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

Dear Colleagues

It end of the year and several progress have been achieved by the secretariat and several more activities for the next three months. The information exchange activities is still moving forward slowly although we have NRO training in Beijing China in September 2016. The NRO IPPC report indicate that only 3 additional report on pest reporting on October. However, we are glade that 12 countries out of 25 countries in the Asia and the Pacific have upload pest reporting. So far, 50 reports are recorded in the IPP. Although the number is encouraging but we still needs feedback from the Official Contact Points on how we could increase our reporting in the IPP and APPPC website.

The APPPC secretariat have contribute many resources for at least 3 decade on SALB to protect the rubber industry in the region. Presently, it were reported that more non-rubber products are imported from the SALB endemic countries in the American tropic that increased the potential of SALB incursion. The meeting in Kuala Lumpur indicate a few interception of SALB spore. However, due to lack of expertise on the diagnostic including capability in molecular analysis, the interception is not confirm although morphological structure look similar under the microscope. Thus, there is a need for the rubber growing countries to work closely to developed molecular protocol for SALB and APPPC is planning to have a diagnostic training in Guatemala in early 2017 to support this activity.

The exchange of electronic phytosanitary certificate will facilitate trade through fasten the process time, reduce cost and minimized forgery. APPPC have established an e-Phyto working group lead by Australia and working closely with the IPPC to have piloting project involving Sri Lanka and Samoa by end of 2017. The Generic e-Phyto National System (GeNS) developed in these two countries will benefit other countries in this region. Similarly, the Global Hub for exchange of electronic phytosanitary certificate could expedite the exchange of the cert without the need to negotiate bilaterally.

I wish all members of the APPPC a happy prosperous new year and successful endeavor in 2017

Best Regards

Dr. Piao Yongfan  
Senior Plant Protection  
Cum APPPC Executive Secretary

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

The information exchange through the International Phytosanitary Portal (IPP) is the obligation agreed in various CPMs and much activities of IPPC have been conducted to promote this activity among the contracting parties. Updating the country website is the responsibility of the Official Contact point (OCP) and OCP nominated editors. Thus it is important for the OCP and nominated editors to allocate enough time from their busy schedule in updating the IPP especially information of official pest reporting, pest status and implementation of ISPM 15. The sharing of non-compliance could be made public through the portal or bilaterally. However, sharing in public should not mention the identity of the non-complier. The update on others national reporting obligation may not needs to be frequent as this information will only changes when OCP retired or promoted, organizational restructure change etc. Besides IPP, the APPPC members also required to update their country's website on activities of Plant Quarantine, Plant Protection, Pest Management and Pesticide Management. This sharing of information among APPPC members will provide one-stop center for dissemination of information to other members.

The progress in sharing information in the APPPC website is still slow and only few countries have update their activities. In the Beijing workshop on NRO, we have agreed to a work plan and the APPPC secretariat would like to encourage more update in the coming months. Sharing of information is an important component in facilitating trade among members. Usually by not sharing any new pest incursion will eventually be detected by trading partners through other mean and may cause serious impacts on trade compare to early reporting with mitigation measures in place. The secretariat hope to see more progress is made on the uploading various activities in the APPPC portal in the coming 2017

### **APPPC Capacity Building Activities Achievement 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**

The possible incursion of South American Leaf Blight (SALB) into the Asia Rubber growing countries is becoming greater since more trading is expected to occur between Asia and the American Tropic especially on non-rubber products. To mitigate the pathways, several workshops have been conducted since 2007 after the pest risk analysis of this pest being adopted in Beijing, China. Previous workshops were more focused on building mitigating capacity on import procedure to prevent the incursion but the latest one in Kuala Lumpur was more focus on mitigating SALB in the export countries such as negotiation of importation from pest free production areas or pest free production site due to the non-rubber products contaminated with SALB spore could be the potential pathway with the SALB suspected spore interception of in these products. However, due to our diagnostic capacity is lacking, the spore could not be confirm with DNA tests or morphology study although its look similar to SALB under the microscope.

The workshop discuss on the possible application of the ISPM 4: Requirements for the Establishment of Pest Free Areas and ISPM 29: Recognition of Pest Free Areas and Areas of Low Pest Prevalence to mitigate SALB in the exporting countries. This discussion could be the initial stage for rubber growing countries in Asia to amend their import requirements for non-rubber products from the American Tropic. In addressing the issue of lack diagnostic capability, the workshop recommend that a diagnostic training will be conducted in Guatemala in 2017 with the help of Malaysian Rubber Board and work together closely in developing the DNA protocol to detect SALB spores in non-rubber products import into the region. The participants also report on their progress in promoting awareness and advocacy on SALB and their work plan to prevent SALB incursion into the region.



