Proceedings of the Inception Workshop on

Strengthening phytosanitary compliances and public private partnership to boost seed trade for the Asia Pacific region (PG/755) funded by Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF)

November 16, 2022, 09.00-12.00 hrs

The Berkeley Hotel, Bangkok and Online

Minutes:

The Inception workshop of the STDF funded project entitled "Strengthening phytosanitary compliances and public private partnership to boost seed trade for the Asia Pacific region" was organized in hybrid mode on 17th November 2022. The agenda and list of participants are given in Annexure 1 and Annexure 2, respectively.

At the outset Dr Ravi Khetarpal, Executive Secretary, APAARI and Project Lead welcomed all participants. He thanked Ms Catalina Pulido, Economic Affairs Officer, STDF for participating in the workshop in person and thanked STDF for granting such a project of great relevance for see trade. He welcomed all NPPOs of the participating countries (in person and online), private sector, other participants and APAARI colleagues and highlighted the importance of the project for APAARI as it involves active technical associated partners from the private sector APSA, CropLife Asia, ISF and ASTA that will help building public -private partnership while building capacity for complying to certain phytosanitary aspects of the trade. Dr Ravi highlighted that a pre-inception workshop was held online on October 12, 2022 in which preliminary discussions were held about the objectives, outputs and action plan of this project and helped to organize the inception workshop with a better understanding about the capacity needs of the beneficiary countries. It was followed by the introduction of participants (in person and online).

He then invited Ms Catalina Pulido for her opening remarks. She highlighted that the project is the outcome of the successful Project Preparation Grant (PPG) and is complimentary to other STDF projects. She also highlighted that the project is relevant for STDF as it addresses key phytosanitary issues, adoption of relevant ISPMs, encourages regional coordination, builds on existing knowledge of STDF donors like IPPC, fosters public private partnership (PPP) and provides opportunities to engage NPPOs in the region including Australia and New Zealand as mentor countries. She encouraged the participants to take opportunity to share the expectations and ideas for implementation. She stressed that for this project APAARI is the implementing partner while representatives from the seed sector are the technical associated partners and concluded by thanking APAARI to conduct the inception workshop in person.

Dr Shivendra Bajaj (designated as Project Manager) then made a presentation highlighting the outputs and workplan of the presentation (Annexure 3). While presenting the various outputs and foreseen activities of the project he highlighted that under the first output a capacity evaluation of the beneficiary countries will be carried out which will be built upon the analysis of the validation workshop. The gap analysis will be completed by end of Quarter 1 of the project inception. It was reminded that the project start date was November 7, 2022, therefore, the first quarter of the project starts from this date. in terms of the project cycle. The second output of the project is development of a portal in English which will be hosted by APSA as an ad-hoc arrangement until the completion of the project. A critical point of discussion is the hosting of portal after the project completion. The third output is the capacity building of the relevant ISPMs as highlighted in the presentation. The ASEAN single window for ePhyto is

important for this project as well as also the collaboration among stakeholders such as IPPC and ISF is important for the development of capacity building module. The strengthening of PPP is another significant output of this project.

The activities in the work plan which require physical meeting in the first year were highlighted. The activities are:

i) Group Meeting involving all NPPOs and other stakeholders for final assessment of gaps (Output1 – Q1)
ii) Prototype and finally fully functional portal of phytosanitary requirements- Q4 (Including building the IT platform, data application, entering information, testing and finally going live with the portal)
iii) Capacity building on relevant ISPMs (Workshops online and face to face) -Q4 (Output3).

It was requested to the NPPOs of the participating countries about their willingness to host any of these meetings in their countries.

Philippines agreed to host any of these meetings preferably the first activity which involves final assessment of gaps. Vietnam agreed to host the second meeting relating to the development of the portal. The NPPOs of countries were not yet committed to host the third meeting. It was decided that the location of the third meeting will be decided in due course.

Mr Manish Rai from APAARI updated the participants with the travel policies of APAARI including reimbursements, reporting format to claim expenses.

The **formation of a National Team** in each country and its roles and responsibilities was discussed by Dr Ravi Khetarpal. The NPPO partners were asked to propose the names for the members of the national team. It was emphasized that constitution of this team will be completed in one month time and should include members with an array of expertise including management, technical and policy matters. The national team will take ownership of the project from the inception. Another important committee which needs to be established is the **Advisory Committee**. This committee will provide technical advice and propose any midterm correction if needed.

