

---

### **Message from Desk of APPPC Executive Secretary**

Dear Colleagues

It third quarter now and several progress has be achieved by the APPPC Secretariat. The information exchange activities is moving forward but we still needs more feedback from the Official Contact Points. Regional training on IPPC National Reporting Obligations and use of information exchange portal had been conducted in China on 5-9 September 2016. The regional workshop provide the awareness and advocacy for continuous reporting and enhance the benefits gain from the reporting in facilitating trade. Reporting in the single portal will reduce the burden in notification every single trading countries since the CPM endorsed this reporting have fulfill the obligation.

The 17<sup>th</sup> regional workshop on review of Draft ISPMs held in Korea have resulted in substantial comments from our region to improve the standards. This meeting organized and financed by the Government of Korea was very fruitful and leap our region as forefront among the RPPO in supporting IPPC activities. Next year, Korea again will become the leader in organizing CPM 12 and will be the first time held outside Rome. Congratulate Korea and we members of the APPPC fully support this endeavor.

Chemical pesticides often lead to severe contamination to the ecosystem with its little immediate benefit to control pests. Realizing these discriminate effects of chemical and lack of regulations and procedures in registration of bio-pesticides, APPPC with the Ministry of Agriculture, China have organized the regional training workshop on registration of bio-pesticides. This workshop expose participants on the data requirement for registration such as efficacy tests and toxicology, identified gaps and challenges and gather information from participating Asia countries to harmonize them for possible standardized registration process.

Sampling of consignments for inspection or testing in the laboratory play a major role in ensuring the agriculture produces are free from pests of concern to the importing countries. There are many issues and challenges in implementing this ISPM 31 but sharing of information between the APPPC participating countries have reduce some of these issues. The sampling of produces in different packaging could adopt statistical and non-statistical sampling methods based on the risk analysis from the importing countries. Plant materials for planting may be considered high risk for most countries because of their direct contact to the plants in the field and should implement statistical sampling methods.

The 10<sup>th</sup> Banana Asia Pacific Network Steering Committee meeting which was attended by FAO RAP in Guangzhou, China has raise the awareness on this devastated disease. Presently, eight countries in the Asia Pacific have been reported to be infested with the panama disease TR4. However, the disease might have spread to other neighboring countries since unofficial report have observed symptom in the field. There are potential technologies available to control this disease but more work have to be conducted in transferring the technologies to smallholders which constitute about 75% of the banana farmers in the region.

Best Regards

Dr. Piao Yongfan  
Senior Plant Protection  
Cum APPPC Executive Secretary

### **Information Exchange Activities of the Third Quarter 2016**

The information exchange activities have been active for over 10 years and most of the contracting parties have nominated their Official Contact Points (OCP) and appointed editor(s) for updating country's information in the International Phytosanitary Portal (IPP). However, the login statistics for Asia Pacific have indicated that 40 percent of OCP and 33 percent editors have not logged in in 2015 and out of these 8 percent OCP and 25 percent editors respectively have never logged in the IPP since they have been registered.

The information exchange through the IPP is an important platform for contracting parties to meet their reporting obligations. If the information is up-to-date in the IPP, this will lead to ease of trading in the agriculture sectors especially information on entry points, regulation, rationale of phytosanitary measures and pest reporting. The updated OCP, description of NPPO and organizational arrangement of plant protection activities will provide the avenue for the exporting country to negotiate if non-compliances are intercepted in the importing countries.

The APPPC information exchange activities through our own website have progressed slowly. We need to encourage more APPPC members to upload and update their country's plant protection activities and return the 3 templates as agreed in the Bali meeting. So far there is little progress, although we have requested participants of the regional workshop on IPPC NRO and use of information exchange portal to submit them. Hopefully the awareness and advocacy the participants were exposed to, during the regional workshop will create the initiative to complete the templates.

### **APPPC Capacity Building Activities Achievement July – September 2016**

#### **The 17TH APPPC Regional Workshop on Review of Draft ISPM.**

The 17<sup>th</sup> APPPC regional workshop on the review of draft ISPMs was held at Suwon-si, Gyeonggi-do, Republic of Korea on 25-29 July 2016. The opening remarks were given by Dr Bong-Kyun Park, Commissioner of the Animal and Plant Quarantine Agency and the workshop participants were updated on CPM matters by Dr Kyu Ock Yim, previous CPM Chairperson. 36 experts from 18 countries attended the workshop.

The workshop started by discussing the first three ISPMs. They are amendments to ISPM 5 (Glossary of phytosanitary terms); national surveillance systems (2009-004) (ISPM 6 rev) and requirements for the use of temperature treatments as a phytosanitary measure. A considerable number of comments were provided by participants.

Discussion on the standards that have undergone second and third round of consultations such as the draft ISPMs on International movement of wood, Appendix 1 to ISPM 20, Arrangements for the verification of compliance of consignments by the importing country in the exporting country;

international movement of vehicles, machinery and equipment; international movement of seed; and international movement of growing media in association with plants for planting. These discussions were wide ranging and Japan participant questioned the application of the standard on the movement of vehicles to new machinery.

