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INTERNATIONAL PLANT PROTECTION CONVENTION -

FUTURE IMPLEMENTATION AND COOPERATION

WITH GATT AND REGIONAL PLANT PROTECTION ORGANIZATIONS

1. The International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) was approved by the 6th Session of the FAO Conference in 1951 and came into force in 1952. The Director-General of FAO is the depositary. The objective of the IPPC is to secure common and effective action to prevent the introduction and spread of pests of plants and plant products across national boundaries and to permit measures for their control. The IPPC provides for the establishment of official plant protection organizations at the national level by individual governments and the issuance of phytosanitary certificates. It also sets certain requirements in relation to imports and international cooperation and provides for a system of settlement of disputes among Contracting Governments. At its 20th Session in 1979, the FAO Conference approved a series of amendments to the IPPC, which were set out in the form of a Revised Text. The amendments included, in particular, changes relating to the phytosanitary certificates. At present, 94 countries are parties to the IPPC and 48 countries have accepted the Revised Text. The Revised Text will come into force only on its acceptance by two-thirds of the Contracting Governments. (The revised text is reproduced as Appendix A).

2. Under the IPPC, Contracting Governments undertake to cooperate with one another in establishing Regional Plant Protection Organizations in appropriate areas. These Organizations function as the coordinating bodies in the areas covered and participate in various activities to achieve the objectives of the Convention.

3. At present Regional Organizations exist in Asia, Africa, North, Central and South America, the Caribbean and Europe. The establishment of a Regional Organization in the South Pacific is underway.

4. Under the heading of international cooperation, the IPPC provides for certain functions to be undertaken by FAO in the area of information exchange, especially with respect to information on the distribution of pests, legislation and regulations. However, it does not expressly provide for the establishment of a separate Secretariat to pursue the implementation of its objectives. FAO is currently carrying out work in the area of information dissemination and provides technical assistance to countries to enable them to meet the requirements of the IPPC. Article IX confers on the FAO Director-General a specific role in the settlement of disputes.

5. In the context of the Uruguay round of trade negotiations in the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs (GATT), the Negotiating Group on Agriculture has identified sanitary and phytosanitary regulations as one of the non-tariff barriers to trade in agricultural produce. Article XX of GATT, under the heading of "general exceptions", recognizes the right of GATT Contracting Parties to adopt and enforce "measures.....necessary to protect human, animal or plant life or health". This exception is, however, "subject to the requirement that such measures are not applied in a manner which would constitute a means of arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination between countries where the same conditions prevail, or a disguised restriction on international trade".

6. At the review meeting of the Trade Negotiations Group of the GATT in Geneva in 1989, the Ministers reached the following agreement with respect to sanitary and phytosanitary regulations:

"Ministers endorse harmonization of national regulations as a long-term goal and a work programme embodying the following objectives:

- (1) develop harmonization of sanitary and phytosanitary regulations and measures, on the basis of appropriate standards established by relevant international organizations including the Codex Alimentarius Commission, the International Office of Epizootics and the International Plant Protection Convention;
- (2) strengthen Article XX so that measures taken to protect human, animal or plant life or health are consistent with sound scientific evidence and use suitable principles of equivalency;
- (3) review existing notification and counter-notification procedures to ensure transparency and the existence of an effective notification process for national regulations and bilateral agreements;
- (4) develop a consultative process which ensures transparency and allows opportunity for the bilateral resolution of disputes;
- (5) improve the effectiveness of the multilateral dispute settlement process within the GATT in order to provide the necessary input of scientific expertise and judgement, relying on relevant international organizations;

- (6) assess the possible effects on developing countries of the GATT rules and disciplines for sanitary and phytosanitary measures, and evaluate the need for technical assistance;
- (7) examine the possibilities for implementation of the above programme in the context of short-term elements."

7. There have been contacts on plant quarantine as a trade barrier between FAO and the GATT since early 1988 and FAO, as depositary of the International Plant Protection Convention, participated in meetings of the working group on sanitary and phytosanitary regulations. After the decision of the Ministers, the Director-General of the GATT requested the Director-General of FAO for technical assistance in the implementation of the work programme.

