
PLANT PROTECTION AGREEMENT FOR THE ASIA AND PACIFIC REGION¹

Background

On 26 November 1955, during its 23rd Session, the FAO Council approved the Plant Protection Agreement for the Asia and Pacific Region (formerly Plant Protection Agreement for the South-East Asia and Pacific Region) for submission to Governments for acceptance.

The Agreement was concluded on 27 February 1956, came into force on **2 July 1956** and was registered with the Secretariat of the United Nations on 20 July 1956 under No. 1963.

The FAO Council approved amendments to the Agreement in 1967, 1979, 1983 and 1999. Some of these amendments have entered into force for all Contracting Governments while others only with respect to the Contracting Governments that have actually accepted those amendments, as it will be described below.

At present², there are two versions of the Agreement in force for two different sets of Contracting Governments:

1. The Agreement as approved in 1955 and amended in 1967, 1979 and in 1983 (to include the People's Republic of China in the definition of the Region) which is binding for seven Contracting Governments; and
2. The Agreement as approved in 1955 and amended in 1967, 1979 and in 1983 (to include the People's Republic of China in the definition of the Region **and to introduce mandatory contributions**) which is binding for eighteen Contracting Governments.

In total, there are 25 Parties to the Agreement.

Moreover, there are three sets of amendments open for acceptance by the Contracting Governments as detailed below.

Parties to the Agreement

The following Contracting Governments provided their definitive signature or deposited the pertinent instrument of ratification or adherence to the Agreement on the date indicated:

Contracting Government	Signature	Definitive Signature	Ratification	Adherence
Australia		27 Feb 1956		
Bangladesh				4 Dec 1974

¹ Present title valid as of 16 February 1983.

² Last update: 19 April 2013.

Contracting Government	Signature	Definitive Signature	Ratification	Adherence
Cambodia				27 Jan 1969
China				6 Jun 1990
Democratic People's Republic of Korea				16 Jan 1996
Fiji				16 Dec 1970
France				20 Aug 1957
India		2 Jul 1956		
Indonesia	28 Jun 1956		21 Dec 1967	
Lao People's Democratic Republic	25 May 1956		17 Mar 1960	
Malaysia				20 Nov 1957
Myanmar				4 Nov 1959
Nepal				12 Aug 1965
New Zealand ³				17 Dec 1975
Pakistan ⁴				8 Jan 1958
Papua New Guinea				1 Jun 1976
Philippines				11 Jun 1962
Republic of Korea				4 Nov 1981
Samoa				23 Dec 1971
Solomon Islands				20 Jun 1979
Sri Lanka		27 Feb 1956		
Thailand				26 Nov 1956
Tonga				5 Nov 1981
Timor-Leste				20 April 2012
Viet Nam		2 Jul 1956		

Amendments to the Agreement

At its 49th Session (November 1967), the FAO Council approved an amendment to the Agreement in order to extend the geographical scope of the Region. This amendment came into force with respect to all Contracting Governments on **16 August 1969**.

At its 75th Session (June 1979), the FAO Council approved the deletion of the words “South East” in the title of the Agreement and the change of the name of the Commission to read “Asia and Pacific Plant Protection Commission” (hereafter “the Commission”). These amendments came into force with respect to all Contracting Governments on **16 February 1983**.

³ Applied to Cook Islands and Niue.

⁴ On 9 June 1969, Pakistan made the following declaration: “*The Government of Pakistan regards Taiwan as an integral part of the People's Republic of China and as such, the Government of that State alone is competent to accede to the Plant Protection Agreement for the South-East Asia and Pacific Region in respect of its territory, including Taiwan.*”

At its 84th Session (November 1983), the FAO Council approved two sets of amendments to the Agreement related to the following issues:

1. The definition of the Region in Article I (a) in order to include the People’s Republic of China in it; and
2. The introduction of mandatory contributions in order to finance certain activities of the Commission.

The amendment to Article I (a) of the Agreement to include the People’s Republic of China in the definition of the Region came into force with respect to all Contracting Governments on **23 May 1990**.

The second set of amendments introducing mandatory contributions entailed new obligations for the Contracting Governments. Therefore, as provided for in paragraph 4 of Article IX, these amendments came into force on the thirtieth day after acceptance by two-thirds of the Contracting Governments, i.e. on **4 September 2009**, but only with respect to the Contracting Governments that have actually accepted these amendments (see the table below). These amendments remain open for acceptance by the remaining Contracting Governments.

At its 117th Session (November 1999), the FAO Council approved another two sets of amendments to the Agreement as follows:

1. Amendments designed to bring the Agreement into line with the new revised text of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement) and with modern requirements for plant protection, as well as amendments designed to strengthen the Commission; and
2. Amendments providing for the deletion from the Agreement of measures to exclude the “South American Leaf Blight of Hevea” from the Region.

Both sets of amendments have been transmitted for acceptance to the Contracting Parties but have not yet entered into force. They remain open for acceptance.

In sum, there are three sets of amendments open for acceptance by the Contracting Governments as show in the following table:

Contracting Government		Acceptance of 1983 amendments regarding mandatory contributions	Acceptance of 1999 amendments designed to bring the Agreement into line with the IPPC and the SPS Agreement	Acceptance of 1999 amendments deleting measures to exclude “South American Leaf Blight of Hevea” from the region
1	Australia	27 Dec 1994	12 Aug 2011	12 Aug 2011
2	Bangladesh	31 Jul 1984		
3	Cambodia	16 Aug 2006		
4	China	6 Jun 1990		
5	Democratic People’s Republic of Korea	23 Nov 2006		
6	Fiji	23 May 2006		

Contracting Government		Acceptance of 1983 amendments regarding mandatory contributions	Acceptance of 1999 amendments designed to bring the Agreement into line with the IPPC and the SPS Agreement	Acceptance of 1999 amendments deleting measures to exclude “South American Leaf Blight of Hevea” from the region
7	France			
8	India	19 Aug 1986		
9	Indonesia	19 Jan 1993		
10	Lao People’s Democratic Republic	6 Dec 2006	6 Dec 2006	
11	Malaysia	12 May 1994		
12	Myanmar			
13	Nepal			
14	New Zealand	16 Dec 1997		
15	Pakistan	27 Jun 1988		
16	Papua New Guinea			
17	Philippines	27 May 2008	11 Apr 2005	
18	Republic of Korea	17 Apr 1990		
19	Samoa			
20	Solomon Islands			
21	Sri Lanka	13 Feb 1985		
22	Thailand	20 July 2010		
23	Tonga			
24	Timor-Leste	20 April 2012	20 April 2012	20 April 2012
25	Viet Nam	31 Aug 2006	31 Aug 2006	

In order to facilitate as far as possible a process of acceptance of a consolidated Agreement thereby reducing the inconvenience of several legal regimes, the Contracting Governments which are considering accepting some or all of these amendments are invited to contact the [FAO Legal Office](#).
