

Description of Plant Protection and Quarantine Directorate (PPQD)

Directorate of plant protection and quarantine (PPQD) is one of the important and very technical Directorates of the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL) concerned with the protection of agricultural resources of Afghanistan from dangerous plant pests and diseases. The Directorate is in charge of all substances related to plant health, including issuance of import and export Phytosanitary certificates for plant, plant products and regulated articles, as well as for plant pest prevention or eradication programs. The Directorate is also responsible for enforcing Law and regulations on registration and the use of pesticides and other agrochemicals.

Plant protection and quarantine Directorate has activities in 34 provinces of Afghanistan. There are 58 technical staff in centre (PPQD) and 380 staff in 34 provinces. Each province has plant protection division under supervision of Directorate of Agriculture Irrigation and Livestock (DAIL) and PPQD in the centre (Kabul). All provincial plant protection activities and duties done by themselves and monitoring by the DAIL and central PPQD.

Directorate of Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQD) has working relationships with all departments of the MAIL, especially in technical issues with the Research General Directorate, Extension General Directorates and Seed Certification Directorate has close working relationships.

Vision: Strengthening Afghanistan's agricultural potential for the production of high-quality agricultural products free from plant pests and diseases to compete in international markets.

Mission: To protect Afghanistan agriculture resources against the risks associated with the invasions, entry, establishment, and spread of plant pests and diseases through using new scientific methods and techniques.

Goals and Objectives: The overall goal of plant protection and quarantine is to achieve an efficient system that safeguards damages caused to plants by biological, environmental and ecological factors are controlled in a sustainable and economical approach.

The main objectives of the Directorate are:

- To minimize risks to agricultural production, natural resources, and human health and safety by effectively managing existing agricultural pests and diseases.
- To improve and implement programs to put integrated pest-management practices and strengthen the national IPM program.
- To diagnose of the miscellaneous plant samples submitted by individual farmers, and others.
- To conduct pesticide management including pesticide registration and residue control.
- To prevent the entry, establishment and spread of exotic pests in Afghanistan as per the plant protection and quarantine Law at the national level.

- To conduct survey of the migratory pests in the country, and make urgent control measures against all pests, and develop annual plan under emergency program.
- To enhance the technical capability of the staff through training locally and internationally.

Organizational Structure: PPQD is consist of six technical Divisions named:

1. Division of plant pest and diseases diagnostic laboratory,
2. Division of plant quarantine,
3. Division of Agrochemical,
4. Division of Integrated Pest Management (IPM),
5. Division of Emergency pest program
6. and two sections namely Planning and Program Coordination Section,
7. And Administration Section.

The main roles and responsibilities of each divisions and sections are described as below:

1. Emergency Program Division:

- Survey of the migratory pests in the country, and make urgent control measures against all emergency pests, and develop annual plan for control of plant pest and diseases under emergency program, and make coordination / cooperation with provincial plant protection directorate for better implementation of integrated pest management program.
- Conducting of training courses, workshops, and seminars for provincial staffs.

2. Plant Pest Diagnostic Division:

- Diagnosis of miscellaneous plant samples submitted by provinces, districts, individual farmers, homeowners, governmental organizations and others.
- Assist personals in other agencies with problems related to insects, diseases, and other arthropods and invertebrates.
- Preparing herbarium and collection boxes of plant diseases and insects, and make isolation of fungal and bacterial diseases, and collection of insect pests, its preservation and identification.
- Develop annual work plan of the division, and monitor the implementation of activities.

3. IPM Division

- Develop planning and proposals for integrated pest management for all agriculture zones, coordination and cooperation with provincial plant protection directorate for better implementation of integrated pest management program, and development of a unique strategy and procedures for integrated pest management programme with the help and participating of stakeholders.
- Conducting of training courses, workshops, and seminars for provincial staffs.
- Develop annual work plan of the division, and monitor the implementation of activities.

4. Plant Quarantine Division:

- Implementation of plant protection and quarantine law, regulation, and procedures.
- Inspection of consignments of plants, plant products and other regulated articles, by plant quarantine officers to prevent the introduction and / or spread of pests into the country.

- Issuance of Phytosanitary certificates to provide facilities for import and export of plant, plant product and regulated articles through quarantine stations.
- Strengthen the relation of Plant Protection and Quarantine Directorate (PPQD) with the international Plant Protection Conventions (IPPC).
- Overcome Phytosanitary barriers to strengthen Afghanistan entrance to international market in support of the agricultural production export.
- Provide for and carry out professional training of regional inspectors, increasing their level of professional skills in the respective field.
- Develop annual work plan of the division, and monitor the implementation of activities.

5. Agrochemical Division:

- Implementation of pesticides law, regulations and procedures, and regular quality control of all industrial, importing, and exporting chemicals in the country.
- Prepare specification of pesticides based on need for PPQD.
- Assure that pesticides products available for use in Afghanistan are registered, as required by government, and do not show an unacceptable risk.
- Develop a licensee for import, distribution, and sale of pesticides, and issuing permits for pesticides retailers.
- Conducting technical trainings, workshops, seminars, for capacity building of civil servants.
- Develop annual work plan of the division, and monitor the implementation of activities.

6. Quality Control of Chemical and Natural Fertilizers Division:

- Implementation of fertilizers quality control procedures, and regular quality control of all fertilizers in the country.
- Prepare specification of fertilizers based on need.
- Assure that Fertilizers available for use in Afghanistan are registered, as required by government, and do not show an unacceptable risk.
- Develop a licensee for import, distribution, and sale of fertilizers, and issuing permits for fertilizers retailers.
- Conducting technical trainings, workshops, seminars, for capacity building of civil servants.
- Develop annual work plan of the division, and monitor the implementation of activities.

7. Planning Section and Program Coordination Section:

- Development of annual planning for the directorate as well as provinces based on their needs, collection and compiling of the performance reports regarding on pest and diseases control from all provinces, and liaison with all government, and non-government related agencies, and performing of the protocols, agreements, Law, regulations, and procedures
- Development of the proposals for funding, and preparation, and tracking of all documents for allotment, procurements, operational payments, and development budget disbursements.

8. Administration Section:

- Preparation of all administration letters, suggestions, inquiries, Forms for orders, salaries, and overtimes, and filling.
- Preparation, and tracking of all documents for stationary, tolls, equipment, and chemicals, purchased, and submitting it to all 34 provinces.

- Distribution of the job description for all staffs.

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