



**International Public Sector Accounting Standard 27 Agriculture**  
**IPSASB Basis for Conclusions**

International Public Sector Accounting Standards™, Exposure Drafts, Consultation Papers, Recommended Practice Guidelines, and other IPSASB® publications are published by, and copyright of, IFAC®.

The IPSASB and IFAC do not accept responsibility for loss caused to any person who acts or refrains from acting in reliance on the material in this publication, whether such loss is caused by negligence or otherwise.

The IPSASB logo, 'International Public Sector Accounting Standards Board®', 'IPSASB', 'International Public Sector Accounting Standards' 'IPSAS™', 'Recommended Practice Guidelines,' the IFAC logo, 'International Federation of Accountants®', and 'IFAC' are trademarks or registered trademarks and service marks of IFAC.

Copyright © December 2009 by the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC). All rights reserved. Written permission from IFAC is required to reproduce, store, transmit, or make other similar uses of this document, except as permitted by law. Contact [permissions@ifac.org](mailto:permissions@ifac.org).

Published by:



## Basis for Conclusions

*This Basis for Conclusions accompanies, but is not part of, IPSAS 27.*

### Introduction

- BC1. The IPSASB's IFRSs Convergence Program is an important element in IPSASB's work program. The IPSASB's policy is to develop accrual-based IPSASs that are convergent with IFRSs issued by the IASB where appropriate for public sector entities.
- BC2. Accrual-basis IPSASs that are converged with IFRSs maintain the requirements, structure, and text of the IFRSs, unless there is a public sector specific reason for a departure. Departure from the equivalent IFRS occurs when requirements or terminology in the IFRS are not appropriate for the public sector, or when inclusion of additional commentary or examples is necessary to illustrate certain requirements in the public sector context. Differences between IPSASs and their equivalent IFRSs are identified in the *Comparison with IFRS* included in each IPSAS.

### Biological Assets Held for the Provision or Supply of Services

- BC3. The IPSASB acknowledged that in the public sector biological assets are often held for the provision or supply of services. Examples of such biological assets include horses and dogs used for policing purposes and plants and trees in parks and gardens operated for recreational purposes. The IPSASB concluded that such biological assets are not held for use in an agricultural activity because they are not routinely managed for the purpose of measuring and monitoring the change in quality or quantity brought about by biological transformation or harvest, as described in paragraph 10. In order to clarify that such biological assets are not dealt with in this Standard the IPSASB decided to include a scope exclusion in paragraph 3(c) stating that the Standard does not apply to biological assets held for the provision or supply of services. Paragraph 4 provides examples of such scope exclusions.

### Definition of Agricultural Activity

- BC4. In certain jurisdictions biological assets that are part of agricultural activity may be sold or distributed to other public sector entities, non-governmental organizations or other entities at no charge or for a nominal charge. While IAS 41, *Agriculture*, from which this Standard is drawn, deals with commercial agricultural activity, the IPSASB concluded that biological assets held for distribution at no charge or for a nominal charge should be within the definition of agricultural activity, because such transactions are common in the public sector. The IPSASB therefore modified the definition from that in IAS 41 to include references to biological assets held for distribution at no charge or for a nominal charge.

### Government Grants

- BC5. IAS 41 specifies requirements and guidance for accounting for government grants related to biological assets that differ from the requirements in IAS 20, *Accounting for Government Grants and Disclosure of Government Assistance*. IPSAS 27 does not include requirements and guidance for government grants, because IPSAS 23, *Revenue from Non-Exchange Transactions (Taxes and Transfers)* provides requirements and guidance related to government grants in non-exchange transactions. The IPSASB did not consider that accounting for government grants related to biological assets should vary from the requirements of IPSAS 23.

### Biological Assets and Agricultural Assets Acquired through a Non-Exchange Transaction

- BC6. An entity may acquire a biological asset or agricultural produce in a non-exchange transaction. In accordance with this Standard, these assets would be measured at fair value less costs to sell. IPSAS 23 prescribes that assets acquired through a non-exchange transaction should be measured initially at fair value as at the date of acquisition. As a result of the different measurement requirements, the IPSASB considered the appropriate measurement basis for biological assets acquired in a non-exchange transaction.
- BC7. The IPSASB debated various approaches to measuring biological assets and agricultural produce acquired through a non-exchange transaction. In particular, it considered the following three approaches:

