

Dear STOSAR Colleagues,

We are proud to report that the ongoing initiatives being carried out under the EU-funded STOSAR Project in collaboration with the Centres of Excellence are yielding positive results, with Zambia being the latest Member State to get the green light to export horticultural commodities that include Blueberries, Soya Beans and Stevia (a natural sweetener and sugar substitute derived from the leaves of the plant species *Stevia rebaudiana*). The population of the SADC AIMS database with real agricultural data from the Member States is ongoing. Member States also remain on high alert monitoring any possible incursion and spread of transboundary animal diseases (TADs) through surveillance activities for FMD, PPR and HPAI. The STOSAR has developed tools, and supported and coordinated actions to build, sustain and improve regional and national pests and diseases preparedness and response capabilities.

#### Event Highlights

**AIMS:** Mauritius - a technical validation workshop for the Agricultural Information Management System (AIMS) was held on the 11<sup>th</sup> of August with participants that included key stakeholders who contributed to the AIMS database.

**Animal Health:** Namibia - laboratory equipment was handed over to the Central Veterinary Laboratory.

**Plant Health:** Angola – plant health surveillance activities for *Tuta absoluta* are ongoing in the provinces from 10 August to 15 September 2022.



## Agricultural information systems and market access



### Agricultural Information Management Systems



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#### COUNTRY OFFICE NEWS

##### **ESWATINI: AIMS Training of Trainers Workshop**

An AIMS ToT workshop was held recently in Eswatini with the objectives of (i) improving the flow and reporting of agricultural information in the country; (ii) strengthening capacities for data collection, processing, analysis and reporting to ensure that quality real-time agricultural data is collected and analyzed, and readily accessible to policy-makers.



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ZIMBABWE: AIMS Capacities Strengthened

The skills gained from the recent STOSAR facilitated AIMS national training workshop continues to benefit Government Ministries and Departments, Private Sector Players and Farmer Associations in Zimbabwe through the hands-on skills gained from the data standardization and harmonization workshop, in anticipation of the launch of the SADC AIMS system. The STOSAR project national team has identified synergies and is working with other partners to consolidate similar initiatives.



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NAMIBIA: Laboratory Equipment Handed Over to CVL

The STOSAR Project has supported the division of Diagnostic Services and Research (Central Veterinary Laboratory) by providing laboratory consumables for the surveillance and testing of Avian influenza (AI), Peste des petits ruminants (PPR), and Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD). The items received included RT-PCR test kits, and other consumables and reagents. This equipment will strengthen Namibia’s preparedness and readiness for early detection of TADs minimizing their spread and mitigating the negative impact on the country’s exports.



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ANGOLA: PPR Risk Mapping

With the support of the STOSAR Project, epidemiological surveillance for PPR is ongoing in Lunda Norte, Lunda Sul, Malange, Uíge and Cabinda provinces. Surveillance activities is being carried out over a two-month period (July and August 2022). This activity is supporting the Direcção Nacional de Agricultura e Pecuária (DNAP) to conduct surveillance of PPR that will result in the collection of samples to be submitted to CIRAD (reference laboratory) for confirmatory diagnosis of PPR as well as update the PPR risk map and surveillance protocols for Angola.

Accomplishments since training was conducted.

- New PRAs have been conducted over 40 PRAs done
- Market access Negotiations exports since June are as follows:

Crop	Status
Blueberries to RSA	Granted
Soya bean to China	Granted
Stevia to China	Granted
Avocado fruit to RSA	On-going
Peas to New zealand	On-going
Blueberry fruit to Philipplians	On-going

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COUNTRY OFFICE NEWS

ZAMIBIA: PRA Training Contributes to Accessing New Export Market For Blueberry, Soya bean and Stevia

Zambia has been given the green light to export horticultural commodities that include Blueberries, Soya beans and Stevia to regional and international markets that include South Africa and China. This achievement was supported by the STOSAR facilitated Pest Risk Analysis training facilitated by CABI targeting Zambia’s NPPO. Zambia’s Plant Quarantine and Phytosanitary Services [PQPS] benefitted from two PRA trainings held by the STOSAR project in June 2021 and August 2022. Following the trainings, the country was capacitated to successfully generate comprehensive pest lists which were used during market access negotiations for horticultural commodities.



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**ANGOLA: Tuta absoluta surveillance**

Tuta absoluta is the main pest of concern for tomato farmers in Angola. This is evidenced by the recent damage to tomato crops in Menongue, Cuando Cubango Province. In response, some phytosanitary activities have been planned in the neighbouring provinces of Luanda, Huambo, Bié, Bengo, Benguela, Namibe, Kwanza Sul and Huila with the support of the STOSAR project. Surveillance activities will enable the review of national Tuta absoluta protocols in Angola.

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