

The ASEAN Regional Diagnostic Network

Establishment & Future Priorities

Results of Needs Assessment Surveys (NAS)

Starting from 2000/2001 several NASs have been conducted in the region on plant pathogens and insect pest collections:

- **No one ASEAN member country has adequate taxonomic expertise**
- **Poor state of collections (insects & microbes/fungi)**
- **Lack of facilities & supporting resources**

History

- **1993 – The closure of ASEAN PLANTI (PQ Research & Training Institute), Malaysia**
- **2000 – ASEAN Working Group on Harmonization of Phytosanitary Measures (EWG-HPM) & ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Crops (ASWGC) deliberating the issues of taxonomic capacity in the region**
- **2003 – At the 5th Meeting of EWG-HPM Malaysia proposed the establishment of ASEAN Plant Health Cooperation Network (APHCN) as a “virtual ASEAN PLANTI”**

History

- **The proposal was endorsed by the 10th Meeting of the ASWGC**
- **2003 (August) – 25th Meeting of AMAF (ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture & Forestry) agreed for the establishment of ASEAN Plant Health Cooperation Network (APHCN)**
- **2005 – At the 7th Meeting of the EWG-HPM Malaysia proposed ARDN as one activity of the APHCN, and endorsed by the 12th Meeting of ASWGC**
- **2007 – The proposal for ARDN’s operationalization was endorsed by EWG-HPM and ASWGC**

9th Meeting of the EWGHPM, Langkawi

.....resolved that:

- a) ASEANET, in its capacity as Technical Secretariat APHCN, implement pilot activities in collaboration with SPS CBP and NZAID, and invite other regional agencies and donors to participate and strengthen the Network activities,

ARDN Objectives

- **To implement a mechanism for regional sharing of diagnostic expertise**
- **To establish a directory of diagnostic capacity of laboratories in the region**
- **To build capacity of national diagnostic capacity through improving infrastructure, skills and internal support for compliance measures**
- **To establish Clearing House mechanism and raise awareness of procedures**

Network Operating Mechanism

- **Establish Clearing House mechanism for confidentiality of origin of specimens**
- **Proposed network operating mechanism**
 - **Submitting specimens for identification**
 - **Providing identifications**
- **Establish Advisory Committee for governance**

Working together with other donor-supported taxonomy capacity building initiatives in the Region

- **AusAID funded SPS Capacity Building Program**
- **AusAID funded AADCP**
- **NZAid Phytosanitary Capacity Building for CLMV countries**
- **AANZFTA Economic Cooperation Work Programme**
- **APEC sponsored training workshops**
- **JAIF**

Taxonomic expertise

- **Register of Expertise in each country should be compiled**
- **Criteria for appointment**
- **Incentives/motivation/recognition for contributing experts**
- **Improving/maintaining skills of experts**

Operational considerations

- **Sending specimens across borders**
- **Processing specimens – use of digital images, DNA extracts, etc.**
- **Costs?**
- **Confidentiality not an issue?**
- **Remote microscopy**

CLEARING HOUSE SERVICES

- **Provide access to diagnostic tools and resources**
- **Coordinate and organise capacity building/training program**
- **Knowledge network – co-ordination with APHCN?**

Future Priorities

- **Expert register**
- **National networks**
- **Remote microscopy**
- **Consolidating web presence**
- **Resources online**
- **Value-add training, etc**

Thank you