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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

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OUTLOOK ON ECOWAS IMPLEMENTED SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY ACTIVITIES DURING THE PERIOD OF DECEMBER 2019 – MARCH 2020

COMMUNICATION FROM ECOWAS-USAID SENIOR SANITARY
AND PHYTOSANITARY (SPS) STANDARDS ADVISOR

The following communication, received on 28 February 2020, is being circulated at the request of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1. The USAID/West Africa Regional Mission works to support the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to advance their vision to create an economic union and common market. In line with this objective ECOWAS is implementing many agreements designed to support the free movement of goods and people throughout the region. In standards, a USAID/West Africa: Cost Reimbursement Implementation Letter no 2 was signed between CILSS and USAID/West Africa. It is through this agreement focus will be on Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) standards.

2 PLANT HEALTH AND PLANT PROTECTION

2.1. The recent introduction of the fall armyworm (FAW) as well as the discovery of the new alien invasive pest identified in West Africa and its growing threat to agriculture and food security have caused much concern in about 44 countries in the sub-Saharan region including 15 West African countries. The FAW is a crop-destroying worm and can cause high damage to maize, rice, sorghum, vegetables. These attributes have made the control of FAW a challenging task. There have been efforts to sensitize, build capacity for the pest identification, knowledges sharing and a study tour. Overall, development of management options has mobilized international experts and the national capacities of affected countries and raised general attention to caterpillar attacks on various crops. Also, a regional taskforce of NPPOs and partners was established for better regional coordination of efforts in the area of plants health and participation in the international standards setting processes, in this case IPPC.

2.1 3rd West Africa NPPO & Partners Taskforce Annual Meeting & Validation Workshop of the "Harmonized Phytosanitary Inspection and Decision-Making Guides". 9-13 December 2019, Dakar, Senegal.

2.2. The meeting aimed to:

- review West Africa NPPO & Partners Taskforce Action Plan Progresses and challenges, address pending priorities, identify new key activities and validate a work plan for 2020 and beyond
- review and validate the Harmonized "Phytosanitary Inspection and Decision-Making Guides".

2.1.1 Recommendations

2.3. After fruitful discussions, participants agreed upon the following key recommendations:

To the regional NPPO Taskforce:

- To organize the pre-preparation meeting of the CPM15 in March 2020
- To organize the next annual meeting in December 2020
- To ensure that the representation of NPPOs at both meetings be consistent.

To countries:

As for the celebration of the International Year of Plant Health in 2020 (IYPH 2020):

- To develop a budgeted national action plan emphasizing awareness and advocacy towards authorities for adequate support for NPPOs and send copy to the ECOWAS Commission, before February 15, 2020;
- To provide the ECOWAS Commission with the lists of training and other activities conducted during 2019 by December 20, 2019;
- To develop and publish the national lists of Quarantine Pests by December 2020;
- To send to the IPPC secretariat their requesting letters for migrating to the e-Phyto platform by 30 December 2019.

Operationalize the "Phytosanitary inspection and decision-making guide":

- To test the validated inspection guide in the field for feedback in the 15-ECOWAS countries;
- To edit the validated document, translated into Portuguese as well;
- To organize trainings of border inspectors on the use of the validated harmonized guide.

To ECOWAS and technical and financial partners

- To engage the internal official process for the recognition of the Taskforce as the Phytosanitary Sub-Committee acted in Chapter 3, Art.13 of the "Regional harmonized Regulation C / REG / 21/11/10 and operational rules for the safety of plants, animals and food in the ECOWAS region", and to consult FAO Legal Office on the modalities of creating a RPPO for the West African sub-region;
- To organize a validation workshop for the "West Africa Plant pest control program with emphasis on Fall Armyworm control" in March 2020 with African Development Bank (AfDB) and FAO in cooperation with member states before its submission to approval by AfDB commission for approval;
- To provide supports for the implementation of the agreed action plan 2020;
- Translate into Portuguese the harmonized validated inspection guides and decision-making.

To FAO

- To support NPPOs in raising awareness of national authorities on the financial impact of damage caused by harmful organisms on crops in order to encourage them to provide substantial budget for their NPPOS operations.

To ECOWAS - UEMOA - CILSS

- To advance the harmonization of phytosanitary regulations;
- To Contribute to building capacities of: i) NPPO's human resources and designate the AGRHYMET center as a training center for NPPO personnel in the region. ii) Member States' plant pest surveillance systems, and particularly introducing digital surveillance tools and laboratory diagnostic of pests in countries.

2.2 3rd West Africa Regional harmonization meeting to discuss identified phytosanitary issues and Prepare NPPOs for the Upcoming Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM-15) meeting, 30 March -3 April

2.4. The objective of this regional harmonization meeting is to review and discuss in detail the identified matters of interests for the West Africa sub-region to be discussed at the CPM15 and agreed on common position as well as consolidate these positions and identify lead and support countries to present these position at the upcoming CPM15. Also, to share experience from the previous CPMs.

3 CONCLUSION AND WAY FORWARD

3.1. The ECOWAS Commission take this opportunity to thank USDA, USDA-FAS, USAID Regional office, West Africa, European Union, FAO, African Development Bank (AfDB), AU-IBAR, and all partners and donors for their continuing support in advancing SPS issues in the ECOWAS region and beyond. Also want to call for more collaboration, support for future implementation of actions to better address in a sustainable manner SPS matters in the sub-region of West Africa.
