



Project Title: Strengthening Phytosanitary Control and Diagnostic Services in Azerbaijan
Reporter: Hafiz Muminjanov
Project Code(if applicable): MTF/AZE/007/STF
Submitted Date: 2018-10-22

IC PROJECT REPORTING TEMPLATE (ONLY TWO PAGES WILL BE ACCEPTED)

1. Project Profile	
Recipient Region(s)/ Countries	Azerbaijan
Donor/ Resource Partner	STDF WTO
IC Representative (if applicable)	N/A
IPPC Secretariat Representation (if applicable)	Orlando Sosa, Ketevan Lomsadze
RPPO Representation (if applicable)	N/A
Collaboration / Participating Organizations	EPPO, NPPO
Project Budget (detailed funds and/or in-kind)	USD 3,949,000, including USD 1,120,000 contribution of the STDF, USD 2,579,00 – co-funding by the World Bank Agriculture Competitiveness Improvement Project (ACIP-II) and USD 250,000 co-funding from the NPPO
Project Timing	2016-02 – 2018-12
2. Project Scope and Relevance to the IPPC	
<p>The objective of the project is to maintain the necessary level of phytosanitary protection for agricultural production and ecosystems in the country particularly as it relates to the Import and Export regulatory system. At the end of the project, it is expected that the phytosanitary inspection and diagnostic capabilities of both the State Phytosanitary Control Service (SPCS) and the State Customs Committee (SCC) will be improved. The improved ability of these institutions to carry out required functions to monitor the phytosanitary situation in the country, to train inspectors of SPCS, Customs and possibly other organizations involved in phytosanitary control on a permanent basis and analyse the potential pest risks will lead to the maintenance of the necessary level of phytosanitary protection for agriculture production and ecosystems in the country.</p>	
3. Project Milestones and Deliverables [e.g. reports, manuals, workshops etc.]	
<p>The project is supporting to the modernization of the national phytosanitary laboratory, preparation of the laboratory protocols and operational procedures. Moreover, the National Phytosanitary laboratory of SPCS was provided with additional reference materials to improve its existing collection. Successful organization of the capacity building activities for inspectors and laboratory staff including trainings and language courses and national phytosanitary awareness raising events contributed to the development and strengthening of the national phytosanitary system. Import/export control capacities were also strengthened by trainings on import inspection and export certification. Relevant operational procedures are prepared. Computerized database/Unified Automated Management System is developed in the SPCS as a result of the joint efforts of SPCS and SCC. The newly established Azerbaijan Food Safety Agency (AFSA) has taken over the responsibility for the database and electronic certification systems and they have indicated that they are planning to integrate these functions within a centrally operated one-window system for all state services. Information regarding workshops and their results can be found on the FAO website: http://www.fao.org/europe/central-asia/en/ and the IPPC website.</p>	
4. Expected Goals, Outcomes and Outputs of the Project [e.g. linking to ISPMs and/or IPPC Strategic Framework 2020-2030 priorities that the project will address]	
<p>The objective of the project is improved provision of inspection and diagnostic services by the SPCS and Customs for maintaining the necessary level of phytosanitary protection for agricultural production and ecosystems in the country. Project has the following main outputs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Output 1: Pest diagnostics service strengthened. • Output 2: Management of import regulatory system improved. 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Output 3: Pre-border inspection and export certification system in Azerbaijan improved.
<p>5. Project Team and related Expertise <i>[e.g. names and expertise]</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Import and Export Regulatory Management – Ringolds Arnitis, Former President of EPPO • Phytosanitary Export Expert – Olga Lavrentjeva • Plant Quarantine Laboratory – Natalia Sherokolava, Vice President of EPPO
<p>6. Project Beneficiaries <i>[directly and indirectly (individual NPPOs, RPPO's, industry representatives, growing communities, exporters etc)]</i></p>
<p>The primary beneficiaries of the project will be the technical Inspection and Pest Diagnostic Staff of the SPCS and Customs Service responsible for the management of consignments at points of entry. Secondary beneficiaries of the project will be the producers and farmers in terms of expected reduction in spending costs for eradication or management of quarantine pests and in turn leading to a positive impact on the environment and ecology as a whole. Other beneficiaries include the trading partners of the Republic of Azerbaijan as a result of an increase in the confidence of its ability to ensure phytosanitary security of exported consignments.</p>
<p>7. Project Challenges and Successes</p>
<p>The main issues were linked with uncertainties regarding establishment of the AFSA as of January 2018 and its taking over its functions and responsibilities in the field of phytosanitary from July 2018. Moreover, the construction work on the new National Phytosanitary Laboratory within the phase II of the World Bank funded Agriculture Competitiveness Improvement Project (ACIP II) had been suspended. The new institutional changes initiated according to the central level policy making decisions put the Republic Quarantine Expertise Center (National Phytosanitary Laboratory) under responsibility of the newly-established AFSA.</p> <p>There has been some delay on the approval of procedures and preparation of the list of equipment set to be procured due to the ongoing discussions and uncertainties regarding the structure of the SPCS and the AFSA. Nevertheless, the SPCS continues to implement the project activities and the work has progressed to enhance the capacities and address the needs of the changing structure in the Phytosanitary inspection and diagnostic services.</p>
<p>8. Project IPPC, IC, SC or IPPC Network Involvement <i>[e.g. possible project collaboration with the relevant IPPC committees, networks, task forces and working groups]</i></p>
<p>FAOSEC closely collaborated with the IPPC Secretariat during the formulation of the project document. Orlando Sosa and Ketevan Lomsadze participated in the inception workshop and supported to develop a detailed workplan.</p>
<p>9. Project Supporting Materials and Attachments <i>[e.g. hyperlinks]</i></p>
<p>The project document, reports and the terminal statement are available on FPMIS.</p>