1. INTRODUCTION

The National Plant Protection Office (NPPO), being the National Plant Protection Service, has been entrusted with an overall responsibility for law enforcement on plant protection matters, as per provisions made under the Plant Protection Act 2006.

The NPPO has the overall responsibilities for disease surveillance, prevention of the entry of exotic pests and diseases, policy formulation of phytosanitary measures as related to international trade, implementation of the White Grub Protocol and issue of Phytosanitary Certificate (PC) for export of agricultural commodities and Plant Import Permit (PIP). The Plant Quarantine Services, being the first line of defence, operates at strategic points of entry i.e. Seaport and Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam International Airport on a 24-hr basis 7-day a week.

Furthermore, the Office is mandated to carry out research and development programmes in various specialized disciplines of phyto-pathology and quarantine, and Pest Risk Analysis (PRA). The NPPO provides services such as Plant Disease Diagnostic and Advisory, Seed Health Testing and Treatment, Active Growth Inspection for export, Post Entry Quarantine and Postharvest treatment were provided to the planting community/exporters/importers.

The Office is currently hosting the SPS Enquiry Point and acts as an information desk for reception and dissemination of WTO/SPS matters, and is also the Contact Point for the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) as per our international obligation under the WTO.

2. QUARANTINE AND REGULATORY ACTIVITIES

The Plant Quarantine Service (PQS) of the NPPO, ensured a 24-hr all year round control and disease/pest surveillance at strategic points of entry (airport, sea port, post office etc) in connection with inspection of incoming flights and ship vessels, examination and clearance of incoming agricultural consignment, implementation of White Grub Protocol and interception of illegal and/or nonconforming items of plant origin.

The NPPO has its main office at Reduit and four sub-offices: (i) in Arrival Lounge and in (2) Plaisance Air Transport Services at SSR International Airport, Plaine Magnien; and (3) at Mer Rouge and (4) at New Container Terminal at Port Louis. The NPPO also carries out quarantine activities from an office in the General Aviation (Mauritius) Limited (GAM), which is a branch in Mauritius of General Aviation Ltd, an international organization, to cater for special passengers such as private business flights and passengers requiring special treatment.
2.1 Issue of Plant Import Permits (PIP's)

Applications for PIP are made to the Reduit office as well as the Mer Rouge Office, for a wide range of agricultural commodities. Importation of moderate to high risk commodities are carried out through a Pest Risk Analysis (PRA) by Scientific Officers.

On basis of the result of the PRA the application, 8469 PIP were approved and issued.

2.2 Issue of Phytosanitary Certificates (PC's)

The NPPO is also mandated to deliver Phytosanitary Certificates (PC) at Reduit, and Sub offices at SSR International Airport (Arrival Lounge) and Mer Rouge to prospective exporters and passengers carrying agricultural commodities with them. Commercial and non commercial PCs were issued for vegetables, fruits (mainly litchi and pineapple), anthurium flowers, other fresh cut flowers (e.g. gerbera, cucurma), ornaments; vegetables, fruits and flowers seeds; palm seeds, and shoots; medicinal herbs, sugar, wooden articles, and spices as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site</th>
<th>Number of PCs issued</th>
<th>Amount of agricultural commodities certified</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reduit</td>
<td>4035</td>
<td>1673641 kg, 2568628 units, 1005 packets, 3 Full Container Load and 2280 bags tins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSR Int. Airport</td>
<td>479</td>
<td>25301 kg and 39855 units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mer Rouge</td>
<td>3289</td>
<td>25752963 kg, 86965 units, 3 packets, 47 boxes and 5 FCL</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2.3 Treatment of planting materials for export

A total of 367 treatments (203 at Reduit office and 164 at Mer Rouge office) were carried out for all planting materials out prior to issue of a Phytosanitary Certificate. Bare rooted Plants/seedlings/cuttings were dipped in a solution mixture of a broad spectrum insecticide and fungicide dusting of seeds was carried with a mixture of a broad spectrum insecticide and fungicide.

