

Regulatory and Legal Provisions, Plans and Measures for the Management of Pests and Pathogens – The Case of Ghana

By

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Introduction

There are two legal provisions which regulate plant pests in Ghana:

- Plants and Fertilizer Act, 2010 (Act 803) and
- Plant Protection Regulations, 2012 (L.I.2193)

Introduction Con't

- The **Plant and Fertilizer Act, 2010** (Act 803) requires that the Minister of Food and Agriculture of the Republic of Ghana, make regulations by legislative instrument for better performance of functions of the Act.
- The current **Plant Protection Regulations ,2012** (LI 2193) conform with International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs) and World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Measures and
- The Act and its regulations are harmonized with the requirements of the Inter African Phytosanitary Council (AU- IAPSC)

Objectives

- To create awareness of the legal and regulatory framework for the management of pests in Ghana
- To create awareness of the plans for the management of pests and pathogens

Highlights of Legal and Regulatory framework

Act 803 and LI 2193 :

- provide the required framework for efficient conduct of plant protection to prevent the introduction and spread of plant pests
- Regulate the importation and facilitate the export of plant and plant materials
- and provide requirements for marketing quality standard.

Regulatory Body and its functions

The Act establishes a Regulatory body known as Plant Protection and Regulatory Services Directorate (PPRSD) under the Ministry of Food and Agriculture
The functions of PPRSD include the following :

- Conduct surveillance to report the occurrences, outbreak and spread of pests and the control of pests
- Inspection and certification of consignment moving in international trade
- Dissemination of information within the country about requirements and procedures to prevent and control plant pests

Regulatory Body and its functions Con't

- Conduct Pest Risk Analysis
- Co-operate with National , Regional, International Institutions and member countries of IPPC in matters relating to plant health and
- Notify the National Plant Protection Organization of exporting country of any interceptions for non compliance to phytosanitary requirements.

Requirements for importation of plants and plant materials

- All imports of plants and plant materials shall be subjected to inspection
- An importer is notified in writing of the result of inspection if imported items present the risk of introduction and spread of plant pests, does not satisfy the provisions of the Act or are not accompanied with requisite documents.
- A plant commodity imported from a prohibited location, shall be subjected to appropriate measures including quarantine treatment to reduce risk, re-export or destruction of the commodity.

Requirements for importation of plants and plant materials Con't

- A consignee who suspects that an imported item contains plant pests shall notify the Plant Quarantine Division for the necessary action to be taken.

Export and spread of plant pest

- Where an export present risk of spread of plant pest or do not satisfy the requirement of destination country, the plant or plant material shall be subjected to treatment and re-examination
- After re-examination a Quarantine officer shall refuse to issue phytosanitary certificate if the plant or plant material do not meet the requirement.

Definitions

- **Quarantine Pest:** pest of potential economic importance to the **area endangered** thereby and not yet present there, or present but not widely distributed and being **officially controlled**
- **Pest:** Any species, strain or biotype of plant, animal or pathogenic agent injurious to **plants** or **plant products**
- An **area** where ecological factors favour the **establishment** of a **pest** whose presence in the **area** will result in economically important loss.

Source :ISPM 5(2012)

Definitions Con't

- **Official control** :The active enforcement of mandatory **phytosanitary regulations** and the application of mandatory **phytosanitary procedures** with the objective of **eradication** or **containment** of **quarantine pests** or for the management of **regulated non-quarantine pests**
- Regulated Non Quarantine pest: A **non-quarantine pest** whose presence in **plants for planting** affects the **intended use** of those **plants** with an economically unacceptable impact and which is therefore regulated within the territory of the importing contracting party . Source :ISPM 5(2012)

Measures for the management of Quarantine Pest

The Act recommends that the Minister:

- Declares any land, areas or premises infested or infected or suspected to be infested or infected with quarantine pest to be under official control
- Prescribes measures for treatment
- Prescribes the period within which it shall be unlawful to plant or replant the whole or part of infected/infested areas
- Establish internal plant quarantine measures e.g. domestic checkpoint to restrict movement of plant and plant materials within regions

Measures for the management of Quarantine Pest Con't

- Where a Designated Officer suspects that a quarantine pest may be present on a farm or nursery, the officer may enter the farm and inspect it
- Where a quarantine pest is present, the designated officer may cause a written notice to be served on owners or occupiers of a land and adjoining land or premises to take appropriate measures to eradicate, contain or restrict the spread of the quarantine pest
- The minister may authorized a designated officer to carryout the requirement of the notice if owners or occupiers fail to comply with the terms of a notice .

Measures for the management of other pests

- The Regulations also apply to:
 - management of endemic and introduced plant pests and
 - the prevention of the spread of an endemic and introduced plant pest through international agricultural trade.

Pest Surveillance

- PPRSD is mandated to collaborate with other institutions to carry out surveillance of growing plants
- Information obtained from surveillance are used to define
 - pest-free areas
 - areas of low pest prevalence
 - new populations of quarantine pest
 - populations of quarantine pest with limited distribution in Ghana

PPRSD plans for the management of pests and pathogens

- Create awareness on the Plants and Fertilizer Act and its regulations
- Develop procedures for effective Plant Health and phytosanitary controls
- Promote Integrated Pests Management (IPM) for major crops including vegetables, fruits, cereals, legumes and root and tubers through farmer field schools and fora

PPRSD plans for the management of pests and pathogens Con't

- Rear bioagents against pests of cassava , papaya and mango to sustained National Biological Control Programmes
- Establish systems approach for the management of fruitflies in accordance with international standards for phytosanitary measures
- Initiate compliance programmes to increase competitiveness of export crops including Solanum spp, mango, citrus, dry cassava chips

Conclusion

- I hope that my presentation has made you aware of the generality of the Act and Regulations for the management of pests in Ghana.

Thank You for your attention