He further opened up discussions specific points related to the project as below:

- **Concrete activities targeted at women and environment** – It was highlighted that wherever possible, the involvement of women will be encouraged in the project and support will be needed from the national team to nominate women in the capacity building activities.
- **Identifying the concrete gaps for workplans (output 1) –** The NPPOs were encouraged to identify the gaps and send the suggestions by email as soon as possible. This will be followed by 1:1 discussions with NPPOs before consolidating the gaps in the group meeting to be held later.
- **Future hosting of the portal (Output 2, Activity 2.4)-** Owing to the sensitive nature of the topic it was agreed that future hosting of the portal after the completion of the project will be discussed at the steering committee meeting in detail.
- **Leveraging PPPs and south-south cooperation, (Output 5, activity 5.1) –** it was discussed that implementation of ePhyto and accreditation of third-party laboratories (ISPM45) are the key areas where South-South cooperation is highly likely to be strengthened. Thailand would be a key country for the both the activities, while many other countries are at different stages of exchanging ePhyto, therefore, Thailand can significantly support these countries by sharing its experiences as well as play a key role in the ASEAN single window for ePhyto. Other areas of south-south co-operation will be explored as the project starts running.

- **Discussion about the use of IPPC tool beyond market compliance**- Dr Ravi made a presentation on the key aspects of Beyond Compliance tools developed with STDF funding). He highlighted that the aim is to capacity enhancement of NPPOs Two tools are provided, the Decision Support for System Approach (DSSA) and the Production or Pathway chains, which may be considered for inclusion in the project for enhancing the capacity of the NPPOS as it supports the development of combinations for managing pest risk associated with pathways (Annexure 4).

Comments from participants:

The meeting was then opened for discussion on the topics discussed so far:

Mr Mahesh from **Nepal** highlighted that several online meetings were conducted and concluded with in-person workshop for PCE in Nepal. Several gaps were identified and promised to share the final report the PCE review for Nepal. He acknowledged that Nepal would benefit significantly from the activities of this project.

It was discussed that for **Cambodia** the relevant modules of the PCE can be conducted that will help identifying the gaps. It was also highlighted that a legislation change may be required when implementing ePhyto in Cambodia. However, a further review of the current legislation is a must prior to any work takes place for ePhyto in Cambodia.

It was also discussed that the questionnaire shared during PPG implementation requested the countries to share the need for PRA, need for exchanging ePhyto along with other capacity building requirements.

Bangladesh informed that their legislation has a provision for implementation for ePhyto. It was also discussed that the lack of trust among public and private sector is key limitation, and the project will help build the trust between public and private sector. The private sector also needs capacity development on key ISPMs and they expect to utilize this opportunity by being key participants in the project.

There was further discussion on PPP where the representatives of the National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO) of **New Zealand**, Ms Charlotte Pushparajan and Ms Sarah Clark, highlighted the importance of building a partnership among both sectors where trade issues can get faster resolution if there is stronger PPP.

Ms Martina Spisiakova from APAARI made a presentation on knowledge management (KM) and capacity development for innovation (functional skills) through which she highlighted the approach that will be applied in this project, in particular (Annexure 5):

- The blending of technical and functional (soft) skills in all project activities
  - The pillars of the project's KM and communication strategy
  - Concepts based on the Tropical Agriculture Platform (TAP) Common Framework on Capacity Development for Agricultural Innovation Systems based on multi-actor interactions and capacity building at different levels (individual, organization and enabling environment)
  - Lessons learned from previous STDF-funded projects

Final remarks: Ms Catalina Pulido highlighted that this is the beginning of several activities, APAARI as the Implementing Partner is the first point of contact as they are managing the project with active support of the Technical Associated partners APSA, CropLife Asia, ISF and ASTA. She also thanked the representatives of the NPPOs of Australia (absent) and New Zealand for accepting the role of mentors

advising and supporting the project activities. She said that she was delighted to see the willingness of the NPPOs and then she reinforced that STDF is always there to provide support as and when needed.

The NPPOs from Laos and Cambodia mentioned that they are new to such a project and look forward for more interactions. Mr. Khalil Hamid, the MUSP program manager of USDA, who attended as a guest, also emphasized the uniqueness of this project and that it provides roadmap to move forward. New Zealand also mentioned the importance of the PPP roadmap and how they have developed a channel of communication with the private sector which they will share with the participants.

The meeting concluded with a warm vote of thanks from Dr Ravi to STDF and all the participants.

Points for follow-up and dates:

Following are the key points of the inception workshop that need follow ups and the dates for completion

1. Composition of the National Team: The National team needs to be constituted. The NPPOs of the participating countries will nominate one person from each country by December 15, 2022. The roles and responsibilities of the National Team are discussed above.
2. Composition of Advisory Committee: As discussed above the Advisory Committee needs to be constituted by January 10, 2023. The members of National Team will nominate the members of the advisory committee which will also have representatives from the mentor countries.
3. The review of calendar of activites for Q1 will be discussed during the first meeting of the National team and will be completed by December 20, 2022.
4. Organization of Webinar in which NPPOs from New Zealand can share their experiences about collaborating with private sector. It will be organized in Q2 of 2023.

