



Commission on Phytosanitary Measures | 20th Session

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CPM
20

Digital Pest surveillance enhancing phytosanitary
work in Uganda

**Dr. Tugume Joab Katarimpika, Senior Agricultural
inspector, MAAIF Uganda**

Challenges in pest surveillance, reporting and response

Issue

- Weak surveillance system
- Poorly coordinated
- Logistical and technological challenges.
- No Centralized pest data base
- Human resource challenge

What is affected

- Trade/exports
- Food security
- Economy

Who is affected

- Private sector
- Local govts
- Farmers

New pests' introductions & weak response systems = Interception of Uganda's agricultural export and loss of livelihoods

Strengthening plant pest surveillance activities

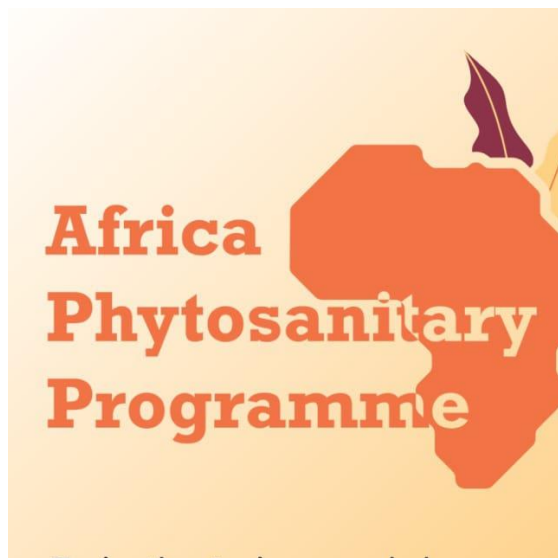
Strategic objectives

1. Strengthen Coordination of plant pest surveillance activities and reporting by taking advantage of the diversified communication channels and modern IT tools
2. Strengthen human resource Capacity to conduct pest surveillance through Collaboration with other departments, of government (NARO & Academia) and the Private sector through the formation of expert working groups
3. To Strengthen systems for Emergence pest response by leveraging on partners and advocating for the creation of a Special fund for Pest surveillance and Emergency Response



APP aligns with our national pest surveillance and emergency response plan

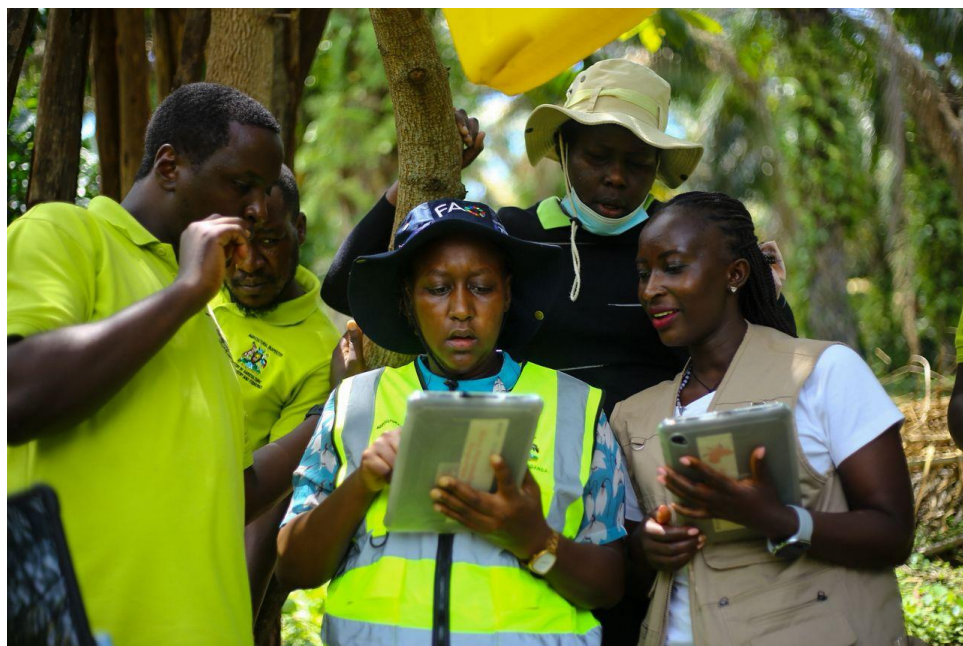
Strengthening plant pest surveillance activities



