

Highlights-APPPC regional workshop on surveillance information management

2-7 June 2014, KL, Malaysia

An APPPC regional workshop on surveillance information management was convened from 2-6 June in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in collaboration with Australian pest surveillance experts and Malaysia Department of Agriculture. This workshop aims to promote the capacity of NPPOs in implementation of ISPM6 through strengthening regional surveillance capabilities by providing training and supporting to ensure plant pest data integrity, consistency and currency across APPPC member countries.

Thirty two participants from 22 countries in the region participated in the workshop. Plant health surveillance experts from Australian Department of Agriculture shared their expertise by facilitation of the introduction and demonstration with a hand-carrying device for surveillance data collection and management. The hand-carrying device (Ptracker) was provided to each participating country for their practical exercise with GeoJox software. Key training activities included surveillance data collection, surveillance data management and surveillance data reporting and usage.

During the 5 days workshop, participants were briefed with main context of ISPM6 and the Surveillance Information Management Systems (SIMS) were introduced. In addition, extensive practical exercise on surveillance data management, which includes data collection from field, data extraction and consolidation, analysis, reporting, etc. by using Ptraker, were organized. Electronic data collection tools, GIS software, reference and training material prepared for the workshop assisted participants to have practical experience. The Ptraker the software distributed to each participating country enables them to undertake possible follow up practice and share with other colleagues in the NPPO.

It is expected that the training workshop may strengthen the management of national plant pest risks, assist members in maintaining country plant pest lists and facilitate information sharing amongst the APPPC member countries as well as to improve pest reporting capabilities. The output of the workshop would also contribute to the revision of ISPM6 by providing the first hand reference with the practical exercises of 22 countries in terms of the hand-carrying tool-Ptracker and the technique concerned. At the same time this would be the pilot practice associated with IPPC implementation program with the ISPM6, which was decided by the CPM9 on March 2014.

APPPC takes a leading role in the development of capacity of member countries in pest surveillance in recent years by treating the pest surveillance as one of focus areas of APPPC work plan since the surveillance is important to the plant quarantine sector as it is the essential basis for preparation of regulatory pest list of the country and for the pest risk analysis (PRA) by the national plant protection organization (NPPO), which is associated with phytosanitary measures with strong impacts on trade on plants and plant materials. A number of regional workshops concerned were organized. The regional workshop on ISPM6, which was organized on Feb. in 2012 in Thailand, identified main constraints, challenges and gap existed in member countries in terms of implementation of the ISPM6 and also proposed

areas to be improved and achieved through collaborations. In addition, limited surveillance capability and skills to implement ISPM6 were identified by the APPPC/IPPC symposium on pest surveillance, which was held on Oct. 2012 in Korea. The symposium identified the priorities areas for implementing ISPM 6 as being surveillance operational guidance, surveillance technical support and surveillance management support and committed to the development of instructional material. During the 28th Session of APPPC held in Korea on Sept. 2013 adopted the work plan, which includes detail activity plan of Standing Committee on Plant Quarantine. It was agreed that the APPPC Surveillance Information Management Workshop will be organized with assistance of Australian experts from the Department of Agriculture, Australia to address capacity issues relating to limited surveillance capability and skills to implement ISPM6 as identified above workshop and the symposium. Australia and Malaysia provided funding for the workshop.