Annexure 1

Agenda

Proceedings of the Inception Workshop on

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November 16, 2022, 09.00-12.00 hrs

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Time	Remark
08:45 -09:00	**Registration of participants**
09:00- 09:20	**Welcome and Opening Remarks-** Ravi Khetarpal, Executive Secretary, APAARI Introduction of all participants
09:20- 09:25	**Overview of STDF and expected outcomes of the project -** Catalina Pulido, Economic Affairs Officer, STDF
09:25-09:45	**Presentation of project objectives, outputs and activities. Presentation of the logframe** - Shivendra Bajaj; All participants
09:45 – 10:00	**Formation of National Teams- Roles and Responsibilities - and Presentation of the "Advisory Committee"** moderated by Ravi Khetarpal
10:00 – 10:45	Points to be discussed in the inception workshop, according to the Project document including the following (Facilitated by Ravi and/or Shivendra) : • Concrete activities targeted at women and the environment • Identifying the concrete gaps for workplans (output 1) • Future hosting of the portal (Output 2, Activity 2.4) • How to leverage PPPs and south-south cooperation (Output 5, activity

	5. 1) • Discussion about the use of IPPC tool beyond market compliance
10:45-11:00	**Tea Break**
11:00-11:20	**Scheduling meetings/trainings in 2023, Opportunity of holding components of meetings/trainings in partners' country –** All
11:20-11:50	**Strengthening capacities for innovation through blending technical and soft skills –** Ms. Martina Spisiakova
11:50 – 12:10	**Open Discussions**
12:10 – 12:30	**Closing Remarks**

Annexure 2

List of Participants

Proceedings of the Inception Workshop on

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November 16, 2022, 09.00-12.00 hrs

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No	Name	Country	Designation	Department/ Organization
1	Haddon Bell	Australia	Director	Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
2	Martina Spisiakova	Austria	KM officer	APAARI
3	Mohammad Liakat Hossain Khan	Bangladesh	Deputy Director (Import)	Plant Quarantine Wing, DAE
4	Jewel Rana	Bangladesh	Additional Deputy Director (Export)	Plant Quarantine Wing, DAE
5	Ali Afzal	Bangladesh	President	Seed Association
6	Fakhrul Islam	Bangladesh	President	Seed Association
7	Chhun Hy	Cambodia	Director	Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI)
8	K.S Varaprasad	India	Project Manager (USDA – SPS Project)	APAARI
9	Shivendra Bajaj	India	Executive Director of FSII	FSII
10	Sasireka Rajendran	India	Project Manager	APAARI
11	Thatsanaly Saphangthong	Laos	Director	Division of Plant Quarantine
12	Sounaly Sommany	Laos	Seniors Official	Division of Plant Quarantine
13	Mahesh Chandra Acharya	Nepal	Senior Plant Protection Officer	Plant Quarantine and Pesticide Management Center
14	Prakash Poudel	Nepal	Senior Plant Protection Officer	Plant Quarantine and Pesticide Management Center

15	Charlotte Pushparajan	New Zealand	Senior Adviser	Plant Germplasm Imports, Plants & Pathways
16	Sarah Clark	New Zealand	Manager	MPI
17	Joan May R.Tolentino	Philippines	Chief	Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI)
18	Carmela B. Rivera	Philippines	Senior Agriculturist	Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI)
19	Gabriel Romero	Philippines	Executive Director	Philippines Seed Industry Association (PSIA)
20	Thelma L. Soriano	Philippines	Seeds Regulatory Affairs Director	CropLife Asia
21	Ha Thuy Nguyen	Singapore	APAC regulatory lead	Bayer
22	Catalina Pulido	Switzerland	Economic Affairs Officer	STDF
23	Wanich Khampanich	Thailand	Senior Agricultural Research Specialist	DOA
24	Wasana Rungsawang	Thailand	Agricultural Research Scientist	Plant Protection Research and Development Office
25	Boonyanath Nathwong	Thailand	President	Thai Seed Trade Association
26	Ravi Khetarpal	Thailand	Executive Secretary	APAARI
27	Manish Rai	Thailand	Finance Coordinator	APAARI
28	Khalil Hamid	Thailand	Mekong US Partnership	USDA
29	Steven Layne	Thailand	Communication Manager	APSA
30	Nguyen Quy Duong	Vietnam	Deputy Director General	Plant Quarantine Division
31	Ho Thi Xuan Huong	Vietnam	Plant Quarantine Division	Plant Quarantine Division

32	Nguyen Thanh Ming	Vietnam	Director	Vietnam Seed Support Service Center (VSC)

Inception Workshop on Standards & Trade Development Facility (STDF)

"Strengthening phytosanitary compliances and public private partnership to boost seed trade for the Asia Pacific region"

November 16 2022

Objectives

To ensure that

- phytosanitary issues do not impede the trade of seed between these countries
- phytosanitary capabilities match with global standards
- public-private trust and partnership is boosted to ensure food security through availability of high-quality seeds

The goal of the project is

"Increased seed trade and market access for the Asia Pacific region

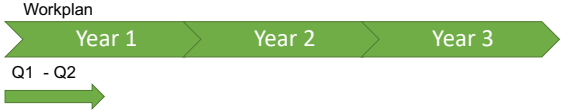
STDF Project outputs and its activity

Output 1. Country assessment of existing infrastructure and capabilities of the NPPOs of the participating countries based on the initial information received during the PPG related to the project objectives.

