Support Project to the Regional Plan for Fruit Flies Monitoring and Control in West Africa

Guinea Bissau and Nigeria fully integrated to the FFPC
Guinea Bissau and Nigeria have signed the partnership agreements with ECOWAS and are by now fully integrated to the FFCP. The payment of the grant is underway for the implementation of their 2017-2018 actions plans.

Starting of the export campaign
The first surveillance alert announcing the opening of the 2017-2018 mango export campaign took place during the second week of March 2018 for Burkina Faso, Benin, Ghana, Côte d’Ivoire, Guinée and Mali. The mango campaign for Senegal and Gambia should start later, in June.

FFCP: financial commitment of 96%
The mid-year report of August 19th 2017 to February 18th 2018 has been prepared. The financial analysis of the project implementation level shows a financial commitment of 96%. Considering this performance, in the absence of additional funds and with the integration of new countries (Togo, Guinea Bissau and Nigeria), the Coordination Unit has proposed a review of the countries' work plans and regional work plans focusing on the key activities of control and monitoring, since capacity building activities have already been undertaken under regional work plan.

A temporary suspension of the country workplan implementation has been required in order to allow the time of consultation with all of the stakeholders.

Mango interceptions diagnostics: an essential tool
The diagnostic studies of mango interceptions realized in 2017 have been finalized and the study reports restitution concluded in 4 of the 5 countries concerned (Senegal, Côte d’Ivoire, Burkina and Guinea). These diagnoses stress on the weaknesses of the official certification system in the countries and proposed an action plan for their improvement. These studies also revealed unusual facts. For example, in Mali the diagnosis pointed out the fact that out of 53 inspectors trained in 2017 with the support of the FFCP and other partners, only 16 were assigned to the mango inspections in 2017, the others replaced by new officers who have never received training to conduct the certification. The CU challenges OPV taking action on their responsibilities.

Dear colleagues and partners. This is your FFPC quarterly Newsletter N°3 for the period of January to March 2018.

Two major events have marked the last three months of the FFPC. The first event is related to the full and effective integration of Nigeria and Guinea Bissau to the FFCP through the signature of the partnership agreements with ECOWAS and the payment of the grant for the implementation of their action plans.

The second event is the elaboration of the consolidated semi-annual report August 19th 2017 – to February 18th 2018 of the FFPC. This period was an opportunity for the Coordination Unit (CU) to review the national action plans and the regional work plan in light of the available funds and the integration of the three new members.

As a consequence, we will have to reduce a bit the scope of planned activities and focus on key actions including monitoring, strengthening of official controls and the training of operators on post-harvest.

Finally, during this period, the monitoring system launched the alert for the start of the mango export campaign for Burkina Faso, Benin, Ghana, Côte d’Ivoire, Guinea and Mali.

Nata Traoré, FFPC Coordinator
Our Achievements

Monitoring component

From February 19 to 23 2018, a training workshop was held in Banjul (The Gambia) for the Super Users of the Monitoring/Alert System of the ECOWAS FFCP. This workshop is part of the technical capacity building on data management and analysis with the use of the Project decision support system on phytosanitary integrated approach. The Alert system generates information that, depending on the type of agricultural company, sends an alert to the operators. Sixteen (16) members of National committees from eight (08) member countries attended the meeting.

Capacity Building component

The activities carried out by the Capacity Building component can be summed up in the organization of regional trainings, support to the national committees for the organization of national trainings and elaboration of the management manual of the phytosanitary intervention brigades.

The regional trainings were organized in collaboration with the national committees of the host countries, as follows:

- The regional training workshop for technicians of fruit fly taxonomy diagnostic laboratories, held in Bobo-Dioulasso in Burkina Faso, from 12 to 17 February 2018
- The regional training workshop on the use of data base, data analysis by the decision support system, and on the alert system, held in Banjul/The Gambia, from 19 to 23 February 2018
- The regional training workshop for phytosanitary inspectors on sampling techniques, held in Koudougou/Burkina Faso, from 19 to 23 February 2018, and
- The regional training on harmonization of pilot orchards management, held in Sikasso/Mali, from February 26th to March 2nd, 2018.

Control Component

During the last quarter, the main activities of the control component consisted of the setting up of integrated control in Ivory Coast and in Gambia and the organization of a training workshop on the monitoring of pilot orchards.

Participants successfully followed data analysis provided by the regional surveillance network and issued 80 warning messages to producers and national technical managers in the countries concerned at the end of the workshop.
**Applied Research** component

Research in Côte d’Ivoire has shown the impact of climate change on the fruit fly population. In fact, the study of the relative density of flies in the different agroecological zones showed a decrease from August 2017 to January 2018. The fly species *Bactrocera dorsalis* and *Ceratitis cosyra* were present in the orchards during this period. This study showed that these two species began to adapt to climatic variations (temperature and relative humidity) which are not good for them.

**Coordination**

The Coordinator has taken part to a trip exchange in South Africa at the invitation of River Biosciences and Citrus Research International (CRI) two organisations of the Citrus Group Association South African through their partner SAVANA in West Africa.

From this visit the following lessons were learned:

- The fruits flies monitoring leading to control activities is a requirement for an effective control. Producers of the same basin must discipline themselves in order to undertake control actions and these actions should be integrated (sanitation combined with the use of control products) and triggered at the same time by all from a threshold of the fruit flies infestation set up by the actors. The operation of the mechanism by the actors is essential for the sustainability of the fruit flies control.
- The financial contribution through tax payment based on the quantity of the mango produced and exported by the actors (producers and exporters) with the set-up of a transparent management mechanism is necessary for a sustainably control and monitoring system for the fruit flies.
- The applied research is necessary for an effective control of the fruit flies. But the agenda of this applied research should be built upon the needs and constraints of the actors of the mango value chain and not the opposite. This is particularly justified if the actors contribute to the financing of the research activities.
- Finally, to reduce the interceptions, the self-control of the exporters themselves is crucial.

Discussion with South African farmers on control actions against fruit flies
In Burkina Faso, nearly 90% of fruit fly attacks on mango are due to \textit{Bactrocera dorsalis} and \textit{Ceratitis cosyra}, which are the two dominant species. There are native and exotic parasitoids in the environment (\textit{Fopius arisanus}, \textit{Diachasmimorpha longicaudata}, \textit{Psyttalia fletcheri}, etc.), which are organisms that develop on or inside one of the stages of fruit flies (eggs, larvae, pupae) and kill them, contributing to the reduction of fruit flies populations. The use of augmentorium, a tent-like device promotes their multiplication. The augmentorium is be made up of sheet or other local material, mosquito net with appropriate mesh, and has an opening that can be sealed (the mostiquo net let parasitoids escape while trapping fruit flies).

**Principle of operation**

It is advisable to place the augmentorium under mango tree shade. Infested fruits are collected and deposited in the augmentorium. At the termination of their life cycle, all the flies that emerge in the augmentorium will be sequestrated while the parasitoids that emerge from parasitized fruit flies escape through the mesh to re-infest other fruits flies. This device, used in pilot / orchard school, reinforce the strategy of integrated management of fruit fly populations.

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**IN EUROS**

**Financial Report**

(in millions €)

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**Yearly Disbursement Trend**

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