariat

The IPPC Secretariat was established in 1992 within the Plant Protection Service of FAO with the responsibility for coordinating the work programme for the global harmonization of phytosanitary measures under the IPPC. (With the subsequent establishment of a commission – currently the ICPM – the roles of the IPPC Secretariat have shifted so that development of ISPMs has become a joint endeavour between the commission and secretariat.)

The IPPC Secretariat:

- implements the policies and activities of the ICPM;
- publishes information relating to the IPPC;
- facilitates information exchange between contracting parties to the IPPC;
- coordinates with the technical cooperation programmes of FAO to provide technical support on matters relating to the IPPC, particularly to least developed nations.

The IPPC Secretariat is the key body for administration and facilitation of the work of the international phytosanitary

The IPPC Secretariat ensures that the Convention's principle of transparency is put into practice by coordinating information exchange between parties

ADMINISTRATION

community. By coordinating information exchange between parties and publishing relevant information, the secretariat helps ensure that the Convention's principle of transparency is put into practice. The dissemination of dependable and timely information is an enormous task and calls for close cooperation between the IPPC Secretariat and the national and regional plant protection organizations.

The composition of the IPPC Secretariat and contact details are published on the IPPC Web site (see page 20).

FAO

The IPPC was deposited with the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations after its adoption in 1951 by the Conference of FAO at its Sixth Session.

FAO, established in 1945 and headquartered in Rome, is the United Nations' lead agency for agriculture, forestry, fisheries and rural development. It works to alleviate poverty and hunger by promoting agricultural development, improved nutrition and food security. FAO's Plant Protection Service is part of its agriculture department.

In support of the IPPC, FAO:

- provides the Convention's secretariat through the Plant Protection Service;
- provides a source of legal advice;

- provides technical assistance projects.

FAO provides the meeting place and associated resources for many of the activities of the international phytosanitary community.

NPPOs

A national plant protection organization (NPPO) is defined as an official service established by a government to discharge the functions specified by the IPPC. National plant protection organizations are listed on the IPPC Web site together with their contact details.

In their principal roles, NPPOs:

- are responsible for issuing phytosanitary certificates;
- manage surveillance for pest outbreaks and control of pests;
- conduct inspection and, if necessary, disinfestation of traded consignments of plants and plant products;
- ensure phytosanitary security of consignments from certification until export;
- establish and protect pest free areas;
- undertake pest risk analyses for the development of phytosanitary measures.

The last-mentioned three roles provide a clear definition of the responsibilities detailed in the 1997 revision of the Convention. The New Revised Text makes clear the importance of NPPOs in

implementing the updated concepts of the Convention at a national level. Pest risk analysis, for example, is a modern phytosanitary practice which provides the technical justification for application of phytosanitary measures.

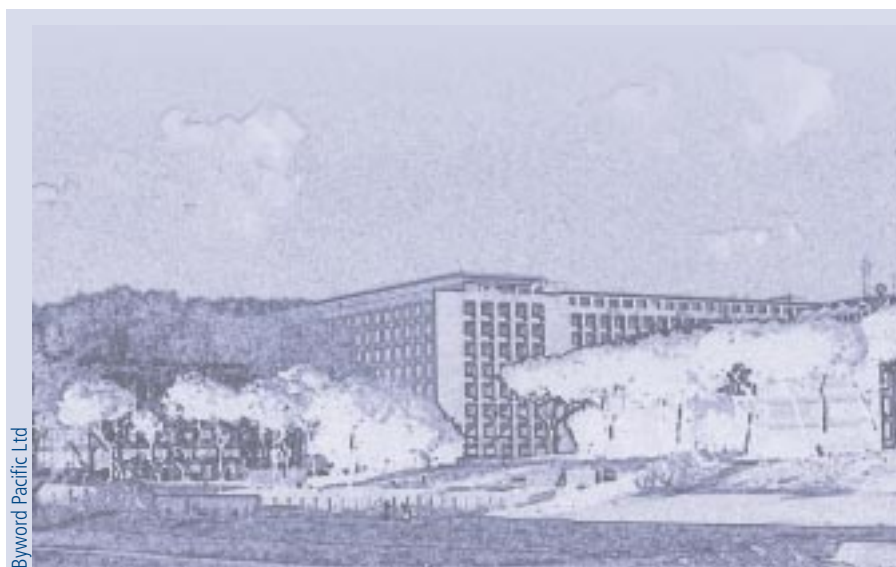
The NPPOs are the organizations that put the precepts of the Convention into action. They implement the phytosanitary regulations issued by their governments. They issue phytosanitary certificates, when required, confirming that exporters have met the importing country's requirements. (Some of an NPPO's roles may be performed by personnel delegated by the NPPO to undertake particular tasks under its authority.)

RPPOs

A regional plant protection organization (RPPO) is an intergovernmental organization providing coordination on a regional level for the activities and objectives of the IPPC as laid down in Article IX. The 1997 revision to the Convention extends the responsibilities of RPPOs to specify their cooperation with the IPPC Secretariat and CPM.

The RPPOs:

- participate in activities to achieve the objectives of the Convention;
- disseminate information relating to the IPPC;



The International Plant Protection Convention has been deposited with the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations since its initial adoption by the Conference of FAO at its Sixth Session in 1951.

- cooperate with the ICPM and the IPPC Secretariat in developing international standards.

