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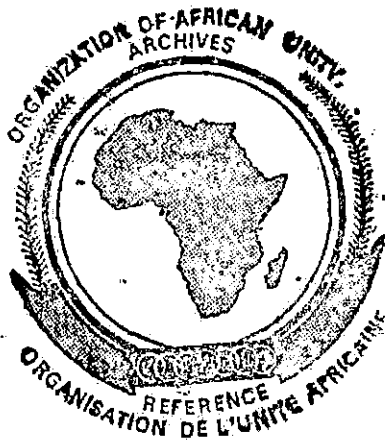
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**ORGANISATION DE L'UNITE
AFRICAINNE**

Secretariat
B. P. 3243

CM/767(XXVII)

REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS
BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE INTERAFRICAN
PHYTOSANITARY COUNCIL



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LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

- CHAIRMAN
 Dr. M. O. Aluko,
 Project Co-Manager,
 Federal Ministry of Agriculture and
 Natural Resources, Department of
 Agricultural Research, Plant Quarantine and
 Introduction Service,
 Moor Plantation,
 Ibadan, NIGERIA.
- DELEGATES
- CAMEROON
 Dr. Joseph M. Menyonga,
 Institute of Perennial Crops,
 Ekona,
 P.M.B. 25
 Buea, CAMEROON
- COMORO ISLANDS
 Mr. Ahmed Bey Daoud,
 Director de la Production,
 B.P. 41
 Moroni, COMORE.
- KENYA
 Mr. C.P.F. de Lima,
 Ministry of Agriculture,
 P. O. Box 30028
 Nairobi, KENYA
- MADAGASCAR
 Mr. Ranirharinosy Daniel,
 Chef du Service de la Protection des Vegetaux,
 Tananarive, MADAGASCAR.
- NIGER
 Mr. Ismaila Kane,
 Service de la Protection des Vegetaux,
 B.P. 323,
 Niamey, NIGER
- SENEGAL
 Mr. Douda Diagne,
 Director de la Protection des Vegetaux,
 Ministere du Developpement Rurale et de
 l'Hydraulique,
 Dakar, SENEGAL.
- SUDAN
 Dr. Abdel Aziz Saad,
 Senior Entomologist,
 Plant Protection Department
 Ministry of Agriculture,
 Food and Natural Resources,
 Khartoum North, SUDAN.

TOGO Mr. Fouseni Adam,
Service de la Protection de Vegetaux,
B.P. 1263
Lome, TOGO

OBSERVERS

IITA Dr. Eugene R. Terry,
Pathologist,
International Institute of Tropical Agriculture,
Ibada, NIGERIA.

UNDP/FAC Mr. A.L. Brown,
Post-Entry Quarantine Station and Training Centre,
P.M.B. 5042,
Ibadan, NIGERIA

OAU GENERAL SECRETARIAT

Mr. A.O. Odelola,
Executive Secretary,
OAU/STRC?
P.M.B. 2359
Lagos, NIGERIA

Mr. A.H.A. Razik
Assistant Executive Secretary
OAU/STRC?
P.M.B. 2359
Lagos, NIGERIA

Dr. Paul G. Addoh,
Scientific Secretary
OAU/STRC-LAPSC,
B.P. 4170 - Nlongkak,
Yaounde, CAMEROON

Mr. A.L. Mbiele,
Assistant Scientific Secretary
OAU/STRC-LAPSC
B.P. 4170, Nlongkak,
Yaounde, CAMEROON

A G E N D A

1. Address by Mr. A. O. Odelola, Executive Secretary, OAU/STRC
2. Reply by Chairman - Dr. M. O. Aluko
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Report of the Scientific Secretary (IAPSC) on the Activities of the IAPSC since the 12th Meeting.
5. Implementation of the Recommendations and decisions of the 12th Meeting.
6. IAPSC Convention
7. I.A.P.S.C. Publications
8. Editorial Board and Scientific Consultants
9. Draft Co-ordinated Interafrican Phytosanitary Regulations
10. Recommendations of the Symposium on the Role of Plant Protection in Crop Improvement in Africa
11. Report on Citrus Importation from Spain to Africa.
12. Report on Intermediate Plant Quarantine Station at Turin (ITALY) for Cassava
13. Intermediate Plant Quarantine Station for Cocoa in Ghana
14. AGENDA of 13th Meeting.
15. Progress Report on Training and the Establishment of Plant Quarantine Stations (JP. 29).
16. Report and Discussion on the South American Leaf Blight Disease of Rubber
17. Reorganization of the Locust Control Organizations in Africa
18. Any Other Business.

OPENING ADDRESS

BY

MR. A. O. ODELOLA
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
OAU/S^oRC

Gentlemen,

May I welcome you to this meeting of the Executive Committee of the Interafrican Phytosanitary Council. It is unfortunate that owing to unavoidable circumstances, the Council cannot meet this year but might meet in the second half of 1976. The meeting has been convened therefore for the purpose of assessing the progress of work in hand and with a view of obtaining advice to guide the Executive Secretariat in the numerous technical problems that have cropped up since the last Council meeting in Blantyre. Some of the problems of the moment are highlighted in the Scientific Secretary's Report and outlined in the Agenda placed before you.

