

**Eleventh Meeting of  
FAO Southwest Pacific Ministers for Agriculture**

**Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea**

**11 – 14 May 2015**

*Theme: Climate Smart Agriculture*

**Reports from FAO regional meetings**

**May 2013-April 2015**



**Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations**

Sub-Regional Office for the Pacific Islands  
Food and Agriculture Organization of the  
United Nations (FAO)  
Apia, Samoa 2015

## Introduction

1. The following paper summarises the main outcomes and decisions of FAO regional meetings held between May 2013 and April 2015. These meetings, in chronological order, are:

- Regional workshop for the review of Draft International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures, Nadi, Fiji, 9-11 September 2013
- Pacific Regional Planning workshop on Pesticides Management, Nadi, Fiji, 12-13 September 2013
- Regional (Pacific Plant Protection Organization) PPPO workshop for review of draft ISPMs for the South West Pacific region, Suva, Fiji, 28-30 July 2014
- Capacity building related to Multilateral Environmental Agreements on Pesticides Management, Rotterdam Convention, and Biodiversity in ACP countries, Suva, Fiji, 10-12 September, 2014
- Thirteenth Session of the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for North America and the South West Pacific, Kokopo, Papua New Guinea 23-26 September 2014
- Launch of the Pacific Partnership of the Global Soil Partnership, Suva, Fiji, 13 October 2014
- Pacific Regional Workshop on Promotion of Fruit and Vegetable Production and Consumption for Health and Livelihoods, Nadi, Fiji, 16-26 October 2014

## REPORTS FROM FAO REGIONAL MEETINGS

### Regional workshop for the review of Draft International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs), Nadi, Fiji, 9-11 September 2013

2. The Pacific Plant Protection Organization (PPPO) coordinated a regional workshop to review and comment on the draft international standards developed by the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC). Delegates from 23 countries of the PPPO were represented in this meeting including Tokelau, Niue, American Samoa, French Polynesia, Samoa, Tonga, Kiribati, Nauru, Palau, Fiji, PNG, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Guam, New Zealand, New Caledonia, Tuvalu, Cook Islands, United States, FSM and Australia.

3. The meeting provided opportunities for member countries in the region to discuss and review draft ISPMs and draft comments to submit to the IPPC. The meeting will also consider phytosanitary measures relating to trade such as the on-line reporting system, and the single windows approach to efficient trade. The PPPO ExCo meeting was held back to back with the IPPC workshop.

4. Seven draft international standards were considered and commented. This workshop allowed member countries gained better understanding of the IPPC Standard Setting Process, made inputs to the review draft ISPMs, and make draft comments to submit to the IPPC through the on-

line system. The workshop also considered phytosanitary measures relating to trade. The comments were sent to IPPC Secretariat for consideration and adoption in 2014 by the CPM.

### **Pacific Regional Planning workshop on Pesticides Management, Nadi, Fiji, 12-13 September 2013**

5. The FAO Regional Planning workshop on Pesticides Management for the Pacific was held in Nadi, Fiji from 12-13 September 2013, back to back with a Pacific regional meeting on ISPM standards. The pesticides workshop was implemented under the EU-funded project, GCP/INT/153/EC: Capacity Building Related to Multilateral Environment Agreements in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Countries. Project funds allowed all Countries in the Pacific sub-region to be invited and ten countries participated.

6. FAO facilitated the workshop in collaboration with SPC which had played an important role in the implementation of Phase I of the project. The key objective was to review achievements of the MEA Phase I project and develop an agreed work plan for the MEAs Phase II project. The workshop focused on issues related to delivery of the Phase 1 of the GCP/INT/063/EC. The work plan for the Pacific was reviewed to clarify what was achieved, what lessons were learned and how project activities could be built for the benefit of countries. The perception from workshop participants was that very little had been achieved in Phase I, but this was qualified by clarification that many of the participants were not pesticide regulators and were therefore not very familiar with the project and its activities. Strong themes that emerged from the discussion on achievements of Phase I were the need for training of trainers for all countries on the basic issues of pesticide management that could then be imparted to in-country stakeholders and a desire for inclusive regional coordination and collaboration on pesticide management issues.

