



*Enhancing Phytosanitary Systems for Healthy
Plants, Safe & Sustainable Trade”*



INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF
PLANT HEALTH
2020

Capacity building, regulatory framework

**Public And Private Sector Capacity Building Interventions to
Improve Compliance to Sanitary Phytosanitary Standards in
Fruits and Vegetable Growers in Uganda**

Presented by:

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Introduction

The horticulture sector plays a critical role in Uganda's national development; it is among the top-5 national revenue earners, is a major employer of women with 70% of the workforce comprised of women, and 97% of which small and medium scale growers

Fruits and Vegetables have been identified and selected to be among the twelve priority commodities for focused investment in the strategic direction of the next 5 years NDP III that aims to increase household incomes and improve quality of life of Ugandans

Uganda's fruit and vegetable exports maintained an upward growth curve amidst the pandemic in 2020. According to the latest data from the Bank of Uganda, the country exported 83.5 million tons of fruits and vegetables worth \$45 million in 2020 compared to 68.8 million tons worth \$36 million in the previous year.

Problem Statement

The challenges faced by Uganda producers and exporters in the fruits and vegetable value chain include:

Pests and diseases, exceeding pesticide residue levels, poor agronomic practices, inadequate extension services, poor markets and market infrastructure, weak producer groups, poor documentation and poor coordination amongst stakeholders. Food safety hazards occur at different stages of the food chain starting right from primary production and extending to secondary and tertiary processing, storage, distribution and packaging

It is still a challenge for the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF)-NPPO to satisfactorily meet its obligation of ensuring that all agricultural products for export are free from harmful organisms such as False codling moth, Fruit flies, PVY etc.

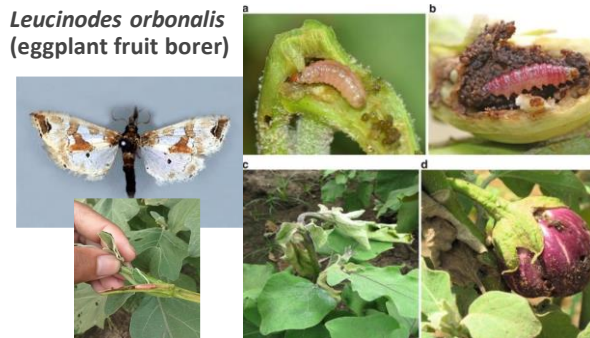
MOSI (FCM)
Thaumatotibia leucotreta



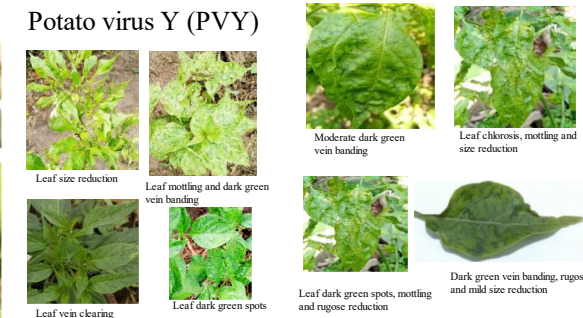
Fruit flies (Mpiso)



Leucinodes orbonalis
(eggplant fruit borer)



Potato virus Y (PVY)





Justification

Despite Uganda's comparative advantage in agricultural production in the East African region, its agriculture products are not globally competitive, thus failing to access new markets or maintain the existing markets.

The capacity of Ugandan Flesh Fruits and Vegetable (FFV) growers and exporters to enter these markets depends critically on their ability to meet stringent Sanitary, Phytosanitary and food safety standards, that are significantly higher than those prevailing in Uganda and often difficult and costly to meet.

