

Progress report on plant quarantine in the Asia and Pacific region by the Chairperson of the APPPC Standing Committee on Plant Quarantine

Source: Report of the twenty-seventh session of the Asia and Pacific Plant Protection Commission (Item 8), 15-19 August 2011, Manila, Philippines

8.1 Report by the Chairperson of the Standing Committee

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee reported the following activities for the 2009-2011 biennium, funded by the sponsors and APPPC funds available from the operational funding mechanism.

The meetings held included:

- Tenth regional workshop on draft ISPMs – Busan, Republic of Korea, 14-18 September 2009
- Eleventh regional workshop on draft ISPMs – Pyongchang, Republic of Korea, 6-10 September 2010
- The Pre-CPM Meeting With APPPC Members, 21 March 2010, FAO, Rome
- The Pre-CPM Meeting With APPPC Members, 13 March 2011, FAO, Rome
- Pest Incursion and Eradication Workshop, Seoul, Republic of Korea, 30 August – 3 September 2010
- Workshop on the prevention of introduction of South American Leaf Blight (SALB) Of Rubber, 13 – 17 December 2010, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- The APPPC Planning Working Group meeting, 26-28 April 2011, Bangkok, Thailand.

8.1.1 Tenth regional workshop on draft ISPMs – Busan, Republic of Korea, 14-18 September 2009

The meeting was attended by twenty experts from sixteen countries. The participants looked at the following draft standards:

- Diagnostic Protocol on *Thrips palmi*
- Seven cold treatments for fruit flies
- Revision of ISPM No. 7: Export certification system
- Revision of ISPM No. 12: Guidelines for phytosanitary certificates
- Draft ISPM: Design and operation of post-entry quarantine stations
- Glossary of phytosanitary terms (Amendment to ISPM No. 5)

The draft standards were discussed and comments made on the templates provided by the IPPC Secretariat. The group spent some time discussing the draft ISPM No. 12. Points regarding the duration of validity were added to the template of comments. Participants did not comment on the ISF proposed use of additional declarations or the use of “to order” instead of the consignee name.

Some comments were made on the PEQ draft including proposals for the reconfirmation of the identification of important quarantine pests and the retention of such material in case of litigation.

8.1.2 Eleventh regional workshop on draft ISPMs – Pyongchang, Republic of Korea, 6-10 September, 2010

The meeting was attended by 23 experts from seventeen countries. This workshop covered the following draft ISPMs:

- Systems approaches for pest risk management of fruit flies
- Submission of new treatments for inclusion in ISPM No.15
- Integrated measures approach for managing pest risks associated with international trade of plants for planting
- Irradiation treatment for *Ceratitidis capitata* (Annex to ISPM 28)
- Diagnostic protocol for Plum pox virus

Seven members have submitted draft comments to facilitate the discussions on the standards. The five draft standards were reviewed and comments were recorded. The drafts were introduced and the subsequent discussions chaired by the only Standards Committee Asian member present, Mr. M Sakamura and Dr J. Hedley. The group suggested that the systems approach draft be made an annex to ISPM 14. There was a long discussion on the use of the term integrated measures approach. The two important drafts were the revisions of ISPM 7 and ISPM 12. There was considerable discussion on a number of points such as the issue of Cs after dispatch of a consignment, the addition of clauses to add information to PCs for later use in re-export PCs and the period of validity.

8.1.3 The Pre-CPM meeting with APPPC members, 21 March, 2010, FAO, Rome The Pre-CPM meeting with APPPC members, 13 March, 2011, FAO, Rome

The countries attending these meetings (five in 2010 and seven in 2011) used the two Pre-CPM meetings to be updated on issues from the Bureau members and to discuss certain matters of particular concern to the countries attending.

