

The APPPC regional Workshop on Biosecurity Implementation of South American Leaf Blight of Rubber in the Asia-Pacific Region was convened in Bangkok



The APPPC regional Workshop on Biosecurity Implementation of South American Leaf Blight of Rubber in the Asia-Pacific Region was convened last week from 12-16 January 2015, Bangkok, Thailand in collaboration with Department of Agriculture of Thailand. The objectives of the workshop were to train and establish core group in implementing the SALB PRA and Standard in rubber growing countries of the APPPC region; harmonize and standardize the collection of SALB surveillance data based on ISPM 6, maintaining Pest Free Area as in ISPM 4 and sharing with APPPC rubber growing countries through electronic devices (p-tracker) in fulfilling the pest reporting obligation in line with ISPM 17. In addition it was aimed to gather feedback on the use of SALB reference materials for in country training and status on translation to local language and provide the opportunities for participating officers to share knowledge and gain expertise from experts in this field.

Thirty participants from 10 rubber growing countries in the region. Australia expert introduced and demonstrated a hand-carrying device with P-Tracker software for the SALB surveillance data collection and management. The Australian also shared their expertise in Surveillance Information Management System (SIMS) with participants. During the workshop, the components of the Surveillance Information Management Systems were also introduced. Extensive practical exercise on surveillance data management was also organized in SALB plantation in Songkhla Agricultural Research and Development Centre Rubber Research Institute.

Potential follow up action plan was discussed and several proposals have been suggested for countries to consider necessary actions. Proposals required regional collaborations will be brought by the lead country of the APPPC working group on SALB to the next session of

APPPC for possible inclusion in the next biennium work plan of APPPC with allocation of certain seed fund.

