GUIDELINES ON
THE EXPORT OF FRESH CAPSICUM

NEW PLANT HEALTH RULES
FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION

COLEACP GUIDELINES ON THE EXPORT OF
CAPSICUM FROM AFRICA, MADAGASCAR,
CAPE VERDE, AND MAURITIUS

JUN. 2020
DISCLAIMER:

Note that this document is not a regulatory reference. The elements included within it are not exhaustive or exclusive, and they may or may not be relevant, depending on the situation of each country. The content of each national action plan, and any dossiers submitted to the EU, remain the sole responsibility of the NPPO and industry stakeholders in the countries concerned.

This publication has been prepared by the COLEACP as part of co-operation programmes funded by the European Union (European Development Fund – EDF), the Agence Française de Développement (AFD) and the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF).

The COLEACP is solely responsible for the content of this publication, which may in no way be considered to represent the official position of the European Union, the AFD or the STDF.

The COLEACP owns the intellectual property rights to the entirety of the document.

This publication is an integral part of a COLEACP collection, which is made up of educational and technical tools and materials. All of them are suited to different types of learners and beneficiaries and levels of education found in agricultural supply chains, production and sales.

This collection is available online for COLEACP members and beneficiaries.

Subject to certain conditions, the use of all or part of this publication is possible within the scope of specific partnerships. To make any inquiries, please contact the COLEACP at network@coleacp.org.
PART 1:
1. Background 1
2. Regulatory changes affecting Capsicum exports to the European Union 2
3. Completing the phytosanitary certificate 8
4. Pest free status 10

PART 2:
- Background to the dossier 17
- Section 1: General overview of the national Capsicum export sector 19
- Section 2: Integrated pre-harvest and post-harvest measures for the prevention and control of false coddling moth 20
- Section 3: Inspection and certification system 23
- Section 4: NPPO quality management system 25
- Section 5: Providing evidence of effectiveness 26
- Section 6: Summary and general recommendation on preparation and submission of the Capsicum-FCM dossier 28

REFERENCES AND OTHER USEFUL PUBLICATIONS
- References and other useful publications 33
PART 1

Background and guidelines on meeting EU requirements for the regulated pests False Coddling Moth (*Thaumatotibia leucotreta*), Tomato Fruit Borer (*Neoleucinodes elegantalis*) and Fall Armyworm (*Spodoptera frugiperda*) on Capsicum
1. BACKGROUND

The European Union (EU) is overhauling its plant health (phytosanitary) regulations. On 14th December 2019, a new plant health regulation (EU 2016/2031) comes into operation bringing rigorous new rules to prevent the introduction and spread of pests and diseases in the EU. This takes a much more proactive approach that will affect the European fruit and vegetable sector, as well as imports from third countries outside the EU.

Under the new regime, special measures have already been introduced for crops that are a known pathway into the EU of serious pests that could damage EU agriculture or the environment. These measures include stringent new requirements covering the export of Capsicum to prevent the introduction of False Coddling Moth (*Thaumatotibia leucotreta*), Tomato Fruit Borer (*Neoleucinodes elegantalis*) and Fall Armyworm (*Spodoptera frugiperda*) into Europe.

The new rules stipulate certain conditions that exporting countries must meet before exports of Capsicum are allowed. Some of these conditions refer to International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs). ISPMs are developed by the International Plant Protection Convention of the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), and are recognised by the WTO Sanitary and Phytosanitary Agreement. Exporting countries must refer to the relevant ISPMs in order to fully understand and comply with the EU regulatory requirements.

Meeting these new rules requires immediate and concerted action from producers, exporters and the National Plant Protection Organisations. There is no room for complacency by any Capsicum exporting country. If there are any interceptions of these pests in exported Capsicum, the EU is expected to react and impose more stringent measures.

National action plans and stakeholder engagement

Experience has shown that meeting the new EU rules requires effective dialogue and engagement between public and private sectors. All stakeholders must agree on the actions needed to ensure that exported Capsicum is free of the designated pests. This means identifying and agreeing on actions to be taken by private sector operators at all stages, from production to export. It also means agreeing to the responsibilities of the public sector authorities, in particular the National Plant Protection Organisation (NPPO).

COLEACP recommends the establishment of committees or tasks forces that bring all major stakeholders around the table to develop (and oversee the implementation) of a national Capsicum action plan. To be effective, this national action plan must be appropriate to the local context, and usable by the range of different producers and exporter concerned (large and small). It is essential that all stakeholders agree to and implement the national action plan; if only one exporter sends infested consignments to the EU, this could bring down the entire export sector.

**COLEACP Support**

This document was prepared by COLEACP for national authorities and Capsicum export sectors to help orientate the development of national action plans and dossiers to meet the new rules. It provides a framework to guide the process, and outlines the various elements that can be incorporated into a national approach to manage the pests concerned. It identifies the possible information to be provided, and actions to be taken, at all stages from production to export, by both public and private sectors. References and links to the relevant ISPMs are provided.
Note that the elements included here are not exhaustive. The national Capsicum action plan and dossier could include all or a selection of the measures outlined, as well as any others that may be available and appropriate locally.

2. REGULATORY CHANGES AFFECTING CAPSICUM EXPORTS TO THE EUROPEAN UNION

New Rules on False Coddling Moth (FCM)

On 15 July 2017, the European Commission published Implementing Directive (EC) 2017/1279, setting out additional measures for the control of FCM on Capsicum, some Citrus species, and Prunus persica exported from Africa, Cape Verde, Madagascar, La Reunion, Mauritius, and Israel. FCM is widespread here and historically there have been high levels of EU interceptions in the listed crops.

Additional measures under this Directive were first applied in January 2018. Unfortunately, over the following year, a significant number of Capsicum consignments exported from Africa were again intercepted due to the continued presence of FCM. To tackle the problem, in March 2019 the EU introduced a second Directive (Implementing Directive (EC) 2019/523) bringing in more stringent requirements. This entered into force on 1 September 2019. These rules were updated in Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072 issued on 28 November 2019, which clarified certain elements concerning the implementation of the new EU Plant Health Regulation (EU) 2016/2031.