I should like to comment on a few items on the agenda. In the first place, amendments have been proposed to the IAPSC Convention of 1967. These amendments have been transmitted to the Administrative Secretary-General and I expect that the legal document will be submitted to the Council of Ministers shortly. I would expect this meeting to inform the Secretariat if there are any additional proposals for amendment of the Convention before the final document is circulated to Member States of the OAU by the Administrative Secretary-General. You will realize that the Convention was drawn up in the early 60's even though it was finally signed in 1967. I should have thought that every aspect of the convention deserves a second look. As far as I know, only a few chapters of the Convention have been amended. If it is not too much therefore, I would propose that Committee looks at the whole Convention and possibly suggest additional proposals to the Secretariat before the final amended document is circulated.

The Executive Secretariat at the instance of the IAPSC has launched the "African Journal of Plant Protection". It is our intention that this journal should cover all the activities in the field of Plant Quarantine, Pest Control and Plant Protection as time goes on. I would appeal therefore to members of the Executive Committee to nominate scientists who are actively involved in phytosanitary matters and plant protection problems in their respective states to the Editorial Board of the Journal so that it might maintain a high standard and present high quality of scientific information on Africa.

For the past 2 years, the Executive Secretariat and a few of the Locust Control Organizations in Africa have been discussing ways and means of re-organizing Locust Control Organization in Africa. It is our believe that given the scarce resources in our continent, we have too many Locust Control Organization in Africa. As a result, a Member State at present belongs to 3 or 4 Locust Control Organizations when in fact, if re-organized, under the OAU, a country will belong to only one Organization at a time. Such a re-organization should take account of ecological zone of Africa and accessibility of the Headquarter Office of the Locust Control Organization to all Member States in each zone. The Executive Secretariat would expect your Committee to consider this problem and make concrete Recommendations for our joint action.

The other point I would like to comment upon is the training of the Phytosanitary Inspectors. So far, only the Ibadan Plant Quarantine Centre has been offering facilities for training for some years. During the last vist of the Scientific Secretary to Cairo, Egypt, the Egyptian Government agreed to the improvement of the Training Centre in Egypt to cater not only for people from Mediterranean area of Africa but also to take account of our short-coming by way of training of francophone phytosanitary inspectors. The Executive Secretariat is asking the next meeting of the Council of Ministers in February to vote additional money for Phytosanitary Training so that the OAU might co-operate with the Egyptian Government as we are at present co-operating with the Nigèrian Government to make the Cairo Centre a regional training centre for the benefit of the whole of Africa. The Executive Secretariat would welcome suggestions from this meeting as to the improvement in the curriculum of the training centres and information as to the manpower needs of Member States in Plant Protection and Plant Quarantine fields.

The Executive Secretariat is happy to report that this is an area where the UNDP and FAO have co-operated with the OAU wonderfully. We would like to pay tribute to the excellent work of the UNDP/FAO scientists who have worked on Moor Plantation, Ibadan Training Centre in the past years. Dr. Berg comes readily to mind as one of the most helpful scientists sent by UNDP/FAO to the centre. Dr. Berg has taken keen interest in plant quarantine problems as well as plant protection problems in Africa and it is our hope that he will continue in his good work. The Secretariat has already submitted proposals in respect of the Abidjan training centre to the UNDP in co-operation with the Ivory Coast Government. Since we are all aware of the high cost of establishing a Plant Quarantine Centre with training facilities, we are not in the least discouraged that the centre has not taken off the ground up till now. We hope to continue pressing for the establishment of the Abidjan centre while making maximum use of the Ibadan and Cairo Centres. We would appeal to the FAO and the UNDP to accelerate and increase their assistance to Africa on Phytosanitary matters.

Distinguished delegates, you all realise that agriculture is still the main-stay of the economy of most Member States of the OAU. Control of the pest and diseases of agricultural crops and forestry products is therefore an extremely important assignment of all member states of the OAU. They have themselves shown this awareness by promulgating in each Member State a set of Regulations or Legislations for the protection of their crops and prevention of importation of diseased vegetative materials. The role of the Executive Secretariat in respect of Legislation therefore is to ensure that the co-ordinated inter-African Phytosanitary Regulations are revised from time to time to keep pace with the demands in all Member States. Copies of the former co-ordinated Legislations are still available in this office but the revised co-ordinated Regulations will be submitted to the next meeting of the IAPSC in Abidjan for approval before it is printed for distribution to all Member States of the OAU.

I wish you success in your deliberations.

REPORT OF THE SCIENTIFIC SECRETARY OAU/STRC/IAPSC ON THE
ACTIVITIES OF THE IAPSC FROM OCTOBER 1973 TO NOVEMBER
1975

INTRODUCTION

The present report is divided into three sections, Administrative, Scientific and Technical, and Future Programmes of Work. It covers the period from October 1973 (since the last General Meeting of the Interafrican Phytosanitary Council (IAPSC) to November 1975.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Staff Situation: The staff of the IAPSC Secretariat during the period under review has consisted of three senior officers; The Scientific Secretary and two Assistant Scientific Secretaries, and sixteen supporting staff. A list of staff is shown in Table 1 below.