8. In the field of plant quarantine, FAO decided to consult Regional Plant Protection Organizations (RPPOs) on a programme of work to provide technical assistance to harmonization as requested by the GATT. This technical consultation between RPPOs was held in September 1989 in which the various aspects of harmonization were discussed, together with the role of FAO and RPPOs in information exchange and in the process of harmonization of quarantine requirements. (The recommendations of the Consultation are attached as Appendix B).

9. The Consultation concluded that the following issues required action at the global level:

- a) development of harmonized guidelines for pest risk assessment;
- b) development of harmonization of plant quarantine principles with which phytosanitary laws and regulations should be consistent;
- c) development of harmonized plant quarantine procedures.

10. The guidelines for pest risk assessment will be required to decide whether a given pest is a quarantine risk and what level of risk such a pest could present for a given country. The development of such guidelines should be completed in 2-3 years time. Plant quarantine principles, with which phytosanitary laws and regulations should be consistent, could also be developed in 2-3 years time. The development of harmonized plant quarantine procedures would be a continuing process.

11. The Consultation recognized that information exchange on plant quarantine at a regional and global level, as provided for in the IPPC, had to be organized in a better manner and had to be intensified.

12. The Consultation considered the dispute settlement in detail. As indicated in paragraph 4, Article IX of the IPPC provides for dispute settlement. The recommendations of consultancy experts appointed under the procedure are not binding on the disputing parties. Within GATT another procedure exists which can also be used for the settlement of disputes. Countries that are party to both GATT and

IPPC thus have a choice as to whether to use the GATT or the IPPC procedure. GATT would not object to and, indeed would welcome the initial use of the IPPC procedure for the settlement of disputes arising out of phytosanitary issues.

13. The Technical Consultation recommended that FAO establish a secretariat to provide a point of reference for the IPPC. The activities of the IPPC Secretariat would cover enhanced information exchange and all aspects of harmonization. The IPPC Secretariat should be supported by an Expert Panel, which would develop guidelines on harmonization of pest risk analysis and regulations and harmonized procedures. The IPPC Secretariat and the Expert Panel would receive technical inputs from the RPPOs through annual Technical Consultations. These Technical Consultations would also provide a forum for the verification of the above guidelines and of the harmonized quarantine procedures. It would be expected that the RPPOs would verify these with their member governments, whilst FAO would also have to approach the contracting parties directly. Finally, the Technical Consultations would provide for a joint working programme between FAO and the RPPOs on information exchange.

14. The Consultation also recommended that technical assistance be provided to developing countries to enable them to meet the requirements of the IPPC and to establish appropriate import and export procedures in order to participate at the fullest in international trade. It should be noted that this has also been recommended by the GATT.

15. The Consultation also recommended that FAO consider the creation of an official technical body in support of the IPPC. It recognized that for questions of animal or human health, official bodies exist to which reference can be made for expertise and information, but that no such official body exists for plant health. The recommendations for an IPPC Secretariat and a Technical Consultation might fill this role in the immediate future but it was considered desirable to explore the possibilities of creating an official body in support of the IPPC. The creation of such a body should be considered in close collaboration with the RPPOs and the IPPC Contracting Governments. It was also recommended that if such a body were to be created, it should be administered by the IPPC secretariat to be established within FAO.

16. For the next biennium it is proposed that funds be allocated within the existing resources to create a unit that could fulfill the functions of an IPPC Secretariat and for the operation of this Secretariat, including the convening of technical meetings. Funds will also be required to strengthen the programme of the FAO Regional Plant Protection Commissions that exist in the Caribbean and in S.E. Asia. At present, work on plant quarantine is the responsibility of a Senior Officer (Plant Pathology and Quarantine), an Agricultural Officer (Plant Quarantine) and, on an ad hoc basis, the incumbents of other posts within the Plant Protection Service. It should be noted that, due to the financial crisis, the Senior Officer post has remained vacant throughout the 1988/89 biennium. To execute the

programme adequately, one extra post at the P-5 level at Headquarters is required and one general service post. These requirements are necessary to deal with harmonization and enhanced information exchange.

