

Implementation of ISPM 13 in Swaziland

Report

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Background

Swaziland is in the process of improving the national phytosanitary capabilities. The country received funding and technical assistance from FAO through a TCP project to achieve this goal. The assistance will improve the country's capacity to conduct inspections on both imports and export consignments. This will improve compliance to import condition of trade partners and detection of non-compliance on incoming consignment. The project will also provide equipment for the post entry quarantine laboratories in which regulated pests found in imported consignments will be diagnosed.

Notification of exporting countries

Although Swaziland imports a lot of plants and plant products, there has been very few notification for non-compliance sent out to the country's trading partners. The few non-compliance cases that we have dealt with have been mainly due to the ignorance on the part of the consignee or consignor. Most of these cases are failure to comply with documentary requirement, for example the absence of phytosanitary certificates or import permits.

The absence of notifications from Swaziland does not however imply that all imported consignments comply with the Swazi import conditions. This can be attributed to poor inspection of consignments at the ports of entry. The project mentioned above has assisted in training some of the inspectors that are stationed at the different ports of entry. There is however still a great need for more training of more inspectors.

Notification from importing countries:

Swaziland has received notifications from trading partners. In all cases the reasons for non compliance were investigated and corrective measures taken. Most of these cases involve documentary requirements. Bilateral negotiations with neighboring countries on Swaziland's consignment non-compliance have been used to solve most of the problems. There have been cases of notification due to detection of regulated pest – citrus black spot *Guignardia citricarpa* Kiely in citrus destined for the Far East. Investigations on the citrus black spot revealed that the consignment was

from an old orchard in on of the citrus estates. Packing from orchard was immediately stopped. Old orchards in this estate have been replanted and the spraying program reviewed. Reports on the result of the investigations and corrective measure taken are compiled and sent to the importing country.

The NPPO has received complains from some exporters on the time take for the communication of non-compliance of their consignment. They have also expressed need for local verification of organisms that are found in their consignments. As its contribution to the TCP, the government has funded construction of a post entry facility where the new equipment will be installed.

Conclusion and Recommendations

The TCP project will to improve the phytosanitary system in Swaziland including the implementation of ISPM 13. However the country still needs to focus on the improvement of personnel and equipment. The NPPO needs more personnel to enforce the newly revised phytosanitary legislation. The country will strive to strengthen bilateral ties with neighboring countries and other trade partners so that non-compliance case can be dealt with.