The Secretariat has thus almost completed the first phase of its reorganization exercise which was started in 1972. The new structural organigramme is presented in Table 2 below.

Additional staff requirements would include:

- a. an Administrative Assistant to help the Scientific Secretary in sorting our miscellaneous matters concerning staff movement, purchase of office materials and local liaison matters;
- b. A bilingual translator (on P3 grade), and
- c. a French copy typist.

These additional staff requirements would be needed when we enter the second phase of our reorganization starting from the financial year, June 1976. However, these requirements have not been inserted in the 1976/77 budget on account of the present economic crises and financial restrictions of the OAU.

The Secretariat has also moved into a new premises in Yaounde provided by the government of Cameroon.

Liaison Vists

Liaison visits during this period have included Egypt (to arrange for the Establishment of Plant Quarantine Training school and Quarantine Station), Nigeria (to follow up the Plant Quarantine and Training Centres), Ivory Coast (to arrange for the 13th Meeting and Regional Training Course for French-speaking Phytosanitary Inspectors). Fact finding missions have also been made to Central African Republic, Togo, Zaire, Guinea, Congo, Somalia, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Senegal and Malawi.

Special liaison visits were also made to Zaire (to check on a new cassava virus disease supposed to have been introduced from china), to Gabon (to investigate a cassava disease which turned out to be Anthracnose (*Colletotrichum manihotis*) Uganda (to follow up the cassava mite infestation problem), and Sudan (to follow up the water weed control problem.

Up to date, the Scientific Secretary and his Assistants have been able to cover 26 out of the 46 member countries. They would particularly need to cover the newly independent countries of the former Portuguese, French and Spanish and English administration, namely Mozambique, Guinea Bissau, Cape Verde Islands, São Thome and Principe, Comoro Island, (Angola?) (Seychelles Islands 11976?) (Reunion 1976). Some of these countries probably represent plant disease and pest reservoirs of unknown magnitude which need to be explored. It is also suggested that these new countries in particular be visited so as to bring them into the Phytosanitary picture on the continent.

Contact with Other International Plant Protection Organization

The Secretariat has maintained contacts with friendly international plant protection organizations including West African Rice Development Association (WARDA); Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Organization (FAO/UNO); the International Federation of Seed Trade (FIS) the National Research Organization of Member States, the French Research Institutes including ORSTOM, IRAT, IFAC, IFCC, IITA, United States Department of Agriculture (USAID); the Regional Locust Control Organization including OICMA, OCLALAV, DLCO3EA and the Locust Commissions in Madagascar and North Africa; the Regional Plant protection Organizations,

particularly European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (EPPO) and the South East Asia and Pacific Plant Protection Organization (SEAPPO).

SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL MATTERS

Plant Pest and Disease Situation on the Continent

The Secretariat has maintained contacts with all Member Governments and to make them aware of the importance of plant pests and diseases in the economies of their countries. As a result, special campaigns, seminars and training programmes have been organized in various Member States to survey and control plant pests and diseases. Others have created parastatal bodies to deal with grain storage, marketing, and pests and disease control. Within this period some Member Countries have also undertaken to establish laboratories, national plant quarantine stations and pesticide control centres. These countries include Ghana, Nigeria, Zambia, Malawi, Cameroon, Ivory Coast, Sudan, Somalia, and the three East African Countries (Tanzania, Uganda and Kenya).

In spite of these efforts, however, some new pests and disease outbreak have been recorded during the period under review. These include;

- a. bacterial blight of cassava caused by Xanthomonas manihotis which has now spread to Nigeria, Zaire, Cameroon, Ghana and Gabon;
- b. cassava mite, Mononychellus tanajoa, which is found in Uganda and in Tanzania;
- c. sugar cane smut, Ustilago scitaminea, which was first reported in Mali in 1970 and is now also found in Uganda, Ghana, Somalia, Zambia, Sudan, Malawi, Zaire, Mozambique, Mauritius, Reunion, Kenya, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ivory Coast, and Upper Volta;

- d. of corn caused by Rhizoctonia sp. Thanks to the efforts of phytosanitary Service and the Crops Research Institute this disease appears to have been wiped out in Ghana. These organizations have also helped the IAPSC to prevent the spread of this disease through West Africa where the infected corn seeds were supposed to have been distributed or sold.
- e. Pseudotheraptus devastans in Zaire (IITA in Ibadan (Nigeria) is co-operating with the government of Zaire to control this insect and the bacterial disease Xanthomonas manihotis of cassava in that country.
- f. Puccinia arachidis of groundnuts in Malawi and Botswana (Every effort should be made to prevent the spread of this disease to West Africa and the West African Groundnut Council Member Countries).