The meeting participants also discuss a number of IPPC issues such as development on sea container in which New Zealand informed that there will probably an establishment of a Task Force to manage the complementary activities. In addition, China presented a review of sea container interceptions and recommend that the international movement of empty sea containers should be facilitated by the use of phytosanitary certificates. Other issues discussed included: an update on ePhyto project, the Implementation Review and Support System, the International Year of Plant Health, the surveillance programme, delivering diagnostic services, development on the guidelines for the management of plant and plant products carried by passengers and through post from abroad, the highlights of the activities of the APPPC, and emerging issues on plant health in the region. This last topic brought up many interesting points from issues related to brown plant hopper, *Xylella* and coffee rust.

Mr Suhyon Rho, Director-General of the Animal and Plant Quarantine Agency close the workshop and participants thank Korea for the hosting and finance the meeting. Mr Rho also asked the meeting participants to support Korea in its planning to hold CPM 12 in Incheon in April 2017.

### Regional Training Workshop on Registration of Bio-Pesticides

Regulatory management of bio-pesticides through registration is one of essential component for the sustainable development of these pesticides. In order to help countries improve capacity of bio-pesticide, the APPPC in collaboration with Chinese Ministry of Agriculture through Institute for Control of Agrochemicals (ICAMA), China, have organized a regional training workshop on registration of bio-pesticides, which was convened from 15-19 August in Wuhan, China. The workshop aimed at enhancement bio-pesticide regulatory management in the Asian countries through knowledge improvements and registrations capability by providing registration operational references and practical experiences in this field. More than twenty participants from Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, DPRK, India, Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste, Thailand and Pacific Islands participated in the workshop.

The workshop provided an opportunity to exchange the updated information on bio-pesticide registration in each participating countries through country report. These reports enabled participants to better understand the progressive developments, existing gaps and constraints. It was observed that there is a lack of specified registration regulations for bio-pesticides in many countries and some regulations are not timely updated. The country capacities in management of bio-pesticides is dynamic with data requirements and registration procedures are diverse from country to country.

During the workshop eight experts from China kindly shared their experiences and technical knowledge with participating countries by facilitating in various sections of the workshop. Operational stepwise procedures with the main elements of registration data requirements (chemistry data, toxicological data, residue data and environmental data), drafting protocols for efficacy test of bio-

pesticides, which are currently applying in the country, were shared in details at various sessions. It is hoped that such approach will be value added to the promotion of realistic regulatory management of bio-pesticides in the region in addition to the existing various guidelines. Group discussion on several technical areas (i.e. as data requirement, bio-efficacy tests) identified the essential elements of the requirements.

In the workshop discussion to enhance the usage of bio-pesticides, the way forward is to harmonize data requirements for the registration through collaboration, sharing resources and information exchanges. This will accelerate participating countries' bio-pesticide registration and management system that are more effective, efficient and transparent. It is hoped that the enhancement of capacity in regulatory management of bio-pesticides may contribute to the sustainable development of bio-pesticides with its ecofriendly nature, constructive public support policies, increasing public awareness and the significant roles in integrated pest management in participating countries in the region.



### Regional Consultation on Methodologies for Sampling of Consignments (ISPM 31)

The APPPC Regional Workshop on Methodologies for Sampling of Consignments (ISPM No. 31) was convened in Bekasi, Indonesia from 22-26 August 2016 in collaboration with the Indonesian Agricultural Quarantine Agency (IAQA), Ministry of Agriculture, with participation of more than 35 delegates from 20 countries (including 11 local participants). The main objective of the workshop is to strengthen capacity of participating NPPOs in selecting the appropriate sampling methodologies for inspecting or testing of consignments. The country reports presented have provides the updated on the current status of implementation of ISPM 31 in the respective countries. It enabled participants to better understand a number of practical sampling methodologies implement by each country at present, as well as identifying similarity, difference, gaps and constraints in the implementation. The workshop also create the awareness and increase the knowledge of sampling methodologies and its important roles in phytosanitary regulatory system. It is expected that participants from this workshop could becomes the potential master trainers for ISPM 31 in their respective country. They were also encouraged to share the information with their country fellows/colleagues since the understanding of this ISPM by all plant quarantine officers will greatly reduce the non-compliance of the export commodities and facilitate the trade. The importing countries will also benefit from this knowledge, when there will be a reduction in pest incursion that contributes to the overall food security.



## Regional Training on National Reporting Obligation (NRO) for Asia countries 5-9 September 2016, Beijing, China

CPM 11 adopted the General and Specific IPPC National Reporting Obligation Procedures and developed a new NRO work plan until 2023 base on the recommendation and input from the NRO Advisory Group (NROAG). The NROs are information provided by the contracting parties in ensuring a minimum amount of official phytosanitary information are available to other contracting parties for safe trade, safeguarding food security and protecting the environment from pests of plant and plant products. To facilitate this fulfilment, IPPC Secretariat have taken the step in providing a new NRO manual, education material and update the IPP website for easy and flexible data entry. The workshop is organized to update on the new global NRO framework, addressing the request from the contracting parties in ensuring NRO activities are taken, identifying NRO challenges, establishment of national NRO work plan and sensitizing APPPC members to IPPC awareness raising and advocacy needs. Twenty five participants attend the training workshop from 16 countries and experts from FAO Rome and Bangkok.

