

REPORT

INCEPTION WORKSHOP OF PROJECT “SUPPORT TO CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT IN IMPLEMENTATION OF PEST SURVEILLANCE AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT IN SOUTH-EAST ASIAN COUNTRIES” GCP/RAS/286/ROK

Bangkok, Thailand 29 November 2013



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Summary

Mr. Vili Fuavao, Deputy FAO Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific, delivered the welcome address on behalf of Mr. Hiroyuki Konuma, Assistant Director General and FAO Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific (RAP). Ms. Hyang Won Shin, Deputy Director of Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, Korea delivered the welcome message on behalf of Korean Government as the donor country. Dr. Yonfan Piao, Lead Technical Officer of the project and Senior Plant Protection Officer, RAP, introduced background and objectives of the workshop and emphasized the importance of the pest surveillance as it is an essential basis of implementation of *International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs)*. Introduction and key comments on the project were made by Mr. Shin, as the Project Regional Coordinator. These included objectives of the project, project duration and budget, participating countries, previous activities, project work-plan and steering committee.

The National Project Coordinators (NPCs) from six participating countries presented country reports on status of pest surveillance, past and current projects of pest surveillance as well as pest surveillance activities, constraints, difficulties and weakness and future plan.

Eight topics were prepared by Mr. Shin for the plenary discussion, which were:

- training options
- trainee's qualification
- training topics and curricula
- purchase of laboratory equipment
- in-country expertise training
- project calendar
- training itinerary
- National Plant Protection Officer (NPPO)'s role and responsibilities.

As for the training option for pest surveillance, most of NPCs expressed their concerns on technical deviations among participating countries and agreed to the option of combination of regional and country-based trainings by taking three regional trainings and five or six in-country trainings during the implementation of the project. Regarding trainee's qualification requirements, participating countries proposed to add a plant protection background and additional sentences to be identified by individual countries based on the country status. In addition, it was suggested to add additional lines to the selection criteria by each country depending on the local situation. NPCs expressed diverse opinions on the training topics. Especially they asked for "Bacteria" and "Virus" as additional training topics and for combining similar topics into one topic. Mr. Shin suggested that two or three types of draft training topics should be prepared by project regional coordinator later for consultation with participating countries to finalize topics. In terms of training topics for information management training, the Nepal NPC strongly requested that training expert should support the construction of advanced pest information system. It was stressed that it is important to incorporate existing system rather than re-establishing a new system unless a country desire to

have a new system. NPCs asked questions on the purchase of laboratory equipment and relevant procedures. The project regional coordinator informed that there is need to submit the list of laboratory equipment by each country with clear and understandable technical specifications. Tentative project calendar was finalized based on the agreement on the training option and project document. Training itinerary was partly confirmed for both pest surveillance training and information management and the rest of training itinerary will be confirmed after project regional coordinator has more discussion with relevant NPC about this matter. All NPCs well understood their roles and responsibilities and committed their support and contribution to the implementation.

To conclude the workshop, Dr. Piao highlighted the achievements of the workshop and summarized its main discussion points and results. He also emphasized the NPCs and project coordinator's responsibilities and importance of frequent communications and consultation between project coordinator and country coordinator of participating countries for the successful implementation of the project.

REPORT

1. Opening of the Meeting

Welcome address by Deputy Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific, FAO

Mr. Vili Fuavao welcomed the participants and experts to the meeting on behalf of Mr. Hiroyuki Konuma, Assistant Director General and Regional Representative of Asia and the Pacific, FAO. He noted the significance of pest surveillance as a fundamental activity of NPPOs in addressing the risks of pests to protect national plant resources. He also highlighted the importance of capacity development for pest surveillance and identification in South-East Asian countries. He thanked the Korean Government for the financial support provided to the project.

Welcome message from the Korean Government

Ms. Hyang Won Shin, Deputy Director of the Ministry of Agriculture of Korea, welcomed participants and FAO staff to the meeting on behalf of the Korean Government. She emphasized the risk of introduction of regulated pests, giving an example of serious damages caused to the Korean forestry resources by *Pine Wood Nematode* which was presumed to be introduced into Korea through imported wooden cage in early 1980's. She noted this workshop would be acting as a milestone of the capacity development for quarantine technology of the participating countries. She expressed her gratitude to FAO for well organizing the meeting and also wished fruitful results to the workshop.

