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INTER-AFRICAN PHYTOSANITARY COUNCIL **CONSEIL PHYTOSANITAIRE INTERAFRICAIN**

DRAFT REPORT

IAPSC 26TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
3rd - 5th JUNE, 2015
Douala, Cameroon

June, 2015

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1. Introduction

The twenty sixth session of the Inter-African Phytosanitary Council of the African Union (AU-IAPSC) General Assembly held in Douala, Republic of Cameroon, from the 3rd to 5th June 2015. Fifty (50) delegates from twenty four (24) member states, ECCAS, COMESA, UMA, AU-STRC, FAO, AFSTA, CABI, CPAC, DREA and IAPSC attended the meeting (list of participants in annex 1). The meeting deliberated on the state of implementation of the last Steering Committee, the office 2014 activities report and IAPSC biennial program for 2015-2016, and especially AU-IAPSC's Strategic and Implementation plan 2014-2023 was adopted.

2. Opening Ceremony

The ceremony was marked by four speeches:

2.1.Welcome remarks by the Director of AU-IAPSC

The Director welcomed all participants to the 26th General Assembly and highlighted the importance of plant health management in Africa. He described the general situation of the African Regional Plant Protection Organization and pointed out that the newly developed strategic plan 2014-23 required support from all to boost the economy and improve food production in Africa.

2.2.FAO remarks

Mrs Joyce Mulila Mitti of FAO recalled the genesis of the development of AU-IAPSC's strategic and implementation plan (2014-2023) which resulted from the recommendation of the last general assembly. She wished that all should be informed on how to take the plan forward and reaffirmed the commitment of FAO to work with AU-IAPSC to implement the plan for safe trade and improved food production in Africa

2.3. DREA remarks

Mrs. AKULLO OYENA Diana, the representative of the Director of DREA, in her address acknowledged that the African Union Commission does recognize the importance of IAPSC' General Assembly. Hence its strategic plan 2014-2023 aligns with DREA strategic plan which itself aligns with the AUC strategy. She reaffirmed the commitment of DREA and the commission to support the implementation of the strategy which will contribute to the attainment of the continental vision 2063 with the collaboration of all partners.

2.4. Guest of honour, official opening

Mr.Francis LEKU AZENAKU, the Director of NPPO Cameroon on behalf of the Honorable Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Republic of Cameroon welcomed participants and thanked AU-IAPSC for choosing his country to host the meeting. He appreciated the role of FAO in supporting the strategic Plan development and urged the Regional Economic Communities and all member states to join. He also highlighted the challenges of plant pests on crop production and trade in Africa and called for collaborative

initiatives in plant protection to face them. He urged proper implementation of the strategic plan 2014-2023. He wished fruitful deliberations and decalred open the AU-IAPSC's 26th General Assembly..

3. Election of the bureau

The following were elected as members of the bureau:

- **Chair:** Cameroon;
- **Vice chair:** Zimbabwe
- **Raporteur:** AFSTA
- **Assistant Rapporteur:** Congo
- **Secretariat: AU**-IAPSC

4. Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was adopted with some few modifications on the recommendations of the 9th General Assembly which was changed to 9th Steering Committee (Annex 2).

5. Presentations

5.1. AU-IAPSC'S presentations

5.1.1. Adoption of the recommendations of the 9th Steering Committee

The recommendations of the 9th steering committee were presented in the plenary of the Assembly by the rapporteur and after discussion, 9 of the 10 recommendations were adopted by the General Assembly without any modification (annex 3).
Recommendation no10 was about Africa Phytosanitary Convention which was drafted and tabled for ratification in 1967. Ten African countries (Benin, Burundi, Cameroon, RCA, Egypt, Ethiopia, Lesotho, Morocco, Niger, Rwanda, Togo) have so far signed the convention. Zambia is in the process of signing. The convention was circulated to participants and the assembly after discussion agreed that it should be reviewed by a technical working groups made up of AUC, DREA, AU-IAPSC, AU-STRC, FAO, RECs (COMESA or UMA), Member States (Ghana and Cameroon). A Working Group was also set up to monitor the implementation of the adopted recommendations and those of the General Assembly. The group members include: Cameroon, COMESA, Congo, Malawi,Tunisia and UMA**.**

5.1.2. Recommendations of the 25th General Assembly and status of their implementation.

An implementation report on the 25th General Assembly recommendations was presented by the Director of AU-IAPSC. The meeting acknowledged the low implementation level achieved so far, but still requested for clarity and better understanding of why AU-IAPSC has not received program budget from the African Union Commission.

5.1.3. AU-IAPSC`s 2013-2014 activities report

The report was presented by the Senior Scientific Officer Entomology. It was observed that only three of the seven approved activities were implemented during the 2013-2014 financial years. Participants expressed concerns over the increasing difficulties to secure sufficient funding; however were confident that with proper prioritization and some innovation, most

shortfalls could be overcome. The Assembly urged AU-IAPSC to look for an alternative funding mechanism and really develop a clear strategy for resource mobilization with partners and donor institutions to step up funds allocation for better implementation and visibility. Furthermore, NPPOs and RECs were encouraged to participate actively in the implementation of the office's activities.

5.1.4. AU-IAPSC's strategic plan 2014-2023

The Senior Scientific Officer Phytopathology described the stragic plan development process . He highlighted the vision, mission and the four key result areas of the plan. The identification of phases of the implementation plan which involves 3 phases (2014-2017, 2018-2020 and 2021-2023) . In order to implement the strategy, several partners are involved. They are AUC, NPPOs, RECs, IAPSC, FAO and others. The assembly endorsed by consensus AU-IAPSC' strategic and implementation plan 2014-2023. Sof copies were distributed to all participants.

5.1.5. AU-IAPSC's biennial program for 2015-2016

The Senior Scientific Officer Phytopathology presented the AU-IAPSC biennial program for 2015-2016 with a focus on the main activities, the budget structure, and risk assumption. He highlighted the insufficient financial and human resources for proper implementation. He outlined the declining program funding that jeopardizes the implementation of approved activities. The committee still recommended the long term planning and commitments of the program budget and the need to develop strategic partnerships to enhance resources mobilization. It was proposed that AU-IAPSC begins a program for collaboration on strategic issues. There was a need to raise awareness on activities occurring in AU-IAPSC members states to avoid program duplications. It was agreed that a working group be set up to consider procedures for finance, administrative and planning matters.

