



Food and Agriculture
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CIHEAM

Scientific Consultation and High-Level Meeting on Red Palm Weevil Management

Proposed Multi-disciplinary and Multi- regional Strategy for the Management of Red Palm Weevil

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Background:

- Proposed strategy was prepared by the RPW Expert Team with support of FAO, CIHEAM and NEPPPO Technical Officers

Facts to be considered

- Several control actions or management strategies are being implemented by the countries often with less success in many countries.
- This failure can be attributed to :
 - lack of awareness and systematic and coordinated control actions or management strategies that involve all stakeholders,
 - inadequate human and financial resources available to combat the pest.
- Successful strategy for management and the eradication of RPW should supported with:
 - adequate resources,
 - systematic planning,
 - good coordination and involvement of all stakeholders

Factors challenging the success of RPW strategies

- **Biology of the pest**
- **Pest management aspects**
- **Regulatory, coordination and awareness aspects**

- **Challenges related to the biology of the pest:**
 - Difficulties in **early detection** of infested palms due to the **hidden/cryptic** bionomics of the pest.
 - **Difficulties** in implementing **control treatments** for **larval stages** inside the palm tissue and the **adults hide** at the base of the leaves.

- **Challenges related to pest management aspects:**
 - Late **detection** of infested palms because of insufficient frequency inspection activity.
 - Improper **assessment of the risk** presented by infested palms that lead to unnecessary and costly measures of palms eradication.
 - Unique **morphology of the palm species** that creates difficulties in implementing control practices.
 - Lack of effective **natural enemies under field conditions** that could contribute to the reduction of the weevil population.
 - Difficulties to **manage mass trapping**.
 - **haphazard** RPW management programs.
 - Difficulties in effectively managing the pest in **small family orchards** in oasis, **neglected plantations** and **palms in urban environments**
 - Improper **transfer and disposal** of severely damaged/infested palms.

- **Challenges related to regulatory aspects:**
 - **Illegal/unregulated movement** of infested palms within the country and between countries.
 - **Poor implementation of phytosanitary (quarantine) measures** for transfer of planting materials for new farms or gap filling in existing farm, between regions with in the country
 - **Inadequate protocols and certification for export /import** of ornamental and exotic palms.
 - **Shortage of resources** for implementing a comprehensive management program.
 - **Lack of system for mapping and data collection and analyses (GIS and digitalized maps)**

- **Challenges related to the coordination and awareness aspects:**
 - Inadequate farmer and other stakeholder involvement in the control program.
 - Weak knowledge on the RPW socio-economic and environmental impacts.
 - Weak in-country cooperation and coordination between the stakeholders and also at a regional level.
 - Lack of public awareness on the risk associated with RPW in a broad sense

OBJECTIVES OF THE STRATEGY

- **The overall objective:**

to support the efforts/programs of the member countries to contain the spread and eradicate the pest.

- **The strategy aims to:**

- create a framework for cooperation and coordination of efforts at the regional and inter-regional level
- support the integrated and sustainable management programs to control RPW;
- reduce its devastating effects on the environment and food security, and socio-economic impact on rural communities.

Specific Objectives

- To provide technical assistance and guidance for improvement of the national RPW control programs/strategies.
- To establish a platform and mechanism for strengthening the cooperation and coordination between the countries at the regional and inter-regional level for the effective management of RPW.

COMPONENTS OF THE PROPOSED STRATEGY:

- Proposed strategy has **two components** to effectively address the problem of RPW at the **country** and **regional** levels.