7. A number of follow up actions emerge from the discussions which need to be built into the work plan the second phase EC project CP/INT/153/EC to be implemented from June 2013 to May 2017. Extensive discussions with countries generated a draft work plan that addresses agreed priorities with achievable activities. The activities are based on work carried out and lessons learned under phase I of the EC project and technical areas that the countries identified as priorities for which they require external support. There were summarised and consolidated in group and plenary discussions and aligned with the results of the MEAs Phase II project. The meeting agreed to establish a Pacific Regional Pesticide Regulators Forum naming it the Pacific Pesticide Management Committee (PPMC). Endorsement will be sought from the SPC Agriculture Ministers' meeting in order to ensure the group has political validity

## **Regional PPPO workshop for review of draft ISPMs for the South West Pacific region, Suva, Fiji, 28-30 July 2014**

8. The PPPO regional Workshop on review draft ISPMs was convened from the 28-30 July 2014, Suva, Fiji in collaboration with FAO IPPC. A total of 18 countries attended which included delegates from Tokelau, Niue, American Samoa, French Polynesia, Samoa, Kiribati, Nauru, Palau, Fiji, PNG, Guam, New Zealand, New Caledonia, Tuvalu, Cook Islands, United States, FSM and Australia.

9. The two draft standards were reviewed and comments included the Draft ISPM: International Movement of Used Vehicles, Machinery and Equipment and the Draft ISPM: International movement of seeds. The meeting also updated Draft Amendments to ISPM 5 (2014) Glossary of phytosanitary terms (1994-001). Countries shared their comments on the draft standards and these were inserted by the Secretariat into the IPPC Online Comment System. Countries were also reminded that they still have opportunity to log on and make their individual comments online when they return to their respective countries.

10. Participants were also made aware of the importance of updating NPPO contact points for the exchange of information connected with the implementation of the Convention, stages of the Standard Setting process where NPPOs can participate and were encouraged to be involved as much as possible. All members of the IPPC have the opportunity to be a member of the Standards Committee. They were also informed on Foundational IPPC Training materials, Electronic Phytosanitary Certification and World Trade Organisation (WTO) Agreement on Trade Facilitation (ATF). NPPOs were reminded of the need to submit their country regulated pest list to the Secretariat. They were also encouraged to be aware of the ongoing ATF review process and to contact their national representative to share views and possible concerns in terms of plant health issues.

## **Capacity building related to Multilateral Environmental Agreements on Pesticides Management, Rotterdam Convention, and Biodiversity in ACP countries. Suva, Fiji, 10-12 September, 2014**

11. FAO in close collaboration with the SPC Land Resources Division brought together pesticide and biodiversity key regional and national stakeholders to foster the integration between the sectors and increase capacity to implement Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEA) objectives, for sustainable agriculture. The specific objective of the first two days on the MEAS 2 Programme were to endorse a work plan and a regional implementation strategy which will include a definition of the roles and responsibilities of the regional organisations (SPREP and SPC), national counterparts and FAO, for project implementation.

12. The second specific objective of workshop day dedicated to the Rotterdam Convention, the overall objective of the consultation is to promote ratification and implementation of the Rotterdam Convention in selected countries in the Pacific. The meeting provided an opportunity for all participants to share their experiences in the ratification and implementation of the Convention. The goal was to identify what is working well and why, what are the principal challenges and how they

could be addressed. As a result of the consultation, participating countries were assisted on drafting the key elements of a national strategy or action plan for the ratification and implementation of the Rotterdam Convention.

13. A further outcome included participants have a clear understanding of the possible role of the chemical industry and sub-regional organizations in the implementation of the Convention as a means to facilitate intra-regional cooperation and follow-up in the implementation of the national plans.

### Thirteenth Session of the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for North America and the South West Pacific, Kokopo, Papua New Guinea, 23-26 September 2014

14. The FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for North America and the South West Pacific (CCNASWP) held its 13th Session in Kokopo, Papua New Guinea, from 23 to 26 September 2014 at the kind invitation of the Government of Papua New Guinea. The session was preceded by a regional technical workshop on developments in *Codex* relevant to Pacific Island Countries (21 September 2014) funded by the *Codex* trust fund and a meeting of the physical working group to finalise the new regional strategic plan (22 September 2014).

15. The Coordinating Committee was attended by delegates from 14 Member countries, two Member countries outside the Region, one international organization and Representatives of FAO and WHO. The Honourable Peter O'Neill, Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea, opened the Session and in his opening speech highlighted the importance of the production of safe and quality food for people's health, food security and the agriculture sector and how *Codex* contributes to this.

16. Resulting from discussions on the draft regional noni standard being developed by CCNASWP, the Coordinating Committee requested advice from the Committee on Contaminants in Food (CCCF) on a safe maximum level for scopoletin as well as a method of analysis.