According to this latest Regulation 2019/523, Capsicum exported to the EU must conform with one of the following options. It must either:

a. originate in a country recognised as being free from Thaumatotibia leucotreta (Meyrick) in accordance with relevant International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures, provided that this freedom status has been communicated in advance in writing to the Commission by the national plant protection organisation of the third country concerned (ISPM 4; see Chapter 4), or;

b. originate in an area established by the national plant protection organisation in the country of origin as being free from Thaumatotibia leucotreta (Meyrick), in accordance with the relevant International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures, which is mentioned on the phytosanitary certificate referred to in Article 71 of Regulation (EU) No 2016/2031, under the rubric ‘Additional declaration’, provided that this freedom status has been communicated in advance in writing to the Commission by the national plant protection organisation of the third country concerned (ISPM 4), or;

c. originate in a place of production established by the national plant protection organisation in the country of origin as being free from *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* (Meyrick) in accordance with relevant International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures and information on traceability is included in the phytosanitary certificate referred to in the Article 71 of Regulation (EU) No 2016/2031, and official inspections have been carried out in the place of production at appropriate times during the growing season, including a visual examination on representative samples of fruit, shown to be free from *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* (Meyrick) [ISPM 10; see Chapter 4], or;

d. have been subjected to an effective cold treatment to ensure freedom from *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* (Meyrick) or an effective systems approach or another effective post-harvest treatment to ensure freedom from *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* (Meyrick) and the use of a systems approach or details of the treatment method are indicated on the phytosanitary certificate referred to in Article 71 of Regulation (EU) No 2016/2031, provided that the systems approach or the post-harvest treatment method together with documentary evidence of its effectiveness has been communicated in advance in writing to the Commission by the national plant protection organisation of the third country concerned.

In practical terms, only Options (c) and (d) are applicable to the Capsicum sector; the first two require pest-free countries or areas, which are not generally feasible because of the widespread distribution of FCM in the listed countries. These options are therefore not described in detail in this document for FCM, but general information is provided in Chapter 4 “Pest Free status”.

Option (c) requires a place of production designated as free from FCM. Some countries have adopted this option by using insect-proof screen houses; these must be designated as pest-free through a series of inspections by the NPPO, conducted strictly according to procedures specified in ISPM 10. It is an effective option, but requires significant investment in infrastructure and is out of reach of many smallholder farmers involved in Capsicum production.

Option (d) requires capsicum to be subjected to an effective treatment. The NPPO must submit a dossier to the European Commission describing in detail the “effective treatment” that will be applied to all Capsicum exports to ensure they are free from FCM. There are currently few effective single treatments available for post-harvest control on capsicum that will guarantee it is FCM free. Instead, the new Directive allows for the use of a systems approach. This means developing an action plan that combines several different pest management measures that, used together, will significantly reduce pest risk ([ISPM 14](#)). These measures may include surveillance, cultural practices, crop treatment, post-harvest disinestation, inspection, and others.

In their dossier, the exporting country must provide sufficient information to the EU to enable the evaluation and approval of the proposed systems approach to managing FCM. **Part 2 of this document provides a guideline on the development and submission of a dossier.**
Once the dossier is submitted, its acceptance or rejection by the European authorities should be checked using the following link: Declarations on pest status from non-EU countries\(^5\) (PDF files attached to each country show the status of their pest dossiers and declarations). Exports can only take place once the dossier is officially accepted.

According to the latest Directive 2019/523, Capsicum exported to the EU must be accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate and there are strict requirements on how this should be filled. Chapter 3 provides clear instructions on how to complete the phytosanitary certificate.

**New Rules on Fall Armyworm**

On 26 September 2019, the EC published Implementing Decision (EU) 2019/1598 introducing emergency measures covering Fall Armyworm\(^6\). The aim is to prevent the introduction and spread of this noxious pest within the EU. It extends the geographic scope of an earlier Directive (EU 2018/638)\(^7\), which was limited to Africa and the Americas. These emergency measures apply from 1 October 2019 until 30 June 2021.

The Implementing Decision applies to a number of fresh products exported into the EU from any country (except Switzerland). These crops include the fruit of Capsicum species; Momordica; Ethiopian eggplant (Solanum aethiopicum); African eggplant (Solanum macrocarpon) and eggplant/aubergine (Solanum melongena). It also covers plants (other than live pollen, plant tissue cultures, seeds and grains) of maize (Zea mays).

---

\(^{5}\) [https://ec.europa.eu/food/plant/plant_health_biosecurity/non_eu_trade/declarations_en](https://ec.europa.eu/food/plant/plant_health_biosecurity/non_eu_trade/declarations_en)


Similar to the case of FCM, Capsicum exports must be accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate, (Chapter 3) and must meet requirements set out in one of the following options:

a. originate in a country recognised to be free from Fall Armyworm in accordance with the relevant international standards for phytosanitary measures (ISPM 4);

b. originate in an area established by the national plant protection organisation in the country of origin as being free from Fall Armyworm (ISPM 4). The name of that area must be stated in the phytosanitary certificate under the section ‘Place of Origin’;

c. they are not from a country or area recognized as free from Fall Armyworm, but they comply with the following conditions:

   i. they have been produced in a production site that is registered and supervised by the NPPO;

   ii. official inspections have been carried out in the production site during the three months prior to export, and no Fall Armyworm has been detected;

   iii. prior to export, the produce has been subject to an official inspection and found to be free from Fall Armyworm;

   iv. there is full traceability covering all movements from the place of production to the point of export;

   v. the specified plants have been produced in a production site which has complete physical protection against the introduction of Fall Armyworm.

d. they are not from a country or area recognized as free from Fall Armyworm, but they comply with points (c) (i to iv) above, and they have been subjected to an effective treatment to ensure they are free from Fall Armyworm;

   or

e. they are not from a country or area recognized as free from Fall Armyworm, but they have been subjected to an effective post-harvest treatment to ensure freedom from Fall Armyworm; this treatment must be indicated on the phytosanitary certificate in the “Treatment” Section.

As in the case of FCM and Implementing Directive 2019/523, in practical terms, only Options (c) and (d) seem feasible for the Capsicum sector; the first two require pest-free countries or areas, which are not viable options for this pest in the countries concerned. Option (e) is also problematic as there are few effective single treatments available for post-harvest control of Fall Armyworm on Capsicum that will guarantee it is pest free.

Option (c) requires a place of production designated as pest free. This can be achieved using insect-proof screen houses coupled with the required inspections by the NPPO. As noted earlier, this is an effective option, but requires significant investment in infrastructure.

Option (d) requires Capsicum to be subjected to an effective treatment, in addition to specified supervision and inspections by the NPPO. As in the case of FCM, this allows for the use of a systems approach for management of the pest.

