



## Concept Note

Inception Workshop of  
Regional Technical Cooperation Project (TCP/RAS/3311) on  
Spread Prevention and Management of Cassava Pink Mealybug  
in the Greater Mekong Subregion  
(Bangkok, Thailand 31 May - 2 June 2011)

### **Background**

In the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS), cassava is a major crop used for human consumption, animal feed and bioenergy production, with about 3 million smallholder farmers deriving their livelihoods from cassava production. In recent years, incursion by the exotic cassava pink mealybug (CM) has devastated extensive cassava areas in Thailand (and by now also some other GMS countries). To combat it, Thailand has introduced from Africa the parasitoid *Anagyrus lopezi* for biocontrol of the mealybug. This, and releases of local biocontrol agents (predatory lacewings), together with ecological pest management training efforts of field extension workers and farmers, have been found helpful in dealing with the CM problem.

Adopting this rationale and in response to calls for support, FAO has formulated a regional TCP project entitling “*Capacity Building for Spread Prevention and Management of Cassava Pink Mealybug in the Greater Mekong Subregion*” to assist the GMS countries develop pest-spread prevention strategies and ecological biocontrol options to manage the CM. The partner countries in the project include Cambodia, China PR, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam. The main thrusts of the assistance are aimed at introducing *A. lopezi* parasitoids from Thailand to partner countries where the parasitoid is absent and to strengthen farmer training programmes to promote biocontrol and IPM of CM among the smallholder farmers. The expected project outcomes include fortification of the cassava production industry, improving the livelihoods of cassava farmers, protecting farm communities and the environment from pesticide contamination, preserving the agro-biodiversity and human capital development. The project will provide technical assistance to sustainably intensify cassava production through effective management of the CM pest.

### **Inception Workshop**

FAO, in launching the TCP project, will hold an Inception Workshop from 31 May - 2 June, 2011 in Bangkok. The workshop will discuss and detail out concrete work plans for immediate follow-up implementation in the partner countries, guided by (i) the strategies as outlined in the project document and (ii) knowledge of the most up-to-date problem situation gained from feedback in the workshop. The latter is crucial as there has been significant lapse in time since project formulation and wherein any changes and new developments will need to be taken into consideration to enable the preparation of realistic work plans.

### **Participants**

Participants of the Inception Workshop will include country project coordinators, IPM experts and specialists, FAO technical staff and consultants, and specialists from international and donor agencies.

***Presentations***

***a. Country Presentations on Cassava Pink Mealybug Situation and its Management***

The following GMS participating countries (Cambodia, China PR, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Vietnam) are expected to give a 10-minute presentation each on whether/where pink mealybug infestations have occurred and what has been done, if anything, to manage and prevent further spread, in particular whether the parasitoid *Anagrus lopezi* is already present, and if so, including its impact on the cassava mealybug and crop damage. The national counterpart should, in principle, be the presenter, but other country partners from research institutes working on cassava are expected to provide information for and assist with the presentation, as necessary. Please limit presentations to **seven (7)** slides, if using powerpoint. Note: Country participants will also need to fill out a format document (which will be sent out separately).

***b. Other Presentations***

These are as specified (subject area, allotted time and the individual/organization doing the presentation) in the **Workshop Programme** which is provided as a separate Attachment.