**APPPC update summary for the 25th TC-RPPOs**

By

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Timor-Leste has endorsed the Agreement by accepting all amendments (1983/1999) and become member of APPPC since 20 April 2012. Bhutan, Japan and Singapore had expressed their intention of membership and the Secretariat and Legal Service of FAO provided some essential advice to these countries. Now Twenty-five countries are contracting parties to the Plant Protection Agreement for Asia and the Pacific at present.

The 26th Session proposed that a working group be established to investigate how the Commission members can assist in the implementation of standards. The working group would select an ISPM or ISPMs and, if deemed appropriate, examine the development of training materials. The working group on the ISPM15 investigated how the Commission members can assist in the implementation of the ISPM No.15. The feedbacks to questionnaires from countries have been collected and analyzed preliminary.

A global symposium on pest surveillance was held from 29 October to 2 November 2012 in Korea in collaboration with IPPC Secretariat. About 50 experts from 28 countries including delegates from FAO Severn Regions participated in the symposium. The symposium came up with the framework of manuals as base materials for development of manual guides for implementation of ISPM6, and these frameworks contained chapter headings with additional outline material included as appropriate. It was hoped that the proposals would also contribute to IRSS implementation programmes.

The 13th APPPC/Asia Regional Workshop on the review of draft ISPMs was held in Gyeong Ju, Republic of Korea on 3-7 September 2012. The regional comments, prepared by the workshop were distributed to all NPPO focal points of participating countries as well as to all participants immediately, together with operational instructions on how to share/incorporate regional comments with country comments on draft ISPMs. In addition to a review of draft ISPMs, there was a series of discussions on implementation review and support system (IRSS), provision of technical resources, reporting obligations, information exchange through IPP/APPPC website, capacity development, etc. The 14th regional workshop on review of draft ISPMs will be held from 28 October-1 Nov. 2013 in Seoul, Korea.

The APPPC pre-CPM8 meetings was organized in Rome on 18 March 2012 and on 7 April 2013. The meeting provided an opportunity to member countries have better understanding of specific subjects of agenda through sharing their views and stands.

In order to enhance information exchange with IPP/APPPC website among member countries, regular monitoring of country updates are being made at quarterly basis and summary of update status of each country were sent to members for their reference and reminder to accelerate follow up actions for update countries’ web pages in IPP/APPPC website where the section of phytosanitary measures is automatically cross linked.

In collaboration with the Brazil NPPO, a training workshop on diagnostics of SALB for development of the capacity concerned was identified based on the proposed training program which was developed during the regional workshop before. APPPC sent 13 delegates from 4 countries to Brail for participate in the training. Brazil NPPO facilitated the training and provided invaluable assistance and support to the participants. In collaboration with NAPPO, a joint workshop on ISPM15 will be organized in 2014, prearrangements are under discussion.

The apple snail (*Pomacea spp.*) has become a serious pest of rice in Asia and the Pacific region in the past few years. A regional workshop on spread prevention and control of apple snail in rice was convened from 3-7 December 2012 in Malaysia with kind assistance of Malaysia NPPO. The workshop programme discussed the biology and ecology of the pest *Pomacea spp.* and control strategies. Participants shared their experiences and gained expertise in the field from the experts. The workshop presented the various methods to control Pomacea spp. i.e. physical control, cultural control, biological molluscicides, habitat modification, and chemical control.

An STDF project (STDF/PG/329)-Beyond compliance: on an integrated systems approach for pest risk management made some progress. Participating countries improved some capacity in identifying critical control points in production chains, which may more relevant for system approach for risk management, through exercises of using Bayesian Network modelling approach during the implementation of the project.

An APPPC planning workshop was held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 13-15 May 2013 to review the status of the implementation of the work plan adopted by the 27th Session and to prepare recommendations for the 2014-2015 biennium work programme. The recommendations were prepared by the meeting and will be presented to this Session for further discussion and adoption. The 28th Session will be convened from 23-27 September 2013 in Jeju Island, Republic of Korea.