

# **NPPO**

## **Mandate, Obligations, Responsibilities and Functions**



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# National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO)

Official service established by a government to discharge the functions specified by the IPPC.

The competent and legally responsible body for carrying out the functions outlined in the new revised text of the IPPC (Article IV)

The establishment of a functional NPPO is a national obligation for all contracting parties to the IPPC.

Vision of  
NPPO

Protecting global and national plant resources from pests

# Mission

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The NPPO mission:

To secure cooperation among nations in protecting global plant resources from the spread and introduction of pests of plants, in order to preserve food security, biodiversity and to facilitate trade.

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# NPPPO has to be performed

**Regulatory** – Acts, Rules, Directives, working procedures, agreements

**Coordinating** – Within and among stakeholders

**Facilitating** – To the stakeholders and trade partners.

**Executing** – Implementation of the standards, measures, monitoring, motivation

**Information exchange** – Among and within stakeholders

# National legal frameworks of NPPO

The NPPO should be **defined by national legislation as the official service** established by the government to discharge the functions specified by the IPPC.

The **national legislation (including law and regulations) should provide to the NPPO the legal authority** and sole responsibility regarding the discharge of its functions, as outlined by the IPPC.

**Legal frameworks should be consistent with the national constitution and guided by regional and international treaties** to which the contracting party is a signatory, in order to function properly in a global trading environment.

# Policy requirements

consistency of NPPO goals and operations **with government policy and legislation.**

institutional stability

well-defined public goals, direction on how to achieve them and a broad course of action to address phytosanitary risks.

policy on disseminating information among stakeholders in support of transparency, and cooperation regarding phytosanitary requirements and phytosanitary regulations.

technical and scientific decision-making that is free from political interference.

adequate administrative support for all NPPO programmes.

# Existing Legal Situation of NPPO Nepal

1965 : Membership of APPPC

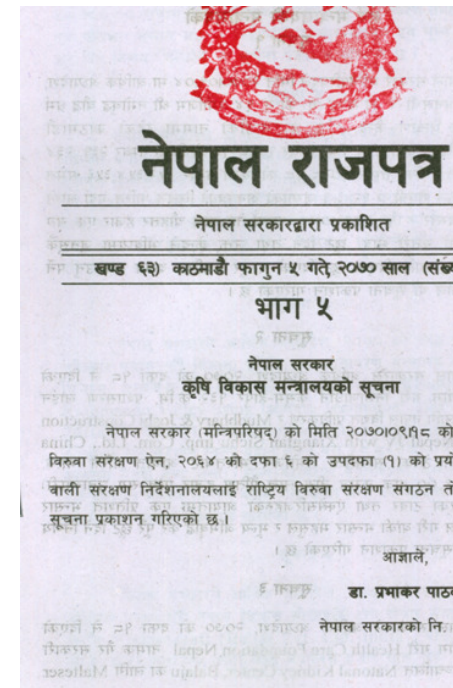
2006: IPPC member

1972 : Plant Protection Act ( Revised 2007)

1974 : Plant Protection Regulation ( Revised 2010)

PPD as officially NPPO ( Government decision

on 2070/9/18 based on Plant Protection Act section 6 and subsection 1).





# Areas of responsibility of NPPO

to protect plant resources (including cultivated, wild and aquatic plants) through implementation of appropriate phytosanitary measures .

to support national food security and a healthy environment through effective pest exclusion procedures.

to facilitate market access and safe international trade in agricultural commodities by establishing effective phytosanitary certification systems and procedures.

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# The Strategic Framework of NPPO/Nepal

- IPM,
- Phytosanitary and plant quarantine matters,
- Invasive plant species management,
- Prevention of pest outbreaks and new and alien invasive pests,
- Pesticides management,
- Legal aspects,
- Capacity Development,
- Food safety and
- Preservation of biodiversity.