Opening remarks by Senior Plant Protection Officer of FAO/RAP

Dr. Yonfan Piao, Lead Technical Officer of the project and Senior Plant Protection Officer, RAP, welcomed participants and experts to the meeting. He introduced background and objectives of the workshop and emphasized the importance of the pest surveillance as it is an essential basis of implementation of *International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs)*. Dr. Piao noted the important role and responsibility of NPPOs for the pest surveillance activities and called for the participating countries' active involvement in capacity development for the pest surveillance.

2. Introduction and Key Comments on the Project

Mr. Shin, Project Regional Coordinator, introduced general information on context of the project such as surveillance framework, expected outputs, budget and activities of regional approaches prior to the project. He also presented work-plan, the structure of the expertise training workshops, training options, trainees' qualification requirement, pest information system and assessment of training etc. He especially emphasized the consultation on training options and trainees' qualification requirement as key components of discussion topics, as these would crucially decide the direction and strategy of the project. Mr. Shin introduced current pest information system of the Korean Government, describing its function and composition. Lastly he explained the role and composition of the project steering committee. He hoped an active involvement of the National Project Coordinators (NPCs) as members of the committee.

Dr. Piao, as a technical supervisor of the project, additionally commented on pest surveillance framework as well as NPC's role in the process of selection and recommendation of the trainees.

3. Presentation on Pest Surveillance Situation in Participating Countries

The NPCs from six participating countries presented country reports on status of pest surveillance, past and current project of pest surveillance as well as pest surveillance activities, constraints, difficulties and weakness and future plan.

Dr. Hean Vanhan, National Project Coordinator in Cambodia, introduced capacity building activities of plant pest surveillance for diverse plants such as mango, banana and papaya, relevant training workshops and ongoing pest surveillance as well as their achievements and constraints.

Mr. Syriphonh Phithaksoun, National Project Coordinator in Lao PDR, explained the background of pest surveillance performance, pest surveillance activities, constraints for pest surveillance and future plan.

Mr. Tin Aung Win, National Project Coordinator in Myanmar, introduced past pest surveillance projects especially on Mango and Pulses such as Pigeon pea and Mungbean, which were implemented during 2006-2009. He also explained lessons, needs and constraints raised through the projects.

Dr. Dilli Ram Sharma, National Project Coordinator in Nepal, introduced NPPO's pest surveillance program and its performance, agriculture trade and exporting commodities and pest diagnostic service areas to be strengthened as well as the vision in pest surveillance development and needs of pest surveillance training.

Dr. Pornpimon Athipunyakon, National Project Coordinator in Thailand, introduced pest surveillance performance dividing her presentation into two parts. First part was about pest surveillance for the target pest *Urocystis cepulea* and *Pseudomonas*, which were conducted for shallot export. Second one was about pest surveillance for target pest *Pantoea stewartii* which were conducted for corn export. She concluded that above target pests are not present in Thailand.

Mr. Le Son Ha, National Project Coordinator in Viet Nam, introduced the organizational structure of Plant Protection Department, plant protection activities, plant quarantine activities and plant quarantine system as well as pest surveillance activities, difficulties and weakness.

4. Plenary Discussion

Eight topics were prepared by Mr. Shin for the plenary discussion. Topics were:

- Training options
- Trainee's qualification
- Training topics and curricula
- Purchase of laboratory equipment
- In-country expertise training
- Project calendar
- Training itinerary
- National Plant Protection Officer (NPPO)'s role and responsibilities.

These topics were discussed one by one, trying to make an agreement among participating countries.

4.1, Training Options

As for the training for pest surveillance, Mr. Shin explained two training options, "Regional" training and "Country-based" training, comparing their advantages, disadvantages and costs involved in connection with the number of the total trainees. In addition to these, he also suggested the third training option which is a combination of "Regional" and "Country-based"

trainings by taking six “Regional” trainings and two or three “County-based” trainings as an alternative choice. He also emphasized that this topic was far more important than other discussion topics as this would crucially decide the direction and the strategy of the project.

In the beginning, all participating countries showed a preference for the “Country-based” training as a training option with the exception of Thailand that preferred the third option. Most of NPCs expressed their concerns on technical deviations among participating countries in performing the pest surveillance and pointed out that “Country-based” training is more suitable to customize the training contents in consideration of their skill level for pest surveillance. After further discussion, all NPCs agreed to take revised third option which is a combination of three “Regional” trainings and five or six “Country-based” trainings.

