

Sub Mission on Plant Protection and Plant Quarantine

Sub Mission on Plant Protection and Plant Quarantine (SMPPQ) is one of the Schemes under Green Revolution (Krishonnati Yojana) through which regulatory, monitoring, surveillance and capacity building functions are performed. The SMPPQ has the following components:

- i. Strengthening and Modernization of Pest Management Approach in India (SMPMA) which includes the following sub components:
 - a. Implementation of Insecticide Act, 1968: The Government has enacted the Insecticides Act, 1968 and Insecticide Rules, 1971 therein, to regulate the import, manufacture, sale, transport, distribution and use of Insecticides with a view to prevent risk to human beings, animals and for matters connected therewith. Implementation of the Act is the responsibility of both, Central and State Governments. The Central Government is responsible for registration of insecticides whereas, the State Governments are responsible for enforcement of the provisions relating to manufacture, sale, transport, distribution and use of insecticides. Consequently, the Central Government has established the Central Insecticides Board (CIB) and the Registration Committee (RC). The CIB advises on technical matters, inter alia, on safety measures, shelf life, colorization, waiting period whereas the RC registers pesticides after verifying the claims regarding efficacy and safety to human beings and animals, specify the dosage, manner of use, application technique, precautions against poisoning, label and leaflet.

The Central Government and State Governments are jointly responsible for quality control. These inspectors draw samples of insecticides from manufactures/ dealers and analysis them in State Pesticide Testing Laboratories (SPTLs) spread across the country. For the States which do not have facilities for testing pesticides, two Regional Pesticide Testing Laboratories (RPTLs) have been set up by Central Government at Chandigarh and Kanpur. In addition, the Central Government has established the Central Insecticides Laboratory (CIL) at Faridabad as a referral laboratory. In case of dispute, the samples are referred to the CIL.

- b. Integrated Pest Management (IPM): IPM seeks to promote cultural, mechanical, biological methods of pest control and recommends use of chemical pesticides as a measure of last resort. The Central Government has established 35 Central Integrated Pest Management Centres (CIPMCs) of Directorate of Plant Protection, Quarantine & Storage (DPPQ&S) in 29 States and one UT. The mandate of these Centres is to monitor insect, pests and diseases for forewarning, conservation of natural enemies in farmers' fields, production and field release of bio-control agents, promotion of eco-friendly IPM inputs like bio-pesticides/ Plant based pesticides and Human Resource Development in IPM by imparting training to extension officers and farmers through Farmers Field Schools (FFSs)/Seasonal Long Training Programs (SLTPs)/Short duration (2/5 days) IPM programs.

- c. **Locust Control and Research:** The Indian Agriculture is highly prone to Desert Locust. The Desert Locust is a trans-boundary pest which can cause irreparable damages. In order to keep the menace of locust at bay Locust Warning Organization (LWO) has been established. The Department has established 11 Nos. of Locust Control Offices (LCOs) established under LWO in Scheduled Desert Area of Rajasthan and Gujarat. The LWO monitors, forewarns and controls locust in Scheduled Desert Area, conduct research on locust and grasshoppers, keep liaison and coordination with National and International Organizations and undertakes HRD through training and demonstration.
- ii **Strengthening and Modernization of Plant Quarantine Facilities in India (SMPQF):** The SMPQF prevents introduction and spread of exotic pests that are harmful to crops and bio-security of the country by regulating/restricting import of plants/plant products and monitor import of agriculture commodities as per the agreed conditions prescribed in the Plant Quarantine Order, 2003 notified under provisions of Destructive Insect and Pests Act, 1914. Consequently, the Department has established Plant Quarantine facilities to administer various entry points. The SMPQF also assist in gaining market access for India's agriculture products through negotiations with other countries. It prepares Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for commodities to be imported / exported and undertakes Pest Risk Analysis (PRAs) of different agricultural commodities with respect to their import or export in relation to the countries concerned.
- iii **Monitoring of Pesticide Residue at the National Level (MPRNL):** The scheme is ongoing with the participation of 31 laboratories all over the country. The participating laboratories collect the food commodities samples from various Agriculture Produce Marketing Committee (APMC) markets and Public Distribution System (PDS), irrigated water and soil samples from intensive agricultural fields across various part of the country and analyze them for pesticide residues. Furthermore, the Scheme assist in identify crops and regions having preponderance of pesticide residues in order to focus extension efforts for Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and Good Agriculture Practices (GAP), strengthen infrastructure at Quarantine stations to prevent entry of food and food commodities which have pesticide residues above maximum residue limit (MRL) and undertakes testing / certification of pesticide residue in export / import consignments.
- iv. **National Institute of Plant Health Management (NIPHM):** The NIPHM was established in the year 1966 as Central Plant Protection Institute (CPPTI) at Hyderabad. The Institute became an autonomous body in the year 2008 with the expanded scope of promoting sustainable Plant Health Management practices in diverse agro-climatic conditions and Plant Bio-security Management and Pesticide Management through capacity building programs. The NIPHM organizes capacity building programs in areas (like Plant Health Management, Bio-security & Incursion Management, Pesticide Management and Market Access) provides Consultancy Services & Policy Support and undertakes adaptive research in plant protection domain. In addition, the NIPHM also undertakes testing of samples for pesticide residues in foods, chemical pesticides in bio-pesticides and pesticide quality analysis.