



**Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations**

NEAR EAST NETWORK ON FOREST HEALTH AND INVASIVE SPECIES - REGIONAL MEETING REPORT

5th - 6th October 2016

Tunis, Tunisia



Near East Network on Forest Health and Invasive Species

Regional meeting

Tunis, Tunisia – 5-6 October 2016

Report

I- Background

1. In November 2009, the Near East Forestry Commission created the Near East Network on Forest Health and Invasive Species (NENFHIS) to facilitate collaboration and communication between professionals, scientists, partners and other interested parties on Forest health and invasive species. It provides an informal mechanism to exchange information, knowledge and experiences and to enhance cooperation for the benefits of the forest sector in the Near East and North Africa (NENA) Region.
2. The FAO through its Regional Office for the Near East and North Africa and its Forestry Department in Rome, in collaboration with NENA countries, organized the “forest health and invasive species regional meeting” in order to revitalize this network. The meeting was held in Tunis, on 5 and 6 October 2016.
3. The adopted agenda of the meeting and the list of participants are provided in annexes no. 1 and 2.

II- Opening session

4. In the opening speech, Mr. AbdelHamied A. Hamid, FAO RNE Senior Forestry Officer in Cairo (Egypt), welcomed the participants. He highlighted the importance of the meeting to revitalize and strengthen the NENFHIS with regard to challenges faced by countries in the regions on forest health and management of invasive species, emphasizing the role of FAO and the support that it provides in the area of forest health and invasive species.
5. He noted the need to explore means to revitalize the Network which had a very interesting and successful start in the first years of its establishment, and he wished the participants for effective discussions and for a successful meeting.

III- Meeting workflows

Background, objectives, and expected results of the meeting

6. Mr AbdelHamied Hamid presented the “Background, objectives, and expected results of the meeting”. He reminded participants that the NENFHIS was the most active and dynamic network among the three networks created in NENA in 2010, but it became inactive later and it is important to understand why it did not continue its work in the later years. Facing the increased forest pest problems, country representatives at the FAO Near East Regional Forest Commission have recommended to energize this network and to explore ways and means to revive its activities.
7. The objectives of the meeting are to:
 - Take stock of and exchange information on countries' work in forest health and invasive species (policies/strategies, legislations, institutional set up, capacities and implemented programmes).
 - Seek means of promoting networking and enhancing regional collaboration.
 - Seek means of fostering bilateral cooperation with regional, sub-regional and global networks and mechanisms.
 - Take stock of and exchange of information on countries' work in forest health and invasive species (policies/strategies, legislations, institutional set up, capacities and implemented programmes).
8. Before introducing expected results of the meeting, he asked participants to write their expectations which were collected for reflection in the final session to assess the extent to which these expectations were met.
9. From the organizers point, the expected results of the meeting are:
 - Agree on how to revitalize the NENFHIS, (designation of Coordinator - Lead Country, Executive committee) and agree on its mode of operation.
 - Assigned roles and responsibilities of the coordinator & the executive committee.
 - Define and agree on reporting and information sharing methodology.
 - Develop 2 years work plan.

Overview and lessons learnt from forest invasive species regional networks in Asia and Africa

10. Ms Shiroma Sathyapala, FAO Forest Health and Protection Officer in Rome, presented the FAO program on forest health and protection which mainly focused on provision of technical assistances to countries (insect pests, diseases, diebacks, woody invasive species, new pests (unknowns), endemic outbreaks, Forest health strategies, regional forest invasive species networks) and promotion of monitoring systems, and on awareness creation.
11. She explained the greater incidence of forest invasive species in terms of: scale and impact of insects, diseases and other invasive species in a changing climate, greater world production and trade in forest products.
12. The challenges in management of forest invasive species were highlighted which included the outbreak of pests that have no borders, lack of expertise in forest health disciplines, need to fast action and lack of resources. The benefits of networks included:

- Facilitate exchange of information
 - Alert and provide policy advice on transboundary movement, phytosanitary measures
 - Raise regional awareness on forest invasive species issues
 - Encourage publication and sharing of research results, management and monitoring strategies.
13. Ms Shiroma Sathyapala reflected on experiences of other regional forest invasive species networks in Asia-Pacific and Africa and noted the past activities of the NENFHIS which had a good achievement during the first three years of its implementation. Some of the activities and output include:
- Monthly newsletter
 - Technical summary country reports (3 countries : Algeria, Morocco & Tunisia)
 - Data collection form (English & French)
 - Web site established by FAO (<http://www.fao.org/forestry/51295/en/>).
14. However, NENFHIS is facing some challenges such as:
- a) Only one follow up technical meeting since the creation of the network
 - b) No standardization of data collection
 - c) Lack of input from member countries to update NENFHIS website (newsletter, statistics ...)
 - d) Poor communication between members of the NENFHIS (some members are not active)
 - e) No email list server effective to stimulate discussions and exchange information
 - f) Only some countries actively participating in the functioning of the network.
15. She detailed the NENFHIS' objectives:
- To promote collaboration between member countries
 - To share expertise and information
 - To facilitate technology exchange
 - To communicate and coordinate with existing international and regional organizations dealing with forest health and invasive species
 - To identify problems and strategize regional prevention, monitoring, and management programmes, and
 - To encourage compliance of international phytosanitary regulations.
16. To meet these ambitious objectives there is a need to ensure the keys to success of a network which are commitment, responsiveness, competence, flexibility and ability to meet the needs of each network member.
17. In her conclusion, Ms Shiroma Sathyapala invited the participants to explore ways and means to revitalize NENFHIS by ensuring FAO's support and backstopping.

3.3 Country Presentations on the status of Forest Wildlands fires

18. The session was moderated by Mr Nabil Assaf, Out Posed SNE Forestry Officer and FAO Representative in Algeria.
19. Based on the FAO guidelines provided for the countries' presentations, power-point presentations were delivered by country representatives covering the following:

- General data on total land area and population, forest area and percentage of total land
- State of forest health and major forest pests
- Most important invasive plants (including trees/shrubs/herbaceous)
- Most important microorganisms (including virus/bacteria, fungi)
- Most important invertebrates (mollusks/acarida/insects)
- Most important invasive vertebrates (amphibians/reptiles/birds/mammals)
- Strategies, plans and capacities to combat forest diseases and invasive species
- Conclusion and recommendations

20. Presentations were made by representatives from Algeria, Iran, Lebanon, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia and Yemen

Table 1: synthesis of countries' presentations

Countries	Total land area (km ²)	Population (M hab)	Total forest area	Total land area (%)
Algeria	2,381,741 km ²	39,5 Mo hab	4,1 Mo ha 1,420,000 ha forests 2,415,000 ha chaparral 280,000 ha reforestation	2%
Iran			1,200 Mha (in five localities)	
Lebanon	10 452	4,99	Natural forest: 136547 ha Other Wildland: 106178 ha	13%
Morocco			Natural forest: 5,8 M ha Steppe: 3,3 M ha Afforestation: 560 000 ha Total: 9 M ha	
Saudi Arabia			2 M ha: Mountain forest (> 2000 meters) 977000ha Temperate Forest 130000 ha Plain and river forest 900000ha Mangroves between 3000 and 6000 ha	1%
Sudan	1,8 M km ²	39 Mhab.	192 099.38 ha	10%
Syria	185 185 km ²	23,5 Mhab.	527 321 ha	3%
Tunisia	164 000 km ²	11,4 Mhab. (estimated in 2016)	1,2 Mha	7,5%

21. Apart from similar ecological, social and economic contexts, the forest sector in the Near East and North Africa region can be characterized by:

- High anthropogenic pressure that constitutes the main causes of forest' degradation
- In addition to the socio-economic functions, forests play an important role in water regulation, soil protection and the fight against desertification. These ecosystem services are not always taken into account in the decision-making processes related to the forestry sector.
- Continuous reduction in forest cover, despite extensive reforestation efforts, due to forest degradation and increased burned areas

- Most forest areas are public land despite that several tenure systems are in use in countries (private, communal, religious ...).
- There are relevant experiences, which need to be shared and disseminated, on research and monitoring of forest pests (Tunisia), strategy of control and prevention based on monitoring devices (Morocco), expert knowledge in pest identification, etc.
- Existence of relevant institutions and departments in charge of forest management.
- Forest health and invasive species issues are specifically addressed only in few countries
- Some success stories on management of forest invasive species

22. Table 2: The major achievement could be summarised in the following points:

Countries	Microorganisms (virus, bacteria, fungi)	Invasive plants (trees, shrubs, herbaceous)	Invertebrates	Vertebrates	Other
Algeria	▪ <i>Catocala nymphaea</i> ▪ <i>Hypoxylon mediterraneum</i> ▪ <i>Botryosphaeria</i> ▪ <i>Aternaria</i>	▪ <i>Acacia decurrens</i> ▪ <i>Acacia cyanophylla</i> ▪ <i>Ricinus communis</i> ▪ <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> ▪ <i>Acacia dealbata</i> ▪ <i>Ailanthus altissima</i> ▪ <i>Arundo donax</i> ▪ <i>Leucaena leucocephala</i> ▪ <i>Arundi donax</i> ▪ <i>Leucaena leucocephala</i>	▪ <i>Lymantria dispar</i> ▪ <i>Catocala nymphaea</i> ▪ <i>Phoracantha semipunctata</i> ▪ <i>P. recurva</i> ▪ <i>Glycaspis brimblecombei</i>		
Iran	▪ Charcol disease ▪ <i>Calonectria pseudonaviculata</i> ▪ <i>Ophiostoma ulmi</i>		▪ <i>Cydalima perspectalis</i> ▪ <i>Tortrix viridana</i> ▪ <i>Lymantria dispar</i> ▪ <i>Euproctis chrysorrhoea</i>	▪ Hystrix ▪ Rats ▪ <i>Lexus europaeus</i>	
Lebanon		▪ <i>Ailanthus altissima</i> ▪ Paulownia tree	▪ <i>Thaumetopoea wilkinsoni</i> ▪ <i>Cephalcia taurinensis</i> ▪ <i>Leptoglossus occidentalis</i>	▪ Wild boar	
Morocco			▪ Psyllid gum Eucalyptus ▪ Pine wood nematode		
Saudi Arabia		▪ Prickly pear			
Sudan	▪ No research or studies on this subject	▪ <i>Prosopis chilensis</i> ▪ <i>Xanthium brasiliacum</i>	▪ <i>Bruchidus uberratus</i> ▪ <i>Carydon serratus</i> ▪ Dieback ▪ Stem borer	▪ Squirrel (<i>Sciurus</i>), rats,	▪ No studies in this subject
Syria	▪ <i>Diplodia sp.</i> ▪ <i>Liptographium sp.</i>	▪ <i>Eichhornia spp</i> ▪ <i>Solanum elaeagnifolium</i>	▪ <i>Thaumetopoea spp.</i> ▪ <i>Lymantria dispar</i> ▪ <i>Ips typographus</i> ▪ <i>Ips duplicatus</i> ▪ <i>Dendroctonus sp</i> ▪ Red gum lerp psyllid ▪		
Tunisia			▪ Pine processionary moth (Climate change effects) ▪ Oak leafroller ▪ <i>Leptoglossus occidentalis</i>		
Yemen		▪ <i>Calotropis procera</i>	▪ Stem borer		

23. While persisting gaps have been noted, specifically on:

- Low prioritisation of forest health issues in governments agenda.
- Lack of resource mobilization for monitoring and identification of forest invasive species within NENA countries.
- The institutional issue of forest health and invasive species is usually taken in charge by Ministries of Agriculture, and departments in charge of forest management are established in all countries, but few countries have established specific units in charge of forest health and invasive species. The experience of Morocco was highlighted.