Technical consultations of representatives of the RPPOs are convened annually to promote the development, adoption and harmonization of phytosanitary measures. In the cooperative endeavour to implement the Convention, the RPPOs play an important role. Although there may be tensions between two trading countries – perhaps as importer/exporter, perhaps as competitors in trade – in the wider grouping of the RPPOs, these same countries can work together on plant protection issues to achieve the aims of the IPPC: “common and effective action to prevent the spread and introduction of pests of plants and plant products, and to promote appropriate measures for their control”.

Currently there are nine RPPOs:

- Asia and Pacific Plant Protection Commission (APPPC) with 24 members representing 24 countries;
- Caribbean Plant Protection Commission (CPPC) with 22 members representing 26 countries;
- Comite Regional de Sanidad Vegetal Para el Cono Sur (COSAVE) with five member countries;
- Comunidad Andina (CA) with five member countries;
- European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (EPPO) with 41 member countries;
- InterAfrican Phytosanitary Council (IAPSC) with 51 member countries;
- North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO) with three member countries;
- Organismo Internacional Regional de Sanidad Agropecuaria (OIRSA) with eight member countries;
- Pacific Plant Protection Organization (PPPO) with 21 members representing 25 countries.

Not all contracting parties to the IPPC are members of RPPOs, nor are all members of RPPOs contracting parties to the IPPC. Moreover, certain contracting parties to the IPPC belong to more than one RPPO.

Details of establishment, nomenclature of the organizations in Spanish and/or French as appropriate, and full contact details for the RPPOs are published on the IPPC Web site.

Trade organizations and agreements

Of the international organizations and agreements whose objectives and activities overlap with those of the IPPC, the World Trade Organization is particularly important. The WTO administers multilateral trade agreements, acts as a forum for trade negotiations and seeks to resolve trade disputes.

Of particular relevance to the IPPC is the WTO’s Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (the SPS Agreement).

The SPS Agreement defines phytosanitary measures as those applied to:

- protect plant life or health from risks from entry, establishment or spread of pests, diseases, disease-carrying organisms or disease-causing organisms;
- prevent or limit other damage from entry, establishment or spread of pests.

The WTO seeks harmonization of phytosanitary measures by its members. The SPS Agreement states that WTO members must base their phytosanitary measures on international standards developed by the International Plant Protection Convention.

However, the IPPC and the SPS Agreement are distinct in their scope, purpose and membership. The IPPC makes provision for trade in a protection agreement: the SPS Agreement makes provision for plant protection in a trade agreement. The IPPC complements the SPS Agreement by providing international standards that help to ensure that phytosanitary measures have a scientific basis for their imposition and operation and are not used as unjustified barriers to international trade.

The WTO’s Council for Trade in Goods oversees the implementation and functioning of all the agreements covering trade in goods. One of the council’s

specialist groups is the Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures. The ICPM and IPPC Secretariat maintain close links with this committee.

Environmental organizations and agreements

In recent decades there has been a growing concern world wide for the protection of the environment. Because the scope of the IPPC extends to protection of natural flora, the ICPM has initiated collaboration with environmental programmes to ensure that its activities take account of relevant aspects of intergovernmental environmental agreements and that those working within environmental frameworks understand the role of the IPPC.

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), which aims to encourage care for the environment by helping nations and people to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations, initiated the development of an international agreement on natural biodiversity. The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), which entered into force in 1993, calls on its contracting parties to develop national strategies, plans or programmes for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity. Article 8 (h) of the CBD says that contracting parties shall prevent the introduction of, control or eradicate those alien species which threaten ecosystems, habitats or species. The CBD and the various international agencies fostering its implementation have created a heightened awareness of environmental issues arising from agricultural practices and international trade.

Many of the IPPC’s principles and the framework for its phytosanitary measures are applicable to the measures for conservation and sustainable use described in the CBD. Thus, cooperation and information exchange between environmental organizations and the ICPM and IPPC Secretariat can strengthen the implementation of their respective mandates.

INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS

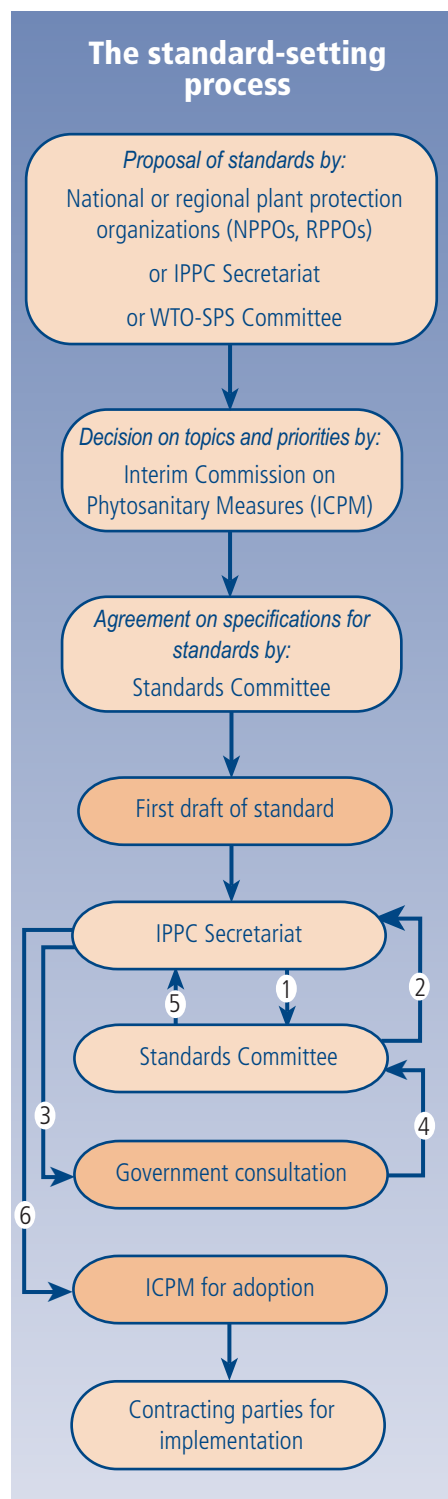
ALTHOUGH the IPPC has been in force since 1952, its recognition as an international agreement increased markedly in the 1990s when the newly formed IPPC Secretariat

