

**Report of the APPPC Workshop on Plant Surveillance Planning,
Coordination and Delivery**
17-21 July 2017
Chaing Rai, Thailand

Summary

The workshop on plant surveillance planning, coordination and delivery was held on 17-21 July 2017 in Chaing Rai, Thailand. Thirty-two (32) participants from 19 countries attended the workshop with 3 resource persons from Australia and 3 staff from FAO Bangkok. The workshop was officially opened by Dr. Piao Yongfan and he informed participants that the workshop is the second of the series of 6 workshops to be implemented by the APPPC until 2021. This workshop will focus on the surveillance process of prioritization of commodities or pests, planning, field operations and communication.

Prioritization is the first step in developing a successful surveillance programme to ensure NPPO's select the right commodities or pests to prevent incursion, support market access and basic activities in the issuance of phytosanitary certificate, eradication or control the pest in the country. Prioritization will maximize the limited resources available such as funding, manpower and equipment and also taking into account the pests of production, food security and social importance.

Proper planning is an essential to provide guidelines to all stakeholders involved in the implementation of the surveillance system. The surveillance planning and operational plan should at least consist of the pest biology and background, budget, human resources, size and scope of the programme, survey duration, key stakeholders, implementation schedule and survey products, field and diagnostics technical resources, operational and logistical coordination, information management, survey dependencies, safety risk management and mitigation, governance, survey communications, records management and contingency planning.

In implementing the field operation plan, pre-survey briefings should be conducted to ensure survey teams understand their responsibilities, including survey preparation, equipment, communication, data requirements and engagement. The pre-briefing could be summarized in a checklist format. Field operations also required well-defined Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's) that provide the surveillance staff instruction to conduct the field operations correctly and always in the same consistent manner. SOP's will also provide consistency and support verification, validation and auditing activities of the field operations and could also be used in reviewing surveillance activities to ensure the programme goals and objectives will be achieved.

Regular programme communication will ensure all stakeholders understand their tasks and will empower them to assist the implementation of the surveillance programme in achieving the intended outcomes. The national programme manager should engage in the communication strategy starting from the initiation of the prioritization process, planning, field operation and public awareness. The communication strategy should take into account the varying information needs of different types of stakeholders in their decision making, engagement and improvement of the surveillance outcomes. To ensure surveillance programmes are efficient and effective, the national surveillance manager must determine the information flow for reporting, share experiences and knowledge and provide the platform for feedback and discussion on the implementation issues.

There is also an important activity to adequately manage post-survey communication flow in reporting the preliminary survey findings, diagnostic issues and implementation problems encountered during the field operation such as security risk etc.

A field trip was conducted to pomelo farms at Muang Yai to gain knowledge on the implementation of pest free production area for pomelo canker to fulfil the export requirement of the EU. Surveillance activities are carried out every two months and pomelo leave samples are collected in 25 selected plants in each farm, with asymptomatic samples being sent to DOA Laboratories in Bangkok for PCR identification. Any non-compliance detected will initiate immediate action to destroy the infested plants and suspension of the farm until the farm declare cleared from the disease. So far no notification has been received from the EU on pomelo export from this area.

Three breakout group discussion sessions were conducted during the workshop to ensure participants could apply the knowledge gained from the presentations. The breakout group discussed: 1) Selecting criteria to prioritize commodities and pests for developing surveillance system, 2) Planning surveillance programme based on the prioritized commodities and pests and, 3) Delivering surveillance field operation surveys and budgeting. The outcomes of the breakout group showed the high level of understanding and also provided the opportunity to share experiences in prioritizing, planning, coordinating and reporting on surveillance programmes by each country. Overall, the workshop was very successful in motivating engagement and interaction from the participants which was orchestrated by two technical presenters and a facilitator from Australia.



Participants of the workshop on Surveillance Planning, Coordination and Delivery - 17-21 July 2017, Chiang Rai Thailand