3.4 Discussions

24. The presentations have stimulated lively discussions and brought up some interesting points that could be summarized in following:

25. Ms Shiroma Sathyapala's presentation:

- Some countries were active in the first period which allowed the Network at a side event in the World Forestry Congress in Argentina in 2008 by Tunisia's focal point. With the active role of the Moroccan and Algerian focal points.
- The similarities of contexts, challenges and problems are not sufficient to ensure sustainability and dynamism of a network. More important is the political will, institutional support and the focal points' leadership and dedication that will make the Network operational and active.
- Among other benefits, NENFHIS could also help to identify and promote capacities of countries on forest health and invasive species studies and programs.
- There is no need to have two networks (one for North Africa and other for the Near East), the experience of Asia-Pacific shows that if necessary one network could work efficiently with two secretariats.
- FAO has a role of facilitation, and a backstopping action, it has capacities to help countries implementing their program and strategies, but it can't act in their place.
- Key elements for the success of a network are: commitment, responsiveness, competence, flexibility. They were effective in the past, they should be again considered to revitalize NENFHIS.

26. Algerian's presentation:

- Biological control is at the research level and needs to improve in identification and use of efficient species to use as biological control agents, quick multiplication techniques and promotion of further development of biocontrol products with help of FAO.
- There is no single option to set the supervision of forestry research, whether it should be under the supervision of Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry in charge of Natural Resources or/and the Ministry for Scientific Research and Education. Each country has its own administrative constraints and its history. Many countries have inherited research structures that were

originally research units attached to sectorial departments and then evolved towards research institutions (centres, agencies, etc.). The double supervision Ministry of Agriculture/Ministry in charge of Research may be a solution. In any case, the important thing is to ensure cooperation and coordination between research and development (identification of research issues, implementation of research outputs, research for prevention, applied research, the general role of patenting and scientific publications for research and innovation, etc.)

- Experience from the project to fight against *Psyllid of Eucalyptus* implemented with FAO support was highlighted the need to implement monitoring devices to know the pest ecology, its predator, and the state of forest.
- The presentation highlighted that, in many cases, there is no need to fight against invasive trees, because it was proved that after some years the ecological equilibrium would be attained due to natural occurrences of predators and parasites.

27. Iran's presentation:

- The climate change impact on oak dieback, currently, FAO is supporting to establish resilient forests in the Zagros area of Iran.
- Recent introduction of boxwood moth has devastating impacts on boxwood forests which are already affected by boxwood blight.
- Public participation in forest conservation was highlighted.

28. Lebanon's presentation:

- Forest pests and diseases exist in Lebanon forest, however projects and researches are not documented, it will be an opportunity to have a project to collect available scientific studies and papers and make a literature review on forest pest and diseases in Lebanon.
- Chemical insecticides can be used with great caution and in a transparent process that involves all stakeholders to minimize adverse effects. It is better to focus on biological control treatments.
- Risk assessment is needed to control what should be done where biological control agents are introduced
- Paulownia tree could be planted for wood production but it needs a lot of water to grow, currently they are planted in the borders of agricultural land; but it is an invasive tree in the forest and causes inadequate availability of water to other trees. It is forbidden to plant i in forests because wood production is not the first role of Lebanese forests and other forest ecosystem services are being prioritized over timber production. This is a tree species which need to be managed in a sustainable manner in order to be efficient.

