



REPORT
WORKSHOP ON PLANT HEALTH MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS IN
AFRICA:
REVIEW OF DRAFT NPPO STRUCTURE AND ORGANIZATION;
PROCEDURES FOR INSPECTION OF PLANT AND PLANT PRODUCTS
INCLUDING REGULATED ARTICLES.



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Yde office

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i. Executive Summary

Today, it is agreed that plant protection strategy and activities have significant importance in the overall crop production programs for sustainable agriculture. It efforts aim at minimizing crop losses due to the ravages of pest. Thus the coordination of NPPO`s activities and prevention of the introduction and spread of pest on plant and plant products in Africa remains the main focus of IAPSC. Considering that the core of the plant health management systems is the National Plant Protection Organization whose functions are defined by the International Plant Protection Convention, IAPSC with the support of EU did carry out preliminary work consisting of a rapid survey and a workshop for selected countries to analyze the current situation of plant health in Africa. It was noted that the tools for performance of the functions of the NPPO are not available in most African countries. Key areas of interventions were identified and include setting up plant health management systems and strengthening them for pest monitoring, surveillance and reporting, pest risks analysis, inspections and setting up pest free and / or areas of low prevalence.

The next steps of this programs consisted of developing a harmonized NPPO structure and organization for African countries and plants and plant products inspections procedures including regulated articles for better performance of the various functions of the plant health management systems. Within this framework, two experts working groups were scheduled in Douala and Bujumbura to elaborate the documents and validation workshop organized in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

ii. List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

AUC: African Union Commission

AU-IAPSC: African Union –Inter African Phytosanitary Council

DREA: Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture

EU: European Union

IP: Import Permit

ISSB: International Standard-Setting Body

IPPC: International Plant Protection Convention

ISPM: International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures

PRA: Pest Risk Analysis

RPPO: Regional Plant Protection Organization

SPS: Sanitary and Phytosanitary

WTO: World Trade Organization

1. Introduction

On December 17-19, 2013, the Inter-African Phytosanitary Council of African Union convened a validation workshop on the review and adoption of a common NPPO structure and procedure for inspection of plants and plant products at a conference hall in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Participants were senior plant health officers of the various NPPOs of Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Togo, Tunisia, Zambia and some IAPSC staff (see annex4). The elected bureau was made of Chairperson (Ivory Coast), Vice Chair person (Ghana), and two rapporteurs (Zambia and Congo Brazzaville). The agenda of the workshop was adopted with little modification (annex1.).

2. Workshop Objectives

The objectives of the workshop were to:

- Review two draft reports on the NPPO structure including the organization in Africa and Procedures for plants and plant products inspection at both import and export levels for better trade.
- Adopt the NPPO structure and procedure for inspection of plants and plant products including regulated articles.
- Network for plant health future;
- Develop a plan of actions for the promotion of the documents and awareness of policy makers of African member states and different stakeholders.

3. Opening remarks

In his opening remarks and on behalf of the Director of DREA and H.E the Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture, Dr. Jean Gérard MEZUI MELLA; Director of IAPSC congratulated the Experts Working group and IAPSC staff for the job well done to make available the draft documents which were to be reviewed and thanked all participants for being in attendance. He highlighted the importance of the NPPO structure and organization as well as inspections services in the framework of plant protection and control and SPS-WTO Agreement. The compliance with the International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures and elaboration of referential guides for inspection and harmonization of NPPO structure and organization for Africa are important things to be done to boost agricultural production, productivity and trade. He encouraged participants to use their experiences to totally review the draft documents at their disposal for adoption. While wishing fruitful deliberation to participants the Director thanked Ethiopia people and government for their hospitality and then declared opened the workshop.

4. Summary of the different activities carried out

Eight countries: Chad, Mozambique, Malawi, Nigeria, Lesotho, Tunisia, Togo, and Zambia made presentations which varied to a certain degree; but, all touched on their respective NPPOs` structures, activities, challenges and progress. Each presenter was given 15 minutes and at the end of the presentations, a session for general discussions,

concerns, clarifications and question was reserved. It was noted upon presentations that, NPPO structures differ and in some cases, the Head of NPPO is distant from policy makers. This causes dilution in instructions and advises. Therefore, participants urged to provide critique to the proposed NPPO structure and organization and inspection procedures for plants, plant products and regulated articles.