Activities

- Desk Review and Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE)
- Analysis of the Validation Workshop for highlighting the action points
- Meeting with the individual NPPOs of each country and in country assessment
- Consultation Meeting

Workplan



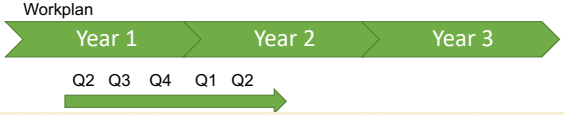
STDF Project outputs and its activity

Output 2. Create database (portal) updated by NPPOs for phytosanitary requirements in English

Activities

- Existing pest list for seeds reviewed for each participating country
- Phytosanitary requirements reviewed and confirmed with the NPPOs
- Import and export phytosanitary certification requirements compiled
- Prototype and finally fully functional database of phytosanitary requirements

Workplan



STDF Project outputs and its activity

Output 3. Sstrengthening NPPO's capacity on international standards for phytosanitary measures (ISPMs) and initiatives

Activities

- Capacity building of the NPPOs on the relevant ISPMs such as ISPM 2,6, 11,12,29,38 and 45)
- Workshops on export certification and import verification
- Assistance to implementation of ePhyto for countries that use ASEAN New Single Window (NSW)

Workplan

STDF Project outputs and its activity

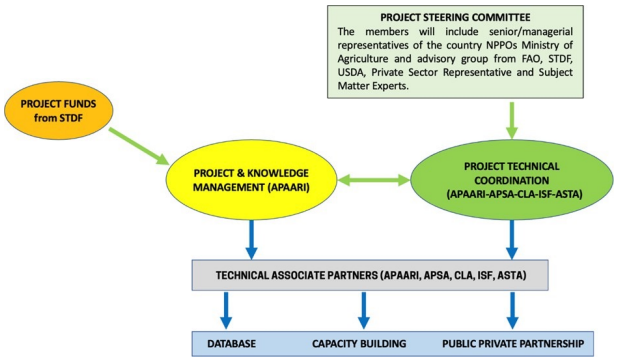
Output 4. Strengthening Public-Public and Public-Private Partnership

Activities

- Creating a public-public and public-private coordination platform (extension of the APSA phytosanitary expert consultation)
- Joint workshops conducted on awareness of investments made by private sector in seed health testing to support the implementation of ISPM 45
- Policy dialogue for developing a laboratory accreditation program of independent private laboratories by the NPPOs

Workplan

STDF Project Implementation and Management



STDF Project implementation and Management

Program Management and Knowledge Management (KM)

- APAARI will be responsible for the management of the project, as well as coordination of KM activities. The technical associated partners will assist in coordinating technical activities for meetings to coincide with the APSA Phytosanitary Consultation Meetings, APPPC meetings and of other stakeholders.

Logistics:

- Participating countries will help, as much as possible, to provide the logistical support for the project. For example, if a country volunteers to host a regional training, a point person from that country will help identify and secure training facilities, decide local transportation, identify lodging possibilities, etc. in cooperation with APAARI.

Expertise

- from ISF and APAARI and their partners will be utilized, and need- based Consultants will be recruited.

STDF Project implementation and Management

Monitoring and evaluation, including performance indicators

- The logical framework developed by the project will be used for monitoring and evaluation.
- A log frame prepared with the key indicators and targets for the project team to monitor and measure the progress and changes achieved by the project at various levels – activity, output, outcome and impact level.
- The project MEL will be as per latest STDF MEL Framework

Dissemination of the Project Results

- The project will develop a KM Strategy that will include five main pillars to disseminate the project results.
- The strategy will take care of information management, facilitation of stakeholder engagement, functional capacity development, communication and outreach, and dissemination of project results.
- More defined activities, indicators and expected outputs will be developed at the inception workshop and refined by the results of the baseline study.

