

JAIF PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT

PROJECT TITLE:	Taxonomic capacity building to support market access for agricultural trade in the ASEAN region	
PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT:	<input type="checkbox"/> 1st <input type="checkbox"/> 2nd <input type="checkbox"/> 4th <input type="checkbox"/> 5th XXXX	
PROJECT START AND END DATES	From: MAY 2015	To: JUNE 2018
PERIOD COVERED BY THIS REPORT:	From: 1 OCTOBER 2017	To: 31 JANUARY 2018
IMPLEMENTING AGENCY:	ASEAN Plant Health Cooperation Network (APHCN) - ASEANET	
CONTACT PERSONS:	Names: DR LUM KENG YEANG (Chairperson & Project Manager) & DR SOETIKNO S. SASTROUTOMO (Technical Secretary) Tel: +60-3-8943-2921 Fax: +60-3-8942-6490 E-mail: ky.lum@cabi.org AND s.soetikno@cabi.org	
<p>OVERVIEW: Briefly describe: (i) the objective of the project; (ii) progress in project implementation to date; (iii) any particular issues faced and/or results achieved during this reporting period.</p> <p>(i) Overall objective: The project will develop and strengthen capacities in taxonomic knowledge to identify and manage quarantine risks associated with agricultural commodities and to accurately diagnose pests and diseases among the ASEAN Member States (AMS).</p> <p>Intermediate objective: To increase taxonomic capacity of scientists/officers from AMS in 3 groups of insect pests and diseases, i.e. in plant viruses, aphids and leaf miners of agricultural importance.</p> <p>(ii) Progress till JANUARY 2018:</p> <p>Only one activity we carried out in the period from October 2017 to January 2018, i.e. on Activity 1.1. Study Visit & Training Workshop on Identification of Fruit-flies in Japan organized by Graduate School of Agriculture, Tokyo University of Agriculture, Japan in collaboration with the Plant Quarantine Office, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), Japan. This training workshop was held from 18th November to 2nd December 2017. Nine participants from the ASEAN member states accompanied by a coordinator from ASEANET-APHCN, have been participated in the training workshop.</p> <p>Thirty project briefs were distributed to the participants of this Training Workshop and also to several institutions visited in Tokyo, Tsukuba, Okinawa and Yokohama. In addition, the website for this project has been updated with the uploading of the 5th Progress Reports of the Project, training materials, and reference materials and reports of the attachment program.</p>		

Attachment Program on Diagnostics of Weevils of Quarantine Importance originally planned to be organized in October 2017. However, after consultation with the resource persons (International & Regional) during the training at UPLB, Philippines and also through intensive communication by e-mail, the attachment can only be organized in mid-January 2018, with one month each in the Philippines and Japan. A revised proposal on this attachment has been submitted to JAIF Management Team through ASEAN for consideration of approval.

(iii) Results:

The following outputs have been achieved:

1. Report of the Study Visit & Training Workshop on Identification of Fruitflies in Japan
2. Updated Project Website (<http://aseanet.org/JAIF1.asp>)
3. Proposal and tentative program for the Attachment Program on Diagnostics of Weevils of Quarantine Importance in Japan.

PART A: PROGRESS & RESULTS

A. PROGRESS & ACHIEVEMENTS:

Describe progress in implementation during this reporting period, including key outputs/outcomes, based on the approved project document.

1. Study Visit & Training Workshop on Identification of Fruitflies in Japan

This activity was in the priority list of proposed activities (in total 10 activities) endorsed by the 18th Meeting of the ASEAN EWG-PS held in Vientiane, Lao PDR from 18-19 July 2016.

The Study Visit & Training Workshop has been organized by Prof. Dr. Keiko NATSUAKI, Dean, Graduate School of Agriculture, Tokyo University of Agriculture, Japan in collaboration with the Plant Quarantine Office, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), Japan from 18th November to 2nd December 2017. Nine participants from the ASEAN member states accompanied by a coordinator from ASEANET-APHCN, have participated in the training. The following institutions in Japan have been visited, during which lectures, demonstrations and practical were given to all participants, especially related to fruitflies.