17. Operational funds will be required for sessions of the Expert Panel to develop guidelines on harmonization of pest risk assessment and regulations and to develop harmonized plant quarantine procedures. It is envisaged that at least 4 formal sessions will be required during the next biennium.

18. Two Technical Consultations between Regional Plant Protection Organizations will need to be held. For the Regional Plant Protection Commissions, the additional funds would chiefly be used for the formation of and travel to working groups related to harmonization of plant quarantine regulations and plant quarantine procedures in the region. It is estimated that for the 1990/91 biennium a total of US\$ 600,000 is required over and above the present budget for plant quarantine, as indicated in the budget line 2124.001 in the Programme of Work and Budget.

19. It is expected that early in 1992 FAO will need to consult with its member governments to discuss and endorse the harmonization of plant quarantine principles and procedures. It may be expected that such consultations would need to be repeated from time to time after 1993.

20. Concerning the creation of an official body, this will require very careful consideration, especially as this may involve extra funding in the future. The most important issues to be considered would be the following:

- a) There is already a structure of Regional Plant Protection Organizations, and the establishment of an IPPC Secretariat is proposed; therefore an international official body should preferably take the form of a consultative committee rather than a full Organization.
- b) The interests of the Contracting Governments should be well represented in such a body, together with the interests of Regional Plant Protection Organizations.

21. The Conference is requested to consider the establishment of the IPPC Secretariat and the allocation of resources to the Secretariat. It is also requested to approve a study by FAO of the establishment of an official body for IPPC with the purpose of arriving at a global coordinated programme on the implementation of the IPPC.

REVISED TEXT OF THE INTERNATIONAL PLANT PROTECTION CONVENTION

PREAMBLE

The contracting parties, recognizing the usefulness of international cooperation in controlling pests of plants and plant products and in preventing their spread, and especially their introduction across national boundaries, and desiring to ensure close coordination of measures directed to these ends, have agreed as follows:

ARTICLE I

Purpose and Responsibility

1. With the purpose of securing common and effective action to prevent the spread and introduction of pests of plants and plant products and to promote measures for their control, the contracting parties undertake to adopt the legislative, technical and administrative measures specific in this Convention and in supplementary agreements pursuant to Article III.
2. Each contracting party shall assume responsibility for the fulfillment within its territories of all requirements under this Convention.

ARTICLE II

Scope

1. For the purpose of this Convention the term "plants" shall comprise living plants and parts thereof, including seeds in so far as the supervision of their importation under Article VI of the Convention or the issue of phytosanitary certificates in respect of them under Articles IV (1) (a) (iv) and V of this Convention may be deemed necessary by contracting parties; and the term "plant products" shall comprise unmanufactured material of plant origin (including seeds in so far as they are not included in the term "plants") and those manufactured products which, by their nature or that of their processing, may create a risk for the spread of pests.
2. For the purposes of this Convention, the term "pest" means any form of plant or animal life, or any pathogenic agent, injurious or potentially injurious to plants or plant products; and the term "quarantine pest" means a pest of potential national economic importance to the country endangered thereby and not yet present there, or present but not widely distributed and being actively controlled.
3. Where appropriate, the provisions of this Convention may be deemed by contracting parties to extend to storage places, conveyances, containers and any other object or material capable of harbouring or spreading plant pests, particularly where international transportation is involved.
4. This Convention applies mainly to quarantine pests involved with international trade.

5. The definitions set forth in this Article, being limited to the application of this Convention, shall not be deemed to affect definitions established under domestic laws or regulations of contracting parties.