- (a) Approach 1: Measure all biological assets and agricultural produce acquired in a non-exchange transaction using IPSAS 23 (i.e., exclude all biological assets and agricultural produce acquired in a non-exchange transaction from the measurement requirements of this Standard);
  - (b) Approach 2: Measure all biological assets and agricultural produce acquired in a non-exchange transaction using this Standard (i.e., exclude all biological assets and agricultural produce from the measurement requirements of IPSAS 23); and
  - (c) Approach 3: Use both IPSAS 23 and this Standard to measure biological assets and agricultural produce acquired in a non-exchange transaction.
- BC8. The IPSASB rejected approach 1 because biological assets and agricultural produce acquired in exchange and non-exchange transactions would be measured differently. The IPSASB agreed that there is no reason to measure biological assets and agricultural produce acquired in a non-exchange transaction differently from those acquired in an exchange transaction because the assets are the same.
- BC9. In analyzing approach 3, the IPSASB considered the requirements of IPSAS 23 in relation to the measurement of other types of assets. IPSAS 23.13 states that: "...If a reporting entity is required to pay delivery and installation costs in relation to the transfer of an item of plant to it from another entity, those costs are recognized separately from revenue arising from the transfer of the item of plant. Delivery and installation costs are included in the amount recognized as an asset, in accordance with IPSAS 17." This implies that for other assets, an entity considers the measurement requirements of other IPSASs as well as IPSAS 23 in initially measuring assets acquired through a non-exchange transaction.
- BC10. An additional attribute relevant to the measurement of biological assets is costs to sell. The IPSASB therefore concluded that in accordance with approach 3, an entity considers the requirements of both IPSAS 23 and this Standard in measuring biological assets and agricultural produce acquired in a non-exchange transaction at fair value less costs to sell at their initial recognition. The IPSASB noted that this is the same outcome as under approach 2.

#### **Biological Assets and Agricultural Produce to be Distributed at No Charge or for a Nominal Charge**

- BC11. IAS 41 addresses only biological assets and agricultural produce that will be sold. In the public sector, such assets may be managed with the objective of distributing them at no charge or for a nominal charge. Some respondents to Exposure Draft 36, *Agriculture* expressed a view that a distinction should be made between the recognition and measurement of biological assets held for sale in an exchange transaction, and biological assets held for distribution at no charge or for a nominal charge. The principle was established in IPSAS 12, *Inventories*, that inventories held for distribution at no charge or for a nominal charge should be measured at the lower of cost and current replacement cost. Cost is not an available option in this Standard unless the exception in paragraph 34 applies. Current replacement cost is defined as the cost an entity would incur to acquire the asset at the reporting date, which is an approximation of fair value less costs to sell. Accordingly, the approach in Exposure Draft 36 was not changed.
- BC12. Some respondents to the Exposure Draft also questioned whether gains and losses arising from use of fair value measurement should be reported in the statement of financial performance during the transformation process. The IPSASB is of the view that the gains and losses arising from fair value measurement should be reported in the statement of financial performance because such reporting provides useful accountability information during the biological transformation process. Entities may decide to make additional disclosures to explain the impact of these reported fair value changes.

#### **Disclosure**

- BC13. The IPSASB considered whether any further disclosures were justified to address public sector specific issues and added disclosure requirements to:
- (a) Distinguish between consumable and bearer biological assets. This distinction is necessary because the Government Finance Statistics (GFS) Manual 2001 (GFSM 2001) classifies consumable assets as inventory, while this Standard classifies them as biological assets. The distinction allows for a better reconciliation between an entity's financial statements prepared under IPSASs and statistical measures.
  - (b) Distinguish between biological assets held for sale and those held for distribution at no charge or for a nominal charge. The IPSASB believes this distinction is necessary to permit users to

## AGRICULTURE

determine the unrealized gains and losses on biological assets held for distribution at no charge or for a nominal charge.

- (c) Show biological assets acquired through non-exchange transactions and biological assets held for distribution at no charge or for a nominal charge in its reconciliation of changes in the carrying amount of biological assets between the beginning and the end of the current period. This disclosure is required to provide appropriate information about non-exchange transactions, which are included in the scope of this Standard.
- (d) Disclose separately the changes in fair value less costs to sell as a result of non-exchange transactions for biological assets held for sale and for biological assets held for distribution at no charge or for a nominal charge. It is important that information is provided on the amount of gains and losses attributable to biological assets intended for distribution at no charge or for a nominal charge to assist users of financial statements in assessing the cost of government programs.
- (e) Describe the nature and extent of restrictions imposed on the entity's use or capacity to sell biological assets, such as the total and restricted amounts of such assets. The IPSASB is of the view that such disclosure provides useful information about the entity's ability to sell agricultural produce at fair value, and thus about its measurement.

### **Transitional Provisions**

- BC14. IAS 41 does not contain transitional provisions for first-time adoption of the accrual basis of accounting. When issued, this Standard contained such provisions to assist entities in applying this Standard when first adopting the accrual basis of accounting. These provisions have since been replaced by the guidance in IPSAS 33, *First-time Adoption of Accrual Basis IPSASs*.