and the NPPOs began the work of formulating International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures. These ISPMs are intended to harmonize phytosanitary measures applied in international trade. Their status is assured because the SPS Agreement stipulates that WTO members base their phytosanitary measures on international standards developed within the framework of the IPPC. Progress on developing these international standards accelerated further with the formation of a Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (currently represented by the ICPM) in the 1997 revision of the Convention.

from North America and three from each of the other six regions. Members are senior experts designated by their governments and confirmed by the ICPM. The Standards Committee selects from within its members a subgroup of seven experts, the Standards Committee Working Group (SC-7), to undertake detailed work on draft standards. The IPPC Secretariat provides administrative, and technical support for the Standards Committee and prepares records and reports of the standard-setting process.

NPPOs, RPPOs or working groups established by the ICPM or Standards Committee draft the standard and submit it to the IPPC Secretariat. The draft then passes between the IPPC Secretariat and the Standards Committee. Under a stewardship scheme, one member of the committee accepts responsibility for overseeing development of a particular standard from draft to approval. The committee reviews the draft and recommends what further action is to be taken. The secretariat and committee may arrange for a technical working group or a consultant to modify a draft standard if necessary. The committee continues to review the standard and in due course recommends it for submission to governments for technical comment.

In the consultation stage, individual member countries and RPPOs review and comment on the draft. They are allowed 120 days to review the documents and submit their comments. Guidelines on how to submit comments on the draft request that any suggestions for change should be supported by an explanation of their purpose and alternative text should be proposed where appropriate. The input from contracting parties and RPPOs is considered by the Standards Committee which, in consultation with the IPPC Secretariat, determines the nature and extent of changes to be made to the draft in response to the comments received. Acceptance of a redrafted standard by the Standards Committee results in submission of the standard to the ICPM. (If the Standards Committee recommends that consideration



Standard setting

The process for developing an ISPM comprises three stages: a draft stage, consultation stage and approval stage. The time taken to go from proposal to approval varies between standards. (Never less than 12 months in duration, the process can become protracted if there are, for example, differences of opinion between technical experts in the draft stage or wide-ranging relevant responses from member countries in the consultation stage.)

Suggestions for topics for ISPMs can be made by the national and regional plant protection organizations, the IPPC Secretariat or the WTO-SPS Committee (see box: The standard-setting process). Other organizations, such as the CBD, industry groups or individuals may submit proposals for standards (or amendments to existing specifications) through the IPPC Secretariat. Priorities for dealing with proposed standards are decided by the ICPM in consultation with the secretariat.

A Standards Committee oversees the standard-setting process and assists in the development of ISPMs by agreeing on the specifications for draft standards and checking the drafts before and after the consultation stage. This committee, (established by the ICPM in 2001 to replace a former Interim Standards Committee and its predecessor) comprises 20 members drawn from the seven FAO regions: two

by the ICPM is not relevant, the final text may be published at this point.)

The redrafted standard is considered by the ICPM, amended if necessary, and adopted. The standard is then published and distributed by the IPPC Secretariat.

Examples of adopted ISPMs

Since November 1993, when the Conference of FAO at its Twenty-seventh Session approved the first International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures, standards covering a wide range of topics have been adopted (see box: The first ISPMs). Given the nature of the standard-setting process – in particular, the possible lengthiness of the consultation stage which allows contributions from individual FAO members – the adoption of these standards represents a significant advance in implementation of the Convention.

A list of current ISPMs is available from the secretariat and on the IPPC Web site.

Some examples of these standards are summarized below; two ISPMs dealing with pest risk analysis are presented in more detail (see box, page 12: A look at standards for pest risk analysis). The examples selected illustrate the variety of issues faced by the international phytosanitary community as it endeavours to implement and advance the Convention. Subjects range from general concepts to practical details.

Glossary of phytosanitary terms

The *Glossary of phytosanitary terms* (ISPM 5) is an important illustration of the strengths of the IPPC and of the resources necessary to properly implement the Convention.

The glossary is a listing of terms and definitions associated with international phytosanitary systems. (Each of the other ISPMs also includes a definitions and abbreviations section listing its own subset of terms relating to the topic discussed.) The glossary includes more than 160 entries. It includes the abbreviations that are so

widely used in matters relating to the Convention (such as ISPM, NPPO, PRA). As with all ISPMs, the glossary is available in FAO's five official languages: English, French, Spanish, Chinese, Arabic.

Although assembling definitions might appear to be straightforward, this is not so. Some terms (such as "Controlled area" or "Non-quarantine pest") may have previously meant different things to different parties. The glossary is significant as an embodiment of the Convention's principles of cooperation, harmonization and transparency. It is an evolving document and is revised on a regular basis.