5.2. Key note and invited papers

5.2.1. Key note paper on strengthening plant health management systems for enhanced production and market access

The presentation of Mrs. Joyce Mulila Mitti focused on the background of Plant health situation in Africa, the issues in the context of preserving crop production, challenges, the identification of strategies required to address the problems and identification of key partners. She noted that 30-40% of global pre and post harvest crop losses in Africa are caused by various insect pests, mites, pathogens and weeds. The spread of Invasive Alien plants also threaten biodiversity and productivity. However NPPOs are struggling to appropriately manage endemic plant pest issues despite the inadequate capacities for developing and implementing mitigation strategies to meet international standards.. She also highlighted some production practices which may favour the emergence of pests and diseases; like the overlapping of planting seasons, the expanding areas under single crop, perennial culture, abiotic stresses and inappropriate use of pesticides. Higher frequency of emerging threats could emanate from climate change, trade and mobility of people. The promotion of integrated production and pest management, pesticides risk reduction, disaster risk reduction and post-harvest management could help in preserving the production. She pointed out some challenges faced by Africa in plant health, which include:

- limited import and export inspection and pest control capacities.

- limited technical capacity for surveillance, diagnosis and risk analysis.
- inadequate appreciation of food safety threats/pesticide risks and their consequences.
- inadequate capacity for prioritizing actions
- inadequate or delayed assessment of severity of outbreaks.
- sporadic and uncoordinated response and the
- Inadequate research and extension funding.

To end her presentation, Mrs .Milila Mitti suggested elements of the strategy to handle the above challenges. The role of plant protection matters should be fully recognized in decision making and planning of national and regional programs since it contributes to food security, economic growth and in preserving Africa's biodiversity.

5.2.2. Invited paper1. A Plant Health Information System for AU-IAPSC.

Dr. Roger Day's presentation focused on a Plant Health Information System (PHIS) for AU-IAPSC. In order to have an effective continental plant health information system established and in use as stated in AU-IAPSC strategic plan, a number of activities described in the plan will have to be implemented. These include:

- identify and define roles of key partners in the PHIS network,
- design PHIS information management and exchange platform tools and
- train participants in the information network on the use of the PHIS.

He defined the importance of the PHIS for NPPOs on PRA, pest identification, diagnostics, pest early warning and rapid response, information on pest biology and pest management. A PHIS structure was proposed and illustrated with an example on the leaf miner *Tuta absoluta*. The sustainability of such a system was discussed and a small group involving AU-IAPSC, CABI and others was set up to develop a concept and later a project proposal on PHIS.

5.2.3. Invited paper2. FAO programs and prospective collaboration with IAPSC.

Dr. Sosthene Nicaise Ahanda, highlighted the major activities in Plant Health in Africa by FAO in the Past Two Years. These activities involved trans-boundary pests and diseases management, pesticides risk reduction and emergency response. A number of initiatives have been developed in collaboration with AU-IAPSC to support the implementation of ISPMs, update pest lists, promote seed quality control and manage pests. Some specific projects on Rotterdam convention, pesticide code of conduct, good management of pesticides and IPM, were prepared and implemented in the area of pesticides risk reduction.
FAO also undertook the initiation to establish alliance for management of trans-boundary pests and diseases in Africa and the capacity development support to AU-IAPSC for the development of its Strategic and implementation plan 2014-2023.

On emergency response, FAO carried out a number of activities on:

- Emergency Prevention System for Trans-boundary Animal and Plant Pests and Diseases System (EMPRES);
- improve sharing of pest data and information flow;
- enhance access to pest information enabling countries to effectively address pest problems and
- increase resilience of livelihoods to disasters (including pest outbreaks).

5.2.4. Invited paper3. Presentation on African Solidarity Trust Funds **(ASTF) project (SADC countries).**

Mrs. Joyce Mulila Mitti presented the African Solidarity Trust Funds (ASTF) which stands at US$ 40 million with contributions largely from Angola and Equatorial Guinea, to fund Africa-led/owned initiatives in the framework of the African Union's Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP) .

She provided details on the ASTF project on strengthening controls on food safety, plant and animal pests and diseases to boost agricultural productivity and trade in Southern Africa; which is a project with an estimated cost of $4,000,000 for a period of three years. The project aligns to the FAO strategic plant framework and will address three priority areas:

- Increased productivity and effective market access in agrifood systems;
- Reduction of vulnerability to threats to food security and nutrition and
- Improved management and governance for sustainable use of natural resources.

Partners and stakeholders of this project are ICIPE, CCARDESA, COMESA, CABI, OIE, CODEX and SACAU. The project beneficiaries are SADC Regional SPS Coordinating Committees, technical working groups, sub- committees with responsibility for plant health, livestock/animal health, food safety, and forestry and fisheries/aquatic animals. The Trust Fund is managed by FAO for African governments and partners to commit resources for implementation of national or regional food security initiatives.

5.3. Country reports

5.3.1. **Burundi**

The official from Burndi was the first to start this series. He first made a general presentation of his country. He said Burundi was a small country of 27,834 km2 in east-central Africa's Great Lakes region which produces coffee, cotton, tea, sugar, and food crops like corn, sorghum, sweet potatoes bananas cassava etc. 90%of Burundi's population depends on agriculture and it accounts for approximately 30% of the country's GDP.

The country's NPPO is made up of three services (surveillance and intervention, inspection and pesticides registration and control), a diagnostic laboratory and a training Unit. The plant protection legislation was enacted in 1993.

Major pests affecting crops include: Banana Xanthomonas Wilt (BXW),Cassava Brown Streak Disease (CBSD), *Tuta absoluta*, *Bactrocera invadens* , *B. zonata*, *Eichhorniacrassipes.*The control strategy is pest surveillance, awareness of producers, rapid alert by phone, inspection and better coordination.Within the framework of trans-boundary pest management an effort is done at EAC and COMESA on the harmonization of pest list and standards in seed sector.