Establishment of Regional Plant Quarantine Stations and Regional Phytosanitary Training Centre

The regional plant quarantine stations recommended by the IAPSC include centres at Ibadan (Nigeria), Maradi (Niger), Alexandria (Egypt), Muguga (Kenya, East African Community) and Ambatobe (Tananarive). The Ibadan centre has been expanded to 34 glasshouses and two phytotron houses. These facilities are made available to all African Countries and agricultural organization which would want to make use of them. Thanks to the great efforts and sacrifices of the government of Nigeria and the FAO/UNDP. The Centre at Muguga now has 80 glass houses and two phytotron houses. It is hoped that these facilities would be expanded for the needs of Madagascar and Mauritius. Further expansion would be needed to cater for the needs of the newly independent African countries in the Indian Ocean, namely Comoro Islands, Seychelles Islands, and La Reunion Islands. The proposed centre at Maradi has been abandoned at the request of the Niger government. The center at Alexandria still remains the same as it was in 1966 when the government of Egypt was requested by the OAU to expand it to cater for the needs of the Member Countries in North Africa. The government of Egypt has, however, promised to implement the decisions of the IAPSC in this regard.

As regards the phytosanitary training centres, the one at Ibadan has been formally established. Again, thanks to the great efforts of the Nigerian government and FAO/UNDP. Two courses have already been run for 26 African Phytosanitary Inspectors from 12 English-speaking African countries. A third course is scheduled for 1st February to 30th April 1976. The FAO/UNDP has promised to sponsor 16 students, and the OAU/STRC four students. The government of Egypt has also promised to organize phytosanitary courses and to offer 20 scholarships to African students for the first year. The first course is scheduled to run from 1st February to 30th April 1976. However, the government of Egypt has to confirm that it would organize the course. Several letters and cables have been sent to it directly and also through its Ambassador in Yaounde to this effect and we are awaiting their response.

Details of the training and quarantine arrangements will be discussed under Item No.14 of the present Agenda in Document No. MP/EC/13, Progress Report on OAU Joint Project No.29.

The Secretariat is also happy to announce that the government of Netherlands has (since October 1974) offered to include African students in its Plant Pathology training courses. Several member governments have already favourably responded to this offer. Since the Intrafrican Symposium on the "Role of Plant Protection in Crop Improvement in Africa" was held in Ibadan (Nigeria) in October 1974, the Danish Institute of Seed Pathology has also offered to include African students in its Seed Pathology training courses, and several African students have already been trained at the Institute.

IAPSC Publications

Following the recommendations of the 12th Meeting and the Intrafrican Symposium on Plant Protection held in Ibadan in October 1974, the IAPSC Information Bulletin has been suppressed and a new Scientific Journal - The African Journal of Plant Protection - has been initiated. Materials for three volumes have already been collected and the first two volumes will be published immediately after the present Executive Committee Meeting. The Executive Secretary OAU/STRC has already committed enough money for these publications.

The Secretariat also plans to issue monthly "News Briefs" on Plant Protection (one page in length) following the recommendations of the Intrafrican Symposium on Plant Protection held in Ibadan in 1974. A circular letter to this effect has already been issued to solicit the co-operation of Member Governments and scientists inside and outside Africa.

The Executive Committee may now wish to choose an Editorial Board and a Panel of Scientific Consultants to help the Scientific Secretary in these publications and other technical and scientific matters, particularly in the identification of plant pests and diseases and for the supply of technical and scientific information since the IAPSC library at the Scientific Secretariat is not up to date.

FUTURE PROGRAMME OF WORK

Suggested Future Programme of Work should include:

- a. follow up recommendations of the Executive Committee and the General Meetings of the IAPSC;
- b. follow up the recommendations of the Symposium of the OAU/STRC on the Role of Plant Protection in Crop Improvement in Africa;
- c. organization of regional training and plant quarantine centres and the establishment of intermediate plant quarantine stations;
- d. continue liaison visits to old and new Member Countries;
- e. maintain the IAPSC Publications and organize meetings proposed by the Executive Committee and the General Meetings of the IAPSC.

Table 1. - LIST OF IAPSC STAFF

ESTABLISHED POST	EFFECTIVE DATE OF APPOINTMENT
1. Scientific Secretary	13/1/68
2 Assistant Scientific Secretaries	3/5/74
1 Documentalist	1/2/71
1 Biligual Secretary/Translator	15/7/72
1 Book-keeper	1/11/70
1 English Stenographer/Secretary	1/8/73
1 French Stenographer/Secretary	1/6/73
1 Office Clerk	1/2/74
1 Bilingual Typist	1/6/72
1 English Typist	1/2/71
1 Machine Operator	1/12/73
1 Receptionist	9/10/67
1 Driver	1/8/73
1 Gardener	1/6/73
2 Nightwatchmen	11/3/74

