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# **REPORT of the 25<sup>th</sup> General Assembly**

## **Hotel Falaise, Douala Cameroon; May 8-9, 2013.**

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**AU-IAPSC**



**25<sup>th</sup> GA-Group Photo**

**May, 2013**

**Ydé**

## Contents

Pages

1	Introduction	3
2	Opening ceremony	3
3	Election of the bureau	4
4	Agenda	4
5	Presentations	4
5.1	Key note: Plant Protection for intensive Crops production and Market Access	4
5.2	Recommendations of the IAPSC's 7 <sup>th</sup> Steering Committee	4
5.3	Update of the structure of IAPSC	5
5.4	Report of 2011-2012 activities of IAPSC	5
5.5	Program activities 2013-2014 of IAPSC	6
5.6	The situation of crop protection and plant quarantine services in ECCAS	7
5.7	The situation of crop protection and plant quarantine services in the Republic of South Africa	7
5.8	The situation of crop protection and plant quarantine services in Côte d'Ivoire	7
5.9	The situation of crop protection and plant quarantine services in Cameroon	7
5.10	The situation of crop protection and plant quarantine services in Tunisia	8
5.11	The situation of crop protection and plant quarantine services in Ethiopia	8
5.12	Malawi initiatives to strengthen phytosanitary capacity.	8
5.13	Plantwise	8
5.14	Crop protection situation analysis for Africa.	9
6	Groups work	9
7	Discussion and recommendations	10
8	Closing ceremony	12

## **1. Introduction**

The 25<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the Inter-African Phytosanitary Council (IAPSC) took place at the Hotel la Falaise in Douala, Cameroon on May 8-9, 2013. It was preceded by the 7<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee which was held on May 6, 2013. This meeting is biennial so was held after that of 2011. It saw the participation of forty six persons of which twenty-five delegates were from the AU Member States, experts and representatives of other specialized technical offices like IAPSC (Annex2).

## **2. Opening ceremony**

The opening ceremony was marked by two short speeches:

- The welcome address of the Director of IAPSC and
- The opening Speech of the Director of NPPO Cameroon, representative of the Honorable Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development.

During his address, the Director of IAPSC, Dr. Jean Gérard MEZUI M'ELLA, thanked the Representative of the Cameroon Honorable Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development for having accepted to honor with his presence the meeting, despite his many requests. He also welcomed participants and indicated that plant protection and quarantine issues are major concerns of member states. Thus the theme of the 25<sup>th</sup> General Assembly: "Plant protection for intensive crops production and market access". He added that this theme was the fruit of a meticulous choice after a series of consultations with IAPSC's partners on the situation which prevails on the ground. Finally he wished that, participants to this meeting should examine plant protection and quarantine issues and adapt policies and practices that will increase plant production and productivity and enhance market access of plants and plant products.

Mr. Syxtus Thomas NUZA, Director, Department of Regulation and Quality Control of Agricultural Products and Inputs; Representative of the honourable Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of Cameroon took the floor to thank participants and the Director of IAPSC and expressed the recognition of Cameroon to IAPSC for its engagement to find solutions to plant health problems of the continent. He moreover pointed out the paramount role of IAPSC in the improvement of the quality of agricultural produce intended for trade. IAPSC having indeed the duty of reinforcing plant protection measures and compliance with phytosanitary standards of AU member countries in order to facilitate access of Africa agricultural produce to international market. This will help contribute to the socio-economic development of the continent which is one of the four pillars of the AUC.

He then declared open the 25<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of IAPSC.

### **3. Election of the bureau**

The constituted bureau was as follows:

<b>Chair:</b>	Burkina Faso
<b>Vice-Chair:</b>	Lesotho
<b>Rapporteur :</b>	Togo
<b>Assistant Rapporteur :</b>	CABI
<b>Secrétariat :</b>	AU- IAPSC

### **4. Agenda**

The Agenda of the 25<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of IAPSC was adopted after amendment (annex1). Its adoption was preceded by self presentation of each participant present at the meeting.