A. National Component of the Strategy

B. Regional Component of the Strategy

A. NATIONAL COMPONENT OF THE STRATEGY



B. REGIONAL COMPONENT OF THE STRATEGY



Regional component of the strategy

- Aims at creating an enabling environment for cooperation and coordination for improvement of the RPW management strategy at the regional and inter-regional level.
- Establishment of a regional RPW platform/program with support of FAO and CIHEAM.
- The purpose of RPW platform/program:
 - strengthening the cooperation and coordination at the regional and inter-regional level for the effective management of RPW
 - support and coordinate the implementation of the regional component of the strategy.
- The platform/program could be based at the FAO and operational with support of all stakeholders (member countries and other concerned organizations)

Platform/program roles:

- ✓ To **strengthen the cooperation and coordination** between member countries in early warning, information and knowledge sharing for effective management of RPW.
- ✓ **Assist in developing programs, guidelines and protocols for prevention, early detection, rapid intervention and management of the RPW** and support the countries for their implementation.
- ✓ Assist in developing approaches, strategies, methods, training tools to **increase the involvement of the farmers in the RPW management.**
- ✓ **Provide *ad hoc* capacity building programs** and technical assistance to the national RPW management programs.
- ✓ Support the member countries in preparing and implementing **Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) plans.**
- ✓ **Develop GIS spatial database for data management and analysis** with a mobile application for data collection and transmission that could be adopted by each country.
- ✓ Support the countries in developing of **harmonized phytosanitary measures** and contingency planning approaches to eradicate RPW or to contain its spread.

- ✓ Assist in building the human and institutional capacity of the national programs of member states.
- ✓ Support and coordinate **joint activities at regional level** (joint surveys and management programs) and inter-regional level to foster cooperation and exchange of field experience among RPW national schemes/projects.
- ✓ Promote **environmentally safer RPW management tactics** to minimize the risks of control operations on human health and environment.
- ✓ Support studies on **generating data on pesticide residues** in fruits (dates, coconut etc.) and provide and share information on permissible limits for different classes of pesticides.
- ✓ **Support the research and development programs** for promotion and validation of the innovative, safe and cost-effective technologies.
- ✓ Establish a **repository of experts on RPW**.
- ✓ Develop programs **for resource mobilization** to support the operation of the platform.

Beneficiaries and stakeholders

- The regional platform/program will provide direct technical support to member countries to improve the planning, monitoring and evaluation of their RPW-IPM programs.
- The platform will also support the countries in the implementation of the national programs through technical assistance and advice, and capacity building programs.
- The platform will also strengthen regional cooperation, knowledge and experience sharing on the management of RPW and related issues.
- The platform will be open for partnership and cooperation with other stakeholders including farmer cooperatives, NGOs, private companies, research institutions etc. for promoting the national RPW-IPM strategies, and developing and validating of advanced management technologies

Operation of the platform/program:

- The Secretariat of the platform/program could be established by FAO.
- Member countries should identify a national focal point for the coordination, communication and for representing the country in the regional platform/program.
- A trust fund account could be created by FAO for the financial contribution of the member countries and organizations to support the establishment, operation and activities of the platform/program.
- The platform/program should conduct an annual meeting of the member countries to;
 - ✓ Assess yearly development of the RPW situation and the efficiency of the programs at the regional level.
 - ✓ Develop the annual program for the platform based on national and regional priorities.

Action plan of the platform/program:

	Time frame	Responsibility	Estimated Budget USD	
			One Time Cost (Non-recurring)	Recurrent Annual Operational Cost
Output 1	A regional RPW platform/program is established			
Activity 1.1. Establishment and endorsement of the regional RPW platform/program by the member countries	By end of June 2017	FAO, CIHEAM, NEPPO and Member countries		
Activity 1.2. Nomination of the Secretary of the regional RPW platform/program and establishing of the platform secretariat	By end of June 2017	FAO, CIHEAM and NEPPO		Salary of the Secretary and Secretariat expenses
Activity 1.3. Nomination of national focal point and identification of the countries' contribution and commitments	By end of July 2017	Member countries		

	Time frame	Responsibility	Estimated Budget USD	
			One Time Cost (Non-recurring)	Recurrent Annual Operational Cost
Output 1	A regional RPW platform/program is established			
Activity 1.4. Prepare the statutes of the regional RPW platform/program	By end of July 2017	FAO, CIHEAM and NEPPO		
Activity 1.5. Create a trust fund account for the platform/program	By end of July 2017	FAO and CIHEAM		
Activity 1.6. The first meeting of the regional RPW platform/program to agree on the statutes, confirm the countries contribution and develop the annual program.	By end of October 2017	FAO, CIHEAM, and NEPPO Member countries	60,000	

