
Message from Desk of APPPC Executive Secretary

Dear Colleagues

The first quarter of 2017 showed some changes to the IPP portal of IPPC and APPPC. It was known that the pest reporting have increase substantially in which 13 out of 25 member countries have published new or update the existing reports. There are 52 pest reports in the IPP and we should keep-up the momentum for the remaining 2017. The secretariat encourage Official Contact Points or his/her appointed editors regularly update in the IPP and APPPC website which is an important one stop information sharing between trading partners. We also urges member countries to take serious attention in updating the OCP, Plant Quarantine legislation, organization structure, rationale for phytosanitary requirement and entry points at least one month before it's effective change or implementation date.

The capacity development activities achieved during this quarter include the workshop on the progress of IPM Farmer Field School in Katmandu, Nepal and pesticide management in Jakarta Indonesia to assess the capacity of countries to comply with the code of conduct in pesticide management. IPM FFS have expanded to other sector such as food safety, small business, aquaculture etc. and have been institutionalized in several countries in Asia. On the other hands, pesticide management capacity development is still needed to ensure countries to comply with the code of conduct on pesticide management guidelines published by Codex.

In the brief new section, I have highlighted the potential outbreak of Yellow Spined Bamboo Locust in Lao PDR and Vietnam that can cause serious damage to cultivated crops. Although the major food for this locust is bamboo but during swarming the nymphs and adults ravages any crop on their pathways such as upland rice, corn, banana and pasture. Red Palm Weevil a new emerging species can cause severe losses to coconut industry in South and East Asia. If the infestation reaching 20%, the expected losses to the coconut industry will be around US\$ 2.5 billion yearly. The secretariat urges member countries to conduct surveillance on these pests and strengthen the control measures if the population is high enough to warrant once

Lastly, I wish all members of the APPPC a happy reading and hopefully to see some of you soon at the 12th pre-CPM consultative meeting in Incheon, Republic of Korea

Best Regards

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Senior Plant Protection
Cum APPPC Executive Secretary

Information Exchange Activities of the First Quarter 2017

The National Reporting Obligation is one of the main responsibility of Official Contact Point (OCP) in disseminating important changes to the current situation that may affect trade in agriculture to other contracting parties and non-contracting parties. It was very encouraging that all APPPC member countries has update their OCP for trading partners to contact in cases of non-compliance or negotiating new market access.

The IPPC is presently promoting all contracting parties to provide more effort in pest reporting as this information will facilitate trade or becomes disputable issues when trading partners knowing the incursion through publication or interception at entry points. In the first quarterly report on NRO by IPPC, they have indicated that pest reporting is the most active item to be update by contracting parties. In Asia, 13 countries out of 25 members countries have publish new and update 52 pest reporting during 1 April 2016 to 1 March 2017. Congratulate all the OCPs and their elected editors for the good work and hope the trend will continue for publishing new and update on the current pest reporting for the rest of this year.

Besides giving emphasis on pest reporting, the APPPC portal also required member countries 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. In the first quarter, only few countries have publish and update their APPPC portal on the above subjected.

APPPC Capacity Building Activities Achievement January-March 2017

APPPC Regional Workshop on Empowering Farmers through FFS-IPM Training in Support of Sustainable Intensification of Crop Production

The regional workshop was organized by the Standing Committee on IPM of the Asia and Pacific Plant Protection Commission (APPPC) and FAO of the United Nations in cooperation with the Plant Protection Directorate in Kathmandu.in Kathmandu, Nepal from 27 February to 2 March 2017. Thirty participants including 7 women from 13 Asian countries has attended the meeting. After the opening ceremony, each country presented their up-to-date development on the farmer empowerment activities through Farmer Field Schools (FFS) approaches and share their lessons-learned in implementing IPM FFS. Based on the presentation, it can be concluded that FFS has become the mainstream approach in developing farmer and community capacities in the discovery-based learning extension. FFS approach has been expended in various programmes such as food and nutrition security, health (plant, soil, human or environment) management, livestock, water management and climate adaptation.