The workshop introduce the IPP website and registration of Official Contact Points (OCP) and editors to perform the uploading and editing of their country's information. The public information is mandatory to be provided by each contracting parties and bilateral are optional for contracting parties to share with others. The hands-on training on data entry of the IPP was conducted with all the participants based on the reference "The guide to National Reporting Obligation for IPPC Contact Points and IPP editors". Each of them have the change to upload some of the information they have prepared prior to the workshop. In addition to the hands-on training, the IPPC secretariat have also developed four e-learning modules to further enhance the capacity for the OCPs and editors in uploading and editing their respective homepage.

There two main discussion in the workshop related to the improvement of the website for searching, uploading and editing and the other discussion focus on issues, constraints and challenges in fulfilling the NROs. Several suggestion have been made for the improvement of the websites and these feedback is listed in the report for further action by the IPPC Secretariat. In the issues, constraints and challenges discussion, several major constraints has been listed. Several approaches have been suggested including build-up of national networking for collection and collation of data, regular meeting between stakeholders and conduct in country NRO awareness programmes. It was agreed that the NRO e-learning modules could be used as inter-sessional leaning for participants and initial leaning material for other officials in each country.



### The 10<sup>th</sup> Banana Asia Pacific Network (BAPNET) Steering Committee Meeting

The above meeting was held at Yanling Hotel, Tianhe Guangzhou, Guangdong, China and attended by 28 participants from 15 Countries, 2 Research Institutions and 3 International Agencies. The meeting aim is to discuss on the research progress, status and management of Foc TR4. There are 13 papers presented in the meeting with two presentations related to the experience in the management of Foc in Africa and Costa Rica respectively. The meeting conclude that bananas is very important source of food for AP Countries, most trade fruit nationally and internationally, AP is the center for *Musa* diversity and pests and diseases are the major constraints in the production. There is needs to collaborate among AP countries in improving regional research to address common problems and enhance technologies transfer to mitigate the infestation of Foc TR4. The disease have been reported in the 90's in Asia and until now no international organization have assisted the infested countries in mitigating the diseases. The total area of banana in AP is around 2.2 million hectares involving 7.0 million small farmers.

The status of TR4 in AP countries shows that the disease have spread to India and Vietnam but the incidence is reported in limited location. In China, the disease has spread from Guangdong provinces to 4 neighboring provinces i.e. Hainan, Guangxi, Yunnan and Fujian and cause severe losses to about 40,000 hectares. The status of TR4 was not known in Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh. However, Myanmar, Laos and Sri Lanka banana farms may have been infested with TR4 from unconfirmed report. The research and development for mitigation of TR4 have resulted in tremendous achievements in China and Taiwan but the results have not been transfer to the other

infested countries in AP. The meeting request FAO to consider developing projects to assist countries such as Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh and the pacific islands to build capacity in the diagnostic of the disease and assist in developing surveillance system in determining the status of the disease in their country according to international standard. The participating countries such as Thailand and Vietnam have request FAO technical assistant for the implementation of this detection surveillance in their country and also neighboring such as Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar to determine the status of TR4 and also Foc Race 1 and 2. They are worry about the present of TR4 that will affect the banana industry. The present of Foc Race 1 in Thailand has also caused severe losses in the local banana cultivars. The pacific islands also request FAO to include them if there is capacity building workshop on the diagnosis of TR4 and other diseases on banana.



### **UP Coming Capacity Building Activities (October – December 2016)**

#### **Workshop on Mitigation of South American Leaf Blight (SALB) of Rubber in The Asia-Pacific Region-Present and Future in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in 17 -21 October 2016**

South American Leaf Blight (SALB) still remained as greatest concern of rubber producing countries in this region. Several workshops have been conducted since 2007 after the pest risk analysis of this pest being adopted in Beijing, China. Previous workshop that were conducted have been focused on pest risk analysis, compilation on information of SALB, emergency action plan, development of training module and materials, surveillance protocol and promotional items for public awareness. A series of training have been proposed to enhance capabilities of diagnostics staff in identification of this quarantine concerned pest.

Pursuant to the decision of the 29th sessions of the Asia Pacific Plant Protection Commission meeting that was held in Bali, Indonesia in September 2015 that a workshop to discuss future plan on continuous protection of this region from SALB should be held to update progress made by each rubber growing countries on protection against SALB including rubber pest and disease surveillance activities. This workshop also will act as a platform to discuss plan on how to move forward since future diagnostics training in infested area is not possible. This workshop will also focus on developing standard operating procedure to ensure this region is SALB pest free area.

The overall objective of the workshop is to discuss the future plans on the protection of SALB in the APPPC region, with the following specific objectives: i) To update information and progress of SALB related programme in the rubber growing countries; ii) To report on the status of rubber pest and disease surveillance in the Asia and Pacific rubber growing countries; iii) To update progress on capacity building and public awareness program on SALB in the Asia and Pacific rubber growing countries; and iv) To gain deep understanding on requirements of establishing pest free area and recognition of pest free area.