- *Cephalcia tannourinensis*: The cedar forest in Lebanon covers 2000 ha, it is a small area that is monitored. Reforestation efforts are made since the 60s and have a high level of success, without incidence of dieback.
- Processionary caterpillar has two life cycles in a year when the year is very dry and no report on damage of cedar trees in high in altitudes Morocco's presentation:
- There is an established monitoring network; technicians use risk criteria to trigger the pest alerts.
- Specific training is provided for engineers specialized in plant protection and forestry which are assigned to the functions of monitoring and data collection.
- In pest management the institutions are assigned for complementary activities, for in charge of identification activities in the intervention areas, and in charge of biological interventions.
- In the past, there was no knowledge on forest health in Morocco. Since 2000, the health of forests is subject to regular monitoring where dead trees/branches are evaluated, and if the proportion of dead trees/branches is above a certain threshold, the alert system is launched.
- The nematode problem must be supported by monitoring the vector, the work has to be done on improving quarantine in the borders to prevent the entry of nematodes; results of studies on this subject in Tunisia should be shared.
- The clues to track xélophages insects. The criteria to track xélophages insects should be explored.

29. Saudi Arabia's presentation:

- The use of biological control agents (*Dactylopus Opuntiae*) for management of invasive cactus species was presented.
- This five-year project was elaborated to address local population complaints related to negative impacts of cactus invasion. The study performed in 2009 take advantages of experiences in United States of America, Mexico and South Africa to identify biological control agents.
- The project started in 2014 with large scale reproduction of *Dactylopus Opuntiae* and its dissemination throughout the infested area, the Jazen region.

30. Sudan's presentations:

- The insect pest that attacks *Acacia nilotica* in Sudan is also known in the Arab Gulf countries and in Tunisia where it attacks the grenadiers.
- Research work was carried out on *Dolorix levia*, the results could be shared in the network.

- *Acacia nilotica* product includes a high quality hard timber which is used for railway sleepers, so it is very important to have a precise knowledge of this species and its related health and protection issues related to the reported cases of the tree dieback.

31. Syria's presentation:

- The *Thaumetopoea* species in Syria is not specified but it is common with the species in Lebanon
- Two invasive plant species were so far reported in Syria. These are *Ecchornia* spp. and *Solanum elagnifolium*. Fungal spp. that have reported effect on Syrian forests include *Diplodia* spp. and *Liptographium* spp.
- Reported forest pests include the European spruce bark beetle (*Ips typographus*), the Double-spined bark beetle (*Ips duplicatus* (Sahlberg, 1836) and *Dendroctonus frontalis*.
- Need for scientific exchange on species within the network.
- Artificial forests are irrigated in case of drought in summer and intercropping is practiced to prevent evapotranspiration in areas of particular importance around large cities.

32. Tunisia's presentation:

- Forest protection is provided by a sub-department of the Forestry Department of the Ministry of Agriculture (*Direction Générale des Forêts - DGF*). The National Research Institute (*Institut National de la Recherche en Génie Rural, Eaux et Forêts - INGREF*) also comes with a particularly experienced department in protecting the health of forests, to study causes of disease and consider how to fight. Operational control activities are performed by the DGF.
- There is no specific department in charge of the health of forests as in Morocco, it is planned to be organized in the future, currently preparing a health observatory of cork oak; at the operational level, there are no major health issue in Tunisian forests.
- There is a forest monitoring system but that is not really organized as in Morocco
- The functional relationship between INGREF and DGF are historic. In recent years, the DGF provides a research's line in all its development programs.
- There is no specific study on the role of bird in forest protection, However the swallows have a role in the protection of urban areas against mosquitoes through the consumption of larvae and mosquitoes
- The Oak forest health management is linked to the production of cork and conservative management. It is not as intensive farming in Portugal or in Maamoura.
- Wild boar can be seen as intrusive since reaching the oasis or migrates from its natural habitat to agricultural land.

- With the help of the IPPC country focal point find a way to inform via the network on the new pest or disease discovery in the area, online commenting system.