2.4 Active Growth Inspection (AGI) of Anthurium plantations for export

One hundred and two (102) AGI were carried with the objective to:

(i) monitor status of pests and diseases affecting Anthurium production;

(ii) monitor production of high quality and disease/pest-free anthurium blooms for Phytosanitary certification for export;

(iii) carry out detection surveys throughout an established surveillance system for exotic pests/diseases and other targeted quarantine diseases i.e Anthurium bacterial blight caused by *Xanthomonas axonopodis pv. diffenbachiae.*
Major diseases encountered were Bacterial Wilt (*Ralstonia solanacearum*), Root Rot (*Phytophthora spp*.), Anthracnose (*Colletotrichum gloeosporioides*). Sporadic attack of pests such as mites, thrips and leaf eating caterpillars were also detected. Other disorder affecting Anthurium blooms that was observed in several locations was 'small or aborted spadix' in var. 'Ozaki' which was associated with diurnal variation in temperature.

No quarantine diseases/pests were detected. Recommendations on control measures in collaboration with the Entomology Division were also made to anthurium growers.

2.5 Inspection of Ships/Vessels

A total of 895 ships / vessels / yatch were inspected for the period under review.

2.6 Inspection of Planes

A total of 9485 incoming planes were attended at SSR International Airport for inspection and removal of classified quarantine waste (pantry refuse) and monitoring of removal of aircraft kitchen generated waste by the Airport Catering Unit.

2.7 Inspection/Clearance of incoming agricultural produce

Imported agricultural commodities are subject to phytosanitary inspection by Officers of the NPPO at points of entry namely at the Plaisance Air Transfer Services (PATS) at the Airport and in the Ports Area. Clearance was given and Inspection Certificate (CI) were issued for products compliant to NPPOs import requirements and includes mainly of second hand agricultural machinery, fruits (fresh, frozen, dried), vegetables (fresh, frozen, dried), pulses, spices, aromatic and fine herbs planting materials (plants, plant parts & seeds), wood and wooden products as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site</th>
<th>Number of CI issued</th>
<th>Amount of agricultural commodities certified</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PATS</td>
<td>1309</td>
<td>4053016 kg, 2275658 units and 188 packets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ports Area</td>
<td>5091</td>
<td>289789685 kg and 96014 units</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2.8 Incinerator Plant Facility

The NPPO has 2 Incinerator Plant facilities at both points of entry into the country to incinerate aircraft kitchen-generated waste and ship-generated waste and other intercepted items from incoming passengers, Agricultural Marketing Board (AMB) - Cold Room, PATS DHL and UPS. The volume of waste incinerated amounted to 153354 kg at Airport and 15729 kg at the Harbour.

2.9 Interception of Agricultural commodities

Non conforming and illegally imported agricultural produce of plant and animal origin were intercepted from the incoming passengers at the Arrival Lounge of the SSR Int. Airport and Aurelie Perrine Passenger Terminal in the port, in imported agricultural cargo in PATS and Ports Area as well as from the Post Office. Detained receipted were issued for intercepted items consisting mainly of assorted fruits and vegetables, peacock feathers, handicraft items, meat &
fish produce, seeds of vegetables and flowers, planting materials, flower bouquet and herbs were either destroyed, reshipped, treated or kept under quarantine as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site</th>
<th>No of Detained receipts</th>
<th>Total quantity intercepted</th>
<th>Destroyed</th>
<th>Quarantine</th>
<th>Treatment</th>
<th>Reshipped</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SSR International Airport</td>
<td>345</td>
<td>3364.5 kg, 731 units, 4 bundles, 54 packets, 4 bouquets, 1 bag and 32 boxes</td>
<td>1230 kg, 765 units, 53 packets, 22 boxes, 1 bag, 4 bouquet and 4 bundles</td>
<td>19 kg, 11 units and 1 box</td>
<td>3 units</td>
<td>2187 kg and 12 units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PATS</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>1757 kg, 43 units, 72 boxes and 9 packets</td>
<td>744 kg, 43 units, 72 boxes and 9 packets</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1013 kg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Passenger Terminal In Ports Area</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>1028 kg and 102 units</td>
<td>1028 kg and 102 units</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post Office</td>
<td>143</td>
<td>668.67 kg, 2987 units, 437 packets, 12 boxes and 2 flasks</td>
<td>662.5 kg, 81 units, 420 packets, 2 boxes, 2 flasks and 1 bag</td>
<td>6.24 kg, 2900 unit, 1 boxes and 31 packets</td>
<td>6 unit and 6 pkts</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. IMPLEMENTATION OF BIOSECURITY PROTOCOLS

