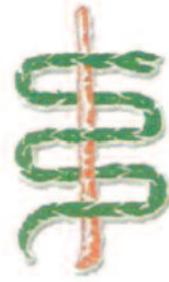




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Editorial



Modern agriculture depends on several factors, including time and the environment. Time becomes more and more demanding if the achievement of the objectives of efficient production is linked to the producer node; with regard to the environment, production systems are increasingly dependent on functional ecological systems where edaphic, biotic and abiotic factors interact.

Concerning the producer node more specifically, it should be noted the importance of phytosanitary risks in the programmatic implementation of technical itineraries. Hence, and without interference with agro-economy, we can say that success in agriculture or agri-business should, among other things, give pride of place to quality and thus to the respect of standards for phytosanitary measures, with climate change issues having a much greater impact on production and productivity.

The Inter-African Phytosanitary Council of the African Union, is aware of the need to strengthen the capacities of African countries in the understanding, appropriation and control of these technoco-legal instruments, and has

been uptaking these aspects through seminars, workshops, statutory assemblies and meetings, and in the publication of phytosanitary newsbulletins, which a real mirror for AU-IAPSC. This approach is clearly based on its mandate and its missions, on the one hand, and a reflection of the desire for transparency and, on the other hand, accounts for the achievement of some of the objectives contained in the strategic plan of the Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture of the African Union Commission and especially the Strategic Plan of the Inter-African Phytosanitary Council of the African Union.

The present phytosanitary newsbulletin covers the period from January to December 2016 and is the result and the compilation of the activities that were implemented during this period. These include the Preparatory Meeting at the 11th Session of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in March 2016, the Validation Meeting of the Framework for the Harmonization of Pesticide Regulations in Africa, BTSF Workshop on Effective Participation in IPPC Activities, Participation in the 39th Session of the CODEX Alimentarius, the Beekeeping Platform's General Assembly on Honey Production, Bee Health and Pollination Services, the 28th Technical Consultation of Regional Organizations for the Plants Protection which was held in Rabat in Morocco in November 2016, etc. Apologies for the monolingual (English only) nature of the present newsbulletin. Enjoy reading

Dr. Jean Gérard MEZUI M'ELLA
Director of AU-IAPSC

CPM-11 PREPARATORY MEETING

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, March 16 - 17, 2016

Like every year AU-IAPSC organizes a Pre-CPM meeting in preparation for the effective participation of AU member States to the CPM in Rome. The meeting was held this year from 16-17 of March 2016 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The meeting was opened by Professor Abd-El Fattah Mabrouk AMER, Senior Scientific Officer of AU-IAPSC.

Participants focused on the practical application of the standards to be adopted and completely review all documents found in the provisional agenda of CPM-11 in order to;

- Prepare, if appropriate, objections to be submitted to the IPPC Secretariat before the deadline, as per by the rules of the Commission;
- Harmonize the African position on draft ISPMs to be discussed at CPM-11, and positions of African members in the different organs of the IPPC;
- Exchange and establish a sustainable network involving AU-IAPSC, NPPOs and African representatives in IPPC bodies

Election of the bureau

The Bureau of the meeting was constituted as follow:

- Mr. KOUAME Konan Lucien, Ivory Coast: Chairman;
- Mrs. WOODE Ruth , Ghana: Vice chairman and
- Mr. ZAFACK Joseph , AU-IAPSC: Secretariat

Preparation of the agenda of the meeting

The agenda of the meeting was in alignment with the provisional agenda of the CPM-11 published by the IPPC Secretariat (document CPM 2016/02). The chairman of the meeting presented and commented the full topics listed in the CPM-11 agenda to allow participant to make an appropriate selection of those to be discussed during the two days (Mars 16 and 17, 2016) of the meeting.

According to priorities granted to each proposed topic, the agenda of the meeting was then prepared as follow.



Agenda of the Pre-CPM 11

CPM N°	Agenda N°	Items
Day 01 (March 16, 2016)		
CPM 2016/05_01	09.2	Draft Amendments to ISPM 5 (Glossary of phytosanitary terms)
CPM 2016/05_03	09.2	Draft Annex to ISPM 28: Vapour Heat Treatment for <i>Bactrocer</i> <i>B. xanthodes</i> on Carica
CPM 2016/05_04	09.2	Draft Annex to ISPM 28: Irradiation Treatment for <i>Ostrinianub</i>
CPM 2016/06 - French Attachments	09.3	Noting translation adjustments to International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures adopted at CPM-10 (2015) - French Attachments from
CPM 2016/10	09.4	Adjustments to the List of topics for IPPC standards
CPM 2016/11	09.5	Adjustments to the IPPC standard setting procedure
CPM 2016/07	10.5	Report on the status of ISPM 15 symbol registration
CPM 2016/13	14	Special Topics Session on Sea Containers
CPM 2016/23	10.6	ePhyto Update
CPM 2016/03	15.2	SC and SBDS members and potential replacement members
CPM 2016/17	08.3	Concept of a commodity standard - Report of the Working Group on recommendations from the SPG and SC
Day 02 (March 17, 2016)		
CPM 2016/25	08.1	Summary of the Strategic Planning Group report
CPM 2016/20	08.2	Framework for standards and implementation
CPM 2016/16	08.4.1	Review of Capacity Development Committee (CDC)
CPM 2016/18	08.4.2	Proposal for a new implementation oversight body - IPPC Implementation Capacity Development Committee (ICDC)
CPM 2016/08	10.1	Report of Capacity Development activities

Following the above agenda, comments were welcome for each item or the item was adopted as proposed by the IPPC. The table below presents the outcomes of the discussions. The comments were to be submitted by each contracting party to IPPC

CPM 2016/05_01	09.2	Draft Amendments to ISPM 5 (Glossary of phytosanitary terms) 2014	No comments	Adopted	
CPM 2016/05_03	09.2	Draft Annex to ISPM 28: Vapour Heat Treatment for <i>Bactroceramelanotus</i> and <i>B. xanthodes</i> on Carica	Why did the technical group on the phytosanitary treatment has limited its work on two species while there are many?	Propose to the expert group to expand the treatment to other species (For this it is necessary present relevant data to technical group on the phytosanitary treatment)	
CPM 2016/05_04	09.2	Draft Annex to ISPM 28: Irradiation Treatment for <i>Ostrinianub</i>	Absence of African experts in the various working groups of the IPPC		
CPM 2016/06 - French Attachments	09.3	Noting translation adjustments to International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures adopted at CPM-10 (2015) - French Attachments from 15 to 22	No comment	Proposed for adoption	
CPM	09.4	Adjustments to the			

2016/10		List of topics for IPPC standards		Preserve the theme 6 "Handling and rejection s generated during International Travel" (2004) in the IPPC list of theme
CPM 2016/11	09.5	Adjustments to the IPPC standard setting procedure	The African members of the Standards Committee must now collect contributions from countries, analyze and submit them to the CN via AU-IAPSC	Noted
CPM 2016/07	10.5	Report on the status of ISPM 15 symbol registration		Noted
CPM 2016/13	14	Special Topics Session on Sea Containers	The meeting (Pre-CPM 11) has selected the number 2 recommendation.	It has been asked to Tanzania and Congo to prepare justifications for that choice
CPM 2016/23	10.6		Many African countries have not received a questionnaire: Would there have been selection criteria for the countries to which these questionnaires were sent?	Sensitize African countries on ephyto (workshops, under the auspice / initiative AU-IAPSC. African countries should make necessary arrangements for the use of ephyto
CPM 2016/03	15.2	SC and SBDS members and potential replacement members	Two (2) posts to be filled at SC: One that expires, and one because of resignation	Noted
CPM 2016/17	08.3	Concept of a commodity standard - Report of the Working Group and recommendations from the SPG and SC		Document adopted
CPM 2016/25	08.1	Summary of the Strategic Planning Group report	No specific comments	OK to take note
CPM 2016/20	08.2	Framework for standards and implementation	IPPC categorizes of various standards based on specific objectives.	proposal for acceptance
CPM 2016/16	08.4.1	Review of Capacity Development Committee (CDC)	The activities cessation of the committee charged with	paragraph 15, point 2 should specify the length (time)





			capacity development is not clearly indicated	extension
CPM 2016/18	08.4.2	Proposal for a new implementation oversight body - IPPC Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (ICDC)	Page 5, rule 2, point 2	Instead of "..... .and n be appointed for additio terms" write and read "... .and may be appointed to own terms.
CPM 2016/08	10.1	Report of Capacity Development activities		Adopted
CPM 2016/15	10.2	Implementation pilot project on surveillance	No specific comments	document accepted
CPM 2016/14	10.3	Report on Implementation, Review and Support System (IRSS)	Page 2, paragraph 5. The translation into French language is confusing	Instead of « Détournem par rapport à l'usage..... », write : read « Détournement à l'usage..... ». Guidelines adopted
CPM 2016/26	11.1.1	Report on National Reporting Obligations - NRO Quality Control Guidelines		Guidelines adopted
CPM 2016/28	11.1.1	Report on National Reporting Obligations - NRO Procedures	Nothing to report	To be noted
CPM 2016/34	11.1.3	Report on the activities relating to		This document is published only in English

		the International Year of Plant Health in 2020 (IYPH 2020) - Scope, Objectives and Structures for the International Year of Plant Health		<p>Paragraph 4, composition of the Committee: The meeting proposes to clarify the geographic distribution of members of this Committee; in particular, one member (and his substitute) by FAO arc</p> <p>Paragraph 16: To IYPH, better to support all or at least several RECs, and target only one (ECOWA)</p> <p>Paragraph 18, item 6: seems premature to select committee members during this CPM; it should first clarify the terms of reference, mandate and rules of the Committee before development and adoption.</p>
CPM 2016/32	11.5.1	Recognition of Important Contributions	For the African continent, only South Africa Republic has already provided financial support to the Secretariat of the IPPC in 2015	Noted But this document is published only in English
CPM 2016/INF/07	14	Special Topics Session: Programme		Noted But this document is published only in English
CPM 2016/33	10.4	Report on the Activities of the Subsidiary Body on Dispute Settlement (SBDS) in 2015	Note: This document is published only in English	Noted But this document is published only in English
CPM 2016/31	11.3.1	2015 Financial Report - Financial Report and Resource mobilization	For the African continent, only South Africa Republic has already provided financial support to the Secretariat of the IPPC in 2015	Provide financial support to the IPPC Secretariat activities



The IPPC is governed by the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM), which was established under Article XII of the new Revised Text of the IPPC, approved in 1997, and serves as the Convention's governing body. The CPM meets during March or April each year at FAO headquarters in Rome, to promote cooperation to help implement the objective of the IPPC.

Continental Workshop on validation of the framework on harmonization of pesticide regulations in Africa

17th to 19th April, 2016, Cairo, Egypt



© AU-IAPSC Group photo of Participants

Promoted by the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP), pesticide use will grow in Africa over the next few years as one of the most efficient means to eliminate pests and improve crop production and productivity. Auxiliary uses of pesticides and other agro-chemicals will also grow such as use in apiculture.

There is a legitimate need for pesticides and government equity in their promotion since Africa is reliant on raw material production which forms much of the tradeable products that are key export revenue earners. However, the use of pesticides will remain highly contested with the debate centered on the possible benefits versus the potential impact on human health, non-target insects and the environment.

Although Africa still has low levels of use, many of the problems are related to poor regulation and enforcement with rampant use of illegal and banned substances, low research and development, poor utilization and management by users and poor monitoring of residue levels and other impacts. While governance of pesticide regulation has improved over the last decades, there is yet varied capability among African countries and a pervading ignorance among both users and the general populace of the potential negative effects of poor handling and use.

AU-IAPSC as the Regional Plant Protection Organization (RPPO) for Africa, initiated a process to harmonize pesticide regulations in Africa. The process commenced in 2009 with a survey on the legal and institutional frameworks for plant protection and the use of chemicals in selected pilot countries of the

continent. This was followed by a number of consultative processes which culminated in the writing of the first draft in June 2012 in Alexandria, Egypt which was thereafter reviewed by at an Expert Meeting in July 2012, and finalized in October 2013 in Tunis, Tunisia in preparation for the final phase of continental validation.

AU-IBAR under its African Union mandate to provide leadership in the development of animal resources in Africa, is implementing a continental project on honeybee health, in conjunction with the International Centre for Insect Physiology and Ecology (icipe). At various important meetings of the Project including the 1st Continental Symposium on Bee Health, Honey Production and Pollination Services held in September 2015, the Inaugural General Assembly of Africa Apiculture Platform (AAP) held in Nov 2015, and at the first meeting of the AAP Working Groups in December 2015, the lack of adequate and harmonized policy, legal and regulatory frameworks for pesticide management was identified as a critical issue. This gap undermines efforts to reduce the impact of pesticides on the health and sustainability of bee populations. The presence of high levels of pesticide and other agro-chemical residues in honey and other hives products is a threat to consumer health, the environment and a deterrent to trade.

Workshop Goal and Objectives

In the context of realizing the transformational potential of increased production and intra-Africa trade, which are core priorities of the Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Growth and Transformation, it was deemed urgent to harmonize the processes used to regulate pest control products.

The aim of harmonization was to promote sound policies, regulations and enforcement mechanisms continent-wide, including efficient, effective and safe use of pesticides, safeguarding the health of beneficial insects, in particular honey bees, protecting consumers

and the environment.

Given the advanced stage that AU- IAPSC had reached in the process of developing a harmonized framework for pesticide regulations in Africa, it was therefore opportune that the validation process amalgamated the concerns and needs of the crop, apiculture and environment sector actors.

The Workshop therefore provided a platform for knowledge and experience sharing sessions that enhanced understanding of the critical underlying issues.

A multi-sectoral and multi-disciplinary approach resulted in a more rigorous validation of the draft framework for the harmonization of pesticide regulations in Africa, highlighting areas of common interest, synergy and complementarity and underscoring need for greater responsibility by all actors.

The workshop also provided an opportunity for multi-sectoral dialogue and consultation on the development of guidelines to minimize the impact of pesticides on honeybees.

Attendance

The Workshop was attended by:

- 53 Directors of Plant Protection of AU-Member States; focal point of AU-IAPSC
- 16 Directors of veterinary services/ Directors of Animal production/ Senior officers in charge of beekeeping
- 08 representatives of RECs
- 05 representatives of Beekeepers Associations
- 08 members of African Apiculture Platform
- 06 pesticides experts
- 01 Bee keeping Expert
- 02 Private sectors
- 15 local (Egyptian) participants
- AU-IAPSC and AU-IBAR staff as AU technical offices (Organizers)





The Continental Workshop on Harmonization of Pesticide Regulations in Africa was held in Cairo Egypt from 17th-19th April 2016. It was organized and jointly co-hosted by the Animal Production Unit of the African Union Inter-African Bureau of Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) and the African Union Inter-African Phytosanitary Council (IAPSC), and financed by the European Union (EU).

The key outputs of the Workshop were:

A call for the recognition of the great untapped potential of the ecosystem pollination services from honeybees in Africa that can contribute to changing productivity and production, and enhancing nutrition outcomes on the continent.

A call for commitment to protection of honeybees and other beneficial insects in the production, distribution and utilization of pesticides given the importance of honeybees for both pollination and for production of honey and other bee hive products.

The validated framework on harmonization of pesticide regulations in Africa. The multi-sectoral/ multi-disciplinary approach engendered a sense that the process was consultative, and that there was a genuine effort to examine and address diverse issues and concerns of all the actors/interested parties. There was therefore a general appreciation of the draft harmonization document with greater ownership across sectors, and agreement that with other than a few technical inputs, such as the review of the title, and the need for professional editing, the document made adequate provisions to guide the harmonization of pesticide regulations on the continent.

