CAREC Regional Workshop on Modernizing Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

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Plant Health Break-out Session

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Establishing a National Pest List

Why is this so important?

- To meet requests for information from potential trading partners for negotiating market access agreements through a Pest Risk Analysis (PRA) on the exported commodity
- To establish phytosanitary regulations to prevent the entry, establishment or spread of a pest

Besides the Pest List – trading partners may also request information on the crop, crop distribution and ecology, variety, botanical description, production area, production, harvesting, exportation

Pest Records

Pest records are used with other information to determine the status of a given pest in an area

Pests associated with a specific crop: e.g. Arthropods, Pathogens, Weeds

Scientific References:

Identifying sources for the Pest List Database

- National pest surveillance programme
- CAB International Crop Protection Compendium
- European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (EPPO) - Distribution Maps of Plant Disease
- Scientific journals, etc.

Issues that need to be noted for pest lists

- Do you have robust plant health legislation?
- Do plant health officers have the authority to enforce the legislation?
- Is there a designated contact point for the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)?
- Do pest surveillance, Pest Risk Analysis, border detection methodologies meet International Plant Protection Convention standards, or are they based on older methodologies?
- Does pest list data base align with pest categories established by European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (EPPO), for example?
- Are there designated government department responsibilities for the general management of the phytosanitary situation compared with just plant protection?
- Is support needed for pest surveillance and data collection – training, equipment, etc.?
- Are there good records for pest distribution in your country?

Import Requirements

The objectives of a Pest Risk Analysis are to identify pests and/or pathways of quarantine concern, and evaluate their risk

Once specific issues are identified, then need to identify risk management options

These could include:

- Identifying higher-risk consignments at the border
- Ensuring inspectors have good knowledge of the targeted quarantine pests
- Understanding all entry pathways that quarantine pests may enter the country on

Border risk-based Inspections

- Need to apply a risk-based approach when inspecting imported consignments of plant products
- Low-risk plant categories may only need a document check
- A risk-based approach to import inspections would enhance the country's integration into international trade of plant products as it meets both the WTO-SPS agreement requirements of facilitating international and regional trade

Issues that need to be noted for plant imports

- Do border inspectors have adequate facilities, equipment, Standard Operating Procedures, etc., to support their inspections?
- Are border inspectors using a risk-based approach for their inspections?
- Do inspectors use the correct sampling regimes, and ensure safe transportation of the sample to the laboratory?
- Is there a post-entry quarantine facility option for the higher-risk plant products?
- Is pest diagnostic laboratory capacity at a level where other country quarantine pests can be identified – facilities, equipment, data management system, etc.?

Key Recommendations

- Requirements for the establishment of Pest Free Areas (ISPM 4)

Inspectors involved in Pest Free Area work need to have a good understanding of the systems to establish freedom and how to conduct checks to verify that pest freedom has been maintained

- Glossary of Phytosanitary Terms (ISPM 5)

All National Plant Protection Organisation staff need to be trained and tested on their understanding of phytosanitary terminology

- Guidelines for Surveillance (ISPM 6)

Inspectors involved in surveillance must have the skill set for producing a survey plan, undertaking correct sampling and ensuring a robust record-keeping system

- Phytosanitary Certification System (ISPM 7)

Inspectors need to be trained so that export phytosanitary certificates meet the certification requirements of the importing country

Key Recommendations

- Pest Risk Analysis for quarantine pests (ISPM 11)

There needs to be a team that is sufficiently trained in the steps for determining if a pest is a quarantine pest or not

- Phytosanitary Certificates (ISPM 12)

Inspectors need to be trained in the phytosanitary certification process, including detection of invalid and fraudulent certificates

- Regulation of Wood Packaging Material in International Trade (ISPM 15)

If wooden packaging material (e.g. pallets) are being assembled locally for the export trade, they need to be fumigated or heat treated by registered treatment providers to IPPC standards, and that these companies audited by the National Plant Protection Organisation

- Guidelines for Inspection (ISPM 23)

Import inspectors need to have training where they are confident in understanding correct document check procedures, sampling regimes, etc.

Key Recommendations

- Guidelines for Diagnostic Protocols for Regulated Pests (ISPM 27)

If your regulated pests are on the diagnostic protocols listed, check that the laboratory is able to meet the pest identification criteria listed

- Categorization of Commodities according to their pest risk (ISPM 32)

Follow the risk-based categorization of imported plant commodities so higher risk products get a higher inspection level, and lower-risk commodities can just have a document check

- National Regulated Pest Lists

The national regulated pest list needs to be updated through passive survey literature and active pest surveillance of crops, focusing on those crops for the export market. A pest data base needs to be built, starting with a simpler system if a purpose-built database system is not available.