International Standards as a Tool for Harmonization

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Plant Health Programs

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Science and Technology

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Modified from C. Devorshak, 2014

Safeguarding America’s Agricultural and Natural Resources
United States Department of Agriculture | Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service | Plant Protection and Quarantine
International Phytosanitary Standards (IPS)

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• **Harmonization:**
  - The establishment, recognition and application of common sanitary and phytosanitary measures by different Members (WTO-SPS)

• **Standard setting bodies**
  - Codex Alimentarius
  - International Office of Epizootics
  - International Plant Protection Convention
Seeds

- **seeds (as a commodity class)***- Seeds for planting or intended for planting and not for consumption or processing (see **grain**) [FAO, 1990; revised ICPM, 2001; revised CPM, 2015]
Regional Harmonization

- There are currently nine Regional Plant Protection Organizations (RPPO)
- Most seed trade requirements are based on country-commodity regulations
- One sub-regional standard (Comunidad Andina)
- One regional standard (NAPPO)
The objective of this standard is to provide guidelines which will help:

- Prevent the entry and spread of regulated pests associated with seeds
- Facilitate re-export of seeds from NAPPO countries
- Promote the use of harmonized phytosanitary import requirements, testing/diagnostic protocols, and phytosanitary certification systems for seed.
IPPC call for topics 2009

- 16 proposals total
- 5 for international movement of seed:
  - Canada,
  - USA,
  - European Commission,
  - International Seed Federation (ISF),
  - Turkey
- New topic is included in the IPPC Work Program
Now we are all ready to harmonize, right?
Draft ISPM *International movement of seeds: Background*

Steward: Dr. Nico Horn (Netherlands) replaced Ms. Julie Aliaga (USA) who left for another position in APHIS.

- First EWG met 1-5 July 2013 in The Hague (NL).
- Member Consultation 2014
Development

• Contracting parties submitted **1,139** comments during the 2014 country consultation phase for this draft ISPM.

• Stewards addressed some of the country comments, and the draft was considered at the Standards Committee Working Group (SC-7) in May 2015.

• Because of the high volume of comments, the SC was unable to fully and adequately address all these comments and to begin the necessary revision of a new draft text at its May 2015 meeting.
Examples of major comments from 2014

• Current definition of “seeds” in relation to the terminology of “intended use” found in the draft.

• Consideration of adding guidance on identifying potential pests associated with seeds as the pathway for introduction and spread to use in pest risk analysis (PRA).

• Inclusion of a new section on Pest Risk Management to clearly separate the three stages of PRA.
Examples of major comments from 2014 (continued)

• Section on “Phytosanitary certification” referred only to re-export of seeds rather than to the entire export process.

• The proper use of terms “tolerance” and “resistance”.

• Considering Regulated Non Quarantine Pests in the standard because seeds are plants for planting.
Examples of major comments from 2014 (continued)

• Ranking the seeds in relation to their risk based on the end use:
  – seeds for purposes other than planting (i.e., research)
  – seeds for planting under restricted conditions
  – seeds for planting under field conditions.

• Considering the elements of mixing and blending of seeds as a part of a PRA section
Examples of major comments from 2014 (continued)

• Considering the definitions of “seed-borne” and “seed-transmitted” in those cases where trace-back is needed and to check the impact of these definitions in the standard.

• Recommendations from some countries for including case studies in the standard with different export and re-export scenarios and appropriate additional declarations options.
“Will you shut up about ‘Lost’ already!”
Moving forward

• The SC has requested the EWG to revise the draft for another review at the SC meeting in November 2015.
• An additional meeting may still be needed to resolve differences, address the comments, and/or prepare a new draft of the seed standard.
• This draft may need to go back for another round of country consultations depending on the substantive changes made to the original draft text since 2014.
Thank you!

Questions?

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