# Functions of National Plant Protection Organization

NPPO the responsibilities of an official national plant protection organization shall include the following:

- (a) the **issuance of certificates** relating to the phytosanitary regulations of the importing contracting party for consignments of plants, plant products and other regulated articles
- (b) the **surveillance** of growing plants, including both areas under cultivation (inter alia fields, plantations, nurseries, gardens, greenhouses and laboratories) and wild flora, and of plants and plant products in storage or in transportation, particularly with the object of reporting the occurrence, outbreak and spread of pests, and of controlling those pests, including the reporting referred to under Article VIII paragraph 1(a)
- (c) the **inspection of consignments** of plants and plant products moving in international traffic and, where appropriate, the inspection of other regulated articles, particularly with the object of preventing the introduction and/or spread of pests

# Functions of National Plant Protection Organization

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The **disinfestations or disinfection** of consignments of plants, plant products and other regulated articles moving in international traffic, to meet phytosanitary requirements

The **protection of endangered areas** and the designation, maintenance and surveillance of pest free areas and areas of low pest prevalence

The conduct of **pest risk analysis**.

To ensure through **appropriate procedures that the phytosanitary integrity of consignments** after certification regarding composition, substitution and reinfestation is maintained prior to export •

**Training and development of staff**

## Functions of National Plant Protection Organization Cont..... (Protection Plant Act section 6 sub section 2)

- i) **To prepare standards** on the sanitation of plants or plant products to be imported or exported and submit such standards to the Committee for approval.
- j) **To identify endangered areas and protect**, or cause to be protected, plants and plant products in such areas through quarantine process.
- k) **To identify pest free areas and areas of low pest prevalence** and make declaration and surveillance of such areas,
- l) **To prescribe terms and restrictions relating to the trafficking** and use of plants and plant products, biological control agents and beneficial organisms
- m) **To act as a national coordinator** for activities relating to plants and plant products, biological control agents and beneficial organisms in the country,
- n) **To enforce, or cause to be enforced, approved standards** on the sanitation of plants or plant products to be imported or exported.
- o) **To make coordination with phyto-sanitary bodies of other countries** and make understandings on the recognition of each other's permits and phyto-sanitary certificates,
- p) **To perform such other functions as prescribed.**

# Functions of National Plant Protection Organization

contracting party shall make provision, to the best of its ability, for the following:

the distribution of information within the territory of the contracting party regarding regulated pests and the means of their prevention and control .

research and investigation in the field of plant protection;

the issuance of phytosanitary regulations; and

the performance of such other functions as may be required for the implementation of Convention.

Notification of pest lists including quarantine pests and new emerging pests t

**Based on Plant Protection Act and Article of IPPC, without decision of NPPO one can publish about emerging of new pest in the country. NPPO is only authorize organization for notification of new/quarantine pests. .**

# Sustainability considerations

Conditions contributing to the sustainability of an NPPO are as follows:

- Adequate and appropriately trained staff with the required levels of competency and access to resources
- Good staff development and retention
- Secured sources of funding, including resources or dealing with phytosanitary emergencies and crises
- Prioritized and adequately funded programmes
- Meaningful stakeholder relations and awareness-creation programmes

# Competencies and shared resources

An NPPO needs various competencies and specialized skills to perform its required functions.

For example:

Subject specialists are required for pest diagnostics( virologist, bacteriologist, mycologist, nematologist),  
Surveillance expert in Surveillance Unit,  
PRA expert in PRA Unit,  
Information management Unit,  
Export certification and import verification Unit.  
Referral/Reference Laboratory



# Positioning the NPPO in the National Context

Signatories to international treaties, such as the IPPC and the WTO SPS Agreement, require an appropriate national response in fulfilling their obligations under these treaties. The NPPO can only achieve this when it recognizes and establishes meaningful relationships with its stakeholders.

## 1. Border agencies

Border, immigration, customs, port, food safety and animal health agencies or authorities work at the borders of the country in a collaborative manner. Provisions for border control are facilitated largely by other border authorities and they must **understand NPPO phytosanitary requirements.**

**Customs and postal services are well placed to refer interceptions or advise the NPPO regarding the entry of regulated articles** declared in manifests and assist in enforcement of phytosanitary regulations.