---

3 As specified in Article 13(1)(ii) of Directive 2000/29/EC
Option (d): National Spodoptera action plan and the role of the NPPO

As in the case of FCM, Option (d) of this Directive is the most accessible for the majority of Capsicum exporters. However, there some important differences

1. In the case of Fall Armyworm, there is no requirement for a dossier to be submitted to the European Commission outlining the systems approach that will be used for the “effective treatment”. Nevertheless, COLEACP strongly recommends that exporting countries should take a similar approach to that recommended for FCM; they must **prepare and implement a national action plan that specifies the measures to be taken by all stakeholders along the supply chain to manage Fall Armyworm in Capsicum; it is critical to ensure that there is no risk of it being present in exported consignments.**

2. There are specific actions that must be taken by the NPPO for all production sites that supply Capsicum for export to the EU. To recap:
   a. The NPPO must register and supervise all production sites
   b. The NPPO must carry out official inspections at all production sites during the three months prior to export. Exports can only be permitted if no Fall Armyworm has been detected at the production site
   c. The NPPO must conduct an official inspection prior to export. Exports can only be permitted if the produce is found to be free from Fall Armyworm

3. If there is a problem or interception, or if a country is subject to an audit by the EU authorities (DG Santé) at any stage, the **national authorities in the exporting country must be able to provide all the necessary documentation to demonstrate that the correct registration, supervision and inspections have been conducted.**

4. The NPPO must inspect all export consignments to ensure that there is full traceability covering all movements of Capsicum from the place of production to the point of export

New Rules on Tomato Fruit Borer (*Neoleucinodes elegantalis*)

Implementing Directive (EC) 2019/523, which was introduced in March 2019, brought in not only more stringent rules covering FCM; it also introduced specific requirements for the Tomato Fruit Borer. This Directive entered into force on 1 September 2019. These rules were updated and clarified in new Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072 issued on 28 November 2019.

The Regulation applies to a number of fresh products exported into the EU from any third country including fruits of *Capsicum annum* L., Ethiopian eggplant (*Solanum aethiopicum*), tomato (*Solanum lycopersicum*) and eggplant/aubergine (*Solanum melongena*). Capsicum exports must be accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate, (Chapter 3) and must meet requirements set out in one of the following options. There must be an official statement that the fruit originates in either:

a. a country recognised as being free from *Neoleucinodes elegantalis* (Guenée) in accordance with the relevant International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures, provided that this freedom status has been communicated in advance in writing to the Commission by the national plant protection organisation of the third country concerned, or;

---

9 Annex IV. Part A, Section 1 Point 25.7.3 of Commission Implementing Directive (EU) 2019/523
b. an area established by the national plant protection organisation in the country of origin as being free from *Neoleucinodes elegantalis* (Guenée) in accordance with the relevant International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures, which is mentioned on the phytosanitary certificate referred to in Article 71 of Regulation (EU) No 2016/2031, under the rubric ‘Additional declaration’, provided that this freedom status has been communicated in advance to writing to the Commission by the national plant protection organisation of the third country concerned, or;

c. a place of production established by the national plant protection organisation of the country of origin as being free from *Neoleucinodes elegantalis* (Guenée) in accordance with the relevant International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures and official inspections have been carried out in the place of production at appropriate times during the growing season to detect the presence of the pest, including an examination on representative samples of fruit, shown to be free from *Neoleucinodes elegantalis* (Guenée), and information on traceability is included in the phytosanitary certificate referred to in Article 71 of Regulation (EU) No 2016/2031, or;

d. an insect proof site of production, established by the national plant protection organisation in the country of origin as being free from *Neoleucinodes elegantalis* (Guenée), on the basis of official inspections and surveys carried out during the three months prior to export, and information on traceability is included in the phytosanitary certificate referred to in Article 71 of Regulation (EU) No 2016/2031.

**Recommended action by NPPOs**

For countries in Africa as well as Madagascar, Cape Verde and Mauritius, the pest *Neoleucinodes elegantalis* has not so far been recorded. At the present time COLEACP therefore recommends that countries select Option (a) as the most appropriate.

In order to use this option, NPPOs must take action:

1. The NPPO in each exporting country must send an official notification to the European Commission informing them that they are a pest free country with regard to *Neoleucinodes elegantalis* (Guenée), in accordance with the methodology described in ISPM 4.

2. Pest free status for *Neoleucinodes elegantalis* must then be acknowledged by the European Commission. This official acknowledgement can be checked using the following link: Declarations on pest status from non-EU countries (PDF files attached to each country show the status of each declaration by the EC).

3. Information about the pest-free country status must be included in the phytosanitary certificate (see Chapter 3).

*It is strongly recommended that NPPOs contact COLEACP to obtain guidance on additional actions that need to be taken with regard to pest-free country status for Tomato Fruit Borer.* If there is a problem or interception, or if a country is subject to an audit by the EU authorities (DG Santé) at any stage, the national authorities in the exporting country must be able to provide the necessary documentation to justify pest-free country status according to international standards (ISPM 4).
Other Quarantine Pests

Under national plant health legislation, a number of plant pests and diseases are classified as quarantine organisms. These are pests that are mainly or entirely absent from a country, but which could have a potentially serious economic, environmental or social impact if they were to be introduced. Most countries have a quarantine list that identifies the most dangerous harmful organisms whose introduction must be prohibited.

The new EU Plant Health Law ((EU) 2016/2031) classifies all plant pests according to the following four categories:

- **Union quarantine pests:** Not present at all in the EU territory or, if present, just locally and under official control. Strict measures must be taken to prevent their entry or further spread within the EU. Union Quarantine Pests are listed in Directive 2000/29/EC.

- **Protected zone quarantine pests:** Present in most parts of the Union, but still known to be absent in certain ‘protected zones’. These pests are not allowed to enter and spread within these protected zones.

- **Regulated non-quarantine pests:** Widely present in the EU territory but since they have an important impact should be guaranteed free or almost free from the pest.

- **Priority Pests:** Those with the most severe impact on the economy, environment and/or society. The EU Commission released a list of 20 priority pests in October 2019 (Regulation EU 2019/1702).

Fall armyworm (*S. frugiperda*) and false coddling moth (*T. leucotreta*) are listed as Priority Pests, and consequently are subject to the very strict measures outlined in this document. The other pests included here are Union Quarantine Pests, which are also subject to statutory controls.

It is important to note that this document is not exhaustive. There are other Union Quarantine Pests that concern Capsicum, and whose introduction into the EU is banned.

