

REPORT OF THE FIRST PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE

28 Nov. 2014, Bangkok Thailand



Summary

The 1st project steering committee was held in Bangkok, Thailand on 28 November 2014 with 13 participants including 5 NPCs from participating countries, 2 officials from the Korean government and the Chairperson of CPM from IPPC to review the project progress, to discuss some issues identified during the first year of implementation and to refine the project work-plan for the next two years.

Welcome remarks were delivered by Mr. Kim Eung-Bon, Head of NPPO-Korea, and Ms. Shin Hyang-Won, Deputy Director of the Ministry of Agriculture of Korea, which was followed by opening remarks by Dr. Piao, Lead Technical Officer of the project. Mr. Shin Chang-Ho, Project Regional Coordinator, illustrated the project's progresses and achievements made during the last one year. Five topics were prepared by Mr. Shin for the plenary discussion: national (in-country) training schedule on pest surveillance; national training schedule on pest information management; laboratory equipment procurement; review of the project work-plan and other issues including Myanmar's absence from the workshop; and difference of the expertise level of the trainees. During the following discussion, participating countries requested the Korean government to prepare the follow-up project to deal with pest risk analysis and financial support to update or install the pest information system. Meanwhile, Korean government requested the Project Coordinator to perform the survey on the participating countries' satisfaction with the implementation of the

project. The three hours' meeting was concluded by Dr. Piao who emphasized the sustainable development of capacity through the activities of the project work-plan.

1. Opening the meeting

Welcome message from the Korean Government

Mr. Kim Eung-Bon, Head of NPPO of Korea, welcomed the participants and expressed his gratitude to National Project Coordinators and FAO staff for great efforts they have made for the first year of the project. He emphasized that NPPO-Korea would keep supporting the training workshops with the experts for the successful implementation of the project. Ms. Shin Hyang-Won, Deputy-director of the Ministry of Agriculture of Korea, also thanked the participants for their huge support and cooperation in implementation of the project during the last one year. She wished the meeting to produce fruitful results and to maximize the achievements of the project.

Opening remarks by Senior Plant Protection Officer of FAO/RAP

Dr. Yongfan Piao, Lead Technical Officer of the project and Senior Plant Protection Officer, welcomed the participants to the meeting, expressing his gratitude to Mr. Kim, Head of NPPO-Korea, Ms. Shin from Ministry of Agriculture of Korea and Dr. Yim, Chairperson of CPM for their participation. He briefly introduced the background and objectives of the meeting and requested the participants to discuss what would be the requirement and what we need to achieve for the successful implementation of the project. He also highlighted that we need to think of what would be our operational action plan for the next two years based on several challenges already identified during the first year of the project.

2. Introduction of the project progress and achievement during the 1st year of the project

Mr. Shin, Project Regional Coordinator, introduced general information on context of the project such as project objectives, project budget, project staff and summarized project work-plan. He also presented past project activities implemented during the last one year, explaining the participants' composition, agenda, results and participants' assessment regarding the project inception workshop, three times of regional workshops on pest surveillance and once of regional workshop on pest information management. He especially emphasized honorable achievements of the project, introducing that over 95% of training participants were content with overall workshop's implementation and highly appraised the expertise level and enthusiasm of the lecturers. He also explained the planned training activities to be taken in 2015 and current problems incurred such as Myanmar's absence of the workshops and late progress of the lab equipment procurement.

3. Plenary discussion

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

- National (in-country) training schedule on pest surveillance
- National (in-country) training schedule on information management
- Laboratory equipment procurement
- Update project work-plan
- Other issues

These topics were discussed one by one, trying to make an agreement among participating countries. In addition to these, there were suggestions from Nepal and Laos regarding the next project and the financial support for new pest information system.

3.1. National (in-country) training schedule on pest surveillance

Participants had a discussion based on a draft of in-country training schedule for 2015 prepared by Project Coordinator, which was drawn up with a tentative schedule discussed in the 1st regional training workshop as well as additionally collected national training plan from the participating countries. Training schedule was discussed under the basic guideline that every country has to have at least twice of the national training and some training will be implemented in several groups in consideration of similar interests of countries, level of countries expertise and lab equipment required. Especially as for the subject “nematode” for which hosting country has to prepare a lot of space and advanced lab equipment for the practice, NPPO-Korea strongly suggested that Korea hold the training workshop in connection with the 1st special workshop on pest surveillance in combination of the training on the improvement of practical skills of using microscope complex during the 1st half of 2015. In addition to this, participants agreed with the subject “virus” as a tentative subject of the 2nd special workshop on pest surveillance. It was proposed that the procurement of microscope should be expedited in advance to the training in Korea so that the graduates may continue their practice in their countries.

Based on the results of the discussion, in-country training schedule on pest surveillance for 2015 was confirmed as following table. However, detailed plan will be arranged by Project Coordinator in consultation with relevant National Project Coordinators.