The objective of the Study Visit and Training Workshop on the Identification of Fruit Flies in Japan were as follows:

1. To have an overview on the plant quarantine and plant protection system in Japan
2. To understand the functions and operations of each division under the plant quarantine system of Japan (domestic and international quarantine, export and import divisions, Pest Risk Analysis, etc.)
3. To visit the Research Center in Tsukuba and Haneda, Yokohama & Nara Plant Protection Station
4. To discuss, learn and share field experiences in plant quarantine (inspection, interception, and identification of exotic pests, e.g. fruit flies) from Japanese plant quarantine officers

Specific objectives of the Study Visit were to obtain the general idea of how Japan operates its plant protection by visiting several facilities and will be familiarized with fruit flies' issues, such as pest risk analysis, ecological research, inspection, diagnostics using molecular technology and other regulatory perspectives.

The full training workshop report is given in the **Annex 1**.

2. Attachment Program on Diagnostics of Weevils of Quarantine Importance

We had originally planned to organize this attachment in October 2017, however, after consultation with the resource persons (International & Regional) during the training at UPLB, Philippines and also through intensive communication by e-mail, the attachment can only be organized in mid-January 2018, with one month each in the Philippines and Japan. The revised proposal has been re-submitted to ASEAN Secretariat and JAIF MT in 6 December 2017 (**See Annex 2**). The revised budget is now USD 117,180 which is USD 27,300 higher than the original budget of USD89,880. –

After several e-mail communications with JAIF-MT (in consultation with Japan), we got a decision on 6 February 2018 that the revised proposal is not approved with 2 reasons:

- a) because the reason for the proposed change is rather internal factors than external factors that could not be foreseen; and
- b) because the principle of project management is that the proponent makes every effort to manage project activities within the approved budget first; however, this request is being made solely based on the circumstances of, and consultation among, the professors and the project manager. Budget revision through such internal consultation only should not be a practice. Consultation with ASEAN and Japan should precede any agreement by professors and project manager.

We are currently in a mid-discussion with the Japanese resource persons if the “Attachment Program on Diagnostics of Weevils of Quarantine Importance” could still be done only in Japan with the approved budget of USD89,880. –

3. Project Monitoring & Evaluation (See Annex 3)

In compliance with donor requirements, monitoring and evaluation was carried out in the form of an output survey that targeted personnel from ASEAN Member States (AMS) who participated in the training events organized under the Project. Where appropriate, Project counterparts have also been contacted for inputs based on the questionnaire prepared by ASEAN.

The object of the survey focused on the three main training activities successfully organized under Project funding with the objective of building taxonomic capacity of AMS personnel. Topics for these training events were chosen based on the consensus of the Project Steering Committee; the training events typically consisted of hands-on training in the form of a two-week workshop with participants drawn from AMS. The three training topics organized were:

1. Diagnostics of plant viruses
2. Identification of leafminers of agricultural importance, and
3. Identification of weevils of quarantine importance.

At the close of the survey period (March – July 2017), responses were received from practically all AMS, including ex-workshop participants as well as Project counterparts.

Key observations from the survey include:

- An increase in personnel able to conduct diagnosis of the target pests and disease (at least at generalist level) following the taxonomic capacity building workshop, and a corresponding increase in the number of specimens for these pest groups in their diagnostic collections, thus improving their value as reference resources.
- Expressed intention for in-country training following the Project which is expected to result in a ‘cascading’ effect of increasing overall taxonomic capacity to address the much-needed support for market access.
- A significant increase in their confidence to identify more pest specimens and a wider range in the target taxonomic group for which they received training, with a corresponding increase in the number of specimens for these pest groups in their diagnostic collections.
- A number of publications have already been produced with the benefit of the training received, leading to dissemination of new information.

- An increase in their directory of personnel capable of diagnosis in the target pest groups for which training have been delivered.
- The training manuals provided at the workshops and other guides and handouts are useful as the basis for the development of national protocols in the diagnosis of the target pests.

4. End Project Meeting: This planned meeting would involve members of the Project Steering Committee and would only be implemented upon completion of the Attachment Program on Weevils, and the draft Final Project Report is prepared for discussion at the meeting. It is proposed that the meeting be organized in late June or July 2018.

B. TIMEFRAME AND BUDGETING

Explain whether the project is on-track with regard to: (i) the budget; and (ii) the original timeframe. If either the expenditures and/or timeframe are off-track, please explain and describe the corrective actions being taken.

