

Report on the 30th APPPC session in New Zealand

The 30th APPPC session was convened in Rotorua, New Zealand on 20 – 24 November 2017 and attended by about 80 participants from 20 countries of the Asia and Pacific region. This event is organized by APPPC (FAO-RAP) in collaboration with New Zealand's Ministry of Primary Industries and Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade with support from the New Zealand agriculture industries. The meeting was officiated by Mr Bryan Wilson, Deputy Director-General of Ministry of Primary Industries, New Zealand. He welcomed all delegates to the South West Pacific and the Ministry for Primary Industries was very pleased to host the commission meeting for the first time in New Zealand. He also acknowledged the importance of APPPC mission in protecting plant, human, the environment health and facilitation of trade leading to sustainable agriculture industry growth. Dr. Piao Yongfan on behalf of Ms. Kundhavi Kadiresan, FAO Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for Asia and Pacific, expressed his sincere thanks to the government of New Zealand in hosting the event, APPPC member countries as well as observers, International and National Organizations and Agriculture Industries for their commitment to the APPPC programme which is in its 61st year. Dr Piao also reiterated that he was expected that there will be a number of priority recommendations made during the meeting since plant protection is one of the priority to the region in achieving sustainable development of agriculture and eradication of hunger.

The meeting was chaired by New Zealand with 18 agenda items were discussed throughout the meeting including field visit to the kiwi orchard, research institute and packinghouse. In presenting the progress on the work plan approved in 29th APPPC session, the executive secretary informed that out of 15 activities approved, 14 activities have implemented and one activity will be organized jointly with IPPC on global symposium on ePhyto in January 2018. A total of 19 workshops/trainings were organized in this biennial. The participants of the session considered that those activities benefited member countries significantly in improvement of capacity of NPPOs in phytosanitary measures especially implementation of ISPM6, 32, 14, 28, etc. as well as active participatory inputs to the development of international and regional phytosanitary standards. In addition it also contributed to improvement of country capacity in pesticide regulatory management and risk reduction through trainings, expert consultations and technical assistance by field projects, while promoting ecological approaches through IPM FFS and save and grow approaches. Meanwhile, 20 countries had present their organization changes, implementation of activities and issues and challenges in 2015-2017. Among the challenges reported are: (1) emerging of new pests that need to be addressed including incursion of invasive species; (2) development of new regulations in line with the international standard required decade to be enacted due to difficult to convince the higher authority; (3) expertise in implementing international standard is still limited; and (4) automation of national issuance of phytosanitary certificate is lacking to accommodate exchange of eCert in facilitation of trade. The participants were informed that New Zealand endorsed the amended Agreement (two sets of amendments in 1999) on 31 August 2017. APPPC member countries have contributed substantial update of their National Reporting Obligations (NROs) in which 13 countries and 55 reporting was upload for pest reporting and 17 countries with 115 reporting for the phytosanitary regulation respectively. In addition, 17 member countries have also upload their description of the NPPO pages in 2017. The APPPC secretariat also publish 7 quarterly newsletters. It was agreed that in strengthening the information exchange between APPPC member countries, OCPs should take serious effort in updating the APPPC country's webpages, complete the templates distributed by SCs, organized a regional APPPC website hands-on workshop and members to provide news on their country activities

on plant protection, plant quarantine, pest management and pesticide management for every 6 months to be included in the newsletter.

The proposed new RSPM on hot water immersion treatment for fruit fly of mango was presented by the APPPC chairman of the standard committee which outlines the content and an annex on the treatment that will be formulated after receiving the Thailand research finding. Based on the presentation, the APPPC member countries have adopted the new RSPM with the annex from Thailand to be adopted inter-sessionally or in the next Commission meeting.

The work plan of 2018-2019 biennium was discussed in depth by three breakout groups of SC on Plant Quarantine, Pest Management and Pesticide Management in reviewing the proposal from the planning meeting, which was held on May 2017. As a result there were 19 activities suggested. The work plan and the budget for activities with the total of U\$580,000 for the 2018-2019 biennium have been adopted by the Session. Upon discussion on the APPPC budget, it was noted that some balance from the current biennium would be carried over to the 2018-2019 due to saving from activities that were funded by FAO, IPPC, International agencies and member countries. It was also agreed that the assessed contribution by member countries will be increased by 5% from the current contribution level.

In the special session on commodity standard on seed movement several presentations on benefits and challenges of commodity standard, NPPO viewpoints, industry perspective and exploring solutions from the seed industry players. There are several issues raised such as traceability on the origin of the seeds where seeds propagation unknown and exported from different countries which did not indicate the country of propagation in phytosanitary certificate, the difficulty in conducting pest risk analysis with limited pest list provided, government over regulated on seeds movement and different importing requirements between countries as indicated by the industry. The meeting agreed to develop RSPM on seeds to address some of these issues.

A number of suggestions and recommendations were made by participants, which have been fully reflected in the work plan for 2018-2019.

Finally the meeting agreed that the 31st APPPC session will be held in Thailand in November 2019. However the exact time and place will be decided later.



Participants of the 30th APPPC Session in Rotorua, New Zealand