Draft Guidelines to Minimize the Potential Impact of Pesticides on Pollinators in Africa were developed following deliberations by stakeholders. The Guideline document includes a synopsis of the exposure of pollinators, especially bees to pesticides; challenges for the health of pollinators in relation to the use of crop protection products; key policy conse-

derations that must be taken cognizance of, and proposed guidelines.

A call for adoption of the framework and guidelines and for the establishment of implementation and enforcement mechanisms: All Member States and Regional Economic Communities are called upon to adopt the harmonization framework and the guidelines, and to put in place mechanisms for implementation, enforcement and monitoring, and for education, training and awareness raising.

A call for joint efforts across sectors/disciplines and inclusivity in policy and decisions making processes: there is an urgent need to work outside technical/disciplinary silos and to adapt ways of working that reflect both the realities and challenges on the ground. Article 14 of the AU Constitutive Act provides for the establishment of Specialized Technical Committees (STCs) across a range of thematic areas with the purpose of establishing clusters of ministries that cover interrelated issues so as to foster greater policy coherence and harmonization.

A call for Africa to examine and review standards and procedures for honey and other hive products that are limiting trade regionally and globally. Africa needs greater ownership and participation in global standard setting forums and to explore and research options for relevant and implementable approaches that will enhance intra and inter-regional.

“ The use of pesticides will remain highly contested with the debate centered on the possible versus the potential impact on human health, non target insects and the environment ”

Workshop on the Organization and implementation of training activities in third countries to strengthen their capacity to participate actively in the work of International Standards Setting Bodies (ISSBs)

Cape Town, South Africa, 26th June - 1st July, 2016



© AU-IAPSC Group photo of Participants

AU-IAPSC took part in a workshop organized by the Better Training for Safer Food (BTSF) of the European Initiative from 26th June to July 1st 2016, in Cape Town, South Africa. The main topic of the workshop was the organization and implementation of training activities in third countries to strengthen their capacity to participate actively in the work of International Standard Setting Bodies for effective Participation in IPPC activities. About 31 participants from 18 African countries, AU-IAPSC, IPPC and 9 tutors from EEAS south Africa, DG Santé-European Commission, Slovenia, Denmark, Greece, Italy and Poland attended the workshop. The focus of this training

was on the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) which aimed at maintaining a high level of consumer protection and ensuring fair trade with non-EU countries by protecting world plant resources from pests.

Objectives of the workshop

The course aimed at strengthening effective participation in IPPC activities with specific objectives which are to:

- Increase target countries and institutions knowledge of specific IPPC procedures;
- Strengthen technical capacity of parti





Participants for the IPPC meetings to contribute to the development of ISSBs standards based on science;

- Enhance networking, experience sharing and knowledge dissemination; and
- Better preparation and more effective participation of country delegates and RPPO in the ISSBs meetings.

Results

The workshop yielded the following results:

- Introduction to the International Standards Setting Bodies and International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures with emphasis on the overview of IPPC organization, the standard setting procedures of the EU and the knowledge sharing on AU-IAPSC as the regional organization. Establishing a national position on wood in international trade at the standards committee; drafting a specification on ISPMs for submission as in new topic and mock session standards setting committee on approval of new standard growing media part I (individual comments) and II (regional comments);
- History of plant protection in international law;
- International standards for Phytosanitary measures: Global trade and the WTO-SPS Agreement;
- IPPC-Introduction, procedures, responsibilities and obligations;
- Functioning of IPPC bodies, description of CPM, SC, SBDS and technical panels and / or working groups;
- Implementation and capacity development Committee- ICDC;
- The role of ISPMs and their level of obligation;
- Standards setting procedures;
- Role of the EU in works of IPPC formulations of the EU common positions;
- FAO glossary of phytosanitary terms;

- History of an ISPMs (International Movement of wood);
- Types and example of IPPC comments and standard setting summary;
- Regional organizations of IPPC and
- Competencies of CPM bodies;

The stimulation exercises were well implemented during the groups work. Groups work on draft specification for ISPM: International movement of used vehicles, machinery and equipment; individual comment on management of pest risks associated with international movement of wood and regional comment on growing media in association with plants for planting in international trade provided to participants, practical approaches for effective participation at not only for sessions of IPPC regional workshop on IPPC draft ISPMs review, Pre-CPM meetings for Africa common positions, but more importantly to effective contribution at CPM meetings and call of topics and standards setting processes.

Benefit of AU-IAPSC'S participation

Following the workshop, AU-IAPSC is expected to share the knowledge gathered during the workshop with the national and regional competent authorities, step up cooperation, knowledge sharing and understanding of National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs) of the 54 African Member States and other institutions charged with plant protection in Africa like research institutions, academia, Farmers groups, NGOs and agro-industries.

39^e SESSION DU CODEX-ALIMENTARIUS

Rome, Italie du 27 juin au 1^{er} juillet 2016

À l'Organisation Mondiale de Commerce, les règles fondamentales pour approvisionner le consommateur des produits alimentaires absorbables en toute sécurité, ainsi que celles qui empêchent les réglementations sanitaires rigoureuses à servir de prétexte à la protection des producteurs nationaux, sont énoncées dans un accord régissant la manière dont les gouvernements peuvent appliquer les mesures relatives à l'innocuité des produits alimentaires et les normes sanitaires pour les végétaux et les animaux. Celles-ci sont globalement dénommées « mesures sanitaires et phytosanitaires (SPS) ». La mise en œuvre des mesures SPS engage la responsabilité commune des trois sœurs suivantes : le Codex-Alimentarius, la CIPV et l'OIE.

La Commission du Codex Alimentarius (CCA) a tenu sa trente-neuvième session à Rome, Italie, du 27 Juin au 1 Juillet 2016. Elle a été présidée par Mme Awilo Ochieng Pernet, président de la Commission. Le Conseil Phytosanitaire Interafricain de

l'Union Africaine (UA-CPI) a pris part à cette session en tant que partie prenante officielle de la mise en œuvre des mesures SPS. Il y a été représenté par Dr Jean Gérard MEZUI M'ELLA, Directeur de l'Institution et de Pr. Abd-El Fattah MABROUK AMER, Secrétaire Scientifique Principal, en charge de la section Entomologie.

2- Déroulement des travaux (Extrait)

L' UA-CPI a participé de manière fructueuse aux différents points inscrits à l'ordre du jour, notamment les problématiques liées aux fruits et légumes frais, les contaminants ainsi que les pesticides.

3- Observations

La 39^e session du Codex-Alimentarius a donné l'occasion à l'UA-CPI de constater que la participation des pays africains n'était pas satisfaisante quant au nombre de participants africains, à la pertinence des arguments émis lors des discussions ainsi qu'en matière de soutien mutuel entre eux



dans les prises de position. Ceci serait dû entre autres, aux situations suivantes :

- La participation est entièrement à l'appréciation des Etats. Les pays africains dans leur grande majorité ont des intérêts différents et parfois divergents. Chaque pays a tendance à garder ses positions même lorsqu'elles entravent celles d'un autre de la région Afrique.

- Le Comité Codex pour l'Afrique n'est pas suffisamment rigide pour amener les pays africains à adopter une position commune face à un problème donné.

L'Union Africaine devrait intervenir dans ce secteur à l'instar de ce qu'elle entreprend pour la coordination des positions communes africaines aux réunions de la Commission des Mesures Phytosanitaires de la CIPV qu'organise régulièrement l'UA-CPI, pour une position commune des pays africains. Ce rôle est pourtant perceptible dans les autres délégations qui viennent avec des positions communes.

- Il n'existe pas de réels Comités Nationaux Codex dans les Etats Membres. Chaque Ministère initie sa participation en fonction de ses inté-

rêts propres. La plupart de leurs préoccupations sont d'ordres commerciaux et les représentants de pays se retrouvent dans des commissions au sein desquelles ils sont confrontés aux discussions hautement scientifiques et techniques.

Les Comités Nationaux du Codex doivent être créés.

4- Réseautage

A travers La 39e session du Codex-Alimentarius, l'UA-CPI a eu l'opportunité de rehausser sa réputation et d'établir des contacts avec des partenaires.

Les rapports avec l'OMC ont été raffermis à travers des discussions sur les résidus des pesticides pour la conformité aux mesures SPS. La participation de l'UA-CPI à une mission à Genève sur les Résidus des Pesticides a été jugée importante par M. Anneke Hamilton, Directeur des Affaires Economiques à l'OMC- Genève, Division de l'Agriculture et des Commodités.

L'harmonisation des réglementations des pesticides en Afrique qui justifie l'engagement de l'UA-CPI dans un vaste programme de développement de l'apiculture en Afrique « PROJET ABEILLES » a été discutée.



IPPC Regional workshop for Africa Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 12-17 September 2016



© AU-IAPSC Group photo of Participants

The 2016 IPPC Regional Workshop for Africa was held on 14-16 September 2016 in Addis Ababa Ethiopia. The workshop was organized by the Inter-African Phytosanitary Council of African Union (AU-IAPSC) and the United Nation Food and Agriculture Organization of the African Region (FAO-RAF) with the technical and financial support of the IPPC Secretariat and the African Solidarity Trust Fund (ASTF) project. Twenty six (26) participants from 16 African Contracting Parties, representatives from FAO-RAF, African Union Commission, AU-IAPSC, IPPC Secretariat and an African member of the Standard Committee attended the workshop.

Objectives of the workshop

The objectives of the workshop were: (1) to learn how to analyze draft International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs) and to formulate productive comments using the examples of draft ISPMs for member consultation in 2016; (2) to build phytosanitary capacity and raise awareness on all activities related to the IPPC; and (3) to exchange experiences at the regional level on surveillance, continental emerging issues in plant health and major pest of economic importance.

Results

Participants discussed the following priority draft ISPMs and diagnostic protocols for the



region and brought substantive and technical comments

- Draft 2016 amendments to ISPM5:Glossary of phytosanitary terms (1994-001)
- Draft revision of ISPM6: National surveillance systems (2009-004)
- Draft ISPM: Requirements for the use of temperature treatments as phytosanitary measures (2014-005)
- Draft Annex to ISPM 27-Phytophthora ramorum (2004-013)
- Draft Annex to ISPM 27: Fusariumcircinatum (2006-021)
- Draft Annex to ISPM 27-Candidatus Liberibactersolanacearum (2013-001)

In addition, they were enlightened on the activities of IPPC, FAO and AU-IAPSC. Focus was also on facilitated exercise on the IRSS Helpdesk, the IRSS studies, the Phytosanitary Resources Page and IPPC technical resources, Exchange of ideas on FAO projects or any other capacity developments, the questionnaire on emerging plant health issues and the IYPH 2020 issues, especially setting work plan for the region were other achievements.

Recommendations

Upon thorough brainstorming on topics presented and discussions on IPPC draft ISPMs and diagnostics protocols, participants made the following recommendations

1. Stakeholder engagement needs improvement in most countries, Contracting parties/NPPOs
2. Governments are encouraged to recuperate costs of phytosanitary services where appropriate, to resource sustainability and phytosanitary capacity (AU-IAPSC should do advocacy at AU and governments)
3. Governments/NPPO must improve on non-compliance and subsequent follow-up
4. NPPOs need to improve phytosanitary documentation processes
5. Regional Economic Communities are encouraged to support contracting parties of their regions to participate in regional and international standard setting meetings
6. IPPC in collaboration with AU-IAPSC should support training of NPPOs to build up human capacity on plant pests diagnostics
7. AU- IAPSC in tandem with FAO and Regional Economic Communities should set up a focal point to work with NPPOs on the follow-up of decisions taken up by the steering committee on IYPH 2020
8. NPPOs should train their editors on the use of the new IPPC website
9. NPPO should work hard to fulfil their reporting obligations on the IPPC web site
10. NPPOs should take initiatives in im-

plementation of the 2014-2023 strategy of African Union /AU- IAPSC as adopted by member states of the African Union in 2015 with regard to plant health

11. NPPOS to raise awareness on plant health and food security in 2016 and trade facilitation in 2017 at national and international level

12. The participants at the regional workshop agreed that their comment on draft ISPMS and diagnostic Protocols should be submitted before the 30th September 2016

13. They requested the IPPC secretariat to publish as much documents as possible in French through the website for a better follow up of activities.

Before closing the workshop participants arrived at the following conclusion

- Internet access continues to remain a major challenge for a number of countries in the Africa region and relates to accessing the IPP, OCS, the Phytosanitary Resource website and even their e-mail attachments at times; while in other countries access is inconsistent.

- Resources (human, infrastructure, laboratories and financial) remain a major challenge for all NPPOs. Political interference, NPPO structural organization, outdated legislative framework and lack of political support continues to be major challenges for appropriate IPPC implementation in some countries. Participants suggested that there is a role

for FAO and the Secretariat to provide advice and technical assistance, if and when appropriate. It was noted that this can lead to the inadequate protection of staff and as a result they are unable to appropriately carry out their work.

- Adequate personnel, appropriate qualifications and appropriate training of personnel remains a limitation in most countries. The Secretariat was identified as having a significant role in arranging/facilitating appropriate training.

- Most countries still do not have appropriate technical justifications, including pest risk analysis, for their national phytosanitary measures. Including the need to identify new and less obvious pest risk pathways.

- Some countries noted the distribution of centers (e.g. NPPOs, customs, etc) for decision making as a weakness from both an operational and implementation perspective.

- A further constraint for some was the lack of harmonized measures e.g. inspections. It was noted this can be facilitated by the AUC, AU- IAPSC, FAO and the Secretariat but any such processes need to be compatible with the provisions of the IPPC.

- Africa continues to have land border controls as a major weakness in many country's national phytosanitary systems.



Third General Assembly of the African Apiculture Platform on Honey Production, Bee Health and Pollination Services

21st – 23rd September 2016, Kigali Conference and Exhibition Village, Kigali Rwanda



© AU-IAPSC Group photo of Participants

The Third General Assembly of the African Apiculture Platform (AAP) on Honey Production, Bee Health and Pollination Services, took place from 21st-23rd September 2016 at the Kigali Conference and Exhibition Village, Kigali, Rwanda. The theme of the General Assembly was “Promoting Intra and Inter Regional Trade of Honey and Other Beehive Products in Africa”. This theme is well aligned to the Malabo Declaration on Agricultural Transformation Agenda which aims to triple intra-African trade as a means to address food insecurity and youth unemployment, and to increase incomes and economic growth.

The AAP is a multi-stakeholder platform (MSP) facilitated by the African Union-Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR), which is mandated to provide leadership in the development of Africa’s animal resources. The AAP draws on the power of the African Union to bring key public sector

actors i.e., AU Member States (MS) and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) on to the same forum with the private sector, beekeeper associations, non-governmental organizations, and academia and research institutions and consumer bodies. This gives the Platform legitimacy, unprecedented leverage, and a strong mandate for substantive agenda setting, information and knowledge exchange, policy reform, and advocacy. Key objectives of the AAP are facilitating collaboration of stakeholders, advocating for an enabling policy framework for the sector and for increased public and private investment, and promoting knowledge sharing, capacity development and partnership development.

The General Assembly, which is the main forum of the AAP, brings all members and caucuses of the Platform together and is the main forum of the AAP at which issues are discussed/ debated on, and where key decisions are made and coordinated actions for implementa-

tion of the decisions agreed among all sector actors.

The 3rd General Assembly of the AAP was held as a joint event with ApiExpo Africa 2016, a private sector led initiative under ApiTrade Africa which was meeting under the theme “Driving Socio-Economic Transformation in Africa: the Role of Commercial Beekeeping”.

The Government of the Republic of Rwanda hosted both events at the same venue providing an opportunity for cross-interaction and resulting in greater dialogue between state and non-state actors.

The General Assembly was attended by ninety-six (96) delegates from forty (40) African Union Member States: Algeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central Africa Republic, Chad, Cote D’Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Gabon, Gambia (The), Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Equatorial Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome, Senegal, Seychelles, South Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

Four Regional Economic Communities attended the meeting: Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD), the Common Market for East and Southern Africa (COMESA) and Arab Maghreb Union (UMA).