The challenges of the Burundi's NPPO are porous borders, the legislation non updated, insufficient qualified plant protection staff, inadequate infrastructure and equipment, and non-harmonized regulations in the region.

5.3.2. Burkina Faso

Agriculture in Burkina Faso employs the vast majority of the workforce and accounts for about 31% of GDP. Important crops are cotton, sorghum, millet, maize, rice, fonio, cassava, cowpea, sweet potato, yams, tobacco, fruits, vegetables and sugarcane.

Plant protection in Burkina Faso is regulated by the decree no 2015416/PRES/TRANS/PM/MARHASA of March 30, 2015 and decision no 055/MASA/CAB. The NPPO has four services: Phytosanitary control and quality, surveillance and intervention, pesticides, monitoring and evaluation. There are 20 border posts. The country has ratified the IPPC and Phytosanitary Convention for Africa. The law no 096 of November 1996 regulates pesticides in Burkina Faso. The strategy to control pest is mainly surveillance and compliance with ISPMs.

The main pests are Fruit flies, Grain eating bird, Striga. Plant protection is still to be given a priority; thus there is need for constant awareness creation and sensitization of political authorities and partner institutions.

5.3.3. Cameroon

Cameroon is located in the heart of Africa with a total land area of 478,450 square km and an estimated population of 23,000,000 inhabitants. Agriculture is the backbone of Cameroon‘s economy, employing 70% of its workforce and accounts for 42% of its GDP.
The difficult question of the creation of a database on registered products and their use in Cameroon has been raised several times. The Government of Cameroon took a decision to prepare its first phytosanitary index. The genesis of this index involved several steps:

- Preparation of the list of products mainly used by the public in 1996;
- Update of the registered list in 2000;
- Establishment of the database on registered plant protection products used in Cameroon in 2006;
- Production of the first edition of the country phtosanitary index in 2014 and in perspective putting online the phytosanitary index.

This phytosanitary index is an indispensable tool that enables better use of plant protection products and equipment. It helps to provide information to users and enhances the competitiveness of the second generation of the country’s agriculture. Beneficiaries are farmers, agro-industries, researchers, universities and NGOs. The legal framework of the index is the law no 2003/0003 of April 21, 2003 on plant protection. The registration of plant protection products is regulated by Decree no 2005/0772/PM of April 6, 2005 providing the conditions and control of pesticides registration.

5.3.4 .Central African Republic

About 75% of the Central African Republic’s working population relies on Agriculture. It accounts for more than 55% of the GDP. The main crops include: cotton, coffee, tobacco, yams, cassava, peanut, sorghum, millet, maize sesame and plantains.

The plant protection legal framework of the country is based on law no 62/350 of January 4, 1963 and the decree no 59/81. The phytosanitary constraints are the lack of analytic and diagnostic laboratory, insufficient qualified staff, lack of adequate infrastructure and equipment for inspection. The absence of pest list update and quarantine stations makes it

difficult to develop strategies to control pests. However, an initiative on the detection and rapid response of Banana Bunchy Top virus disease is on-going. Similarly progress is being made on the country compliance with ISPMs 7,12,15,22 and 23.

An update of the country plant protection act and the development of the NPPO's human resources capacity remain major challenges to be addressed. Considering the conflict that the RCA went through with thousands of death, famine is today the main concern, the the call for joint action to eradicate hunger and malnutrition in the country.

5.3.5. Chad

Over 80% of Chad's population relies on agriculture which accounts for half of its GDP. The legislation framework of plant protection in Chad includes: law no 14/PR/95 of 13/07/1995, Decision no 10/PR/MA/DG/no282/DPVC/2000 of 18/12/2000, Decisions no 044/MA/DG/DPVC/2000 of 17/05/2000, no002/MA/DG/DPVC/2003, no 006/PR/MAE/DGPAF/DPVC/2009, no69/PR/MAE/DGPAF/DPVC/2015.

Major pests affecting crops production are Grain Eating Birds, Desert Locust, fruit flies etc. The common strategy to fight against major pest is achieved through collaboration among different ministries. The NPPO is a member of the information system on food security and pest rapid alert (SISAAP) and also of the action committee for food security and disaster crisis management (CASACG).

The implementation of ISPMs is not very effective due to the insufficient collaboration between the NPPO and IPPC secretariat and other actors. Many challenges are still to be addressed by the Chad's NPPO. They are: the update of the existing plant protection legislation, the insufficient funds to implement basic activities of surveillance, inspection and certification, the training of staff to develop strategies for pest control in the country.

5.3.6. Congo

Agriculture in the Republic of Congo accounts for 4% of GDP and uses about 40% of the active workforce. The main crops grown are plantains, cassava, banana, peanuts, palm oil, fruits and vegetables, yams, beans, maize, sugarcane, coffee, rubber, cocoa and tobacco.

Congo is a contracting party to IPPC and has signed and ratified several conventions among which are: Rotterdam, Stockholm, Bale, Bamako and the FAO pesticides code of conduct and CPAC. The plant protection legal framework of the country is governed by laws no 52-1256 of November 26, 1952, no3-2007 of January 24, 2007, no003/91 of April 25, 1991, decree no55-1219 of September13, 1955 and decree no 2003-176 of April8, 2003. The main pests found in Congo are:(*East African Mosaïc Virus (EAMV)),(*Banana Bunchy Top Virus *(BBTV),(Paracoccus marginatus),(Pseudomonas solanacearum),(Ceratitis capitata, Bactrocera invadens).*

The strategy of pest control is based on surveillance, diagnostic and updating plant protection laws. The shortage of qualified personnel and insufficient infrastructure and facilities

constitute the main constraints. The challenges to be addressed are creating awareness on ISPMs, setting up a national committee on pesticides, enhancing phytosanitary laws and sensitizing political leaders on plant protection issues.