### **5. Presentations**

#### **5.1. Key note: Plant Protection for intensive crops production and market access**

Roger Day (CABI) gave the keynote presentation on the theme of “Plant Protection for Intensive Crop Production and Market Access”. The Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP) envisages intensive, market oriented production, including four major areas of change: more irrigation, increased fertilizer use, wider use of improved varieties, and more trade. In each area, implications for plant protection of the envisaged changes were discussed, including both challenges and opportunities. As agriculture is intensified, we should aim for “sustainable intensification”, in which plant health is maintained through approaches such as IPM. Six areas were identified as ways to promote sustainable intensification. (1) Creating a policy environment that favours sustainable plant protection approaches, and avoids unintentionally promoting pesticide use. (2) Regulatory systems that promote the use of lower-risk pest control products, and encourage biological control. (3) Strong phytosanitary systems, led by National Plant Protection Organisations (NPPOs) that support trade, but also maintain biosecurity. (4) Research and extension systems that are in touch with and can respond to the needs of the various public and private sector actors in agricultural value chains. (5) Commercialisation of IPM research outputs, such as biopesticides. (6) Regional approaches, to harmonise regulatory and sanitary & phytosanitary systems, and to addressing shared problems. AU-IAPSC should take the lead in addressing such issues at the continental level.

#### **5.2. Recommendations of the IAPSC’s 7<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee**

Mrs. Grace GITU from AFTA and rapporteur of the 7th Steering Committee meeting which took place in Douala, Cameroon on May 6, 2013, presented to the assembly the summary of the points discussed and recommendations arrived at. Pending the amendments to be made these recommendations were endorsed by the assembly (Annex3).

### 5.3. Update of the structure of IAPSC

The Director of IAPSC briefly presented the structure of IAPSC which comprises a General Assembly, a Steering Committee, the directorate, and four sections notably Administration and Finance, Phytopathology, Entomology and documentation. He further highlighted on the history of the office which was created in London, United Kingdom in 1956 by FAO; transferred to Yaoundé, Cameroon in 1967 and placed under the flag of the Organization of African Unity / African Union in 1969. It is one of the 10 Regional Plant Protection Organizations of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC). He finally invited the two Senior Scientific Officers, Entomology and Phytopathology, to present the implemented activities for 2011-2012 and the program budget for 2013-2014.

### 5.4. Report of 2011-2012 activities of IAPSC

.Dr. Abdel Fattah Mabrouk Amer, Senior Scientific Officer Entomology at IAPSC presented a serie of activities which were effectively implemented by the office for the fiscal years 2011-2012. These comprised:

- Meetings and trainings workshops for reclassification and improving integrated pest management (IPM) for fruit flies in Africa (phase III, Western Africa);
- Capacity building of National Plant Protection Organization (NPPOs) for supporting to the implementation of African countries 'biosafety and plant germplasm exchange framework;
- Plant Health Management system in Africa;
- Contribution of African countries in noxious weeds identification and prevention for food security and plant health in Africa;
- Enforcement of compliance with Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Standards and challenges for African countries agricultural produce traders Phase. II;
- Pan African regional workshop for the review of 2012 draft ISPMs of IPPC in Partnership with PANSPSO project located at AU-IBAR;
- Harmonization of registration of chemical pesticides in Northern Africa (phase III)
- Policy for the harmonization of pesticides registration;
- Updated spatial and temporal analysis of pests in Africa (Phase.III, SADC and ECCAS);
- Mainstreaming IAPSC`s activities into CAADP *framework*
- Phytosanitary Capacity building strategy for Africa (source of funding STDF trough CABI).

This presentation raised a number of questions from delegates. They have wanted to see a report to be completed with the administrative and budget expenditure of various activities implemented and the geographical intervention of IAPSC within Africa. However, the effort of IAPSC to address challenges of plant protection and quarantine services in Africa and to coordinate actions of Africa countries towards analyzing risks to their national plant resources and using science-based measures to safeguard their cultivated and wild plants was recognized by the assembly; thus the report was endorsed.

