

## CONCEPT PAPER

**TITLE** : **WORKSHOP ON TRAINING OF TRAINERS ON PROTECTION AGAINST SOUTH BLIGHT AMERICAN LEAF BLIGHT (SALB) OF RUBBER IN ASIA-PACIFIC REGION**

**DATE** : **3-7 DECEMBER 2018**

**PROPOSED VENUE** : **PROMENADE HOTEL, KOTA KINABALU, SABAH, MALAYSIA**

### INTRODUCTION

The prevention of the introduction of the disease of rubber plants, South American Leaf Blight (SALB) for rubber remains as one of major concerns for those rubber growing countries of APPPC. APPPC is committed to support the prevention of introduction utilizing the various approaches.

Pest Risk Analysis (PRA) on SALB was adopted at the 25<sup>th</sup> Session of the Asia and Pacific Plant Protection Commission (APPPC) in Beijing, China in 2007. The Meeting then requested Malaysia with assistance from Thailand, China and New Zealand to draft a regional standard on protection against SALB based on the PRA adopted. A draft guideline was completed by Malaysia and circulated for country comments in 2008 and subsequently adopted at the 26<sup>th</sup> session of APPPC in September 2009 in New Delhi India. Subsequently, every year series of meetings, workshops and trainings were organized in ensuring and to show the prevention on introduction of SALB in the Asia and the Pacific region is taken seriously by all the rubber growing countries.

In October 2016, a regional workshop on "Mitigation of potential risk of SALB in the region" was held in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture and Agro-Based, Malaysia. This workshop helped participants to improve their knowledge of SALB and the implementation of ISPMs 6, 8, 17, 4, 10 and 29. In addition, the workshop enabled participants to better understand aspects of rubber plantation production and the spread of SALB, the potential risk of introduction of SALB and possible facilitation of safe trade. The standard operation procedure (SOP) on SALB Pest Free Area was drafted and discussed by participants.

Latest, a hands-on training on the detection and diagnosis of SALB for Asia and Pacific NPPO experts was convened at Bahia, Brazil in November 2017. This training was held in collaboration with Michelin Plantation of Bahia Brazil, NPPO of Brazil, the Malaysia Rubber Board (MRB) and International Rubber Research and Development Board (IRRDB). This would improve the diagnostic SALB capabilities and enable the participants to train other NPPO officers in their countries.

Pursuant to the training in Brazil, at the 30th session of APPPC in Rotorua, New Zealand; 20-24 November 2017, the SALB working group proposed two follow-up activities to be carried out in the year 2018 and 2019 which are i) 2018 - Training workshop to train the trainers on SALB of rubber in the Asia and the Pacific region – post training in Brazil; and 2) 2019 -Training workshop on diagnostic protocols – visual and molecular technique (using the reference produced and the molecular protocols that has been optimized in 2018). The meeting has agreed to both proposals.

Given the task to lead the working group of SALB, Malaysia proposed to host a training workshop entitled 'Training workshop to train the trainers on SALB of rubber in the Asia and the Pacific region – post training in Brazil' to be held in Sabah, Malaysia from 23 - 27 July 2018. The SALB training materials and activities in this workshop will be provided by the participants who have attended the hands-on training in Brazil in November 2017. The participants are expected to be involved in a training of trainers programme upon their returns and subsequently they are also expected to train other officers in their country.

### **OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKSHOP**

The overall objective of the workshop is to enhance the capacity building on the protection of SALB in the APPPC region, with the following specific objectives:

- i) To train and establish core group and core trainers on SALB and prevention of SALB in the rubber growing countries in APPPC region;
- ii) To enhance the trainers' expertise and knowledge on SALB and prevention of SALB with the latest information;
- iii) To create networking among Plant Protection and Rubber Research Personnel on the protection of SALB within the region;
- iv) To gather and update feedback on the latest information of SALB from Brazil's training
- v) To review, update and familiarize the trainers on the SALB reference materials and the measures to be taken when incursion happen based on the latest information.

### **EXPECTED OUTPUTS**

The workshop is expected to produce a core group of competent trainers on SALB and protection of SALB in the region. Trainers are expected:

- i) To be able to conduct training on SALB to other officers in their respective countries;
- ii) To be able to use the reference material according to the needs of each country;
- iii) To become the Subject Matter Officers (SMOs) on SALB of each country;
- iv) To convey information to the higher management level to conduct SALB activities;
- v) To produce updated reference materials on SALB.