

BANGLADESH

Plant Protection Activities

Country Report

Plant Protection Activities in Bangladesh

1. Executive Summary

Bangladesh is an agrarian country and her climate favours the rapid development of various pests and diseases on crops. One of the main constraints to crop production is the pests. Estimated crop loss by pest and diseases are 10-15% annually.

The plant protection activities like pesticide administration, surveillance of the country at national level are under the Director of Plant Protection Wing of the Department of Agricultural Extension under the Ministry of Agriculture while the Plant quarantine section of the previous Plant Protection Wing has recently been separated and evolved as a new wing named as “Plant Quarantine Wing” from July 2014. To implement the activities of Plant Quarantine Wing a Director has been posted and the Government is going to implement the Plant Quarantine Authority soon for smooth implementation of the plant quarantine activities in Bangladesh. Bangladesh has to import a huge quantity of food, seeds and other plants and plant products. Annually on an average 90 lac (9 million) metric tons of plants and plant products are imported through the Plant Quarantine Stations. On an average ten lac (1 million) metric tons of agricultural commodities are inspected by the plant quarantine section per annum for the purpose of export which needs to issue a good number (average 40000) of phytosanitary certificates. To comply with the International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs) Bangladesh has taken a project titled “Strengthening Phytosanitary Capacity in Bangladesh”. Under the project we have taken some measures so that we can build our capacity in the field of phytosanitary inspection, pest diagnosis as well as to establish some infrastructure for laboratory development and other relevant activities. Moreover, we have sign an agreement with Bangladesh Investment Climate Fund, a project of International Finance Corporation (IFC) for assisting us implementing e-Phyto system in Bangladesh.

The existing plant quarantine legislation known as “Destructive Insects and Pests Rules, 1966 (Plant Quarantine). Plant Quarantine Act, 2011 has been approved by the Parliament in April, 2011 and making rules under the Act is almost complete. It is expected that by the end of this year the existing “Destructive Insects and Pests Rules, 1966 (Plant Quarantine)” will be repealed by the newly passed. “Plant Quarantine Act, 2011”.

Plant quarantine service in Bangladesh has been running by the Plant Quarantine Wing with the help of Plant Protection Wing of DAE under the Ministry of Agriculture. Plant Quarantine wing is headed by Director Plant Quarantine Wing. He is assisted by an Additional Director and two Deputy Director (Export and Import) four Additional Deputy Directors and Pathologists, Quarantine Entomologist, Plant Quarantine Inspectors and the junior technical and supporting staff. Including six new land border check posts, at present 30 plant quarantine stations are functioning in the entry – exit points of Bangladesh.

For issuing Phytosanitary Certificates for export and re-export we use only hard copy of Model Phytosanitary Certificate for export and re-export laid down in Annex 1 of ISPM-12. We do not use any electronic version of Phytosanitary Certificates because we do not have any training about Electronic Phytosanitary Certificate (Appendix-1) of ISPM-12 so, at present; we are not complying with the system of (Appendix-1) of ISPM-12.

From this workshop we want to learn the system of Electronic phytosanitary certificates and information on standard XML schemes and exchange mechanisms according to the APPENDIX 1 of ISPM-12. Because we also want to develop a system for the issuance, transmission and receipt of electronic phytosanitary certificates that uses Extensible Markup Language (XML), standardized message structure and contents, and standardized exchange protocols.

For the purpose of implementing Electronic Phytosanitary Certificate (e-Phyto) (Appendix-1) of ISPM-12 system in Bangladesh, recently we have signed an agreement with the Bangladesh Investment Climate Fund (a project of International Finance Corporation-IFC) for assisting us

implementation of e-Phyto system. Now, they are assessing our IT infrastructure that can support us to move to ePhyto system and they are interested providing us with IT and technical support (help in developing software package). We have a project for strengthening phytosanitary capacity in Bangladesh which will provide us necessary infrastructure and computer facilities. We need training on the use of Electronic phytosanitary certificates and information on standard XML schemes and exchange mechanisms system according to APPENDIX 1 of ISPM-12.