The Aim and Objectives of the Meeting

The 3rd General Assembly of the African Apiculture Platform was convened to provide Platform Members with an opportunity to engage on the Platform business with a focus on deliberating on how to promote greater intra and inter regional honey trade and other hive products in Africa. The specific objectives of the Meeting were:

- Identification of opportunities,

challenges and constraints for intra and inter African regional trade of honey and other beehive products

- Identification of options to promote intra and inter African regional trade of honey and other beehive products

- Agreement on priority actions as way forward for intra and inter regional trade of honey and other beehive products

- Agreement on priorities for the formulation of an African standard and certification process for African honey, other beehive products and pollination services

- Validation of the draft Guidelines to Minimize the Potential Impacts of Pesticides on Pollinator Health

- Validation of the draft Guidelines for Establishment of National Apiculture Platforms

- Deliberation on the Report of the Executive Committee on implementation of the AAP decisions

Session 1: Opening Session

Welcome remarks and goodwill messages were made by the Chief Animal Production Officer AU-IBAR, the Chairperson AAP, the Chairman of ApiTrade, a representative of the European Union (EU), the Director of African Union Inter-African Phytosanitary Council (AU-IAPSC), and the Secretary General of the African Standardization Organization (ARSO). A Welcome Speech was made by the Director AU-IBAR, and the Meeting officially opened by the Director General Animal Resources, Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources (MINAGRI), Rwanda, who represented the Minister of Agriculture.

All speakers echoed the opportunity that the joint event offered for greater collaboration between a private sector led initiative ApiExpo





Africa, and the AAP which convenes African Union Member States and all other stakeholders to one table. The representative of the EU Rwanda underscored the importance of the Bee Health Project objectives that seek to facilitate greater collaboration and partnership, sharing of lessons learnt and best practices, creation of an enabling policy framework and capacity enhancement, and promotion of partnerships necessary for advocating for greater investment in the apiculture sector. EU has granted a no-cost extension for the Bee Health Project to complete outstanding activities.

The key note address on the Status, Challenges and Opportunities for Marketing and Trade of Honey in the context of the Malabo Declaration highlighted the fact that although there is great potential, Africa is a net importer of honey. The need to adopt a value chain approach that allows different actors to specialize including input supplies, collective processing, marketing, branding and distribution of products, improved facilitation i.e., extension, access to information and training was recommended. Key opportunities were highlighted as unmet demand due to rapid growth of urban and middle class populations, increased demand for food, and health products, diverse agro-ecological zones, Africa's capacity to produce organic and other niche honeys.

Plenary Remarks/ Issues Raised

- Intra African trade has potential to address both economic and social issues including food security, malnutrition, livelihood improvement and alternative livelihoods, youth unemployment, and increased incomes.
- The promotion of intra-Africa trade should be premised on knowledge of the value of our products and the opportunities of regional integration that create larger markets and not reactions to insecurity and global uncertainties;
- Africa should learn from the 'Maturity Model' implemented in Asia and South America where intra-regional trade drives development of competitiveness that creates capacity

for entry into global markets;

- The achievements in laying down the 'hardware' of intra-regional trade such as infrastructure and removal of non-tariff barriers must be matched with addressing the 'software' equally central to operationalization of free-trade zones i.e., capacities, understanding formal and informal sectors, financial facilitation, greater private sector involvement in policy and regulatory reforms.
- The benefit that any Member State will derive from the AAP is dependent on the will to implement AAP decisions and recommendations at the country level.
- The sustainability of the AAP is an issue that needs to be addressed urgently.

Session 2: Regional Policy & Regulatory Frameworks for Enhancing Intra- African Trade in Honey and Other Hive Products

Three Regional Economic Communities made presentations:

UMA was participating at the AAP for the first time. They presented "l'Union du Maghreb Arabe d'Apiculture" which was launched in October 18th, 2012 at Ifrane, Marocco, with the mission to defend the interest of its members internationally and to rehabilitate and protect the beekeeping sector at national and regional level.

Nonetheless, the beekeeping sector is predominantly regarded as an under banked, low investment sector characterized by aging farmers with a low level of education. Capacity of the sector is constrained by inadequacies in research, extension, and institutional framework. ECCAS underscored the fact that although the Member States had ascended to the decision to establish a Free Trade Zone, only Gabon was implementing it. The Member States have all developed requisite text but are not facilitating

implementation with little trade between Member States. There are deficits in infrastructure and customs procedures are not tailored to ease movement of persons and goods. Recommendations include the need to accelerate the harmonization of ECCAS and CEMAC trade policy instruments, an agreement reached in October 2015. A mechanism is needed for community financing.

COMESA highlighted the importance of honey which is ranked among the top ten commodities traded intra regionally. Production and trade of honey is expected to grow and therefore the need to lobby stakeholders to promote its trade. Currently it has the leading producers of honey in Africa but only exports 2.74% globally. There is low emphasis on other beehive products i.e., very high waste and underdeveloped industry despite the rising investments in cosmetics, pharmaceuticals and other industries that require beehive products. COMESA aims to be a single trade and investment area by 2025 and has made progress in achieving this. It has developed a simplified customs procedure that facilitates and tracks informal trade by allowing informal traders passage at border points with goods valued below \$1000. Also in place are mechanisms for issuing certificates of origin and for handling disputes. Key challenges for the promotion of intra-regional trade are low technical capacity, a constraining policy and financial environment and of significant import, the lack of standardization and quality management systems.

Plenary Remarks/ Issues Raised

- A more substantive framework is needed for the apiculture sector, moving it away from ‘a poor mans’ sector, to articulating a framework that underscores its substantive potential and contribution to Africa’s development objectives.
- Apiculture should be taken seriously and supported to provide alternative livelihoods, espe-

cially in the face of climate change and variability. The approach to addressing climate change should be holistic

- More credible data is needed to support policy processes and decision making: ARIS should be harnessed fully for the apiculture sector, a process that needs collaboration between Member States and AU-IBAR. Informal trade is predominant and yet most available data pertains to the formal sector: how can this anomaly in data be rectified? Pollination services also need to be quantified
- There have been tremendous efforts to eliminate trade tariffs that were significant constraints towards intra-African trade. However, without similar investments to boost production and productivity capacity, this remains an unexploited opportunity
- The efforts to increase intra-African trade have been predominantly public sector driven, and yet the implementation of agreed protocols requires private sector initiatives. Greater inclusion and development of the private sector is needed to boost intra-African trade
- Centralized/ collective efforts is an approach that could increase benefits from intra-regional trade for beekeepers, however there are also serious health risks related to spread of diseases and pests, therefore good agricultural practices need to be packaged and disseminated
- There is need for national apex apiculture platforms that implement the decisions, and recommendations of the AAP was emphasized
- Documents should be in both English and French so that they are accessible to all the AAP stakeholders
- A greater focus on advocacy and lobbying is needed to put the sector on the public agenda and to elevate the issues of the sector.



Session 3: Member States' Achievements and Challenges in Implementing Regional and National Frameworks for Boosting Intra African Trade

Reflections from a United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) paper showed that honey, along with sugar and molasses are the top intra-regionally trade agricultural imports. Intra-regional trade of honey is expected to grow with the significant health concerns related to non-communicable diseases.

Nine countries made presentations:

Rwanda: Although key achievements have been realized notably in infrastructure development, development of enabling policies, a lab for quality assurance, establishment of a residual monitoring plan that gives access to EU markets, enhancement of training, research on bee diseases, only half of the beekeepers are active, and export to the EU is minimal. Business gaps include constraints in input supply, processing, packaging, understanding the market, and lack of data and information.

Ethiopia: has a large apiculture sector with 1.8 smallholder beekeepers and over 10 million hives. There is a huge potential standing at 500,000 metric tons (MT) of honey and 50,000 MT of wax. Current production stands at about 50000MTs and 5000MT respectively. Only 32% exported globally, indicating a large informal trade especially to Sudan and Somalia. There is a conducive policy environment, and youth are targeted. However there is low product development, popularization or advocacy on standards, and lack of understanding of the benefits of intra-African trade.

Tanzania: Has beekeeping policies to support the sector, has enhanced the role of the private sector, increased awareness of the public about the benefits of the sector, and facilitated the formation of groups and collection centers.

The country has also promoted the adoption of new technologies and training and research at diploma, graduate and postgraduate levels. Challenges remain including the non-quantification of informal trade, a greater orientation towards global markets, and low development of market skills.

Cameroon: Central Africa is a region with high potential in honey production and with many similarities among countries. Cameroon has a production of more than 5000MT of honey per year with an annual exports of 400 MT, but is largely globally oriented, with much less export into the regional markets. Guiding Hope is a major stakeholder in the central African region. The flow of the honey trade displays a movement of products from ECCAS to ECOWAS and the major challenges faced are insecurity, tax and customs harassments, and lack of reliable standards to define the products. Promoting intra-regional trade is a priority in the sub regional integration policy but in reality the country remains poorly integrated in terms of intra-community trade flows. The apiculture sector has potential but faces infrastructural, policy harmonization, currency conversion, customs and tax limitations, insecurity and market information. This can be overcome through harmonization, adoption and implementation of a common policy on the management of beekeeping, establishment of tax incentives and customs facilitation on bee products and inputs and enhancing local capacities in apiculture through education and awareness creation.

Egypt has a long history in beekeeping, and has had a standard for honey since 1958 which was amended in 1987, and has a number of facilities including laboratories. The country is looking to develop a new law to regulate the industry, establish a database of actors, improve research, raise attention on products and bee health and transform itself into a terminal market to supply both Arab and African markets and create employment.

Zimbabwe has recorded many benefits from

the Bee Health Project and being on the AAP that pertains to improving intra-regional trade, including capacity building/ training on bee health and improved techniques for honey processing, and establishment of the National Apiculture Platform. Zimbabwe held a Bee Health and Pollination Conference. Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)/ guidelines for the sector are being developed, and a surveillance program is being established. There are a number of constraints including the subsistence mindset, constrictive pricing, the high cost of residual testing, gaps in disease notification and control, and poor coordination within the SADC region. There are recommendations to establish a code of practice, to enhance enforcement, develop a database of actors, improve extension and access to information and knowledge and for harmonization of policy and regulatory frameworks with neighbors in the region.

Nigeria has ratified various regional trade agreements, the Lagos Plan of Action, the Abuja Treaty but not invested substantive effort in promoting intraregional trade. Challenges are related to supply constraints, limited private sector involvement in integration, unclear policies, infrastructure and currency constraints, weak dispute regulation, and narrow export base among others. A key recommendation was to take a private sector driven approach.

Tunisia has developed beekeeping policies, and has ratified regional agreements to promote the sector including quality infrastructure. The role of the private sector has been enhanced, there is modest technical capacity owed to education in bee keeping, adoption of new technologies and innovations and existence of associations and collection centers. However, there are no exports to the region in the recent years as there is an existing ban on imports and exports except with Egypt. There is need to create awareness on the benefits of intra-African trade, and to institute mechanisms to implement quality control at the borders.

Session 4: Experiences and Lessons from ApiTrade Africa, a Continental Trade Promotion Initiative

Apitrade Africa made a presentation highlighting its mandate as a continental private sector led, nonprofit initiative for market development, investment promotion, lobbying and advocacy, policy influencing, facilitation of ApiExpo Exhibits and national shows for apiculture products.

ApiTrade underscored the importance of deepening the relationship between it and the AU-IBAR Bee Health Project and the AAP, including the need for dedicated support from AU-IBAR and the RECs and AAP endorsement of ApiExpo Africa for investment and trade promotion. ApiTrade also recommended that AAP expands its remit beyond the continent to influence global agendas related to apiculture development.

Plenary Remarks/ Issues Raised

- ApiTrade to be more inclusive of francophone Africa in its member recruitment;
- Diversification of ApiExpo exhibitions to include all aspects of apiculture, and to include more defined categories and levels of exhibition. Exhibitions should go beyond production/honey and wax processing to all aspects of the value chains such as insurance products, education/academics, research
- Better facilitation and logistic support to ensure that exhibitors from other countries are able to bring in wares (products and services) to display at ApiExpo
- Better and more accessible sitting of ApiExpo to attract the general population and promote their participation
- Capacitating of exhibitors so that what is presented is in alignment with best practice.



SWOT Analysis on Africa's Capacity to Expand intra and inter regional trade in honey and other hive products: Priorities

The analysis was undertaken by four groups: Eastern and Southern Africa combining COMESA, East African Community (EAC) and Southern Africa Development Community (SADC); Northern Africa UMA plus Egypt, Western Africa (Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)) and Central Africa (Economic Community of Central Africa States (ECCAS)). The Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats are captured in the main report. Other than UMA, most of the input proffered by the different groups focused only on one out of the seven clusters of the Action Plan for Boosting Intra-African Trade i.e., Productive capacity. Other clusters identified under the African Union 2012 Decision to Establish a Pan African Continental Free Trade Area include trade policy, trade facilitation, trade related infrastructure, trade finance, trade information and factor market integration. This highlighted the need for enhanced capacity and awareness building on the prospects of intra-African trade across the regions.

COMESA, EAC and SADC Group priorities: priority actions were highlighted as the need for increased government support including policies, surveillance of pesticides & diseases, investment in quality standardization, info gathering, capacity building and regulation on indiscriminate use of pesticides;

UMA Group Work priority actions: were identified as the need for more strategic research and extension, enhancement of private sector involvement, improvement in quality infrastructure, harmonization of regulations, and the need for establishment of a reference laboratory for product analysis and diseases management.

ECOWAS Group priority actions are the need for harmonization of policy and regulatory frameworks for enhancing intra-African trade; and interventions to enhance competitiveness.

ECCAS Group focused on the need to establish a regionally harmonized regulatory framework as the major priority.

Plenary Remarks/ Issues Raised

- The issue for UMA is not just a lack of quality standards, but rather the infra structure to ensure implementation of standards;
- Lack of critical quality infrastructure is a challenge for most of the continent
- There is a need to explore options for establishment of multi-risk insurance schemes to protect stakeholder investments in the apiculture sector
- Central Africa is making progress to wards developing a harmonized protocol for pesticide management, however individual countries are still lagging in this respect
- While Sahelian countries have SPS agreements in place, they are under great threat from increasing pesticide dumping.

Session 5: Standards for Quality and Safe Honey and Beehive products

The African Standardization Organization led a session on the process to develop an African harmonized and implementable standards for honey, other hive products and pollination services. A background presentation underscored the importance of standardization and its contribution to GDP in terms of job creation and generation of economic value. Owing to the challenge of poor capacity to implement

standards at the production level: 68% of rejections of agricultural products by importing countries arise from bad agricultural practice. While an implementable standard is key, of equal importance is a conformity system that allows for cross-border/ intra and inter-regional assessment and mutual recognition. Because of the overlap between some RECs, the lack of harmonization and inadequate conformity systems present a complex situation. Currently only 16 out of 54 Member States are members of ARSO, all countries should be members of ARSO by 2017. The year is declared African Year of Quality Infrastructure. ARSO described the standardization process, proposed a roadmap and the countries and nominees to participate in the standardization technical team which would be chaired by Tanzania. This was followed by a working group session where the participants identified priority standards to be developed in a 13-14 month process, capacity requirements and expected technical services.

Plenary Remarks/ Issues Raised

- Other Member States that would like to be part of the process to develop an apiculture standard can submit a request to join the technical team: but this is best done at the beginning of the process;
- Private sector and beekeepers need to be involved in the country level process to develop the standard to ensure that it is relevant and implementable;
- The ‘Maturity Model’ should be promoted that starts with conformity to a few indicators and progression to the next level in a process of improvement;
- An African web portal to facilitate intra-African trade exists, however only Swaziland has information on honey uploaded: there is a need to challenge countries to upload the relevant information and to keep it updated

- Outreach materials, in local languages are necessary to simplify understanding of standards

Session 6: Validation of Guidelines

Two draft guidelines were presented for validation by the General Assembly participants:

- * The draft guidelines to minimize the potential impacts of pesticides on pollinator health
- * The Guidelines for the Establishment or Strengthening of National Apiculture Platforms.

