[1] **DRAFT SPECIFICATION FOR ISPM: Annex Design and use of systems approaches for phytosanitary certification of seeds (2018-009) to ISPM 38**

[2] **Status box**

| [3] This is not an official part of the specification and it will be modified by the IPPC Secretariat after approval |
| | [15] 2020-01 SC reviewed via e-forum and Steward revised the draft. |
| | [18] 2019-05 Mr Hernando Morera-GONZÁLEZ (CR, Assistant Steward) |

[22] **Title**

[23] Annex *Design and use of systems approaches for phytosanitary certification of seeds (2018-009) to ISPM 38 (International movement of seeds).*

[24] **Reason for the annex to the standard**

[25] As they seek to implement ISPM 38, national plant protection organizations (NPPOs) and the worldwide seed industry are currently exploring the use of systems approaches to manage the pest risk associated with the international movement of seed. A systems approach could include standardized industry practices and quality systems that contribute to a reduction in the pest risk associated with seeds. Quality systems that are approved by NPPOs could comprise systems approaches and be an efficient alternative to consignment-by-consignment phytosanitary certification of seeds. An annex to ISPM 38 could provide a harmonized framework for developing systems approaches and provide guidance to NPPOs on recognition and audit of systems.

[26] **Scope**

[27] The proposed annex should apply to any seeds moving internationally in trade or as breeder lots. The annex should provide a general framework of risk management measures, including existing pest management practices used in the seed industry in combination with quality assurance systems, that incorporates defined audit and verification procedures for consistent implementation of the system. The annex should also define a harmonized system for NPPOs to accredit compliance with the systems approach. This accreditation could be recognized by NPPOs as the basis for phytosanitary certification and would provide an alternative to the existing certification of seeds.

[28] **Purpose**

[29] Despite strenuous efforts over several decades by NPPOs and industry bodies to harmonize phytosanitary import requirements and encourage regional and international seed trade, there are still
considerable differences in seed laws and regulations. These differences prevent seed from moving easily between countries. The global market for seeds, worth more than USD 60 billion in 2017, is disrupted on a daily basis by seed lots being stopped at a border. This annex will provide an opportunity to harmonize phytosanitary import requirements for seeds and will offer an alternative option for recognizing measures that minimize the pest risk associated with seeds in international trade.

**Tasks**

The expert working group (EWG) should undertake the following tasks:

1. Consider existing relevant standards (e.g. ISPM 14, ISPM 38, NAPPO (2014)).
2. Review existing phytosanitary import requirements from different countries for importation of seeds and harmonized regional guidance, if such is available.
3. Review existing systems approaches and quality management systems for seed (e.g. The guide to seed quality management (ASTA, n.d.), Good Seed and Plant Practices (GSPP), the Regulatory Framework for Seed Health (ReFreSH) of the United States Department of Agriculture, the Disease Prevention Program (DPP)) and other commodity sectors (e.g. the Biosecure Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) approach, the Systems Approach for Nursery Certification (SANC) of the National Plant Board (covering 50 U.S. states, Puerto Rico and Guam)).
4. Examine existing seed production practices that can contribute to pest risk reduction and result in clean seeds that are free from known and emerging seed-borne or seed-transmitted pests.
5. Define the general requirements of a systems approach for seeds as informed by the information gathered in tasks 1–4.
6. Describe a procedure to document the requirements of the systems and their application that includes defined audits and verification.
7. Consider whether the annex could affect in a specific way (positively or negatively) the protection of biodiversity and the environment. If this is the case, the impact should be identified, addressed and clarified in the draft annex.
8. Consider implementation of the annex by contracting parties and identify potential operational and technical implementation issues. Provide information and possible recommendations on these issues to the Standards Committee.

**Provision of resources**

Funding for the meeting may be provided from sources other than the regular programme of the IPPC (FAO). As recommended by ICPM-2 (1999), whenever possible, those participating in standard setting activities voluntarily fund their travel and subsistence to attend meetings. Participants may request financial assistance, with the understanding that resources are limited and the priority for financial assistance is given to developing country participants. Please refer to the Criteria used for prioritizing participants to receive travel assistance to attend meetings organized by the IPPC Secretariat posted on the International Phytosanitary Portal (IPP) (see https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/).

**Collaborator**

To be determined.

**Steward**

Please refer to the List of topics for IPPC standards posted on the IPP (see https://www.ippc.int/core-activities/standards-setting/list-topics-ippc-standards).

**Expertise**

Experts with a wide knowledge and experience in one or more of the following areas: the development or implementation of phytosanitary measures to manage the pest risk associated with the production, processing and international movement of seeds, pest risk analysis, seed testing and storage, and use of integrated measures in systems approaches. The EWG should include at least one person with knowledge of existing international guidance related to the international movement of seed; at least one
person knowledgeable in quality management systems and auditing for compliance; at least one person knowledgeable in seed pathology; and at least one person knowledgeable in operational industry seed-quality management, including seed production, processing and testing.

[48]Participants
Five to seven experts.

[50]References
The IPPC, relevant ISPMs and other national, regional and international standards and agreements as may be applicable to the tasks, and discussion papers submitted in relation to this work.


[63]ISPM 32. 2016. Categorization of commodities according to their pest risk. Rome, IPPC Secretariat, FAO.


[66]Discussion papers
Participants and interested parties are encouraged to submit discussion papers to the IPPC Secretariat (ippc@fao.org) for consideration by the EWG.