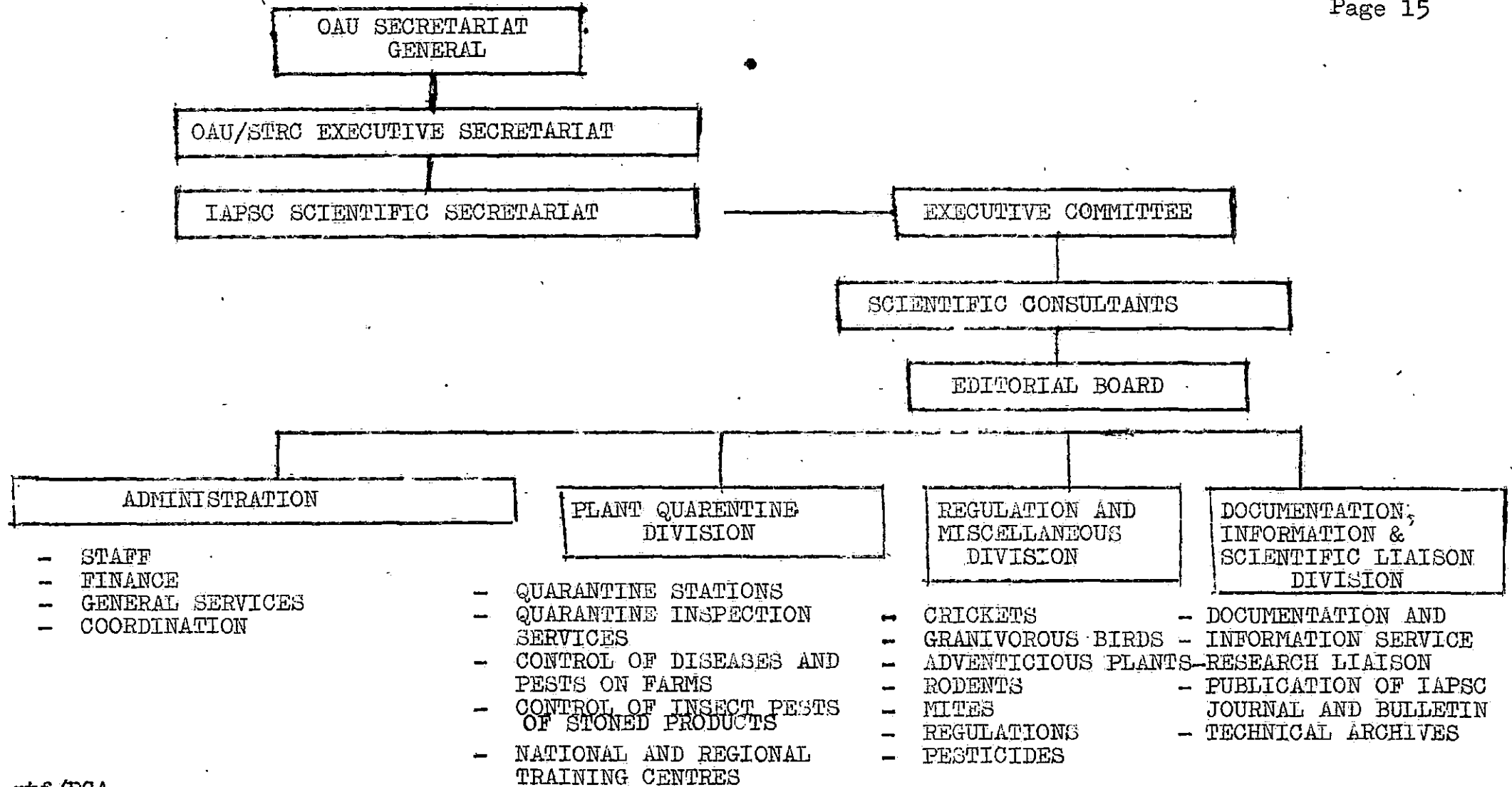


LIST OF WORKING DOCUMENTS

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AGENDA ITEM	DOCUMENT NUMBER	TITLE
4	IAPSC/WP/EC/1	Report of the Scientific Secretary on the Activities of the IAPSC since the 12th Meeting.
5	IAPSC/WP/EC/2	Implementation of Recommendations and Decisions of 12th Meeting.
6	IAPSC/WP/EC/3	IAPSC Convention
7	IAPSC/WP/EC/4	IAPSC Publications
8	IAPSC/WP/EC/5	Editorial Board and Scientific Consultants
9	IAPSC/WP/EC/6	Draft Coordinated Regulations
10	IAPSC/WP/EC/7	Recommendations of the Symposium on the Role of Plant Protection in Crop Improvement in Africa.
11	IAPSC/WP/EC/8	Report on Citrus Importations from Spain to Africa
12	IAPSC/WP/EC/9	Report on Intermediate Plant Quarantine Station at Turin (Italy) for Cassava
13	IAPSC/WP/EC/10	Intermediate Plant Quarantine Station for Cocoa in Ghana
14	IAPSC/WP/EC/11	Agenda of 13th Meeting
15	IAPSC/WP/EC/12	Progress Report on JP. 29
16	IAPSC/WP/EC/13	South American Leaf Blight Disease of Rubber
17	IAPSC/WP/EC/14	Locust Control in Africa
6	IAPSC/WP/EC/15	List of Working Documents

APPENDIX II:- REORGANIZATION OF THE INTRAFRICAN PHYTOSANITARY COUNCIL(IAPSC)



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REPORT OF THE MEETING

*1. Opening of the Meeting

The Meeting was held at the Conference Hall of the Headquarters of the Executive Secretariat of the Scientific, Technical and Research Commission of the OAU in Lagos (Nigeria) from 10th to 12th November, 1975.

It was opened by the Executive Secretary of the OAU/STRC, Mr. A.O. Odelola. His address appears on pages 4 to 6. After underlining the technical importance of the meeting, the Executive Secretary implored both the delegates and the observers to contribute effectively to the discussions which should follow the reports of the Scientific Secretary.

