

## Summary of CABI's SPS activities and initiatives: October 2018

CABI's Medium Term Strategy (2017-2019) includes building SPS capacity to expand trade and secure biosecurity. This builds on recent SPS work carried out in Asia and Africa and reinforces the prioritisation of trade and market access by CABI's Member Countries as discussed in the last round of regional country consultations.

### Breaking Barriers, Facilitating Trade (STDF/PG/346)

This is a project of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), aiming to reduce the costs of trade through simplifying the application of SPS measures, while maintaining the appropriate level of protection ([www.standardsfacility.org/PG-346](http://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-346)). A tool has been developed and piloted at the Kenya-Uganda border looking at trade in fish and dairy. Initial results suggest SPS costs are not a major constraint to this trade, for various possible reasons. Cross-border validation workshops of baseline survey results on SPS barriers to trade (Kenya/Uganda, Zambia/Zimbabwe and Zambia/Malawi) were undertaken. Reports are being compiled.

### Supporting Small Holder Women Inclusion in the Vegetable Value Chains

Funded by ACIAR, this Agriculture Value Chain Collaborative Research Program (AVCCR) aims to ensure that the rural poor, particularly women, living in the Punjab and Sindh significantly and equitably benefit from improvements in strategically selected agricultural value chains. The constraints addressed include: a lack of standardised production technologies; the absence of post-harvest handling infrastructure and protocols; a lack of awareness of marketing options; obstacles to financial support and technical and business knowledge; and a host of social and cultural barriers. Approaches for addressing market access issues of SPS, Global GAP, food standards will be addressed and communicated to the project beneficiaries. A tool developed by CABI named "Go2Market" is being used for assessment of compliance to SPS and other standards

### Improving Compliance to SPS to facilitate Horticultural Exports from Punjab, Pakistan

With the financial support of Department of Agriculture, Government of Punjab, Pakistan, CABI has initiated a project "Establishment of Model Farms Linked with Improved Supply Chain and Value Addition" which aims to enhance export through addressing constraints of SPS, GAP and certifications in supply chain of Mango, Potato, Citrus and Vegetables. CABI is providing technical assistance for: capacity building for quality improvement & support services, support for international certifications, and development of supply chain infrastructure and market linkages. Training of farmers for compliance with SPS and GAP is being implemented at 250,000 acres and compliant produce is being linked to high end markets. According to WTO requirements and global demand, complete new modules focused on SPS, judicious use of fertilizers, post-harvest management, certifications requirements, country wise protocols & requirements and marketing techniques has been included in the curriculum. The project is also supporting 40,000 acres for GlobalGAP certification. This will not only fulfil the requirement of high end markets but also will open the doors of international markets for Pakistani produce. Compliance of SPS and GlobalGAP requirements will also create local jobs of farm managers. In parallel to the GlobalGAP, the project also intends to develop PakGAP and get it certified from local and international bodies. This will be the first step to development of local guidelines and standards in GAP. There will be opportunities for more and more local farmers to get certified and the cost of certification will be many times less. This way more certified produce will be available for marketing and earning of foreign exchange. These soft interventions will be also done at Processing, Logistic companies and traders / exporters levels. This way, complete supply chain will be coordinated and strengthened. This integrated approach will provide a model for other commodities and spillover effect will multiply the project outcome many folds resulting in strengthening of economy at micro and macro level in the country.

### Pacific Plant Biosecurity Capacity Building

The Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) recently approved the Pacific Plant Biosecurity Capacity Building program. The Pacific Plant Biosecurity Capacity Building Prioritization Workshop

was held in June 2018 to ensure that the activities in the program are matched against the participating country's most relevant needs. CABI's was invited to share its success in coordinating the implementation of a plant biosecurity capacity building program in Eastern and Southern Africa with the support the ACIAR.

### **HOListic Management of Emerging Pests and Diseases (HOMED)**

This EU-funded project (Horizon 2020 programme) is coordinated by INRA, France, and will start in October 2018. In this project, CABI will be responsible for the development of a network of sentinel trees in exporting countries, following the concept of the Global Warning project mentioned above. More generally, the goal of the project is to develop a full panel of scientific knowledge and practical solutions for the management – from assessment to control – of emerging native and non-native pests and pathogens threatening European forests. Thus, HOMED will also address several SPS aspects, for example by developing tools, guidelines and recommendations for the prevention, detection, diagnosis, eradication or control of new forest pests and diseases, and by developing a generic decision support system aimed at guiding forest stakeholders to make the most appropriate response at each stage of the invasion and emergence processes, based on critical indicators and risk analyses.

### **Strengthening the horticulture sector in Ghana to enhance exports to the EU**

Supported by the Netherlands Enterprise Agency, this initiative seeks to reverse the decline in vegetable exports from Ghana to Europe, resulting from frequent interceptions of quarantine pests (false codling moth, whitefly, Thrips and fruit fly). CABI is facilitating the partnership between the NPPO (PPRSD), Ghana Association of Vegetable Exporters (GAVEX), and importers. An EC FVO audit in September 2015 identified a number of areas where improvements are needed, and the project is assisting in addressing the recommended actions. CABI in partnership with other stakeholders helped streamlined the inspection and export certification as part of its improved phytosanitary systems. This included: 1. Enhancing protocols and standard operating procedures in production and assisting in upgrading and construction of sorting, inspection and packing facilities. 2. Promoting good agricultural practices in the vegetable production chain. 3. Training farmers, exporters, aggregators, GAVEX technical staff, university students and PPRSD staff in quarantine pest surveillance systems, data collection and analysis, and reporting. A ban imposed in 2015 on export of selected vegetables due the interceptions has now been lifted effective 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2018 as a result of these interventions. Some of the current activities to sustain the improved phytosanitary systems include: assisting GAVEX members and their out growers to obtain GlobalGAP and Green Label certificates, training of exporters and producers in Fall Armyworm management in vegetables production using developed posters and also provided PPRSD with various laboratory equipment for their new laboratory for effective pest diagnosis and analysis.

### **Enhancing the capacity of the Fruit and Vegetable Sector to comply with Phytosanitary requirements for export to EU, other high end markets and regional markets (STDF/PG/543)**

This is a request for a project grant submitted to STDF by The Directorate of Crop Resources, Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF) of Uganda, working with the Embassy of the Kingdom of Netherlands and CABI. The project aims to improve the national compliance with international phytosanitary standards for production and export of fresh fruits and vegetables to the EU and other western and regional markets.

### **Mitigation and remediation of cadmium in cocoa (STDF/PPG/577)**

CABI working with the Cocoa Organization (ICCO) has carried out a detailed assessment of research and scientific studies relating to mitigation and remediation of cadmium contamination in cocoa in Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Trinidad & Tobago. A workshop with country experts was held and resulting draft project framework submitted to STDF. Preparation of the full project proposal for the region is underway.