



# Strengthening Plant Health in Zimbabwe: APP Achievements and Future Directions



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NPPOzw

(APP) Phase 2 · Train-the-Trainer workshop

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#### Co-organized by:





#### Funded by:





## National APP structure/organization

#### **APP** national team organisation

- Ministry Of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water And Rural Development
- Department of Research and Specialist Services
- Plant Quarantine Services
- Plant Protection Research Institute
- Quarantine officers (Pathology, Nematology, Entomology, Surveillance)
- Surveillance technicians

#### **Priority pests and crops targeted**

- 1. Bactrocera spp 2. Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus 3. Phyllosticta citricarpa
- 4. Thaumatotibia leucotreta 5. Xylella fastidiosa (FOC TR4, BBTV, MLN)

### Tablets deployed for surveillance

50 Tablets: 6 TOT 44 received in 2024

# Key APP activities implemented

#### Foundation and Initial Training (2023

Six NPPOzw experts received initial training in Cairo, Egypt.

#### Pest Surveillance and Digital Tool Adoption (2023)

- Under the National Citrus Greening Disease Surveillance project (a quarantine pest),
   35 plant health inspectors were trained
- Training focused on utilising APP's online pest detection tools: ArcGIS and Survey123 applications, using the initial six tablets.
- Citrus Greening Disease Bacterocera spp. Xyllela fastidiosa survey sites were completed and uploaded to the IPPC Hub

#### Scaling Up Digital Capacity and Connectivity (2024)

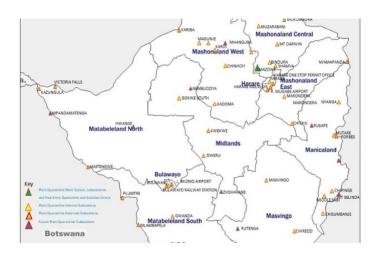
- An additional 44 data capture tablets, significantly boosting digital capacity.
- Tablet distribution to selected NPPOzw beneficiaries completed
- Starlink internet installations at remote NPPOzw substations to enhance connectivity
- The country also hosted a monitoring and evaluation visit by the former IPPC

  Secretary (Dr. Ossamah) in Harare, assessing APP implementation across Africa 3-27 June 2025

## Main APP outcomes and achievements

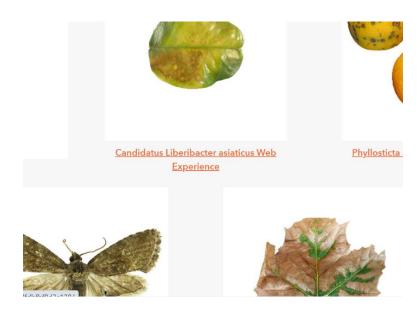
- 35 plant health inspectors were trained on using the APP online pest detection survey tools (ArcGIS and Survey 123 applications) using the six APP donated computer tablets.
- 19 Surveys for Bactrocera spp
- 136 surveys *Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus* 17 samples collected
- 8 Surveys conducted for *Xyllela fastidiosa*





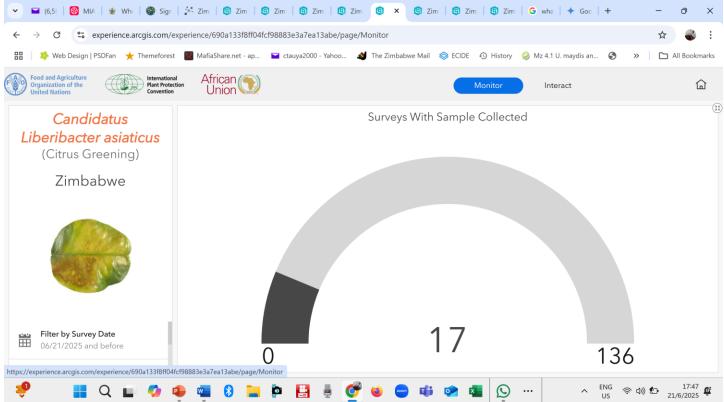
## **Main Challenges**

- Internet Access: Inconsistent or non-existent internet connectivity was a primary hurdle, especially in remote or rural NPPO substations, hindering real-time data upload and access to online tools.
- Power Supply: Unreliable electricity supply in some areas posed challenges for charging and continuously using digital devices
- Uncertainty of data secrecy especially on information security
- Internet connectivity in some parts of the country
- The tablet does not have an option for receiving calls
- Option to upload images of the suspected disease missing



# **APP** planning and Next steps

- Training and Skill Development: Training of all frontline plant health inspectors so that they receive specialised training in modern phytosanitary practices, pest surveillance, and the use of digital tools (e.g., ArcGIS, Survey123).
- To carry out surveillance for all the major quarantine pests



## Recommendations

- Implementation of targeted, hands-on training programs that address varying digital literacy levels, with regular refresher courses
- Fostering robust mechanisms for knowledge sharing, technical assistance, and policy harmonisation among all APP-implementing countries.
- Maintain flexibility in program design to adapt to the unique contexts and evolving needs of each participating country





Train-the-Trainer workshop

#### **IPPC** Secretariat

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