2. Election of Chairman and Drafting Committee

In the absence of Mr. V. H. B. Gondwe, the current Chairman of IAPSC, Dr. M..O. Aluko, delegate of Nigeria, was elected Chairman for the Meeting.

The Scientific Secretary was appointed as the Rapporteur of the Meeting.

3. Report of the Scientific Secretary of the LAPSC on the Activities of the LAPSC Since the 12th Meeting

The Report on the Activities of the LAPSC presented in Document LAPSC/WP/EC/1 covered the period October, 1973 to November 1975.

It was discussed and approved by the Committee which noted with satisfaction, on the one hand, the completion of the first phase of the reorganization of the Scientific Secretariat which started in 1972, and on the other hand, the proposals on the new organigramme of the administrative structure which will require additional technical and secretarial staff.

1.

4. Implementation of Recommendations and Decisions of the 12th Meeting

The Scientific Secretary recounted the progress he had made in implementing the recommendations and decisions of the 12th Meeting held at Blantyre in September 1973 (Document no. IAPSC/WP/EC/2).

The Committee discussed the document and invited the Scientific Secretary to contact the Niger government once more to study the possibility of establishing a plant quarantine station at Maradi following Recommendation No. XVII of 12th Meeting. If the appeal failed, he should contact the government of Senegal to undertake the project.

The Committee also noted the urgent need by the Secretariat of the IAPSC and other STRC offices for well trained Documentalists and requested the OAU/STRC Executive Secretary to appeal to the FAO and IITA to organize training courses for African documentalists.

The Committee considered to enlarge the regional network of plant quarantine stations (to include the present national station in Malawi) and to appeal to the government of Malawi to improve its station to regional status so as to serve the Member States in the Southern region of Africa.

5. IAPSC Convention

The Committee examined the articles of the draft phytosanitary convention for Africa adopted at the 12th Meeting of the IAPSC and considered it necessary to redraft some of them to conform to the needs of the organization. The Committee therefore amended Articles II, III, IV, XII and requested the Scientific Secretary to bring the final text up to date.

6. IAPSC Publications

The Committee discussed and approved Document No. IAPSC/WP/EC/4. It approved the title of the Scientific Journal and requested the Scientific Secretariat to verify the abbreviated title of the journal in order to avoid confusion.

7. The Editorial Board and Scientific Consultants

The Committee discussed and approved Document No. IAPSC/WP/EC/5 on the composition of the Editorial Board and the Panel of Scientific Consultants. It suggested that the Editorial Board should preferably be made up of eminent scientists in Cameroon and other neighbouring countries. It also approved that the membership should comprise of (seven) 7 scientists in the following disciplines, Entomology (1), Nematology (1), Pathology (2) Virology (1), Genetics/Botany (1), Physiology (1). The initiation of a "News Letter" recommended by the OAU/STRC Symposium on "The Role of Plant Protection in Crop Improvement in Africa" was also approved.

8. Coordinated Interafrican Phytosanitary Regulations

The Committee accepted the draft regulations presented by the Scientific Secretariat (Document No. IAPSC/WP/EC/6) and requested the Scientific Secretariat to circulate copies to all members of the Executive Committee and to specialized agencies such as the UNDP, FAO, IITA, Research Institutes in Africa, etc.

It also insisted that comments must reach the Scientific Secretariat before the end of February 1976 so as to enable the Scientific Secretariat to redraft the document and present it to the General Meeting of the Council when it meets in the second half of 1976.

9. Recommendations of the Symposium on the Role of Plant Protection in Crop Improvement in Africa

The Executive Committee discussed and approved the recommendations of the Symposium (Document No. IAPSC/WP/EC/7) of November 1975 and requested the Scientific Secretariat to inquire from FAO what steps it has taken to implement recommendation No.11 of the Symposium.

10. Report on Citrus Importation from Spain to Africa

The Committee discussed and approved Document No. IAPSC/WP/EC/8. It recommended the cold treatments against Ceratitidis capitata suggested by the Scientific Secretary.

11. Report on the Intermediate Plant Quarantine Station at Turin (Italy)

The Committee took note of Document No. IAPSC/MP/EC/9 concerning this station. However, it did not approve the station at Turin for the quarantine of cassava for Africa.

12. Intermediate Plant Quarantine Station for Cocoa in Ghana

The report of the Scientific Secretary (Document No. IAPSC/MP/EC/10 of November, 1975) was discussed by the Executive Committee.

The Committee agreed to the construction of an intermediate plant quarantine station for cocoa in Ghana but insisted that the installations should receive the prior approval of the IAPSC before the station starts operating.

13. Agenda of 13th Meeting

The Committee discussed and approved Document No. IAPSC/MP/EC/11 after modifying Agenda Items No. 2, 4, 8, and 9 of the above mentioned document.

14. Progress Report on JP. 29 - Establishment of Regional Plant Quarantine Stations and Regional Phytosanitary Training Centres in Africa

The Committee discussed and approved Document No. IAPSC/MP/EC/12. It requested the Scientific Secretary to make an inventory of the phytosanitary needs of the newly independent countries during his next mission. He should also visit the laboratories in these countries to study their research facilities.

