

## REPORT

### WORKSHOP ON TRAINING OF TRAINERS ON PROTECTION AGAINST SOUTH AMERICAN LEAF BLIGHT (SALB) OF RUBBER IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION

*3 – 7 December 2018*

**KOTA KINABALU, SABAH, MALAYSIA**



#### SUMMARY

South American leaf blight (SALB) is a devastating disease of rubber which currently found in the American Tropic with Mexico in the North and Brazil in the South. The disease has a high potential to establish in the Asia Pacific rubber growing countries due to the similar climate, increased in agricultural trade and advancement in intercontinental air transport. This workshop was held pursuant to the agreement in the 29<sup>th</sup> Session of the APPPC meeting in Bali, Indonesia to update the progress on the prevention of SALB incursion and discussed on the future action plan to strengthen the capacity building especially in mitigating SALB pathways of non-rubber rubber agricultural products by utilizing international standard on pest free area of production.

This workshop was attended by 18 participants from 11 rubber producing countries in the Region namely Cambodia, China P.R., India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, The Philippines and Viet Nam. In the welcoming remarks, Dr Piao Yongfan,

Executive Secretary of APPPC and Senior Plant Protection Officer, FAO RAP, highlighted sustainable support of the commission and FAO on prevention of introduction of SALB to the region in the past years. He informed that the APPPC has organized several workshops in relation to this disease and has published three (3) important documents to support capacity building of the NPPOs in preventing the incursion of this disease. In the opening session, Dr Piao Yongfan briefed the meeting on the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific initiatives on One Health (OH) framework to support biosecurity, biosafety, food security and environmental health in the region, and SALB is one of the projects that is in line with the OH initiatives.

Mr Ahmad Kamil Mohd Yunus, Director of Plant Biosecurity Division on behalf of Director General of Agriculture Malaysia, officiated the workshop, acknowledged the importance of rubber as an important economic industrial crop in Thailand, Indonesia, Viet Nam, China, Malaysia, Myanmar, and Cambodia. He also encouraged the participants to develop a collaborative network among the rubber growing countries in protecting the rubber industry from SALB in the Region.

The output of the workshop would enhance the capacity building in the protection of region from South American Leaf Blight (SALB) by establishment of core trainers on prevention of SALB in the rubber growing countries in APPPC Region. The trainers' expertise and knowledge on SALB and prevention of SALB will be enhanced and updated with the latest information of SALB by participation of the workshop. The SALB reference materials have been reviewed and consolidated by participation of the workshop. It is expected that the workshop will create networking among plant protection and rubber research personnel on the protection of SALB within the Region.

There were several recommendations by the workshop members in the future action plan discussion including training for plant quarantine and technical officers on identification and surveillance; encourage NPPO to publish materials in local language for public awareness; revise and update document related to *Microcyclus ulei*; and develop and improve protocol for diagnostic of SALB particularly in identification using molecular technique.

During the workshop, a special session on Fall Armyworm (FAW) enabled participants to be informed with update status and management approaches of FAW as well as FAO recommendations against FAW. Soft copy files of main reference materials have been provided to participants through distribution of flash disks.