The *Glossary of phytosanitary terms* (ISPM 5) is a listing of terms and definitions associated with international phytosanitary systems. The 1999 edition includes more than 160 entries. As with all ISPMs, the glossary is available in five languages (English, French, Spanish, Chinese, Arabic). Revisions of (and supplements to) the glossary are published and distributed by the IPPC Secretariat.

The first ISPMs

| <i>ISPM No</i> | <i>Year of publication</i> | <i>Title</i> |
|----------------|----------------------------|---|
| ISPM 1 | 1995 | Principles of plant quarantine as related to international trade |
| ISPM 2 | 1996 | Guidelines for pest risk analysis |
| ISPM 3 | 1996 | Code of conduct for the import and release of exotic biological control agents |
| ISPM 4 | 1996 | Requirements for the establishment of pest free areas |
| ISPM 5 | 1999 | Glossary of phytosanitary terms |
| – Supplement | 2001 | <i>Glossary Supplement No. 1: Guidelines on the interpretation and application of the concept of official control for regulated pests</i> |
| ISPM 6 | 1997 | Guidelines for surveillance |
| ISPM 7 | 1997 | Export certification system |
| ISPM 8 | 1998 | Determination of pest status in an area |
| ISPM 9 | 1998 | Guidelines for pest eradication programmes |
| ISPM 10 | 1999 | Requirements for the establishment of pest free places of production and pest free production sites |
| ISPM 11 | 2001 | Pest risk analysis for quarantine pests |
| ISPM 12 | 2001 | Guidelines for phytosanitary certificates |
| ISPM 13 | 2001 | Guidelines for the notification of non-compliance and emergency action |

A look at standards for pest risk analysis

Pest risk analysis (PRA) is a particularly critical element in serving the IPPC's purpose of preventing the spread and introduction of plant pests. PRA has an increasingly important role in modern phytosanitary practice. It provides the technical justification for the application of phytosanitary measures.

The ICPM has agreed that addressing standards relating to PRA should be a priority for collaborative work with environmental organizations such as the Convention on Biological Diversity.

ISPM 2 deals with pest risk analysis in general and ISPM 11 covers PRA for quarantine pests. PRA is a rapidly evolving scientific discipline, therefore these standards are particularly subject to review and revision.

Information gathering and record keeping are important aspects of pest risk analysis. Any PRA should be well documented so that the information sources and the decisions can be evaluated in the event of a review or a dispute over the phytosanitary measures chosen.

PRA is also a field where technical assistance from one contracting party to another is a valuable contribution to the implementation of the Convention.

Guidelines for pest risk analysis (ISPM 2)

Pest risk analysis consists of three stages: initiation of the risk analysis, pest risk assessment and pest risk management. (Definitions of the terms used are published as part of the standard and are collated in ISPM 5, the *Glossary of phytosanitary terms*.)

Initiation involves identification of pests or pathways for which PRA is needed.

Pest risk assessment looks at likelihood of introduction, establishment and spread and at economic importance to determine whether the identified pests are quarantine pests.

Pest risk management means developing and evaluating options for reducing the risk. Management options should be proportional to the identified risk and applied to the minimum area necessary for effective protection.

Any PRA must refer to a defined PRA area. This is usually a country, but may be an area within a country or an area greater than a single country.

Pest risk analysis for quarantine pests (ISPM 11)

This standard provides details for the conduct of pest risk analysis to determine if pests are quarantine pests. It describes the integrated processes to be used for risk assessment as well as the selection of risk management options.

A pest is assessed as a quarantine pest in terms of its potential economic importance and possible official control measures in the area endangered by its presence. Complete definitions of quarantine pest and of pest risk assessment and pest risk management as they apply to quarantine pests are published as part of the standard.

For quarantine pests, PRA follows the same three-stage process as for PRA in general. Initiation of the process involves identifying the pests and pathways that are of quarantine concern and should be considered for risk analysis in relation to the identified PRA area. Initiation by identification of a pest could include emergencies resulting from discovery of an established infestation within the PRA area or interception of a new pest on an imported commodity, as well as a request to import an organism into the area. Examples of pathways that may be identified are the importation of commodities not previously imported or importation from a new country of origin, as well as natural spread or entry into the area by means such as mail or packing materials.

Risk assessment begins with the categorization of individual pests to determine whether the criteria for a quarantine pest are satisfied. This involves the potential for establishment and spread in the PRA area and the potential for economic consequences (including unacceptable environmental impacts). Pest categorization based on existing knowledge of climatic conditions, host species or pest interception may provide an opportunity to eliminate an organism from a full PRA.

PRA then continues with an evaluation of the probability of pest entry, establishment and spread, and of the potential economic consequences. The standard details a wide range of considerations concerning probabilities of pest entry (e.g. association with an identified pathway at origin, survival during transport or storage, and transfer to a suitable host) and establishment (e.g. suitability of the environment, cultural practices and control measures). Economic consequences are assessed in terms of direct and indirect pest effects, including the effects on domestic and export markets, particularly on market access. The standard discusses analysis of economic consequences to arrive at a monetary value wherever possible, but acknowledges the possible limitations of qualitative data and limited information.

Risk management involves identifying management options for reducing the risks identified by risk assessment. Countries decide what level of risk is acceptable to them. The management options are evaluated for efficacy, feasibility and impact in order to select those that are appropriate. Measures most commonly applied to traded commodities include those applied to a consignment, to prevent or reduce infestation in a crop, or to ensure the area or place of production is free from the pest. Prohibiting importation of relevant commodities is the last resort.