For example, non-European isolates of potato viruses A, M, S, V, X and Y are Union Quarantine Pests. **Potato Virus Y (PVY)** is particularly serious, and a major problem in potato production. It is mainly transmitted by aphids, but also through mechanical contact. Capsicum is a known alternative host and each year there are several interceptions of imported Capsicum where this disease is detected, and the consignment is detained at EU border controls. It is therefore essential to monitor and avoid the presence of PVY in Capsicum for export.
3. COMPLETING THE PHYTOSANITARY CERTIFICATE

All plants and plant products imported into the EU from non-EU countries are subject to compulsory plant health checks (Annex V Part B). These include:

- a review of the phytosanitary certificate and associated documents to ensure that the consignment meets EU requirements;
- an identity check to make sure that the consignment corresponds with the certificate;
- an inspection of the produce to ensure that it is free from harmful organisms.

All Capsicum exported to the EU must be accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate. There are strict requirements on how this should be filled, and it is important to note that:

1. The phytosanitary certificate must include information on all regulated pests of concern for the exported product. At the present time, False Coddling Moth (*Thaumatotibia leucotreta*), Tomato Fruit Borer (*Neoleucinodes elegantalis*) and Fall Armyworm (*Spodoptera frugiperda*) are regulated pests for Capsicum, and so **all three must be included**

2. The information to be provided varies between pests, and depending on which management option is selected

It is critically important to complete the certificate correctly as there is a low tolerance of mistakes by European importing countries. COLEACP has received information that consignments of Capsicum entering Europe from African countries in recent weeks have been rejected and destroyed because the phytosanitary certificate has been filled incorrectly.

The European Commission has provided clear advice on what information must be given in the Additional Declaration section of the phytosanitary certificate, and the wording that must be used. The guidance below from COLEACP is based on this advice from the Commission.

Occasionally operators experience challenges at EU border controls due to the wording of the Additional Declaration. If they have followed closely the guidance from COLEACP, they should refer the border control agents to the following website that explains the wording agreement from the EC: https://ec.europa.eu/food/sites/food/files/plant/docs/sc_plant-health_20200123_sum.pdf (Point 2, pages 7 and 8).

3. According to **ISPM 12**, if the space provided in the phytosanitary certificate is not sufficient to insert all the necessary information (e.g. in the additional declaration), it is permitted to add an attachment. If you do so, it is very important to adhere to the following:

- Each page of any attachment must bear the number of the phytosanitary certificate and be dated, signed and stamped in the same manner as required for the phytosanitary certificate itself.
- You must state in the relevant section of the phytosanitary certificate if there is an attachment.
- If an attachment has more than one page, the pages must be numbered, and the number of pages indicated on the phytosanitary certificate.
For False Coddling Moth (Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072)

Option (c). If exporting countries are using Option (c) for a pest free production site (for example with Capsicum grown in insect-proof screenhouses), it is essential to include the following words in the phytosanitary certificate:

- In the Additional Declaration write: “The consignment complies with Option (c) of Annex VII, Point 62 of Implementing Regulation (EU 2019/2072): production from an officially designated Pest Free Production Site”.
- Information on traceability must be provided: In the phytosanitary certificate, alongside the description of the product, you must write the unique identification number or name of the approved production site from which the produce was sourced.

Option (d). If exporting countries are using Option (d) for an effective treatment, first they must submit a dossier to the European Commission. Once this has been submitted and accepted, it is essential to include the following words in the phytosanitary certificate:

- In the Treatment Box/section write: “Systems approach”.
- In the Additional Declaration write: “The consignment complies with Option (d) of Annex VII, Point 62 of Implementing Regulation (EU 2019/2072) and a systems approach for *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* Meyrick has been applied. Measures applied have been communicated to the EU on the xx/xx/2019”.

For Fall Armyworm (Implementing Decision (EC) 2019/1598)

Option (c). If exporting countries are using Option (c) for a pest free production site (for example with Capsicum grown in insect-proof screenhouses), it is essential to include the following words in the phytosanitary certificate:

- in the Additional Declaration write: “The consignment complies with the following conditions in accordance with Option (c) of Article 4 of Decision (EU) 2018/638:
  i. the specified plants have been produced in a production site which is registered and supervised by the national plant protection organisation in the country of origin;
  ii. official inspections have been carried out in the production site during the three months prior to export, and no presence of the specified organism has been detected on the specified plants;
  iii. prior to their export, the specified plants have been subject to an official inspection and found free from the specified organism;
  iv. information ensuring the traceability of the specified plants to their site of production has been ensured during their movement prior to export;
  v. the specified plants have been produced in a production site which is provided with complete physical protection against the introduction of the specified organism
- Information on traceability must be provided: In the phytosanitary certificate, alongside the description of the product, you must write the unique identification number or name of the approved production site from which the produce was sourced.

Option (d). If exporting countries are using Option (d) for an effective treatment, it is
essential to include the following words in the phytosanitary certificate:

- In the Treatment Box/section write: “Systems approach”.
- In the Additional Declaration write: “The consignment complies with Option (d) of Article 4 of Decision (EU) 2018/638 and a systems approach for Spodoptera frugiperda has been applied”.

**For Tomato Fruit Borer (Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072)**

First NPPOs must notify the European Commission that they are a country free from *Neoleucinodes elegantalis*. Once this is done and accepted, the following words must be included in the phytosanitary certificate:

- In the Additional Declaration, write: “The consignment complies with Option (a) of Annex VII, Point 68 of Implementing Regulation (EU 2019/2072): The fruit/consignment originates in a country recognised as being free from *Neoleucinodes elegantalis* (Guenée) in accordance with relevant International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures; this freedom status was communicated in writing to the Commission on xx/xx/2019”.

4. PEST FREE STATUS

International standards for phytosanitary measures (ISPMs) describe what needs to be done in order for an area, country, place of production or production site to be officially recognised as pest free. In each case the process must be led by the officially designated NPPO in each country, and it must follow closely the methodology outlined.

Establishing pest free area (PFA) status requires data to be collected so that the presence or absence of the pest can be verified. Establishing pest free status needs to follow strictly the guidelines described in the relevant ISPM, and requires the NPPO (and their designated agents) to have the necessary training, resources and capabilities in data collection and pest risk analysis.

Pest free areas and countries

Pest free area or country status would be difficult to obtain in the case of FCM or Fall Armyworm on Capsicum as these pests are highly mobile and widely dispersed. This option would only be worth pursuing in areas that are geographically distinct or isolated from the main areas of pest distribution. Establishing and maintaining an area of low pest prevalence may be a possibility (where the capacity and resources are available nationally) and can be part of the systems approach.

In the case of Tomato Fruit Borer, as this pest has not so far been found in Africa, Madagascar, Cape Verde or Mauritius, obtaining pest free country status is an option. Once pest free country status is obtained for Neoleucinodes in the EU, Capsicum exports can continue without the need for any of the additional phytosanitary measures listed in the regulations.

