



The Australia-Africa Plant Biosecurity Partnership (AAPBP)

Overview

The Australia-Africa Plant Biosecurity Partnership (AAPBP) is a biosecurity capacity development program funded by the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) and is being delivered by a consortium led by Australia's Plant Biosecurity Cooperative Research Centre, including the Crawford Fund and CAB International (CABI).

The Partnership is improving agricultural productivity and sustainability, highlighting the relationship between plant biosecurity and food security and strengthening the case for increased investment from both the public and private sectors. Additionally, it is strengthening agricultural value chains and helping overcome regulatory impediments, while building capacity for plant biosecurity innovation in Australia and Africa.

The Partnership uses the world-class experience and expertise of Australian plant biosecurity institutions and agencies to build the skills and capacity of plant biosecurity managers and decision-makers in ten countries in Eastern and Southern Africa; Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, Uganda, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe; as well as private sector participants.



Mable Mudenda
 Senior Agricultural Research Officer,
 Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, Zambia

"This program has been extremely useful for us in Africa. Now we know each other better it's easy to contact each other to get updates on pest situations. As Senior Fellows we have an important role to play in making sure knowledge is put into practice."

ACIAR project number	C2013/079
Start date and duration (years)	Commenced July 2014, duration 2.5 years
Location	Australia, Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, Uganda, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe
Budget	\$1.8 Million

Project leader(s) and Commissioned Organisation

Bill Magee, Plant Biosecurity Cooperative Research Centre
 Roger Day, CABI
 Denis Blight, CEO, The Crawford Fund

Partner country project leaders and their institutions

Roger Day, CABI
 Martha Byanyima, COMESA

ACIAR Research Program Manager

Melissa Wood



Activities

Since 2014 AAPBP activities have been delivered by a consortium with extensive networks and experience in plant biosecurity and capacity building.

OCTOBER 2014

An initial planning workshop held in Nairobi, Kenya established priority plant biosecurity issues and key areas of biosecurity improvement needed for the region.

AUGUST 2015

The first Africa Network workshop held in Nairobi, Kenya with Senior and Associate Fellows. Senior Fellows presented draft action plans and worked on their communication skills, with the aim of identifying specific plant biosecurity challenges in their countries. Based on these action plans, the AAPBP Project Leader arranged placements for the Senior Fellows with specialist Australian plant biosecurity institutions.

OCTOBER 2015

Fifteen Senior Fellows travelled to Australia for a six week training program, including three week placements in relevant Australian biosecurity agencies and related institutions, training in engagement and advocacy skills and communication planning.

MAY-JUNE 2016

The second Network workshop, held in Arusha, Tanzania, involved both Associate and Senior Fellows including private sector. Week one incorporated interactive sessions on key plant biosecurity topics, progress reports on action plans and market access simulation exercises. The second week focused on management of fruit flies and measures needed to prevent the further spread of Panama disease TR4 from northern Mozambique into neighbouring countries.

SEPTEMBER 2016

The third Network workshop in Nairobi, Kenya focused on building skills and knowledge in regional trade, negotiating import conditions, grain imports, post-entry quarantine and pest diagnostics.

FEBRUARY 2017

The fourth Network workshop in Lusaka, Zambia focused on seed-borne diseases, surveillance and emergency response. It involved discussions around the long-term sustainability of the Africa Plant Biosecurity Network and how this can best be supported.

Achievements

The Partnership has established the Australia Africa Plant Biosecurity Network. This Network is comprised of a total of 45 Fellows, led by 15 Senior Fellows. Participating countries see the value of the network now and into the future in terms of regional response and shared intelligence on emerging pests and diseases.

The AAPBP has formed strong partnerships with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the African Union and regional economic organisations such as the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA). These organisations have been active participants at workshops and have also agreed to take on longer term roles for the Fellows as champions of plant biosecurity in Africa and in hosting a longterm network coordinator.

A successful feature of AAPBP training has been working to build capacity at individual and institutional levels. Another is the use of highly realistic market access simulation exercises, which replicates the complex negotiating environment between nations around biosecurity issues. Participants in this exercise have developed skills in risk assessment, pathway analysis, application of phytosanitary measures and, most importantly, negotiation of phytosanitary measures with trading partners.

Impact story

The AAPBP Senior Fellows have grown in confidence since undertaking six week Australian placements and have improved their ability to advocate for biosecurity issues in their countries. They are more comfortable undertaking technical risk assessments of imported plants and plant products, and have progressed individual action plans using lessons learnt during their time in Australia. Fellows have also improved their skills in negotiating market access for plant based commodities to improve export opportunities for primary producers. Tanzania have already accessed new mango markets following implementation of pest management techniques learned in Australia.