Project workplan

Activity	Responsibility	Year 1				Year 2				Year 3			
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
OUTPUT 1 **Specific needs regarding existing infrastructure and capabilities of the NPPOs of the participating countries are identified**													
1.1 Analysis of the Validation Workshop for highlighting the action points (Detailed analysis of the capacity of NPPOs based on the response received on the questionnaires during the PPG)	Project Manager, Project Working group, Subject Matter Expert(s)	x											
1.2 Follow up meeting with the individual NPPOs (Meeting with the individual NPPOs of each country and in country assessment)	Project Manager, Subject Matter Expert(s), NPPOs	x	x										
1.3 Group Meeting involving all NPPOs and other stakeholders for final assessment of gaps	Project Manager, Working Group, NPPOs, Private Sector, FAO, IPPC and other invited stakeholders and experts		x										

Project workplan

OUTPUT 2: Portal of phytosanitary requirements created in English and reviewed as necessary		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
2.1 Existing pest list for seeds reviewed for each participating country. (It involves meeting with the NPPO, obtaining the pest lists and detailed review by a Subject Matter Expert)	Subject Matter Expert, NPPOs, Project Manager		x	x	x	x							
2.2 Phytosanitary requirements reviewed and confirmed with the NPPOs (it will be completed along with the activity 2.1)	Working group and NPPOs		x	x									
2.3 Import and export phytosanitary certification requirements compiled (It involves desk work, final confirmation with the NPPOs)	Working group and NPPOs			x	x								
2.4 Prototype and finally fully functional portal of phytosanitary requirements (Including building the IT platform, data application, entering information, testing and finally going live with the portal)	IT consultant, Project Manager, all stakeholders			x	x	x	x						

Project workplan

OUTPUT 3: NPPO's knowledge built on international standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs)		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
3.1 Capacity building on relevant ISPMs (Workshops online and face to face)	Subject Matter Expert and all project partners				x	x	x	x x	x	x			
3.2 Workshops on export certification and import verification								x x	x				

Project workplan

Output 4. ePhyto implemented in one country		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
4.1. Facilitation of self-Assessment of the current phytosanitary certification process disaggregated by participant country		x	x										
4.2 Training on the relevant ISPM 12 (Phytosanitary Certificates) (Workshops online and face to face						x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
4.3 Assistance on the "last-mile" implementation of ePhyto for countries that use ASEAN New Single Window (NSW)								x	x	x	x	x	x

Project workplan

OUTPUT 5: Public-Public and Public-Private Partnership platform strengthened and recognised		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
5.1 Public-public and public-private coordination platform strengthened and recognized		x	x	x	x								
5.2 PPP joint workshop held in one country													x
5.3 Policy dialogue initiated for developing a 3rd party laboratory accreditation program (as per ISPM 45)								x	x				
5.4 Joint workshops between public and private sector conducted on awareness of investments made by private sector in seed health testing to support the implementation of ISPM 45						x	x	x	x	x			

Specific points to be discussed

- Concrete activities targeted at women and the environment
- Identifying the concrete gaps for workplans (output 1)
- Future hosting of the portal (Output 2, Activity 2.4)
- How to leverage PPPs and south-south cooperation, (Output 5, activity 5.1)
- Discussion about the use of IPPC tool beyond market compliance

National Team- Roles and Responsibilities

- Constitution of national team
  - Technical, policy, management and relevant stakeholders
  - 5-7 members (gender balance)
  - Nodal person for communication

- Roles and Responsibilities
  - Facilitation/implementation
  - Linking with stakeholders
  - Formalizing linkages
  - Awareness and Dissemination of outputs

Logistics – Admin and Finance

- Expenses incurred and reimbursement
- APAARI travel policy
- Reporting methods
- Any other matters

Advisory Committee

- Representative(s) from NPPO
- Mentor countries (AU/NZ)
- FAO/UNESCAP/IPPC/APPPC
- Technical experts (regional and global)
- Industry partner(s)
- Academia
- Government (agriculture, commerce)

COMMENTS

DISCUSSIONS

SUGGESTIONS

THANK YOU!

STDF STANDARDS and TRADE DEVELOPMENT FACILITY

APAARI

APSA

CropLife ASIA

ISF

asta american seed trade association

Annexure 4

Presentations

Discussion about the use of IPPC tool beyond market compliance

Discussion about the use of IPPC tool beyond market compliance

Beyond Compliance tools developed with STDF funding

Offered as templates, with instructions for use, in order to build a Systems Approach, as described in ISPM 14 (The use of integrated measures in a systems approach for pest risk management).

Aim is to help NPPOs towards a more informed and confident stance of negotiation.

Also supports the development of combinations for managing pest risk associated with pathways

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Discussion about the use of IPPC tool beyond market compliance

Beyond Compliance tools developed with STDF funding

- Templates allow to save multiple versions for an iterative development of plans.
- Facilitators trained to support the use of the Beyond Compliance tools

Two tools are provided:

- **the Decision Support for System Approach (DSSA)**
- **the Production or Pathway chains**

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Discussion about the use of IPPC tool beyond market compliance

Decision Support for Systems Approach (DSSA)

- Allow users in importing or exporting countries to assemble and assess phytosanitary measures that contribute to pest risk reduction and the implementation of management plans.
- Specifically, the DSSA supports evaluation of the potential effectiveness of a Systems Approach, based on data, publications, experience, and expert opinion.