Pest or disease free area:
An area in which a specific pest or disease does not occur. This can be an entire country; an un-infested part of a country in which a limited area is infested; or an un-infested part of a country within a generally infested area

An area of low pest or disease prevalence:
An area, whether all of a country, part of a country, or all or parts of several countries (as identified by the competent authorities) in which a specific pest or disease occurs at low levels and is subject to effective surveillance, control or eradication measures

There are three main stages to establish and maintain a PFA:

- systems to establish freedom;
- phytosanitary measures to maintain freedom;
- checks to verify freedom has been maintained.

The work needed in each case varies according to factors such as the biology of the pest, the characteristics of the PFA, and the level of phytosanitary security required.
The work involved in establishing and maintaining pest free area/country status is detailed and time consuming and involves:

- data collection (pest surveys for delimiting, detection, monitoring);
- regulatory controls (protective measures against the introduction into the country, including listing as a quarantine pests);
- audits (reviews and evaluation);
- documentation (reports, work plans).

The following documents and guides from IPPC/FAO provide further information:

- ISPM 4 on requirements for establishing pest free areas
- Guide for Establishing and Maintaining Pest Free Areas on requirements for pest free areas, pest free places of production, pest free production sites and areas of low pest prevalence.
- ISPM 6 (Guidelines for surveillance) and ISPM 2 (Framework for pest risk analysis) provide further details on general surveillance and specific survey requirements.

**Pest free place of production and production site**

**Pest free place of production:** Place of production in which a pest is absent (demonstrated by scientific evidence) and generally maintained officially pest free for a defined period.

A place of production is “any premises or collection of fields operated as a single production or farming unit”.

**Pest free production site:** Place of production in which a pest is absent (demonstrated by scientific evidence) and generally maintained officially pest free for a defined period.

A production site is “a defined part of a place of production, that is managed as a separate unit for phytosanitary purposes”.

Directives covering the three regulated pests in Capsicum allow countries to export if the Capsicum has been produced in a “Pest free place of production”. As noted previously, some countries have adopted this option by using insect-proof screen houses.

Screen houses require significant investment in infrastructure, and are therefore out of reach of many smallholder farmers. However, where resources are available, this can be an effective option.

A place of production can only be designated as pest free by the NPPO. The NPPO and producers/exporters are required to conduct surveillance and inspections according to the international guidelines.

In addition to this, producers growing Capsicum in screen houses must use an appropriate design of screen house so that it is insect proof, and ideally with an entry lobby. Strict biosecurity measures need to be in place when people or goods move in or out of the screen house to prevent pest entry.
The following documents and guides from IPPC/FAO provide further information:

- **ISPM 10** for the establishment of pest free places of production and pest free production sites

- **Guide for Establishing and Maintaining Pest Free Areas** on requirements for pest free areas, pest free places of production, pest free production sites and areas of low pest prevalence.
PART 2

Guideline for preparing a dossier for submission to the EU on management of False Coddling Moth (Thaumatotibia leucotreta) on Capsicum

According to Implementing Directive (EU) 2019/523 of 21 March 2019
BACKGROUND TO THE DOSSIER

As noted in Part 1, a new Implementing Directive (EC) 2019/523 came into force on 1 September bringing in more stringent phytosanitary requirements concerning False Coddling Moth (FCM) on Capsicum. According to this Directive 2019/523, Capsicum exported to the EU must conform with one of four options.

Part 2 of this document addresses the development of a dossier to meet Option (d) of Point 16.6, in Annex IV, Part A, Section 1 of the Implementing Directive. This stipulates that the Capsicum:

   d. Must Have been subjected to an effective cold treatment or other effective treatment to ensure freedom from FCM. The treatment data should be indicated on the phytosanitary certificate provided that the treatment method together with documentary evidence of its effectiveness has been communicated in advance in writing by the national plant protection organisation to the European Commission (EC).

The NPPO of each exporting country must submit a dossier to the EC describing in detail the “effective treatment” that will be applied to all Capsicum exports to ensure they are free from FCM. There are currently few effective single treatments available for post-harvest control on capsicum that will guarantee it is FCM free. Instead, the new Directive allows for the use of a systems approach.

A systems approach means developing an action plan that combines several different pest management measures that, used together, will significantly reduce pest risk. These measures may include surveillance, cultural practices, crop treatment, post-harvest disinfestation, inspection, and others. The use of integrated measures in a systems approach for pest risk management is described in ISPM 14.

In their dossier, the exporting country must provide sufficient information to the EU to enable the evaluation and approval of the proposed systems approach to managing FCM. This includes providing as much scientific evidence as possible that the individual pest management methods included in the dossier are effective.

Introduction to this Guide

This document was prepared by COLEACP as a guide for national authorities and Capsicum sectors to help orientate the development of a dossiers in the context of Directive (EU) 2019/523. It provides a framework to guide the process and outlines the various elements that can be incorporated into a systems approach to manage False Coddling Moth (FCM). It identifies the information to be provided, and actions to be taken, at all stages from production to export, by both public and private sectors.

Note that the elements included here are not exhaustive. The national Capsicum dossier could include all or a selection of these measures, as well as any others that may be available and appropriate locally.

This guide covers the following sections that should be included in the dossier:

- General information on the national Capsicum sector
- Phytosanitary measures taken before, during and after harvest to prevent and control FCM
- Phytosanitary inspection and certification system
- Quality management system put in place by the NPPO to ensure that the national Capsicum pest management dossier is effectively implemented and monitored
According to ISPM 14, the characteristics of a systems approach are as follows:

- A systems approach requires two or more measures that are independent of each other, and may include any number of measures. An advantage of the systems approach is the ability to address (local) variability and uncertainty by modifying the number and strength of measures (needed) to meet phytosanitary import requirements.
- Measures used in a systems approach may be applied pre- and/or post-harvest wherever national plant protection organizations (NPPOs) have the ability to oversee and ensure compliance with phytosanitary procedures.
- A systems approach may include measures applied in the place of production, during the post-harvest period, at the packing house, or during shipment and distribution of the commodity.
- Risk management measures designed to prevent contamination or re-infestation are generally included (e.g. maintaining the integrity of lots, pest-proof packaging, screening of packing areas, etc.).
- Procedures such as pest surveillance, trapping and sampling can also be components of a systems approach.
- Measures that do not kill pests or reduce their prevalence but reduce their potential for entry or establishment (safeguards) can be included in a systems approach. Examples include designated harvest or shipping periods, restrictions on the maturity, colour, hardness, or other condition of the commodity, the use of resistant hosts, and limited distribution or restricted use at the destination.

