



FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia
Technical Webinar on
Pest Surveillance for Sustainable Agriculture
25 February 2021, 10.00-12.00 hrs (CET)

What: Virtual meeting (Zoom Webinar)

When: 25 February 2021, 10.00-12.00 CET (Budapest time)

Language: English-Russian-Turkish (Simultaneous translation provided)

Background

This webinar organized in the frame of the project “Lifecycle Management of Pesticides and Disposal of POPs Pesticides in Central Asian countries and Turkey” (GCP/SEC/011/GFF resp. GEF ID 5000) is to

- 1) reduce Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) releases from obsolete pesticide stockpiles and contaminated sites;
- 2) strengthen the capacity for the sound management of pesticides; and
- 3) promote approaches alternative to chemical crop protection in order to decrease pesticide use and enhance sustainable agricultural production.

Plant pest surveillance is one of the key activities related to protection of plants against pests. In everyday agricultural plant production, early detection is fundamental for decision-making by farmers on application of pesticides or other crop protection methods. Regular surveillance at the farm or at the local level is indispensable in Integrated Pest Management systems as it provides updated information on pest presence in the context of possible exceeding the economic thresholds. The role of surveillance cannot be overestimated, either, in the protection of forests or other natural environments against plant pests or invasive alien species.

Pest surveillance is also an essential task of national plant protection organizations (NPPOs) that contributes to other tasks and decision-making at the level of regions or whole countries on the application of phytosanitary measures, such as establishment of pest free areas, or formulation of phytosanitary import requirements for international trade in plants or plant products, etc. Thus, it is a critical part of any national phytosanitary system.

In order to establish a successful national pest surveillance system it is important to understand how different elements of the system work and what are their roles. In some cases, capacity development may be needed to ensure these requirements can be met.

Discussions on surveillance systems will fit well into the celebration of the International Year of Plant Health, especially that they touch upon issues that are key for all areas of plant protection, and emphasize its importance for food security, economic development and protection of environment.



Objectives of the webinar

The main objective of the webinar is to share pest surveillance systems approach, its thematic areas and the functioning of existing surveillance systems in selected countries in Central Asia, Caucasus, South-Eastern Europe and Turkey. Moreover, the webinar should provide an opportunity for participants to discuss surveillance-related issues and help understand which kind of capacity development activities may be needed for countries in the region in order to support their surveillance systems.

Speakers

Moderator: Zsuzsanna Keresztes, Specialist on IPM and Climate Resilient Practices, FAO REU

1. International Year of Plant Health 2020. **Ralf Lopian**, Chairperson of the International Steering Committee for IYPH
2. National surveillance systems and their role in prevention of introduction and spread of pests in international trade. **Chris Dale**, Assistant Director for Plant Health Surveillance and Diagnostics in the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment of Australia, the Vice-Chair of the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee of the IPPC
3. Role of surveillance systems in forecasting and early warning for transboundary pests, **Maged Elkahky**, FAO Plant Production and Protection Division (NSP)
4. Plant pest surveillance in the context of climate change, **Powell Mponela**, University of Bonn

Panel discussion:

Moderator: Piotr Wlodarczyk, Agricultural Officer, FAO REU

Presentation on national pest surveillance by:

1. Representative of North Macedonia
2. Representative of Tajikistan
3. Representative of Kyrgyzstan
4. Representative of Turkey
5. Representative of Azerbaijan

Target audiences

Interested FAO staff and consultants, governmental representatives from project countries, NPPO representatives from the countries of the region, other national experts, civil society organizations, public and private sector, and academia in the Europe and Central Asia region.



AGENDA

Time	Title	Speaker
10.00 - 10.10	Opening of the webinar, welcoming remarks	Tania Santivanez, Zsuzsanna Keresztes, FAO
10.10 - 10.20	Introduction on the International Year of Plant Health (IYPH), and relevance and importance of plant protection	Ralf Lopian - Chairperson of the International Steering Committee for IYPH
10.20 – 10.30	National surveillance systems, their role in prevention of introduction and spread of pests in international trade	Chris Dale, Assistant Director Plant Health Surveillance and Diagnostics, Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment, Australia
10.30 – 10.40	Role of surveillance systems in forecasting and early warning for transboundary pests	Maged Elkahky, FAO Plant Production and Protection Division (NSP)
10.40 – 10.50	Plant pest surveillance in the context of climate change	Powell Mponela, University of Bonn
10.50-11.45	Panel discussion	Piotr Włodarczyk
11.55-12.00	Wrap up and closing remarks	

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