

# Sanitary/Phytosanitary Practices & Compliance in East Africa

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# Sanitary & Phytosanitary Practices

- Production, processing, (other handling) & trade practices
- Based on the application of SPS measures
- Regulatory measures for animal, plant, & human health protection.
- Closely tied to codes of practice in trans-boundary movement of materials of concern & aspects of food safety.



# Sanitary & Phytosanitary (SPS) Measures

- Designed to protect:
  - ✓ Human/animal life from risks arising from additives, contaminants, toxins, or disease-causing organisms in food/feed
  - ✓ Human life from diseases carried by plants & animals
  - ✓ Animal & plant life from pests, diseases or disease causing organisms
  - ✓ An importing country from entry, establishment or spread of pests.



# SPS Measures Cont.

- Developed internationally by the three sister organizations viz. OIE, IPPC & Codex Alimentarius Commission
- IPPC guidelines (= ISPMs) used for plant health protection.
- IPPC = an international treaty that provides a framework & a forum for international cooperation, harmonization and technical exchange between contracting parties



# IPPC

- **Purpose to secure common and effective action to prevent the spread and introduction of pests of plants and plant products, and to promote appropriate measures for their control**
- **Implementation involves the collaboration of NPPOs & RPPOs**
- **Functions extend to the protection of natural flora and plant products & include both direct and indirect damage by pests including weeds**



# IPPC Cont.

- Addresses important elements of international cooperation for the **protection of plant health and the establishment and use of International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs)**
- Provides for the establishment of a **Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM)** - serves as the global agreement's governing body
- Provisions also cover **conveyances, containers, storage places, soil and other objects or material capable of harbouring plant pests**



IPPC Cont.

**The 1997 revision undertaken to reflect contemporary phytosanitary concepts and the role of the IPPC in relation to the Uruguay Round Agreements of the WTO, particularly the SPS Agreement**

**Emphasizes cooperation & exchange of information toward the objective of global harmonization**

**Describes national plant protection responsibilities**



# Functions of CPM

To promote the full implementation of the objectives of the Convention

Includes *inter alia*

- Review the state of plant protection in the world and the need for action to **control the international spread of pests and their introduction into endangered areas**;
- Establish and keep under review, the necessary **institutional arrangements and procedures for the development and adoption of international standards**,
- Establish rules and procedures for the resolution of disputes
- Establish such subsidiary bodies of the Commission as may be necessary for the proper implementation of its functions;

Membership of the Commission is open to all contracting parties to the IPPC



# Phytosanitary measures

- Any legislation, regulation or official procedure whose purpose is to prevent the introduction or spread of quarantine pests
- Include plant import procedures and phytosanitary certification



# Phytosanitary measures contd.

- Globally, IPPC and WTO SPS Agreement provide guidelines on Phytosanitary Measures
- In Kenya, based on IPPC & WTO SPS regulations & guidelines,
- **“Provided”** for domestically by provisions in the
  - Plant Protection Act (Cap 324)
  - Suppression of Noxious Weeds Act (Cap 325)
  - Agricultural Produce (Export) Act (Cap 319)
  - Seeds & Plant Varieties Act (Cap 326)



# Some Key ISPMs

- **ISPM No. 1: Principles of PQ as related to International trade**
  - most important overall standard
  - draws principles from WTO SPS Agreement & IPPC
  - Emphasis on **sovereignty, harmonization, equivalence, transparency, risk assessment, non-discrimination, pest free areas and areas of low pest prevalence,**



# Key ISPMs Cont.

- **ISPM No. 4: Requirements for the establishment of pest free areas**
  - an important alternative to traditional phytosanitary measures (**prohibit, treat, inspect**)
  - consistent with the **regionalization** concept of the WTO SPS Agreement
  - focus is area-based rather than based on political boundaries



# Key ISPMs Cont.

- **ISPM No. 6: Guidelines for surveillance**
  - recognizes the importance of **surveillance as the basis for phytosanitary measures**
  - distinguishes two types of surveillance:
    - *general surveillance*, using information from many sources and undefined periods of time
    - *specific surveys*, requiring a focus on specific pests and a defined period of time



# Key ISPMs Cont.

- **ISPM No. 8: Determination of pest status in an area**
  - describes the proper reporting of pest information - distribution & importance
  - describes criteria for reliability
  - distinguishes three categories
    - presence
    - absence
    - transience



# Key ISPMs Cont.

- **ISPM No. 9: Guidelines for pest eradication programs**
  - describes components of appropriate systems for pest eradication
  - outlines general procedures for programmes
  - strong **links to PRA and surveillance**
  - aims for acceptance by trading partners



# Key ISPMs Cont.

## ISPM No. 10: Requirements for the establishment of **pest free places of production** and **pest free production sites**

- Requirements/characteristics
- Establishment and maintenance
- Application of PFP and PFPS
  - applied to any premises or collection of fields operated as a single production unit



# Key ISPMs Cont.

## ISPM No. 10: Requirements for the establishment of **pest free places of production** and **pest free production sites**

- Systems to establish pest freedom
- Phytosanitary measures to maintain freedom
- Checks to verify freedom has been attained or maintained
- Product identity, consignment integrity and phytosanitary security, may include establishment and maintenance of a buffer zone



# Key ISPMs Cont.

## ISPM No. 14: **The use of Integrated Measures in a Systems Approach for Pest Risk Management**

- provides guidance on **measures for pest risk management**
- provides **alternatives to single measures to satisfy importing country requirements**
- requires the integration of different measures, at least two of which **act independently, with a cumulative effect.**
- Less restrictive than other measures



# Harmonization & compliance

- **Adoption/use of common/equivalent measures**
- **Domestication of international standards, measures & procedures in national statutes**
- **Revisions of relevant laws in tandem with contemporary SPS situations**



# Compliance

- Imported (**traded!!!**) agricultural and food products conform to SPS measures
- The WTO SPS Agreement specifies that countries base technical regulations & SPS measures on international standards.
- If they conform to the standards laid down, then by implication the international standards will not form **barriers to trade**.



# Case of East Africa

- Slow progress of domestication/internalization of SPS matters in national statutes
- Fragmented SPS structure
- ALOP achievable as exemplified by development in export horticulture sector
- Progress in harmonization of SPS measures at EAC