**Effective engagement between stakeholders**

Experience has shown that engagement between public and private sector stakeholders is essential during development of the dossier to ensure that it is adapted to the local context, and to secure the buy-in of all involved. After a dossier has been submitted to the European Commission, it must be rigorously followed by all stakeholders in that country involved in Capsicum exports to the EU. It is very important therefore that the dossier is appropriate for the context, and is usable by the range of different producers and exporter concerned (large and small).
SECTION 1: GENERAL OVERVIEW OF THE NATIONAL CAPSICUM EXPORT SECTOR

According to ISPM 14, the following information is important for the evaluation of pest risk:

- The crop, place of production, expected volume and frequency of shipments
- Production, harvesting, packaging/handling and transportation
- The crop/pest dynamics
- Plant health risk management measures that will be included in the systems approach, and relevant data on their efficacy
- Relevant references

Information on the national sector

Crop details:

- capsicum species and varieties grown for export (scientific names and common names);
- characteristics of each species and variety;
- sensitivity or resistance to FCM.

Production Zones:

- describe and map the main production zones of Capsicum for export;
- describe the production seasons (timeframe), by zone;
- describe the climate in each production zone, assessed according to risk of pest infestation.

Production and Export statistics for the last 2 to 3 years, specifying if possible:

- destination country;
- method of shipment (sea, air, land).

Presence and distribution of FCM in the country:

- geographical distribution and prevalence;
- period of infestation;
- other host plants in Capsicum production areas.
SECTION 2: INTEGRATED PRE-HARVEST AND POST-HARVEST MEASURES FOR THE PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF FALSE CODDLING MoTH

According to ISPM 14, the following pre- and post-harvest measures may be integrated into a systems approach:

- Surveillance and monitoring (traps)
- Treatment, including the use of plant protection products
- Post-harvest disinfestation
- Inspection
- Others

Combined into an integrated management system, these measures will reduce the risk of any Capsicum exported to the EU being infested with FCM.

Measures at plantation level to monitor and control FCM

Pre-harvest, growers producing Capsicum for export to the EU should:

i. **Apply good crop hygiene**
   Good field management and crop hygiene are critical to eliminate FCM adults and larvae in fallen fruit, and to remove injured fruit as these are more attractive and susceptible to FCM attack. In all production sites, growers must:
   - remove all damaged and injured fruit, including fruit on the plants or ground;
   - remove all dead or dying plants;
   - destroy all crops and crop waste as soon as possible after harvest;
   - dispose of all crop debris by composting under conditions that destroy FCM eggs/larvae, by burning, or by burial.

ii. **Conduct surveillance and monitoring.**
   Surveillance is a major component of the integrated management of FCM.
   - All production sites growing Capsicum for export should undertake monitoring on a daily basis using traps with pheromones specific to FCM. The national authorities should be able to specify the type of trap and attractant to use under local conditions (according to availability and effectiveness), as well as the frequency of collection.
   - The authorities should agree with industry the thresholds of intervention. For example, what number of trapped FCM will trigger a decision to spray or stop harvesting for export. As the level of tolerance to FCM in export capsicum is zero, the sector should agree to take action as soon as the first male moth is caught.

iii. **Agree the procedure to be followed by companies when there is an FCM Alert.**
    Strict procedures should be maintained until the pest is under control and Capsicum crops are certified FCM free by the NPPO. For example:
quarantine all harvest from the infested site and initiate a product recall of fruit recently harvest in the vicinity;
implement an eradication program;
apply cultural and chemical control;
adhere to bio-safety measures on the farm to eliminate pest transfer.

iv. Implement cultural control of FCM to reduce FCM incidence, for example:

- rotate FCM susceptible crops with non-susceptible or low risk crops (e.g. baby corn and green beans);
- allow land to remain fallow in the dry season so that FCM is less likely to reach pest proportions;
- plough before transplanting during the dry season;
- keep land free of Capsicum plants and other susceptible crops for at least four months every year to break the FCM cycle and remove egg laying sites for new generations;
- produce Capsicum away from other host crops.

v. Control FCM using plant protection products.

- The national authorities should provide guidance on which products to use, and how to use them (including application method, dose rate, pre-harvest interval). These must be in accordance with the registration status in the country of origin, and the maximum residue level (MRL) of the active ingredient in the EU. See more details in Section 5.

vi. Be trained. Growers and workers must be trained (and updated) in good practice relating to the identification, prevention, surveillance, and control of FCM.

During harvest, growers producing Capsicum for export to the EU should:

i. during harvest, ensure that procedures are in place for sorting, isolating and disposing of all damaged fruit;

ii. ensure that handling and transport conditions are managed carefully to reduce the risk of FCM gaining access to harvested fruit;

iii. operate a traceability system that allows for the identification of plantations, and strict separation of harvest lots;

iv. ensure that all people involved in harvesting are trained so that they are aware of and apply good practices to reduce the risk of FCM attack; this includes good practice for prevention, control, crop hygiene, and traceability.
Measures at the packhouse to prevent introduction, infestation and spread of FCM

On receiving the fruit, packhouse managers must:

i. Have procedures in place to record the condition and phytosanitary status (pest presence) of the Capsicum when it arrives at the packhouse

ii. Have a system in place to record all FCM control treatments applied pre- and post-harvest to each lot

iii. Have a traceability system in place to ensure that each lot is identified and maintained separately through all post-harvest operations

Measures post-harvest to monitor and control FCM

i. Ensure that all operators involved in harvest and post-harvest activities can recognise FCM damage and know what to do when they find it.

ii. Have procedures in place in the field and packhouse to inspect for FCM presence and damage at all Capsicum handling, packing and storage sites. This involves visual checks, and slicing fruits open to check for FCM larvae. Slicing a minimum of 2 fruit from every 100 fruit is recommended.

iii. Initiate the FCM alert system, and put intervention and isolation procedures in place, when FCM infested fruit is identified.

iv. A system should be maintained to keep records of packhouse inspections.

v. Ensure practices and facilities are in place for the management of all Capsicum waste, including pest damaged fruit.

vi. Use refrigerated storage facilities where possible.

vii. Apply post-harvest treatments, when necessary, using plant protection products.

   a. As in the case of field applications, the national authorities should be able to provide guidance on which products to use, and how to use them (e.g. application method, dose rate, pre-harvest interval).

   b. These must be in accordance with the registration status in the country of origin, and the maximum residue level (MRL) of the active ingredient in the EU.

viii. Ensure that harvested fruit is never exposed to pest attack during packing, storage (including temporary storage), or transport (road, port or airport). This includes physical screening of transported consignments and packing areas to prevent pest entry. Use of pest-proof packaging is also an option.

ix. Train all people involved in post-harvest handling so they are aware of and apply good practice at all times to reduce the risk of pest damage.
SECTION 3: INSPECTION AND CERTIFICATION SYSTEM

The following sections outline the administrative and regulatory framework that needs to be in place, with an emphasis on the official control system and its enforcement by the NPPO.