ARTICLE III

Supplementary Agreements

1. Supplementary agreements applicable to specific regions, to specific pests, to specific plants and plant products, to specific methods of international transportation of plants and plant products, or otherwise supplementing the provisions of this Convention, may be proposed by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (hereinafter referred to as "FAO") on the recommendation of a contracting party or on its own initiative, to meet special problems of plant protection which need particular attention or action.

2. Any such supplementary agreements shall come into force for each contracting party after acceptance in accordance with the provisions of the FAO Constitution and General Rules of the Organization.

ARTICLE IV

National Organization for Plant Protection

1. Each contracting party shall make provision, as soon as possible and to the best of its ability, for

(a) an official plant protection organization with the following main functions:

(i) the inspection of growing plants, of areas under cultivation (including fields, plantations, nurseries, gardens and greenhouses), and of plants and plant products in storage or in transportation, particularly with the object of reporting the existence, outbreak and spread of plant pests and of controlling those pests;

(ii) the inspection of consignments of plants and plant products moving in international traffic, and, where appropriate, the inspection of consignments of other articles or commodities moving in international traffic under conditions where they may act incidentally as carriers of pests of plants and plant products, and the inspection and supervision of storage and transportation facilities of all kinds involved in international traffic whether of plants and plant products or of other commodities, particularly with the object of preventing the dissemination across national boundaries of pests of plants and plant products;

(iii) the disinfestation or disinfection of consignments of plants and plant products moving in international traffic, and their containers (including packing material or matter of any kind accompanying plants or plant products), storage places, or transportation facilities of all kinds employed;

(iv) the issuance of certificates relating to phytosanitary condition and origin of consignments of plants and plant products (hereinafter referred to as "phytosanitary certificates");

(b) the distribution of information within the country regarding the pests of plants and plant products and the means of their prevention and control;

(c) research and investigation in the field of plant protection.

2. Each contracting party shall submit a description of the scope of its national organization for plant protection and of changes in such organization to the Director-General of FAO, who shall circulate such information to all contracting parties.

ARTICLE V

Phytosanitary Certificates

1. Each contracting party shall make arrangements for the issuance of phytosanitary certificates to accord with the plant protection regulations of other contracting parties, and in conformity with the following provisions:

(a) Inspection shall be carried out and certificates issued only by or under the authority of technically qualified and duly authorized officers and in such circumstances and with such knowledge and information available to those officers that the authorities of importing countries may accept such certificates with confidence as dependable documents.

(b) Each certificate for the export or re-export of plants or plant product shall be as worded in the Annex to this Convention.

(c) Uncertified alterations or erasures shall invalidate the certificates.

2. Each contracting party undertakes not to require consignments of plants or plant products imported into its territories to be accompanied by phytosanitary certificates inconsistent with the models set out in the Annex to this Convention. Any requirement for additional declarations shall be kept to a minimum.

ARTICLE VI

Requirements in Relation to Imports

1. With the aim of preventing the introduction of pests of plants and plant products into their territories, contracting parties shall have full authority to regulate the entry of plants and plant products and to this end, may:

(a) prescribe restrictions or requirements concerning the importation of plants or plant products;

(b) prohibit the importation of particular plants or plant products, or of particular consignments of plants or plant products;

(c) inspect or detain particular consignments of plants or plant products;

(d) treat, destroy or refuse entry to particular consignments of plants or plant products which do not comply with the requirements

prescribed under sub-paragraph (a) or (b) of this paragraph, or require such consignments to be treated or destroyed or removed from the country;

(e) list pests whose introduction is prohibited or restricted because they are of potential economic importance to the country concerned.

2. In order to minimize interference with international trade, each contracting party undertakes to carry out the provisions referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article in conformity with the following:

(a) Contracting parties shall not, under their plant protection legislation, take any of the measures specified in paragraph 1 of this Article unless such measures are made necessary by phytosanitary considerations.

(b) If a contracting party prescribes any restrictions or requirements concerning the importation of plants and plant products into its territories, it shall publish the restrictions or requirements and communicate them immediately to FAO, any regional plant protection organization of which the contracting party is a member and all other contracting parties directly concerned.