The ICPM adopts amendments to the glossary by addition of new terms, or revision or deletion of existing terms as needed. In 2001 the ICPM adopted the first supplement to the glossary dealing with the term “official control” by elaborating on the interpretation and application of the concept of official control for regulated pests.

Guidelines for phytosanitary certificates

In contrast to the conceptual nature of the *Glossary of phytosanitary terms*, other standards deal with practical matters of export or import regulation, often in considerable detail.

Guidelines for phytosanitary certificates (ISPM 12) describes the preparation and issuing of phytosanitary certificates and phytosanitary certificates for re-export. These certificates may be issued only by (or under the authority of) national plant protection organizations, so this standard is of particular relevance to NPPOs. Phytosanitary certificates confirm that the consignments of plants, plant products or other regulated articles that they accompany meet the requirements of the importing country.

Importing countries should not require phytosanitary certificates for plant products that have been processed in such a way that they have no potential for introducing regulated pests. Requirements for phytosanitary certificates should conform with the Convention’s principles of transparency and non-discrimination.

Model certificates constitute an annex to the IPPC and also are appended to ISPM 12. These provide a standardized wording and format for official phytosanitary certificates thereby ensuring that such documents are easily recognized and contain the essential information describing the consignment. The standard explains the specific requirements of how the certificate should be completed, even to details such as that where no entry is made the term “None” should be entered or the line blocked out to prevent falsification.

Maintaining a high level of confidence in the documentation is very important. The standard advises that importing countries should not accept certificates that they

determine to be invalid or fraudulent. (Another standard, ISPM 13, covers notification of non-compliance.) The NPPO of the exporting country should take corrective action if necessary to maintain the integrity of the certification system.

Guidelines for surveillance

Several of the first ISPMs deal with aspects of pest surveillance. Surveillance provides essential information for use in pest risk analysis, the establishment of pest free areas and the preparation of pest lists. *Guidelines for surveillance* (ISPM 6) provides an outline of sources of information for surveillance operations by national plant protection organizations and methods of data collection through surveys. (Related standards are *Requirements for the establishment of pest free areas* (ISPM 4), *Determination of pest status in an area* (ISPM 8) and *Requirements for the establishment of pest free places of production and pest free production sites* (ISPM 10), as well as the standards on pest risk analysis.)

For countries to justify phytosanitary measures on the basis of a pest risk analysis or to substantiate pest free areas, NPPOs should be able to validate their declarations of the absence or distribution of quarantine pests. That information is obtained by general surveillance or specific surveys. General surveillance gathers information on

a particular pest from many sources (such as published and unpublished data, from national or international sources). Specific surveys are planned procedures to collect information on a pest in a defined area over a defined period.

The standard includes reminders of the facilities and expertise needed for surveillance and survey procedures, as well as the records that should be kept. In support of transparency in implementation of the Convention, the NPPO should be ready to distribute survey reports on request by contracting parties.

International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures range from conceptual matters of principle to practical matters of certification and surveillance

General surveillance or official surveys may be necessary to establish pest free areas (ISPM 4). *Right*, a plant protection officer checks a fruit fly trap for the presence of the pest.



INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS

Requirements for the establishment of pest free areas

In providing information on their phytosanitary requirements and the rationale for such measures, contracting parties to the Convention use documented surveillance procedures to underpin the establishment of pest free areas (PFAs).

A PFA is an area in which a specific pest does not occur. The absence of the pest must be demonstrable scientifically. Usually the absence is not simply a biological feature: rather, it is being officially maintained. A PFA may be an entire country or an uninfested area within a country or part of several countries.

PFAs are important as risk management options for phytosanitary certification or in justifying phytosanitary measures undertaken by an importing country to protect an endangered PFA.

Requirements for the establishment of pest free areas (ISPM 4) describes systems to determine and maintain PFA status. General surveillance or official surveys may be necessary to establish freedom from a particular pest, as well as to monitor maintenance of the PFA status. Details of the systems involved in establishing and maintaining a PFA and any phytosanitary regulations applied should be documented. (The standard suggests that the NPPO involved should also supply such documentation to the RPPO or IPPC Secretariat to add to the pooled information.)

Guidelines for pest eradication programmes

Whereas many of the standards involve preventing the introduction of pests, some concern measures to deal with a pest after its introduction or establishment.

NPPOs may set up pest eradication programmes either as initiatives to eliminate an established pest from an area (i.e. establish a pest free area) or as emergency measures to prevent the establishment or spread of a pest that has recently entered an area previously free of the pest (i.e. re-establish a pest free area).

Guidelines for pest eradication programmes (ISPM 9) describes the components of pest eradication programmes from initial planning processes to documentation and reviews. Principal activities are surveillance, containment and treatment (and/or control) measures. A successful pest eradication programme culminates in proving that the pest is absent and declaration of the pest status in the area as "absent: pest eradicated".

The standard acknowledges that emergency situations may deserve the benefits of speedy action rather than a more structured approach.

Priorities for future standards

When the development of international standards commenced, there were, among the many aspects of phytosanitary systems, some obvious priorities for standardization. For example, formulating the principles of

plant quarantine in trade and of pest risk analysis, as well as the glossary of phytosanitary terms, were key standards to be tackled. However, as the process of developing these ISPMs continued and became more widely understood among contracting parties, so, too, the number and variety of candidate issues for standards grew.