4.2, Trainees

Mr. Shin explained the trainees’ qualification requirement, number of participants and selection criteria. Especially he emphasized that NPC should select those trainees who could attend all training sessions and who are promising young people to be fostered as specialists on the strategic point of view providing for the future. Regarding trainee’s qualification requirements, participating countries proposed to add a plant protection background and additional sentences to be identified by individual countries based on the country status. In addition, it was suggested to add additional lines to the selection criteria by each country depending on the local situation.

4.3, Training Topics and Curricula

Mr. Shin explained training topics and curricula for pest surveillance training and information training. He additionally stressed that these topics can be added, deleted or combined based on training options and hosting country’s plant resource environment. As for the training topics for pest surveillance, participating countries expressed diverse opinions specifically on how to combine and what to add the topics. Some countries asked for “Bacteria” and “Virus” as additional training topics and for combining similar topics into one, giving an example of fly and fruit-fly. The project coordinator suggested that two or three types of draft training topics should be prepared by project coordinator later for consultation with participating countries to finalize topics. In terms of training topics for information management, NPC from Nepal strongly requested that training expert should support the construction of advanced pest information system. It was stressed that it is important to incorporate existing system rather than re-establishing a new system unless a country desire to have a new system. Korean delegation explained that they have enough databases on pests and they are willing to provide them to support to improve the pest information system of the participating countries.

4.4, Purchase of Laboratory Equipment

Mr. Shin explained basic principles regarding purchase of laboratory equipment, specifically emphasizing that this is not for all participating countries because some countries already had enough and modernized equipment. NPCs asked questions on the purchase of laboratory equipment and relevant procedures such as the subject of the purchase and customs tariff.

The coordinator informed that there is need to submit the list of laboratory equipment by each country and that purchase of the equipment would start from next year after review and assessment of FAO/RAP. It was advised that the procurement in the domestic market might be preferable in consideration of potential warranting services by local providers.

Mr. Salvini, as a Budget Holder of the project, mentioned that the equipment list should be submitted with clear and understandable technical specifications.

4.5, In-country Expertise Training

Mr. Shin explained basic principles of the in-country expertise training, such as lecture, submission of national training plan and confirmation of training schedule.

4.6, Project Calendar

Tentative project calendar was partly finalized on a quarterly basis based on the agreement on the training option and project document, which included training schedules, equipment upgrading, training assessment, steering committee and reporting. He also noted that detailed schedules or unconfirmed schedules would be confirmed after the consultation with NPCs of the participating countries.

Mr. Salvini pointed out internal report for project progress should be made every six months in addition to these reporting schedules on the project calendar.

Agreed project calendar is as follow.

Project Calendar

	2013	2014				2015				2016	
	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2
Inception workshop	o										
Pest Surveillance		o	o	o							
P.S Workshop			o				o			o	
Information Management		o		o		o		o		o	
Pest Information System										o	
Equipment Upgrade			o				o				
Assessment			o				o				o
Steering Committee	o				o				o		
Reporting		o				o				o	o

4.7, Training Itinerary

Training itinerary was partially confirmed. For expertise training for pest surveillance, Thailand will be the first hosting country of regional training, which will be followed by Viet Nam and Cambodia. The rest of itinerary will be finalized after consultation with NPCs because these are country-based training.

For the expertise training for information management, Cambodia will be the first hosting country, which will be followed by Nepal. The 3rd and 4th hosting country was not confirmed on the day, but it will be confirmed after consultation with other remaining countries. Lao PDR proposed to be the last hosting country.

This diagram shows tentatively confirmed training itinerary.

❖ Pest surveillance training

Thailand	Viet Nam	Cambodia
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❖ Information management training

Cambodia	Nepal	-	-	Lao PDR
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4.8, NPPOs' Role and Responsibilities

Mr. Shin explained the role and responsibilities of NPPOs, which includes the preparation of training facility and equipment, selection of trainees, preparation of in-country training etc.

NPCs proposed that project regional coordinator provide them with a designated form to submit the country progress report and that the term be changed from “NPPO” to “NPC”.

All NPCs well understood their role and responsibilities and committed their support and contribution to the implementation.