Administrative and regulatory framework governing export of Capsicum to the EU

i. there should be a system in place to register and identify all individual operators in the production and export chain (e.g. with a unique number);

ii. there should be a system for the identification and traceability of all production sites that supply Capsicum for export to the EU;

iii. authorities should conduct risk categorization of exporters (high, medium and low risk);

iv. authorities should conduct risk categorisation of exports (e.g. locations and seasons with higher pest pressure).

National system for monitoring FCM populations

This includes:

i. Surveillance. Monitoring of FCM populations (using traps) in and near areas where Capsicum is produced for export. This needs to be accompanied by a system to compile and analyse the data.

ii. Risk mitigation measures. According to the results of the monitoring, measures may need to be taken to reduce the risk of infested fruit entering the export supply chain.

iii. Alert system. An alert systems needs to be in place to inform stakeholders of any increased risk of FCM infestation, and any mitigation measures they must take.

Control and certification system

The NPPO (or its designated agents) must be active at all stages of the Capsicum export value chain. This includes providing advice and training, as well as monitoring the implementation of plant health measures (that may include specific controls and certification). In brief:

i. At the plantation level, the NPPO provides advice and training to private sector operators on Capsicum production, and on the monitoring and control of FCM. They should oversee and ensure the application of good practice.

ii. At the packhouse level, the NPPO controls infrastructure and packing conditions. Training of private sector operators will be provided in identification of FCM presence and damage, crop waste management, among others.

iii. At the point of export (ports, airports, road borders), procedures are in place, and implemented effectively, for the inspection of produce, issuing of plant health certificates, and preparation of all necessary documentation.
Action to be taken by the NPPO at producer level in Capsicum for export to the EU

i. Confirming exporter registration

ii. Checking traceability of all plantations that supply Capsicum for export

iii. Assessing and documenting the application of good practice by producers covering:
   a. Cropping practices
   b. Crop hygiene and crop waste management
   c. FCM monitoring system using approved traps
   d. Implementation of FCM control
   e. Others

iv. System to verify the training of operators in good practices for the prevention and control of FCM

Action to be taken by the NPPO at all packhouses supplying Capsicum for export to the EU

The NPPO will conduct an assessment of:

i. Premises and equipment, to ensure the prevention of FCM entry and spread

ii. The implementation of good hygiene practices, and measures to prevent the risk of FCM infestation

iii. The implementation of inspection/monitoring by packhouse personnel at all handling and storage sites to check for FCM

iv. The effectiveness of sorting and isolation systems, and the suitability of infrastructure, to deal with Capsicum that shows FCM presence and damage

v. The facilities and procedures for disposal of damaged fruit and waste

vi. The effectiveness and implementation of the traceability system

vii. The effectiveness of the system in place for the isolation of lots

viii. The frequency and effectiveness of staff training

The issuing of phytosanitary certificates

The NPPO must operate a system of controls and certification according to the method of shipment. This must address:

i. The implementation of document checks

ii. Physical inspection

iii. Identity checks

iv. Sampling method

v. The NPPO must have in place a system for tracking and archiving inspection data

vi. The NPPO must have a system for the tracking and archiving of phytosanitary certificates
SECTION 4: NPPO QUALITY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

According to ISPM 14, the exporting country authorities are responsible for:

- monitoring, auditing and reporting on the effectiveness of the system;
- taking appropriate corrective measures;
- keeping the relevant documentation up-to-date;
- use of phytosanitary certificates in accordance with requirements.

Internal audit

This should describe the monitoring and internal audit system in place to ensure the effective implementation of the plant health inspection and certification system including:

- training of NPPO managers and technical personnel (inspectors, enforcement officers);
- designing and implementing effective procedures for the inspection of production sites and packhouses.

Management of interceptions/notifications

This should describe the system in place for tracking notifications and communicating with stakeholders including:

- statistics on FCM notifications;
- information on processing, tracking and communicating official notifications.
SECTION 5: PROVIDING EVIDENCE OF EFFECTIVENESS

Option (d) of Point 16.6, in Annex IV, Part A, Section 1 of Implementing Directive (EC) 2019/523 stipulates that the Capsicum:

d. Must Have been subjected to an effective cold treatment or other effective treatment to ensure freedom from FCM. The treatment data should be indicated on the phytosanitary certificate provided that the treatment method together with documentary evidence of its effectiveness has been communicated in advance in writing by the national plant protection organisation to the European Commission (EC)

Justifying the national approach

Collecting evidence on the effectiveness of a systems approach in its entirety is complex and requires more than one season. Instead, provide as much evidence as possible on the effectiveness of IPM systems in general, and on the individual control methods included in the dossier, using existing research reports and scientific publications (see examples below).

It is important to emphasise in the dossier that the national FCM management plan takes a risk-based approach. The results of monitoring, surveillance and inspections are used to guide FCM management decisions.

Also emphasise that training at all levels of the value chain is core to the systems approach in managing FCM. A list of required trainings that should be undertaken by the private sector could be provided. The NPPO, when undertaking site visits, should seek evidence that this training has been received.

Finally, explain that surveillance, cultural practices, crop treatment, post-harvest disinfestation, inspection, and others are used in combination to deliver effective and efficient FCM management that mitigates the risk of infestation in Capsicum exported to the EU.

Examples of information sources

1. Several new and effective control measures for FCM have been introduced, and Capsicum benefits from the outputs of IPM research conducted on other crops, particularly citrus. FCM control has become more sophisticated with the use of multiple control measures, and less reliance on single treatments. In citrus the level of control achieved has been shown as the sum of the efficacy of all the measures used, denoting that, even if efficacy of a single measure is sub-optimal, when several effective measures are used in combination through the course of one season, levels of FCM control exceed 95%. (Moore and Hattingh, 2012).

2. A treatment protocol that combines several different pest control measures (cultural, physical, biological and chemical) used together can significantly reduce pest risk (FAO, 2017).

3. Crop sanitation is a critical element of the IPM of FCM. In tree fruits in South Africa, research has shown that it is possible to remove an average of 75% of FCM larvae from a crop by conducting weekly crop sanitation (Moore, 2017).