It was further noted that arrangements for the Phytosanitary Training course in Cairo have not yet been finalised. It therefore requested the Scientific Secretary to contact the Egyptian Government in order to organize the courses.

The Executive Secretary was requested to arrange, in the meantime, a French-speaking instructor for the Ibadan Plant Quarantine Training Centre.

The Committee also noted that students trained in the Phytosanitary field are not usually appointed in this field once they return to their respective countries and requested the Scientific Secretary to make a survey of the progress of the past students with a view to upgrading the courses.

15. South American Leaf Blight Disease of Rubber

The Committee discussed Document No. IAPSC/WP/EC/13 and observed that the disease does not yet occur in Liberia and the rest of Africa.

The governments of the African countries, Liberia, Ivory Coast, Cameroon, Ghana, Nigeria, Zaire, and Uganda and others which produce rubber on the continent should collaborate closely among themselves in order to prevent the introduction of this disease in Africa. The Scientific Secretary was then requested to alert them of the danger of introducing this disease into Africa.

16. Locust Control in Africa

The Committee noted that Africa has many regional organizations which deal with locust control on the continent.

It proposed a reorganization of the control structures in Africa in order to effectively coordinate their operations.

To this end, the Committee saw the necessity for the countries concerned to first of all agree to the principle of the reorganization under the aegis of the OAU so that their activities may benefit all the Member States.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. NEW PLANT PESTS AND DISEASES IN AFRICA

The Executive Committee of the IAPSC Meeting in Lagos after listening and deliberating on the report of the Scientific Secretary on the activities of the Secretariat, approved the report and recommended.

- a. that he should confirm the occurrence of the following diseases and pests:
 - i. bacterial blight disease (Xanthomonas manihetis) of cassava in Ghana and Gabon;
 - ii. mealybugs (Planococcus citri) of cassava in Zaire, Congo and Angola;
 - iii. green mites (Mononychellus tanajoa Bondar) of cassava in Kenya; and
- b. that he should advise the Member States concerned on control and preventive measures.

II. PLANT DISEASE AND PEST SURVEYS IN AFRICA

- a. The Committee approved the Recommendations of the Symposium on the Role of Plant Protection in Crop Improvement in Africa and requested the Executive Secretary, OAU/STRC to explore the possibility of obtaining external technical and financial assistance for independent surveys of plant pests and diseases in Africa, particularly new pests and diseases which may affect large sections of regional and national economies.
- b. He should also approach the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) which might be interested in assisting the OAU to conduct these surveys;
- c. and the FAO to study the Hypsipyla sp. problem of forest plantations in Africa.

III. PROVISION OF ADDITIONAL STAFF AT THE SCIENTIFIC SECRETARIAT

In view of the highly technical nature and volume of work at the Scientific Secretariat, the Committee appeals to the Executive Secretary, OAU/STRC/ to provide the much needed additional staff for the Scientific Secretariat during the next fiscal year, priority being given to the following posts:

- i. a Technical Translator (P - 3);
- ii. a Bilingual Copy Typist;
- iii. a Technical Documentalist; and
- iv. an Administrative Assistant

IV. TIMING OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Committee recommended that its meetings should, as far as possible be timed so that the budgetary requirements of the proposed activities of the IAPSC can be considered at the subsequent Budget of the OAU.

V. LIAISON VISITS BY THE SCIENTIFIC SECRETARY

It was recommended that the Scientific Secretary should continue his liaison visits to Member States with a view to:

- a. advising them on technical phytosanitary matters;
- b. encouraging the national Plant Quarantine Services to participate actively in the activities of the IAPSC;
- c. making personal contacts with the authorities of the newly independent OAU States so as to brief them on the activities of the IAPSC;
- d. making on-the-spot assessment of diseases and pests situations; and
- e. where the need arises, to approach the Executive Secretary, OAU/STRC to have the services of consultants.

VI. ESTABLISHMENT OF REGIONAL PLANT QUARANTINE STATIONS AND REGIONAL PHYTOSANITARY TRAINING CENTRES

The Committee recommended that -

- a. the Secretariat should continue its contacts with the government of Egypt so as to initiate the proposed training courses for the benefit especially of the Arabic and French-speaking Member States of the OAU;
- b. in the meantime and until a Training Centre is established for the French-speaking States, the Committee requests the Executive Secretary, OAU/STRC to seek external aid so as to include French-speaking trainees in the Ibadan Training Course by procuring the services of a French-speaking instructor;

- c. The Scientific Secretary should follow up the progress of the past trainees with a view to upgrading the Course.

The Committee urges that Member States engage such highly trained personnel in the services for which they have been trained.

VII. EXPANSION OF NATIONAL AND REGIONAL PLANT QUARANTINE STATIONS

The Committee recommends that:

- a. the services and facilities of National Plant Quarantine Stations should be improved, and
- b. the net-work of Regional Plant Quarantine Stations should be expanded;
- c. It also requests the Scientific Secretary to approach the government of Malawi to improve its Plant Quarantine Station to regional status to serve the OAU Member States in Southern Africa.
- d. the Committee, considering the possible needs of the Member States in the Indian Ocean and these nearby, requests the Scientific Secretary to appeal to the government of Madagascar to consider expanding the Plant Quarantine facilities at Ambatobe so as to serve the neighbouring Member States as it has been suggested by the IAPSC since 1966.