**Africa Phytosanitary Programme Training
25-29 Sept 2023, Cairo Egypt**

6 Ugandans trained

Strengthening plant pest surveillance activities



APP contributes to our strategic objectives **1 and 2** (IT tools, survey protocols, training human resource, field supplies)

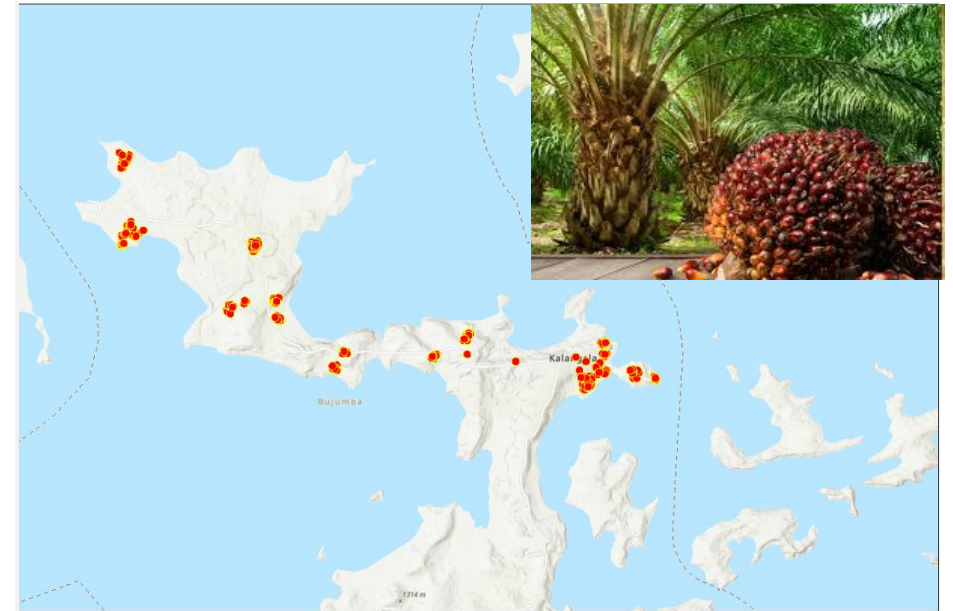
How APP tools are being used to address existing phytosanitary challenges

Focused on;

- Flower sector-Exports, **US\$ 65.3M (FY2025)**
Employing over 10,000 workers
- Oil palm sector- Export **US\$88.06 million (FY2025)**
Over 3000 Small holder farmers.



- Used to generate survey maps.
- Used to generate survey data Points.
- Store surveillance data



*Map showing detection survey for
Red Palm weevil in Kalangala
Uganda, October 2025*

How APP tools are being used to address existing phytosanitary challenges

- Used to generate survey reports

A Technical Report on *Xylella fastidiosa* Survey in Ugandan Flower Farms



Department of Crop Inspection and Certification, Ministry of Agriculture, Animal
Industry and Fisheries

Date: 12th -17th November 2025

Integrating APP into Uganda's national plant health system

Partnering with the private sector

- We have worked closely with the flower association to conduct annual surveys for *Xylella fastidiosa*
- The flower farms have been providing test kits for surveillance.



Integrating APP into Uganda's national plant health system

- Partnering with farmer cooperatives
(**Kalangala Palm growers cooperative trust**)
- Collaboration with the National Agricultural Research Organization (NARO) and FAO



Funding from GOV. Consolidated fund



Key successes following APP implementation

- In 2025, 31 NPPO staff and stakeholders trained in use of digital tools and surveillance of priority pests in addition others trained in 2023
- Conducted detection survey for RPW (**344** survey points, **197 hectares** of Palm oil trees
- Conducted detection survey for *Xylella fastidiosa*.
- **Strengthened collaboration.**



Recommendation for improvement of APP implementation

- Expand the scope of surveillance tools
- Communication with other pest databases
- Expand the scope of the program to cover other phytosanitary issues (Pest risk Analysis, horizon scanning and forecasting)
- Include pests prioritized for Africa – **Phytosanitary research** (CABI and AU-IAPSC).
- Decentralize procurement for field supplies-FAO country offices.



What is the future of plant health in Africa?

Conclusion

- APP program fits within our strategic framework for strengthening pest surveillance for Uganda.
- Democratize the digital tools-Let the tools be accessible to local governments.
- Eliminate logistical challenges in provision of supplies for surveillance
- APP, POARS and Diagnostic networks need to work closely together





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Thank you

IPPC Secretariat

Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations (FAO)

ippc@fao.org | www.ippc.int