

# **Report**

## **REGIONAL TRAINING WORKSHOP ON REGISTRATION OF PESTICIDE APPLYING EQUIPMENT**

**28 May – 1 June 2012 in Menemen/Izmir, Turkey**

The Regional Training Workshop on Registration of Pesticide Applying Equipment was held on 28 May – 1 June 2012 in Menemen/Izmir, Turkey. The workshop participants were senior Government officials representing the Departments of Plant Protection and Registration of Field Machinery, Ministries of Agriculture from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. Taking into account importance of registration, inspection and use of sprayers in promotion of conservation agriculture, the lead National Consultants from Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan and the Regional Project Coordinator of the GCP/RER/030/TUR were also invited to the workshop. ICARDA Farming System Agronomist Dr. David Feindel who expressed an interest to the workshop also was invited.

The workshop started with a general introduction to “Save and Grow” and how this concept linked to the topic of the workshop, followed by an introduction to the rationale for an application equipment related legislation, the history and components of this legislation as well as the related instruments, like the FAO code of conduct and the FAO, International and European sprayer standards. This introduction was followed by the FAO activities on plant production and protection in the region. In the introductory session the objectives, outputs and activities to be carried in the framework of the project GCP/RER/040/EC: Pesticide Risk Reduction in Eastern Europe Caucasus & Central Asia were presented and noted importance of signing the project document by the member countries in the region. The issue further was discussed with the workshop participants and encouraged to deliver the message to the decision makers in home countries.

After more specific technical subjects, including field practices on nozzle selection, drift and buffer-zones, equipment calibration, etc. were presented and discussed during the theoretical and practical part of the workshop. During the field day two sprayer manufacturers – Parlayan and Agrotech in Manisa/Izmir were visited and the equipment analyzed for compliance with international standards, including some field tests on spray distribution and drift. One of the manufacturers had just prepared three sprayers for delivery to GCP/RER/030/TUR following the FAO minimum requirement specifications. These sprayers and their performance was compared to the models for the local market.

A number of FAO guidelines on minimum requirements on pesticide applying equipment and their registration were distributed to the workshop participants. The workshop participants expressed high interest in the publications and requested to make available them in Russian language. The FAO Officers agreed to look for possibility of translating and publishing the documents.

The participants showed interest in the topics around registration and certification of new pesticide sprayers, inspection of sprayers in use and the training and licensing of operators. Some participants showed high commitment in order to prepare the legislation in their country for increased conformity with the EU. Participants started asking very concrete questions about the options to set up the required structures and procedures. Most countries expressed interest in following up these issues for their national legislation, including requesting further FAO assistance.

It was obvious that there is room for improvement of registration of pesticide applying equipment. All country representatives present commended FAO for taking up this particular issue around pesticide application equipment registration, inspection and operator licensing and showed interest for follow up workshops at national level.

The certificates recognizing participation in the regional training workshops were granted to the participants.

The workshop participants made following recommendations:

- Provide technical support to Central Asian countries in improving legislation and developing capacity on pesticide applying equipment registration, inspection and operator licensing.
- Follow up the issue in the national level by organizing workshops and on-the-job trainings.
- Organize translation of FAO publications and guidelines related to pesticide applying equipment standards, registration and certification.
- Assist the countries to establish/refurbish the system of registration of pesticide applying equipment.
- Send a short report on the workshop to the Governments of participated countries.
- Publish information on the workshop in SEC web site.