

REPORT

National Conference on Promotion of IPM 20-22 November 2013, Antalya - Turkey

The National Conference on Promotion of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) was organized in the framework of the project TCP/TUR/3301 "Promotion of Integrated Crop and Pest Management in vegetables, fruit orchards and grapes in Turkey" by the Sub-regional Office of the Food and Agriculture Organization in Central Asia (FAO-SEC) in cooperation with the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock (MFAL) of Turkey on 20-22 November 2013.

The objective of the Conference was to bring together all stakeholders, ranging from researchers to policy makers, and discuss the future of IPM in Turkey. Around 180 participants representing MFAL, agricultural credit cooperatives (ACC), research institutes, provincial directorates and farmers attended the event. Its agenda is presented in Annex 1.

The Conference was opened by the representatives of MFAL, ACC and FAO. Mrs. Aysegul Akin delivered her opening speech on behalf of FAO and gave information about FAO's perspective on plant protection. Mr. Muminjanov (FAO-SEC) presented information about the FAO activities on IPM promotion in Central Asia. He also emphasized that FAO had been promoting IPM adoption in order to reduce pesticide use by developing farmer field schools (FFS) that are operational in different countries around the world. Mr. Kadir Melan (National Project Coordinator – NPC) gave general information about the undertaken project activities. He gave a summary of the project developments that took place from its initial steps to the current stage. A representative of MFAL gave information about IPM implementations in Turkey and shared the National 2023 IPM Vision. MFAL emphasized how much emphasis it lays on IPM and gave information about the current IPM activities. Hasan Bolkan (international consultant of the project) gave information on IPM implementation in the world and stated his opinion and suggestions on IPM promotion in Turkey. In addition to these presentations, two working groups were formed in order to discuss how to promote IPM in Turkey (FFS and IPM) and discuss the draft IPM directive. These discussions were led by MFAL experts.

On the second day, the MFAL and ACC experts gave detailed information about their activities undertaken in each province and achievements made so far. Experts from Mersin and Izmir presented information about their activities on greenhouse vegetables, grape and fruit. Experts from Antalya and Mugla presented information about their activities on greenhouse vegetables. The fruit activities undertaken in Canakkale and grape and fruit activities in Manisa and Denizli were also presented in details. Besides, an expert from ACC also briefed on their activities, achievements and experience gained. The working group presented their discussion results on IPM directive.

On the last day, the working groups' reports were presented and analyzed. Moreover, in order to spotlight the IPM promotion activities, a competition among family farmers took place as a part of the Conference. The family farmers that took part in this event were the

winner of the competitions held in provinces. After the competition an award ceremony took place. The farmers' contributions to the project, their efforts to gain knowledge and apply it were very much appreciated. The local TV Channel "Bereket", which attended the event, was instrumental in disseminating information about IPM promotion and its activities.

In general, the Conference was very successful and gave opportunity to all stakeholders to discuss and share their views on IPM promotion. Besides the draft IPM directive was considered as a good tool that could be used for a more effective implementation of IPM in the country.