## 5.5. Program activities 2013-2014 of IAPSC

Prof. Jean Baptiste Bahama, Senior Scientific Officer Phytopathology at IAPSC presentation, focused on the office's program for 2013-2014. To enhance the Phytosanitary capacity of AU's member states, protect sustainable agriculture and improve Africa food security through the prevention of pests spread; protect the environment and biodiversity against plant pests and facilitate economic and trade development through the promotion of harmonized, scientifically based phytosanitary measures; IAPSC for 2013-2014 will accomplish the following activities:

- Updated spatial and temporal analysis of pests in Africa (2013);
- Enforcement of compliance with Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Standards (2013&2014);
- Contribution of African countries in noxious weeds identification and prevention for food security and plant health in Africa (2014);
- Capacity building of National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPO's) on biosafety and plant material germplasm exchange (2013&2014);
- Harmonization of policy for chemical pesticides registration in Africa (2013&2014);
- Meetings and training workshops for reclassification and improvement of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) for fruit flies in Africa (2013-2014);
- PANSPSO: Consolidation phase (jointly with AU-IBAR);
- Improvement of Plant Health Management Systems (funds expected from EU);
- Coconut Lethal Yellowing Type Syndromes in Africa: Understanding the diseases epidemiology, evaluation of economic losses caused by the diseases and development of management strategies for sustainable production of Coconuts (partnership with FAO) and
- Information, communication and documentation.

For the successful implementation of the above program Prof. Bahama called for the contribution of different partners, National Plant Protection Organizations and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs). He further recognized that, the greater cross-sector coordination will be required to improve the various NPPOs system, resulting in the reduced duplication effort, increased efficiency and better biosecurity outcomes.

Upon the presentation of the above program, a thorough discussion was engaged on its effective implementation and achievement of outcomes and outputs. The assembly endorsed the program and urged IAPSC to continue assisting member states of the AU to better manage Africa biosecurity risks and better coordinate effort of National Plant Protection Organizations to reduce the risks posed by emergency plant pests. Monitoring and promoting performance of NPPO's plant health system should remain its priority. Hens, together with RECs and NPPOs IAPSC should support endeavours to establish and maintain bio-security levies to address risk mitigation and emergency response imperatives to the continent. The contribution of the African Union Commission to the allocation of the appropriate budget to the implementation of the program was highly recommended by the assembly. Participants at the 25<sup>th</sup> General Assembly all agreed that effort is still needed to achieve the three basic elements of the African Common Plant Protection Strategy which are:

- Sufficient food and feed with satisfying quality is available at any point in time for the entire African population;

- African agricultural exports increase and meet world market standards at competitive prices and
- Environmentally acceptable plant protection policies and practices that is safe for human health and which do not impede trade and/or exchange in plants and plant products.

#### **5.6. The situation of crop protection and plant quarantine services in ECCAS**

Mr. Ngarhimdi Rassembaye described the phytosanitary situation of the Economic Commission for Central Africa States to be in a deplorable situation with the weak institutional capacity. He suggested that something should be done to remedy the situation such as to improve crop production and enhance trade.

#### **5.7. The situation of crop protection and plant quarantine services in the Republic of South Africa**

Mr. Ernest Phoku presented the structure, core function and challenges of the South Africa National Plant Protection Organization. (NPPOZA). At structural level, the NPPO of South Africa (NPPOZA) has three directorates (The Directorate Plant Health (policy), Directorate Inspection Services (operational) and Directorate Food Import and Export Standards (awareness and promotion). The key functions being performing by the NPPOZA like National plant protection contact point, technical negotiations for new markets, pest risk analysis for the development of phytosanitary measures, inspections and phytosanitary certification, pest surveillance, diagnostic and quarantine services, national regulations/standards based on International Standards, training and awareness and participation in different bilateral, multilateral, regional and international phytosanitary forums were spelt out. He pointed out some challenges affecting the country's plant health situation which were insufficient resources (capital, human, infrastructure), very limited understanding of agricultural trade and international negotiation, limited research facilities and technical information (Scientific information), little understanding of international agreements & standards; legislations and policy systems not very clear and limited cooperation between countries. It should be recalled that private sector may do inspection on behalf of companies but cannot issue certificate nor their inspection used for certification.

