

Improving Transparency and Predictability of Quarantine and Inspection Services

*Experience and current status
of the Plant Quarantine authorities in Japan*

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1. International rules to be considered when applying plant quarantine measures

- ***The WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement)***
 - Basic provisions to be followed for application of SPS measures
 - Basic rights/obligations (Article 2), Harmonization (Art.3), Risk based measures (Art. 5), Transparency(Art.7, [SPS notification system based on the annex B](#))
- ***The International Plant Protection Convention (FAO)***
 - Developing the International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs)
 - Technical or procedural guidance for establishing or applying PQ measures

2. Transparency of PQ regulation and measures

- Means to communicate with business entity and the general public (experiences of NPPO of Japan)

Plant quarantine measures, in its nature, conflicts in the views between:

- interception of pest incursion in order to protect crops and nature from damages by pests and
 - facilitation of distribution and traffics
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- The SPS agreement/the IPPC deal with this contradictory point in well-balanced manner for:
 - ensuring member countries to take plant quarantine measures, as their **sovereign right**, while
 - requesting measures that should be **scientifically sound** and the **least restrictive to trade**

2-2. Transparency of PQ regulation and measures

- **Accountability of the NPPOs**

NPPOs should keep good communication with the industry and the general publics on:

- the duties/responsibilities of the NPPO and role of stakeholders in PQ regulation
- plant quarantine policy
- rational of regulatory measures being taken
- choices the way to go forward

3. Domestic Schemes to perform transparency and predictability

- ***Public hearing meeting***
Legally required procedure when introducing or revising legislation
- ***Public comment through a website***
For collection of comments through documentary procedures
- ***Risk communication meeting***
 - to share views on general policy and specific measures to be introduced or revised, with stakeholders (grower, trader, broker, transporter, consumer, academic people etc.)
 - **Discussion among stakeholders** is effective to share functions, responsibilities of NPPOs and stakeholders
 - **Result of the discussion** should be open to access to the publics through **gazette or website**.
- ***Public relations***
 - to obtain better understanding, cooperation and public awareness to PQ activities
 - to promote good practices of trading/agriculture

“What should or should not do to protect agricultural and forest production from pest invasion with minimizing trade restriction.”

Working with stakeholders and the general public

It should be provided that have stakeholders and the general public known how they will be affected by the implementation of the measures.

Measures or actions to be provided includes:

1. Development of preventive/administrative/operational systems
 2. Development of criteria and standards of inspection, result of inspection detected
 3. Development of measures of importing country when export
 4. Development of qualified staff, facilities, equipment and infrastructure necessary to perform PQ

Finally:

In the world, risk of those invasion and damages exists. It is necessary to interrupt or ease those hazard with international cooperation.

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