34. Yemen's presentation

- *Cinara cupressivora* and many invasive plant species exist in the country. However no recent studies focusing on forest invasive

The participants were divided into two working groups in order to discuss and to make recommendations on the following guiding questions:

- What are the common issues that leads us to work together?
- Why the NENFHIS was inactive?
- Based on the past experience, how we would ensure having a well-functioning network?
- Coordinator and Executive Committee' Role: Role and responsibility, Country level tasks, Specific regional tasks
- Wrap up of the working group discussions were presented in the plenary session covering the following conclusions.

33. Common issues that lead to work together are:

- Belonging to the same region and having same problems
- Similar climatic, environmental and social conditions
- Common shared goal of Conserving and preserving the forest against pests, disease and invasive plant species
- Exchange experience and knowledge between countries on FHIS
- Opportunities of financing / potential getting support for regional projects

34. Why previous network wasn't active?

- Few countries were active while others were not.
- Focal points didn't give adequate importance to the Network
- Changing of the Network Focal Points
- No funding was made available.
- No studies, no research, no data exchange between countries

35. Means to functionalize the network?

- Agreement between countries on exchange data and information
- Focal Point (FP): to be identified and ensure the stability of network' members, with possible assignment of an alternate focal point from each country.
- Regular meeting of the network (1-2 per year)(in person or through skype), establish a work plan, a newsletter, etc.
- Securing funds for network activities

36. Coordinator Role (1 person)

- Implement and monitor the progress of implementation of work plan
- Maintain contacts between members
- Collect data from FP and Implement a data base on forest pests (information flow)
- Draft activity reports and disseminate them among members after being reviewed and endorsed by the Executive Committee.
- Inform Network' members (meetings, reports, outbreak diseases or insects)
- Contact point between FAO and country' members
- Organize regular meetings

37. Executive Committee Role (3 persons + FAO representatives)

- Elaborate two-year workplan
- Identify common interests and priorities
- Awareness on the state of forest
- Representing the network in other fora
- Promote projects between countries sharing common challenges
- Meet at least once a year
- Make use of FAO communication channels (website)

38. Country Focal Point' Role (1 person with possibility of having an alternate)

- Coordinate information exchange on forest invasive species
- Promote collaborative network activities in the country
- Provide an organizational link between co-workers and users and the NENFHIS Secretariat
- Prepare annual program and budget for the country
- Collect and collate information and data base on forest invasive species
- Monitor NENFHIS activities in the country
- Participate in the NENFHIS meetings
- Report country activities to Executive Committee

39. Designation of the Network Coordinator:

- Prof. Mohamed Habib Ben Jamaa, Tunisia has been assigned by FPs as the network coordinator.

40. Designation of the Executive Committee (EC):

- The following were designated by the meeting to serve as EC members:

- Ms. Eman Ibrahim, Sudan
- Eng. Saleh Ali Al-Lehaidan, Kingdom of Saudia Arabia
- Mr. Mustapha Gachi, Algeria
- Senior Forestry Officer, FAO RNE and NEFRC Secretary and, as alternate, the FAO Forest Health and protection Officer.

41. The meeting welcomed the offer from Lebanon's representatives to host the next meeting of the Network.

42. The elaboration of the two-years workplan was moderated by Shiroma Sathyapala

43. Table 3: Two-year work plan (2017-2018)

	Timeline 2017-2018	Executive Committee	Coordinator	Country Focal Points	FAO Inputs
Follow-up of country reports (annual) CFP draft, Coordinator to collate, EC to agree, and then in website Report' Template FAO draft, Coordinator to finalize with EC and disseminate to CFP	1 st March 2017 28 Oct. 2016	X	X X	X X	X X
Newsletter (2 per year)	Nov. Dec. 2016	X	X		
Email group created by coordinator	28 Oct. 2016		X		
Exchange data / visits		X	X		X
Identify common pests to countries		X	X	X	
Implementation of Phytosanitary measures in forestry		X	X		X