5. Conclusion and Closing Remarks by Lead Technical Officer of FAO/RAP

Dr. Piao thanked NPCs and other participants for their hard work and cooperation first.

He highlighted achievement of the workshop and summarized the main discussion points and results of the workshop. He also emphasized the NPCs and project regional coordinator's responsibilities and importance of frequent communications and consultation between project regional coordinator and national project coordinator of participating countries for the successful implementation of the project. He especially recommended that project regional coordinator keep in mind follow-up actions and how to maximize participating countries' benefit.

He concluded the inception workshop quoting a proverb “good start means a half success” to wish a successful workshop.

6. A list of follow-up actions

Based on the agreements or recommendations of the inception workshop, some actions to be followed up before or during the implementation of the project will be as follows.

- Collection of the trainees list both for the pest surveillance and the information management training workshops respectively
- Consultation with NPCs on selection and finalization of training topics for regional and country-based training workshops
- Consultation with NPCs of training hosting countries on the training venue, facilities etc
- Collection of relating information on specific interested areas of individual countries or issues to be addressed by the training before finalizing the training materials for consolidating the context of a lecture.
- Preparation of training materials especially for lectures
- Providing a formatted form for the list of equipments required to NPCs (only for the requesting countries)
- Providing a formatted form for the list of the trainees and for the country progress report.

- Selection of the lecturers corresponding to the training topics
- Collection of the in-country trainings plan
- Revision of the project work-plan

Annex 1

Agenda

Time	Session	Facilitator
09:00 - 09:30	Registration (Pullman Bangkok King Power Hotel)	
Opening Session		
09:30 - 10:00	Opening session - Welcome remarks – From FAO RAP, Mr Vili A. Fuavao - Message from the Korean Government - Introduction and workshop objectives	Dr Yongfan Piao
10:00 – 10:20	<i>Group Photo and refreshment</i>	
Session 1: Setting the Scene		
10:20 - 10:50	Introduction and key comments on the project “Support to Capacity Development in Implementation of Plant Pest Surveillance and Information Management in South-East Countries: GCP/RAS/286/ROK”	Mr Chang-Ho Shin
10:50 – 12:20	Pest surveillance situation in participating country presentations	Mr Chang-Ho Shin
12:20 - 13.30	<i>Lunch break</i>	
Session 2: Refinement of Work Plan		
13.30 – 15.30	Plenary discussion to refine the project work plan - Training program options - Trainees qualification and selection - Training topics and curricula - Diagnostic capacity improvement - In country expertise training Joint Implementation of regional activities among participating countries - Project calendar - Training Itinerary - Roles and responsibilities of NPPOs - Training facility and equipment - Information sharing	Mr Chang-Ho Shin
15:30 – 15:50	<i>Refreshment</i>	
Closing session		
15:50 – 16:00	Conclusion and closing remarks	Dr Yongfan Piao

Annex 2

Welcome Address of Mr Hiroyuki Konuma, Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific delivered by **Mr Vili A. Fuavao**, Deputy Regional Representative FAO Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific at the Inception Workshop **Support to Capacity Development in Implementation of Pest Surveillance and Information Management in South-east Asian Countries GCP/RAS/286/ROK** Bangkok, Thailand 29 November 2013

Ms Shin Hyang Won, Deputy Director of Intellectual Development and Cooperation- Korea Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs Representative ASEAN Secretariat Country Participants, colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of FAO, I wish to welcome you all to this inception workshop of the project “Support to Capacity Development in Implementation of Plant Pest Surveillance and Information Management in South-East Asian Countries.”.

As we all know, nowadays international trade of plant and plant products continues to grow due to the expansion of market opening as a result of worldwide WTO entries and conclusion of regional Free Trade Agreements, while appearance and distribution of the unexpected plant pests is also increasing under the influence of climate change.

International trade of plant and plant products involves potential risks of reduction of plant productivity and destruction of natural ecosystem by the introduction and spread of unexpected plant pests.

So many incidents have been reported of a large amount economic and ecological damage brought about as a result of the influx and resettlement of quarantine pests.

The most practical measure to protect a country against the introduction of regulated pests is to address the risks of pests to their national plant resources through close surveillance of pests present in the country and identification of pests that found in imported consignments, followed by the establishment of appropriate phytosanitary measures for regulated pests.

Pest surveillance is a fundamental and core activity of a National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO) responsible for protecting a country’s plant resources under the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC).