(c) If a contracting party prohibits, under the provisions of its plant protection legislation, the importation of any plants or plant products, it shall publish its decision with reasons and shall immediately inform FAO, any regional plant protection organization of which the contracting party is a member and all other contracting parties directly concerned.

(d) If a contracting party requires consignments of particular plants or plant products to be imported only through specified points of entry, such points shall be so selected as not unnecessarily to impede international commerce. The contracting party shall publish a list of such points of entry and communicate it to FAO, any regional plant protection organization of which the contracting party is a member and all other contracting parties directly concerned. Such restrictions on points of entry shall not be made unless the plants or plant products concerned are required to be accompanied by phytosanitary certificates or to be submitted to inspection or treatment.

(e) Any inspection by the plant protection organization of a contracting party of consignments of plants or plant products offered for importation shall take place as promptly as possible with due regard to the perishability of the plants or plant products concerned. If any commercial or certified consignment of plants or plant products is found not to conform to the requirements of the plant protection legislation of the importing country, the plant protection organization of the importing country must ensure that the plant protection organization of the exporting country is properly and adequately informed. If the consignment is destroyed, in whole or in part, an official report shall be forwarded immediately to the plant protection organization of the exporting country.

(f) Contracting parties shall make provisions which, without endangering their own plant production, will keep certification requirements to a minimum, particularly for plants or plant products not intended for planting, such as cereals, fruits, vegetables and cut flowers.

(g) Contracting parties may make provisions, with adequate safeguards, for the importation for purposes of scientific research or education, of plants and plant products and of specimens of plant pests. Adequate safeguards likewise need to be taken when introducing biological control agents and organisms claimed to be beneficial.

3. The measures specified in this Article shall not be applied to goods in transit throughout the territories of contracting parties unless such measures are necessary for the protection of their own plants.

4. FAO shall disseminate information received on importation restrictions, requirements, prohibitions and regulations (as specified in paragraph 2(b), (c) and (d) of this Article) at frequent intervals to all contracting parties and regional plant protection organizations.

ARTICLE VII

International Cooperation

The contracting parties shall cooperate with one another to the fullest practicable extent in achieving the aims of this Convention, in particular as follows:

(a) Each contracting party agrees to cooperate with FAO in the establishment of a world reporting service on plant pests, making full use of the facilities and services of existing organizations for this purpose, and, when this is established, to furnish to FAO periodically, for distribution by FAO to the contracting parties, the following information:

(i) reports on the existence, outbreak and spread of economically important pests of plants and plant products which may be of immediate or potential danger;

(ii) information on means found to be effective in controlling the pests of plants and plant products.

(b) Each contracting party shall, as far as is practicable, participate in any special campaigns for combating particular destructive pests which may seriously threaten crop production and need international action to meet the emergencies.

ARTICLE VIII

Regional Plant Protection Organizations

1. The contracting parties undertake to cooperate with one another in establishing regional plant protection organizations in appropriate areas.

2. The regional plant protection organizations shall function as the coordinating bodies in the areas covered, shall participate in various activities to achieve the objectives of this Convention and, where appropriate, shall gather and disseminate information.

ARTICLE IX

Settlement of Disputes

1. If there is any dispute regarding the interpretation or application of this Convention, or if a contracting party considers that any action by another contracting party is in conflict with the obligations of the latter under Articles V and VI of this Convention, especially regarding the basis of prohibiting or restricting the imports of plants or plant products coming from its territories, the Government or Governments concerned may request the Director-General of FAO to appoint a committee to consider the question in dispute.

2. The Director-General of FAO shall thereupon, after consultation with the Governments concerned, appoint a committee of experts which shall include representatives of those Governments. This committee shall consider the question in dispute, taking into account all documents and other forms of evidence submitted by the Governments concerned. This committee shall submit a report to the Director-General of FAO, who shall transmit it to the Governments concerned and to the Governments of other contracting parties.

3. The contracting parties agree that the recommendations of such a committee, while not binding in character, will become the basis for renewed consideration by the Governments concerned of the matter out of which the disagreement arose.