44. Financing options of the Network activities were discussed and the following points were considered:

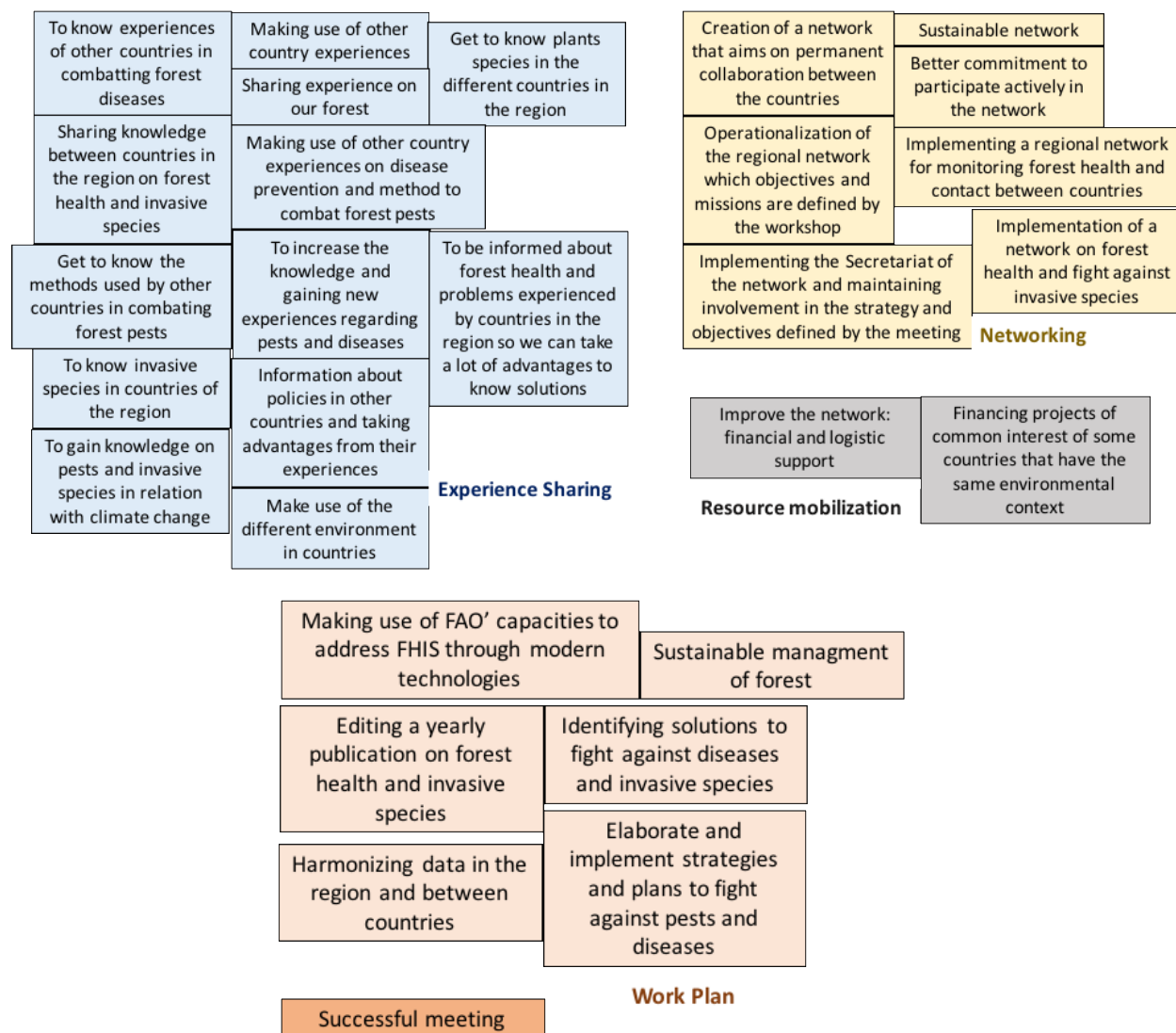
- FAO: Regular programs limited, some opportunities for training, meeting, definition of regional project; the extra-budgetary resources are possible but it is time consuming and along process.
- Regional TCP: based on the countries' request could be considered. However they should address a common technical gap identified by at least three countries.
- Bilateral Development aid: JICA, GIZ, Korean Cooperation Agency, TICA, FFEM, ONF...
- Multilateral Development Banks: IDB, AfDB, World Bank
- Multilateral funds: EU, GEF
- Arab Development Bank on agriculture: joined project between NENFHIS and African Network

