Monitoring Report - ATC 03/2010A Enhancing Food Security through a Regional Approach and Wide Stakeholder Participation to Plant Biosecurity

Purpose: Information
Submitted by: Malaysia
MONITORING REPORT
(as of January 17, 2011)

Project Number: ATC 03/2010A

Committee / WG / Fora: Agriculture Technical Cooperation WG

Project Name: Enhancing Food Security through a Regional Approach and Wide Stakeholder Participation to Plant Biosecurity

Project Overseer: Ms Wan Normah Wan Ismail, Director of Crop Protection and Plant Quarantine Division, Department of Agriculture, 50632 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

1. Current status of project: On schedule (Yes/No) YES On budget (Yes/No) YES

2. Progress since last report:

The workshop has been organized in Concorde Hotel, Shah Alam, Selangor, Malaysia from 1-3 December 2010. It was attended by 72 participants from 10 member economies (Australia, China, Chinese Taipei, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, USA – Embassy and Vietnam) and 3 non-member economies (Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar). This workshop was also attended by private sectors from Malaysia. It was officially opened by Y.Bhg. Datuk Roseley bin Dato’ Haji Khalid, the Director General of Agriculture Malaysia. Seventeen presentations were given during the workshop with six presentations from resource persons, eight presentations from member economies and three presentations from non-member economies.

The Workshop was divided into 6 (six) sessions, i.e.:
- Opening Session
- Food Security & the Role of Stakeholders
- Stakeholder Participation for Market Access
- Overview of Fact Finding Visits to Member Economies
- Plant Biosecurity
- Regional Cooperation and Closing

Two breakout group discussions were organized, i.e. on a) Stakeholder participation in APEC Economies and b) Regional Cooperation in Plant Biosecurity. In the last session (Session 6), a round-up discussion was held on Regional Commonalities in Traded Commodities – Opportunity for shared Responsibilities and Joint Actions.

3. Objectives & Outputs

The key objective of this project is to build on current national systems and capacity within the developing APEC economies to develop a complementary framework that will strengthen region-wide cooperation to facilitate efficient food production. The project will:
- promote an environment of sharing and learning in addressing current constraints to an efficient food production system,
- provide opportunities for member economies to directly exchange strategies and experiences in their efforts towards food security in an APEC (integrated) approach
- propose a framework for a regional collaboration approach to meet food security, particularly with respect to common threats of invasive agricultural pests, covering pest management, quarantine and phytosanitary measures, and regulations as they relate to market access and trade
- promote networking among APEC economies in a systematic manner to share information and expertise in phytosanitary and agricultural trade issues
It is expected that the project outputs would be:

- Documentation of commonalities and differences in plant health-related agricultural trade policies and strategies in agricultural and food production among regional member economies will allow more efficient and targeted approaches to food production for market access.

- Implementation of measures to promote ready access and dissemination of trade-relevant information on these common commodities and food security-related issues, including information on pest status, threats from invasive species and domestic measures in place that address concerns related to the trans-border movement of pests and diseases) beyond national phytosanitary authorities will enable “downstream” stakeholders in food production to play a more effective and contributory role in food security.

- A framework for action that will strengthen networking with APEC economies themselves and cooperation on a regional basis that enhances movement of and secure trade in food and agricultural products within APEC.

4. Methodology

A presentation on pre-forum activity which involved consultations with prospective participating developing APEC economies has been presented and discussed during the workshop (Session 4). The details of the methodology of gathering relevant information from member economies and establishing commonalities in crop production and pest management practices (including the status of knowledge on invasive pest species and their management, and a situation analysis for use in the workshop) has been presented in October Monitoring Report.

The presentation given by APEC member and non-member economies were based on several questions posed to them and the questions are almost similar with the guidance notes used in the pre-forum activity, i.e: 

- Major pest & disease threats to food production and food security.
- Awareness of stakeholders on local phytosanitary policies and global requirements for exports.
- Understanding of biosecurity concept among various stakeholders.
- Perception of your member economy towards improvements in plant biosecurity. In what areas?
- Changes needed in local legislation/regulations to improve compliance with international standards.
- Current situation regarding stakeholder engagement and participation in compliance to international standards.
  a. Which stakeholders are involved?
  b. With regular consultations or only when needed/ad hoc?
  c. Is there a need to improve current situation? How?
- What are stakeholders’ current perceptions towards the need for biosecurity?
- Do phytosanitary personnel regularly have dialogues with stakeholders to promote biosecurity?
- Is there a need for better engagement with policy makers to promote the need for more support for plant biosecurity? Please explain....
- What benefits can be obtained from a regional approach to biosecurity?
- In what areas can regional APEC economies cooperate to achieve this objective?
- What is the most important issues in your economy that require regional collaboration?