#### **5.8. The situation of crop protection and plant quarantine services in Côte d'Ivoire**

The presentation of Mr. Akamou Fataye, mainly focused on the description of the structure and core function of the NPPO of Côte d'Ivoire with three sub-Directorates notably crop protection, phytosanitary inspection and quality and ethic. He recognized ECOWAS countries making effort to harmonize their phytosanitary legislation especially pesticides registration but recommended to take into account the agro-ecological constraints. He finally pointed out some challenges affecting crops production and trade like the insufficient staff in the area of crop protection, post harvest control and pesticides analysis; limited collaboration between research and inspection services, policy harmonization and shortages of funds.

#### **5.9. The situation of crop protection and plant quarantine services in Cameroon**

M. Marcel Prosper BAKAK emphasized on the agricultural sector which contributes to ¼ of the country GDP and 70% labor force. Regarding legislation Cameroon has a plant protection and seed law; as well as a central laboratory for diagnosis. A total of 164 staff

work in the area of phytosanitary inspection and control, covering the 30 border posts. The National pesticides registration body has registered about 548 plant protection products since 1996. The country has also ratified the IPPC convention as well as Codex and OIE. The implementation of ISPM 15 is obligatory. He pointed out a few challenges like insufficient human resources, infrastructure; the update of legislation and financial resources to better address the plant health issues and the promotion of trade.

#### **5.10. The situation of crop protection and plant quarantine services in Tunisia**

Mr. Naji Aidi 's presentation focussed on the general description of the agricultural sector in Tunisia. The sector contributes 12 to 16 % of the country GDP. He also emphasized on the NPPO structure with two directorates, 17 border posts, three quarantine stations and the inspection and control procedures. The major challenge faced by the country is currently fruits fly control.

#### **5.11. The situation of crop protection and plant quarantine services in Ethiopia**

In his presentation, Mr. Elias Sahledingil highlighted agriculture being the foundation of the country economy that accounts for half GDP. Agriculture contributes to more than 80% of exports and 80 % of the total employment. He described the plant quarantine service of the country with 28 plant quarantine personnel and 12 quarantine stations and the core function and responsibility of the staff. He declared that for the past three decades 20 dangerous pests have been accidentally introduced in to the country, and pointed out some challenges which needed to be addressed: establishment of new quarantine station; update of plant protection Act; update of pest list and the enhancement of capacity of the country's NPPO. He insisted on the effort of IAPSC to coordinate and share pest information amongst member states.

#### **5.12. Malawi initiatives to strengthen phytosanitary capacity.**

Mr. David Kamangira on his presentation agreed that Malawi has started the implementation of ISPM 15 since January 2012. The symbol has got registered with the Registrar General. Moreover the government has strengthened capacity of border posts and air posts by computing and internet connecting them for easy communication and networking.

#### **5.13. Plantwise**

A presentation was made on Plantwise ([www.Plantwise.org](http://www.Plantwise.org)), a global initiative. Plantwise supports countries to establish plant clinics for providing advice to farmers, an approach which has proved popular with both farmers and extensionists. A knowledge bank provides resources to support agricultural advisory services. Information from plant clinics is of use to various stakeholders including NPPOs; it constitutes one source of "general surveillance" as described in ISPM6. Participants were encouraged to visit the portal, and sign up for the country-specific pest alerts. It was noted that the 6<sup>th</sup> IASPC Steering Committee had requested

CABI, through Plantwise, to collaborate with IAPSC in mapping the distribution of pests and diseases in Africa, and the speaker stated that CABI is committed to honouring this request.

#### **5.14. Crop protection situation analysis for Africa.**

The presentation of Dr. Joyce Mulila Mitti , FAO RAF crops officer focused on:

The crop protection situation for Africa presents a process of analysis supported by FAO to have a clear understanding of crop protection trends and needs for Africa as a way to determine the appropriate technical support that FAO should provide to the its members as well as identify opportunities for relevant investments that can be provided to address the crop protection needs through the CAADP framework.