3.1 Implementation of White Grub Protocol

The White Grub Protocol (WGP) is a Franco-Mauritian bilateral agreement signed by the two parties, namely Mauritius and Reunion Island, in the year 1990. The Protocol provides for phytosanitary measures to prevent the introduction of White Grub insects (hannetons; scarabées), *Hoplochelus marginalis,* from Reunion Island. Specific guidelines in relation to movement of planes, ships and people to and from Reunion Island are clearly stipulated; such as specific time of arrival or departure of planes and ships co-relating with the time of flight of the insect (at night), regular monitoring and surveillance program (including spraying program) at airport and seaport areas.

The Protocol was reviewed in 2010 and is now implemented during the period 1st November to 15th January the following year whereby the phytosanitary risk associated with the insect is very acute as this period corresponds to the flight period of the adult insect.

Planes and Ships arriving from reunion island were inspected for the presence of live adult of White Grub and a 'Certificat d'examen visuel' was issued to the attention of the Plant Protection Service of Reunion Island in connection with the inspection of the departure of the first plane and ship to Reunion Island. No traces of the adult white grub have been observed.
As part of the protocol, an annual mission in Mauritius was effected by 3 Officers comprising the Plant protection Services of Reunion Island from 14 to 16 December 2011.

Some twenty years after the signature of the first Protocol, the White Grub Protocol remains still one of the most successful bilateral agreement between the two parties. Mauritius has so far been kept free from this destructive quarantine pest.

### 3.2 Implementation of Giant African Snail (GAS) protocol

The Australian Quarantine Inspection Services (AQIS) have identified containers originating from and/or transshipping through GAS infected countries as a potential pathway of introduction of GAS into Australia, GAS being considered as invasive alien species and a potential threat to important food crops, natural resources and human health.

In this respect AQIS reviewed its risk management strategies in order to minimize the risk of introduction of this invasive species into Australia and proposed Mauritius an Operating Arrangement that defines the terms of implementation and ongoing operation of a mutual recognition arrangement between AQIS and MAIFPS Mauritius, initially for the inspection and assurance of containers being transshipped through Mauritius to Australia. The scope of this arrangement covers a port hygiene system that effectively manages the biosecurity risk for sea containers being landed in Australia from Mauritius as per ISPM 4 (Establishment of a Pest free Area). According to the Operating Agreement, the NPPO developed a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) and is certifying containers destined to Australia.

### 4. POST ENTRY QUARANTINE MONITORING (PEQM) OF IMPORTED TISSUE CULTURE PLANTLETS

Since imported planting materials can present a risk to plant health because they have the potential to introduce quarantine pests, post-entry quarantine (PEQ) facilities that provide the appropriate containment for the risk that has been identified are used as a safeguard measure.

2 consignments comprising a total of 5400 *Anthurium andreanum* plantslets (6 varieties) of tissue culture plantlets anthurium plantlets were imported from Holland. The plantlets were transferred from agar on vermiculite medium to undergo hardening for 2 months. This is followed by a Quarantine period of up to 18 months in the Containment Facility at Reduit for Monitoring of quarantine pests and diseases, mainly anthurium blight caused by *Xanthomonas axonopodis pv axonopodis*. The plants were found to be free from bacterial blight and were released.

### 5. SEED PATHOLOGY

#### 5.1 Monitoring of locally produced seeds on government stations

The NPPO is mandated for the monitoring and control of seed borne diseases on seed production stations of the Agricultural Services and for seed health monitoring of locally produced seeds and reduce the level of seed borne infection to an acceptable tolerance level using appropriate cultural and diseases minimising techniques
In this context 27 routine field inspections were carried out jointly by a multidisciplinary team comprising of officers from NPPO, Entomology, Horticulture and Agronomy Divisions in 45 fields of vegetables crops 6 government stations (Barkly Field Section, Curepipe E.S., Roches Brunes SPC, Richelieu E.S. and Belle Vue E.S.). Twenty four (24) diseases were diagnosed.