4.1. introduction to plant health and countries presentation

Though Agriculture, horticulture and forestry provide food, plant products and raw materials, as well as ornamental plants that contribute significantly to our quality of life affirmed the author; combating the potential pest threats requires a range of regulations, measures and activities. To prevent the introduction of new pests and to control already introduced pests, common phytosanitary regulations and procedures are developed and applied worldwide by almost all countries. With the significant increase of global trade in terms of both diversity and volume and a number of new pathways, plant pests are transported along with commodities, thus there is need to develop modern pest detection and identification methods; procedures for inspections and harmonize NPPO structure and organization.

4.2. Review and adoption of the draft document on a NPPO structure and organization

The proposed NPPO structure and organization had three divisions which are:

- the division for Phytosanitary Inspection control and certification,
- the division for Policies, regulations and standards and
- the division for laboratory services.

Each of the above divisions was reviewed thoroughly by participants. The Chairperson presented the proposed harmonized NPPO structure and organization suggested by a selected working group of experts in Douala, Cameroon and Bujumbura, Burundi meetings respectively and prepared by Mr. Nana Sani Flaubert of AU-IAPSC. The need to have the NPPOs' structure harmonized and close to the policy makers was emphasized. The presence of middle men must be limited and the Head of NPPOs must not be overlooked. However, the Sovereignty of each country has to be observed. Participants went through these documents line per line and paragraph per paragraph with the secretariat taken note on different inputs prior for adoption. This review was followed by a session of questions and answers (Annex2) and deliberation points (annex3). The deliberation on the proposed NPPO structure continued with amendments highlighted in the draft document with IAPSC secretariat. Editorial, as well as substantive comments were provided to the document by participants and upon correction it was adopted.

4.3. Review and adoption of the draft document on procedures for inspection of plants and plant products including regulated articles

Documents on inspections concerned export and import inspections and phytosanitary certification unit of the NPPO which should have the statutory power to prevent the export and import of consignments, which do not meet the phytosanitary requirements of the importing country and take appropriate action in case of communication of no-conformities by the importing country and to fulfill the international obligations under the IPPC and WTO Agreement. Similarly the document on procedures for inspection of plants and plant products and other regulated articles was completely reviewed by participants. After necessary corrections on the draft document, it was adopted.

5. Workshop Achievements

The NPPO representatives reviewed and adopted the two documents; the NPPO structure including the organization and procedure for inspections of plants and plant products and other regulated articles.

6. Recommendations

The Secretariat was commended for a good job done. It was advised to ensure that terminologies are consistent with those of ISPM 5, ensure that the flow chart use the correct symbols.

It was recommended that the same Expert Working Group convene at a later date to work on the document and later circulate it across the continent for comments.

7. Closing ceremony.

The NPPO of Lesotho representative gave a vote of thanks by thanking the organizers, donors and the participants.

The Director of IAPSC closed the meeting by highlighting the need to have the draft document ready for submission to the donors (EU) before their meeting in February 2014. Depending on the availability of funds, the next meeting will take place as soon as possible in order to press on with the two documents for member states.

8. Annex

Annex 1: draft agenda

Workshop on plant health management Systems in Africa:
Review of draft NPPO structure and organization; Procedures for
inspection of plant and plant products including regulated articles.
December 17-19, 2013, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Draft Agenda

ID	Time	Session and Activities	Lead by
Day One : Tuesday, December 17, 2013			
1	8.00-8.30	Registration of participants	IAPSC
2	8.30-9.00	Opening session	
		Welcome and opening of the meeting	Director -IAPSC
		Self introduction of participants	
		group photo	
3		Working session	
	9.00-9.15	Set up of the bureau	Experts/NPPO
	9.15-9.30	Review of the draft agenda and adoption of a work plan	participants
	9.30- 10.00	Introduction to plant health: Background; African plant health systems; Management and control of organisms of Phytosanitary concern; Relevant impact factors on introduction and spread of new and quarantine organisms.	IAPSC
	10.00 -10.15	Workshop objectives and outcome	IAPSC
	10.15-10.30	Coffee break	
	10.30-13.00	Session1: Review of the draft document on a NPPO structure and organization	Bureau
	13.00-14.00	Lunch	
	13.00-15.00	Review of the draft document on a NPPO structure and organization	Bureau
	15.00-15.15	Coffee break	
	15.15-17.00	Review of the draft document on a NPPO structure and organization	Bureau
Day two : Wednesday, December18, 2013			
	8.30-9.15	Recap of day one	
	9.15-10.15	Review of the draft document on a NPPO structure and organization	IAPSC
	10.15-10.30	Coffee break	
	10-30-12.00	Input on the text of a NPPO structure and organization	

