KEY APPROACHES TO EQUIVALENCE IN PLANT HEALTH

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WTO, CENTRE WILLIAM RAPPARD, GENEVA
An IPPC framework on Equivalence

- ISPM 01 (International standard for phytosanitary measures) *Phytosanitary principles for the protection of plants and the application of phytosanitary measures in international trade*

- ISPM 24 (2005) *Guidelines for the determination and recognition of equivalence of phytosanitary measures* offers general guidance

Equivalence in plant health is about comparing the pest risk management outcomes.

There are some ISPMs that propose pest risk management options that should provide the same outcomes:
- ISPM 15 *Regulation of wood packaging material in international trade*
- ISPM 28 *Phytosanitary treatments for regulated pests*

There are some ISPMs that propose pest risk management approaches:
- ISPM 14 *The use of integrated measures in a systems approach for pest risk management*
Regional concepts of equivalence outside of ISPM 24

Usually equivalence is a **bilateral** agreement between importer and exporter country NPPOs

- may be a regional import decision (e.g. EU)
- may employ intraregional mechanisms for recognising equivalence of inspection or application of measures (e.g. Southern Cone COSAVE)
- may involve benchmarking and recognition of labs or facilities that could be considered equivalence (e.g. US review of irradiation facilities, or other commodity treatment facilities; or recognition of diagnostic labs, e.g. centres of excellence)
Why is determining equivalence in pest risk management outcomes difficult?

1. Equivalence is when alternative measures achieve the appropriate level of protection (ALOP) as determined by the importing contracting party. ALOP often is not clearly benchmarked.

2. Results from end point treatments (e.g. mortality of pests already infesting a commodity) are hard to compare to prevention, pest free areas or other measures.

3. The efficacy of a system of integrated measures – Systems Approach – is not easy to determine.
Beyond compliance tools

STDF project in South East Asia  
(2011-2014)

1. Production chain mapping

2. Elicitation of measures, evaluation against criteria and inclusion of uncertainty for results

3. Clear stakeholder communication and representation for discussion and negotiations
1. Production chains
Improved confidence and competence to understand the role of each measure and potential gaps or redundancy

Separate columns:
Objective of the measure
Measures
Time/place/stage in chain
Verification measures

Colour coding:
Official or commercial measures
Currently applied or potential
In line with least restrictive, or to be discussed for removal
For risk reduction or verification
NPPO and other stakeholders work on Excel™ based Decision Support System
2. Elicitation framework

- Individual efficacy of measures assessed (including uncertainty)
- Provides framework for combining measures in current or proposed combinations
- Expert elicited distributions are easy to evaluate and communicate, using graphic representation
Beyond compliance outcomes

• Collected stakeholder expertise, literature, research results, etc. to indicate possible impact – which is useful when hard data is sparse

• Clarified available measures along production and evaluate them consistently against various criteria

• Clarified role of the NPPO in market access negotiations
Beyond Compliance Global
STDF/IPPC project (2018-21)

- IPPC Secretariat is implementing the project, Imperial College London is the technical provider

- Project is receiving US$568,966 from STDF and in kind contributions from the IPPC and Imperial College London surpassing US$125,000

- Buy in for non qualifying countries to participate is a possibility
Beyond Compliance Global

- Trade cases were selected through a call by the IPPC, to be supported in implementing the tools with the aim of better understanding of pest risk management options and improved market access negotiations.
- We are training over a dozen potential Facilitators representing each of the regions/RPPOs in the use of these tools. Selected trainees are from:
  - Kenya, Uganda, South Africa, Iraq, Mexico, Dominica, Belize
  - With two self funding China and Latvia.
In conclusion...

- ISPM 24 is a global approach to equivalence in plant health but is not very prescriptive or detailed.

- ISPM 14 (Systems Approach) is one of the more commonly used approaches to pest risk management, when seeking alternative measures in the context of plant health.

- Beyond Compliance Global is supporting the use of ISPM 14.
Wish list

• A global registry of Systems Approach cases, with the objective of the proposal noted—e.g. new trade, equivalence, to maintain trade when interceptions require additional measures, etc.

• Details of such trade, to the degree confidentiality allows

• Increased coordination on emerging tools to estimate efficacy, so that ideas converge rather than having several unaligned versions
Beyond Compliance project eBook, under documents tab, at:

http://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-328

Thank you