VIII. ESTABLISHMENT OF A REGIONAL PLANT QUARANTINE STATION IN THE SUDANOSAHELIAN REGION

- a. The Committee took note of the information supplied by the Executive Secretary, OAU/STRC on the question of the proposed Maradi (Niger) Plant Quarantine Centre and requested him to renew contacts with the government of Niger to reconsider its stand on the establishment of the Regional Plant Quarantine Centre.
- b. In the event that the appeal failed, the Executive Secretary should approach the government of Senegal to take up the project.

IX. LEVELS OF PHYTOSANITARY TRAINING COURSES

The Committee recommends that further phytosanitary training should be organized at two levels:

- a. training for middle level phytosanitary inspectors;
- b. training for senior or supervisory inspectors.

X. MEMBER STATES AND THE RISK OF INTRODUCING OF SOUTH AMERICAN LEAF BLIGHT DISEASE OF RUBBER

The Committee recommended that the Scientific Secretary should alert African countries on the risks involved in the possible introduction of South American leaf blight disease (Microcyclus ulei) of rubber into Africa.

XI. INTERAFRICAN PHYTOSANITARY CONVENTION

The Committee adopted IAPSC Document (72)11 Rev. 2 with some amendments and requested the Executive Secretary, OAU/STRC to include them in the final draft of the Convention to be submitted to the OAU Council of Ministers Meeting in February, 1976 for their consideration.

XII. IAPSC SCIENTIFIC JOURNAL

The Committee appreciated the efforts being made by the Scientific Secretary to initiate the Scientific Journal and advised that:

- a. he should seek the approval of the appropriate international organization for the abbreviated title of the Journal,
- b. the Journal should be published in English and French and the French text in particular should be properly reviewed before it is published;
- c. in the light of the presentations made by the Secretariat, the Committee made proposals for the membership of the Editorial Board and recommended that the members should be chosen as far as possible from eminent scientists in Member States near the headquarters of the Secretariat so as to speed up their work;
- d. the Committee approves the publication of a Monthly "News Letter" proposed by the Secretariat in addition to the Scientific Journal so as to keep Member States constantly informed about phytosanitary problems and activities on the continent.

XIII. CO-ORDINATED PHYTOSANITARY REGULATIONS

The Committee noted the draft revision of the Interafrican Phytosanitary Regulations and recommended that copies should be circulated to members of the Committee, the FAO and appropriate specialized Institutions in Africa for their comments which should reach the Scientific Secretary not later than 15th February, 1976 so that the final draft may be submitted to the Council when it meets in the second half of 1976.

XIV. IMPORTATION OF SPANISH CITRUS FRUITS INTO AFRICA

The Committee approved the Report of the Scientific Secretary (Document IAPSC/WP/EC/8) and advised that the importation be allowed provided they are given the following appropriate cold treatments as recommended in Appendix V of the above cited document in order to prevent the undue introduction of different strains of Ceratitidis capitata:

- 10 days at 32°F or below
- 11 days at 33°F or below
- 12 days at 34°F or below
- 14 days at 35°F or below
- 16 days at 36°F or below

XV. INTERMEDIATE PLANT QUARANTINE CENTRE AT TURIN (ITALY) FOR CASSAVA PROPAGATING MATERIALS

The Committee noted the report (Document IAPSC/WP/EC/9) of the Scientific Secretary on this problem and discussed it at great length.

- a. The Committee, however, failed to appreciate the relevance and suitability of the Turin Plant Quarantine Centre for cassava importation.
- b. The Committee considered it a futile effort at the moment for any Member State of the OAU to attempt to eliminate cassava mosaic disease from its territory because of the widespread and endemic nature of the disease and its vector, Bemisia tabaci.
- c. It advised that the best practical method for controlling the disease is to make selection from true seed materials.
- d. It disapproves any plant importations which violate the Inter-african Phytosanitary Regulations since such acts tend to jeopardize the agricultural economics of all OAU Member States. Furthermore, that any future ventures of this kind should first be cleared with the IAPSC as it has been the recommended practice in the past.

XVI. PLANT QUARANTINE STATION IN GHANA FOR COCOA INTRODUCTION

In the light of the presentations made by the Secretariat and the government of Ghana, and considering the urgent need for establishing such a station, the Committee approved the proposals of the government of Ghana to construct an intermediate and final Plant Quarantine Station for cocoa.

The Committee advised that the government of Ghana should, as far as possible, restrict importations to seeds.

The plans and structures for the station should be approved by the IAFSC before the station is put into operation.

XVII. RE-ORGANIZATION OF LOCUST CONTROL ORGANIZATIONS IN AFRICA

The Committee reviewed Locust control on the continent and considered it a widespread continental problem involving practically all the Member States of the OAU. It therefore recommended that the problem should be dealt with at the OAU level in order to avoid duplication of efforts and maximize the use of financial and manpower resources of the OAU States.

XVIII. AGENDA FOR 13TH MEETING.

The Committee agreed to the draft Agenda for the 13th Meeting and asked the Scientific Secretary to circulate it.

gtf/PGA



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