Phytosanitary Measures and International Seed Trade

International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)
Contents

• The IPPC in seed health (*importance, partners, shared responsibility*)

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What is the IPPC?

• **A multilateral treaty** for international cooperation in plant protection

• The global instrument for the **harmonization** of phytosanitary measures in commerce and the environment

• The international phytosanitary **standard-setting** organization named in the WTO-SPS Agreement
GLOBAL SYSTEM FOR AGRI-FOOD TRADE

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

- AGRICULTURE
- SPS
- TBT

- OIE
- IPPC
- CODEX
- RPPO
- NPPO
The International Plant Protection Convention

Purpose

To prevent the spread and introduction of pests of plants and plant products and to promote measures for their control.
Balancing Act

Protecting plants

Facilitating trade
The IPPC - 1997

Key Principles: contracting parties shall institute only phytosanitary measures that are:

- technically justified, consistent with the pest risk
- non-discriminatory
- least restrictive, with minimum impediment to international movement of seeds
- equivalence of measures
Definitions

• Pest

Any species, strain or biotype of plant, animal or pathogenic agent injurious to plants or plant products [FAO, 1990; revised FAO, 1995; IPPC, 1997]

• Phytosanitary Measure

Any legislation, regulation or official procedure having the purpose to prevent the introduction and/or spread of quarantine pests, or to limit the economic impact of regulated non-quarantine pests [FAO, 1995; revised IPPC, 1997; ISPM, 2002]
IPPC PLANT PESTS CATEGORIES

PESTS

- REGULATED
  - QUARANTINE
  - REGULATED NON-QUARANTINE PEST (RNQP)

- NOT REGULATED
Quarantine Pest

A pest of potential economic importance to the area endangered thereby and not yet present there, or present but not widely distributed and being officially controlled.
Regulated non-quarantine pest

A non-quarantine pest whose presence in plants for planting affects the intended use of those plants with an economically unacceptable impact and which is therefore regulated within the territory of the importing contracting party [IPPC, 1997]
Seed-related ISPMs

ISPM No 2 – Framework for pest risk analysis
ISPMs Nos. 7 and 12: Export Certification and PC
ISPM No 11 – PRA for quarantine pests, including analysis of environmental risks and LMOs
ISPM No 19 – Guidelines on lists of regulated pests
ISPM No 21 – PRA for regulated non-quarantine pests
ISPM No 28 – Phytosanitary treatments for regulated pests
ISPM No 31 – Methodologies for sampling of consignments
ISPM No 32 – Categorization of commodities according to their pest risk
Seed-related ISPMs in development

1. Pest risk management for plants for planting in international trade (S 34)

2. Guidelines for regulating potato Micro propagation material and minitubers in international trade (S21)

3. Reducing pest risks in the international movement of seeds of forest tree species (S 47)

4. Pre-clearance for regulated articles (S 42)

5. Design and operation of post-entry quarantine stations (Draft ISPM)
Phytosanitary measures applied to international movement of seeds
Seeds

• A commodity class for seeds for planting or intended for planting and not for consumption or processing. *(ISPM No. 5 Glossary of Phytosanitary terms, 2009)*

• Any propagative part of a plant, including *tubers*, *bulbs*, etc., esp. as preserved for growing a new crop.

• International trade: grain seeds, flower seeds, vegetable seeds, fruit seeds, forest tree seeds......
PRA in international trade

Pest Risk Analysis for Quarantine Pests

The processes of evaluating biological or other scientific and economic evidence to determine whether a pest should be regulated and the strength of any phytosanitary measure to be taken against it.
PRA For Regulated Non-Quarantine Pests (ISPM 21)

• Conducting PRA for Regulated Non-Quarantine Pests (RNQPs) is only used for seeds or plants for planting
• Appropriate pest tolerance level. Zero tolerance is not likely to be a general requirement.
• The same tolerance level should be applied for domestic production and import requirements.
Phytosanitary Measures may be applied to:

- Quarantine pests (including weeds)
- Regulated non-quarantine Pests (RNQP)
- Seed as high risk material

Measures applied to crop, production area, commodity, transit, post entry
LGB on corn
Phytosanitary Measures

- Import permit
- Certification scheme
- Pre-inspection
- Defined entry ports
- Inspection /testing on entry
- Post entry quarantine (PEQ)
- Disinfestation
- Others
Import permit

Import permit (IP) is an official document authorizing importation of a commodity in accordance with specified phytosanitary import requirements. It is generally required for importation of seeds by NPPOs.

- Seeds in prohibited list
- Seeds in non-prohibited list
- Intended use for research or study
- Intended use for commercial seeds
- Plants with soil or medium
Certification scheme

- Certification schemes registered with and approved by NPPO and trace back systems established.
- Phytosanitary measures may consist of a combination of two or more options. These options may be applied to:
  - Area of production
  - place of production
  - site of production
  - parent stock
  - consignment of seeds
Pest Free Area

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.
Ralstonia solanacearum
(brown rot of potato)
Certification scheme

Place of production

- isolation (place or time)
- pest free place of production or pest free production site
- integrated pest management
Certification scheme

• Parent stock
  - treatment: seed pesticide coat
  - use of resistant varieties
  - use of healthy planting material
  - sorting and roguing
  - selection of propagating material.

• Consignment of seeds
  • treatment
  • conditions of preparation and handling
Pre-inspection/Pre-clearance

• For facilitating trade logistics at the request of the exporting country, contracting parties may bilaterally negotiate an agreement for allowing clearance in the country of origin by the NPPO of the country of destination.

• Joint auditing of the export certification system to facilitate new trade

• Specification No. 42: Pre-clearance for regulated articles.
Pre-inspection/Pre-clearance
Defined entry points

• Select entry ports with
  • Skilled staff for effective compliance checking
  • Inspection and testing capability/facilities
  • Disinfestation facilities
  • Post entry quarantine facilities
Phytosanitary action on entry

• Sampling, testing and inspection
Post Entry Quarantine Requirements

- Level of security: Field site, screen house, glasshouse and/or laboratory
- Location, physical and operational requirements, systems for diagnosis and treatment of quarantine pests and, auditing of the station.
- The type of PEQ station to be used should be determined by the type of imported seeds and associated quarantine pests.
Recommendations

• Respect for international phytosanitary regulations

• Application of ISPMs in seed production and trade for procedural harmonization and certification

• Linkages between Seed Associations, NPPOs and the IPPC

• Surveillance and National Pest Listing embedded in policy of NPPOs
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