17. The Coordinating Committee agreed to revise the discussion paper on the development of a Regional Standard for kava product that can be used as a beverage when mixed with water for consideration at its 14th session. The Coordinating Committee agreed to reconvene the electronic working group (EWG), led by Vanuatu to further develop the discussion paper taking into account the recent FAO/WHO report (Kava: a review of the safety of traditional and recreational beverage consumption) and other available information; and to consider the possibility of other risk management options, such as a code of practice. Moreover, the committee agreed on a process to identify priority areas for new work of interest to the Region.

18. With regards to matters for consideration by the 38th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission the Coordinating Committee:

- Agreed on the need for revitalisation of Regional Coordinating Committees (RCC) and made comments on several proposals for the revitalisation of RCCs;

- Agreed to suspend the Circular Letter requesting information on food control systems, participation in food standards setting and the use of *Codex* standards at the national level;
- Returned the proposed draft Standard for Fermented Noni Juice at Step 2/3;
- Adopted the Strategic Plan for the CCNASWP 2014-2019;
- Noted that the monitoring of the Strategic Plan for CCNASWP 2014-2019 would provide information on the contribution of CCNASWP to the implementation of the global *Codex* Strategic Plan and that, therefore, it would not be necessary for CCNASWP to report on the status of implementation of the global *Codex* Strategic Plan, separately; and
- Unanimously agreed to recommend that Vanuatu be appointed as the next Coordinator for North America and the South West Pacific by the 38th Session of the Commission.

19. A detailed report of the session is available on the *Codex* website at <ftp://ftp.fao.org/codex/meetings/CCNASWP/CCNASWP13/>.

### Launch of the Pacific Partnership of the Global Soil Partnership, Suva, Fiji, 13 October 2014

20. On Monday 13 October, the soil community from 12 Pacific countries together with universities, research institutes, SPC and FAO assembled in Suva, Fiji for the launch of the Pacific Partnership of the Global Soil Partnership (GSP). The GSP is hosted by FAO and was formally endorsed in 2013 as a new global initiative to ensure that improved soil research, information and extension is applied to food security and other global issues. It aims to coordinate and derive synergies from the various soil initiatives around the world – based on the observation that global effort in soil science has declined in recent decades.

21. This meeting was hosted by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community and supported by FAO, SPC, CSIRO (Australia) and Landcare Research (New Zealand). Within the Pacific, 17 countries are members of the GSP through their UN involvement and, in addition, CSIRO and the University of Sydney have been active partners. The launch was enthusiastically received by all participants and the follow up meetings were successful and should meet their key aim to stimulate new work in soil research, development and management in the region.

22. The meeting's agenda followed a detailed introduction and exploration of the GSP and the five pillars of action with presentations and discussion of soil and related issues across the region. The meeting agreed and developed a joint communiqué that summarised the major conclusions of the meeting and announced the formation of the Pacific Soil Partnership. The meeting identified both unique challenges.

23. The Pacific Soil Partnership will be hosted by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) and given appropriate resources. The SPC will convene an annual meeting of the partnership or as otherwise necessary. FAO will base much of the effort in the GSP around regional partnerships. Involvement in these partnerships will be the key to making the GSP effective. Collaboration between CSIRO, Landcare Research New Zealand and SPC has progressed the discussions around the regional partnership and this led to the launch for the FAO region covering the south and west Pacific.

## Pacific Regional Workshop on Promotion of Fruit and Vegetable Production and Consumption for Health and Livelihoods, Nadi, Fiji, 16-26 October 2014

24. FAO, in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO), the University of Tasmania, Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR), and Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) hosted the Pacific Regional Workshop on Promotion of Fruit and Vegetable Production and Consumption for Health and Livelihoods (PROFAV). This meeting brought together programme managers from agriculture, health, nutrition and education sectors from nine countries in the region.

25. It provided an opportunity to revisit the PROFAV agenda some 10 years after it had first been launched in the region. Participants shared the ongoing PROFAV-related activities in countries, and made work plans for integrating PROFAV activities into existing national frameworks, such as Non-Communicable Disease (NCDs) plans. The issue of availability and access to fruit and vegetables was central to the discussions, and many access and supply related constraints were analysed. This led to identification of needs and gaps in agriculture support programmes, and opportunities for revitalising local fruits and vegetables value chains. Atoll countries, e.g. Kiribati and parts of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), have their own specific problems related to poor soils and limited horticultural production potential.

26. Practically all countries participating have national NCD programmes with a strong emphasis on the need for more balanced diets and physical activity that could benefit from closer linkages and stronger support from agriculture agencies. Many countries identified school based education (elementary and secondary) on nutrition and agriculture production as essential. A suggestion was made to create a network so information can be shared on a continuing basis.