Time	Subject	Hosting	Co-participant	Lecturer
Jan 19-23	Bacteria Phytoplasma	Thailand	Viet Nam	Dr. Yim Ms. Ye
April to June	Nematode (including microscope handling skill)	Korea	2 trainees from participating countries	Dr. Jun
May	Grain insect	Cambodia	Nepal, Laos	Dr. Hong
June	Fruit-fly	Nepal		Dr. Ha Tran

				Huong (Viet Nam)
To be confirmed	Virus Fungi		Laos, Nepal	Dr. Lee Dr. Hyun
To be confirmed	Scale insect Bacteria	Viet Nam	Cambodia	Dr. Ha Tran Huong Dr. Seo
To be confirmed	Beetle	Thailand		Thai experts
To be confirmed	Fungi Moth	Myanmar		Dr. Hyun Dr. Park
To be confirmed	Mite Thrips	Laos		

3.2. National (in-country) training schedule on pest information management

Participants agreed that the 2nd regional training needed to be held in 2016 as a final regional training with country report concerning the development of pest information system (PIS) after several times of in-country trainings regarding the technical consultation to update or to revise or to construct the PIS. Technical consultation will be made according to the request from the participating countries after they recognized what they need and how to develop their PIS in comparison with current Korean PIS provided for their reference.

3.3. Laboratory equipment procurement

Mr. Shin provided the participants with whole list of laboratory equipment requested by participating countries and explained that procurement procedure for the equipment has been delayed because of insufficient quotations from the equipment supply companies. He also sought countries' understanding on the delayed progress. The coordinator will take follow-up actions to expedite the procurement.

3.4. Update project work-plan

Mr. Shin illustrated the project work-plan drawn up based on the implementation of the project, highlighting the project outputs, activities and actions to be taken and their time limit line by line.

Work-plan was updated in accordance with the results of the discussion. The main points of the revision are as follow.

- Planned 5 times of the regional training workshop on pest information management were reduced to twice of regional workshop and the rest of regional workshop will be changed into in-country workshops.

- The 2nd regional workshop on pest information will be held in 2016.
- The 1st special workshop on pest surveillance will be held in the 1st half of 2015.
- Time limit for equipment procurement will be revised accordingly to the progress.

3.5. Other issues

3.5.1. Myanmar's absence from the workshop

Mr. Shin introduced Myanmar's continuous absence from the workshop has been due to its complicate administrative procedures and that he would keep trying to urge its participation. NPPO- Korea mentioned that they would also urge its participation and, if possible, would hold the Korean training program for Myanmar in connection with this project.

3.5.2. Difference of expertise level on training subjects among participating countries' trainees

Regarding the technical gap among the trainees, Mr. Shin introduced that he would focus on the in-country training rather than regional training in consideration of trainees' expertise level and their concerned pests.

3.5.3. Suggestion on follow-up project

NPC of Nepal suggested the donor country to consider follow-up project such as pest risk analysis to create a significant synergy effect on current project. Ms. Shin Hyang-Won from the Ministry of Agriculture of Korea, said that she would make a consideration on this matter.

3.5.4. Request for financial support for new PIS

NPC of Laos requested the donor country for the financial support to set up new PIS as current project can support only to make a consultation on how to develop and update the PIS. Dr. Piao introduced that financial support for new PIS would cost around 300-500 thousands USD for the participating countries, however he highlighted this would be the most cost-effective way as project already would finish the consultation on new or updated PIS with every participating country and this output would be one of the most noticeable achievements compared to other project. Ms. Shin Hyang-Won from the Ministry of Agriculture of Korea replied that she would consider and discuss with her seniors on this matter.

3.5.5. Request for survey on project satisfaction of participating countries

Ms. Shin Hyang-Won, Ministry of Agriculture of Korea, specially requested the Project Coordinator to perform the survey on satisfaction level of the project participating countries with the implementation of the project for 2014.

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

Dr. Piao thanked NPCs, Korean delegation and other participants for their hard work and active involvement in the meeting. It was highlighted that activities of the work-plan would stimulate the sustainable development of capacity in implementation of pest surveillance as well as pest information management. He emphasized the importance of the in-country training and concluded the meeting with requesting the countries to think about what are specific areas and subjects to be assisted through in-country training as well as strategy for synergy of various projects' input to maximize the benefit from external assistance.

5. A list of follow-up actions

Based on the agreements or recommendations of the Steering Committee, some actions to be followed up will be as follows.

- Preparation of the in-country training workshop on bacteria and phytoplasma scheduled to be held in Bangkok in January 2015.
- Request for more quotations to equipment supplier for the procurement.
- Consultation on arrangement for in-country trainings with relevant NPCs of participating countries based on agreed schedule.
- Consultation on the in-country training on nematode and the special workshop with NPPO-Korea
- Preparation of the updated project work-plan.
- Preparation of the survey on project satisfaction of the participating countries.
- Preparation of intending plan of the establishment of PIS in the participating countries with estimated budget based in consultation with participating countries in details (willingness, possible location of servo, availability of potential collaboration with local IT technical counterparts for follow-up and customization of the PIS, potential actions on data collections/compilation of information to be uploaded, etc.).
- Submission of a report requesting extra budget for PIS to the donor if necessary by consulting with Ms. Shin Hyang-Won who participated in the meeting and expressed interest of exploration of the budget.

13:00 - 13:30	Registration	
Opening Session		
13:30 - 14:00	Welcome remarks – Dr. Yongfan Piao Group photo and refreshment	
Session 1: Presentation Session		
14:00 – 14:30	Introduction of the project progress and achievement during the 1 st year of the project	Project Coordinator
Session 2: Discussion Session		
14.30 – 17.00	Discussion on the national (in-country) training schedule on pest surveillance Discussion on the national (in-country) training schedule on information management Review of the laboratory equipment procurement Review and refine the project work plan Other issues	
Closing session		
17:00 – 17:20	Conclusion and closing remarks	Dr. Yongfan Piao

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