5.2 Seed Health Testing

5.2.1 Local Seeds

Further to regular field monitoring, seed health testing is carried out for seeds taken at the Seed Processing Section Barkly ES prior to sale using standard laboratory diagnostic techniques and growing on tests.


No disease of economic importance was revealed.

5.2.2 Imported seeds

Imported vegetable seeds can carry seed borne diseases of quarantine importance and it is important to ascertain the absence of seed borne diseases on imported seeds.

A total of 114 samples from 29 consignments of vegetable, flower, aromatic herb and feed seeds imported from USA, Hong Kong, India, China, Zambia, Korea, Thailand, South Africa, and France were tested in 2011.


Growing on and laboratory tests performed on imported seeds revealed no disease of quarantine importance.
5.2.3 Imported Potato seeds

Eighty five samples of imported seed potato have been examined and screen at the NPPO laboratory and the Quarantine Green House for economically important quarantine diseases and pests. No major quarantine fungal pathogens were detected.

Inspection of one consignment of potato was carried out at the agricultural Marketing Board for the assessment of insect beetles in presence of Officers from the Entomology Division and the MSIRI. The consignment was then released as the level of damage was at an acceptable level.

5.2.4 Seeds produced locally under Quality Declared Seeds (QDS) Scheme

Under the Quality Declared Seed (QDS) Scheme, 11 field visits were carried out in cucumber and Squash seed production plantations at Sorez, Solitude, Solferino 5, and Dubreuil by Officers of the NPPO together with Officers of the Entomology Division of the Agricultural Services and Scientists from the Pathology and Entomology divisions of AREU.

5.3 Advisory and seed treatment facilities to the planting community

A free treatment service (Hot water, fungicidal dressing and with tri-sodium phosphate) of seeds produced by local planters was provided to the members of the public at large for the control of seedborne diseases for the following:

- **Tomato** (Lycopersicon esculentum) – against tomato scab (Xanthomonas campestris pv vesicatoria) and tomato speck (Pseudomonas syringae pv tomato)
- **Cauliflower** (Brassica oleracea var. botrytis), cabbage (Brassica oleracea) and Broccoli (Brassica oleracea) against Black rot (Xanthomonas campestris pv campestris) and Black leg (Leptosphaeria maculans)

5.4 Diagnostic service to the planting community

Diagnostic Service was provided to the planting community at large in connection with the investigation of diseased plant samples and recommendation of control management strategies.

6. PROJECTS

6.1 Status of virus diseases in vegetable crops in seed production stations in Mauritius

Monitoring surveys were conducted on the main seed production stations of the agricultural services namely Arsenal ES, Bois Marchand SPC, Barkly ES, Roche Brunes SPC, Riche lieu ES, belle Vue ES, Curepipe ES and Plaisance ES. The objective of the survey was to determine the status of viruses affecting leguminous, solanaceous, cucurbitaceous and cruciferous crops.

The main crops surveyed were Cucumber, snakegourd, tomato, asparagus bean, French bean, cucumber, pumpkin, lettuce, tomato, chilli, onion, and squash.
The viruses detected were Zucchini Yellow Mosaic Virus (ZYMV), Cucumber Mosaic Virus (CMV), Papaya Rinspot virus (PRSV), Bean Common Mosaic Virus (BCMV), Potato Virus Y (PVY), Turnip Mosaic Virus (TuMV), Tomato Mosaic Virus (ToMV) and Tobacco Mosaic Virus (TMV).

6.2 Citrus Improvement Programme

The insect proof repository at the Quarantine Service, Reduit, was donated by Caisse Central de Coopération Francaise in mid 1990 under the Projet Fruitière and was designed for use as a repository for imported certified citrus materials. The objective of this project was to rehabilitate the existing infrastructures for production of disease free material and establishment of diagnostic tools for indexation of citrus planting materials. It is now used as a pre-multiplication block for production of disease free budwoods for citrus propagation Program by Barkly ES for varieties Kumquat Marumi, Pomelo Star Ruby, Sweety, Washington Navel, New Navel, Kumquat, Meyer and Beauty.