Discussion about the use of IPPC tool beyond market compliance

The DSSA is divided into three parts:

- Part A where background information is entered, including characteristics that affect management choices
- Part B where the list of potential measures, and their objectives, is documented and then shortlisted
- Part C where each of the shortlisted measures is evaluated, most commonly by a group of experts or stakeholders, across 6 indicators implied by the guidance of ISPM 11.

The ratings for each criterion and uncertainties entered in Part C are automatically presented in a series of graphics to provide visual feedback and promote discussion before a final selection is made by the user.

Discussion about the use of IPPC tool beyond market compliance

- The DSSA helps in constructive discussion amongst stakeholders within, and between, exporting and importing countries.
- The DSSA results can be the basis for proposals for new trade, equivalence or to supplement existing trade protocols that are failing to maintain the desired level of protection.
- The ratings may confirm areas of agreement regarding potential efficacy and point to the part of the system where data collection might address uncertainties and unknowns.

Production or Pathway Chain

- It is a simple but powerful method for visualising and arranging integrated phytosanitary measures that contribute to pest risk management throughout all the stages of the phytosanitary export certification process
- It supports discussion of the objectives of measures, so that the key modes of action against pest risk and means to verify their effectiveness are considered – even if not all are employed.
- Critical components for implementing a Systems Approach are also indicated with the objectives related to monitoring, record keeping and traceability.

Production or Pathway Chain

Production Chain would be built for each crop-pest combination, but a Pathway Chain might include multiple pests

NPPOs can use the tool to build either type of chain by working alone at the desk, in collaboration with researchers or with stakeholders.

The completed tool provides an overview of options that is immediately grasped thereby enhancing communication, and supporting analysis of combinations of measures that reduce the probability of introductions of regulated pests while remaining in proportion to the risk.

Production or Pathway Chain

- It is a simple but powerful method for visualising and arranging integrated phytosanitary measures that contribute to pest risk management throughout all the stages of the phytosanitary export certification process

- It supports discussion of the objectives of measures, so that the key modes of action against pest risk and means to verify their effectiveness are considered – even if not all are employed.

- Critical components for implementing a Systems Approach are also indicated with the objectives related to monitoring, record keeping and traceability.

Annexure 5

Presentations

Strengthening capacities for innovation through blending technical and soft skills

Inception Workshop on Standards & Trade Development Facility (STDF)

Project on Strengthening phytosanitary compliances and public private partnership to boost seed trade for the Asia Pacific region

Strengthening capacities for innovation through blending technical and soft skills

16 November 2022

STDF STANDARDS and TRADE DEVELOPMENT FACILITY | APAARI | APSA | CropLife ASIA | ISF | asta american seed trade association

Contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The project goal: Increased seed trade and market access for the Asia Pacific region

An emphasis on delivering **technical** and **functional capacity building** as the primary means to achieve the SDGs, especially with respect to poverty reduction and economic growth

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The "blending" of technical and functional capacities

Technical capacities

- Compliance with phytosanitary processes
- Updating Pest Risk Analyses
- Removal of non-seed transmitted diseases from regulated pest lists
- Adoption and implementation of digital tools for seed certification (e.g. electronic phytosanitary certificates)
- Phytosanitary capacity evaluation
- Policy requirements to ensure compliance with international standards

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Functional capacities

- How will discussions and knowledge sharing among countries be facilitated?
- How to engage with producers to promote what they already know?
- How to involve NGOs to strengthen community awareness?
- Which organizational and institutional arrangements need to be in place to ensure compliance with international standards?
- How to contribute to improved national legal framework?
- Are technical teams able to effectively communicate and collaborate in multi-actor context? Analyse and interpret data?
- Do they have a broad understanding of the system, and impact of their work in national, societal and global context?

=

Results

Phytosanitary issues do not impede the trade of seed between the participating countries, phytosanitary capabilities match with global standards, and public-private trust and partnershipis boosted to ensure food security through availability of high-quality seeds

Knowledge Management and Capacity Development Strategy

…to facilitate dissemination of the project results, capacity building, changes in mind-sets and transition towards improved phytosanitary measures

Four pillars:

- Information management
- Facilitation of stakeholder engagement
- Functional capacity development
- Dissemination, communication and outreach

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Information management

- Coordinating knowledge outputs based on the project's collected data, information, and analytical activities
- Development of knowledge products, such as information leaflets on safe trade and consumption, practical guidelines and tools in local languages, and policy briefs
- Targeting different stakeholder groups of the project e.g., farmers, NPPOs, industry associations and seed companies

Stakeholder engagement

- Creating interactive face-to-face and online learning environment for project stakeholders and the drivers for change in phytosanitary measures
- Opportunities to share good practices, experiences, and lessons learned in compliance with existing trade standards
- Applying knowledge sharing processes and tools to enhance learning
- E.g. webinars for online discussions, and innovative knowledge-sharing techniques will be integrated in technical events to promote learning and collaboration based on the principles of adult learning

Functional capacity development

- Integrating the development of functional capacities, such as interpersonal and communication and entrepreneurial skills, KM and analytical skills to the planned technical and knowledge-sharing events
- Enabling the project participants to better utilize the newly acquired technical skills to empower:
- producers to negotiate better contracts, interact with other value chain actors and engage in political process regarding safety of agri-food production and consumption;
- industry actors to better manage industrial relations with farmers and government bodies and enhance their collaboration; and
- policymakers and regulators to better understand (navigate the complexity of) the evidence and knowledge created through the project's efforts to improve phytosanitary measures and related policy implications.

