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Role of Bangladesh NPPO in Enhancing the Trade with WTO Compliances

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The World Trade Organization (WTO):

It is the Global organization dealing with the rules of trade between nations.

-Legally binding to all WTO members.

WORLD TRADE
ORGANIZATION



-WTO has “teeth” – penalties can be applied to try to force members to bring practices, regulations, risk management measures into conformity with Agreements or to pay for lost trade

3 international standards setting bodies referenced in the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (**SPS Agreement**) is called **Three Sisters**.

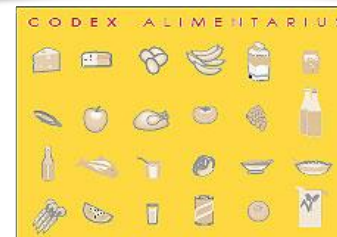
The 'Three Sisters'



International Plant Protection Convention



World Organisation for
Animal Health



CODEX (Latin for "Book of Food")



Agreement on the application of sanitary and phytosanitary measures (SPS Agreement)



Agreement on how governments can apply measures for food safety, animal health and plant health **without unnecessary obstacles to trade**

SPS Agreement

- Encourages countries to use international standards, guidelines and recommendations when developing their **SPS measures**
- **S** = Sanitary = human health and animal health
- **PS** = Phytosanitary = plant health

What are SPS measures

Definition

To protect:

Human or
Animal life

Human life

Animal or
Plant life

A country

from

risks arising from additives, contaminants, toxins or disease-causing organisms in their food, beverages, feedstuffs, Veterinary drugs, MRLs;

plant- or animal-carried diseases (zoonoses);

pests, diseases, or disease-causing organisms;

damage caused by the entry, establishment or spread of pests

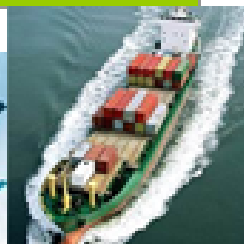
SPS Agreement

- **Allows countries to manage trade to protect human, animal and plant life (Article 2), *but***
- **Countries seeking to impose barriers are required to *either*:**
 - **base their SPS measures on international standards, *or***
 - **justify their actions (scientific risk analysis, ALOP, etc)**

WTO, SPS Structure and IPPC



- WTO “agreements” include ...
 - SPS Agreement which states
 - PHYTOSANITARY MEASURE
 - regulation or procedure that prevents the introduction or spread of a pest
 - PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES
 - should be applied only to the extent necessary to protect human, animal or plant health
 - TO HARMONISE
 - members encouraged to base measures on International Standards



ISPM 25 - Consignments in transit



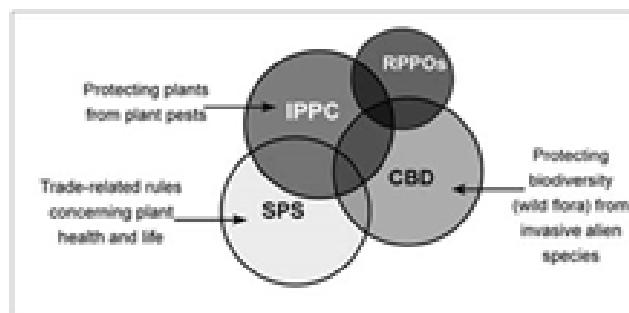
The International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)



International Plant Protection Convention
Protecting the world's plant resources from pests

What is the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)?

- **Multilateral treaty for international cooperation in plant protection**
- **Standard setting & dispute avoidance body**
- **Currently 184 parties (out of 192 countries)**
- **Global instrument for harmonization of phytosanitary measures**
- **Purpose**
 - **to facilitate international cooperation in controlling plant pests and to prevent their international spread**





SCOPE

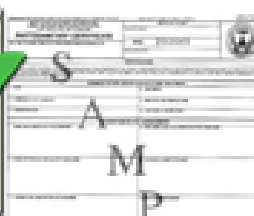
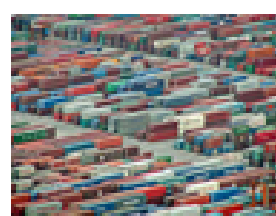


- Extends to cultivated crops/plants and natural flora
- Covers organisms (pests) that cause both direct and indirect damage to plants, vectors of plant pests, biological control agents and weeds.
- Extends to production areas, storage places, packaging, conveyances, containers, soil etc. that can harbour or spread plant pests that moves internationally.



Obligation of contracting countries

- **National**
 - Establish a National Plant Protection Organisation (NPPO) (Article VIII.2 of IPPC Convention)
- **International co-operation**
 - Provide an official Contact point
 - Exchange information on plant pests
- **International standards**
 - Co-operate in development of standards
 - Take into account when developing policy
- **Imports**
 - Retention of sovereign right
- **Exports**
 - Phytosanitary certification
- **Regional organisations**
 - Cooperate in establishing Regional Plant Protection Organisations (RPPOs)



Requirements of IPPC Contact

Points/Official contact point (Article VIII.2)

According to IPPC Procedure (Page-155) the countries must identify their designated contact points in conformity with their obligations under the interim measures corresponding to Article VIII.2. The information is provided by the contracting party.