5.3.7. Cote d'Ivoire

Cote d'Ivoire is largely market-based and depends heavily on the agricultural sector. Almost 70% of Ivorian people are engaged in some form of agricultural activity. The main crops are cocoa, coffee, palm oil, cotton, rubber, coconut, sugarcane, yams, banana, plantain, rice, cassava, millet, sorghum, maize, fruit and vegetables. Agriculture accounts for 35% of GDP and 65% of export. There are 40 phytosanitary police posts in the country.

Plant protection is regulated by decree 89-02 of January 4, 1989 regulating pesticides and the inter-ministerial decision no 509/MINAGRI/MEMIS of November 11, 2014 on phytosanitary inspection and control. As of date the country has registered 1057 pesticides, which include: 546 insecticides, 137 fungicides, 333 herbicides, 21 plant growth hormones, 16 rodenticides and 4 moluscides. The main pests are fruit flies, cocoa swollen shoots virus, *Fusarium* ssp. Several challenges still exist in the country among which are fruit flies management, cocoa swollen shoot disease, reduction of pesticides 'Minimum Residues Limits in plant products and endurance of food security.

5.3.8. Democratic Republic of Congo.

Agriculture accounts for 42.5% of the Democratic Republic of Congo gross domestic product and employs 73% of the active population. The plant protection of DRC is regulated by the decree no 05/162, the agricultural code, law no 5011/11171 SG/AGRIC.PE.EL/03/11, law no 50111/1082/SG/AGRI.PE.EL/21/08/2014, the Phytosanitary Convention for Africa, the WTO-SPS agreement, the IPPC and other regional and international treaties.
The NPPO`s major constraints are the lack of means to implement the national strategy to strengthen staff capacity, the training of phytosanitary inspectors and the updating of national plant protection laws.
Regarding the strategy of pest management, a national committee on pest rapid alert and response has been set up in the country to control the Maize Lethal Necrotic Disease, the Banana *Xanthomonas* Wilt and the protection of papaya against pests.

The main challenges are the establishment of national pest list and the elaboration of a national plant protection strategy.

5.3.9. Egypt

The Egyptian plant quarantine started as far back as in 1902. The concept of plant quarantine began in 1904, by issuing the law no.10, which was followed by laws no. 21 in 1906 and no.1 in 1916. The law no.1 of 1916 prohibited the importation of cotton plants and plant parts, and the entry of harmful organisms (insects, bacteria and fungi) into Egypt.

The central Administration Plant Quarantine (CAPQ) acts as Egypt's NPPO. The Phytosanitary Unit was Established in 2005 to harmonise the national quarantine regulating procedures with the international standards, especially the provisions of SPS and IPPC agreements. The legal framework of Egyptian plant quarantine includes: Agriculture Law no

5374966; Ministerial Decree no 3007/2001 on plant quarantine, Regional, bilateral and multilateral agreements. The new draft G/SPS/Egypt/41 has been notified to the WTO.

The main challenges to Egypt's plant protection are

- lack of resources to conduct surveillance and diagnoses activities;
- level of awareness of producers;
- deficiency of financial resources for control and eradication programs and
- absence of information flow and networking of all Quarantine point of entry.

The hope is that there is a large area of proposed fields of cooperation between Egypt and AU member states which needs to be explored.

5.3.10. Gambia

Agriculture employs around 70% of the population and accounts for about 30% of the gross domestic product. It is characterized by subsistence production of cereals (mostly rice, millet and sorghum) and cash crop production mostly groundnuts. The legislation regarding phytosanitary and pesticide issues is still not fully established in the country.

The plant health bill is the basic national reference for the legal operations of phytosanitary issues in the country. The document has been revised and validated but still not been enacted by the Parliament. Plant Protection Services are presently collaborating with some key institutions, such as the University of the Gambia to make an in-depth evaluation of the country's phytosanitary capacity.

The Gambia is a member of the Sahelian Pesticide Committee (SPC) established in 1992. The Gambia ratified the Common Regulations in July 1997 and its amendments in 2003. The Common Regulations have been incorporated into the pesticides regulations of The Gambia in 2004.
The Gambian NPPO challenges remain:

- lack of adequate and qualified personnel;
- no accredited laboratory to meet the operational requirements of the SPS and TBT agreements;
- weak implementation of the law and regulations due to the non-enactment of the Plant Health Bill;
- harmonisation and comprehensiveness of operational procedures among the various inspectorates not quite well-defined;
- weak infrastructure ;
- irregular quarantine compliance audits and checks throughout the supply chain;
- lack of database for the Pest Risk Analysis (PRA) process and limited markets

5.3.11. Gabon

Gabon is a State on the west coast of central Africa with an area of 267,667 square km and a total population of 1,802,727 inhabitants. Agriculture contributes to only about 8% of the country's GDP. The main crops are cocoa, cassava, plantains, banana, rice, taro, sugarcane and palm oil.

In conformity with the strategic plan of emerging Gabon, AGASA was created by decree 292/PR/MAEPDR of 02/07/2011 and strengthened by decree 0667/PR/MAEPDR of July 10, 2013. The main mission is to prevent the introduction and spread of plant pests into Gabon.

The country is a contracting party to IPPC, but weakly complies with ISPMs. There is therefore a need to train NPPOs staff, improve on infrastructure, create awareness of political authorities on the importance of plant protection.

5.3.12. Ghana

The NPPO of Ghana operates under an Act of Parliament, which is the Plants and Fertilizer Act, 2010 (Act 803). Under this Act, the Plant Protection Regulations, 2012 (L.I. 2193) for the regulation of plants, plant products and other regulated articles and Plant Fertilizer Legislations, 2012 (L.I. 2194), which regulates the distribution and safe use of fertilizers have been developed. Ghana has developed the policy for Integrated Pest Management and IPM handbooks for selected crops like pineapple, mango and pawpaw, vegetables-pepper, garden eggs, onion, cabbage, lettuce and tomato.

However, there are currently no early warning and rapid response systems in the country. Ghana's NPPO is confronted with several constraints:

- inadequate facilities and equipment for effective and efficient phytosanitary controls at exit/entry points;
- movement of plant and plant product through unapproved routes into the country;
- introduction of exotic pests into the country (e.g. Papaya mealy bug);
- outdated national pest list (2000):
- inadequate resources and logistics;
- inadequate staffing;
- threat of introductions of new pests and diseases into the country;
- lack of internal quarantine system ;
- poor handling of pesticides;
- inadequate infrastructure and equipment;
- unwillingness of travellers to declare to plant quarantine officers the plants, plant product and regulated articles with them and
- poor communication and low or lack of coordination between actors and stakeholders in the industry.