Participants were to provide feedback and input on the two guidelines which will then be submitted to the Ministerial Meeting in December 2016.

An update was provided on the ongoing establishment of National Apiculture Platforms, with 12 countries covered, and 13 planned for the remainder of 2016. The remaining Member States would be covered in 2017.

Session 7: Business of the African Apiculture Platform

The Chairperson of the Executive Committee of the African Apiculture Platform, Prof. Serge Bakou, presented a report on EC implementation of the AAP decisions. The 3rd Executive Committee and Working Groups Meeting was held in Dar es Salaam Tanzania in July 2016 attended by forty delegates from 21 countries. The key outputs of the meeting included the validation of the EC and WGs action plans, the validation of the guidelines to minimize the potential impact of pesticides on pollinator health, identification and agreement on the key elements of a sustainability plan, and strengthening of the TORs of the EC and WGs. Key decisions were also reached on promoting the activities of the platform, and a number of actions have been initiated including finalization of the annual action plans of the WGs, esta-



ishment of a task force to expound on and fully develop the Sustainability Plan, a draft of which has been circulated.

The priorities for the AAP for 2016/2017 will be the development of the sustainability plan, the development of the communication and visibility plan for the Platform, the production of policy briefs on specific advocacy issues and the development of a monitoring and evaluation plan to track the progress of the implementation of the Platform activities.

The Technologies for Agriculture (TECA) Beekeeping Exchange Group

The Project Manager and Moderator of the French Beekeeping Exchange Group of the TECA Platform introduced TECA as a free web-based platform for exchange of information, technologies and practices for small agricultural producers. TECA consists of knowledge based exchange groups and has multiple partners including FAO. Enrollment onto TECA is free, and it can be used as a source of information and for group exchanges.

Key Outputs from the Meeting

1. A greater understanding of the status, constraints, strengths, opportunities and threats of intra and inter regional trade in Africa in the Member States and at Regional level;
 2. Opportunities for collaboration and synergy between AU-IBAR and RECS and ApiTrade Africa and ApiExpo Africa were identified;
 3. Priority Action for expanding intra and inter regional trade in honey and other hive products were identified at regional level;
 4. Participants were familiarized with the work of ARSO and the process of development of an African Standard;
- A process was undertaken to identify

the apiculture standards that should be given priority attention in the ARSO-led process of developing a harmonized African standard for the apiculture sector;

- The draft Guidelines to Minimize the Potential Impacts of Pesticides on Pollinator Health were presented for validation;
- The draft Guidelines for the Establishment or Strengthening of National Apiculture Platforms was presented for validation;
- The Report of the Executive Committee on implementation of the AAP decisions was presented and discussed, and a way forward agreed.

Key Decisions, Recommendations and Action Points

1. Greater collaboration and synergy between government and private sector-led initiatives at the regional and continental level: drawing on the different mandates of African Union institutions (AU-IBAR, AU-IAPSC and ARSO) and private sector-led initiatives such as ApiTrade/ ApiExpo;
2. AAP endorsed ApiExpo Africa as the premium investment and trade promotion event for the continent and therefore AAP will work with ApiTrade to ensure relevant and engaging expos;
3. AU-IBAR to provide support to ApiTrade as a continental private sector initiative to promote trade and investment and in particular to enhance private sector involvement in promoting intra-Africa trade, within the precincts of Bee Health Project;
4. Promotion of Intra-African trade should be based on knowledge of the value of African products and the opportunities and benefits, therefore data and information for decision making and to support policy process should be archived under the Animal Resources Information System based at AU-IBAR, and a trade



portal to make the information accessible should be a priority investment;

5. Advocacy for a more development oriented approach to promotion of intra-African trade: that links initiatives to food security, malnutrition, livelihood improvement, alternative livelihoods, youth employment and increased incomes;

6. Standardization should take the Maturity Model that allows for the development of competitiveness at domestic and regional level and growth for capacity to compete globally;

7. There is a need to establish regional reference labs in the Southern and Northern Africa regions to facilitate intra-African trade;

8. African Member States to commit to greater involvement and participation in standard setting processes and agenda setting to ensure that the issues of Africa are taken on board at regional, continental and global for a;

9. A strategic lobbying and advocacy strategy to enhance awareness of the opportunities for intra African trade and for investment and support of the sector;

10. Significant opportunity for exchange of ideas, experience, information and knowledge between RECS and regions due to the inherent differences in the development of the apiculture sector and in particular in relation to initiatives related to intra-African trade;

11. AU-IBAR to fast track the process of establishment and or strengthening of National Apiculture Platforms with continued support from Member States that have already undertaken the process;

12. AAP to develop a sustainability plan and a communication and visibility plan;

13. The Guidelines to Minimize the Potential Impact of Pesticides on Honeybees and other Pollinators in Africa was validated and will be

presented to the African Union Specialized Technical Committee (STC) on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment in December 2016;

14. The Guidelines for Establishment or Strengthening of National Apiculture Platforms were validated and will be presented to the African Union Specialized Technical Committee (STC) on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment in December 2016;

15. The AAP will promote an African Apiculture Day to celebrate and promote apiculture on the continent;

16. The 4th General Assembly of the African Apiculture Platform to take place in 2017 will be in Tunisia pending formal acceptance by the government to host it. Details including the theme and date to be finalized by the EC in collaboration with the secretariat;

17. The first call for abstracts for the 2nd Symposium on Honey Production, Bee Health and Pollination Services will soon be released. All participants were urged to submit suitable abstracts.

Agreed Next Steps

1. The Communique refined and circulated by 28th September 2016, with feedback from participants at the Meeting by close of business on 30th September 2016.

2. The Meeting Report circulated by 14th October 2016.

Closing Session

Dr. Theogene Rutagwenda, the Director General of Animal Resources, MINAGRI on behalf of the Hon. Minister and the Government of the Republic of Rwanda who had opened the General Assembly, thanked AU-IBAR for facilitating the General Assembly, and all the participants for their enthusiastic participation and their contributions.



2nd PACA Partnership platform Meeting Entebbe, Uganda, 11-13 October 2016

The African Union Interafrican Phytosanitary Council was invited by the Director of the Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture (DREA), in his capacity as PACA Steering Committee Chairperson, to attend the 2nd Partnership for Aflatoxin Control in Africa (PACA) Partnership Platform Meeting, scheduled from 11 to 13 October, 2016 in Entebbe, Uganda. The meeting brought together senior government officials from AU member states, Regional Economic Communities representatives, farmer organizations, consumer associations, large and small business sector representatives, civil society, development partners, donor communities, the African Union and others. The objectives of the meeting were to:

- Track progress in implementing the specific actions identified at the first Partnership Platform Meeting;
- Revisit efforts of the last two years (2014-2016) of implementing PACA activities for the development of the clear roadmap for the next two years of implementation;
- Endorse planned approaches for implementing PACA phase II, 2016-2019;
- Celebrate progress made in managing aflatoxin problems in Africa and
- Strengthen instruments and mechanisms for accountability, Monitoring and Evaluation and reporting all PACA stakeholders.

Linkage to focus area:

Aflatoxin is the mycotoxin whose contamination has emerged as a global problem due to the movement of susceptible commodities in international trade, and that occurs both at pre-harvest and postharvest across food systems. The preponderance of factors that aggravate the problem, such as drought stress, pest attack and other forms of stress as well as inadequate harvesting, handling and storage, show the urgent need to address the problem comprehensively.

Protecting continental plant resources via the prevention of the introduction and spread of pest in Africa remain key to AU-IAPSC.

Linkage to the specific Department program activities:

The Partnership for Aflatoxin Control in Africa (PACA) is an innovative Africa-owned consortium that aims to coordinate and support aflatoxin mitigation and management across the health, agriculture and trade sectors in Africa. It is located within DREA and its activities are linked to CAADP and related activities programme of the division of food security. PACA's overall aim is to support agricultural development, safeguard consumer health and facilitate trade by catalysing, coordinating and increasing effective aflatoxin control along agricultural value chains in Africa.

Organization visited/Relevant persons met:

No organization was visited; However I met with the following Persons:

Amare Ayalew, PACA Program Manager
Janet Endeme: Acting Director of DREA and PACA Steering Committee Chairperson

Ernest Aubee Officer in charge of Agriculture at ECOWAS

H.E. Rhoda Pease Tumusiime, Commissioner REA-AUC

Hon. Jessica Eriyo Deputy Secretary General, EAC.

Meeting highlights

The highlights of the meeting were as follows:

- Opening speech by H.E. Gen. Y.K. Museveni; President of the Republic of Uganda
- Poster sessions and booths showcasing success stories in aflatoxin mitigation and lessons learnt from 2014-2016;
- Scene-setting presentations with implementation progress of PACA phase I and scope and approaches of PACA phase II;
- Interactive updates from RECs and continental initiatives (ECOWAS action plan and EAC program implementation, pilot countries (Gambia, Malawi, Nigeria, Senegal, Tanzania & Uganda) updates);
- Update on the African Aflatoxin Information Management System (Africa

AIMS);

- Technical tracks and breakout group discussion : Practical value chain management; incentives, policies, regulations and markets to change behaviour; nutrition and health; surveillance and testing; communication and plenary report;
- Public and private dialogue;
- Strengthening regional and country actions and creating an accountability system;
- Development of roadmap and way forward of PACA phase II.

Results:

- Concrete and effective contribution of participants at breakout groups sessions and Presentation in the plenary;
- Development of regional and country action plans for inclusion in the final meeting report;
- 6 Pilot countries` action plans presented in the plenary for adoption and request of PACA secretariat to support implementation during its second phase;
- Roadmap and way forward for regional and national aflatoxin control clearly identified and developed;
- Interactive updates from countries, RECs and continental initiatives well-articulated;
- Public –private sector dialogue discussed in details;
- Accountability platform to track implementation of commitments from 1st PPM well presented



Workshop on Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs)

24 and 25 October 2016, Geneva, Switzerland

The WTO's Secretariat organized a special SPS thematic workshop which focused on pesticide maximum residue levels (MRLs). This workshop took place from 24 to 25 October 2016 in Geneva, Switzerland.

Close to 180 participants attended the workshop, including Geneva- and capital-based delegates and regulators as well as participants from intergovernmental organizations (two participants from AU-IAPSC) and speakers from the private sector. The workshop was also attended by WTO-funded participants from the 2016 Advanced SPS Course.

Objectives of the meeting

The objective of the workshop was to bring together officials responsible for the implementation of the SPS Agreement, as well as the relevant international standard-setting organization and scientific bodies for an in-depth discussion, at a technical level, on maximum residue levels. More specifically:

- a. Participants reviewed the SPS Agreement and MRLs, including the relevant provisions of the Agreement and jurisprudence;
- b. Participants reviewed the Codex approach to establishing MRLs. This included relevant information on the respective work of Codex and scientific bodies, such as the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR) and the Joint FAO/WHO Meeting on Pesticide Residue (JMPR);
- c. Participants were exposed to the relevant

international, regional and bilateral work being undertaken on pesticide residues; and

d. Participants discussed their experiences in complying with MRLs and establishing MRLs, including information on their domestic regulatory and legal infrastructures.

Thematic SPS présentations

This session included the following themes:

- The SPS Agreement and Pesticide Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs)
- Codex Approach to Establishing Pesticide MRLs
- Relevant Bilateral, Regional and International Work on Pesticide Residues
- Domestic Frameworks and Approaches for Establishing MRLs and Import Tolerances
- Experiences in Implementing and Complying with Codex MRLs
- Impact of MRLs on International Trade

See the development of these theme in the following web link:

https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/spse/wkshop_oct16_e/wkshop_oct16_e.htm

Panel Discussion on the Role of the Private Sector in the Establishment and Implementation of MRLs

Through the use of specific examples, speakers in this session explored the various ways in which the private sector

could be involved in the establishment of MRLs and their experiences in the implementation of MRLs. In particular, this session highlighted the role of the private sector in providing support for the scientific review process through data sharing, expert consultation and contribution of financial resources to support the review process.

Meeting out comes

From discussions, it appeared that it can be costly to comply with MRLs. Where pesticides have not been registered, MRLs are often set at levels of detection so that even very low levels found in traded products can lead to trade interruptions. And when MRLs for older pesticides are no longer valid, food products containing residues of these pesticides are rejected at the border of the importing country. This means that producers in exporting countries need to switch to newer pesticides. However, it can be extremely costly and very difficult to find safe alternatives that are affordable, especially for producers in developing countries.

Risk assessors and regulators with scarce resources at national, regional and international levels find it difficult to keep up with the growing demand for evaluations of rapidly increasing numbers of pesticides in various food products. Speakers and participants discussed possible solutions, including harmonization of MRLs based on the standards of Codex Alimentarius, regional approaches to evaluating risks, and setting MRLs for groups of similar products at the same time.

Various speakers also highlighted the importance of coordination, collaboration and communication in the MRL establishment process.

Throughout the two-day workshop, participants benefited from detailed presentations on the relevance of the SPS Agreement to pesticide MRLs, the Codex approach to establishing MRLs as well as various regional and international initiatives focused on harmonizing MRLs and establishing MRLs for minor-use crops (i.e. crops for which pesticide manufacturers do not find it commercially interesting to produce the data packages required for a risk assessment that would allow the establishment of an MRL).

In addition, various WTO members shared their national experiences on establishing MRLs and provided insights into the challenges of implementing and complying with Codex MRLs as well as the impact of default MRLs and MRL expiration on international trade.

Speakers from the private sector also contributed to the workshop, highlighting the various ways for the private sector to be involved in establishing MRLs, such as by providing the relevant data.

Forward plans

- Harmonization of procedures to increase plant protection product registrations
- Joint data generation programs
 - Implement African data generation initiative
 - Strengthen joint work sharing programs
- Creation of regional minor use programs
- Enhanced capacities for developing countries to increase pesticides residue data generation





PHYTOSANITARY CAPACITY EVALUATION (PCE) TRAINING WORKSHOP 15-30 OCTOBER 2016 Ronciglione, Italy

AU-IAPSC took part in a two - week intensive training workshop on the PCE facilitators scheduled from 16-29 October 2016 in Ronciglione, Italy, organized by the IPPC. AU-IAPSC was represented at the workshop by Mr Nana Sani Flaubert, Assistant to the SSOE-P.

Objective of the Workshop

The aim of the workshop was to provide participants knowledge and skills in the Phytosanitary area and familiarize them with the Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation modules and the concept of the logical framework.

Specifically, the training was to step up capacity to apply PCE tool in practice such as to further assist National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs) to develop draft national phytosanitary actions plans to im-

prove countries plant health status. It also helped in understanding weaknesses, and combines a valuable exchange of legal and technical points of view, helping to inform, reform and update outdated knowledge on phytosanitary systems.

Mission highlights, Results, implications for AU

The highlights of the training workshop include:

- The systemic frame with Country profile, Phytosanitary legislation and External factors,
- The National Plant Protection Organization (NPPOs) organizational level with NPPOs mission and strategy; structure and process and plant health resources.

• The technical level with seven modules include:

- Pest diagnostic NPPOs capabilities,
- Institutionalized pest surveillance system,

Pest eradication system, Import regulations, Pest risk analysis, Pest free areas and locations of production site and low pest free areas prevalence

- Inspection systems at point of entry and exit and export certification.

• Groups' works' exercises, ethics and transparency, case study and texts constitute the practical aspect of the training workshop.

Results

Participants' capacity was enhanced on the Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation's 13 modules involving:

(i) a systemic frame with country profile, phytosanitary legislation, and external factors; (ii) NPPO organization level with the mission and strategy, the structure and process of the NPPO and the NPPO's resources; (iii) technical level with pest diagnostic, surveillance and reporting, pest eradication, Pest risk analysis, import verification and export inspection and certification, Pest Free Areas and Low pest Prevalence Areas.

