Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

International Plant Protection Convention

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF PLANT HEALTH 2020

PROTECTING PLANTS, PROTECTING LIFE

WTO THEMATIC SESSION ON VOLUNTARY THIRD PARTY ASSURANCE PROGRAMS AS PART OF NATIONAL SPS CONTROL SYSTEMS

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Various related terms

The IPPC and related standards uses

Authorization

Article IV of the IPPC lays down the responsibilities for NPPOs https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/131/

Article V.2(a) of the IPPC provides for the possibility for NPPOs to authorize entities (non-NPPO) to perform specific phytosanitary actions on their behalf.

Also in a number of ISPMs:
ISPM 3, ISPM 5, ISPM 6, ISPM 7, ISPM 12, ISPM 20, ISPM 23, ISPM 42, ISPM 43
Adopted ISPMs (https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/standards-setting/ispms/)

Draft standard: Requirements for National Plant Protection Organizations if Authorizing Entities to Perform Phytosanitary Actions (2014-002)

Legal framework

- Some countries may not have the necessary legal framework in place.

Implementation resources

- Lack of available guidance to NPPOs and contracting parties to support implementation of the standard. The availability of adequate guides and training materials will be critical for development and maintenance of authorization programmes by NPPOs and for maintaining the integrity of such programmes.

Capacity development

- .There may be a lack of entities with the experience and knowledge or a lack of NPPO capacity to provide training to those entities.

Conflict of interest

- It will be important to define and articulate potential conflicts of interest and transparently explain how they are managed when implementing an authorization programme.

Other issues

- There may be resistance on the part of users to change and to apply complex processes, meaning they would not accept authorized entities to perform certain actions.

Definitions and Advice

- ISPM 5: **official** is defined as, “established, **authorized** or performed by a national plant protection organization”.

- FAO legal advice sought after country comments and SPG discussions (https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/87039/)
- Confirmed that:
  - Article V.2 (a) of the IPPC provides for authorization of entities to perform phytosanitary actions (including activities such as auditing)
  - Responsibility for the phytosanitary action remained with the NPPO
  - The **exception** is the issuance of phytosanitary certificates.

The current draft ISPM

- Follows the FAO legal advice
- Makes it clear the application/implementation is **voluntary** (https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/87076/)
- **NOTE** – without this ISPM, many CPs already do and will continue to authorize entities to perform phytosanitary actions.
  - ISPM 15 implementation is the most universal example

Implementation Review Support System Study:

Authorizing entities to perform phytosanitary actions: an overview of the current use of authorization by national plant protection organizations

Study Results

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https://www.ippc.int/en/news/posted-irss-report-on-the-authorizing-entities-to-perform-phytosanitary-actions/

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Part I: Legislative framework along with global and regional standards

The IPPC

- (Article IV) is clear that the issuance of phytosanitary certificates is carried out by authorized public officers only, but it also allows for other phytosanitary actions to be carried out by public officers and properly authorized third parties.

CPM R-03

- *Replacement or reduction of the use of methyl bromide as a phytosanitary measure* (R-03), use is authorized or performed by the NPPO

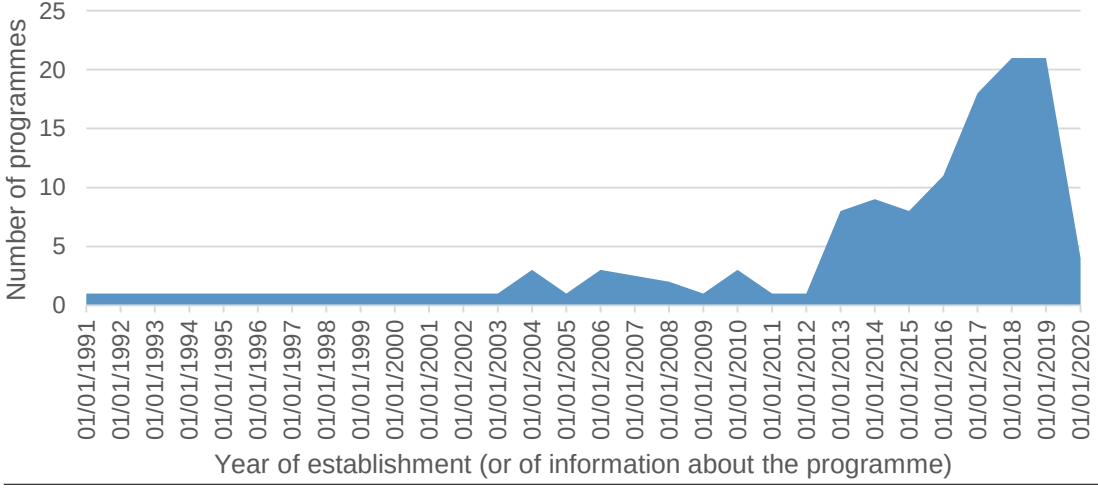
Several ISPMs

- both ISPMs and regional standards include references to the authorization of entities by NPPOs