4. The Governments concerned shall share equally the expenses of the experts.

ARTICLE X

Substitution of Prior Agreements

This Convention shall terminate and replace, between contracting parties, the International Convention respecting measures to be taken against the Phylloxera vastatrix of 3 November 1881, the additional Convention signed at Berne on 15 April 1889 and the International Convention for the Protection of Plants signed at Rome on 16 April 1929.

ARTICLE XI

Territorial Application

1. Any State may at the time of ratification or adherence or at any time thereafter communicate to the Director-General of FAO a declaration that this Convention shall extend to all or any of the territories for the international relations of which it is responsible and this Convention shall be applicable to all territories specified in the declaration as from the thirtieth day after the receipt of the declaration by the Director-General.

2. Any State which has communicated to the Director-General of FAO a declaration in accordance with paragraph 1 of this Article may at any time communicate a further declaration modifying the scope of any former declaration or terminating the application of the provisions of the present Convention in respect of any territory. Such modifi-

cation or termination shall take effect as from the thirtieth day after the receipt of the declaration by the Director-General.

3. The Director-General of FAO shall inform all signatory and adhering States of any declaration received under this Article.

ARTICLE XII

Ratification and Adherence

1. This Convention shall be open for signature by all States until 1 May 1952 and shall be ratified at the earliest possible date. The instruments of ratification shall be deposited with the Director-General of FAO, who shall give notice of the date of deposit to each of the signatory States.

2. As soon as this Convention has come into force in accordance with Article XIV, it shall be open for adherence by non-signatory States. Adherence shall be effected by the deposit of an instrument of adherence with the Director-General of FAO, who shall notify all signatory and adhering States.

ARTICLE XIII

Amendment

1. Any proposal by a contracting party for the amendment of this Convention shall be communicated to the Director-General of FAO.

2. Any proposed amendment of this Convention received by the Director-General of FAO from a contracting party shall be presented to a regular or special session of the Conference of FAO for approval and, if the amendment involves important technical changes or imposes additional obligations on the contracting parties, it shall be considered by an advisory committee of specialists convened by FAO prior to the Conference.

3. Notice of any proposed amendment of this Convention shall be transmitted to the contracting parties by the Director-General of FAO not later than the time when the agenda of the session of the Conference at which the matter is to be considered is dispatched.

4. Any such proposed amendment of this Convention shall require the approval of the Conference of FAO and shall come into force as from the thirtieth day after acceptance by two-thirds of the contracting parties. Amendments involving new obligations for contracting parties, however, shall come into force in respect of each contracting party only on acceptance by it and as from the thirtieth day after such acceptance.

5. The instruments of acceptance of amendments involving new obligations shall be deposited with the Director-General of FAO, who shall inform all contracting parties of the receipt of acceptance and the entry into force of amendments.

ARTICLE XIV

Entry into Force

As soon as this Convention has been ratified by three signatory States it shall come into force between them. It shall come into force for each State ratifying or adhering thereafter from the date of deposit of its instrument of ratification or adherence.

ARTICLE XV

Denunciation

1. Any contracting party may at any time give notice of denunciation of this Convention by notification addressed to the Director-General of FAO. The Director-General shall at once inform all signatory and adhering States.

2. Denunciation shall take effect one year from the date of receipt of the notification by the Director-General of FAO.

ANNEX

MODEL PHYTOSANITARY CERTIFICATE
(to be typed or printed in block letters)

Plant Protection Organization N° _____
of _____
TO: Plant Protection Organization(s)
of _____

DESCRIPTION OF CONSIGNMENT

Name and address of exporter _____
Declared name and address of consignee _____
Number and description of packages _____
Distinguishing marks _____
Place of origin _____
Declared means of conveyance _____
Declared point of entry _____
Name of produce and quantity declared _____
Botanical name of plants _____

This is to certify that the plants of plant products described above have been inspected according to appropriate procedures and are considered to be free from quarantine pests, and practically free from other injurious pests; and that they are considered to conform with the current phytosanitary regulations of the importing country.