Although most of developing countries in the South-East Asian region have diverse and abundant plant resources, the capacity of pest surveillance, pest identification and pest risk analysis is inadequate and unable to meet the demand to facilitate fair and safe trade of plant and plant products as well as to improve effectiveness of the phytosanitary measures established.

Furthermore, some NPPOs of these countries have constraints of operational and analytic capacity with limited numbers of experts in various disciplines relevant to pest surveillance and identification, with lack of continuous training programs for staff involved in surveillance and with poor pest information management and accessibility.

Noting the importance of increasing these capacities, APPPC organized a Regional Workshop in February in Thailand and a Symposium in November in Korea on ISPM6 respectively in 2012. Their purposes were for identification of main constraints, issues and prioritized areas of improvement in terms of ISPM6 as well as development of main framework of operational manuals. It was expected to help South-East Asian countries, especially GMS countries, to strengthen the capacity in pest surveillance which would be the basis for supporting Pest Risk Analysis (PRA) and updating the list of regulated pest as well as implementation of relevant ISPMs, while expecting to organize some training by using manuals or operational guidelines.

Korea Government has kindly provided financial support for a regional project for GMS countries and Nepal to promote collaboration and cooperation in capacity development for pest surveillance.

In this regards, I would like to take this opportunity to express FAO gratitude to the Korean Government for its financial support and partnership.

Considering technical gap among participating countries, some countries are not only benefited from project but also may provide very useful experience and lessons as expertise to other participating countries during the implementation of the project.

I believe that NPPOs of countries participating in this project would be strengthen in terms of human capacity to perform their functions effectively and sustainably to protect plants and plant products from harmful pests and to facilitate the safe trade with their trading partners through well-organized expertise training programs.

FAO recognizes that it is a continuing challenge to maintain the core capacity and capability of the NPPOs to protect plant resources from the introduction and spread of regulated plant pests hence it believes that improving the governance of phytosanitary measures is the most effective way to preserve the plant resources.

In closing, I wish to reiterate FAO's commitment to maximize the effectiveness and achievement of the project outputs and outcomes, and consequently to improve the capacity of phytosanitary measures and to manage the regulated pest information to contribute to preserving the plant resources and natural ecosystem of the South-East Asian countries.

I wish you all a successful workshop.

Thank you for your attention.

Annex 3

Welcome Remarks by Korean Government

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honor for me to attend on behalf of the Korean Government this project inception workshop regarding pest surveillance jointly supported by Korea and the FAO.

Let me begin by extending a warm-hearted welcome to all participants including government officials and experts.

I also deeply appreciate the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific for successfully organizing this event.

Nowadays, the importance of capacity building in plant quarantine sector has been greater than ever before to prevent the spread of pests because the appearance of new pests is on the rise due to various factors such as climate change and international trade volume for plant and plant products is growing as a result of expansion of global market opening.

As you are well-aware, once a pest is flowed in a country, it not only destroys national plant resources, but also incurs tremendous economic loss to farming households and national economy.

Korea's forestry resources have been suffering for a long time from "Pine Wood Nematode" which was presumed to be introduced in the 1980s. Since then, the Korean government has spent a lot of money to better control pests.

Based on these efforts, Korea has endeavored to strengthen its plant quarantine capability and is now taking the lead in securing agricultural product safety and protecting plant resources with cutting-edge plant quarantine technology. Furthermore, considering the importance of quarantine capacity building in developing countries, Korea is conducting international cooperative projects to share experience and knowledge with countries in the region.

"Support for Capacity Development in Implementation of Pest Surveillance" project is one of them.

I believe that this project will advance plant quarantine capabilities in the Southeast Asian region, and in the long term, will lay the foundation for the improvement of agricultural productivity and rural household incomes. I expect that this workshop will be a good opportunity to work out a feasible implementation plan that suits each partner country's situation.

Meanwhile, successful implementation of the project cannot be achieved without support and active cooperation of participating countries. I would like to ask for active participation and full cooperation of partner countries for the success of this Korea-FAO joint project.

Lastly, I hope that well-organized FAO's training programs and enthusiastic staff and experts will lead this project to be successful and fully effective. In this regard, I also wish this workshop will bear fruitful results.

Once again, I extend my gratitude to the FAO RAP and its staff for organizing this event.

Thank you.

Annex 4

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