Part II: Implementation and capacity development resources

- Several existing implementation and capacity development resources developed under the auspices of the IPPC Secretariat provide guidance on the authorization of entities to perform phytosanitary actions on behalf of an NPPO

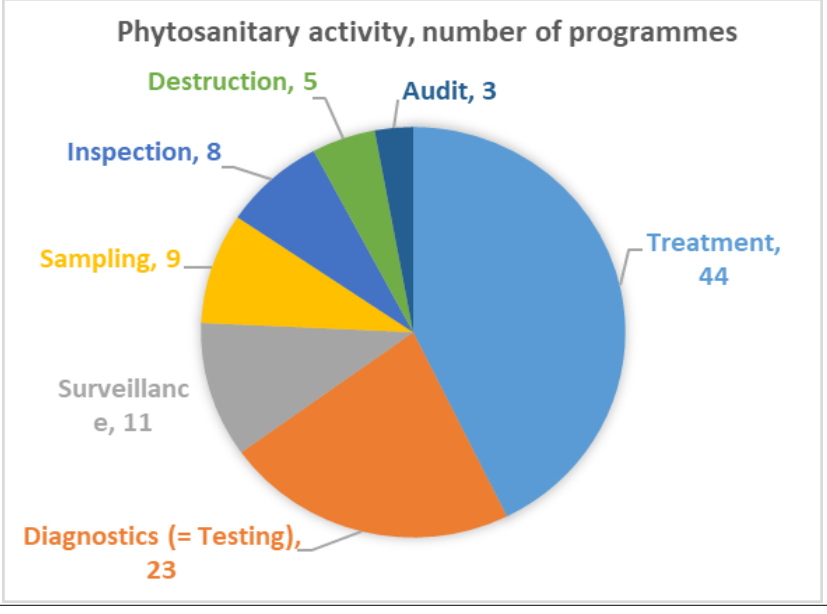
Part III: Review of existing NPPO authorization programmes



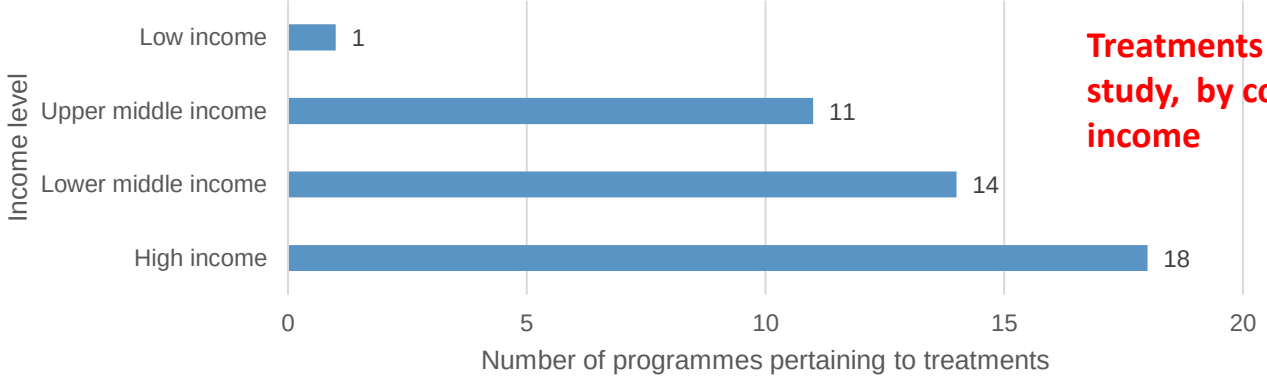
Programmes from the study, over the years

Breakdown of the types of programmes

Programmes from the study, by activity



Authorization programmes for treatments, according to income level of the country



Treatments from the study, by country income

Part IV: Establishing an authorization programme

The authorization programmes identified in this study illustrate some of the implementation issues faced by NPPOs establishing authorization programmes and how these issues have been addressed such as:

Conflict of interest **Managing liabilities** **Subcontracting** **Accreditation**	**Nonconformities** **Audit** **Funding** **Capacity development**

Thank you for your attention!

Questions?

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