The analysis advocates for Sustainable Crop Production Intensification (SCPI) along the principles of “Save and Grow” in line with CAADP, while appreciating the challenge posed by intensification regarding the likelihood of increased input use posing increased risks to the environment and health particularly due to the potential increase in pesticide use to achieve higher productivity.

Having identified the crop protection interventions implied under the related CAADP themes, FAO has proposed a Crop Protection Program Framework Guidance Document that has proposed a goal for Crop Protection that elaborates action points for national, sub-regional and regional levels; recognizing the coordination role of IAPSC with technical support from FAO. The action points also provide a guide of what countries can consider for including in the CAADP process and the NAIPs.

## **6. Groups work**

### **IAPSC’s group work I.**

Group work I suggested that IAPSC action plan for 2014-2017 should be based on the CAADP’s pillars. The proposal from this group to build on previous priority strategic setting/ key areas such as:

- Agricultural production;
- Market access;
- Coordination and cooperation of plant protection at all levels; harmonization;
- Advocacy for recognition of IAPSC;
- Capacity building; human and in fracture development in relation to plant health issues;
- Promote/develop strategies and policies that addresses plant health issues and support the NPPOs in implementations of the standards;
- Resource mobilization;
- Member states are at different capacity levels;
- Improve the involvement of member states on plant protection standard ;(ISPM, CODEX) settings at all stages;

- Information base to share ideas and enhance interaction for early warning systems among other information and
- Reporting of implementation of strategies presented.

## **IAPSC's group work II.**

The group work II used the guideline of the 2012-2019 strategic plan of the International Plant Protection Convention. It encouraged IAPSC to be guided by the IPPC strategic plan to develop its strategic plan 2014-2017 with the goal to increase crop production and productivity such as to ensure food security, nutrition and safety; and good market access of continental agricultural commodities.

## **7. Discussion and recommendations**

Upon presentations and intensive discussion participants arrived at the following recommendations:

### **For Strategic plan;**

- The intention of IAPSC to develop a strategic plan for 2014-2017 is noted. IAPSC is encouraged to complete this plan by the end of 2013, ensuring adequate member state inputs to the process.
- The strategic plan should take into account:
  - Draft AU strategy for 2014-2017
  - Defined core functions of IASPC
  - Phytosanitary capacity building strategy for Africa already developed
  - Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Program
  - CPM's strategic plan and capacity development strategy
  - Phytosanitary convention for Africa
  - The FAO strategic crop protection framework for Africa
  - Other relevant strategies and documents
- Key areas for the strategic plan include (but are not necessarily limited to): advocacy; information sharing; phytosanitary capacity development; harmonisation of phytosanitary regulations (including pesticides); participation in international standard setting; coordinating implementation of international standards

### **For specific activities under different strategic areas**

#### **Advocacy**

- The advocacy strategic area should include the issue of ensuring plant protection is adequately addressed within the CAADP process at regional and national level. Communication materials (such as a policy brief) should be prepared to support this.
- The role of IASPC in relation to NPPOs, RECs and others, should be advocated to senior national officials whenever IAPSC staff is visiting a country.

### **Information sharing**

- IAPSC should encourage information sharing by distributing information on new and emerging pests to all countries, to alert them to developing problems; examples suggested included Maize Lethal Necrosis Disease, *Bactrocera invadens*, papaya mealy bug, *Tuta absoluta* .. etc.

### **Coordination**

- IAPSC should take the lead in developing and coordinating initiatives to address major pest problems, such as those listed above
- To improve coordination, IAPSC should pursue closer partnership with regional and international organisations active in Plant health issues (such as FAO, IPPC, IITA, CABI/Plantwise, COLEACP, FARA, etc).
- Member states should encourage regional coordination through active participation in information exchange, through their RECs, etc

### **Participation in international standard setting**

- Noting the success of IAPSC's coordination of African participation at CPM8, such activities should be continued, and extended to include:
  - encouraging RECs to convene CPM preparatory meetings
  - holding preparatory meetings for Africa's representatives in CPMs various organs and subsidiary bodies (bureau, standards committee, capacity development committee, strategic planning group, dispute settlement body etc).
  - ensuring Africa's representatives report back and highlight issues that IAPSC and member countries need to consider

