

TIMOR-LESTE COUNTRY REPORT
THE 29TH SESSION OF THE ASIA AND PACIFIC PLANT PROTECTION
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COUNTRY REPORT OF SIGNIFICANT CHANGES AND DEVELOPMENTS
SINCE 2013

1. General Information

The National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO) of Timor-Leste is consisted of Plant Protection Department under the National Directorate of Agriculture and Horticulture and Plant Quarantine Department under the National Directorate of Quarantine and Bio-security. In September 2007 the two agencies were selected by the Government of Timor-Leste to become members of the IPPC with Mr. Américo Alves Brito, Head of Plant Protection Department as the contact point for NPPO and Mr. Quintão Valente, Head of Plant Quarantine Department as editor of the International Phytosanitary Portal (IPP), but Timor-Leste is still as an unofficial or non-contracting party in the IPPC until now, even though in reality it has been proactive as a permanent member of the APPPC since 2012.

The legislation and regulation of Timor-Leste give relevant duties and authorities to PQD-NDQB for the implementation of WTO-SPS Agreement to conduct supervision on Phytosanitary Measures in the part of import and export, uses plant quarantine measures for Inspection, Isolation, Observation, Treatment, Detention, Refusal for entry into the Country, Destruction and Release of agricultural products which are using air, water and land transports.

One of the major constraints to improve the capacity of the PQD-NDQB to implement SPS-WTO Agreement on plant health sanitary controlling is limited budget allocation. Since, 2013, our annual budget allocation is still cannot cover all relevant activities.

Due to that situation, Timor-Leste has not been able to implement the SPS in accordance with the recommendations and the International standards.

2. Phytosanitary Matters (Plant Quarantine)

The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries of Timor-Leste has budgeting for its 2016 budget plan to allow NDQB to be able to implement activities related to the implementation of Phytosanitary Certificate for export of agricultural products as well as producing some specific regulations to support the implementation of the issuance of Phytosanitary Certificate in accordance with ISPM 12.

The Government of Australian through its Department of Agriculture and the Government of Timor-Leste through MAF has establish a cooperation under a MoU

to support us to conduct joint annual survey activity for the collection of pests, diseases and weeds in Timor-Leste.

The International Plant Health Program-Department of Agriculture of Australia (IPHP-DoA) with the experts from the Northern Australia Quarantine Strategy (NAQS) entomologists, botanists, Plant pathologists from Australia have also provided training and helped in identifying all the sample survey in Dili and Australia and with the results obtained we have drawn the list in a database format P-tracker.

Mostly, all samples are stored in Timor-Leste and largely backed up in Australia. This is in accordance with the regulation of ISPM 6 and ISPM 19 that the list of the results of survey is based on identification of samples existing in the country of origin.

Due to lack of infrastructure we have not yet implemented quarantine measures for observations, and collection of samples of pests, diseases and weeds have not been made for the category of quarantine in order to determine whether they are originating from imported plant goods and their products (interceptions of quarantine pests) or not. Therefore, plant quarantine activities and sanitary control of imported agricultural products are currently conducted by the World Trade Organization (SPS/WTO) through measures of inspection, detention, refusal for entry into the country, destruction and release, while measures to isolation, observation and treatment towards agricultural imported goods are not yet implemented due to budget constraints for the construction of infrastructure and the establishment of specific regulations on quarantine and bio-security.

To overcome the above mentioned situation the government has planned to allocate budget in 2016 with the objective to provide infrastructure facilities (laboratory, equipment and material), and specific regulations regarding quarantine and bio-security to carry out the issuance of Phytosanitary Certificate in accordance with the ISPM 12.

3. Surveillance, Pest Outbreaks and Invasive Species Management

Every year the Plant Quarantine Department conducts its survey on plant health program. In this year, the Department of Plant Quarantine and Plant Protection Department conducted the P-tracker survey on plant health. The P-tracker that was donated by DoA - IPHP (by Dr. Bart, Director of IPHP and Chris Dale) was very useful, because P-tracker can facilitate: Data Collection, Data Consistency, Data Integrity, Mapping Capabilities, Surveillance Reporting, Data Analysis, Available Technology, Resource Considerations, Operational Efficiencies Provided as well as remote microscope at plant quarantine laboratory.