- Highlight the most important invasives in your economy (economic damage caused – directly & indirectly).
For resource persons, their presentation were based on the specific topic that we have given to them, i.e.:

- Food security and food security planning
- Compliance with Global Standards – the Case for Stakeholder Engagement
- Stakeholder participation in risk management for market access
- Biosecurity continuum
- Regional approach to plant biosecurity

5. **Is the project management effective?**

   During the implementation of the project relevant APEC project guidelines are being followed.

6. **Considering the above, and any other relevant factors, is the project on track to be successfully completed on time?**

   The Project was implemented successfully on time following the Project Management & Technical Schedules.
Background

The project comprise two core activities that is

i. a pre-forum activity that consists largely of brief visits to participating economies to gather information to support preparation of workshop materials and

ii. a three (3) days interactive workshop targeted especially for participants from developing APEC economies to deliberate on food security issues and to tease out commonalities amenable to a regional approach,
Objectives

1. Promote an environment of sharing and learning in addressing current constraints to an efficient food production system,

2. Provide opportunities for member economies to directly exchange strategies and experiences in their efforts towards food security in an APEC (integrated) approach

3. Propose a framework for a regional collaboration approach to meet food security, particularly with respect to common threats of invasive agricultural pests, covering pest management, quarantine and phytosanitary measures, and regulations as they relate to market access and trade

4. Promote networking among APEC economies in a systematic manner to share information and expertise in phytosanitary and agricultural trade issues

Pre-forum Activities

The pre-forum activities are divided into two parts namely

a) A focused issues survey that have been sent to representatives of participating APEC economies ahead of

b) A brief visit to meet and discuss with respondent economies and private industry individuals involved in food production, market access and export. This meeting will discuss and verify their responses in the food security-related issues polled.
Pre-forum Activities

The Pre-forum activities were conducted in October and November 2010 involving eight (8) developing economies i.e Indonesia, Singapore, Chinese Taipei, People Republic China, Malaysia, Philippines, Viet Nam and Thailand.

The Workshop

- A 3 days workshop that was organized at Concorde Hotel, Shah Alam, Selangor, Malaysia from 1-3 December 2010.
- The workshop was attended by 72 participants from 10 member economies (Australia, China, Chinese Taipei, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, USA and Vietnam) and 3 non-member economies (Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar).
- It was officially opened by Y.Bhg. Datuk Roseley bin Dato’ Haji Khalid, the Director General of Agriculture Malaysia.
- Seventeen papers were presented during the workshop with 6 presentations from resource persons, 8 presentations from member economies and 3 presentations from non-member economies.
The Workshop

The Workshop has been divided into 6 (six) sessions:

1. Opening Session
2. Food Security & the Role of Stakeholders
3. Stakeholder Participation for Market Access
4. Overview of Fact Finding Visits to Member Economies
5. Plant Biosecurity
6. Regional Cooperation and Closing
Outcomes

1. There is a need for continuous awareness-raising, knowledge transfer, empowerment through involvement in process development among the stakeholders for market access,

2. The understanding of biosecurity concept seem to be high only among plant health personnel. However there are room for improvements with other stakeholders especially the farmers or entrepreneur,

3. Most of developing economies need updates or revisions to existing legislation to support better implementation of global standards on SPS to ensure adequate prevention of any incursion of exotic invasive pests for food security,

4. There are provisions in place for stakeholder engagement but mostly on a need-to basis. There is a need to develop regional program for stakeholder engagement among the developing economies such as training module and capacity building,
Outcomes

5. Most of the economies need the mitigation at pre-border, border and post-border risk management as the biosecurity continuum and food security,

6. All the economies perceived biosecurity as a government responsibility and need to improve inter-department/ministry cooperation,

APEC Workshop on Enhancing Food Security through A Regional Approach and Wide Stakeholder Participation in Plant Biosecurity

Outcomes

7. The benefit of regional sharing/programs mostly on sharing knowledge and expertise, capacity building in pre-border risk management, diagnostics, early warning, harmonization of pest management practices and reduce disparities on knowledge and infrastructure between economies