

**Inception Meeting and Seminar:  
“Improving Capacities of Phytosanitary Inspection and Integrated  
Measures for International Movement of Seeds”**

**In collaboration with the FAO under the project GCP/RAS/297/JPN, “*Improving Capacities of Phytosanitary Inspection and Integrated Measures for International Movement of Seeds*” and Plant Protection Division, Food Safety and Consumer Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), Japan**

**Concept note**

**Background**

Seed-borne or seed-transmitted diseases can cause significant damages of crop production through international movement of seed. Introduction and spread of seed-transmitted diseases into endangered area can be reduced by taking effective phytosanitary measures at appropriate point.

FAO has started work on the regional Japanese funded project “Improving Capacities of Phytosanitary Inspection and Integrated Measures for International Movement of Seeds” (GCP/RAS/297/JPN) in November 2016.

The main objective of the project is to strengthen phytosanitary capacity of National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPO) and technical supporting organizations/entities (e.g. academic institute) of the recipient countries: Thailand and Viet Nam. This will be achieved through providing technical and operation manuals, organizing field and laboratory trainings and workshops and developing recommendations to be used by the respective NPPOs, in implementation of phytosanitary activities for international movement of seeds. In addition, the promotion of changes in the consciousness of general public and related private sectors through this project will contribute to preventing introduction and spread of pests associated with the international movement of seeds.

Recently, some of countries have set import requirements for importing seeds to prevent introduction of seed-transmitted pests because many countries have recognized seeds as pathway for pest invasion. Molecular technology has been developed rapidly these days, now we get technology for detecting virus and viroid diseases which we were not able to detect. Therefore, importing seeds become the material for concern. Importing country has started to request test results for exporting seeds by using molecular or serological diagnostic method from exporting country.

There are many seed companies which breed and multiply seeds for exporting purpose in Thailand and Viet Nam. They have been requested to meet import

country's requirements. In addition, they also have to take phytosanitary measures to prevent seed-transmitted disease into their own territory. They may have some kind of problems about seed importation or exportation. Therefore, they have to deal with these problems.

In such situation, this meeting clears the issues of seed production and trade at targeted countries and discuss activities of the project and also sort out priority.

### **Objectives**

The general objective of the meeting and seminar is to enhance the participants' understanding of purpose and confirm activities of the project.

Specific objectives are as follows:

1. To share country experience in seed production, certification and trades
2. To discuss operational work plan for implementation of the project, and agree on the work plan for the initial year (- December 2017)
3. To identify issues and challenges
4. To have better understanding of main areas of the international seed testing situation including activities of the International Seed Test Association (ISTA)
5. To share the information on the latest draft ISPM on 'International movement of seeds'
6. To understand efforts and challenges of the seed industry to reduce pest risk in seed production and transaction through visit to facility and laboratory of a seed industry

### **Expected outputs**

1. Country reports on seed management
2. Action plan of the project
3. Improved knowledge of international movement of seeds and its relevance with the industry

### **Financial support**

The project will cover the travel and accommodation for FAORAP staff, MAFF will cover the costs of the meeting (meeting room, equipment and coffee break for all participants) and travel and accommodation (room with breakfast) for participants from Thailand and Viet Nam.

### **Visa**

Participants are requested to obtain, prior to their departure, entry visa to Japan from the Japanese Embassy in their country. Japanese MAFF will provide documentations to assist participants to receive entry visa. It takes more than one month to issue the documentations.

**Date:** From 20 to 23 February, 2017

**Venue:**

- 1) Kobe Portopia Hotel  
6-10-1 Minatojima Nakamachi Chuo-ku Kobe 650-0046 Japan  
Tel: +81-78-302-1111
  
- 2) Kobe Plant Protection Station, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries  
1-1 Hatobacho Chuo-ku Kobe 650-0042 Japan  
Tel: +81-78-331-2386

**Targeted countries:** Thailand and Viet Nam

**Targeted participants:**

- 1) National Project Coordinator of targeted countries
- 2) Participants should be selected from staff members who are engaged in plant quarantine at the NPPO and supporting institute for the NPPO
- 3) Participants should have general knowledge of seed inspection and phytosanitary certification system
- 4) Participants are recommended to have basic knowledge of IPPC and ISPMs

**Facilitators/Consultants**

Mr Motoi SAKAMURA (Senior advisor, FAORAP)  
Ms Akiko YOKOTA (Project coordinator, FAORAP)