Request for Project Extension: Project implementation is behind schedule, as a result of the delay in the implementation of one activity of the Component 1-1: Attachment Program on Diagnostics of Weevils of Quarantine Importance which would have started in January 2018. Therefore, possible request for another project extension with no cost would be submitted to JAIF Management Team through the ASEAN Secretariat in June 2018.

Project Budget

Budget expenditure during this reporting period was only US\$ 67,344.41 (**Annex 4**).

C. OTHER IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

Describe any significant changes to the project design, context or partners during the reporting period, or any other issues faced, and actions that are being taken in response, if appropriate.

One additional activity on “Study visit to Japan national SPS/Plant Health laboratories cum Training workshop on the Identification of Fruit Flies” has been successfully implemented from 18 November to 2 December 2017.

D. OTHER COMMENTS:

Please provide any other relevant information or observations on the project, e.g. on lessons learned, particular challenges or issues that may arise in the next reporting period, changes to the logframe, etc.

Proposal for JAIF Phase 2 Project

The revised proposal has been submitted to ASEC and JAIF-MT on 29th May 2017 for their funding consideration and approval. It was informed by JAIF-MT that the revised proposal would be considered by them only after the Phase 1 Project is near completion (before June 2018). Recently (18th September) ASEC has informed ASEANET-APHCN that the members of the ASEAN Expert Working Group on Phytosanitary Measures (EWGPS) in its meeting held in July in Malaysia has expressed support for the development of project proposal of ARDN Phase II. It was suggested by ASEC that the revised proposal should be migrated to the new format of ASEAN Project Proposal which was released in May 2017.

Currently we are in the process of migrating the proposal before re-submission to ASEC and JAIF-MT at the appropriate time.

The proposal has been revised with a budget of USD 498,426, as suggested by JAIF-MT of less than US\$ 500,000.- will only cover 2 (two) training workshops and 1 (one) attachment program in Japan, i.e. on:

a). Training workshop on Diagnostic of Plant Parasitic Nematodes to be held in Indonesia with a Japanese resource person, Prof. Dr. Hideaki Iwahori from Department of Bioresource Sciences, Faculty of Agriculture, Ryukoku University, Otsu, Shiga 520-2194, Japan.

b). Training workshop on Diagnostics of Begomovirus and the Use of LAMP-PCR to be held in the Philippines with a Japanese resource person, Prof. Dr. Masashi Ugaki from Laboratory of Bioresource Technology, Department of Integrated Biosciences, Graduate School of Frontier Science, The University of Tokyo, Kashiwa-shi, Chiba-ken 277-8561, Japan.

c). Attachment program on Diagnostics of Plant Parasitic Nematodes to be held at the Department of Bioresource Sciences, Faculty of Agriculture, Ryukoku University, Otsu, Shiga 520-2194, Japan under the supervision of Prof. H. Iwahori.

The revised proposal for JAIF Phase 2 Project under new format of ASEAN Project is given in the **Annex 5**.

Provide a list of key documents (e.g. mission reports, training materials, workshop reports, etc.) produced during this reporting period. Copies of the final versions of these documents should be attached to this report.

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1. Report of the Study Visit & Training Workshop on Identification of Fruitflies in Japan.
 2. Revised proposal for the Attachment Program on Diagnostics of Weevils of Quarantine Importance
 3. JAIF Phase 1 Project Monitoring & Evaluation
 4. Financial Report from 1st October 2017 to 31 January 2018
 5. Revised proposal for JAIF Phase 2 Project under new format of ASEAN Project

E: FINANCIAL OVERVIEW (SEE ANNEX 4)

	JAIF	In kind / Other	Total
Total project budget (US\$)	892,354.10	0	892,354.10
Total amount received to date (US\$)	847,736.40	0	847,736.40
Total expenditure during the reporting period*	67,344.41	0	67,344.41
Total expenditure to date (US\$)	621,320.55	0	621,320.55
Unspent/(Overspent) funds (US\$)	271,033.55	0	271,033.55

*Please submit a separate financial statement with a more detailed description of expenditures during the reporting period, based on the approved project budget and planned outputs/activities.