NROs UPDATE

National Reporting Obligations

Protecting the world's plant resources from pests



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IPPC Official Contact Points – practical aspects

The Official Contact Points (OCPs) are responsible for reporting specific obligatory national information (known as national reporting obligations) as described in the Convention.

The Third Session of ICPM (2001) agreed that the preferred method of meeting NROs is via the International Phytosanitary Portal.

Once a nomination for a new OCP is received by the IPPC Secretariat, a profile for that person is created in the IPP and the new OCP receives, by email, their login instructions on how to set a password for his/her account. After this account has been setup an OCP is able to edit information regarding his/her country and post reports on the IPP.

Did you know?

The IPP manual to help with accessing, reporting and data editing is currently available at the IPP in Arabic, English, French, Russian and Spanish.



The role of the IPP editor

An Official Contact Points (OCPs) can delegate the physical uploading of the data on the International Phytosanitary Portal to an official editor to undertake this work on their behalf. One or more editors can be nominated per country by the OCP. In practice, the editor form needs to be completed and signed by the OCP, and send to the IPPC Secretariat for registration in the system. The form is now available in Arabic, English, French, Russian and Spanish.

The IPP editor can upload data on the IPP but the OCP remains legally responsible for the content and accuracy of these data, as all information put on the IPP by the editor will be considered to be on behalf of the OCP and official for that country. A clear working arrangement / process needs to be established between the OCP and its editor regarding authorization/permission for data to be uploaded on the IPP. At the same time, the OCPs themselves can still edit all national data, including their contact details (except OCP's name and title), on the IPP.

The lists of editor's tasks should include:

- ✓ Uploading National Reporting Obligations on behalf of the OCP.
- ✓ Assisting the OCP in meeting NROs in a timely manner
- ✓ Regular checking and updating of the data.
- ✓ Special attention should be given to a correctness of an email address of the OCP, including an alternative email, and other contact details (address, phone/fax number).
- ✓ Uploading other information on the IPP that a country wishes to post.

Best practice for editors:

- ✓ Clearance for all posted information should be obtained from the OCP before uploading it on the IPP.
- ✓ If more than 1 editor is nominated for a country all editors should work as a team and support one another.
- ✓ Continuity should be provided so if an editor is going to leave the NPPO he/she should pass on their editor knowledge to the new person who should be nominated as a new IPP editor.

Did you know?

- The IPP editor can edit every detail concerning his/her Official Contact Point **apart from the name of the OCP and his/her title**. For changes regarding these, you need to contact the IPPC Secretariat.
- There can only be 1 OCP per country but the OCP can nominate more than one editor.

Advantages and possible consequences



Advantages of keeping the OCP's contact details up to date

- The important communications from the Secretariat regarding country consultations, workshops, invitations to meetings, calls for experts, etc. are received instantly by email.
- It facilitates cooperation and coordination between countries as they can officially contact one another to communicate phytosanitary information.
- It is clear who should be addressed in each country in case of enquiries on import phytosanitary requirements and in emergency cases when consignments are blocked at the border.
- It facilitates trade and market access building trust in bilateral relationships between countries.
- An efficient and functional OCP can be an indication of a successful and efficiently functioning Contracting Party to the Convention.
- It contributes to the protection of cultivated and wild plants by preventing the introduction and spread of pests increasing the protection of the world's biodiversity and food security.
- It improves transparency, timeliness and quality of information provided.

Possible consequences of not keeping the OCP's contact details up to date

- Important communications from the Secretariat are not received.
- It can isolate countries and prevent them from fully participating in and benefitting from interaction with the international plant protection community.
- It will indirectly affect trade, food security and the protection of cultivated plants and the environment.
- It can lead to a loss of or reduction of trust between trading countries.
- It could lead to unwarranted protective measures as the OCP cannot be contacted resulting in lengthy trade negotiations and limited market access.
- Not meeting any reporting obligations may be perceived by some countries as a possible attempt to hide phytosanitary issues from trading partners or neighbours.

Year of the IPPC OCP

This series of newsletters (Vols. 01 – 06) will be published from October 2014 to March 2015 and will focus on the objectives and functioning of OCPs. Please make sure you read them all.

Good practices for nominating a new Official Contact Point (OCP)



The Contracting Party to the IPPC Convention has the right to nominate anyone they believe appropriate for this position.

However, based on the Secretariat's experience gathered during the last over 10 years and on the feedback from CPs on best practices, an Official Contact Point:

- ✓ should be a senior person within the hierarchy with the authority to communicate on behalf of the CP and NPPO,
- ✓ should ideally be a part of his/her country's NPPO or have at least good collaboration practices with the NPPO,
- ✓ should be aware of the IPPC activities, their responsibilities and should be directly involved in them,
- ✓ should be able to develop and manage the national NROs system to collect, collate, analyze, verify and communicate NROs,
- ✓ needs good communication skills in at least one FAO language,
- ✓ needs to have the necessary national support and resources to undertake their NRO tasks,
- ✓ needs to be capable of working with national institutes to ensure the above tasks are adequately supported and serviced.



Trade in and movement of fruit and vegetables: manage the phytosanitary risks!

Fruit and vegetable production is increasing around the world and the produce is often shipped overnight to major markets – a fast and reliable pathway for new pests if risk management is not undertaken and adequate measures are not in place. Germplasm is increasingly being moved around the world which needs to be undertaken in a responsible and safe manner to ensure food security and protect biodiversity.



Think before your travel – understand the consequences of your actions.

How often do we travel and buy wooden curios, flowers or agricultural products to take home to your friends and family? THINK before you do this – you could be taking pests back to your country that could cause a very significant negative economic, food security or environmental impact.

Prevention is better than cure

Be responsible for your actions!

The acronym finder:

CP	IPPC Contracting Party
CPM	Commission on Phytosanitary Measures
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
IPP	International Phytosanitary Portal (www.ippc.int)
IPPC	International Plant Protection Convention
NPPO	National plant protection organization
NROs	National Reporting Obligations
NROAG	National Reporting Obligations Advisory Group
OCP	Official Contact Point of a Contracting Party to the Convention
RPPO	Regional plant protection organization



Contact the IPPC:

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