There is need for more sensitization, education, awareness creation, advocacy and attitudinal change to be able to minimize phytosanitary challenges.

5.3.13. Kenya

The Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS) is a state corporation established in October 1996. The corporation's activities involve offering inspectorate services on all matters related to plant health and quality control of agricultural inputs and produce. KEPHIS ensures the quality of agricultural inputs and produce to prevent adverse impact on the economy, the environment and human health.

The Legal framework of KEPHIS includes:

- plant Protection Act (Cap. 324);

- the Suppression of Noxious Weed Act (Cap. 325);
- the Agricultural Produce (Export Act) (Cap. 319);
- Seeds and Plant Varieties Act (Cap. 326);
- the Agricultural Produce Marketing Act (Cap. 320) and
- the Pest Control Products Act, Cap 346, Laws of Kenya of 1982 to regulate the importation and exportation, manufacture, distribution and use of pest control products.

KEPHIS' strategy for pest management is based on farm system audits, facility system audits, credible labs for testing MRL, surveillance and effective inspection.

Kenya's major pests and diseases of concern include: tomato moth, Maize lethal nectrotic disease, White flies, fruit flies, Bacteria (*Curtobacterium flaccumfaciens* and *Ralstonia solanacearum)* and Fungus (*Alternaria padwickii*, *Mycosphaerella fijinensis*).
Several ISPMs and PRA are implemented in the country to facilitate smooth trade between the partners.

The main challenges of plant protection in Kenya are the following:
- lack of enough resources for the NPPO e.g. human resource;
- increased interceptions on Agriculture fresh produce destined to EU markets;
- political interference;
- lack of a working NPPO in some of neighbouring countries resulting to lack of proper regulations on movement of plant materials from such countries e.g. Somalia and South Sudan and
- emerging pests and diseases.

5.3.14. Malawi

Malawi is an agro-based economy with 85 % of population depending on agriculture. The sector generates over 74 % of the export earnings to the country's economy and contributes 30% of the GDP. The staple food crops include maize, rice, cassava, sweet potatoes, while the main cash crops are tobacco, tea, coffee, cotton, sugarcane, pigeon pea, ground nuts, soybeans and beans.

The country NPPO is found in the Department of Agricultural Research Services of the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development. Its legal framework (Plant Protection Act, 1969, Seed Act, 1996 and Seed policy of 1996, Pesticides Act of 2000 and strategy) has been reviewed to align to national, regional and global frameworks.

The major pests' outbreaks in Malawi are Red locusts, Armyworms, which are under control thanks to the government.

Malawi does not have a separate or stand alone IPM Policy but, has in place a strategy to control insects, diseases, nematodes and weeds. The country will continue to work with AU-IAPSC and other partners to strengthen phytosanitary regulations and facilitate safe trade.

5.3.15. Mozambique

Mozambique is a contracting party of IPPC since May 2007. . Its NPPO is the Plant Protection Department whose structure comprises three divisions: plant protection, plant quarantine and pesticides and fertilizers. The NPPO's legal framework is updated by the Decree 5/2009of June on Phytosanitary Inspection and quarantine regulations and Decree6/2009 of 31st March on pesticides regulations.

The quarantine Pests with high impact on trade include: *Fusarium oxysporium* fsp *cubense*, Lethal Yellowing Disease, *Bactrocera invadens,* Red locust *(Nomadacris septemfasciata),* Quelea bird(*Quelea quelea),* Army worm *(Spodoptera exempta),* Cassava Brown Streak Disease, Cassava mosaic Disease and Coconut Lethal Yellowing Disease. Mozambique has got an IPM program to control *B. dorsalis* and a project funded by the FAO to manage the Panama disease (FOC TR4). The govenment of Mozabique has provided funds to the NPPO to manage any migrant pest outbreak but no pest early warning and rapid alert response has been established. Furthermore, There are several joint programs to manage transboundary pests.

However the main challenges for the country 's NPPO to be addressed are to:

- Strengthen the Plant Protection capacities by appointing more specialized staff in relevant fields (bacteriology, virology, nematology etc);
- appoint inspectors at the main points of entry (ports, land borders and airports);
- allocate financial resources for surveillance and monitoring to update lists and record new pests;
- find funds to finance the project developed in result of PCE tool;
- involve the community in pests surveillance especially for high risk areas and
- strengthen the Pest Risk Analysis capacity.

5.3.16. Namibia

The Plant Health Biosecurity of Namibia is in the Directorate of Agriculture production, extension and Engineering Services of the Ministry of Agriculture, water and Forestry. The Plant Health and Biosecurity is responsible for preventing and controlling the entry of dangerous pest and other regulated articles into the country, facilitating trade and Controlling and reducing crop losses due to pest infestation.

The legal framework of the country`s NPPO includes: Plant Quarantine Act 2008 (Act no. 7 of 2008) and Fertilizers, Farm Feeds, Agricultural and Stock Remedies Act, 1947 (Act No. 36 of 1947).

The Plant Protection Technical Sub-Committee is under the National SPS Coordinating Committee.
Several challenges are to be addressed. These include: inadequate staff, facilities, lack of subject matter specialists, inappropriate management of obsolete pesticides, capacity building of farmers in phytosanitary measuress, plant health officials and inspectors; strengthening the

country capacity on pest early warning and rapid response, pest risk analysis and information management system.

5.3.17. Niger

Agriculture is the primary economic activity of Niger. 53% of the population is activity involved in crop production. The department of plant protection of Niger protects crops against pest and diseases, manage crops protectants and control plant and plant products at both imports and exports.

The major pests are grain eating birds, desert locust, grass hoppers, *Tutaabsoluta* and *sorghum leaf miner*. The government has adopted with the assistance of the FAO,a national IPM policy by creating school field days in the entire country to manage rice and vegetable main pest.