The steps of the PCE which involved

the situation analysis, the strategic plan, action plan and follow up were not left out.

Training material were made available and participants were issued each a certificate.

Online tests and several exercises as well as case study marked the training workshop for facilitators.

The entire process is under the control of the country. It is not something that is done to a country; it is a framework that the country adopts for its own purposes and benefits.

This training stepped up participants' capacity to apply PCE tool in practice and strengthen the phytosanitary capacity of member states' National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs) to identify and analyse key stakeholders in the plant health sector, describe the phytosanitary situation in crops production, assess approaches to alleviate constraints with the view to enhance market access. This further enhanced capacity to make recommendations on aspect related to the implementation of effective pest surveillance systems and formulate project proposal that take into consideration the feedback obtained from relevant stakeholders. The





development of a draft national phytosanitary action plan to improve countries plant health status is another challenge.

Many African countries; if not all, still have plant health legislations which are not compatible with International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures and related international Agreements. These are most often not harmonized. The shortage of qualified plant health staff in many member states National Plant Protection Organization (NPPOs) and inadequate managerial skills characterize most of our NPPOs. The inadequate Plant Quarantine facilities at entry and post entry points and the absence of /or insufficient plant quarantine stations in addition to the poor support system for plant quarantine are testimony of a setback of African export of plant and plant products in the world market. The regional plant health coordination has to be enhanced to mitigate the lack of permanent sub-regional and regional forum for phytosanitary matters. The phytosanitary capability constraints at the national and the regional levels should be addressed using the PCE tool for efficacy and efficiency. Using the

PCE which is a management tool will help to identify contracting parties and their problems; develop the planning strategy and plan phytosanitary systems; thus strengthen member states phytosanitary capacity for ensuring continental food security, protecting the environment and enhancing trade will enable Africa to reduce poverty and improve the population livelihoods.

Understanding the PCE

As per the IPPC, the PCE is an interactive tool designed to conduct a situational analysis of the existing phytosanitary system, and to help the NPPO assess its progress over time in the implementation of the IPPC and the international standards on phytosanitary measures. The PCE is aligned with the Phytosanitary Capacity Building Strategy of the IPPC. Other benefits of the tool include:

1. Identification of gaps in the phytosanitary system which need to be addressed.
2. Conducting a stakeholders analysis and keeping track of stakeholders

that are relevant in the phytosanitary system of the country,

3. Conducting a problem analysis to identify the root cause of the gaps identified,

4. Conducting and documenting the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats facing the NPPO in managing an effective phytosanitary system.

5. Assist in the development of a strategy to address key weaknesses identified. The PCE includes a logical framework tool that can be used to generate a strategic framework for enhancing the phytosanitary system in the country.

The PCE is useful as a tool for use by contracting parties to gauge progress of development of the phytosanitary system over time or as a tool to be used by facilitators, donors and technical assistance providers to build or strengthen phytosanitary capacity in countries as needed.

The PCE is meant to be implemented at the pace defined by a country.

There is no urgency to complete the PCE when it is used for the purpose of self assessment. A deadline may be needed in the case where a facilitator is engaged or the country requires it in order to develop a strategy or proposals for projects for funding either through the national budget or through other funding sources.

The PCE is modular and the user can select the modules they want to apply or repeat. There is no requirement for a full PCE to be applied every time it is launched.

The PCE can be versioned - new sessions can be created. The selected modules, whether all or a few, must be completed before a new session is made.

Countries may apply it more frequently or less frequently as the case necessitates. The IPPC recommends that the PCE be applied at a minimum interval of 3 years.



28TH TECHNICAL CONSULTATION AMONG REGIONAL PLANT PROTECTION ORGANIZATIONS (TC-RPPOs)

Rabat (Morocco), November 14 to 18 2016

The 28th Technical Consultation among regional plant protection organizations (TC-RPPOs) was hosted by the Near East Plant Protection Organization (NEPPO) in collaboration with the Moroccan Department of Agriculture, the National Office for Health Security of Food Products (ONSSA), which is the Moroccan NPPO from November 14 to 18 2016 in Rabat. Present at the Consultation were representatives of the IPPC Secretariat, the CPM Bureau and nine RPPOs: Asia and Pacific Plant Protection Commission (APPPC), Comité de Sanidad Vegetal del Cono Sur (COSAVE), Comunidad Andina (CA), European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (EPPO), Inter-African Phytosanitary Council (IAPSC), North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO), Near East Plant Protection Organization (NEPPO), Organismo Internacional Regional de Sanidad Agropecuaria (OIRSA), and Pacific Plant Protection Organization (PPPO). The Caribbean Agricultural Health Food Security Agency (CAHFSA) attended as observer.

I. Pending matters from the 27th Technical Consultation

Status of RPPO roles and functions document

– The IPPC Secretariat indicated that the Bureau did not make any change to the document on RPPO roles and functions. The contribution of the RPPOs in the elaboration of this document was acknowledged and added to the document. The TC-RPPO recognized that a modification to this document might be needed at CPM-12 when the new name of the IPPC implementation subsidiary body is decided and/or its functions are agreed upon. A suggestion was made to engage FAO Regional and sub-regional Offices as necessary to ensure continuity of work, particularly when dealing

with projects.

The TC-RPPO suggested that:

- The RPPOs should be prepared to amend the document at CPM-12 to account for the decisions, where relevant, on the establishment of the implementation and capacity development subsidiary body;
- The FAO Regional and/or sub-regional Offices of the hosting region are to be invited to attend future TC-RPPO and virtual meetings, as appropriate.

Status of a Caribbean RPPO

- Regarding the Caribbean RPPO, the Secretariat:
 - indicated that a consultation between countries in the Caribbean and the FAO Legal Service (LEGA) was held early in the year on how to move forward with the creation of the RPPO;
 - informed that LEGA and IPPC advised on the requirements for recognition of any entity as an RPPO;
 - informed that countries in the region came to the conclusion that CAHFSA meets the criteria to be recognized as an RPPO and should be considered a better option;
 - would provide CAHFSA with the current procedures for the establishment of an RPPO, as well as ensure that FAO legal advice continues to be provided to CAHFSA as it prepares to assume its role as an RPPO.

The TC-RPPO reaffirmed:

- its commitment to support the Caribbean to establish its RPPO and welcomed the progress made so far.

- IPPC Secretariat Updates

IPPC Secretariat – The TC-RPPO was updated on the activities of the Secretariat on Standard Setting, National Reporting Obligations, Implementation Facilitation, its projects including recent new initiatives, the Implementation Pilot Programme on pest surveillance, the Implementation Review and Support System and IPPC Regional Workshops. Information was also provided on the outcome of the focus group to establish a new IPPC subsidiary body on Implementation. The IPPC Secretary reaffirmed that following CPM-11, the focus will be on implementation, on IYPH activities and on emerging pest issues. He confirmed that CPM-12 would be held in the Republic of South Korea.

Bureau – The Bureau representative gave an update of the Bureau meeting held in the year. He highlighted several of the Bureau decisions and urged the RPPOs to consider them in their workplans.

RPPOs update on follow-up actions from CPM – Several RPPOs provided an update on their activities in line with the key elements of the workplan outlined in the presentation done by NAPPO during CPM-11.

I. Review of the RPPO Activities

Each RPPO informed on their regional activities over the past year related to the following:

1. Specificities of the RPPO
2. Technical and capacity development achievements
3. Emerging pests and issues
4. Surveillance projects and activities
5. Proposals for further collaboration

Details for each RPPO can be found in the full Technical Consultation report.

The RPPOs discussed the need for developing training material on PRA, including on pest modelling and how it can inform PRA. EPPO and NAPPO offered their help in this project. The RPPOs discussed and reaffirmed interest in the implementation of ePhyto in their respective regions. The RPPOs acknowledged the progress of establishing a Caribbean RPPO.

The RPPOs exchanged information on how they are resourced, their staffing and language requirements. The great heterogeneity among RPPOs concerning the above was noted.

The RPPOs agreed that:

- more information on financial resources could be added to RPPO presentations for the next TC.
- They would provide 3 to 5 pictures of their respective regions related to the plant health for the IPPC calendar and the 2017 theme plant health and trade facilitation.

II. Brainstorming and discussion: enhancing technical cooperation among RPPOs and NPPOs

State of Plant Protection in the World – The Secretariat indicated that in relation to the State of Plant Protection in the World (SPPW), during the 2016 SPG, KEPHIS (the Kenyan NPPO) had made a proposal for the organization of a regular phytosanitary conference with different topics which could address the SPPW. Kenya will further elaborate its proposal and present it during the 2017 SPG. The Secretariat suggested that the RPPOs could be associated to this topic and asked their views on this proposal.

The TC-RPPO considered that:

- The objective and focus of this event should be further detailed.
- RPPOs will consult and provide their suggestions to the Secretariat on their possible contribution to the SPPW and the proposal made by Kenya by the end of January. EPPO will coordinate this consultation.

Implementation pilot project on surveillance – The Secretariat informed on

- the IPPC call for technical resources;
- the informal working group on the IPPC Implementation Pilot Project on Surveillance (Bangkok, Thailand, 11-12/06/2016);
- the revision of ISPM 6 “Guidelines for surveillance”;
- the session on the implementation pilot



on surveillance during 2016 IPPC Regional Workshops;

– the Collaboration with the International Atomic Energy Agency on fruit fly work.

The Secretariat invited the RPPOs to promote the IPPC pilot project on surveillance within their member countries.

Activities on IYPH – The IPPC Secretary informed ...

- on the 1st steering committee on the IYPH, which will meet twice a year, held on 7-9 November;
- that there was almost a 100% attendance with active participation;
- That the meeting would in the future be open to stakeholders from the private sector;
- that the 2020 IYPH is in the process of being officially approved by the FAO Conference;
- that upon FAO approval, the steering group will be merged with the FAO IYPH coordinating group, and FAO will lead the process;
- that further to the steering committee, 3 working groups would be established, one on finance, one on planning and one on communication and advocacy;
- that the IPPC received financial support for the IYPH from Ireland, China, the Republic of Korea and the USA;
- that factsheets will be developed on each thematic year as advocacy material;
- that a logo for the IYPH will be developed;
- and suggested that a network of contributors for the IYPH be established, with each region having an IYPH working group to plan for at least 2 or 3 activities.

The TC-RPPO agreed to:

- Promote the IYPH within their regions, either by creating working groups, or by simply mentioning the initiative

during their events.

National Reporting Obligations – The Secretariat informed that..

- a series of advocacy materials was prepared, including a guide for IPPC contact points and editors, and reminders automatically sent to them;
- additional script for 5 e-learning on NROs are under preparation and should be available by June 2017;
- a monthly NROs update is issued every month in 5 languages;
- regular assistance is also provided to editors and contact points;
- a workshop on NROs was held in China for the Asian region, and similar workshops are expected to be conducted in other regions over the coming years.

The TC-RPPO:

- noted the activities on NROs and was invited to promote the NROs within their member countries.
- invited the Secretariat to fix bugs in the IPP to improve reporting of NROs as early as possible to avoid discouraging its users from contributing.

Implementation and Review Support System (IRSS) – The Secretariat updated on...

- the future plans of the IRSS including the launch of the new IRSS webpage;
- the launch of 2016 IPPC General Survey;
- a Secretariat training on the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework;
- the questionnaire on global emerging risks;
- resource mobilization for the global funding support initiative (GEF);
- the IRSS study in progress – Analyzing the benefits of implementing the IPPC;
- the development of a contracting party donor guidance; the preparation of a CPM-12 side session on the benefits of the IPPC; and,
- the study on Diversion from Intended

Use (DFIU).

The TC-RPPO:

- noted the IRSS activities.
- agreed that NAPPO would lead the aggregation of comments from RPPOs on DFIU to be provided to the Secretariat by the 1st of May to be submitted to the Bureau in June 2017. NAPPO will circulate to the RPPOs the document being prepared by NAPPO as a starting point.
- the RPPOs will also meet during CPM-12 to discuss this issue, among others.

2017 theme “IPPC and Trade Facilitation” – The Secretariat informed that a small working group is expected to be established to manage the thematic year and to coordinate all planned activities for the year 2017.

The TC agreed:

- To promote the 2017 theme flyer to be published by the IPPC Secretariat in their publications.

Transboundary pests – RPPOs and research centers – NAPPO presented the proposal for RPPOs to interact with the CGIAR centers and other research entities to share information on current or past work being done on emerging pests of common interest. The RPPOs welcomed the idea and offered a number of ways this could be done including a suggestion on several pests. The Secretariat offered to host the page on the phytosanitary.info site for compiling the information volunteered through this initiative.

The TC agreed:

- That COSAVE would produce a document to exchange its experience on the activities undertaken with research centers by the 13th of the February.
- CAN will draft a pilot document by the 13th of February on the existing research projects and institutions involved on TR4, with indications on the best way to provide this information on

a website. Other RPPOs will be invited to contribute to this work.

The IPPC Secretariat would explore how this information can be published on the phytosanitary.info webpage with the CDC

EUPHRESKO network for phytosanitary research co-ordination and funding – EPPO presented the EUPHRESKO network of research managers and invited other organizations to be part of the network. The RPPOs welcomed the presentation.

Recommendations on ISPM 15 from the NAPPO workshop – NAPPO reported that a workshop to implement ISPM 15 with emphasis to Americas had been organized in Costa Rica held Aug. 29 – Sept. 3, 2016 and presented the recommendations made by the participants.

The TC-RPPO agreed:

- To consider to organize a similar workshop between EPPO, NEPPO and IAPSC.

III. TC among RPPOs – Work Plan

The TC discussed the 2017 work plan and agreed on the activities indicated in the table below.

The TC-RPPO agreed:

- I. That analysis should be performed on the emerging pests and categories of lists of pests.
- II. To collaborate on initiatives concerning inspection.
- III. To contribute to the call on diagnostic resources and biological collections.



	Activity / Topic	Responsible body
1	Investigate an operative mechanism for pest reporting through RPPOs	Secretariat All RPPOs
2	a) Continue work to arrange recognition of a RPPO for the Caribbean and b) Cooperate in the technical aspects of the establishment.	Secretariat All RPPOs
3	RPPOs support to IPPC Regional workshops and IPPC workshops on NROs	All RPPOs
4	Contingency planning or systems approaches <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - On HLB: EPPO, OIRSA, CAN, NEPPO and COSAVE. - Fruit flies through the surveillance pilot project: IPPC, IAEA, all RPPOs - TR4: OIRSA, CAN, CAHFA, COSAVE, IAPSC - <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i>: NEPPO, EPPO, with information from OIRSA, COSAVE, CAN 	All RPPOs Secretariat
	Collabotation on research: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - TR4: CAN initiative to develop mechanism to collect information on research activities with all RPPOs to contribute by providing the link to their researchers 	CAN to lead the work with contribution from all RPPOs
5	ePhyto: encourage all NPPOs to participate in developments and exchange of information.	All RPPOs Secretariat
6	RPPOs input into the IRSS (Implementation review and support system).	All RPPOs Secretariat
7	Translate the Roles and Functions of RPPOs in the framework of the IPPC by the 15 th of December.	NAPPO for ES, NEPPO for AR, EPPO for FR & RU
8	Management of preparations for further TC meetings – periodic communication to provide updates and reminders. <p>activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Facilitation of the fulfilment of NROs b) Support the implementation pilot project on surveillance c) Holding workshops on implementation, in particular on ISPM 15. d) Support to initiatives on ISPM 23, 31 and pest free areas. 	All RPPOs Secretariat EPPO for 2017 planning with contribution from IAPSC
10	Discussion on new concepts of strategic value for the Convention	All RPPOs
11	Consideration of specific requests coming from the Bureau and CPM bodies	All RPPOs
12	IYPH and annual themes, including participation of RPPO representatives in the steering group	Secretariat All RPPOs
15	RPPO representation in IPPC governing bodies	RPPOs
16	Present RPPO activities to CPM and participate in side events	RPPOs NEPPO to present at CPM 12

IV. Special and side sessions topics for CPM-12 (2017) and CPM-13 (2018)

The Secretariat presented information on the 2 side sessions to be organized during CPM-12 on e-commerce and on the benefits of implementing the IPPC. EPPO proposed that a CPM side session in 2018 be organized on science and plant health with an emphasis on EU-PHRESO.