The workshop also noted that FFS approach has been institutionalized and the networking are expanding in Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Nepal, Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam. In these countries more and more local communities, CSOs and GOs are also closely collaborating in the promotion of this ecological approaches through empowerment of farmers by

using the participatory approach which also contributes to the implementation of the *Save and Grow* strategy. In line with the expansion, FAO have published FFS guiding document which provides the framework and operational guidance to facilitators, trainers, supporters, policy makers and various other stakeholders in assisting the implementation of quality FFS.

During the field visit to successful IPM FFS groups in Kavre District of Nepal, participants were given the opportunity to observe farmer- lead experimental trials on soil and plant health associated with composts, botanical pesticides, entomophagous nematodes, balanced fertilization and various cultivations techniques. In ensuring the success of these IPM FFS groups, facilitators must play the key role at community level to provide guidance in implementing “field research” under the supervision of agriculture and plant protection officers.

The workshop ended with a plenary discussions on key issues such as defining follow-up strategies for IPM FFS development and innovation in supporting *Save and Grow* for sustainable intensification of crop production.



IPM –FFS training in Nepal group Photo

APPPC Standard Committee on Pesticide Management: Regional Workshop on Pesticide Information and Communication

This workshop was held in Jakarta Indonesia from 13 – 17 March 2017 to discuss on the pesticide international code of conduct on pesticide management and assess the challenges for country to comply with these management tools.



Group Photo on Regional Workshop on Pesticide Information and Communication

Up Coming APPPC Activities (April - June 2017)

APPPC Planning Working Group for 30th Commission and Standard Committee Meeting in Review RSPM

The biennial APPPC planning working group meeting will be organized back to back with the APPPC Standard Committee meeting on 8-12 May 2017 in Bangkok. The objectives of the APPPC Planning Working Group meeting and APPPC Standard Committee meeting are:

1. To update participants on the latest development of APPPC and IPPC activities
2. To review the implementation of the APPPC 2016-17 work programmes and cooperation programmes with regional organization and member countries to be in line with the proposed programmes
3. To develop operational plan for the remainder of the 2016-17 biennium and provide recommendations of the work plan for the 2018-19 biennium to be presented at the 30th Session of the APPPC for discussion and adoption
4. To discuss on the administrative matters related to the managing APPPC such as budget, assessed contribution by members, etc.
5. The Standard committee will review the proposed draft RSPM and provide the recommendation for further improvement or adoption at the next APPPC Session meeting

The meeting will be participate by countries representative who are Chair and Vice Chairs of the 29th Session, Chair of the four Standing Committees including experts of the APPPC Standard Committee. The expected out of the meeting will be:

1. The biennium APPPC action plan for remaining period of 2016-17 2.

2. The draft work plan proposal of APPPC biennium for 2018-19
3. The draft budget and assessed contribution level of each contracting country for 2018-19
4. The recommendation on the draft RSPM

APPPC pre-Commission of Phytosanitary Measures Consultation Meeting

The CPM 12 will be held from 5-9 March 2017 at Incheon, Republic of Korea. As usual the APPPC member countries are invited to attend the pre-CPM 12 meeting to discuss issues related to the agenda and come-out with a regional stand to some of the issues that will be raised during the CPM. At this year CPM, APPPC will also organized a side event to promote our regional plant protection organization and providing the forum to discuss progress, recommendation and challenges on the future direction of APPPC.

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

The proposed new RSPM on Hot Water Immersion Treatment on Mango lead by Pakistan, Thailand and Australia have been circulate for comments to members countries. A draft comments from the Expert Working Group have also been circulated in providing additional input to ensure the regional standard meet the international requirements. A few recommendations have been given by the EWG to improve the draft and those comments will be discussed at the APPPC Standard Committee meeting to be held in Bangkok 11 and 12 May 2017. The result of the APPPC Standard Committee on the RSPM could be presented during the 30th Session of the APPPC in New Zealand at the end of 2017.