DISINFESTATION AND/OR DISINFECTION TREATMENT

Date _____ Treatment _____
Chemical (active ingredient) _____ Duration and temperature _____
Concentration _____ Additional information _____

Additional declaration:

Place of issue _____
(Stamp of Organization) Name of authorized officer _____
Date _____ (Signature) _____

No financial liability with respect to this certificate shall attach to
(name of Plant Protection Organization) ... or to any of its officers or
representatives.

MODEL PHYTOSANITARY CERTIFICATE FOR RE-EXPORT

Plant Protection Organization N° _____
 of _____ (country of re-export)

TO: Plant Protection Organization(s)
 of _____
 (country(ies) of re-export)

DESCRIPTION OF CONSIGNMENT

Name and address of exporter _____
 Declared name and address of consignee _____
 Number and description of packages _____
 Distinguishing marks _____
 Place of origin _____
 Declared means of conveyance _____
 Declared point of entry _____
 Name of produce and quantity declared _____

This is to certify that the plants or plant products described above were imported into (country of re-export) from (country of origin)
 * ...covered by Phytosanitary Certificate N° _____, original |_| certified true
 * copy |_| of which is attached to this Certificate. That they are packed |_|
 * repacked |_| in original |_| new |_| containers, that based on the original
 * Phytosanitary Certificate |_| and additional inspection |_|, they are considered to conform with the current phytosanitary regulations of the importing country, and that during storage in ... (country of re-export) ... the consignment has not been subjected to the risk of infestation or infection.

* Insert tick in appropriate boxes.

DISINFESTATION AND/OR DISINFECTION TREATMENT

Date _____ Treatment _____
 Chemical (active ingredient) _____ Duration and temperature _____
 Concentration _____ Additional information _____

Additional declaration:

Place of issue _____
 (Stamp of Organization) Name of authorized officer _____
 Date _____ (Signature)

No financial liability with respect to this Certificate shall attach to (name of Plant Protection Organization) ... or to any of its officers or representatives. **

** Optional clause

APPENDIX B

Recommendations of the Technical Consultation between
Regional Plant Protection Organizations

**A. ESTABLISHMENT OF A SECRETARIAT OF THE IPPC AND
ORGANIZATION OF TECHNICAL CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN REGIONAL
PLANT PROTECTION ORGANIZATIONS**

Preamble

The International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) is an agreement between governments to secure common and effective action to prevent the spread and introduction of pests of plants and plant products and to promote measures for their control. It lays down for contracting parties the establishment and objectives of a national plant protection service. It provides for contracting parties to cooperate to the fullest practical extent in achieving the aims of the Convention. It also provides for contracting parties to cooperate in establishing regional plant protection organizations which participate in various activities to achieve the objectives of the Convention.

The Director-General of FAO is the depository of the Convention and FAO has a defined role in information exchange. However, the IPPC does not provide for an identifiable global structure responsible for pursuing its objectives and interpreting its application. The Regional Plant Protection Organizations (RPPOs) have assumed this role, but at the regional level only, and perceive a need for a more formal arrangement to ensure effective global cooperation. This need has been highlighted by the Uruguay Round of GATT negotiations within which a work programme has been endorsed on the harmonization of phytosanitary regulations (Appendix A). This refers to relevant international organizations as a source of expertise and information. FAO and the RPPOs are such relevant international organizations.

Recommendation

It is recommended that a clearly identifiable secretariat of the IPPC be created within FAO. This secretariat should convene technical consultations between RPPOs for the establishment of a coordinated programme of activity by FAO and the RPPOs to strengthen the implementation of the IPPC and to develop harmonized principles and procedures.

For the implementation of the above, it is further recommended:

Role of the IPPC Secretariat

The IPPC Secretariat should provide a point of contact for contracting parties to the IPPC, individually and collectively, on all matters pertaining to the Convention.