Following on from the 13 ISPMs listed previously, there are standards on import regulatory systems, regulated non-quarantine pests, pest reporting, regulating wood packaging material used in international trade and integrated measures for pest risk management. Many other subject areas for standards have been developed, including inspection methodology, environmental hazards of plant pests, irradiation, efficacy of phytosanitary measures and surveillance for specific pests.

Further standards are in different stages of planning. Meanwhile, existing standards (in particular, ISPM 5, *Glossary of phytosanitary terms*) are reviewed regularly and some undergo additions and alterations as necessary.

Development of ISPMs is a continuing process to which the contracting parties and IPPC Secretariat have devoted considerable time, thought and resources. The secretariat and ICPM have consulted contracting parties on priorities for further work as part of the formal strategic planning process (see page 19).



One of the international standards describes phytosanitary measures to reduce the risk of introduction and spread of quarantine pests associated with wood packaging materials (such as pallets, crates and boxes) used in the transport of commodities in international trade.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

INTERNATIONAL cooperation plays an important role in implementation of the IPPC. The cooperation may take many forms: the general and specific suggestions contained within the wording of the Convention; the provision of technical assistance by contracting parties; the dissemination of information. These are not distinct categories: they overlap in a continuum of cooperative action which reduces duplication of effort (and hence costs), promotes the principles of the IPPC and advances its application.

Cooperation and the Convention

The Convention is noteworthy for its emphasis throughout on international cooperation. Indeed, even the opening item of the preamble to the IPPC refers to international cooperation in controlling pests of plants and plant products. (The 1979 version talks of the “usefulness” of such cooperation, whereas the 1997 revision goes further and describes it as a “necessity”.)

International cooperation is an important underlying principle of the Convention. In practice, it bolsters the application of other principles such as transparency or risk analysis. Throughout the Articles of the

Convention cooperation is referred to in the context of:

- controlling pests of plants and plant products;
- preventing the spread of such pests;
- sharing information;
- establishing regional plant protection organizations;
- development of international standards;
- promoting harmonization of phytosanitary measures;
- working with other international organizations on matters covered by the Convention.

Article VIII of the 1997 revision is devoted entirely to international cooperation. Specifically, contracting parties are encouraged to exchange information on the occurrence, outbreak or spread of plant pests and to participate in special campaigns to combat serious pests where international action is needed to deal with the situation. The latest revision of the IPPC adds the directive that contracting parties cooperate as far as practicable in providing the information necessary for pest risk analysis. This acknowledges both the growing need for technical justification of phytosanitary measures through risk analysis and the costs and complexities of undertaking such PRAs.

PREAMBLE

The contracting parties,

– recognizing the necessity for international cooperation in controlling pests of plants and plant products and in preventing their international spread, and especially their introduction into endangered areas ...

The opening paragraphs of the New Revised Text of the International Plant Protection Convention, 1997.

FAO offers technical assistance in many forms to help developing countries. (Here, farmers examine yields of wheat in an integrated pest management project in the Sudan, 1996.

Reduced spraying against aphids did not reduce crop yields.) As part of its programme of technical assistance, the IPPC Secretariat works to promote understanding and implementation of trade-related principles of plant protection under the International Plant Protection Convention.

FAO photo/1987Z



Technical assistance

Contracting parties to the IPPC agree to promote provision of technical assistance to other parties to aid in implementation of the Convention. In particular, the Convention encourages support for developing countries.

There are many opportunities for technical cooperation. For example, experienced phytosanitary agencies in developed countries may offer assistance in less developed countries. Their help may include provision of research data or publications or equipment. It may involve

sending specialist officers to solve problems or provide training. Providing funds to enable representatives from other countries to attend relevant meetings is another form of such assistance.

The IPPC Secretariat has a programme to facilitate technical assistance. It offers its support to phytosanitary initiatives involving three different focus groups: The WTO's SPS Agreement; FAO's technical cooperation programmes (TCPs); and other multidisciplinary and multinational partners.

As part of its programme of technical assistance, the IPPC Secretariat works to promote understanding and implementation of trade-related principles of plant protection under the IPPC and the harmonization of phytosanitary measures under the SPS Agreement. The secretariat aims to:

- provide input in training programmes;
- coordinate assistance between governments or between organizations and governments;
- collaborate in capacity building programmes executed by other relevant organizations (such as WTO, World Bank, bilateral aid agencies).

The IPPC Secretariat also supports FAO's

technical cooperation programmes and FAO-executed projects financed by other donors. The secretariat works with developing countries to:

- evaluate phytosanitary capacity, assist in strategic planning and subsequent strengthening of plant protection infrastructures;
- update legislation;
- develop emergency programmes;
- avoid disputes.

In addition, the secretariat works with other multidisciplinary and multinational partners to:

- foster regional harmonization and upgrading of phytosanitary systems;
- facilitate alignment and upgrading of policy on plant, animal and human health.

The collection and distribution of information is a major part of the cooperative focus of the Convention

Information exchange

Official information on pest occurrence, pest outbreaks, pest distribution, pest spread, control measures, surveillance results and emergency programmes is a vital component of putting the Convention into practice. Such information is often difficult and costly to assemble and to ensure that it

The human face of the International Plant Protection Convention ...

Meetings ...



is accurate, timely and distributed appropriately. Nevertheless, this information is essential to the principle of transparency. Publication and dissemination of relevant information is part of the cooperative action of the Convention.

