

Technical Seminar and Study Tour on Phytosanitary Inspection of Seeds for Planting

In collaboration with the FAO under the project GCP/RAS/297/JPN, “*Improving Capacities of Phytosanitary Inspection and Integrated Measures for International Movement of Seeds*” and Plant Protection Division, Food Safety and Consumer Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), Japan

Concept note

Background

FAO regional project “Improving Capacities of Phytosanitary Inspection and Integrated Measures for International Movement of Seeds” (GCP/RAS/297/JPN) was started in 2016 with participation of Thailand as one of the center on development, production and distribution of seeds for planting in Asia and Viet Nam which seed imports are increasing drastically in recent years.

Through discussions and experience from project activities, it has become obvious to be important that the National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs) of those countries:

1. study the situation in other countries for verifying the validity, increasing confidence on inspection methods and measures to clear import requirements in export inspections which are presently conducted in their phytosanitary services, and
2. clarify issues to be considered in selecting and introducing phytosanitary measures on seeds for planting.

The project has provided the persons who are engaged in the seed inspection or the related research at NPPOs and its supporting organizations and agencies in Thailand and Viet Nam with the technical seminar and study tour in Japan as a country where the phytosanitary regulatory systems and inspection skills for seeds are considerably equipped and as one of the leading countries in the Asia and the Pacific region to develop and produce first filial (F1) hybrid seeds of vegetables and flowers.

This activity is expected to be an opportunity to exchange information on problems facing in each country, available detection techniques of seed-transmitted diseases relating to phytosanitary inspections and measures to be applied to those.

Objectives

1. To share the seed inspection procedures and methods implemented in participant countries and other countries including Japan and characteristics (advantages/disadvantages) of thereof
2. To identify validity of current inspection procedures and methods and clarify the issues towards improvement

3. To exchange information about criteria to be considered for the NPPOs to select detection methods for seed-transmitted diseases
4. To have training session on lab testing methods for seed inspection (including the parent plant test of Solanaceae for *Pepino mosaic virus* and *Potato spindle tuber viroid*) and on field inspection (diagnosis methods) of *Clavibacter michiganensis* subsp. *michiganensis* of tomato
5. To visit inspection sites at the sea port and/or airport for observation of visual inspection, lab test and collaborating operation among CIQ operations if available
6. To exchange views with seed industries (TBD)

Expected outputs

1. Identification of validity and/or further inputs are required on seed inspection and procedures
2. Improved knowledge and skills for resolving problems on seed inspection

Financial support

For three participants each from Thailand and Viet Nam, the Daily Subsistence Allowance (DSA) and terminals will be cover by the project, and MAFF will cover their airfares and costs of the seminar (e.g. rent for chartered bus).

Date: from 29 October to 2 November 2018

Venue

1. Yokohama Plant Protection Station, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Japan
- Research Division, Operation Division, and Haneda Airport branch
2. Japan International Cooperation Agency Tsukuba Center (JICA Tsukuba)
3. Seed Company (TBD)

Participating countries: Thailand and Viet Nam

Expected participants

Three participants each from Thailand and Viet Nam

The project will also welcome another participant each from these countries who will attend the seminar and study tour with his/her own expense.

Participants should be those who are engaged in plant quarantine inspection on seeds for planting or the related research with enough knowledge and skills of field inspection and/or laboratory tests including serological diagnosis and genetic methods.