There are several weaknesses in regards to the Plant Protection, such as: lack of human resources, lack of infrastructure and lack of regulations about plant protection in Timor-Leste. The limited number of qualified personnel is a serious problem for this sector.

Another issue related to the plant protection services in Timor-Leste is that the country has not yet become a member of the ASEAN NAPPO. However, it is allowed to participate in some organizational activities to enable Timor-Leste to learn and prepare itself before it becomes a full member of the ASEAN in the coming years.

The constraints faced by the Department of Plant Protection are: the absence of regulation on plant protection, lack of appropriate human resources (plant pathologists, entomologists and botanists) and lack of infrastructure.

To improve the knowledge of farmers and staff, the Department of Plant Protection have conducted number of capacity building activities , such as training and workshops for village-level agricultural extension worker, and farmer groups to increase knowledge of pest management as the identification and control of pests, diseases and weeds, and also implementation of demonstration plots for pest control. In 2015, the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste will send five extension workers to conduct an integrated pest management course for 30 days at the University of Gadjah Mada in Yogyakarta, Indonesia.

4. Pest and Pesticide Management

The control of pests and diseases in plants are still relied on the application of chemical pesticides. The draft legislation about pesticides is still in discussion by the Government authorities. In addition, Timor-Leste also needs to ratify all treaties such as the Stockholm Convention (POP), the Montreal Protocol (Ozone depletion Materials), etc.

All kinds of chemical pesticides that are currently in use by farmers in Timor-Leste are imported, because Timor-Leste does not produce either chemical or organic pesticides. Any importation of chemical pesticides needs the authorization from the National Directorate of Agriculture and Horticulture (MAF). The Government of Timor-Leste always adopts the regulations of WHO in regards to the use of pesticides.

The types of chemical pesticides that are authorized to be imported into Timor-Leste are: Class I (high risk), II (medium risk), and III (low risk), such as pesticides under the class of Carbamat, Carbofuran, Carbaril. However, due to lack of personnel in the field, the control of the movement of pesticides into the country is weak, causing in many cases, the importation of unauthorized pesticides into the country.

Since 2013, the Import Permit of Pesticides was issued, and although there has not been any legislation on pesticides, but in reality the Import Permit has been applying for importing pesticides. Any types of imported pesticides are still valid, and are not banned internationally. It is due the imported pesticides would be officially registered in the country of origin. In regards to improve farmers' knowledge about the use of pesticide and its management, we conducted dissemination of information through trainings and seminars.

5. Other Information

From August 2015 to August 2016, the Departments of Plant Quarantine and Plant Protection will conduct monitoring on exotic fruit flies pests on imported fruit in Dili, the capital of Timor-Leste.

Nine sites have been identified as posing the greatest risk for the establishment of exotic fruit flies in Timor-Leste. All of these are in the capital city, Dili, which receives the bulk of fruit and vegetable imports. These sites include areas where imported fruits and vegetables arrive (Dili seaport, Dili airport), are stored (the Lita, W-Four, Leader and Kmanek Warehouses), sold (Lita and W-Four supermarkets) or disposed of (Tibar rubbish dump). We put 4 types of attractant materials of fruit flies, namely: Methyl Eugenol (ME), Cuelure (CUE), Trimedlure (TMD) and Protein hydrolysate (PH). The results of the fruit flies' traps will be identified and compared with the results of every year's survey to know the interception of exotic fruit flies of quarantine insect pests that may be carried through this imported fruit. This activity is done with the help and co-operation between the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF) of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste and the International Plant Health Program-Department of Agriculture of Australia (IPHP-DoA Australia). Australian Entomologist will assist Timor-Leste's scientist to identify the exotic fruit flies pests.

In mid-May 2015, Plant Quarantine Department of the National Directorate of Quarantine and Bio-security of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries of Timor-Leste had an informal meeting with the Agriculture Quarantine Agency Class 1 Kupang, Indonesia. Both countries agreed to formulate joint survey activities against the pest fruit flies and some pests, diseases and weeds category of quarantine in the border region of both countries. The joint survey activities will be carried out after both countries have agreed through a MoU for cooperation, which will be discussed by both States at the government level.

NB: A power point presentation will be prepared for the meeting.