As constraints, the country faces difficulties to comply with ISPMs of IPPC. Moreover the introduction of non-registered pesticides, the insufficient qualified crop protection staff and insufficient financial resources constitute the main challenges of Niger`s NPPO. The country should endeavor to enhance capacity (human, facilities and equipment) to better prevent the introduction and spread of plant pest.

5.3.18. Sao Tome and Principe

The country's agriculture is mainly based on the production of cocoa which contributes to 23% of Sao Tome and Principe nominal GDP. The country is a contracting party to the IPPC and has also signed the WTO-SPS Agreement.

The new phytosanitary legislation is under preparation and will soon be enacted into law. A national authority has been appointed to take care of plant health inspection. The Pest integrated approach is been initiated to control major pests affecting the country. Similarly the pest early warning system and rapid response has been put in place by the UNDP.

5.3.19. Sudan

Sudan is a country endowed with rich natural Resources. The Plant Protection Directorate (PPD)'s mandate is mainly to survey and control both pests of national importance and local pests including migratory pests such as locusts, grain eating birds and Sorghum bug (Andat). The legislation of the PPD include: Locust Control Act 1907,The Plant Diseases Act 1913, Agricultural Pests Control Act 1919, Cotton Ordinance 1926 & 1929, Water Hyacinth Control Act 1960,The pesticides and pest's control products Act 1974, amended in 1994,and the Plant Protection Bill, 2001, 2012. Sudan is also party to IPPC, CBD, CITES, BAMSAR and other organisations; but has no policy on Invasive Alien Species.

The major pests of Sudan are locusts (desert locust, tree locust, and migratory locust), Quelea birds, duraandat (dura bug), mice, green pit scale insect and fruit flies. The challenges for Sudan plant Quarantine are difficulties to inspect and intercept all items crossing the long boarder. Smuggling across this boarder may create pathways for pests and diseases. Passengers coming or leaving the country do not declare plants or plant products carried with

them; lack of specific laboratory equipment for detecting viruses and genetically modified plants and the lack of equipment for post-entry quarantine areas.

5.3.20. South Sudan

South Sudan is an inter-lock country with an area of 64,000 square kilometers, bordered by six countries. Kenya, Uganda, DR Congo, Central African Republic, Sudan and Ethiopia, with many entry points scattered along its borders. Plant protection is largely under the mercy of nature in South Sudan.The country borders are porous and no quarantine measures or regulations in place to restrict the introduction of new pests and diseases at the entry points. The National plant protection policy is on process, but the legislation, including the Plant Quarantine, pesticides laws and regulations are non existent.

The strategy for pests' management will be to establish quarantine check points and strengthen plant quarantine regulations and provide the required resources, both human and material, to the responsible agencies so that adequate safeguards are developed at the country's borders and entry points.

5.3.21. Togo

Togo is predominantly an agricultural country with about 60% of the workforce. Agriculture accounts for 43% to the GDP. The main crops are cocoa, coffee, cotton, palm oil, cassava, yams, maize millet and sorghum. The plant protection is regulated by several laws and decrees: C/REG.21/11/10 ECOWAS of 26/11/2010, no7/2007/CM/UEMO and C/REC.3/05/2008, no 96-007/PR of July3, 1996.

The main pests affecting crops include fruit flies, Grass hoppers, Mites, fungi, etc. The strategy adopted by the Togolese NPPO is networking with the Agricultural Research Institute, Inspection, and collaboration with CIAT and DSID for pest alert system. The NPPO complies with ISPMs no 7,12,15,23 etc.
The main challenges of the NPPO are the insufficient qualified staff, less equipped laboratories, poor infrastructure and weak implementation of regional legislation.

5.3.22. Tunisia

Agriculture contributes to 12.6% of Tunisia GDP, 10% workforce, 10% Export and 10% investment. The Directorate of plant protection falls under the Directorate of Agriculture in the Ministry of Agriculture and water resources. The NPPO's legal framework concerns: Law 92-72 of August 3,1992 of plant protection, completed by the law 99-5 of January 1999; Law no 2001 -28 of March 19,2001 for the simplification of administrative procedures in the fisheries and agricultural sector and Law no 99-5 of January 11,1999 complementing law no 92-72 of August 3,1992 to enhance plant protection legislation. Several other Decrees complete these laws on plant protection and quarantine. Despites the government effort to prevent the country from the introduction and spread of plant and plant products pests, the following are the main pests: *Fusarium oxysporum fsp aldedenis, Toxoptera citricida, Erwinia amylovora, Ralstonia solanacearum, Bactrocera zonata, Rhynchophorus ferrugineu*

5.3.23. Zambia

The plant quarantine and phytosanitary service is mandated to prevent the introduction and spread of harmful pests in Zambia, achieved through enforcement of quarantine regulations and procedures.

The legal framework of the PQPS is plant pest & diseases act cap 233 of the laws of Zambia and the noxious weeds act cap 231. The Legislation on pesticides is enforced by the Zambia Environmental and Management Agency (ZEMA) under SI No. 12 of 2011] Cap. 204 of the Laws of Zambia. The Rotterdam convention as well as the Montreal protocol has been ratified.

The outbreaks of major pests include fruit flies, East African Cassava Mosaic Malawi Virus, East Africa Cassava Mosaic Virus, Sweet Potato Stunt Chlorotic Virus, Sweet Potato Leaf Curl, Cucumber Mosaic Virus and Aphid Borne Mosaic Virus, army worms, Red locusts and Maize Root cut worm**.** The Zambian NPPO's challenges are the Notification of SPS measures being implemented by other trade nations and information sharing with stakeholders and update border staff to levels of sound competence in inspection and certification procedures.

5.3.24. Zimbabwe

The Plant Protection Organisation of Zimbabwe (NPPOZW) is under the Research Services Division (RSD), Department of Research and Specialist Services (DR&SS) in the Ministry of Agriculture Mechanization and Irrigation Development. Its legislations and regulations are: Plant Pests and Diseases Act [Chapter 19:08], Warehouse Receipt Act [Chapter 18:25],Noxious Weeds Act [Chapter 19:07],Fertilizers, Farm Feeds and Remedies Act [Chapter 18:12],Plant Breeders Rights Act [Chapter 18:16]andSeed Act[Chapter 19:13]. The NPPOZW aims at preventing the introduction, establishment and spread of plant pests in the country.

