USDA United States Department of Agriculture

NAPPO

An Overview of ISPM 38: International Movement of Seeds

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History

About eight years in development:

- 2009: Topic introduced
- 2011: Specification approved
- 2013: Expert working group writes draft ISPM
- 2017: ISPM 38: International Movement of Seeds adopted

Scope

- Provides guidance to assist national plant protection organizations (NPPOs) in:
  - Identifying, assessing and managing pest risk associated with the international movement of seeds;
  - Establishing phytosanitary import requirements;
  - Inspection, sampling and testing of seeds; and
  - Phytosanitary certification of seeds for export and re-export.

Scope

- Does include:
  - Viable seeds, which are a sample of a seed lot, imported for laboratory testing or destructive analysis.
- Does not apply to:
  - Grain (consumption) or vegetative plant parts (e.g. tubers of potatoes).

Contents

Introduction

- Introduction
  - Scope
    - Already covered
  - Definitions
    - More later
- Background

Pest Risk Analysis

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- Pest risk analysis
  - Seeds as pests
  - Seeds as pathways
  - Purpose of import
  - Mixing, blending and bulking of seeds
  - Pest management in seed production

Phytosanitary Measures

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- Phytosanitary measures
  - Consignment inspection & testing
  - Field inspection
  - Pest free concepts
  - Treatments
  - Systems approaches
  - Prohibition

Equivalence / Specific Requirements

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- Equivalence of phytosanitary measures
- Specific requirements (for phytosanitary measures)
  - Inspection
  - Sampling
  - Seed testing

Phytosanitary certification / Record Keeping

- Phytosanitary certification
  - Additional official phytosanitary information
  - Country of origin
- Record keeping

Appendices

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- Appendix 1: Examples of seed-transmitted, seed-borne and contaminating pests
- Appendix 2: Guidance on the likelihood of pest groups being carried and introduced with seeds
- Appendix 3: Bibliography

Key Features

- Key features:
  - Definitions of seed-borne, seed transmitted
  - Emphasis on PRA to establish seed as a pathway
  - Recognizes risk reduction potential of production practices
  - Supports the use of systems approaches to reduce risk of international seed movement

Definitions

- No existing definitions in ISPM 5 (IPPC Glossary of phytosanitary terms)
- EWG felt the need to create definitions for the purpose of the standard

Definitions

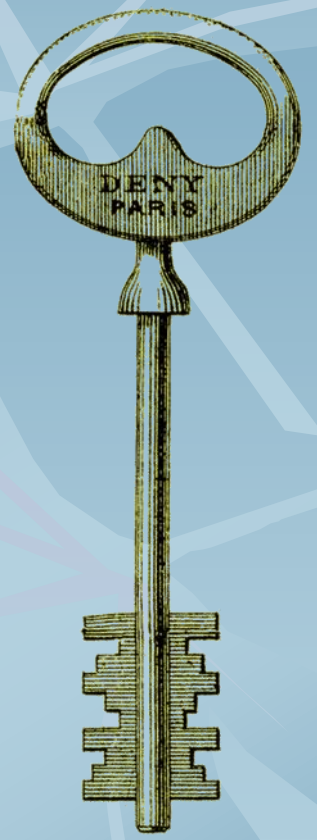
- **Seed-borne pest:** A pest carried by seeds externally or internally that may or may not be transmitted to plants growing from these seeds and cause their infestation
- **Seed-transmitted pest:** A seed-borne pest that is transmitted via seeds directly to plants growing from these seeds and causes their infestation

Seeds as Pathways

Category	Description
1a	Seed-transmitted pests carried internally or externally that directly infest host plant
1b	Non-seed-transmitted pests carried by the seed internally or externally, are transferred to the environment (e.g. water, soil) and then infest hosts
1c	Carried internally or externally, that do not transfer to a host
2	Though not seed-borne, contaminating pests may be relevant

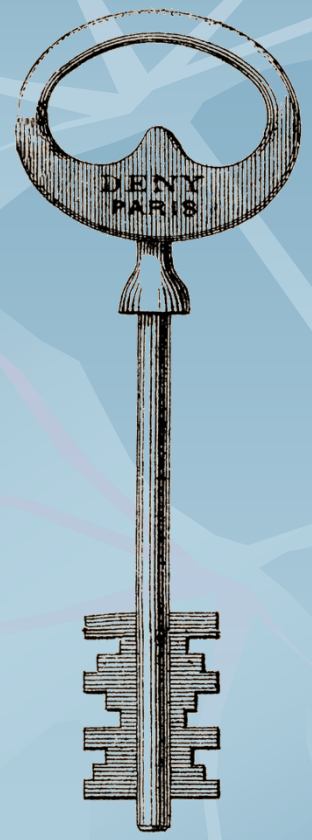
Seeds as Pathways

- PRA considerations:
  - Seed transmission should be confirmed under natural conditions
  - Seed-transmission in one host does not mean seed transmission in all hosts
  - Biological and epidemiological characteristics of specific pest groups can provide guidance on the likelihood of seed transmission (Appendix 2)



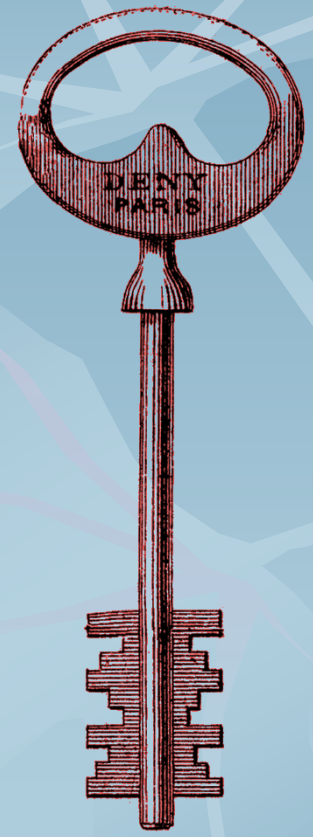
Production Practices

- “Certain practices used in seed production may alone or in combination be sufficient to meet phytosanitary import requirements.”
- “Phytosanitary measures may be included in integrated pest management and quality control protocols applied in seed production.”
- “Many pest management practices to reduce pest risk throughout the seed production process, from planting to harvesting, may be integrated in a systems approach.”



Systems Approaches

- ISPM 38 supports the use of systems approaches to reduce risk of international seed movement:
  - “Many pest management practices to reduce pest risk throughout the seed production process, from planting to harvesting, may be integrated in a systems approach.”



Questions?