4. If there is a long dry season, allow land to remain fallow so that FCM (which needs a continual source of food) is less likely to reach pest proportions (CABI, 2019a).
5. Ploughing before transplanting during the dry spell exposes the FCM larvae/pupae to natural enemies and extremes of heat (CABI, 2019 b)

6. Producing Capsicum in isolated regions, away from other Capsicum or alternate host crops (e.g. cotton, tomatoes, okra, eggplant, pigeon pea and sweet potato) is effective in reducing FCM (CABI, 2019b)

7. The pyrethroids insecticides kill FCM larvae by contact on the fruit surface. They are intended to be used to protect fruit against FCM infestation. Data from field trials conducted in Ghana provide evidence of their effectiveness (Fening et al, 2017). Results from trials on Capsicum showed that cypermethrin and lambda cyhalothrin are highly effective for the control of FCM in Capsicum. The same trial on garden eggs (aubergine) gave similar results.

8. Trials to test pyrethroid insecticides for control of FCM have also been conducted on citrus in South Africa, where crop losses due to FCM of up to 20% have been registered. Trials on citrus by Hofmeyr (1983) indicated that cypermethrin and deltamethrin, applied two to three months before harvest, reduced fruit drop by an average of 90%. Reduction in fruit lost between 65% and 82% was reported four weeks after single spray treatment of navel oranges with cypermethrin (P.J. Newton, 1987). Cypermethrin is registered for FCM control in South Africa (Moore, 2017).

9. *Bacillus thuringiensis* (BT) has been shown to be effective against False Codling Moth (Li Bouwer, 2012) and is widely use in Africa against most lepidopteran pests including FCM. USDA (2010) recommend the use of Bt for FCM control in an area where chemical insecticides should be alternated or discontinued. It is applied as a full coverage spray when larvae are present, and can be repeated at 10-14-day intervals while larvae are active.

10. While the three products currently recommended and used for the control of FCM on Capsicum in the Gambia give a high level of control, Gambia and other countries within the harmonised pesticide registration framework of the Comité Sahélien de Pesticides (CSP) have noted the potential availability of other active ingredients for the control of FCM. This includes active substances with alternative modes of action, that would help to prevent the build-up of pest resistance. These include teflubenzuron, spinetoram, chlorantraniliprole, and methoxyfenozide, all of which are registered for use to control FCM in other countries.
SECTION 6: SUMMARY AND GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS ON PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION OF THE CAPSICUM-FCM DOSSIER

Since 1st September 2019, Capsicum exports to the EU must comply with one of four options (a-d) stipulated under Point 16.6, in Annex IV, Part A, Section 1 of Implementing Directive (EU) 2019/523.

Countries exporting Capsicum according to Option (d) of Point 16.6 must submit a dossier to the European Commission describing in detail the system that will be applied to ensure that all Capsicum exported to the EU is free from FCM. No exports will be received under Option (d) unless and until a dossier has been received and accepted by the European Commission.

The system described in the dossier must then be followed by all stakeholders involved in the Capsicum export sector including growers, private operators, and the NPPO. The dossier in effect becomes a national FCM action plan.

The NPPO of the exporting country has the responsibility for submitting the dossier to the European Commission. However, it is essential that the NPPO works hand-in-hand with the private sector to develop the content of the dossier, and subsequently to ensure that it is implemented effectively.

- If private sector operators are not involved in developing the dossier, and the NPPO does not secure their buy-in (agreement), it is less likely that they will understand its importance and implement it effectively
- Feedback from the private sector is essential to ensure that the dossier is adapted to local conditions, and is appropriate and usable by the range of different producers and exporter concerned (large and small).

The following steps are recommended for the preparation and submission of the dossier.

Step 1: Setting up a Technical Working Group (TWG)

The TWG will bring stakeholders together (private and public sector) to consider and agree the elements that should be included in the national Capsicum-FCM dossier.

The Group will be convened by the NPPO. The composition of the group may vary according to the local Capsicum industry and public authorities. As a general rule, a small group will be more effective than a large one but, as a minimum it is important for the group to ensure that the membership:

- Contains representatives of the NPPO with sound knowledge and experience in the relevant phytosanitary controls and enforcement.
- Is acceptable to organisations representing the private sector.
- Is representative of the Capsicum export sector, including both large and small-scale operators who have a sound knowledge of Capsicum production and export.
- Contains representatives with strong scientific and technical expertise. This is essential to document in a clear and precise manner the phytosanitary measures that will be included in the dossier.
Step 2: Preparing the first draft of the dossier
The first draft of the dossier will be prepared by the NPPO with the support and agreement of the TWG. This COLEACP guide can be used to provide a framework for the dossier; the content of each section should be adapted and customised according to local circumstances.

Step 3: Validating the dossier with stakeholders
Consultation with the key public and private stakeholders is essential to ensure that the dossier is fit-for-purpose, locally appropriate, and accepted by all the major stakeholders that will be involved in implementing it.

This consultation will give the wider industry a chance to obtain clarification, and to recommend changes. The aim is to use feedback from the consultation to develop a final version of the dossier that is approved and recognised by all.

If resources are available, consultation is best achieved through the organisation of a national workshop where the dossier can be presented and discussed to a large group. If this is not possible, the draft may be presented to smaller meetings/groups, or circulated via industry associations or other representative bodies.

Step 4: Submitting the Dossier to the European Commission
The dossier must be submitted to the EC by the NPPO; only an NPPO is authorized to submit the official documentation to their counterparts in the European Union.

The dossier should be forwarded by the designated Contact Point at the NPPO to the following e-mail address: SANTE-GI-PLANT-HEALTH@ec.europa.eu

Once the dossier is submitted, its acceptance or rejection by the European authorities should be checked using the following link: Declarations on pest status from non-EU countries

Preparing and implementing a national Capsicum-FCM management system according to ISPM 14 is a significant challenge. The private sector and the NPPO may therefore identify the need for technical assistance.

Where this is the case, it is important to identify and secure the support needed as soon as possible in order to ensure that all necessary action has been taken.

Requests for technical support can be made to COLEACP
https://eservices.coleacp.org/en/request-for-intervention-fit-for-market
REFERENCES AND OTHER USEFUL PUBLICATIONS
REFERENCES AND OTHER USEFUL PUBLICATIONS


ISPM 14 (2017). The use of integrated measures in a systems approach for pest risk management.
http://www.fao.org/3/a-y4221e.pdf


Li, H. and and Bouwer, G. (2012). The larvicidal activity of Bacillus thuringiensis Cry proteins against Thaumatotibia leucotreta (Lepidoptera: Tortricidae). Crop Protection, Volume 32, February 2012, Pages 47-53