SALB participants group photo in Kuala Lumpur Malaysia

### **Up Coming Capacity Building Activities (January – March 2017)**

#### **APPPC/FAO workshop in empowering farmers through FFS IPM [Training] in support of sustainable intensification of crop production within context of Climate Changes**

The meeting will be held in Kathmandu Nepal from 27 February to 2 March 2017 and one participant will be invited from Bangladesh, Cambodia, China India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam. The objective of the workshop are:

- 1) To review on the update of the development in farmer empowerment approaches with Integrated Pest Management Farmer Field School (IPM FFS) in the member countries
- 2) To share lesson learn from country practices on IPM
- 3) To improve country capacity in the facilitation of participatory approach by empowering farmers to contribute to sustainable crop production
- 4) To strengthen implementation of IPM FFS with innovation sustainability institutionalization, local relevance, effectiveness and ownership
- 5) To developed the follow up strategies to support IPM continuation for Sustainable Crop Production Intensification (SCPI) under save and grow policy
- 6) To document successful cases of IPM for SCPI under the FAO's save and grow policy to technology extension

The major workshop outputs will document country update on the status of IPM for SCPI under Save and Grow in the APPPC member countries, develop strategies to support IPM development and application for SCPI under save and grow policy and within the context of climate changes mitigation and adaption in APPPC members and finally document success cases of empowering farmer through IPM FFS training.

#### **Status on the RSPM of Guidelines for the Application of Hot Water Immersion Treatment of Mango for Fruit fly**

The development of the proposed new RSPM on Hot Water Immersion Treatment on Mango lead by Pakistan, Thailand and Australia is progressing well. The draft RSPM has been circulate for members to comments and provide additional input to ensure the regional standard meet the international requirements. Several comments have been received and the draft RSPM has also been assessed by the Expert Working Group. A few recommendations have given by the EWG to improve the draft. The work is still in progress and hopefully the RSPM could be presented during the 30th Session of the APPPC meeting in New Zealand at the end of 2017.

### Progress on e-Phyto in the Region

The implementation of e-SPS would undouble facilitate trade through reduce processing time, predictable and reduce forgery and most importantly, reduce cost of conducting business. The Asian workshop on Implementation of e-SPS Certification Systems was conducted in Bangkok, Thailand from 1-3 November 2016 and hosted by the United Nation's Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific (UNESCAP). Thirty One participants attend the workshop from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Viet Nam and facilitators from IPPC, STDF, CITES, FAO, Thailand and Philippines.

The resource persons share information on the importance of paperless systems and experiences in developing e-SPS systems including business process analysis, cost-benefit analysis and other requirements which support an effective implementation of the electronic certification. In the breakout session, the participating countries identified challenges and benefits in implementing national e-Phyto systems and suggests activities to support their country in moving for electronic data transfers in facilitating trade. All participating countries have initiate the development of national e-Phyto systems but their main challenge was the availability of financing to support development, implementation and in particular the long term sustainability of the system. In addressing this issue, APPPC in collaboration with Australia is developing a Generic e-Phyto National System (GeNS) with piloting in Sri Lanka and Samoa. The IPPC also develop the global hub to facilitate e-Cert exchange without the need to negotiate bilaterally. The hub and the GeNS are expected to 'go live' in late 2017.

### Brief News

#### Country based trainings on improvement of capacity in diagnostics and surveillance

Several regional and in-country training under the project symbol GCP/RAS/286/ROK have been organized in Myanmar, Cambodia, Thailand, Nepal and Vietnam to improve the capacity in diagnostic and surveillance activities of these countries respectively. These project activities was funded by Republic of Korea and FAO/APPPC as the implementing organization provide the technical backstopping. In the fourth quarter of 2016, two trainings on the implementation of ISPMs related to pest free production area and pest free production site was conducted in Nepal and another training was conducted in Vietnam on diagnostic of scale insects. The implement of this project will be completed in February 2017.

### Improving Capacity of Phytosanitary Inspection and Integrated Measures for International Movement of Seeds

FAO/APPPC have sign a new regional project with the government of Japan on seed health to improve the capacity of phytosanitary inspection and integrated measures for international movement of seeds. The main objective of the project is to minimize the potential incursion of quarantine pests through the importation and exportation of seeds. The project under the symbol GCP/RAS/297/JPN is under implementation in Thailand and Vietnam from November 2016 until December 2020.