The TC-RPPO agreed to:

- Provide experiences and information on e-commerce and on case studies on the benefits in implementing the IPPC in their region by the 19th of December.
- Contribute to a joint side event during CPM-13 to be by EPPO related to science and plant health.

V. Other Business

Attendance of RPPOs to the IPPC meetings – NEPPO will report to CPM-12 on the review of this document and inform that the TC would like to preserve specific roles and functions and add new areas for their participation (e.g. enhancement study, implementation plan, the IYPH).

IPPIC 65th anniversary – The TC was updated on what is planned during CPM-12 for the 65th anniversary of the IPPC. The TC agreed to promote the IPPC 65th anniversary through their channels.

VI. Date and location of the twenty-nine TC-RPPOs

The TC-RPPOs agreed that the next Technical Consultation will be held during the period of 27 November to 1 December 2017, in Paris, France. The TC thanked EPPO for offering to host the meeting. NAPPO and NEPPO shall assist EPPO with organization of the meeting.

The Technical Consultation among Regional Plant Protection Organizations represents a unique opportunity to get an update on all RPPOs' activities while encouraging joint activities among RPPOs



2016 Standard Committee Meeting 14-18 November 2016 in Rome, Italy



© AU-IAPSC Group photo of Participants

The Standards Committee (SC) met from 14-18 November 2016 at FAO headquarters in Rome, Italy. Five International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs) were approved to be adopted by the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) at its next meeting in April 2017. This was just after the SC also approved 11 phytosanitary treatments to go forward for adoption.

This is the first time in the history of the IPPC that 16 standards will be presented for adoption. This is the result of strong leadership by the SC Chairperson, Mr Jan Bart Rossel, the dedication of all 25 SC members representing the eight FAO regions and the seamless coordination of the standard setting process by the IPPC Secretariat.

Among the standards were the controversial topics “International movement of wood” and “International movement of growing media”, standards that have previously been presented for adoption but were rejected by contracting

parties. Why? Because developing harmonized requirements for wide ranges of commodities affected by hundreds of pests is by nature one of the biggest challenges for national plant protection organizations. The standards also represent a new era for the IPPC, the world’s only standard setting organization for plant health, and the long and winding road that these standards have taken demonstrate that the IPPC community is intent on progressing them, despite their difficulties. The phytosanitary treatments will provide contracting parties with alternative methods to treat commodities to help ensure that pest introduction and spread are limited. These new treatments also provide an alternative to other treatments that may contribute to climate change. See https://www.ippc.int/static/media/files/publication/en/2016/12/Report_SC_2016_May_XXIX_2016-12-21.pdf for full report.

Strengthening Member States capacities on invasive alien plants risks assessment and management, review and update Quarantine Legislations and Laws Libreville, Gabon, 30 November-1st December, 2016



© AU-IAPSC Group photo of Participants

As part of its Program Budget 2016 activities, the Inter-African Phytosanitary Council of the African Union (AU-IAPSC) initiated the project on capacity building for African Union Member States. AU-IAPSC organized from 30th November to 1st December 2016 in Libreville, Gabon, a workshop for Member States Capacity Building development on alien invasive plants risks assessment and management, review and update of Plant Quarantine Legislations and Laws. The workshop was attended by 14 National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs) of AU member states and two technical partners. One from FAO-RAF / Accra and the other from CABI.

Workshop development

Opening ceremony

The opening ceremony was marked by two speeches. A welcome statement by the Director of AU-IAPSC, Dr. Jean Gérard MEZUI M'ELLA and an opening speech by Mrs. Aubierge MOUSSAVOU, Deputy Secretary-General, representative of the Minister of Agriculture and Livestock in charge of the Implementation of Seed Program.

In his address, the Director of AU-IAPSC recalled the workshop background and rationale. He recalled that Invasive Alien Plants (IAPs) are major biotic constraints for agricultural production and food security in Africa. They represent a global threat to pasto-





ralism and the conservation of biodiversity through their proliferation and spread. In their move, he added, they destroy native flora and fauna, transform ecosystems and are particularly difficult to control.

It is this becoming imperative that AU-IAPSC seeks to prevent its introduction and spread in Africa. African countries should be fully involved at various levels in increasing awareness about pests, sharing strategies for preventing and managing IAPs and identifying opportunities for cooperation and use of organs, resources and institutions existing in Africa and around the world.

In her speech, Mrs Aubierge MOUSSAVOU, Deputy Secretary-General welcomed all the participants. She also thanked the organizers for the choice of her country to host the workshop and appreciated its importance and relevance as it will further strengthen the knowledge of NPPOs on the issue of IAPs.

1.1- Election of Bureau

To coordinate the workshop, the bureau was as follow:

- Chairperson: Mr Félicien Crépin NGOUA BIKE (Gabon);
- Rapporteur: Mrs. SOME D. Mariam (Burkina Faso)
- Rapporteur: Mr. George MOMANYI (Kenya).
- Secretariat: African Union Inter-African Phytosanitary Council

2. Objectives of the workshop

The workshop aimed at exchanging and discussing work experiences in different

countries to capitalize lessons learned and support plant quarantine, and the movement of IAPs and its active management. The workshop was interactive and a lively platform to encourage the exchange of opinions among professionals from different AU Member States.

The specific objectives were to:

- Raise awareness among stakeholders on the IAPs issues and the possibilities of their management;
- Strengthen and expand cooperation between NPPOs and other stakeholders;
- Train NPPOs on the assessment and management of IAPs establishment and spread risk.
- Exchange information on IAPs between stakeholders and action plans of NPPOs.
- Prepare the basis for the development of a comprehensive regional strategy to address the IAPs problem on the continent.

3. Methodology

The methodology consisted of making presentations in Power Point. The thematic presentations were made by the two experts. A work plan prepared by AU-IAPSC and circulated to participants provided a framework for presentations by country representatives. The presentations were followed by direct, participatory and interactive exchanges in plenary. With precise terms of reference, two working groups were then set up (Anglophone Group and Francophone Group) and their work discussed during plenary sessions.

4. Thematic Presentations

Expert papers addressed the following themes:

4.1 Risk assessment and management of invasive alien plants (CABI);

Dr. Roger DAY from CABI detailed explanations on the following points:

- Designations of invasive alien plants.
- Risks and Risk Assessment (Establishment and spread, Economic Consequences)
- Management (Prevention, Eradication, Containment, Surveillance and Control).
- Physical, mechanical, chemical and biological controls.

Many definitions of the terms used in the reporting of the phenomenon of invasive alien plants were recalled.

Regarding the establishment and spread of IAPs, Dr Day said that it depends very much on the environmental predispositions. The more favorable the conditions, the easier the establishment and spread. Models for comparing the environment of the threatened area with other areas where the IAPs grows were generated using the CLIMEX software. (<http://www.hearne.software/Software/CLIMEX-DYMEX/Editions>)

As for the consequences of IAPs, he said they are numerous with considerable impacts in the following areas: Plant and animal production, environment, biodiversity, maritime transport, hydraulic infrastructure, human health and wellbeing (Increase of work in the farm).

4.2 Invasive Alien Species: Take up the Challenges. (FAO / RAF);

Professor Jean Baptiste BAHAMA recalled the strong nuisance capacity of IAPs, their negative impacts on agricultural production in Africa and smallholder farmers in particular. He went on to say that, favored by globalization, increased trade in agricultural products, inertia or low capacity to deal with the phenomenon in many countries, rich biodiversity, public health and economic interests of the continent may be threatened. It is now essential to develop effective cooperation at national, regional and continental level to prevent or minimize the negative impacts of invasive plants.

Professor Bahama then invited the participants to take ownership of the International Conventions and / or Agreements related to IAPs on the Convention of the Biological Diversity (CBD) that include:

- Major results of the earth summit, Rio 1992
- The three main objectives of the CBD
- Article 8(h) of the CBD
- Guiding Principles for the prevention of introduction and mitigation of impacts of alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitats or species, adopted (CBD 2002).

Participants are also referred to IAPs related International conventions: **IPPC and IAPs related International conventions: SPS Agreement of WTO.**

Cooperation between international bodies was been clarified as well as the



role of phytosanitary authorities (NPPOs) in the field of IAPs defined.

Professor BAHAMA then shared information on Regional Cooperation, where efforts have been made over the last decade to develop and strengthen cooperation between the secretariats responsible for the CBD, the SPS Agreement and the IPPC, with other organizations working at the global / regional level.

In order to promote regional cooperation, he said that the IPPC predicted provisions for the establishment of regional plant protection organizations (RPPOs) whose primary mandate was to prevent the introduction of harmful pests from other parts of the world and to limit their spread in the region.

4.3 Presentation of AU-IAPSC's activities related to IAPs

The Senior Scientific Officer of AU-IAPSC, Professor Abd-El Fattah MABROUK AMER intervened to clarify the context of the workshop. He also presented the work already carried out by AU-IPSC in the context of invasive plant control. These were the 2011 and 2014 workshops both held in Addis Ababa. Professor Amer then came back in more detail to the specific objectives of the meeting. Participants were also informed that a document on IAPs in Africa is being prepared by AU-IAPSC, covering the most important species in Africa. This document contains information on the description, distribution and control of various species. It could be circulated to countries for comment

prior to its publication. He added that the document, in its original English form, has been translated into Arabic but not yet in French.

4.4 Country presentations

The 15 countries present at Libreville workshop had the opportunity to present the current situation with regard to the surveillance of invasive alien plants and their management at the national level. The following points were developed.

- Status of country IAPs
- Policy legislation related to IAPs
- Partnership Network and “best practices” for preventing and managing IAPs in the country,
- List of country IAPs,
- Challenges in addressing the country IAPs.

These presentations helped to enrich the list of IAPs in Africa, to identify the strengths and weaknesses of national IAPs' services, and to discover the technical and financial partners available in some countries.

A pioneer work for weed risk analysis in Egypt is being conducted by Weed Control Research Section, Field Crops Research Institute, Agricultural Research Center. This provision is intended to reduce the influx of new weeds from abroad and to better manage new incursions already occurring in the country.

In Ghana, although a signatory to the main international conventions and protocols to address issues related to Invasive Alien Species, has not been successful in domesticating and implementing the provisions of these conventions and protocols because of inadequate political direction. This is

the same situation for several other African countries.

In spite of numerous provisions put in place to mitigate the impacts of the invasive species, Kenya, like many other countries, is faced with the problem of managing invasive species that have caused socio-economic losses. However, more cooperation, capacity building and assistance is needed to manage effectively the problem.

5. Challenges faced by countries

There are many challenges in the countries.

- Ensure the effective implementation of domestic quarantine legislations.
- Establish specific agencies able to provide leadership for processes such as eradication, containment and control to mitigate the negative impacts of IAPs.
- Mobilize funds from Governments for the deployment of relevant IAPs agencies.
- Translate strategic objectives into effective management practices when species are identified as a threat.
- Collect technical information to promote awareness on IAPs.
- Develop credible inventories of existing IAPs and their biological and economic impacts.
- Increase the Taxonomy of potentially invasive species.
- Establish clear guidelines on early warning and response to plant pests (better response in animal health).
- Mobilize financial resources to implement mitigation measures.
- Plan specialized training in the field of IAPs, especially weeds (Technical Capacity Building).
- IAPs' policies are fragmented, making education more difficult. The necessary

policy and legislative framework needed to address EE problems.

6. Workshop recommendations

The participants, after fruitful discussions, made the following main recommendations:

To AU-IAPSC

- Development of the continental strategy on the management of invasive alien plants.
- Sensitization of RECs and Member States on the stakes of the IAP for the preservation of national ecosystems and their commitment to reinforce the operational capacities of the actors involved;
- Harmonization of IAS issues.

To AU-IAPSC and FAO

- Strengthening capacities of NPPOs on Climex software and tools used by Australia.

To NPPOs

- Appropriation of international conventions by NPPOs by incorporating them into their national legislation.

To the AU-IAPSC, FAO, RECs and Member States

- Mobilization of financial resources for the management of IAPs.



Expert Meeting to Rethink the Governance of the African Apiculture Platform, Operationalize AAP Decisions on ApiTrade, and to Identify Priorities for the Proposed Next Phase of the Bee Health Project

**Naivasha, Kenya,
15th – 16th December 2016**

An Expert Meeting was convened to rethink the governance of the African Apiculture Platform (AAP), operationalize AAP decisions on instituting ApiTrade as the trade arm of the AAP, and to identify priorities of the proposed next phase of the Bee Health Project. The Meeting was held on 15th and 16th December 2016 in Naivasha Kenya.

The Meeting attended by twenty-three (23) participants was multi-stakeholder, with participants drawn from the public sector, beekeeper associations and federations, private sector and academia. The Meeting was intended to draw on expert opinion from across the range of key stakeholders of the apiculture sector to bring on board a multiplicity of perspectives to address issues and concerns of strategic importance. To further enhance the quality of the consultations and legitimacy of recommendations made, there was a conscious effort to ensure regional balance with all regions of the African continent represented by participants from eleven countries i.e.,

Algeria, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Kenya, Libya, Senegal, Uganda and Zimbabwe.

Six institutions with strong mandates and or initiatives related to the apiculture sector were in attendance: The African Pollination Initiative/ Kenya Museums, ApiTrade Africa, Ecole Inter-Etats des Sciences et Medicines Veterinaires Dakar, icipe, African Union – InterAfrican Phytosanitary Council (AU-IAPSC) and African Union-InterAfrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR).

The Meeting agenda was broken into sessions to facilitate thorough debate and deliberation on each of the different issues, with presentations, plenary discussions and group work, and was facilitated by Dr. Simplicie Nouala and Dr. Norber Mbahin of AU-IBAR.

Adoption of the Recommendations from the Meeting: This was not a Meeting of the Executive Committee and or Working Groups of the AAP, and therefore

recommendations made in relation to the AAP will be submitted to the EC and WGs for vetting and subsequently to the General Assembly of the AAP for adoption.

Opening of the Meeting

Welcome Remarks

Participants were welcomed by Dr. Norber Mbahin, Team Leader of the Bee Health Project, AU-IBAR. He underscored how December is always a busy month being towards the end of the year, and therefore expressed appreciation for the willingness of invited participants to attend. The Meeting was organized to provide a platform to rethink the governance of the African Apiculture Platform which would necessitate open discussion for the most productive results.

Goodwill Messages from the AAP and ApiTrade Africa.

The Chairperson of the Executive Committee (EC) of the African Apiculture Platform (AAP), Professor Serge Bakou, also thanked participants for finding time within their busy schedules to attend the meeting. He argued participants to openly engage on the issues for the well-being of the AAP.

The Chairman of the ApiTrade Africa Board, Harun Biaya, on behalf of the ApiTrade fraternity expressed appreciation to Dr. Simplicie, the EC of AAP, and the Working Group Experts for the Meeting. He expressed the delight of ApiTrade at attending the Meeting: this being the first joint meeting was a re-

flexion of the emerging relationship between ApiTrade and AAP. At the initiation of the relationship between the Bee Health Project and ApiTrade, the Board of ApiTrade was at odds to find a logical link. Dr. Suresh Raina of icipe had attended ApiTrade Africa in Ethiopia, and discussed with ApiTrade, but the Board could not at that point envision how to proceed. The joint Meeting at the 3rd General Assembly of the AAP and ApiExpo Africa 2016 in Kigali, Rwanda in September 2016 was fundamental in articulating the linkages and creating the opportunity for a strategic partnership. ApiTrade was looking forward to strategizing on how to implement the agreements reached at Kigali and finding ways to realize synergies with AAP.