Dissemination, communication and outreach

- Developing a more supportive knowledge-sharing infrastructure to speed up the dissemination of project-generated information and knowledge (SPS portal, webpage)
- Using APAARI social media (including Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn) as the project's main tools for outreach and public communication
- Communications products would include news items, photos, videos, web updates, newsletters and social media posts (using #STDF and #SafeTrade).
- Reporting on project progress and milestones, an emphasis will be placed on producing human-interest success stories.
- Linking project resources with knowledge and communication tools of the project partners and other relevant existing networks to enable increased outreach and learning.
- Press releases will be prepared on key project events for a widespread outreach.

Technical capacities insufficient to deliver successful outcomes and enable impact…

- **Functional capacity**: Non-technical knowledge, attitudes and behaviors needed to successfully apply and coordinate technical capacities to achieve long-term development outcomes
- Collaboration, cross-sectoral coordination, multi-actor engagement, collective reflection, communication, navigation of complexity, understanding of technical and institutional innovation (innovative processes e.g. knowledge sharing and experiential learning, administration, budgeting, HR, and policy), use trans-disciplinary approaches (gender-transformative, social, environmental)
- The crucial need for effective **facilitation, knowledge management** and **leadership**!

Technical versus functional capacities

50%

Technical capacities (deep)

- Experience and understanding of a particular technical area
- A specific type of ability
- Technical knowledge of processes and technology in the areas of science, engineering, the arts, math, and other

50%

Functional capacities (broad)

- Working with others
- Building relationships to solve problems
- Putting technical skills in use to full extent
- Pursuing innovation-centred goals
- Sharing knowledge / KM
- Attributes and personality traits that help people interact with others and succeed

Key concepts based on the TAP Common Framework

- Agricultural **innovation** (beyond technologies… also institutional processes and organizational forms)
- Agricultural innovation **system** (AIS) perspective (based on multi-actor interactions)
- Three capacity development **dimensions** (individual, organizational, enabling environment)
- 4+1+ **capacities for innovation** (functional capacities) – capacity to collaborate, reflect and learn, navigate complexity, engage in political processes, enable innovation + **facilitation**

Learning from experience

- Asia Pesticide Residue Mitigation Project (STDF)
- Bangladesh Phytosanitary and Biopesticide Development Project (USDA)
- Biopesticide Development project in South African Development Community (STDF)

Blending of technical and functional capacities in practice – The steps

1. Co-design of each technical training with the technical team

- **Stressing the key role of the technical trainers** not as conveyors of knowledge and information but facilitators that create, promote and maintain supportive conditions necessary for learning to take place.
- **Ensuring that PPTs are not monotonous** – integrating reflection questions in PPT to relate to participants' own experience e.g. "What is your experience with PRA?" Not just theory but using experience as a primary learning resource for addressing issue. Participants' experiences enrich the learning process.
- **Developing clear objectives for each technical session** - Communicate the benefits of the project training to the participants beforehand, knowing why the subject matter is useful can be a highly motivating factor.
- **Agreeing on knowledge-sharing and learning techniques** that encourage engagement and respond to each session objective to deliver desired learning outcomes.

Blending of technical and functional capacities in practice – The steps

2. Training facilitation

- **Creating a "safe" space** to encourage open and creative thinking, speaking and listening, while connecting different perspectives.
- **Integrating small group discussions** that fit the technical agenda whenever possible to enable all participants to express their perspectives, knowledge based on experience, and concerns. This way trainers can lead the participants to recognize the need for change and motivate themselves by relating to their contexts. All participants need to be encouraged to participate in discussions.
- **Integrating individual and collection reflection** sessions to help the participants reflect on the training topic, and plan how they can apply new knowledge after the training.
- **Focusing the training content on its practical use –** It is fundamental to present competences, knowledge and abilities in one package – not just the theory but problem orientation.
- **Including training evaluation** not just about training effectiveness but focused on learning and future application, serving as a baseline for a follow up 'Knowledge, Attitude, Practice (KAP)' survey.

