

**Status: Adopted at CPM-3 (2008), Appendix 8****PROCEDURE AND CRITERIA FOR IDENTIFYING TOPICS FOR INCLUSION IN THE IPPC STANDARD SETTING WORK PROGRAMME**

In establishing topics for standards to be included in the IPPC standard setting work programme, the following procedure should be used<sup>1</sup> :

1. The IPPC Secretariat calls for submissions for topics to be included in the standard setting work programme. A call is made every two years. It is sent to contracting parties, NPPOs, RPPOs and the WTO-SPS Secretary, and is also posted on the International Phytosanitary Portal (IPP, [www.ippc.int](http://www.ippc.int)). Other organizations (such as the Convention on Biological Diversity) and CPM technical panels can also respond to the call.
2. Detailed proposals for new topics or for the revision of existing ISPMs are submitted to the Secretariat ([IPPC@fao.org](mailto:IPPC@fao.org)) no later than the 31 July of the year the call for topics is made, using the submission form for CPM standard setting work programme topics available on the IPP. Submissions should address the applicable criteria for justification of the proposed topic (as listed below). Where possible, information in support of the justification and that may assist in the prioritization should be indicated. Submissions should preferably be made in an electronic format.
3. A list of topics is compiled by the IPPC Secretariat from the submissions received. Submissions from previous years which were not added to the standard setting work programme are not included in this compilation. They may be re-submitted, as appropriate.
4. The compiled list of detailed proposals is presented to the Informal Working Group on Strategic Planning and Technical Assistance (SPTA) and posted on the IPP. The SPTA reviews these submissions and identifies strategic priorities taking into account the criteria for justification of proposed topics (as listed below).
5. The Standards Committee, taking into account the SPTA strategic priorities and using the criteria listed below, reviews the existing work programme and the compiled list of detailed proposals. It proposes a revised work programme (including subjects<sup>2</sup>), adding topics from the compiled list, deleting or modifying topics from the existing work programme as appropriate, giving each topic a recommended priority (high or normal), and identifying those topics that may be processed under the special standard setting process.
6. The CPM reviews the work programme proposed by the Standards Committee. The CPM adjusts and adopts the standard setting work programme, including for each topic its priority and whether the topic may be processed under the special standard setting process. A revised standard setting work programme is attached as an appendix to the CPM meeting report.
7. In any year, when a situation arises in which a standard is required urgently, the CPM may insert such a topic (or subject) into the standard setting work programme.

<sup>1</sup> Other than proposals for subjects related to topics previously adopted by the CPM related to annexes and appendices to be worked on by technical panels.

<sup>2</sup> For details on the terms "technical area", "topic" and "subject", see the *Hierarchy of terms for standards* (section 9.1).

**Criteria for justification and prioritization of proposed topics****Core criteria**

1. Contribution to the purpose of the IPPC as described in article I.1.
2. Feasibility of implementation at the global level (includes ease of implementation, technical complexity, capacity of NPPOs to implement, relevance for more than one region).
3. Clear identification of the problems that need to be resolved through the development of the standard.
4. Availability of, or possibility to collect, information in support of the proposed standard (e.g. scientific, historical, technical information, experience).

**Supporting criteria****Practical**

1. Feasibility of adopting the proposed standard within a reasonable time frame.

2. Stage of development of the proposed standard (is a standard on the same topic already widely used by NPPOs, RPPOs or a relevant international organization).
3. Availability of expertise needed to develop the proposed standard.

#### **Economic**

4. Estimated value of the plants protected.
5. Estimated value of trade affected by the proposed standard (e.g. volume of trade, value of trade, the percentage of Gross Domestic Product of this trade) if appropriate.
6. Estimated value of new trade opportunities provided by the approval of the proposed standard.
7. Potential benefits in terms of pest control or quarantine activities.

#### **Environmental**

8. Utility to reduce the potential negative environmental consequences of certain phytosanitary measures, for example reduction in global emissions for the protection of the ozone layer.
9. Utility in the management of non indigenous species which are pests of plants (such as some invasive alien species).
10. Contribution to the protection of the environment, through the protection of wild flora, and their habitats and ecosystems, and of agricultural biodiversity.

#### **Strategic**

11. Extent of support for the proposed standard (e.g. one or more NPPOs or RPPOs have requested it, or one or more RPPOs have adopted a standard on the same topic).
12. Frequency with which the issue addressed by the proposed standard emerges as a source of trade disruption (e.g. disputes or need for repeated bilateral discussions, number of times per year trade is disrupted).
13. Relevance and utility to developing countries.
14. Coverage (application to a wide range of countries/pests/commodities).
15. Complements other standards (e.g. potential for the standard to be used as part of a systems approach for one pest, complement treatments for other pests).
16. Foundation standards to address fundamental concepts (e.g. treatment efficacy, inspection methodology).
17. Expected standard longevity (e.g. future trade needs, suggested use of easily outdated technology or products).
18. Urgent need for the standard.