

KENYA PLANT HEALTH INSPECTORATE SERVICE (KEPHIS)

BRIEF REPORT ON INTERNATIONAL PLANT HEALTH CONFERENCE 21ST – 23RD LONDON UK

Introduction

The International Plant Health Conference was held at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre in London, United Kingdom from 21 – 23 September 2022. The main aim was to address new and emerging plant health challenges, including climate change impacts, the significant increase in international trade, the rapid loss of biological diversity and new pest pathways such as e-commerce by exploring more efficient national, regional and global policies, structures and mechanisms. The Conference was co-organized by the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) of the United Kingdom (UK) and the Secretariat of the International Plant Protection Convention of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations.

More than 500 policymakers, academics and experts from over 74 countries attended in person. There were 120 expert speakers and delegates across 20 sessions who shared knowledge and discussed global scientific, technical and regulatory issues, alongside actions to tackle these existential threats to our society, economy and environment. More than 600 viewers followed the conference via webcast during different sessions. A total of 55 research posters were presented, including 30 from early career researchers. KEPHIS made a presentation on Kenya experience on electronic certification sponsored a research poster on tomato rugose virus, a quarantine pest in EU. The Kenya team included Director Mutua, Managing Director Prof. Mutui and Josiah Syanda.

United Kingdom is a strategic partner for Kenya. After exiting EU, Kenya and UK signed the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) which includes increasing volume and value of agricultural produce to UK. Participation at the International Plant Health Conference offered KEPHIS an opportunity to strengthen collaboration with UK National Plant Protection Organization (DEFRA) while enhancing its visibility globally. Other benefits to KEPHIS includes sharing of knowledge on emerging issues which affect trade in plant and plant products, awareness on new technologies and ideas for offering better services and presenting Kenya as a secure source for agriculture products.

Lessons learned – The Global community and especially UK is keen on implementing green solutions. Therefore, producers in Kenya and their ability to sell their products into UK will majorly depend on the production practices which demonstrate conservation and sustainability. **The second lesson** learned is that application of phytosanitary measures is shifting with climate change, pests becoming resistant to chemicals and also with the call to embrace organic pest control measures.

Action: KEPHIS to enhance collaboration with DEFRA and other leading NPPOs and reassess the existing processes with a view of aligning with the emerging trends.

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Experts at the International Plant Health Conference



Making a presentation on Kenya Experience