The 1997 revision sets out channels for notification of changes to phytosanitary measures, deviations in the regulations and a forum for information sharing. For example, a contracting party to the Convention should promptly report emergency measures to any other contracting parties likely to be affected, as well as to the IPPC Secretariat and any RPPO of which the contracting party is a member. Similar instructions on information channels apply to measures such as specified points of entry for products and to the listing of regulated pests. In some instances, contracting parties are obliged to divulge information to other contracting parties only on request: for example, information on pest status to support categorization of pests. Thus the primary responsibility for information dissemination resides with the contracting party and the Convention specifies which parties should receive the information.

The IPPC Secretariat provides the means for facilitating the sharing of information by contracting parties. Under the revised Convention, each party is obliged to provide the IPPC Secretariat with an official contact point for the exchange of information connected with the implementation of the Convention. This facilitates communication, information sharing and transparency between countries, and between the IPPC Secretariat and the contracting parties. The network of official contact points is indispensable to achieving effective and rapid exchange of reliable official information in the cooperative spirit of the Convention.

The coordination and production of information by the secretariat includes:

- International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures;
- training in the field use of standards;
- the sharing of news and technical data, especially that pertaining to the status of regulated pests and national phytosanitary regulations;
- the maintenance of relevant historical records at FAO (e.g. on consultations and activities conducted in the implementation of the IPPC).

Furthermore, the secretariat has the duty under the IPPC to provide translations in the official languages of FAO of international standards and documents relating to meetings of the ICPM.

In addition to providing printed material or distributing documentation provided by others, the IPPC Secretariat maintains a Web site (www.ippc.int) which provides information on the activities of the ICPM, the secretariat, NPPOs and RPPOs. Much of the published material and other IPPC documentation is available for viewing on the Internet or for download as portable document format (PDF) or Word files. Documents posted on the site include the text of the 1997 revision of the Convention, all adopted ISPMs and those under development, reports of meetings of the ICPM, technical and expert consultations and working groups.

The Web site also provides full contact details for NPPOs and RPPOs and the secretariat, as well as a calendar of events. There are links to other relevant organizations and to pest information databases. Further developments for electronic information exchange among contracting parties are under way.

and more meetings ...



Much of the work of implementing the International Plant Protection Convention proceeds by way of meetings: meetings open to all contracting parties; meetings confined to regional plant protection organizations or expert working groups or committees; bilateral meetings between the national plant protection organizations of trading partners. The round of meetings is huge. The achievement of many of these meetings is eventual agreement by consensus on contentious issues or technical options. Such positive outcomes are made possible only through the spirit of international cooperation enshrined in the Convention.

DISPUTE SETTLEMENT

DISPUTES may arise between contracting parties over interpretation or application of the IPPC. One of the Convention's Articles is devoted to dispute settlement. The ICPM has established a subsidiary body specifically devoted to overseeing, administering and supporting the IPPC's dispute settlement procedures.

The IPPC's procedures are aimed primarily at evaluating the technical aspects of phytosanitary disputes and encourage contracting parties to enter into impartial dialogue on technical issues. The 1997 revision of the Convention stresses consultation among contracting parties as the first option. If requested, the IPPC

Secretariat can advise on a range of appropriate dispute settlement procedures, such as informal or formal consultation, mediation or arbitration, as well as the formal dispute settlement process offered under the terms of the Convention.

In the process described in the 1997 revision of the IPPC and further elaborated by the ICPM, parties can ask the Director-General of FAO to appoint a committee of experts, which includes representatives designated by the disputing parties. Three independent experts are selected by the ICPM from a roster of experts supplied by the IPPC Secretariat. One of the independent experts will be elected as chairperson of the combined expert committee for dispute settlement. At the completion of its deliberations, the expert committee prepares a report summarizing the technical aspects of the dispute and recommending how to resolve it. The recommendations are non-binding on the parties involved.

The committee's draft report is submitted to the secretariat for technical review and, if appropriate, the FAO Legal Office for legal review. The final report passes from the secretariat to the ICPM, then to the Director-General of FAO and then to the disputing parties. It could also be made available on request to international organizations responsible for resolving trade disputes (such as the WTO).

Technical assistance, as advocated by the Convention, may be devoted to avoiding or resolving disputes. A working group on dispute settlement is exploring how to increase the capacity for developing countries to participate in dispute settlement procedures.

The IPPC Secretariat and ICPM undertake to make available mediation services and other assistance to allow parties to resolve disputes without initiating the formal dispute settlement process. The secretariat maintains records on disputes notified by contracting parties.

If, after utilizing the dispute settlement process of the Convention, the issue remains unresolved and proceeds to consideration by the WTO under the SPS Agreement, the findings of the IPPC dispute settlement committee would be an important part of the deliberations. The decision of the WTO is legally binding and may have serious economic and political consequences for the countries in dispute. Thus, disputing parties may benefit from resolving their differences on a technical basis under the IPPC's non-binding dispute settlement provisions rather than entering into the legal processes of settlement under the WTO system.

The IPPC Secretariat may also provide technical background to the WTO's dispute settlement processes and nominate experts for WTO panels.

The International Plant Protection Convention provides a technically based, transparent dispute settlement process

The IPPC encourages its contracting parties to find pathways through any tangle of disputes by informal dialogue or formal consultation, mediation or arbitration.



LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

SINCE the mid-1990s, the IPPC has undergone major development as a result of the establishment of an active secretariat and the ICPM. These bodies have overseen development of international standards and promotion of the harmonization of phytosanitary measures. They have fostered a growing involvement of the phytosanitary community in the evolution of phytosanitary systems at an international level.

