

Australia-Africa Plant Biosecurity Partnership

WORKSHOP COMMUNIQUE 28 October 2014

- The Australia - Africa Plant Biosecurity Partnership workshop, held 27 -28 October in Nairobi, Kenya, underlined the direct relationship between plant biosecurity and food security – an essential area for government and private sector investment to facilitate safe trade and improve returns to farmers. Plant biosecurity thus has a direct contribution to the achievement of the targets set in the African Union’s Malabo declaration.
- Representatives from the National Plant Protection Organisations of Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia, joined by private sector organisations with an involvement in plant biosecurity, identified the following priority areas to guide planned capacity development activities:
 - 1. Diagnostic skills for identification of key pests of concern.**
 - 2. Risk analysis and risk management with a focus on seed and live planting material.**
 - 3. Emergency response and eradication.**
 - 4. Surveillance and management of key pests affecting production and trade.**
 - 5. Early warning and biosecurity planning.**
 - 6. Listing and prioritisation of key pests on traded commodities, to reduce biosecurity constraints to imports and exports.**
- It is clear that enhanced plant biosecurity is important to the region and in the national interest of the countries of Africa. Such interests are best served when countries accept national responsibility and collaborate to improve plant biosecurity.
- The involvement of the private sector in the workshop reinforced the vital roles and responsibilities of commercial entities to ensure that the supply chains for trade in plant products embrace sound biosecurity principles.
- In addition to these priority technical areas, workshop delegates noted the importance for African countries to address institutional impediments in order to improve regional and national plant biosecurity capacity.
- The workshop recognised the vital contribution of the African Union’s IAPSC, AfDB, Regional Economic Communities, such as COMESA, EAC & SADC, and other development agencies such as FAO involved in plant biosecurity development activities.
- Workshop delegates recognised the importance of scaling up effective plant biosecurity systems that result from this partnership, and identified continental wide initiatives that could offer such opportunities.
- Workshop delegates developed a set of principles to guide the selection of biosecurity fellows and a process to provide ongoing mentoring for biosecurity fellows, and agreed on the creation of an alumni group to promote harmonised plant biosecurity measures in the region.