V- Wrap-up session and evaluation of meeting

45. Mr Abdel Hamied presented the synthesis of the meeting outputs and thanked the participants for their active and fruitful contribution to discussions and debates.

46. Participants' expectations, collected on the first day of the meeting, were presented on a slide (see images below). Five main issues have been identified: sharing experience, sharing problems, networking, funding, and knowledge.

Image 1: Participants' expectations



47. The participants were asked to estimate to what extent the meeting outputs were able to meet their expectations. They generally felt that the meeting fulfilled their expectations on all organizational aspects (90%) with the exception of the resource mobilization and the network funding options where they did not feel reaching to a tangible result. They have also expressed their satisfaction on quality of the exchanges that took place during the meeting and that were deemed very positive.

V- Closing session

48. The closing session was chaired by Mr. Lamourdia Thiombiano, FAO Resident Representative in Tunisia and the Sub-Regional Coordinator North Africa Region who takes notes of meeting outputs and congratulate participants of their active and fruitful discussions.
49. In his closing speech, he highlighted the need to revitalize NENFHIS and to gain use of past experiences. Addressing transboundary and common issues as forest health issues and invasive species has no boundaries stressing the need to collaboration between countries, and networking is one way of achieving this. He underlined the role of the national focal point, through his/her personal commitment, to ensure efficiency of the network and resource mobilization.

Annex no. 1

Agenda of the meeting

Monday 3 October 2016		Speaker/Facilitator
08:30 – 09:00	Registration	
09:00 – 09:30	Welcoming remarks	Abdelhamied A. Hamid (FAO/TNE) Representative of the MoA, Tunisia
09:30 – 09:40	Self introduction of the participants	Abdelhamied A. Hamid
09:40 – 10:00	Background, objectives, and expected results	Abdelhamied A. Hamid
10:00 – 10:30	Overview and lessons learnt from forest invasive species networks in Asia and Africa	Shiroma Sathyapala, FAO/FOA, Rome
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee break	
11:00 – 13:00	Country presentation (Algeria, Iran, Lebanon)	Nabil Assaf, Fao Representative Algeria
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch break	
14:00 – 17:30	Country presentation (Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia)	Nabil Assaf
Tuesday 4th October 2016		
09:00 – 09:30	Recap of the first day	Abdelhamied A. Hamid
09:00 – 10:30	Working Groups: ▪ Common issues that leads to work together ▪ Detailed elements on what makes a RNW active or inactive?	Abdelhamied A. Hamid Nabil Assaf
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee break	
11:00 – 13:00	Working Groups: ▪ ToRs of the Network, Executive Committee and Secretariat/Coordinator	Abdelhamied A. Hamid Nabil Assaf
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch Break	
14:00 – 14:30	Designation of the Coordinator and members of the Executive Committee	Abdelhamied A. Hamid
14:30 – 16:00	Development of the network workplan	Shiroma Sathyapala
16:00 – 16:30	Options for Network finance	Shiroma Sathyapala
16:30 – 17:30	Wrap session and evaluation Closing session	Abdelhamied A. Hamid Lamourdia Thiombiano, FAO representative in North Africa Region, Tunisia

Annex no.2

List of participants

Name and surname	Country	Position	Tel.	Email
Eman Ibrahim	Sudan	Forester	+249913443660	amyfnc@gmail.com
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