Summary report

30th Session of the Asia and Pacific Plant Protection Commission (APPPC)
20–24 November 2017
Rotorua, New Zealand

The 30th Session of APPPC was convened from 20-24 November 2017 in Rotorua, New Zealand. The meeting was attended by delegation from 19 member countries of APPPC and observers from Japan, Rotterdam Convention Secretariat and the regional IPM Programme.

The Session reviewed the activities and progress made since the last Session in 2015, agreed with the work plan and budget for the coming biennium 2018-2019, the Session also adopted the mandatory financial contribution level of each contracting country for 2018-2019.

The main objectives of this meeting were:

- to strengthen relationships with key decision-makers within Asian and Pacific trading partners; to report of the work programme of the last biennium;
- to plan a worthwhile work programme for the next biennium;
- and to exhibit aspects of the host country’s horticultural production and certification systems.
For the first time, the opportunity was taken to hold discussions on the development of commodity standards. As usual, bilateral talks on market access issues between Asian country NPPO officials were held.

All APPPC member countries attending the meeting, plus Japan (a non-member) presented their country reports. These reports provide a useful background to the phytosanitary status of the region. The APPPC Executive Secretary reported on the activities of the Secretariat along with the Chairpersons of the three Standing Committees – on Plant Quarantine, Integrated Pest Management and Pesticides Management. All of the planned items had been accomplished apart from a meeting on electronic phytosanitary certification (ePhyto) that was changed to an international symposium and will be held in January 2018 in Kuala Lumpur.

The Chairperson of the APPPC Standards Committee reported on the development of a regional standard on the Hot Water Immersion Treatment of mangoes for fruit flies. The guideline section of the standard was adopted. The treatment schedules will be added at a later date.

The work programme planned for the next biennium includes:

- Development of an RSPM on a commodity standard for mango fruits.

- Development of a regional standard for phytosanitary measures (RSPM) on seed certification procedures.

- Capacity development of pest surveillance with a 6-year programme: two surveillance training workshops.

- Increase of assessment contribution level by 5%.

- Provision of regional inputs to development of new ISPMs: two regional workshops on review of draft ISPMs.

- Continual support to the working group on SALB: two workshops on South American leaf blight (SALB) of rubber.

- Pre-consultation among APPPC country officials prior to the annual meetings of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures.

- Facilitation of regional training on implementation of ISPMs i.e.
  1. a workshop on the use of international standard for phytosanitary measures (ISPM) 32.
  2. a workshop on the application of irradiation procedures on produce.

- Integrated Pest Management (IPM) consultations on the management of fruit flies on mangoes, emerging pests and pests of palms.

- Enhancement of collaboration on pesticide quality and residue detection and implementation of Prior Informed Consent (PIC) and pesticide disposal information exchange.

• The Commission called on member countries to make financial contributions for supporting activities of APPPC.

This programme is primarily funded by the mandatory financial contributions supplied by APPPC member countries. A budget for the work programme was proposed and accepted. An increase of 5% in the level of mandatory contributions from contributing contracting parties was proposed and agreed to.

The field day included visits to a kiwifruit orchard, a fruit packing facility, and a research station. The field visits were a great success with many questions asked and discussions held. The form of the New Zealand phytosanitary certification system was clarified.

For the first time at the biennial meetings, New Zealand arranged a technical session and held discussions on commodity standards. As there has been a recent international commodity standard developed for seed, speakers from the International Seed Federation (ISF), and the related seed organizations from the United States and Australia contributed to the meeting discussions. The ISF commodity seed/pest database was a useful example for the discussions. The meeting participants agreed to draft a regional commodity standard for the next Commission meeting to examine. The working group will be led by New Zealand and Pakistan. Also arranged was a short session on NPPO relationships with industry through contributions from Mr Greg Fraser, CEO of Plant Health Australia and Dr Stephanie Bloem, Executive Officer of the North American Plant Protection Organisation. The session illustrated some of the benefits of cooperation with industry bodies.

Discussions relating to market access were held by officials from China, India, Nepal, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, Samoa, Sri Lanka, and Thailand (not included in the full report).

It is agreed and accepted that Thailand will host the 31st Session of the APPPC in 2019, the dates and venue are yet to be determined and announced.