### **General Assembly**

- The General Assembly should be mainly a business meeting (similar to CPM). IAPSC should present documents and reports, with specific requests to the GA to facilitate making decisions, provide guidance, approve actions, etc., including (but not limited to):
  - IAPSC strategy and its implementation
  - work undertaken in the strategic areas
  - forward work plans
  - financial and administrative reports

- Virtual meetings of the Steering Committee could be held to support the IAPSC in developing the agenda and documentation for the General Assembly

### **Resource mobilisation**

The assembly recommends, the African Union Commission and partners of IAPSC to continue mobilizing resources to enable IAPSC to enhance implementation of described 2013-2014 program and projected strategic plan 2014-2017.

## **8. Closing ceremony**

In his closing remarks, The Director of IAPSC expressed his gratitude to the member states 'representative present at the assembly for their effective contribution and pertinent discussion and recommendations and to the Honorable Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of Cameroon for facilitating the entry visas to participants and his physical present at the ceremony. He assured the assembly that IAPSC will do what it can, to implement the biennial program 2013-2014 and to prepare its strategic plan 2014-2017 in conformity with the recommendations of the assembly.

Honorable Minister of Agriculture in his part congratulated participants for their massive turn out to the meeting and urged them to work hard to enhance agricultural production and productivity in quantity and quality such as to secure market access to Africa agricultural commodities. He pointed out challenges and opportunities of agriculture in Africa before declaring closed the 25<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of IAPSC.

It should be recalled that the date and venue of the 26<sup>th</sup> General Assembly were not announced .The Director of IAPSC will engage further talks with partners to jointly announce where the next meeting shall take place.

Annexes

Annex1: Agenda

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### Agenda of the 25<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

Hotel Falaise Bonanjo  
Douala, Cameroon 8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> May 2013.

Time	Activity	Responsible
	<b>Day 1: Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May, 2013</b>	
09.00-10.00	<b>Opening ceremony:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Welcome Address by the Director of AU-IAPSC</li><li>• Opening Speech by the Representative of the Cameroonian Government</li><li>• Group photograph</li></ul>	<b>Cameroon</b>
10.00-10.30	<b>Coffee Break</b>	
10.30-11.00	<b>Election of the bureau and adoption of the Agenda</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Chair : Burkina Faso</li><li>• Vice-Chair : Lesotho</li><li>• Rapporteur : Togo</li><li>• Assistant Rapporteur : CABI</li></ul>	
11.00-13.00	<b>Keynote Paper: Plant Protection for intensive Crops production and Market Access</b>	<b>Roger Day ,CABI</b>
11.30-12.00	Review of the Recommendations of the 7 <sup>th</sup> Steering Committee	<b>Rapporteur SC-AFRA</b>
12.00-12.30	Review of the Recommendations of the 24 <sup>th</sup> General Assembly Office report on actions taken on the implementation of the work plan adopted by the twenty-fourth General Assembly of the IAPSC	<b>IAPSC</b>
12.30-13.00	Progress report on activities implemented by IAPSC for 2011-2012	
13.00-14.00	<b>Lunch</b>	
14.00-14.30	IAPSC program of work for 2013-2014	