In the effort to make Uganda's FFVs competitive, a public and private sector partnership was built to cost share in interventions that can build capacity of FFV growers to meet the export SPS requirements

Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF)- Department of Crop inspection and Certification (DCIC) which is also the Competent Authority on sanitary and Phytosanitary issues in the country, partnered with Uganda Export Promotion Board, Chemiphar Uganda Ltd, Uganda Agribusiness Alliance and Afri-Fruits Investment to train and build capacity of FFV growers to improve compliance to SPS requirements.



Objectives

The training program aimed to improve quality management and safety of marketed produce through promotion of compliance to standards, build the capacity of FFV growers to pass NPPO surveillance audits for quality management and create awareness in quality management systems along the value chain.

Specific objectives

- (i) To sensitize farmers and disseminate best production practices, various export SPS requirements, with the principal aim of improving fruit and vegetable quality and minimize the risk of contamination by pests, chemicals, bacteria and other microbial pathogens across the value chain.
- (ii) To train trainers who will be conducting farmer training to facilitate the safe production, handling, packaging, storage and transport of fresh fruits and vegetables exports to developed country markets with emphasis to the EU
- (iii) To increasing farmers' technical knowledge and skills in the management of food safety and post-harvest quality based on good agriculture practices that work towards income generation and market competitiveness.

Methodology

The Training Team

From the left is Alexander Samula, Sylvia Nantongo, Caroline Nankinga, Brenda Kisingiri (MAAIF Team) and extreme right is Rose Nakimuli (Chemiphar Uganda)



Three (3) trainings were conducted

November 2020 at NARO-Mukono Zonal Agricultural Development Centre for growers from Central Uganda (MAAIF-Chemiphar partnership),

December 2020 at Ntungamo Resort Hotel for growers from South Western Uganda (MAAIF-Chemiphar partnership),

May 2021 at the National farmer Leadership Centre, Kampiringisa (MAAIF-Uganda Agribusiness Alliance, Afri-fruits Partnerships)

The facilitators disseminated good production practices, the benefits of the system approach (ISPM 14) and SPS requirements for FFV exports with emphasis to EU markets



MAAIF-NPPO, Chemiphar Uganda and FFV growers from Western Uganda at Ntungamo Resort in December 2020.



Methodology



Highlights of the training sessions:

- Awareness creation on Export requirements, Sanitary and Phytosanitary standards for Fruits and Vegetables
- Key pests and their management practices (key enemies of quarantine importance in the FFV exports. These being *Thaumatotibia leucotreta*, Tephritidae fruit flies, *Spodoptera littoralis*, *Spodoptera frugiperda*, *Bemisia tabaci*, *Thrips palmi*, *Leucinodes orbonalis*, Potato Virus Y (PVY), *Trioza erytreae*)
- Safe use of plant protection products (PPPs), usage to comply with the PPP regulations, registered pesticides allowed for the EU market, dosages, pesticide labels and counterfeits
- Awareness creation on GAP and code of practices based on Hazard. Analysis of Critical Control Points (HACCP) and quality management principles
- Field practical on good agronomic practices at the Farm (pest and disease management, surveillance and trapping, scouting records, Control measures, Integrated Pest Management (IPM), Pre harvest Interval-PHI, SOPs to avoid pest and microbial contamination
- Group discussions on customizing the farmers check list on inspection and auditing good agronomic practices (GAP) at places of production and pesticide usage on fruits and vegetables

Training approach involved participatory multipronged method consisting of consultations, probing, sharing of experiences, group discussions, power point presentations, practical field exercises, visual aid posters, and training evaluation through semi structured questioners

Growers came from 28 districts;

Buikwe, Luwero, Mpigi, Mukono, Wakiso, Mityana, Sembabule, Ibanda, Ntungamo, Rakai, Lwengo, Mayuge, Gomba, Kampala, Kitagwenda, Kyenjojo, Kikuube, Kiboga, Ruhamuzi, Rukungiri, Kabalore, Ibanda, Mbarara, Bunyangabu, Hoima, Kakumiro, Mubende, Nakaseke.



