Rapid risk assessment to prioritise high-risk plant pests

Description of the success, challenge or issue encountered

Lack of information on pest risks contributes to the rise in global pest incursions. Timely information on high-risk quarantine species is vital for developing contingency and response strategies to limit such incursions and safeguard trade. CABI's Horizon Scanning Tool (https://www.cabi.org/HorizonScanningTool) helps countries identify and prioritise high-risk pests. Horizon scanning involves a systematic search for potential invasions and an assessment of their possible impacts on the economy, society and environment while considering risk mitigation. Horizon scanning is usually followed up with Pest Risk Analysis (PRA) to establish the phytosanitary measures to be taken to prevent the introduction of identified pest risks. This has been done using CABI's PRA Tool (https://www.cabi.org/PRA-Tool/). The information generated is then made available to risk managers and policymakers to support pest risk management, including in implementing Pest Risk Registers and Pest Risk Monitoring (PRIM) reports.

Actions taken

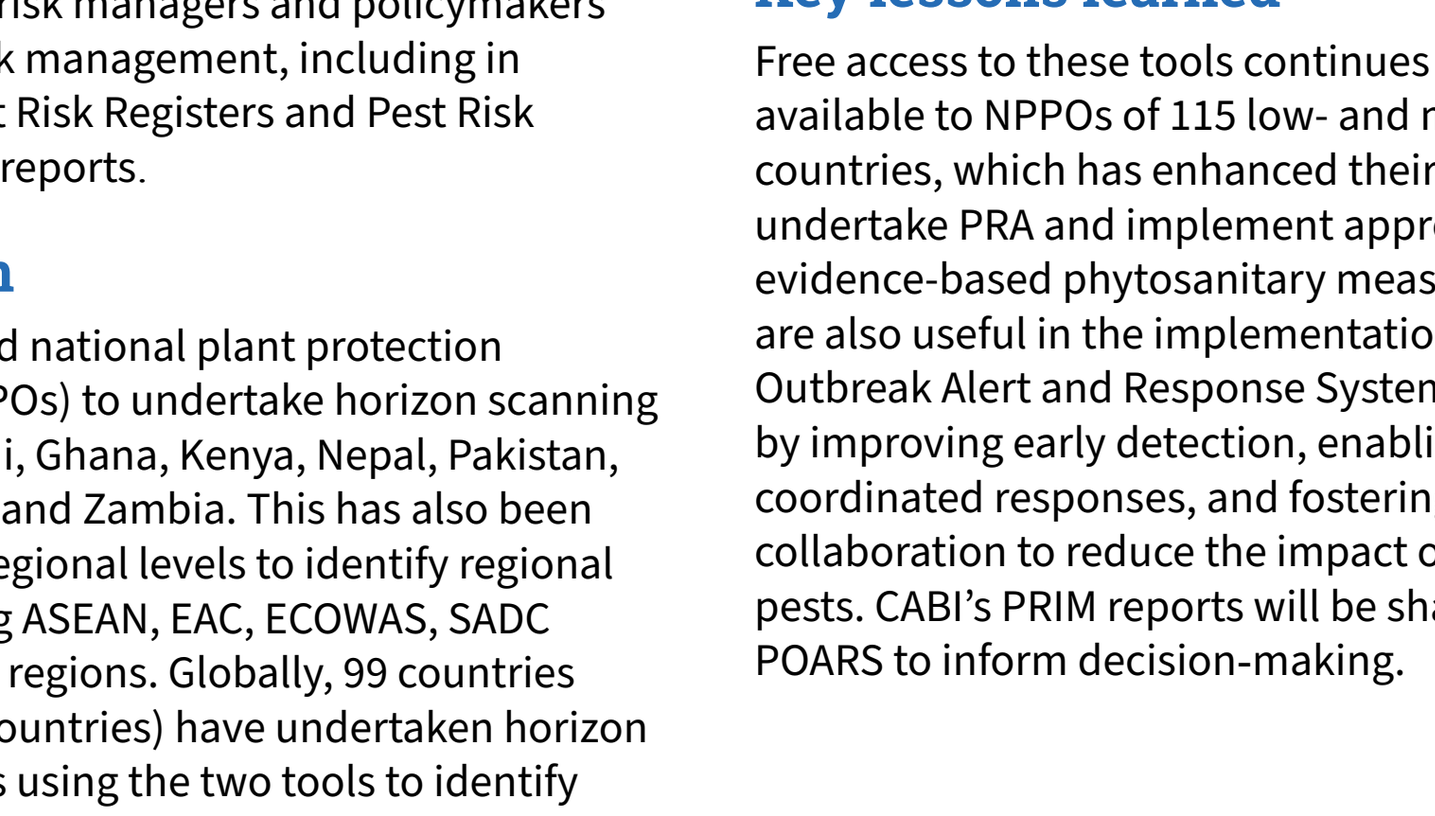
CABI has supported national plant protection organizations (NPPOs) to undertake horizon scanning and PRA in Burundi, Ghana, Kenya, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Uganda and Zambia. This has also been supported at the regional levels to identify regional pest risks including ASEAN, EAC, ECOWAS, SADC and the Caribbean regions. Globally, 99 countries (51 percent of all countries) have undertaken horizon scanning and PRAs using the two tools to identify their pest risks, mostly on their own.