For the year 2011, 200 Carrizo seeds were sown, 60 seedlings of Carrizo were potted, 297 budwoods were collected from the Plant conservatory, 56 citrus sp were grafted at the Plant Conservatory, 12 citrus grafts were recruited in bins and 70 citrus grafts from the Plant conservatory were used for recruiting in New Citrus mother plant orchard in Barkly ES

6.3 Phytosanitary Measures for Import and export

In the context of implementation of SPS agreement of WTO, Import Risk Analysis was carried out prior to the importation to evaluate the probability of introduction, spread and establishment of potential pests and the magnitude of potential economic consequences in Mauritius and phytosanitary regulations are formulated accordingly for mandarines from Pakistan, apples, pears and citrus from China, wooden charcoal from South Africa, fruits from Chile, biofertilizers from Australia, alpinia from USA, mango from South Africa and Egypt, oat seeds from South Africa, clean air tree kits containing forest tree seeds from UK, pitcher Plants (insectivorous) from Singapore, orchid plants from Hawaii, organic fertilizers (Grassmaster) from Australia, bamboo plants from Indonesia, tumeric and cardomon from India, in vitro tissue culture bamboo from any country, bird feeds from Holland, dehusked coconuts exceptionally from Madagascar and Malaysia, barerooted cuttings of rose, Hibiscus rosa, Tabernae montera devaricala, Tabernae montera oorymbusa, Duranta sp golden Den, and Brianthus sp cuttings from India, orchid plantlets from India and lilium bulbs from India.

The Senior Scientific Officer (SSO) together with SSO of Entomology Division went on mission in August 2011 to Pakistan in connection with a Pest Risk Analysis (PRA) process, bilateral negotiations and development of a phytosanitary import protocol for market access of Pakistani mangoes (var Chaussa) into Mauritius during off season. Based on the results of the PRA, Pakistani mangoes can be imported into Mauritius under the phytosanitary import protocol during off season.
6.4 Review of specific commodities based on risk categorisation

With a view to identify existing Non Tariff Barriers (NTBs) on our main export markets, the International Trade Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade sought the assistance of the International Trade Centre (ICT) and a local private consultancy firm to undertake a study in that regard and make recommendations for the elimination of NTBs where appropriate and the streamlining of export and import procedures. A mission from the ICT was in Mauritius and held consultations with public and private sector stakeholders in the context of the study.

In this regard, the NPPO provided a list of importers and their contact details to the consultant from ICT and the local consultancy firm for them to proceed with the survey on NTMs in relation to export of finished agro products and import of raw materials required.

The study examined the rationale behind each permit, certificate and authorization required for trade so as to rationalize the process and eventually simplify or eliminate some of them. A number of NTBs acting as barrier to trade were identified by the private consultancy firm in their study following consultative meetings.

The NPPO recommended to maintain Plant Import Permit (PIP) for potatoes, onions, shallot and garlic (HS Chapter 7); lemons, edible fruits, nut etc (HS Chapter 8); roasted coffee (HS Chapter 09), furniture, beddings, mattresses, stuffed furnishings etc (HS Chapter 94), brooms and brushes (HS Chapter 96). The NPPO was agreeable to the elimination of PIP for cocoa paste/butter/powder (HS Chapter 18), processed product canned or in juice/syrup etc (HS Chapter 20), ash residues (HS Chapter 26).

6.5 Legislations - Preparation of Regulations under the Plant Protection Act (2006)

The Plant Protection Act (PPA) was prepared and promulgated in November 2006 in order to replace the Plant Act (1976). As per provisions made under section 32 of the PPA (2006) for regulations, draft Plant Protection Regulation has been prepared by the NPPO and vetted by the State law Office and the final draft from the SLO was being awaited.

6.6. PROPOSAL FOR AN ELECTRONIC PERMIT SYSTEM

In line with the Ministry of Finance and Government’s policy on online application and issue of permits, the NPPO in collaboration with the Mauritius Network Services is implementing an Electronic permit System (MNS) with a view to incorporate the issue of Plant Import permits (PIP), Phytosanitary Certificates (PC) and Certificate of Inspection (CI) under the Tradenet Single Window.