	Time frame	Responsibility	Estimated Budget USD	
			One Time Cost (Non-recurring)	Recurrent Annual Operational Cost
Output 2	The regional RPW platform/program is fully operational			
Activity 2.1. Develop the three year strategic framework for the platform/program, and annual work plan program with clear performance indicators and targets.	By end of December 2017	- Secretariat of the Platform and national focal points of member countries - Clearance of FAO, CIHEAM and member countries	20,000	
Activity 2.2. Assist member countries in planning, implementing and validating of RPW national control programs	Continuous activity	Secretariat of the Platform with support of specialized experts		50,000
Activity 2.3. Establish a RPW network with a data base for sharing information and knowledge.	By end of March 2018	Secretariat of the Platform with support of specialized FAO Divisions and CIHEAM	20,000	

	Time frame	Responsibility	Estimated Budget USD	
			One Time Cost (Non-recurring)	Recurrent Annual Operational Cost
Output 2	The regional RPW platform/program is fully operational			
Activity 2.4. - Develop and implement a methodology based on Google Earth, remote sensing and other technologies to geo-reference the location of palm tree plantations as the basis for mapping and monitoring infestations in a GIS - Develop a mobile application for data collection and transmission - Develop a GIS with a spatial database for data management and analysis	Within one year of establishment of the platform/program	Secretariat of the Platform with support of FAO-CIO	150,000	

	Time frame	Responsibility	Estimated Budget USD	
			One Time Cost (Non-recurring)	Recurrent Annual Operational Cost
Output 2	The regional RPW platform/program is fully operational			
Activity 2.5. Provide the countries with the technical assistance needed and capacity building programs	Continuous activity	Secretariat of the Platform with support of specialized experts and institutes		150,000
Activity 2.6. Prepare proposals for resource mobilization and follow up with donor agencies for funding	Continuous activity	Secretariat of the Platform with support of specialized experts		
Activity 2.7. Facilitate the coordination and communication with national, regional and international research institutions for validating and testing new technologies of RPW management.	Continuous activity	Secretariat of the Platform		

	Time frame	Responsibility	Estimated Budget USD	
			One Time Cost (Non-recurring)	Recurrent Annual Operational Cost
Output 2	The regional RPW platform/program is fully operational			
Activity 2.8. Assist the countries in preparing the technical resources on RPW management (regulations, guidelines and protocols)	Continuous activity	Secretariat of the Platform with support of specialized experts, FAO Divisions and external institutes		50,000
Activity 2.9. Develop and support implementation of a Monitoring & Evaluation plan for the evaluation of the national RPW programs	Annual activity	Secretariat of the Platform		10,000

	Time frame	Responsibility	Estimated Budget USD	
			One Time Cost (Non-recurring)	Recurrent Annual Operational Cost
Output 2	The regional RPW platform/program is fully operational			
Activity 2.10. Conduct annual meeting of the platform	Annual activity	Secretariat of the Platform		50,000
Activity 2.11. Publish the annual report on the development of the RPW situation in member countries	Annual activity	Secretariat of the Platform		5,000
Total estimated budget without salaries of staff			250,000	315,000

Thank you



Thematic working groups' discussions on the proposed Multi-disciplinary and Multi-regional Strategy

Themes:

1- Regulatory and surveillance issues

(Phytosanitary measures, Early detection, surveillance & monitoring, Data management/GIS & Regional component of the strategy pertaining to regulatory and surveillance issues)

2- Management

(Early detection, Preventive agronomic practices, control practices, Data management/GIS/validation and Regional component of the strategy pertaining to management)

3- Capacity building, Extension, Communication & Coordination

(Stakeholder participation, Capacity building, communication, Research & Development and Regional component of the strategy pertaining to Capacity building, Extension, Communication & Coordination)