As the standard-setting process developed, so, too, did the number of proposed standards and a growing awareness of the importance of collaborative information exchange and the relevance of the Convention to matters of environment and biosecurity. The IPPC Secretariat and ICPM began a formal strategic planning process in 2000. All contracting parties were consulted on requirements, priorities and direction for further work within the framework of the Convention. Contracting parties responded to questions on:

- the mission of the ICPM;
- development and adoption of International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures;
- provision of dispute settlement mechanisms;
- promotion of provision of technical assistance;

- information sharing;
 - provision of a global forum for wider considerations of plant protection;
 - maintenance of effective administration.
- The mission of the ICPM is still evolving. Currently it may be described as:

To secure common action in protecting the world's cultivated and natural plant resources from the spread and introduction of plant pests while minimizing interference with the international movement of goods. The ICPM provides a global forum for the full implementation of the IPPC through:

- development and adoption of International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures;
- sharing of information;
- provision of dispute settlement mechanisms;
- development of phytosanitary capacity of members by promoting the provision of technical assistance;
- maintenance of an effective and efficient administrative framework.

As to strategies for the future programmes of the ICPM, one clear priority identified by contracting parties was to increase the participation by developing countries in standard setting and in their general attendance at working meetings. Technical assistance programmes will be

further promoted and targeted to help develop the phytosanitary capacity of developing contracting parties so that they can better implement the Convention.

Contracting parties also identified a need to increase awareness of ISPMs outside the phytosanitary community.

Information sharing is fundamental to implementing the Convention. The ICPM plans to develop procedures for pest reporting and systems to identify appropriate sources of information on phytosanitary regulations and pests. The Internet will be more widely used as a means of linking contracting parties seeking specific phytosanitary information with those organizations holding such data.

Another matter deemed important was for contracting parties to accept the 1997 amendments to the IPPC so that the revised Convention can come into force. This requires acceptance of the New Revised Text by two-thirds of contracting parties.

With the increased pace of global trade developments, it is not desirable to endure an extended period with countries in the awkward position of implementing their WTO obligations without bringing into force the international phytosanitary agreement that supports those obligations.

Strategies for growth in the Convention's implementation include planning for targeted technical assistance to developing countries and enhanced information sharing systems.



Byword Pacific Ltd

INFORMATION SOURCES

THE IPPC Secretariat has the responsibility to disseminate information relating to the Convention as discussed previously in terms of international cooperation. This section outlines the key sources of information provided by the secretariat. It also lists abbreviations and definitions of key terms used in this document.

Official publications

The IPPC Secretariat can provide informative material on request, including the following printed material:

Text of the International Plant Protection Convention currently in force (1979);

New Revised Text of the International Plant Protection Convention (1997);

Text of International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs 1–13. 1995–2001);

Directory of national and regional plant protection organizations (NPPOs, RPPOs);

Reports of the first three meetings of the Interim Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (1998, 1999, 2001);

Reports of the meetings of the Committee of Experts on Phytosanitary Measures and Interim Standards Committee (1994–2001);

Reports on technical consultations among RPPOs (1989–2001);

Discussion papers on the new revised text of the International Plant Protection Convention.

Note that many of the secretariat's information materials can be downloaded from the IPPC Web site.

Web site

The Web site maintained by the IPPC Secretariat (discussed previously in this document) provides an immediately accessible

source of extensive information relating to the Convention. The Web site may be found at:

www.ippc.int

Many of the printed documents listed above are available for download from the Internet as PDF or Word files.

The Web site supplies links to relevant organizations and data including other sections of FAO (technical cooperation programmes, Legal Office), Ecoport (an ecological knowledge system with significant pest and crop information) and WTO.

Contact details

How to contact the Secretariat:

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Web site: www.ippc.int

Abbreviations and definitions

| | | | | | |
|--------|--|-------|--|------|---|
| APPPC | Asia and Pacific Plant Protection Commission | ICPM | Interim Commission on Phytosanitary Measures | PRA | Pest risk analysis <i>The process of evaluating biological or other scientific and economic evidence to determine whether a pest should be regulated and the strength of any phytosanitary measures to be taken against it</i> |
| CA | Comunidad Andina | IPPC | International Plant Protection Convention | PPPO | Pacific Plant Protection Organization |
| CBD | Convention on Biological Diversity | ISPM | International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures | RPPO | Regional plant protection organization |
| CEPM | Committee of Experts on Phytosanitary Measures | IUCN | World Conservation Union | SC | Standards Committee |
| COSAVE | Comite Regional de Sanidad Vegetal Para el Cono Sur | NAPPO | North American Plant Protection Organization | SPS | Sanitary and Phytosanitary (as in WTO-SPS Committee) |
| CPM | Commission on Phytosanitary Measures | NPPO | National plant protection organization | TCP | Technical cooperation programme |
| CPPC | Caribbean Plant Protection Commission | OIE | Office International des Épizooties | UNEP | United Nations Environment Programme |
| EPPC | European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization | OIRSA | Organismo Internacional Regional de Sanidad Agropecuaria | WTO | World Trade Organization |
| FAO | Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations | PFA | Pest free area <i>An area in which a specific pest does not occur as demonstrated by scientific evidence and in which, where appropriate, this condition is being officially maintained</i> | | |
| GPPIS | Global Plant and Pest Information System | | | | |
| IAPSC | Interafrican Phytosanitary Council | | | | |