- The IPPC contact point should:
 - have the necessary authority to communicate on phytosanitary issues on behalf of the contracting party.
- Director, Plant Quarantine Wing of DAE is the designated IPPC Contact Point of Bangladesh.

Contact Points Cont'd

- Article VIII.2 requires contracting parties to designate a contact point. There can be only one contact point per contracting party. The contracting party, by making the nomination, agrees that the nominee has the necessary authority to fulfill the functions of the contact point as determined within the framework of the IPPC.

National Phytosanitary Capacity (Definition)

“The ability of individuals, organizations and systems of a country to perform functions effectively and sustainably in order to protect plants and plant products from pests and to facilitate trade, in accordance with the IPPC”.

National Phytosanitary Capacity-Cont'd

- Many things contribute to the sustainability of the performance of functions. These include but are not limited to:
 - an enabling environment in countries such as policies which allow plant health activities to evolve and adapt to changing circumstance; plant health regulations which empower NPPOs to function; visibility and understanding of the IPPC and understanding of the importance of implementation
 - private-public partnerships
 - programs for staff retention
 - mobilization of resources, including cost recovery policies
 - viable business plan(s) for protecting plant health and trade
 - national commitment to sustain phytosanitary capacity



Scope of the IPPC (Article 1.4)

IPPC covers wide range of plants & protects them from a wide range of pests

Plants

- cultivated plants and wild flora

Plant pests

- invertebrates, diseases and weeds

harm

- includes direct & indirect effects



Challenges

- As per WTO-SPS Agreement and IPPC Convention and IPPC Procedure the NPPO (National Plant Protection Organization) should have Administrative, Legislative and Financial Authority but in Bangladesh, the NPPO is yet to be established though there is an Act for establishment of National Plant Quarantine Authority (NPQA) in Plant Quarantine Act, 2011.
- Each & every contracting party has their own NPPO Authority but we could not establish such Authority as yet, so, we can not enhance our Agri-trade as expected.
- The PQ, Act states The Director, Plant Protection Wing, DAE shall be deemed to be the NPQA and shall exercise all powers of the Authority under this Act until an independent NPQA is established.

Challenges Cont'd

- This is an ambiguity because a new Wing Called Plant Quarantine Wing emerged in DAE to act as NPQA which lacks in Pesticide, Surveillance, IPM part and so on.
- The Plant Quarantine Wing was empowered with only issuance of Phytosanitary Certificate (PC), Import Permit (IP), Release Order (RO), Inspection of imported and exported product, providing treatment of commodities but lack in Authority which is determined within the framework of IPPC, it cannot perform major activities of Plant Quarantine moreover, expertise can not develop because of instability of the organization i.e, personnel come and go when the got promotion or retirement.

Role of NPPO to Enhance Export

- As a Signatory to the WTO and Contracting party to the IPPC of FAO we must abide by the Standards of the WTO-SPS Agreement as it is legally binding to the Signatory countries & the Standards set by the IPPC. Without following the standards enhancing Agri-trade and safeguarding agriculture is difficult.
- To follow standards, first Implementation of NPQA/NPPO is a must because without the Authority no SPS work like conducting PRA, Surveillance, mitigating Non-Compliance issues can be possible to follow International Standards.
- Gaps in Legislation (the PQ, Act, 2011) must be addressed i,e, Legislation must be revised.

Types of International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs)

Currently there are 45 IPPC Standards, these Standards can be divided in the following ways:-

- **Reference standards**
 - Glossary of Phytosanitary Terms
- **Pest risk analysis standards**
- **Concept standards**
 - Guidelines for pest free areas (ISPM-10,22,26, 29 etc)
- **Specific standards**
 - Wood packaging
 - Fruit fly standards (ISPM- 26,30, 35)
 - Diagnostic Protocols (DP) for Regulated Pests, ISPM-27 (Total Number of DP are 29)
 - Phytosanitary Treatments (PT) for Regulated Pests ISPM-28 (Total Number of PT are 35)

Role of NPPO

- So, the role of NPPO is to give all out effort to establish NPPO/NPQA. The Authority that will provide supports to follow the WTO and IPPC Standards;
- Work closely with different wings of DAE, Research Institute, Ag. Universities and all stakeholders and making synergies with relevant stakeholders.
- Official service established by a government to discharge the functions specified by the IPPC;
- To act as a IPPC Contact Points that supports the IPPC Contact Points obligations and many more.

Role of NPPO

- NPPO should work to comply with the Phytosanitary requirements of the importing Countries;
- Take initiative to implement e-Phyto system;
- NPPO should take initiative to establish PFA, ALPP, Surveillance, conducting PRA (as it is a primary need for Market Access), ability to conduct Eradication activities, IPM activities, extend stakeholders participation, required manpower, Detection ability etc to address the Non-Compliance issues of the Importing Countries for enhancing trade and safeguard Countries Agriculture.

Thank U