Opening Remarks and Objectives of the Meeting

The Chief of Animal Production AU-IBAR, Dr. Simplicie Noualamade the Opening Remarks. He emphasized that this was not a meeting of the Executive Committee of the AAP per se, but rather a meeting of experts drawn from the EC and WG, and the broader apiculture sector to engage on issues of strategic importance to the growth and sustenance of the AAP.

The AAP was established within the precincts of the Bee Health Project which was supposed to end in December 2016 in accordance with the Project Contract. The European Union granted a no-cost extension till December 2017. In light of the limited life time period of the Project, it is critical that stakeholders





discuss options for sustenance of the AAP, which has a relevant longer term mandate beyond the Project. At Member State level the establishment of the National Apiculture Platforms (NAPS) has raised the profile of the sector. Because of the NAPS the public sector has gained interest in providing more concrete support to the sector. Donors have also pledged to support the sector. The key challenge therefore is how to build similar momentum within the AAP to make it a strategic continental actor able to attract investments for the sector, as well as for its on activities.

In the process of establishing the Platform, stakeholder consultations were limited. It is therefore a high possibility that not all sector actors share the same understanding of the Platform or of its role and core objectives. A common understanding is central to the functionality of the Platform, managing expectations of stakeholders and necessary for its sustenance and continuity. It is of particular importance for ensuring a smooth transition from a donor supported platform to one that is capable of standing on its own.

Working Groups (WGs) are key organs of the AAP. The overall goal for the existence of WGs, at the establishment of the AAP, was to have a group of experts to provide critical input to inform the Platform decisions and policy dialogues. At this juncture it is important to evaluate whether or not the Working Groups have delivered on their responsibilities. The WGs have not been visible except in Yaoundé during the process of refinement of their work

plans. After that a black out: where the WG roles clearly defined? It is evident that there have been mixed expectations and lack of a common vision.

Since the AAP came into existence, there have been many and varied comments and opinions about the role of AU/AU-IBAR in the AAP. The role of AU-IBAR, as an institution of the African Union is to facilitate sector actors. The EU has a similar institutional support for the European apiculture sector driven and facilitated by the EU. Why should we think in Africa that AU should not do it? The continental goal is to have an integrated Africa by 2020, and by 2030 a common government: should the apiculture sector be left out from this vision? It is only the AUC and its institutions that can bring this to realization through facilitating the African sectors. From this perspective it is necessary to have frank discussions: participants should engage on the role of AU-IBAR to strengthen its facilitative role.

A decision was taken by AAP members at 3rd General Assembly of the AAP held in Kigali, Rwanda in September 2016 to institute ApiTrade Africa as the trade arm of AAP. How do we operationalize this, what practical aspects need to be considered to implement that decision?

Dr. Simplicite outlined the Objectives of the Meetings as:

1. To rethink the structure, terms of reference and functionality of the governance organs of the Africa Apiculture Platform to make the Platform more vibrant

2. To operationalize the decisions of the 3rd General Assembly of the African Apiculture Platform in relation to instituting ApiTrade Africa as the trade arm of the Platform

3. To identify priorities for the next phase of the Project through a multi-stakeholder consultative process.

Dr. Nouala reiterated that to address the critical issues at hand, it would be important for participants to be ambitious, and to have discussions that provoke innovation. This would require an interactive meeting with open discussions.

Introduction of Participants

Participants introduced themselves. A particular welcome was given to Dr. Wanja Kinuthia, Coordinator for African Pollination Initiative, Museums of Kenya, who was new to the other experts. On behalf of the AU-IBAR Director, Dr. Simplicie Nouala thanked all participants for attending.

Operationalization of the Governance Organs of the AAP

Assessment of the Participants Views on the Role and Key Objective of the African Apiculture Platform.

Before delving into the issues around governance of the AAP, it was imperative to assess whether (i) stakeholders held a common understanding of the role and objective of the AAP and (ii) that the views are in alignment with the AAP role and key objective as articulated at the launch of the Platform.

Plenary Discussion

A lively discussion ensued following the sharing of views: The apiculture sector has been viewed as an 'alternative' sector within the development domain: one that is prescribed for vulnerable populations or those that who have lost their source of income or as a livelihood option for the poor. This is a perspective that needs to change. It requires documentation of the contribution of the sector to GDP and to socio-economic objectives. The importance and potential of pollination services in particular needs to be underscored and championed. The European Union, which is funding the Bee Health Project has shown keen interest in the role that National Apiculture Platforms can play in raising the understanding of the contribution of the sector as they feel that this is an opportunity to save bees. The AAP should capitalize on this opportunity. Some countries have already taken positive action: for example during the launch of the NAP in Nigeria, the Federal Minister of Agriculture emphasized the potential of pollination services. To underscore his commitment to elevating pollination on the development agenda, he commissioned the distribution of 20,000 bee hives expressly for increasing pollination services.

In reviewing the role/mandate and overall objective of the AAP, caution was given that even as participants took stock, there must be a balanced perspective of what the Platform has been and its performance over the two years of its existence. Any reframing should be within delimitations of what the Platform



can realistically achieve.

Analysis showed that participants attributed either a coordination role or advocacy role to the AAP, or viewed it as a mechanism for policy and strategy dialogue. However it was argued that the central role was the convening power that brings public and private sector and civil society together to engage on policy, strategy and other issues of importance to the sector, i.e., the AAP is a political organ that brings together sector actors.

From this perspective, coordination should then become a role that can be delegated to functional institutions with the requisite competencies. Advocacy, which is about elevating the voice of sector actors on specific strategic issues within development fora, should also become a function. A similar approach should be taken for knowledge and information sharing. After some debate, discussion and consensus building the participants views on the central tenets of the AAP were summarized as follows:

The Mission of the African Apiculture Platform: Promotion of the apiculture sector on the African continent so as to increase the share of the contribution of the sector to GDP, to incomes and improvement of livelihoods.

The Role of the African Apiculture Platform as the apex multi-sectoral governance platform [political organ] for the sector on the continent, is to convene political will [bringing together

the different stakeholders and their mandates] to raise the profile of the apiculture sector in order to attract the necessary investment to harness the full potential

Again caution was raised: there is need for a balanced and realistic evaluation of the AAP and the EC. Before the Platform was established, there was a significant gap in the sector. It was not possible to know what was happening on the continent and in the Member States in terms of apiculture sector development: the Platform has changed that. The first achievement of the AAP is therefore that it has brought actors together, given them and platform to know each other, and to know the initiatives on the continent and at country level.

The AAP is at a nascent stage and still evolving. With no predecessor, it could not hit the ground running and it is not out of the ordinary that it met challenges. The EC members are volunteers, i.e., they are running their own businesses or are civil servants and non-state actors: this naturally limits how much time, attention and effort they can put in the Platform. This requires that the expectations are managed: they may not be able to undertake the depth of work that would make them seen as doing more/ or make their work more visible.



Table 1: Some of the issues raised in relation to the performance of the Executive Committee

<p><i>Unarticulated vision and poor implementation of the Sustainability Plan</i></p> <p><i>* The change the AAP wants to achieve in the medium to long term [five years plus] is not documented</i></p> <p><i>* The AAP has a Sustainability Plan that espouses its actions over a three-year period, from 2016. However implementation is limited.</i></p>	<p><i>Inadequate linkages within the governance structures</i></p> <p><i>*There is no formal/hierarchical relationship/ reporting line between the Executive Committee and Working Groups (WGs). This has undermined oversight of the WGs by the EC, with poor follow-up and accountability</i></p>
<p><i>Skewed relationships with the Support Group/ Secretariat</i></p> <p><i>*The structure of the Support Group that was agreed during the process of launching the AAP was for AU-IBAR to act as the Secretariat in conjunction with institutions involved in the apiculture based in Nairobi. It was envisioned that this structure would allow for both human resources and financial efficiency, and at the close of the AU-IBAR Bee Health Project, the other institutions would proceed with providing secretariat services. This has not worked:</i></p> <p><i>*The envisioned partnering among institutions within Nairobi to create a robust, efficient and sustainable Secretariat has not materialized</i></p> <p><i>* There is a non-equitable (big brother-small brother relationship) between the EC and AU-IBAR which is the secretariat.</i></p> <p><i>* On the other hand the Secretariat feels the EC have not provided the leadership to implement agreed actions: the EC has been very good in following AU-IBAR. The EC waits for AU-IBAR to lead and it follows.</i></p>	<p><i>Limited dialogues and generation of ideas by the EC</i></p> <p><i>*The EC dialogues have been limited to the precincts of the Project: the EC has not generated its own work</i></p> <p><i>*Communication from the EC Chair to EC Members to galvanize action has been limited</i></p>
<p><i>No formal linkages between the AAP and Strategic Partners</i></p> <p><i>*In the process of establishing and launching National Apiculture Platforms, there were deliberate efforts to bring on board donors and other strategic partners. This has provided an opportunity for resource mobilization. This approach was not taken at the establishment AAP, a lost opportunity for creating much need strategic partnerships for resource mobilization</i></p>	<p><i>No independent initiatives outside of the AU-IBAR Bee Health Project</i></p> <p><i>* The EC and WG are not performing because they do not have resources and have therefore only implemented only what was agreed in the Bee Health Project document. It is necessary for the EC and WGs to have their own resources to perform their mandate. Resources will follow relevance: the AAP has a relevance that should inherently outlast the existence of the Bee Health Project. Independence comes from demonstrating relevance and substance.</i></p>
<p><i>Lack of representation of the voices of different caucuses/clusters of the Platform</i></p> <p><i>*A vibrant Platform is driven by true representation of its stakeholders which energizes the actions of the Platform. The lack of vigor raises questions on whether or not the EC members truly represent the caucuses of the Platform and or their ability to properly represent them or to bring the stakeholder energy and mandate to bear on the initiatives of the Platform</i></p>	<p><i>There is poor monitoring and evaluation of EC activities</i></p> <p><i>* There is low implementation of activities, poor feedback and accountability on agreed activities</i></p> <p><i>* Generally a tendency to move to new ideas or activities without executing old ones or bringing them to their logic conclusion</i></p>





Functions of the EC: Two amendments were made to the functions of the EC (i) resource mobilization, for both the wider apiculture sector and for the AAP, was added. In Tunisia the Federation of Beekeepers mobilizes resources through membership fee, monetization of pollination services and from insurance services. The EC should consider such innovative approaches among others. (ii) The EC was also assigned the duty of mentoring the NAPs.

Ways of Working: To improve the performance of the EC in undertaking its role and functions, the EC should establish sub-committees. While there has been mixed results from the use of sub-committees so far, it is an approach that has some positive outputs, and merits further development. Members of the sub-committees should be drawn from elected members of the EC. Four permanent sub-committees (as opposed to ad hoc) are proposed as a refinement on what was agreed at the establishment of the AAP:

- (i) The Strategic Planning Sub-committee: will be the think-tank engine of the EC, tasked to set the agenda for all the work of the EC, including development of a robust Strategic Plan, report to the NAPS, and can also look at devolution of functions of the EC to the NAPs.
- (ii) The Resource Mobilization Sub-committee: recommend areas for resource mobilization and make contact with Strategic Partners

(iii) The Lobbying and Advocacy sub-committee: raise the visibility of the Platform and lead on communication for the platform

A Monitoring and Evaluation Committee was suggested to monitor and report on the work of the Working Groups. Objections were raised as to the validity of the M&E Committee as it would be duplication of tasks as the other sub-committees are already required to report to the EC.

Implementing the apitrade related resolutions made at the 3rd general assembly of the AAP

Proposals by ApiTrade for taking forward the Resolutions made at the 3rd GA of the AAP

A presentation was made by Bosco Okello, which provoked a number of questions and a lively discussion.

Comments and Questions

- The AAP is not a legal entity, but some NAPs are legal entities. This has implications for the kind of financial transactions the AAP can get into
- Who will ApiTrade be entering relationship with, AU-IBAR or with AAP? In Rwanda there were recommendations made on Api Trade as the trade arm of AAP, and for AU-IBAR to support Api Trade. For this particularly engagement the discussions should be kept at between AAP and Api

- Trade Africa. Can AAP enter into a legal relationship with any body?
- What are the deliverables and set targets for the task? ApiTrade Africa needs to expound on the proposed activities and on how to implement them. How will Api Trade manage the trade aspects for the AAP, this is not evident from the presentation
 - From the presentation, it seems that ApiTrade Africa is taking over some of the functions of the EC and the Trade Working Group. If the AAP agrees on what ApiTrade proposes, then there is no work for others
 - Residue Monitoring Plans are usually spear headed by department of veterinary services

Reponses from ApiTrade/ Discussions

- ApiTrade Africa retains a lean or ganizational structure which means that its main mode of operation is therefore through partnerships. It works with partners at grass root level to deliver its services and doesn't directly implement initiatives at country level. This approach puts partnerships at the center of how ApiTrade works.
- There is a need to keep separate the discussion on ApiTrade and AAP from the relationship of ApiTrade with AU-IBAR
- Since AAP is not a legal structure, it may be necessary to work through an intermediary

institution

- A broad conceptual framework was presented for the task: the finer details/ milestones will be articulated once the framework agreed
- Guidelines on a Residue Monitoring Plan: AU-Member States have varied experience. ApiTrade should provide 'best practice' guidelines for a harmonized approach and better outcomes
- Some of what was proposed in the ApiTrade presentation was beyond the remit of the Platform: the discussion should refocus on ApiTrade as the trade promotion arm of the AAP.
- The relationship is two way, the refore there should be highlights of how ApiTrade will benefit from the AAP.

Brainstorm on the Areas of Focus to Inform the Collaboration between the AAP and ApiTrade Africa

A brainstorm highlighted five areas which participants identified as where ApiTrade interventions would have best value and greatest impact as the trade arm of the AAP.

- (i) **Market Information**
- Value chain analysis: to better understand the key stakeholders and capacities along the main value chains
 - Options for attracting increased investment in the sector
 - Market information
 - Product development: commer



cialization of apiculture, diversification to harness the untapped potential of other hive products, identification of niche markets and create linkages for access to niche markets

(ii) Capacity building along the value chains to have safe and quality products

- Commercialization of pollination services
- Harmonization of honey standards/quality assurance and certification processes
- Information sharing best practices from countries that have successfully accessed trade with EU

(iii) Trade promotion between African countries

- Promote greater private sector participation in regional trade integration dialogue and negotiations
- Facilitation of intra and inter-regional trade
- Facilitation of Bee to Bee (Business to Business – connecting businesses, and activity of ApiTrade
- Facilitate the participation of producers at ApiExpo and other trade fairs

(iv) Harmonization of trade policy

- Harmonization of trade policies, legislation and regulations at MS and REC levels

(v) Market Intelligence: where are the opportunities lie

- Analysis of producers to project production and quality key to increased and more consistent supply for ease of collection and bulking
- Attracting trade investments

This is an ambitious shopping list, and needs to be rationalized and collapsed into realistic categories, with priorities identified. A cursory assessment showed that results of the brainstorm were comparable to what ApiTrade proffered in their presentation earlier in the Session.

Mechanism and Modus Operandi for Delivery

Options for partnering with ApiTrade were discussed:

- A partnership arrangement between ApiTrade and AAP where the two institutions agree on the remit of work and ApiTrade delivers on it; or
 - A more formal arrangement, with ApiTrade providing institutional lead on the trade thematic area within the Working Group under the AAP
- Lack of ‘leadership’ at the level of Working Groups has been an enduring challenge since the Platform came into existence. The WG are not working for many reasons: inadequate understanding of the mandate given to WGs; expecting AU-IBAR to take the lead etc. AU-IBAR has a facilitator position in relation to the AAP should not be lea-



ding in the AAP initiatives.