Technical Consultations between RPPOs

The IPPC Secretariat should convene annually, on a continuing basis, technical consultations between RPPOs. The technical consultations should be attended by the duly authorized representatives of the RPPOs established under Articles III or VIII of the IPPC (Appendix A).

Outline of programme of activity

The programme of activity adopted by the technical consultations, coordinated by the IPPC Secretariat, and based on expert advice from appropriate working groups, should in priority address the following issues:

1. Develop a harmonized pest risk assessment process (see Note 1).
2. Develop harmonized plant quarantine principles with which phytosanitary laws and regulations should be consistent.
3. Develop harmonized plant quarantine procedures (see Note 2).

The IPPC Secretariat should, in cooperation with the RPPOs, establish an intensified programme of information exchange with particular reference to the items mentioned under Article VII of the IPPC.

Operation

The conclusions and recommendations of the technical consultations, based on proposals made by the IPPC Secretariat, the RPPOs and such expert working groups as may be established, should be addressed to FAO and to the RPPOs which will examine and evaluate them by appropriate consultation with their respective members with a view, by continued consultation, to reaching and implementing globally agreed recommendations.

NOTES:

1. Pest risk assessment is the procedure by which it is decided whether a given pest is a "quarantine pest" and what level of risk this pest could present for a given country. Article II of the IPPC defines a quarantine pest as a "pest of potential national economic importance to the country endangered thereby and not yet present there, or present but not widely distributed and being actively controlled".

2. The term "quarantine procedure" is used in a very wide sense to include procedures for inspection, treatment, survey and testing, whether performed in importing or exporting countries.

B. ESTABLISHMENT OF AN OFFICIAL BODY IN SUPPORT OF THE IPPC

Preamble

The preamble to the recommendation "Establishment of a Secretariat of the IPPC and Organization of Technical Consultations between Regional Plant Protection Organizations" sets out the circumstances that justify a considerably reinforced cooperation between FAO and the RPPOs, working towards globally agreed plant quarantine principles and facilitating the provision of expertise and information, which may be called for as a result of current GATT initiatives. It is expected that, in coming years, GATT will have a real need for such expertise and information as the justification of phytosanitary measures as barriers to trade has to be examined. It is recognized that for questions of animal or human health, official bodies exist to which reference can be made for expertise and information (Office International des Epizooties and Codex Alimentarius) but that no such body exists for plant health. While the arrangements proposed in the above recommendation can fill this role to a certain extent in the immediate future, the Consultation considers it highly desirable to create an Official Body in support of the IPPC and accordingly recommends the following:

Recommendation

It is recommended that FAO should explore the possibility of creating an Official Body in support of the IPPC, calling on the RPPOs and the contracting parties to the IPPC, and administered by the IPPC Secretariat whose creation is proposed in the recommendation on the "Establishment of a Secretariat of the IPPC and organization of Technical Consultations between Regional Plant Protection Organizations".

It is further recommended that the creation of this Official Body should be considered by the Technical Consultations between RPPOs referred to in the above recommendation.

C. INCREASE OF THE NUMBER OF CONTRACTING PARTIES TO ENSURE UNIVERSAL APPLICATION OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE IPPC

The Consultation noted that at this stage 94 countries are contracting parties to the IPPC. In view of the importance of the IPPC to secure common and effective action to prevent the spread and introduction of pests of plant and plant products, and to promote measures for their control, the Consultation recommends that FAO and RPPOs take every possible action to increase the number of contracting parties in order to ensure the universal application of the provisions of the IPPC.

**D. ASSISTANCE TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO STRENGTHEN PLANT
PROTECTION STRUCTURES TO ENABLE THE APPLICATION OF THE
PRINCIPLES OF THE IPPC**

The consultation, recognizing the importance of appropriate plant protection structures in developing countries for the effective application of the principles in IPPC and the increased responsibilities for national organizations resulting from the working programme proposed by GATT, recommends that FAO and technical assistance agencies and donors make every effort to assist developing countries in strengthening plant protection structures.