A draft proposal for Online Application of Plant Import permits and Phytosanitary certificates has been prepared for which the NPPO provided technical information regarding the present system for issue of PIP, PC and CI. Several consultative meetings were held between the representative of MNS and Officers of the NPPO to review the process spelt out in the document for issue of PIP, PC and CI.
In parallel, the logistic issues such as hardware requirements and connectivity were being addressed by the Senior System Analyst of the Ministry and the Project Manager of the Central Informatics Bureau. In this regard, a visit was carried out by MNS at sub offices of the NPPO situated at the port and airport.

7.0 CAPITAL PROJECTS

7.1 Status Report on Setting up of a Multipurpose Containment Facility

Under the Non-Sugar Sector Strategic Plan 2003-2007, our Ministry has proposed the setting up of a multipurpose Containment Facility that would interalia serve for:

(i) Introduction and testing for subsequent breeding and multiplication of biological control agents

(ii) Investigation of high risk quarantine material and pathogen, and

(iii) Containment of genetically modified organism as per provision of our GMO Act 2004 and the Plant Protection Act 2006

A Feasibility Study was carried out in 2008 and the construction of the new facility is estimated at about 33.5 Million MUR which will be entirely funded by the Government of Mauritius. The specifications (to enable the Procurement and Supply Division to carry out the bidding exercise) were being prepared by the Ministry of Public Infrastructure.

7.2 Setting up of an incinerator plant Facility in port area- funded under the WIOLaB Demonstration Project  Solid Waste Management at Port Louis harbour (a component of the regional project “Addressing Land-based Activities in the Western Indian Ocean)

In order to comply with the requirement of the International Convention for the Prevention of Marine Pollution (MARPOL 73/78 Convention) to which Mauritius is a signatory member and which provide of reception and disposal facilities for ship generated wastes (including quarantine wastes) to transiting ship vessels, the NPPO set up an incinerator plant facility in the ports area under the Western Indian Ocean Landbased (WIOLaB) Demonstration project entitled “Solid Waste Management in Port Louis Harbour” in order to prevent introduction of exotics pests, to prevent marine pollution and to develop an environmentally sound and long term strategic waste management policy in the port area. The project was co-funded by UNEP/GEF WIOLab and the Government of Mauritius.

7.3 Setting up of a Heat treatment facility for export of agricultural commodities

The Heat Treatment Plant (HTP) is a component of the Quarantine Treatment Plant Facility (QTPF) project that will be set up by the NPPO with an intended quarantine use and with the overall objective to provide treatment facilities and services to stakeholders (importers, exporters and public at large) for quarantine the treatment of agricultural products so as to eliminate insect pests prior to export so as to comply with the phytosanitary requirement of trading partners as well as the treatment of imported products for their safe introduction into Mauritius as per the requirement under the Plant Protection Act 2006
The HTP is an essential requirement of the Quarantine Section of the NPPO in order to provide prompt service to the exporting and importing community involved in the international trade business for treatment of wood and wooden products, as a requirement of the phytosanitary standard (ISPM No. 15) of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC).

The setting up of the modern technology Heat Treatment Plant at Fort George in the Port Area was completed in October 2011. Activities undertaken in this context include allocation of contract and handing over of site to contractor, construction works by the contractor and follow up meetings by the NPPO and Engineering Division, testing and commissioning of the HTP and training of staff from NPPO, Engineering Division and Electrical services Division by an Engineer from the exporting company from India.

**7.4 Setting up of a Sulphuryl Fluoride Treatment Plant for NPPO at Fort George in the Port Area**

The Setting up of a Sulphuryl Fluoride Treatment Plant (SFTP) at Fort George in the Port Area is another component under the Multipurpose Quarantine Treatment Project.

In this context, the site for construction was identified and design drawing were prepared by the Engineering Division in collaboration of the NPPO and submitted to the Procurement and Supplies Division for preparation of tender documents.

**8.0 SPS MATTERS**

**8.1 WTO Sanitary and Phytosanitary Notifications-reception and dissemination**

During the year 2011, 1268 Notifications were received on from the WTO. These notifications were studied and 788 notifications regarding food safety were forwarded to the Codex Point and 204 notifications regarding animal health to OIE Focal Point, Veterinary Division from January to December 2010. 278 Notifications was obtained regarding plant health for the same period.

