

## Workshop for Heads of NPPOs on the Future of EPPO

(Sochi, RU, 2004-06-08/11)

### RECOMMENDATIONS

The aim of the Workshop for Heads of NPPOs was to develop recommendations for the future areas of activity of the Organization in its two main sectors of activities (Plant Protection Products and Phytosanitary Regulations) and to examine how they relate to the activities and structures of the NPPOs of the EPPO region.

Main elements considered during the Workshop included:

- What are the main roles, functions and activities on which EPPO should concentrate?
- Relationship with national structures
- What will plant protection cover in future?
- In what way could and should EPPO be relevant for non-EU and EU members?
- What is the future relationship between IPPC and EPPO?
- Composition and structure of the Secretariat.

The Workshop concluded that, within the framework of articles II and V of the EPPO Convention, EPPO aims to assure the development of high-quality scientific activities in support of the role of the NPPOs of member countries in the phytosanitary and plant protection product fields. In particular, the Organization undertakes activities which encourage the production and exchange of information, facilitate worksharing and collaboration, and promote the harmonization of procedures between NPPOs.

On the basis of its discussion of issues related to the future of the Organization, the Workshop made the following recommendations and conclusions.

#### **New phytosanitary context in the Region**

The Workshop discussed the new situation in the EPPO region where 25 Member Governments of the Organization are now EU members, and more CIS countries are joining the Organization. The following recommendations were made:

##### *Relationship between EU and EPPO*

- Existing EU/EPPO technical working arrangements are appropriate. The question of EU membership of the Organization is not a urgent question to be solved.

##### *Relationships between EU and non-EU countries*

- A need was identified for better communication between EU and non-EU countries. The Organization should investigate the possibilities for facilitating such communication.

##### *Technical assistance*

- EPPO activities on technical assistance should mainly be focussed on the organization of workshops on implementation of ISPMs and regional standards. The Organization could also participate in the co-ordination of capacity building in the region (awareness of regional expertise to help response to regional requests for technical assistance).

### *Regional activities*

The Workshop recognized that the EPPO region is broad and diverse. The needs of EPPO member countries consequently vary. The following recommendations were made:

- Workshops could be organized at the sub-regional level and not only at the regional level.
- EPPO should investigate how to adapt its recommendations to the needs of different groups of countries in the region.

### **Regional harmonization of phytosanitary measures to prevent the introduction and spread of pests**

The Workshop mainly discussed the potential role for EPPO in PRA and the future of EPPO pest lists. It also considered the activities on Invasive Alien Species and the phytosanitary procedures which EPPO should develop. The following recommendations were made:

#### *EPPO and PRA*

##### General recommendations from the Workshop:

- EPPO should play a major role in organizing internationally conducted PRA in the region.
- Pest risk analyses performed through the EPPO system should include risk assessment as well as the identification of suitable risk management options. Management options to be applied are decided by the member countries.
- PRAs need to be done for a clearly defined area (EPPO region or a specific area on request).

##### Recommendations on the development of a structure to perform PRA

- A detailed structure for the EPPO PRA process should be developed by the Working Party on Phytosanitary Regulations including the identification of costs and resources of the Secretariat and the Member Governments needed to carry out this activity.
- EPPO should ensure that its system meets peer-review requirements.
- The EPPO structure may call for advice from a specific network of experts, or from existing or new panels.

##### Recommendations on pests on which to perform PRA

- These may, for example, include pests of the EPPO Alert List or pests proposed by Member Governments.
- There is a need to consider how to deal with pests currently on A1 and A2 EPPO lists (should PRAs be carried out on all A1 or A2 current listed pests, or should priorities be made for A1 or A2 pest on which PRAs should be performed?).

#### *Future of EPPO pest lists*

- EPPO Pest lists (current A1 and A2 lists) should become lists of pests of potential phytosanitary risk for a specified endangered area.
- EPPO Alert list (including pests identified as presenting a potential risk but where no formal pest risk analysis has been conducted) should be maintained.

#### *Alien Invasive species*

The Workshop confirmed that Invasive Alien Species were an important subject where EPPO should play an active role. Activities on Invasive Alien Species should continue to have a high priority.

#### *Phytosanitary management procedures*

The Workshop considered that the development of phytosanitary procedures (inspection manuals, diagnostic protocols, eradication procedures, procedures for pest-specific pest-free areas ...) should have a high priority.