Blending of technical and functional capacities in practice – The steps

3. Post-training support

- **Mentoring** to reinforce learning, address key concerns, and learn about progress and knowledge application (e.g. through Whatsapp group, online discussions, follow-up webinars)
- **Knowledge, Attitude, Practice (KAP) survey** to collect and document information on what the participants know about the topics covered in the training, what has changed in their work as a result of the training, what issues they are facing, and how they are applying the knowledge acquired in the training.
- **Creating opportunities for knowledge sharing** based on participants' experiences in new knowledge application focused on their technical (dealing with technical challenges) and functional accomplishments (innovative ways of dealing with institutional constraints, reaching out to different stakeholder groups, adopting innovative processes that led to change) – using various planned project activities for this opportunity

Some examples

Interaction during regulatory workshop

Why is functional capacity important for regulators?

- Understand risks to develop and implement risk management options
- Implement compliance and enforcement actions in pesticide use through effective communication
- Integrate risk communication to engage with multi-stakeholders e.g. private sector, industry, customers, general public, government officials, other regulators
- Build public confidence through awareness

What are functional capacity needs of regulators?

- Understanding and identifying risk management options – analysis of the types of actions required, selection of appropriate options – but no 'one size fits all'
- Communicating compliance and enforcement actions (e.g. with contravener, the public, regulators in other countries)

How should this capacity development be institutionalized?

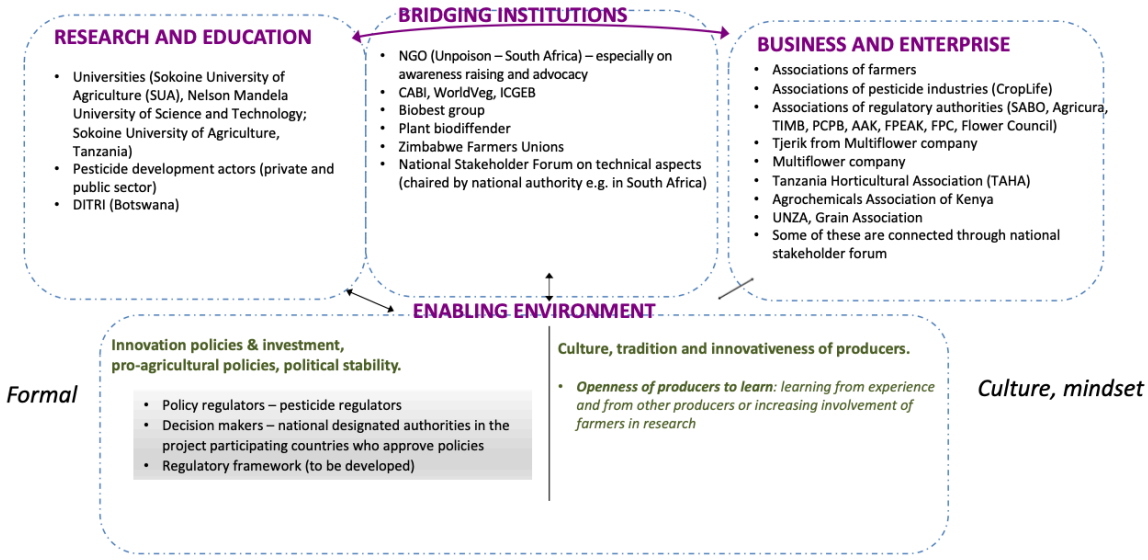
Establishment of an autonomous NPPO in Bangladesh

- Development of a vision statement
- Identifying technical priorities with respective functional capacities that are required for an effective functioning of the Bangladesh phytosanitary system
- Development of a participatory action plan
- Developing functional capacities at the three dimensions – also addressing the enabling environment (inviting senior officials for the final presentation and action plan endorsement)

Priority technical areas for a functioning phytosanitary system in Bangladesh

- **Establishment of an autonomous NPPO**
- **Establishment of the PRA Unit**, a team effort that involves plant quarantine, plant protection and economics through a multi-disciplinary approach
- **Market access** to surplus products that have demand for export, and the ways to approach prospective importers with appropriate information and alternative solutions to phytosanitary issues
- **Pest free area (PFA)** – Prioritization of pests, crops and locations for declaration of PFA to facilitate export
- **Promotion of biopesticides for trade**
- **Pest surveillance** through field-based surveys particularly if the imported commodity is suspected to bring an unknown pest or as an export requirement
- **Inspections**

Biopesticide innovation system in SADC



Development of a business model for biopesticides

- Exploring and developing **strategic and business thinking** for biopesticide promotion and adoption in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Laos, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Vietnam
- Brainstorming about the **business direction** for biopesticides to develop a base for motivating and involving key government authorities, the private sector or/and donors
- Developing a **framework for higher-level decisions and planning**, as a basis for a business model/plan for biopesticide development, promotion and adoption
- Applying **Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) analysis** for biopesticide development, promotion and adoption focused on marketing issues and the enabling environment

THANK YOU!

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