The outbreaks of major pests in Zimbabwe are Army worm (*Spodoptera exempta)* for cereals and pastures, *Quelea quelea* for cereals, and *Spodoptera litoralis* for cut flowers. There is no IPM policy in place despites available regulations of 1988, 1995 and 2001on paprika, cotton and tobacco. Most of the cooperation with international organisation has focused on participation in foras to do with plant protection including the CPM, the SADC SPS Coordinating committee meetings and ASTF SFS. No Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation has been done in Zimbabwe. The development of pest control strategy is focused on Fruit flies, Army worm, Quelea, Large Grain Borer and the control of forestry invasive species.

6. Discussion on presentations

Following the above presentations the following were noted:

- Need for more financial resources to strengthen implementation of approved programs;
- Need for strengthening collaboration between AU-IAPSC and RECs/MS.

The meeting expressed concern over tendencies that member states and Regional Economic Communities timidly collaborate with AU-IAPSC on plant health matters. The meeting expressed the need for consolidation and involvement of technically competent experts in

decision making with regard to NPPOs in the preparation of economically sustainable and especially financially viable projects..

- There is need for more sensitization, education, awareness, creation; advocacy and attitudinal change, required to be able to minimize phytosanitary challenges.
- Need for policy reforms to capture benefits of ratification of the African Plant protection convention in the alternative sources of funding.

The meeting expressed concern over the low ratification of the existing African Plant Protection Convention by AU member states and recognized that better engagement in its ratification could be done under the stewarship of AU-IAPSC as the regional plant protection organization for Africa, this in a bit to ensure an effective alternatives sources of funding of approved activities. Concrete efforts toward this direction by individual States should be encouraged

7. Group session

Three taskforce groups were established:

- A taskforce group to revised the phytosanitary convention for Africa;
- A taskforce group to prepare a project proposal on plant health information system and
- A taskforce group to follow up recommendations of the AU-IAPSC's 9 Steering Committee and 26th General Assembly.

8. Recommendations of the 26th General Assembly

The 26th General Assembly of the Inter-African Phytosanitary Council that met in Douala, Cameroon on 3-5 June 2015

- acknowledged and appreciated the hospitality of the people and the government of Cameroon for hosting the 26th General Assembly session ;
- appreciates the role of AU-IAPSC for availing the resources and the support to the success of the meeting.

The 26th General Assembly adopted the Steering Committee Recommendations below:

1. IAPSC to work closely with FAO and other partners to develop a resource mobilization strategy to foster the implementation of the Inter-African Phytosanitary Council`s plant health strategic plan 2014-2023;
2. The General Assembly to appoint in consultation with AU-IAPSC a taskforce to assist the office in developing bankable projects to ensure the implementation of the strategic plan 2014-2023;
3. AU-IAPSC to work closely with FAO to develop Technical Cooperation Program (TCP) projects to support plant health systems in the continent;
4. Welcomes the cooperation between CABI and AU-IAPSC on Plant Health Information Systems and urges them to develop further the ideas for putting in place an effective PHIS, and calls upon the international partners to avail financial and technical resources for implementing such an important project;
5. AU-IAPSC to develop sensitization and advocacy materials to ensure that the strategic plan 2014-2023 is domesticated by member states and Regional Economic Communities (RECs);
6. RECs to integrate the AU-IAPSC`s Plant Health strategic plan 2014-2023 into their development priorities, programs and activities;

7. AU-IAPSC to conduct a coordination meeting with RECs to ensure participatory approach in the implementation of the strategic plan2014-2023;
8. DREA to ensure that there is no overlapping of activities and programs within the department and to affirm that AU-IAPSC is the only institution mandated to undertake programs and activities related to plant health, and to ensure that AU-IAPSC is fully participating in projects and programs related to SPS;
9. Calls upon the African Union Commission to ensure that AU-IAPSC 'programs and projects are well presented during fund raising exercises.
10. The General Assembly recognizes the relevance of the phytosanitary convention and appoints a committee to review status and to recommend the necessary actions to be undertaken and to report to the next General Assembly.

8.2. Report of IAPSC's activities,

The general Assembly noted with appreciation the program activities presented by AU-IAPSC and recommends the following:

1. In future, reports on activities should reflect participating countries;
2. The General Assembly raised a concern on the budgetary allocation and availed to AU-IAPSC.

8.3. AU-IAPSC strategic plan 2014-2023

- ✓ The General Assembly adopted ~~the~~AU- IAPSC's strategic plan 2014-2023 and appreciated the role of FAO in availing the resources and technical support needed for the development of the plan.
- ✓ The General Assembly urged AU-IAPSC and DREA to take the necessary action for the plan to be presented and endorsed by the AU assembly and Heads of states and Governments
- ✓ The General Assembly called upon International partners and United Nations agencies particularly FAO to support the initiative.

8.4. Plant Health Information System

The general Assembly welcomed the proposal by CABI to assist AU-IAPSC to develop a Plant Health Information System and a taskforce to develop a project proposal was set up;

8.5. Member states presentations

The General Assembly acknowledged the presentations from the NPPOs.

9. Date and venue of the 27thsession

The General Assembly agreed to host its 27thsession in Egypt, between the month of March and June, 2017.

10. Adoption of the report

The General Assembly endorsed AU-IAPSC's strategic plan 2014-2023 and adopted the report.