## **Relations between EPPO and research**

### *Laboratories*

The Workshop suggested that EPPO could play a role in quality assurance as this was an increasing concern for laboratories involved in plant pest diagnosis. Activities on Diagnostic protocols were considered very valuable. To be fully recognized in quality assurance or accreditation, they should be ring-tested and validated. The Workshop also suggested that the Organization could play a role in proficiency testing. Such programmes should have a broad participation from EPPO members. EPPO should identify the appropriate expertise in the region to help member countries in their accreditation process.

### *Information on research activities in the region*

The Workshop suggested that national R&D programmes should be put on the EPPO website to improve mutual information.

### *LMOs*

Some participants proposed to involve EPPO in diagnostic techniques and surveillance protocols for LMOs.

## **Promotion of the development and use of ISPMs**

### *Regional standards as potential ISPMs*

- EPPO standards should be promoted as potential international standards. Lists of EPPO standards to be promoted as potential ISPMs should be established by the Working Party on Phytosanitary Regulations.

### *Implementation of ISPMs: how can the Organization help?*

The Workshop considered that the existing regional consultation process on draft ISPMs was adequate and discussed how the Organization could help its members in the implementation of ISPMs. The Workshop recommended that:

- Practical workshops on how to implement ISPMs should be organized on selected ISPMs. These Workshops should primarily be organized for the NPPO managers.
- Implementation difficulties should be noted by the Secretariat and used when priorities on topics are made to organize Workshops.
- Explanatory documents on ISPMs should be prepared when considered necessary. Such documents when finalized should be communicated to the IPPC Secretariat as potential international explanatory documents.

## **Role of RPPOs, relation of RPPOs with IPPC and each other**

### *Role of RPPOs and of the Technical Consultation*

The Workshop recommended that:

- Neither the IPPC nor RPPOs should try to develop common functions and objectives for RPPOs.
- Regular meeting between RPPOs should continue.
- The roles and functions of the Technical Consultation as defined by its 14th meeting in Marrakech were accepted. An additional role was identified :  
The TC should follow developments in the WTO SPS agreement and analyse potential consequences in relation to RPPOs and their member states.

The Workshop was not in favour of an official role for EPPO in dispute settlement, but recognized that this did not exclude the provision of technical documents or information by the Secretariat to members in dispute.

### *Relations between RPPOs*

The Workshop recognized that consultation between RPPOs has proved to be very useful and recommended that consultation with other RPPOs (NAPPO, COSAVE, NEPPO) on international issues within ICPM framework should continue or be developed.

### *Relation of RPPOs with IPPC*

- EPPO should provide active co-operation with the IPPC Secretariat in the field of information. Existing information could be provided to the IPP. There should be a detailed analysis of reporting obligations of member states to EPPO and FAO to determine what type of information could be provided by EPPO to the IPP.
- Regional co-ordination: the Workshop recognized that co-ordination activities conducted by the Organization in the framework of IPPC has worked very well and no change was needed. Participation of Member countries in the Panel on ICPM Affairs should be broadened.

## **Harmonization of evaluation and registration of Plant Protection Products.**

### *Information*

The Organization should develop more activities on:

- eradication, including eradication of Invasive Alien Species.
- databases on registered plant protection products and on products against which resistance has been identified.
- management of resistance.
- minor uses or crops
- forecasting models.

The Reporting Service should include more elements on plant protection products.

### *Standardization*

The Organization should develop more activities on:

- Acceptable efficacy
- Registration data for mutual recognition
- Classification of uses

### *Harmonization*

The Organization should develop more activities on:

- Minimum requirements for training in plant protection
- Minimum requirements for equipment.

### *EPPO and research*

The Working Party on Plant Protection Products should investigate the need to have more information on research in the field of Plant Protection Products and which information would be relevant.

### *Benefits of plant protection*

The Workshop identified that there was a need to demonstrate explicitly that plant protection has benefits. The Organization should assist members to identify and quantify benefits (for producers and for society generally).

## **Management of EPPO**

### *Languages*

- The Organization should continue with the present policy of translating documents into Russian, following the established priorities.

### *Meeting places*

- The policy regarding meeting places for the Colloquium and the Technical Visit attached to the Council session should be more flexible.

### *Publication policy*

- Publication policy should be reviewed in particular to investigate the possibility of refereeing certain elements in the EPPO Bulletin.

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### *Standard setting procedure*

- Current procedures for approval of EPPO Standards are perceived to be slow, and the possibility of a fast-track procedure should be considered.

### *Change of location*

There may be a need in coming years to change the location of the EPPO headquarters in the Paris area.