

Book Review

FAO 2005. Pest Risk Analysis for Quarantine Pests, Including Analysis of Environmental Risks and Living Organisms. ISPM No. 11. FAO, Rome 38 pp.

This brochure appeared as No. 11 in the series of the International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM) that are prepared by the Secretariat of the International Plant Protection Convention acting as a part of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations Organization (UN). This standard was first endorsed in 2001 but then undergone some modification and additions with subsequent broadening its scope.

In its present form it regulates not only plant quarantine aspects but also environmental risks of quarantine and genetically modified organisms. It plays an important role being recognized by Members of the World Trade Organization under the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures. The Commission on Phytosanitary Measures will review this standard in 2009 but until that time all country members must consider this standard as an obligatory regulation.

In spite of having only 38 pages this standard has big impact on plant protection and quarantine regulations in countries belonging to seven regional plant protection organizations: Asia and Pacific Plant Protection Commission, Caribbean Plant Protection Commission, Comité Regional de Sanidad Vegetal para el Cono Sur, Comunidad Andina, European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization, Inter-African Phytosanitary Council, North American Plant Protection Organization, Organismo Internacional Regional de Sanidad Agropecuaria, and Pacific Plant Protection Organization.

The brochure contains two main parts and three annexes. In the "Introduction" (p. 4-8) it is explained that standard provides details how to conduct the pest risk analysis (PRA) to determine if pests are quarantine pests. Section (S1) provides details regarding the analysis of risks of plants pests to the environment and biological diversity. Section (S2) includes guidance on evaluating potential of phytosanitary risks to plants and plant products posed by living modified organisms (LMOs).

In section "References" a list of eleven convention and international agreements is given such as: "Principles of Plant Quarantine as Related to International Trade - 1995" and "Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention of Biological Diversity - 2000". Section "Definitions" (p. 5-7) provides definitions and explanations of many technical terms.

The main body of the brochure makes part "Pest Risk Analysis for Quarantine Pests" (p. 9-33) and consists of four stages:

Stage 1: "Initiation" (9-13) provides detailed guidance for pest risk analysis necessary for: (a) pathway identification, or (b) pest identification.

Stage 2: "Pest Risk Assessment" (p. 13-27) provides guidance for assessment of the probability of pest introduction and spread.

Stage 3. Pest Risk Management (p. 27-33) provides guidance for evaluating the level of necessary inspection and deciding what level of precautions, prohibitions or control are necessary.

Stage 4. "Documentation on Pest Risk Analysis" (p. 33) concerns documentation requirements specified by ISPM No. 1 "Principles of plant quarantine as related to international trade".

Three annexes provide very useful guidance for evaluating environmental risks that may produce pests or living modified organisms.

Annex 1. "Comments on the scope of the IPPC in regard to environmental risks" (p. 34) advises on taking into consideration how given organism can: directly affect uncultivated/unmanaged plants; (b) indirectly affect plants; (c) indirectly affect plants through effects on other organisms.

Annex 2. "Comments on the scope of the IPPC in regard to pests risk analysis (PRA) for living modified organisms (LMO)" provides guidance for evaluation of phytosanitary risk from LMOs that may result from gene flow.

Annex 3. "Determining the potential for a living modified organism (LMO) to be a pest" is relevant in situation with LMOs only where there is potential for phytosanitary risks associated with some characteristic or property related to the genetic modification.

I recommend this book to all plant protection specialists whose research and activities are related to environmental protection, plant quarantine and living modified organisms.

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