11. Item for AU-IAPSC General Assembly Agenda from CABI

An important piece of information from CABI was read out to participants regarding the Australia-Africa Plant Biosecurity Partnership (AAPBP),that was launched in October 2014. It was revealed that the programme was going to start its main phase. There had been a delay due to cuts in Australia's development assistance budget, but funding for the programme had now been confirmed by ACIAR. Countries within the AAPBP are Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, Uganda, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The prioritisation workshop in 2014 benefitted from the participation of AU-IAPSC, COMESA and FAO, as well as NPPOs and private sector representatives from the 10 countries. A report of the workshop was circulated to all participants, and is freely available.
The AAPBP is a capacity building programme, centred on a group of 15 Senior Biosecurity Fellows and 30 Biosecurity Fellows. In the next few weeks a call for applications for Senior Biosecurity Fellowships will be made and circulated widely. Women are particularly encouraged to apply.
Senior fellows will undertake 6 week training placements in Australia later in 2015. All fellows will receive training in Africa and will be part of a larger network to share experience and learnings.
The first network workshop will be held in Nairobi from 18 -20 August 2015, and CABI looked forward to the continued involvement of IAPSC.

12. Closing of the session

The Namibian delegate on behalf of member states NPPOs present at the meeting thanked the Director of AU-IAPSC for bringing them together to debate on plant health issues.

FAO acknowledged the endorsement of AU-IAPSC's strategic plan2014-2023 by the assembly; which is a milestone. The success of AU-IAPSC is FAO's success and vice versa.

The Director of AU-IAPSC expressed his gratitude to participants for their fruitful deliberations and recommendations which will strengthen its office's future actions.

The Cameroon's NPPO Director, representing the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development thanked all the delegates and the organizing committee for making the meeting a success and closed the meeting.

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Annex 2. Agenda of the 26th General Assembly

Day 1: Wednesday, 03 June, 2015

Time	Activity	Presenter(s)	MODERATOR
09.00-09.30	**Openingceremony** • Welcomeaddress • Opening speech	Director AU-IAPSC Representative of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Cameroon	**Cameroon**
09:30-10:00	Election of the Bureau • Chair • Vice-Chair • Rapporteur • Assistant Rapporteur • Group Photo		**Cameroon**
10.00-10.30	**Coffee Break**		
10:30-10:45	Adoption of the agenda		**Chair**
10.45-11.15	• Presentation of the recommendations of the 9th Steering Committee • Discussions	Rapporteur of the Steering Committee	**Chair**
11 :15-12 :00	• General situation of the African Regional Plant Protection Organization • Actions taken for the implementation of recommendations adopted by the 25th General Assembly • Discussions	Director AU-IAPSC	
12.00-12.30	**Keynote paper presentation : Strenghtening Plant Health Management Systems for enhanced production and market access**	Joyce MULILA MITTI (FAO)	
12.30-14.00	**Lunch break**		
14.00-14.30	Reports of activities implemented by AU-IAPSC 2013-2014	Prof. Amer, AU-IAPSC	
14.30-15.00	Presentation of AU-IAPSC strategic plan 2014-2023	Prof. Bahama, AU-IAPSC	
15:00-15:30	AU6IAPSC programmes 2015&2016	Prof. Bahama	
15.30-16.00	**Invited paper I:** A Plant Health Information System for AU-IAPSC	Roger DAY, CABI	
16:00-16:30	**Coffee break**		
16.30-17.00	Countries presentations **:** Burundi, Burkina Faso, Cameroon		

Time	Activity	Presenter(s)	MODERATOR
Day 2: Thursday 04 June, 2015			
9:00-10:00	Countries presentations: CAR, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire,Egypt, Gambia, Gabon		**Chair**
10:30-13:00	Présentations pays: Kenya, Ghana, Malawi, Mauritania, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, DRC, Sao Tome&Principe, Sudan, South Sudan, Chad, Togo, Tunisia, Zambia, Zimbabwe	Countries participants	
13:00-14:00	**Lunch break**		
14:00-15:00	Discussions on countries presentations		
15:00-15:30	FAO Programmes and prospective collaboration with IAPSC	Sosthène AHANDA, (FAO)	
15:30-16:00	Presentation on ASTF project (8 SADC countries)	Joyce MULILAMITTI (FAO)	
16:00-16:30	**Coffee break**		
16:30-17:00	Preparationof group session		
Day3: Friday05June, 2015			
08.30-10.00	Group work		**Chair**
10:00-10:30	**Coffee break**		
10.30-10.45	Report and Discussion: group I	Rapporteur Group I	
10.45-11.00	Report and discussion: group II	Rapporteur Group II	
11:00-11:15	Setting up a drafting committee for recommendations	Bureau and Secretariat	
11:15-13:00	Drafting of recommendations		
13:00-14:00	**Lunch break**		
14:00-15:00	Adoption of the recommendations		
15:00-15:15	• Any other business • Date and venue for the 27th Session of the GA		
15:15-15:30	**Closing ceremony**		

Annex3: The 9th Steering Committee recommendations to the General Assembly for consideration:

1. IAPSC to work closely with FAO and other partners to develop a resource mobilization strategy to foster the implementation of the African plant health strategic plan 2014-2023;
2. The General Assembly to appoint in consultation with IAPSC a taskforce to assist the office in developing bankable projects to ensure the implementation of the strategic plan 2014-2023;
3. IAPSC to work closely with FAO to develop Technical Cooperation Program (TCP) projects to support plant health systems in the continent;
4. Welcomes the cooperation between CABI and IAPSC on Plant Health Information Systems and urges them to develop further the ideas for putting in place an effective PHIS, and calls upon the international partners to avail financial and technical resources for implementing such an important project;
5. IAPSC to develop sensitization and advocacy materials to ensure that the strategic plan 2014-2023 is domesticated by member states and Regional Economic Communities (RECs);
6. RECs to integrate the Africa Plant Health strategic plan 2014-2023 into their development priorities, programs and activities;
7. IAPSC to conduct a coordination meeting with RECs to ensure participatory approach in the implementation of the strategic plan2014-2023;
8. DREA to ensure that there is no overlapping of activities and programs within the department and to affirm that IAPSC is the only institution mandated to undertake programs and activities related to plant health, and to ensure that IAPSC is fully participating in projects and programs related to SPS;
9. Calls upon the African Union Commission to ensure that IAPSC 'programs and projects are well presented during fund raising exercises.
10. Calls upon member states of the union to ratify the Phytosanitary Convention for Africa;

2015

IAPSC 26th General Assembly 3rd - 5th June, 2015 Douala, Cameroon

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