An option may be to divest leadership of the Working Groups to relevant institutions which would bring on board their mandates, expertise and resources. With individuals at the helm, there is tension between their duty to the Working Group and their obligations related to their jobs/livelihoods, and other duties. Institutions would integrate the Working Group tasks within their agendas, work plans and activities thus providing a strong anchorage that will keep the Working Group vibrant and deliver the expected outputs. It vests leadership in the institution.

The partnership with ApiTrade could provide a prototype for this approach, which has been pioneered in the fisheries sector. In the African Fisheries Mechanism the leadership of the Working Groups/ Committees is divested to Institutions and not individuals. The Institutions take on the AFM work as part of their mandate and daily work. When the institutions organize meetings, the first participants are the members of the Working Group underscoring the sense of ownership and accountability.

This approach will not dismantle the Working Group, but provide scope for more directed and energized interactions within the Working Groups. The institution would naturally have a database of other relevant institutions and experts that it can co-opt. For example the RECs, who are at the helm of trade integration, and ARSO that is charged with standard setting should be part of the Production, Trade and Technologies Working Group.

A similar approach would be taken with Bee Health, which cannot be discussed without for example IAPSC, which would represent crop/ pesticide interests. While this institutional approach, could in theory, pose challenges for ensuring regional balance, this can be addressed through ensuring there are experts from all regions on board.

Recap of Day One

A brief recap of the day was given:

- There was consensus on the role and objectives of the AAP: those as set at the establishment of the Platform are still relevant
- A review was undertaken on why the EC has not been performing as per expectations: this underscored the need for revisiting the structure of the EC to make it more functional through utilization of sub-committees. No agreement was reached on whether or not to reinstate the position of Deputy Chair in the EC
- To improve the resource base of the AAP, and for sustainability, a caucus of Strategic Partners should be included in the Platform, and assigned observer status on the EC
- Proposals were agreed for how ApiTrade would implement the decisions of the 3rd General Assembly including the broad outline for the relationship with the AAP, and themes or areas of focus
- Working Group leadership should be institutions with the requisite mandates, resources and capacity to mobilize other experts and institutions, and to



bring expertise and energy to their area of assignment

Review of TORs of the Working Groups

Following the positive outcomes from Day One, participants requested that the Bee Health Project invest in periodically holding similar Expert Meetings to provide a platform to deal with critical issues and to stimulate innovative thinking.

The review of the TORs of the Working Groups focused on four areas:

1. The configuration of the Working Groups to ensure they are relevant and functional

2. The scope of work of the Working Groups
3. Membership
4. Rules of Procedure and Mode of Operation

Configuration of the Working Groups

Participants were assigned to three teams tasked with reviewing the configuration of the Working Groups. The results are presented in Table ****.

Table 2: Proposals for reconfiguring the AAP Working Groups

Group 1	Group 2	Group 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bee Health • Trade and Marketing • Production and Hive Technologies • Pollination Services • Biodiversity Conservation (both pollinators and plants) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bee Health • Trade and Marketing • Production and Technologies • Pollination Services and Ecosystem Conservation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bee Health • Trade • Production • Pollination Services and Biodiversity

Rationalization

- WG 1: Bee health was agreed by all the Groups
- WG 2: Two options were proffered i.e., Trade on its own, and Trade and Marketing
 - a. Trade on its own: the argument was that marketing is implied within trade and having both was a redundancy
 - b. Trade and Marketing: for emphasis, given that there were different strate

gies from enhancing trade from those for marketing, and increased intra-regional trade was a key objective

- **WG 3: A number of options were proposed:**
 - a. Hive technologies was proposed with the observation that the concern of producers is the system and type of hive are available and affordable. The large diversity of environments requires accommodation of specificities, to ensure suitability for different environments but with adherence to core technological design. With one of the aims of the Platform being im-

provement of livelihoods, hive technology is of particular importance for primary producers and therefore the word hive technologies should be retained.

b. Production and technologies: as it is imperative that technologies are developed along the whole value chain

c. Production only: the assumption is that technologies are implicit within production, and indeed technologies is crossing cutting across all the Working Groups.

d. Technologies could be a separate Working Group i.e., Research and Development

• **WG 4: Options were proposed**

a. Split Pollination Services and Biodiversity as pollination services is for cultivated crops, and the biodiversity is for natural environments.

b. To do pollination, the bees are only healthy if they are in a healthy ecosystem, people need to look at the health of pastoral plants, which are pollinated naturally i.e., pollination has a role not only in agricultural but also in livestock/ pastoral systems

c. Ecosystem: balance is a key development objective, and therefore biodiversity includes plants, bees and other pollinators
It was finally agreed that the configuration should change, with the proposed configuration agreed as in Table **** below.

Table 3: The current and proposed Working Groups

	<i>Curent Configuration</i>	<i>Proposed Configuration</i>
Working Group 1	Bee Health	Bee Health
Working Group 2	Production, Marketing and Technologies	Production and Technologies
Working Group 3	Pollination Services and Biodiversity	Trade and Marketing
Working Group 4	Working Group 4	Pollination Services and Ecosystem Conservation

The new proposals will be vetted by EC and WG Meeting, and then tabled at the 4th General Assembly meeting.

The Scope of Work/ Tasks of the Working Groups

Participants concurred with the scope of work, as defined at the time of establishment of the Working Groups, with two proposed amendments:

• *The TORs should be amended to read: To provide expert services to the AAP through the Executive Committee ... i.e., this will establish and reinforce a working relationship between the EC and the Working Groups*

• *Each Working Group should be given four or five issues which they will be held accountable to deliver against*



Governance and Membership of the Working Groups

Governance of the Working Groups

The Working Groups are currently governed by a Coordinator and a Rapporteur. The Coordinator is stipulated within the TORs; the Rapporteur was an internal arrangement. Participants proposed that:

- The position of Coordinator be mutated to Leader of the Working Group to give it more weight
- The Working Groups should be led by an Institution with the requisite technical mandate and a proven record. The Institution will nominate the person to provide the leadership.
- That the position of Rapporteur be maintained to ensure proper documentation and communication within the Working Groups

Membership of the Working Groups

- Each Working Group shall be composed of 7 to 9 experts
- The Leader, in consultation with EC, shall co-opt specialized or relevant institutions with requisite expertise and a proven track record to the Working Group

Rules of Procedure

The Meeting proposed:

- Each Working Groups shall develop their Rules of Procedure which shall be validated and approved by the Executive Committee

Mode of Operation

The Meeting proposed amendments to read:

- a. Each Working Group will develop a program of work and action plan ali

igned to the focal areas approved by the Executive Committee

- b. The Working Groups will report to the Executive Committee on a quarterly or as pre-arranged basis, and submit annual reports to the General Assembly through the Executive Committee

Proposals of Institutions to Lead the Working Groups

The Meeting proposed the following institutions to lead the different Working Groups:

1. Bee Health: Nominated icipe and Health Research Centre, Egypt Proposed: Bee Health Research Centre Egypt.
2. Trade and Marketing: ApiTrade Africa was endorsed by the General Assembly
3. Pollination Services and Ecosystem Conservation: nominated institutions include The National Museums of Kenya which is mandated by the government to be the custodian of cultural and natural heritage, an advisor to KWS and Forestry on biodiversity. They have a link to IUCN, CBD.. They have collections of natural organisms including bees, the International Stingless Bee Centre in Ghana and SABA, South Africa. Proposed: The National Museums of Kenya
4. Production and Technologies. Nominated Holetta Bee Research Centre Kenya. But in order to have a regional balance, it was agreed that participants are to nominate institutions from West or Central Africa.

Development of a Continental Program (2nd Phase of the Bee Health Project)

Two questions guided the discussions:

- **What is not addressed or needs to be better addressed** by the Bee Health Project and other Initiatives; and
- **What has been achieved but needs to be consolidated or built upon?** Many times beneficial interventions are started, but not brought to their logical or substantive conclusion which would expand the outcome and enhance sustainability of the investment

Project Achievements in Phase 1

A briefing on the achievements of the Bee Health Project activities was made by Dr. Norber Mbahin for the AU-IBAR led components, and Ms. Rose Marubu for the icipe led components. Presentations attached.

icipe developed a product, apicure with 100% fatality of varroa mites and small hive beetles. Apicure was validated in Kenya, Liberia and Ethiopia, and patented in Kenya for use across the world. An application permit lodged for in Kenya with the view to make this a commercially available product. This will be followed by trainings on how to use Apicure. There is a plan to collaborate with AU-IBAR in the wider validations of the product before its release, to check the residue impact, and to optimize its

packaging so that it is credible, cost effective and accessible.

Questions and Discussion

- *The product is from a natural plant which is growing in the wild. A community near Kakamega forest has now domesticated it and is making an alternative source of income from it.*
- *Can it work in compact hives: it can.*
- *Is there no conflict of interest in the developer testing the residual impact: testing is being done by an independent tester*
- *Apicure was developed using public funds, does it not raise ethical issues if it is patent as a commercial product that is not accessible to all.*

What Should be the Priorities for the Second Phase

Participants agreed a matrix of identifying policy, capacity development, science and technology issues under each of the Thematic Areas i.e. Production and Technologies, Trade and Marketing, Pollination Services and Ecosystem Conservation, and Bee Health, summarized in Table ***. Youth empowerment will be a key cross-cutting issue, very much in line with the AU theme for the Year 2017 which is **'Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through Investments in Youth'**.



Table 4: Identified priority issues under each thematic area

Thematic Area	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3
1. Production and Technologies			
Policy	Inclusion of beekeeping in the national agricultural development agenda/ NAIP's of AU-MS	Establish and strengthen MSP at national, regional and continental levels	Consolidated apiculture policy and institutional frameworks
Capacity building	Strengthen capacity of producers in terms of production technologies	Develop an appropriate extension delivery system for the apiculture sector	
Science and technologies	Mainstreaming apiculture within the education curricula	Development of improved and appropriate technologies for the different production systems and environment	
2. Trade and Marketing			
Policy	Harmonization policies on standards and certification	Harmonization of trade policies on the continent to facilitate intra-regional trade	Development of harmonized standards for Africa
Capacity building	Increased capacity in commercial negotiation to access markets	Development of a market information system to promote trade in for Africa	
Science and technologies	Development of safe, appropriate and cost effective packaging technology		
3. Pollination Services and Ecosystem Conservation			
Policy	Ratification and domestication of international conventions and instruments related to pollinators	Develop guidelines for pollination services on the African continent	Mainstreaming pollination into agricultural policies

Capacity	To create awareness of the value of pollination services including establishment of pollination demonstration centers		
Science and technologies	Build capacity in pollination research	Evaluation of the pollinators and pollination levels on the continent	Build capacity in Sanitary and Phytosanitary along the value chains
1. Bee Health			
Policy	Creating an enabling environment for bee health	Harmonize the use of chemicals in the hives	Harmonizing regulations on bee disease surveillance and control
	Develop strategies and National Action Plan for the conservation of indigenous bee species	Domestication of the Guidelines for Utilization of Pesticides	
Capacity	Build capacity on the use of bio-pesticides for bee disease and pest control	Build laboratory diagnostic capacity for control of bee diseases and pests	Strengthen capacity of regional laboratories and establish labs in the North and South
Science and technologies	Understand bee biology	Mapping of bee diseases and pests in Africa	Enhance research on suitable bio-chemicals for control of bee diseases and pests
	Establish and strengthen bee disease surveillance networks		



Closing Remarks

Dr. Simplicie Nouala, the Chief Animal Production AU-IBAR made the closing remarks. The Expert Meeting was productive: it focused on the change that is desired in the sector. AU-IBAR is pleased with the outcome and appreciative of the efforts of the Bee Health Project Team. Dr. Nouala appreciated the work of the team in preparing the meeting: the outputs set the direction for 2017, highlighting areas of focus for the AAP, the EC, and the partnership with ApiTrade. The Expert Meeting looked at the platform governance, how we relate with others and what should be the priorities of the sector. The next step was identifying the best approaches for implementation. AU-IBAR works for Member States, so AU-IBAR will continue being accountable to MS.

The EC should not wait for a formal meeting to validate the decisions. The nominated institutions should be immediately informed so that they take action, create a workplan and modus operandus. Once the report is validated, the EC should organize a virtual meeting to agree the action plan. There is only one year to the end of the Bee Health Project, it is important to translate the priority actions into bankable proposals: AU-IBAR will convene a meeting to prepare the concept note for the 2nd phase of the Project. AU-IBAR will largely draw on the Nairobi based colleagues, but those beyond will receive a more consolidated document for input.

Dr. Nouala thanked AU-IBAR support staff Irene, Doreen and Derek for preparing the meeting in a very short time. He again thanked participants for attending despite their busy schedules in December. He appreciated their input on behalf of the Director and wished them a Merry Christmas and a good New Year.

Vote of Thanks: Queen Turner, from the public sector Botswana, on the behalf of all participants thanked Dr. Nouala and the whole AU-IBAR team. The facilitation by Dr. Nouala resulted in very fruitful outputs that will impact the AAP and the wider apiculture sector.

Appendix 2: Role and Key Objective

Table 1: Views of participants on the role of the African Apiculture Platform

Role	Key Objective
Advocacy Political mobilization of apiculture stakeholders in Africa	Promotion of the sector
To convene and mobilize political will from multiple stakeholders for the recognition and growth of the apiculture sector	To develop a framework to deal with issues related to honey production, bee health and pollination services, and to be self-sustaining without donor support
Raise the profile (visibility) of the apiculture sector on the continent	Raising the profile of the sector to attract investment
Build a strong appreciation of the apiculture sector at a higher political level (continental level)	Mentorship
Promotion and visibility of the whole value chain of apiculture sector in Africa	Attract resource to develop the sector
To promote apiculture in all African Union Member States and to ensure sustainability at the national level	Harmonize bee trade by mainstreaming the value chains and marketing and promote the utilization of bees for pollination for enhanced food security in Africa
Bargaining power to push politicians to include apiculture in the national development plan	Increase production of honey and others beehive products
Mechanism To develop mechanisms and policies regarding honey production, bee health and pollination services	Promotion of the development of apiculture sector in Africa for it to move from traditional to modern beekeeping
To facilitate dialogue and decision making on strategic issues affecting apiculture in Africa	A vehicle for analyzing bottlenecks affecting apiculture sector growth and to provide practical recommendations for Member States and the Continent, as a whole or as stakeholders
Make bee, beekeeping and bee products more vibrant. What is the status and what could it be	Promotion of trade, helping to build a community of practice and knowledge sharing



<p><i>Contribute to the performance of the sector in the continent</i></p>	<p><i>NAPs must include representatives from all country apiculture stakeholders</i></p>
<p><i>Bringing together apiculture stakeholders in all Member States to deliberate on issues of importance to the sector</i></p>	<p><i>Pollination</i></p>
<p><i>Coordination</i> <i>Coordinate and strengthen the apiculture sector in MS in view to increase honey production in Africa</i></p>	<p><i>Capacity building on the relationship bee-pollination services and related bee diseases who can hamper this</i></p>
<p><i>Harmonization between private and government work in this platform is a very good idea to lead people and help them for trade and involvement in international market. Help countries for trade and solve job problems</i></p>	<p><i>Assist MS to control bee diseases for more pollination services</i></p>
<p><i>Coordination of the apiculture sector at the continental level</i></p>	<p><i>Trade</i></p>
<p><i>To facilitate the connection between all beekeeping sector stakeholders to increase and improve the outcome of the sector</i></p>	<p><i>Socio-economic promotion of apiculture stakeholders</i></p>
<p><i>Supporting countries to lead and harmonize all honeybee initiatives and to liaise with private sector actors</i></p>	<p><i>Knowledge sharing</i></p>
<p><i>Good opportunity for the development and protection of the apiculture sector</i></p>	<p><i>Exchange, sharing and communication platform</i></p>





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