	12.00-13.00	Adoption of the final document of a NPPO structure and organization	
	13.00-14.00	Lunch	
	14.00-15.00	Session2: Review of the document on procedures for inspection of plant and plant Products including regulated articles.	
	15.00-15.15	Coffee break	
	15.15-17.00	Review of the document on procedures for inspection of plant and plant Products including regulated articles	Bureau
Day three: Thursday 19, December, 2013			
	8.30-9.15.	Recap of day two	Bureau
4	9.15-10.15	Review of the document on procedures for inspection of plant and plant Products including regulated articles	
	10.15-10.30	Coffee break	
	10.30-12.00	Review of the document on procedures for inspection of plant and plant Products including regulated articles	
	12.00-13.00	Input on the document on procedures for inspection of plant and plant Products including regulated articles	
	13.00-14.00	Lunch	
5	14.00-15.00	Session 4: Adoption of the final document on procedures for inspection of plant and plant Products including regulated articles.	Experts
	15.00-15.15	Coffee break	
	15.15-16.00	Recommendation and outline of the future work plan	
	16.00-17.00	Closing ceremony	

Annex 2: Questions and answers sessions

Questions and answers

Malawi

- Question from Togo: Does the existence of phytosanitary/regulatory under Research give them independence?
- Response: Each Division works independently with respective directors and so far, there has not been a mix up.
- Question from Cameroon: How do you employ staff from the private sector?
- Response: No staff from private sector is employed. Its just collaboration

Nigeria

- Question from Togo: Can Nigeria give more details on the cassava brown streak disease that is rapidly spreading?

- Response: The disease not present in Nigeria. The Officer from IITA that was presumed to have reported refused their involvement.

Mozambique

- Comment from Togo: Give more details on the on the collaboration between NPPOs and stakeholders.
- Response: The NPPO works closely in with stakeholder especially in the fruit-fly monitoring program.

There were not questions for the rest of the presenters. However, the IAPSC Director General observed from the presentations that exist diverse structure to varying degree. The need to have a harmonized structure was emphasized. The current structures have proved difficult to coordinate plant health matters across the continent. What the experts are proposing is in line with the IPPC.

Annex3: Deliberation points

Draft document on a NPPO structure and organization.

The review of the documented (diagram) highlighted the following:

- ✓ Kenyan delegate proposed the need to include Registration and monitoring of agrochemicals as this is key;
- ✓ The Director reminded the participants that Member countries have the sovereign right but that NPPOs must speak with the same voice and be clearer on the document;
- ✓ Lesotho proposed that Seed Health Testing (SHT) moves to the division of Policies, regulations and standards
- ✓ Togo representative stresses the need to avoid scattered NPPO structures but develop harmonized structures;
- ✓ Congo Brazzaville noted that exist repetitions across the divisions of Phytosanitary Inspection control and certification and Policies, regulations and standards, thus on first bullet of the same.
- ✓ Zambia added that there is need to be conscious that the proposed document is starting from Zero. Exist already coordination structures and we basically need to strengthen these. In addition, the experts need to be mindful of not making the structure “top heavy” and avoid complex and resource-demand structures. This document is for all, for Africa. Additionally, since participation in expert meeting vital, this must cut across all divisions.

Editorial and technical comments on the all the three divisions, namely, the division for Phytosanitary Inspection control and certification, The division for Policies, regulations and standards and the Division for laboratory services, were immediately attended to and this is reflected in the reviewed document with the IAPSC secretariat.

- Nigeria proposed to delete “*Initiate the formulation and*” from the text
- Ghana proposed included” *value for*”. Ghana was supported by Kenya
- Kenya proposed to remove “*easy*” so that the documents take a more scientific approach

- Malawi proposed to include “*in order to*” but this was objected by Lesotho that the present wording remains.

Kenya proposed to remove “*mitigation for risk*” as this was repetitive. However, the house decided to maintain the statement for easy and clear interpretation into French.

Annex4: List of participants

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