MAAIF and Afri-fruits trainers giving presentation during theory class



Field session in one of the hotpepper gardens in Buikwe



Afri-Fruits trainer checking a locally fabricated trap with a lure targeting to capture fruit fly species that attack Cucumber in screenhouse at NFLC

Methodology cont'



Participants observing damage symptoms of different pests in garden egg, chilies and hot pepper



Farmer/trainee sharing the scouting record with Trainer



Demonstrating FCM damage during practical session at the National Farmer Leadership Centre Kampiringisa in May 2021



✚ Reusing the container and label of a legitimate product to sell illegitimate material products

✚ Packaging, labelling a popular brand with different shades of the inner content. It will be very difficult for farmers to distinguish the shades of the content inside the bottle.

✚ Fabricated container and label of a legitimate product to sell contents that differ from the legitimate product as shown below.

The growers were sensitized on the Active ingredients of pesticides approved for use in the European market, the dangers of improper use that leads to MRLs, the dangers of counterfeit and the different forms of counterfeiting

- Counterfeit agricultural chemicals are products that are “deliberately and fraudulently sold under the trademark of a reputable company using fake labels.



The secretary to group 1 and 2 respectively presenting the translated field checklist (and various roles

The trainers were sensitized on the use of the farm audit check list by the MAAIF NPPO inspectors and how it helps to evaluate the farmer practice in compliance to GAP, IPM and HACCP. This allowed the farmers buy in the field inspection process and removing the perceived fear of policing by the inspectors. Farmers understood the roles of different parties associated with enhancing SPS compliance at farm level. The growers translated the check list to locally used Lunyankole language in South Western Uganda



Results

- ❑ A total of 100 fruit and vegetable growers were trained; 17% were women and 83% were men
- ❑ More than 80% of the growers were aware of the damage caused by *Thaumatotibia leucotreta*, *Tephritidae*, *Leucinodes orbonalis* but had a big knowledge gap in the biology of the pests, the use of IPM, SPS, GAP and HACCP.
- ❑ Growers reported a big problem of counterfeits in Agro inputs and improper use of pesticides.
- ❑ Overall, 90% reported the training was an eye opener,
- ❑ 50- 100% reported they would change their farming practices by deploying GAP, HACCP and IPM,
- ❑ 50- 96% agreed to improve in plant protection product usage,
- ❑ 20- 70% pledged to train other farmers to be compliant to SPS



Results cont'

The training covered the training needs of the growers and filled the gaps in SPS, GAP and HACCP.

While the growers reported the training was very useful, some of the training aspects needed time and continuous training to grasp.

The trainees needed more time in the practical sessions to practice the agronomy, IPM pesticide usage and demanded to have more trainers at subcounty or lower local government level to allow more participation of other farmers

FFV growers insist the FFV sector is very risky. Apart from harmful organisms that reduce the market value of their produce, other challenges such as drought, price fluctuation and transport should be addressed by government



Conclusion

These training showed that the public and private sector partnership between MAAIF-NPPO, Uganda Export Promotion Board, Chemiphar Uganda, Uganda Agribusiness Alliance and Afri-fruits was effective in disseminating key SPS messages and skills that FFV growers needed to produce quality products for domestic and international markets.

This partnership contributed to bridging the funding and human capacity gap required for enhancing SPS compliance among stakeholders in the FFV value chain



Recommendations

Similar trainings to be conducted at community level using training materials translated into locally used languages.

The growers recommended that the government should support organized farmers by offering them credit facilities, extension services, access to inputs (good seed, genuine PPPs) and irrigation services.

This PPP should be supported to continue for future interventions.

The NPPO should strengthen other PPP and build more partnerships for capacity building of growers, exporters and other stakeholders to enhance SPS compliance



Acknowledgements



MAAIF
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Uganda Agribusiness Alliance
Partnering for Growth



Theme: *"Enhancing Phytosanitary Systems for Healthy Plants,
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