Phytosanitary Activities in Malawi

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Size and population of Malawi

• Malawi occupies an area of 118,480 km\(^2\) of which 24,400 km\(^2\) consists of water mostly Lake Malawi

• Malawi shares common boundary with Tanzania, Mozambique and Zambia.

• Malawi has an estimated population of 18,091,575 (as at July 2016) of which 80% lives in rural areas.
Background information on Agriculture

Main plant exports

• Malawi is predominantly agriculture economy and the main production are tobacco, maize, groundnuts, beans, soybeans and horticultural crops such as cassava, banana, fruits and vegetables.
• In addition to tobacco, sugar cane and tea are the dominant exported commodities.
• On top of this; Coffee, cotton, rice, beans, pigeon pea, soybean are some of the commodities that are exported;
• Mango fruits have just been included for export
Background information on Agriculture

Main plant imports

• However, Malawi imports the following commodities from neighboring countries and beyond:
  • fruits (tangerines, oranges, grapes, peach, pears, and nectarines),
  • vegetables seeds,
  • potatoes,
  • bananas.
  • Maize in periods of food shortages
Background information on Agriculture

Main Exit and Entry Points

• Border Posts include:
  • Songwe,
  • Mchinji,
  • Dedza,
  • Mwanza,
  • Muloza,
  • Chiponde, and
  • Biriwiri

• International Airports:
  • Kamuzu International Airport,
  • Chileka International Airport,

• Nkhatabay inland port
Organizational Structure for the National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO)

National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO)
Functions:
1. Provision of Plant Protection Regulatory Services
2. Provision of Advisory Services
3. Generation of Plant protection Technologies

Plant Protection regulatory and advisory Services Functions:
1. Quarantine services
2. Border Post and Inland Phytosanitary Services
3. Produce Inspection Services
4. Plant Clinic services
5. Surveillance

Plant Protection Research Functions:
1. Integrated Field disease Mgt
2. Integrated Field Insect pest Mgt
3. Post harvest handling

Crop Storage Functions:
1. Storage facility
2. Produce processing
3. Bio-Control

NPPO Contact Point
National Research Coordinator
Commodity Team Leaders
Scientist, Lab Technicians, Plant Health Inspectors
Duties of the NPPO

• Field Inspection
• Quarantine services
• Issuance of Import Permits
• Issuance of Phytosanitary Certificates
• Surveillance for crop pests (ISPM 6)
• Border Post Inspections for the movement of agricultural commodities
Issuance of Phytosanitary Certificates and Import Permits

• This is in accordance with ISPM 7 (2012) and ISPM 12 (2015)
Phytosanitary Legal framework

• There is a Plant Protection Act 2018 of the Laws of Malawi which is guided by the plant protection regulations.

• The legal framework provides for the requirement to adhere to SPS guidelines for the international and regional bodies such as SADC, COMMESA, IPPC and WTO

• National regulations are harmonized with the regional SPS regulations (SADC, COMESA)
The Phytosanitary and Quarantine regulations harmonized

- Malawi is member to all the regional economic bodies
  And International economic bodies concerned with SPS
  - SADC
  - COMESA
  - WTO
  - IPPC
List of regulated Pests

• There is a list of regulated pests and that of quarantine importance.
  • SADC Pest List
  • COMESA Pest List
  • National Pest List

• When there is an intention of exporting or importing agricultural commodities and any consignment of plant origin
  • produce inspection is conducted
  • guided by scientific evidence of pest risk analysis (PRA) –ISPM 11
  • directed by the Plant Protection Law 2018.
Overview of cases of surveillance, non-compliance and management of regulated pests

- Maize chlorotic mottle virus (MCMV) that causes maize lethal necrosis disease
- MCMV not recorded in Malawi but neighboring Tanzania
- This poses a threat of its introduction into Malawi.
- The surveillance is done to establish introduction or not.
Overview of cases of surveillance

- *Tuta absoluta* on tomato. Tomato leaf minor is recorded in Malawi.
- *Fusarium oxysporum fs cubense* Tropical Race 4 (Foc TR4) of banana is another case study.
- Foc TR4 is recorded in Mozambique and is regarded as a quarantine pest in Malawi.
Case study on MCMV detection survey

All samples analyzed had negative result indication that no MLN Disease 2017/2018 cropping season
Case studies: *Tuta absoluta* on tomato

Surveys conducted in 2016 using pheromone traps showed:

- Pest trapped in farmers field in Northern district of Malawi
- Pest has spread in many tomato growing areas
Surveillance activities in the maize field for MCMV detection
Surveillance for pests in mango orchards

Mango fruits are becoming important export crop in Malawi:
Field inspection for pests in a legume crop field
Surveillance for pests in banana fields
Non-compliance and management of regulated pests

• Noncompliance is detected when clients introduce into Malawi agricultural commodities without following proper SPS procedures.

• It is a requirement that agriculture produce must be accompanied by:
  • import permit and
  • phytosanitary certificate.

• Regulated pests are managed through adhering to SPS import and export requirements
Information on emerging pests

- *Tuta absoluta* (tomato leaf miner) is an emerging pest in Malawi since it is not recorded in neighboring Zambia.
- It was recorded in Malawi in 2016 and it impacts on tomato trade with neighboring Zambia.
- *Tuta absoluta* is under official control by raising awareness on control strategies.
- While Malawi does not have MCMV, it impacts on maize trade with neighboring Tanzania.
- Malawi has not recorded Foc TR 4, its introduction is being prevented by observing SPS procedures when trading banana with Mozambique the same with MCMV when trading maize with Tanzania.
Identification of opportunities in Phytosanitary Measures

• Political will where the legal framework is supported by government through its review and update following the dynamics of pest situation and call for compliance to regional and international SPS issues.

• The legislation was harmonized with regional and international SPS regulations.

• ISPMs are available that guide the implementation of certain SPS activities.

• Trained staff and border post structures availability though limited

• Introduction of Treasury Fund Order necessitates sustainability in financial resource requirement for the running of the activities
Identification of challenges in Phytosanitary Measures

Challenges include:

• Porous borders that can allow introduction of quarantine and regulated pests.
• Unavailability of pest list on IPPP for ease of pest list analysis (PRA)
• Limited infrastructure (quarantine facilities at border)
• Reliance to borrowed vehicles impact activity implementation
Suggestions on international, Regional and bilateral cooperation in Phytosanitary Measures among the Chinese Initiative “the Belt and Road” countries

areas for cooperation in phytosanitary measures:

• To be conducted by the IPPC secretariat include

• posting of the pest list of contacting member states on the IPP Portal for ease of conducting pest risk analysis when contracting member states are engaged in trade of agricultural commodities.

• IPPC to share new standards related to SPS being develop for ease of compliance
Suggestions on international, Regional and bilateral cooperation in Phytosanitary Measures among the Chinese Initiative “the Belt and Road” countries

areas for cooperation in phytosanitary measures:

• To be conducted by the Belt and Road countries, to provide standards that need to be met when member states are trading in agricultural commodities, including other plants and plant products such as wood packaging materials that accompany consignments. This will facilitate compliance by member states
Suggestions on international, Regional and bilateral cooperation in Phytosanitary Measures among the Chinese Initiative “the Belt and Road” countries

areas for cooperation in phytosanitary measures:

- To be conducted by the Chinese Ministry of Agriculture include, avail pest list of quarantine importance to the IPP portal, should be able to advise its clients on the need of following SPS regulations when trading with other member states
Acknowledgement

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• Organizers of the workshop for this initiative which seeks to strengthen the cooperation in trade of agricultural commodities among member states
The End of the Presentation

• And thanks to everyone for Listening