Brief News

Potential Outbreak of Yellow Spined Bamboo Locust in Lao PDR and Vietnam

The potential outbreak of Yellow Spined Bamboo Locust (YSBL) are worrying the authority in Lao PDR. A sub-regional consultation meeting have been organized on 20 February 2017 to discuss the potential outbreak of YSBL and transboundary movement to Vietnam and Southern China. The meeting agreed that there is a gradual increased in the numbers of locust eggbeds in Lao PDR from 200 eggbeds detected in 2015/16 to 640 eggbeds in February 2017. In 2016, the swarming adult has infesting about 3,800 hectare cultivated crops mainly upland rice, corn, banana and animal pastures. Action have been taken to control this pest in 2016 by conducting control

campaign in the affected districts in the Northern Lao PDR. The campaign have showed impacts in preventing losses in cultivated areas but insignificant to contain the spread of the outbreak from 3 districts in 2015 to 23 districts in 2017.



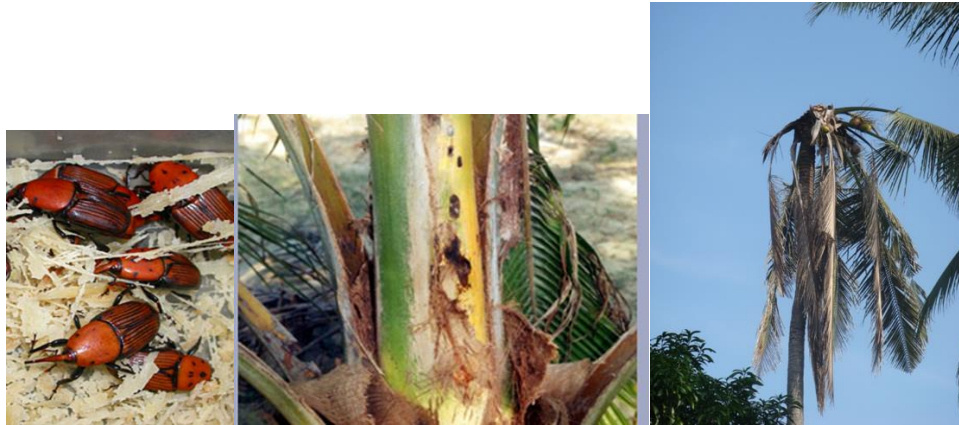
Aggregation of YSBL nymphs on Bamboo leaves before swarming

New Emerging Pest of Red Palm weevil in Asia

Red palm weevil *Rhynchophorus ferrugineus* (RPW) is considered as the most destructive insect pest of palms in the world. This pest move through trade is now widely distribution throughout the world and were reported to infest palms in Asia, Oceania, Northern Africa, Europe and the Caribbean. In South and East Asia, RPW has been recorded in 15 countries i.e. Bangladesh, Cambodia, China (Guangdong, Taiwan), Pakistan, India, Indonesia, Japan, Laos PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam. Coconut is the main economic crop infested by this pest in South and East Asia and with the statistic hectarage of 54 million hectares yielding 432 million tons and any infestation at the level of 20% will incurred losses of US\$ 2.5 billion a year. If date and ornamental palms are included, the losses could be around US\$ 3-5 billion yearly.

RPW often no visible symptom during the early infestation and make early detection difficult. When symptom of crown and fronds drooping is observed, the palms has been severely damage and no change of survival. Most farmers associate the dying of their palms are due to lightning strike and never associate the symptom with infestation by RPW. This lead to no control been taken by farmers and gradually killing all the palms either in the plantations or backyards.

Ferrugineol is the aggregation pheromone of *R. ferrugineus* and often use with food bait to monitor the population of RPW or mass trapping the adults. Mass trapping with the right density could suppress the population below the economic threshold level. Other control measures recommended are sanitation by destroying the severe infested palms and trunk injection, spraying or drenching with pesticides. Presently, there is no record showing bio-control are effective in controlling this pest. APPPC member countries are encourage to conduct status survey on this pest to ensure the present have not been under estimate.



Red palm weevil *Rhynchophorus ferrugineus* adult and symptoms

Interception workshop on seed health in Japan

FAO/APPPC and the government of Japan have organized an interception Workshop in Kobe, Japan to initiate the project on seed health in improving 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. Visit to seed Production Company was also conducted during the interception workshop.