8.1.4 Pest incursion and eradication workshop, Seoul, Republic of Korea, 30 August - 3 September 2010

Thirty-six delegates from 23 countries including non-members participated in the workshop, which was co-funded by the Republic of Korea and APPPC. In line with the work plan of the 26th Session of APPPC, the programme of the workshop was developed by Australian experts in collaboration with experts from the Republic of Korea, Japan and New Zealand.

The meeting looked at the principles of ISPM No. 9, incursion and eradication with examples from Australia and case studies on plum pox virus in Japan, citrus canker in Australia, pine wilt disease in Republic of Korea and *Liberibacter* sp. in New Zealand.

The participants conducted exercises on South American leaf blight of rubber and Plum pox virus and developed contingency plans for these pests. A plenary discussion examined the draft contingency plan for SALB and found that there were information gaps.

8.1.5 Workshop on the prevention of introduction of South American Leaf Blight (SALB) of rubber, 13th – 17th December 2010, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Thirty-nine experts from ten countries participated in this meeting. The Brazilian experts that were to attend withdrew at the last moment. Nine country reports were presented. The

meeting then discussed an overview of the SALB situation in the APPPC, a review of the SALB PRA and a review of the recently adopted SALB RSPM. After the presentation of four scientific papers the meeting broke up into four discussion groups.

The subsequent reporting from the groups dealt with the following areas:

- Import Requirements and Inspection System
- Diagnostic Systems
- Surveillance System and Eradication programme
- Capacity Building

A model work plan for the importation of budded stumps or budwood of *Hevea spp.* was prepared for presentation to the 27th session of the Commission.

8.1.6 The APPPC planning working group meeting, 26-28 April 2011, Bangkok, Thailand

The chairpersons of the three APPPC Standing Committees and members of APPPC Standard Committee met to make recommendations for a strategic plan and work plans for the next biennium.

The current APPPC strategic plan and work plan adopted by the 26th Session of APPPC were reviewed and the status of the implementation reported. A tentative proposal on work plan of next biennium (2012-2013) and a draft new strategic plan (2012-2019) were discussed and amended. The proposed work plan and the draft strategic plan will be further discussed at the 27th Session of APPPC.

Discussions on mandatory contributions led to the proposal that it would be most straightforward for countries if the total amount of mandatory contributions for the next biennium is kept at the same level as the current biennium. This may lead to some non-significant changes in countries' mandatory contributions.

8.2 Report of the working group on pest incursion

The APPPC workshop on pest incursion and eradication was convened from 30 August to 3 September 2010 in Seoul, Republic of Korea. Thirty-six delegates from 23 countries including non-members participated in the workshop, which was co-funded by the Republic of Korea and APPPC. In line with the work plan of the 26th Session of APPPC, the programme of the workshop was developed by Australian experts with collaboration with the Republic of Korea, Japan and New Zealand, and which was supported by the working group members from China, India and Indonesia.

The principles of ISPM No.9 were examined and illustrated with case studies on incursion management and eradication. The workshop considered in detail the incursions of plum pox virus in Japan, *Liberibacter* in New Zealand, pine wilt disease in the Republic of Korea and the eradication of citrus canker in Australia

The participants conducted exercises on developing draft contingency plans for South American leaf blight of rubber and plum pox virus. A model contingency plan for the management of an introduction of South American leaf blight was developed at the workshop.

It was agreed that this model contingency plan should be presented to the 27th Session of the APPPC for adoption as an Appendix to RSPM 7 *Guidelines for Protection against South American Leaf Blight of Rubber*. Section 2 of RSPM 7 *Eradication or control programmes* recommends that APPPC rubber-growing countries should develop contingency plans for eradication or control programmes of South American leaf blight. The contingency plan developed at the workshop provides a model for countries to use to meet this recommendation.

The model contingency plan was developed to be a guide only, and its use in part or whole by member countries is not obligatory. Countries that wish to use the model contingency plan are not bound by the existing text, but are free to vary the contingency plan as they see fit, in accordance with their own preferred procedures.