Results achieved

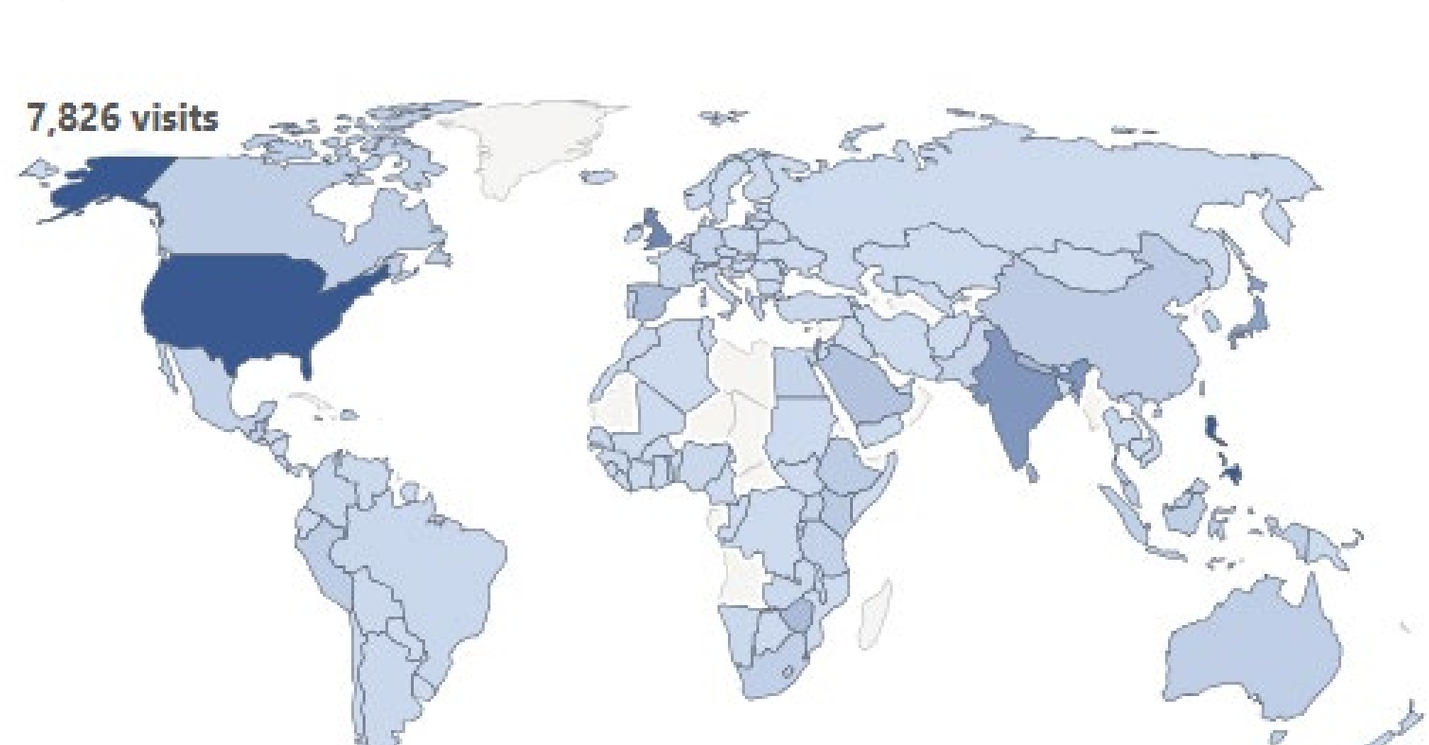
The Horizon Scanning Tool to date has 6 851 registered users, with 13 660 sessions undertaken, and 7 923 pests assessed for risk. Similarly, the PRA Tool has 5 190 registered users, and 19 596 visits from the 99 countries mentioned above, since its launch in 2018. India and the United Kingdom lead in visits and usage, with Romania and Venezuela having the least users. NPPO risk managers have completed 13 919 pathway-initiated, 1 314 pest-initiated and 74 live import PRAs todate. At least 239 risk managers have also been trained in using the Tools to undertake PRAs. The use of the horizon scanning and PRA processes has enabled the establishment of a register of priority pests, which is key in risk monitoring, enables real-time updates of risk and updating the list of regulated pests.

Key lessons learned

Free access to these tools continues to be available to NPPOs of 115 low- and middle-income countries, which has enhanced their ability to undertake PRA and implement appropriate and evidence-based phytosanitary measures. The tools are also useful in the implementation of the Pest Outbreak Alert and Response Systems (POARS) by improving early detection, enabling faster and coordinated responses, and fostering international collaboration to reduce the impact of emerging pests. CABI's PRIM reports will be shared with POARS to inform decision-making.



Horizon scanning tool visitor map



Pest Risk analysis tool visitor map