

CONCLUSIONS FROM THE TECHNICAL WORKING SEMINAR „PLANT PROTECTION WITHOUT BORDERS“

Technical working seminar “Plant Protection without Borders”, organized by the Czech Phytomedical Society together with the Austrian Society for Integrated Pest Management, took place in Prague in 2nd - 3rd October 2013.

31 attendants from seven European countries (Austria, Czech Republic, Finland, Hungary, Slovakia, Slovenia and Serbia) participated in the seminar. Within the plenary session five lectures on general topics of care of plant health were presented. Abstracts from the presentations are available [here](#). Abstracts on the activities of non-governmental plant health organizations presented on the seminar are available [here](#).

Two workshops were organized: on topic of „Importance of care of plant health and role of the non-governmental plant health organizations in strengthening care of plant health“, and on topic of „Why Integrated pest management“. Recommendations from the workshops you can find below.

Recommendations from the workshop „Importance of care of plant health and role of the non-governmental plant health organizations in strengthening care of plant health“

Plant health care definition

Plant health care should be appropriately and clearly enough defined respecting

- consumer friendly expression
- no interference with international terminology
- individual language and culture which might disperse strict nomenclature
- emphasis on integrated pest management idea i.e. plant protection including indirect prevention measures with focus on small holders and non-professional users of plant protection products (with regard to the EU Directive 2009/128/EC)
- that term phytomedicine/phytofarmacy is erratic.

Importance of non-governmental plant health organizations

- independent expert opinion needs to be communicated stronger
- industry advisory is welcome but examined on independence

Status of non-governmental plant health organizations by countries:

- Serbia: independent opinion to special committees
- Hungary: supported by governmental authorities
- Czechia: scientific committee to brief governmental decision makers.

Non-governmental plant health organizations and public awareness

Non-governmental plant health organizations should

- actively contact society/pressure groups
- advise legislators on professional base of plant protection in order that expert opinion is a part of professional political decisions.

Cooperation between plant health non-governmental organizations

Intensive communication and cooperation between non-governmental plant health organizations on European wide multilateral exchange of professional expertise/opinions is needed.

There are strong requirements for a good communication platform. Usage of a scientific society such as the International Association for the Plant Protection Sciences (www.plantprotection.org) might help.

Recommendations from the workshop „Why Integrated pest management“

Reasons for implementation of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in the world-wide context were analysed with following findings:

- increasing demand of feeding human population
- limited conditions for agriculture (sealing agriculture land etc.)
- increasing pressure of environmental point of view on plant protection.

Therefore, sustainable crop production and relevant modern cultivation methods and technology should be supported and infrastructure to facilitate the adoption and implementation of IPM should be put in place.

Farmers should strengthen and keep their credibility for public.

Part of non-governmental plant health organizations is important in process of implementation of IPM in particular by facilitating credible information exchange on IPM.