**8.2 Ban on importation of agricultural commodities from Japan due to radioactivity contamination from Fukushima plant**

Following an earthquake in Japan on 11 March 2011 which cause damage to Fukushima nuclear plant and resulted in radioactive contamination of the surrounding area, a Technical Monitoring Ad Hoc Committee was set up to look into the importation of foodstuffs and other products from Japan given that Mauritius imports vehicles, food products and feedstuffs, agricultural commodities (seeds and wooden articles) etc from Japan. A ban was on importation of products originating from affected prefectures of Japan.

**8.3 Ban on importation of fresh vegetables from Europe and fenugreek seeds from Egypt due to E.coli Outbreak**

A severe and fatal outbreak of *Escherichia. coli* infections (haemolytic uraemic syndrome - HUS and enterohemorrhagic *E. coli* - EHEC) started in Northern Germany as from end of May 2011 whereby several cases of human infection and death due to E coli was registered in other European countries such
as Austria, Denmark, France, Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. The infections were initially linked to the consumption of potentially contaminated cucumbers produced in Spain and Netherlands. Later been sprouts from Germany and fenugreek seeds from Egypt were also suspected to cause contamination with E. Coli. Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF) 2011.0702 and 2011.0703 were emitted by the European Union. RASFF 2011-0842 was later emitted by France in this regard.

Given the severity of outbreak, the NPPO participated in the National Codex Committee meetings, and it was decided to put a temporary ban was imposed on the importation of fresh and semi processed vegetables originating from Spain, bean sprouts from all EEC countries (given that vegetables from all European countries are traded in France) and fenugreek seeds sprouts from Egypt.

The ban was subsequently removed following correspondence from Head of Mission ME, Berlin informing that E. Coli outbreak was over in Germany.

8.4 Workshop on Support training by selected and trained representatives, Participation of African Nations in Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standard Setting Organisations (PANSPSO) Project

The NPPO participated in a workshop on Support training by selected and trained representatives, Participation of African Nations in Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standard Setting Organisations (PANSPSO) Project was held on 9-11 March 2011. The objective of the workshop was to encourage links between Private sector individuals and/or institutions having a stake in SPS issues with the Public sector in order to enhance their contribution to the assessment of standards/proposal of standards.

9.0 OTHER ACTIVITIES

9.1 The NPPO also provided input for the following:

- Mechanism for implementation of the Freight Rebate Scheme for producers and exporters of agricultural products
- A tool for export and import procedures and documentation for the Republic of Mauritius
- Updated the status of implementation of the Multilateral Environment Agreements (MEAs) on its MUELEX website to the Ministry of Environment
- Cooperation and trade facilitation between Mauritius and Russia, Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of Mauritius and the Government of the Russian Federation on Exports of fruits, flowers and vegetables and Draft Framework Agreement on Trade and economic Cooperation between Mauritius and Russia

9.2 World Food day Celebrations

The World Food Day was celebrated at the Agricultural services SSR Botanical Garden from 14 – 16 October 2011. The theme chosen to commemorate the World Food day the year 2011 was “FoodPrices-from Crisis to Stability”.

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The NPPO prepared several comprehensive posters on plant quarantine aiming at sensitising the general public about the importance of plant quarantine as well as to let people know which agricultural produce are allowed into Mauritius subject to strict phytosanitary conditions. The Exhibits highlighting activities of the division were posters showing services offered by the NPPO to different stakeholders for Agri Business, introduction of germplasm and biosecurity measures at points of entry.

9.3 Training offered by the NPPO

The NPPO provided 6 weeks training to 3 Students from the University of Mauritius, Faculty of Agriculture underwent training at the NPPO on introduction and general principles of Quarantine in Mauritian Perspective, techniques in identification and detection of organisms of quarantine importance, seed health testing and detection of seed borne and seed transmitted microorganisms, implementation of ISPM 15 and notification systems, quarantine inspection procedures at points of entry, inspection procedures of incoming crafts and agricultural commodities, interface with Customs, Veterinary and Health, interception and methods of screening of intercepted items and inspection and reporting system for post entry quarantine monitoring of imported planting materials.