<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Responsible</b>
<b>Day 1: Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May, 2013</b>		
14.30-15.00	Discussion	<b>Chair</b>
15.00-15.20	<b>Invited paper 1:</b> The situation of crop protection and plant quarantine services in SADC: case study of the Republic of South Africa	<b>RSA</b>
15.20-15.40	<b>Invited paper2:</b> The situation of crop protection and plant quarantine services in ECOWAS: case study of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire	<b>Côte d'Ivoire</b>
15.40-16.00	<b>Invited paper3:</b> The situation of crop protection and plant quarantine services in ECCAS: case study of Cameroon	<b>Cameroon</b>
16.00-16.30	<b>Coffee Break</b>	
16.30-16.50	<b>Invited paper 4:</b> The situation of crop protection and plant quarantine services in UMA/ CEN-SAD: case study of Tunisia	<b>Tunisia/CENSAD</b>
16.50-17.10	<b>Invited paper 5:</b> The situation of crop protection and plant quarantine services in EAC/COMESA: case study of Ethiopia	<b>Ethiopia/COMESA</b>
17.10-17.30	Presentation on Plantwise initiative	<b>CABI</b>
<b>Day 2: Thursday, May 9, 2013</b>		
8.30-9.00	Crop Protection situation analysis for Africa	<b>FAO-Africa Region</b>
9.00-10.00	Group work (Anglophone and francophone)	<b>Chair</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Identification of top priorities areas for IAPSC strategic plan 2014-2017</li> <li>✓ Identification of topics for phytosanitary standard setting</li> </ul>	
10.00-10.30	<b>Coffee break</b>	
10.30-11.30	Group work (ct'd)	
11.30-12.30	Plenary reports and discussion	<b>Rapporteurs</b>
12.30-13.00	Preparation of recommendations	<b>Chair</b>
13.00-14.00	<b>Lunch</b>	
14.00-14.30	Preparation of recommendations (ct'd)	<b>Chair</b>
14.30-15.00	Any other business	
15.00-16.00	Presentation and adoption of the recommendations	
	Closing ceremony	

Annex2. List of Participants

25<sup>th</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF IAPSC

Douala - CAMEROON

08 – 09, May 2013

N°	COUNTRY	NAME	ADDRESS
1	<b>Algeria</b>	Mrs. Nadia Hadjeres,  Directrice de la Protection des Végétaux et du Contrôle Techniques	B.P:12, boulevard Colonel Amirouche Alger  TEL: Tél : 00213 21 50 31 73 Mobile : 00213 0549 24 21 20  Fax: 213 21 50 31 77  Email: <a href="mailto:hadjeres.nadia@minagri.dz">hadjeres.nadia@minagri.dz</a>
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### **Annex3. Recommendations of the 7<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee-IAPSC**

#### **DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

The 7<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee of AU-IAPSC, meeting in Douala on 06 May 2013 deliberated on 2012 implementation report and 2013 /2014 projects and programs. Insufficient funds and weak commitment of implementation partners were recognized as obstacles to the achievement of programs' goals and objectives. The meeting made the following recommendations:

- Election of the Bureau (Executive Secretary of STRC, ECCAS and AFSTA)
- Adoption of the 2012 activity report
- Adoption of 2013/2014 activity programs
- Steering Committee calling upon AUC, RECS, and International Partners to avail funds for AU-IAPSC's to implement 2013/2014 programs.
- IAPSC to develop harmonized phytosanitary framework to enhance intra and global African trade;
- Recognizing the usefulness and importance of NPPOS, urge member states to support their NPPOs in addressing phytosanitary issues
- RECs to have focal points to coordinate implementation of plant health issues in tandem with AU-IAPSC ;
- Efforts in capacity building of NPPOS recognized and AU-IAPSC and its partners are requested to mobilize the necessary resources to ensure the implementation of a comprehensive capacity building program;
- IAPSC to seek recognition at global fora to raise plant protection in Africa including towards one health concept;
- Strategize partnering with stakeholders even for technical support (IPPC,FARA,CABI,IITA, FAO, COLEACP, etc)
- AU-IAPSC should develop and lead continental initiatives on high profile issues such as Batrocera invadens, Tuta absoluta,etc;
- AU-IAPSC should identify and focus on activities in which it has a competitive advantage that can add value to the work of national and regional organizations;
- AU-IAPSC should develop an advocacy and communication strategies that addresses plant health issues ;
- AUC to coordinate meeting amongst its technical offices offices/specialized institutions to ensure better coordination and optimum use of resources;
- The SC appreciates the efforts made by ECCAS to inform IAPSC on its plant protection initiatives, stresses the need to still make improvement regarding the other stakeholders to work towards continental phytosanitary governance.

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