8.3 Report of the working group on SALB

During the 26th Session of APPPC, it was decided that a working group on SALB be established to develop detailed guidelines to support the SALB Regional Standard. The Working Group would be led by Malaysia with participation of China, India, Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam.

Malaysia then hosted a workshop on The Prevention of Introduction of South American Leaf Blight of Rubber, which was convened in Kuala Lumpur on 13 – 17 December 2010. The workshop's objectives were to produce draft harmonized import requirements for the importation of rubber and other commodities from SALB endemic countries and to formulate phytosanitary measures based on scientific evidence (PRA) to address the risk of introducing SALB into the region. A total of 39 participants from 10 countries attended the five day workshop, with assistance from two SALB experts as resource persons.

The outcomes of the workshop were as follows:

- Production of a work plan for importation of budded stump and budwood (considered to be high risk).
- Guidelines on importation of other plant parts and non host materials and inspection of passengers arriving from SALB endemic countries;
- Guidelines on Laboratory Diagnostic System comprising establishment of central diagnostic laboratory and satellite quarantine laboratory in each country and proposed diagnostic methodology;
- Guideline on surveillance system and eradication system;
- Prioritization of capacity building programme to ensure sustainability of expertise in disease detection and to develop awareness among stakeholders on the risk and management of the disease.

The workshop also made five recommendations, as follows, as a way forward for future activities on the prevention of SALB into the region:

- Malaysia to continue to lead the Working Group on SALB to prepare a draft frame programme for the publication of reference materials;
- Each country to develop national work plan for surveillance system, training and awareness programmes;
- To report the output of the workshop to the next session of APPPC;

- To recommend the Model Work Plan for the importation of Budded Stump and Budwood to be adopted by APPPC as Annex to RSPM No. 7;
- The WG on SALB to prioritize regional activities on SALB for submission to the next APPPC session for inclusion in the work plan for 2012 -13

Based on the workshop recommendations, the APPPC Secretariat provided funding for Malaysia, as the lead country, to organize another workshop to develop reference materials for training and awareness programme. The workshop is proposed to be held on 25-29 November 2011. The expected outcomes from the workshop are production of reference materials to be used for extension services to farmers, training to enforcement and technical officers, seminars and awareness programmes to other stakeholders. The workshop is also expected to develop standard operating procedures for quarantine inspection at entry points, pest diagnostic in laboratories and field pest surveillance.

The Working Group also identified two other follow-up activities to be carried out in the next biennium, which is development of training programme on the use of reference materials followed by training of pathologists in Brazil. These two activities have been included in recommendations for APPPC work plan for 2012 – 2013 to be tabled in the 27th Session of APPPC.

The IRRDB offered assistance to the APPPC on the organization of SALB workshops, by providing contacts to the organizers which may help to secure technical expertise and accommodation in Brazil. Further discussions will be held between IRRDB and the SALB working group.

8.4 Report of the working group on the implementation of ISPMs

The 26th session of the APPPC set up a working group to consider a programme to assist APPPC members implement International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs). The working group considered that the APPPC should firstly describe the intent of the programme and then make proposals on how it could work.

The APPPC Standards Implementation programme is intended to:

- collect information on how APPPC members are managing to implement ISPMs
- identify the major problem areas with ISPM implementation for APPPC members
- set up programmes to assist APPPC members improve their implementation of ISPMs.

The method for doing this is for:

- APPPC members to be asked, using a questionnaire, how they are managing to implement the various provisions of different ISPMs
- for the Implementation working group to consider and analyze the results of the questionnaire and identify problem areas
- the working group to recommend methods of improving the implementation of the relevant standards.

The working group selected ISPM 15 as the first ISPM. The questionnaire with 33 questions was produced and distributed to countries in April 2011 and 12 countries responded so far.

The working group is expecting more countries' participation and full analysis will be finalized at the end of 2011. Based on the results, the working group will consider follow-up actions such as workshops or communication with IPPC etc.

The working group expects continued working group activities in 2012-13 with other ISPMs.