## Government Institutions

### Environment:

The ministry responsible for the environment may become an important partner when dealing with such issues as the use of pesticides for disinfection, strategies for eradication and control of pests, invasive alien species, environmental impact assessments and serving international environmental agreements

### Justice:

The NPPO deals with the ministry responsible for justice regarding the enactment and amendment of legislation so that appropriate legal frameworks provide the authority needed for NPPO functions, in addition to prosecution functions if necessary under legislation.

### Trade and commerce:

The ministry is responsible for setting import requirements and issuing import licences (where applicable) and should be made aware of phytosanitary procedures

### Finance:

The finance ministry should understand the importance of NPPO functions in relation to food security and the protection of national plant resources and the environment.

## **Agriculture Research:**

This may be an important partner in plant protection research and technology development.

## **Health and food safety:**

This may be a close partner in efforts to address such issues as the safe disposal of waste from cruise ships, food quality relating to pest infestations and the regulation of pesticides.

## **Tourism:**

This can inform tourists about NPPO requirements regarding bringing food or plants into the country.

## **Security and defense:**

It may be involved in enforcing national legislation relating to plant health at the borders, assisting in eradication campaigns and internal quarantine enforcement activities.

## Private sector and consumers

This group includes **producers, importers, exporters, consumers, traders and processors** that are key contributors and beneficiaries of the NPPO and are involved in the production, marketing and consumption chain. It is important to build a good relationship with these groups. **The benefits of building stakeholder relationships include:**

- Increased compliance with NPPO requirements

- Greater awareness and understanding of the importance and implications of phytosanitary requirements and measures

- Provision of funds to the NPPO for specific facilities and services that are critical to businesses' success

- Formation of a powerful lobby for NPPO improvement

- Early detection of new pests or pest outbreaks and timely responses by the NPPO to changing pest status

- Valuable contributions to discussions on new SPS measures, ISPMs, emerging issues and changes in regulations that may affect the private and civil society sectors.

**Producers can assist the NPPO by:** complying appropriately with phytosanitary regulations undertaken for surveillance, where appropriate. Recording and promptly reporting the detection of new pests, improving their knowledge of pests associated with crops or plants.

**Exporters and importers can assist the NPPO by:** complying appropriately with import/export requirements for inspection, verification and Certification

- Being vigilant and prompt in reporting new pests or pest problems

- Providing information about importing countries' phytosanitary requirements

- Providing comments on or assist in investigating notifications of non-compliance

- Improving their knowledge of export–import regulation.

## Consumers can assist the NPPO by:

### Confining infested commodities and associated pests

Promptly reporting to the NPPO cases of infested commodities, including the name of the commodity, where it was purchased, date of purchase, date of observation of pests and storage conditions, where appropriate .

Participating in pest surveillance projects through citizen science, where appropriate.

Recording and promptly reporting the detection of new pests.

# 4. Institutions

Institutions may provide services to the NPPO.

They include **universities, research centers, disinfestation and disinfection companies and diagnostic laboratories**. The benefits of building good working relationships with these stakeholders include the following.

## Universities:

- access to subject specialists
- research relating to plant health
- inclusion of phytosanitary modules in degree programmes, where appropriate
- training of NPPO staff in relevant topics
- joint research programmes with shared costs
- surveillance and development of pest data sheets and databases.

## **Disinfestation and disinfection companies:**

effective and compliant treatment of regulated articles  
disinfestation/disinfection of regulated articles in emergency response situations.

## **Diagnostic institutions:**

- provide pest diagnoses and develop pest data sheets and
- train NPPO staff in pest recognition and identification.

# Third-Party Service Providers to NPPO

Due to the wide range of activities required in the application of phytosanitary measures and Plant Protection work consistent with the PPC, many NPPOs use third parties to support them or to perform certain functions on their behalf. For example:

**laboratories** with specific competencies may be approved and authorized to perform tests and pest diagnoses to support certification of regulated articles

approved companies may conduct **disinfection or disinfestation** of regulated articles, e.g. wood packaging materials

universities and research institutions may conduct **surveillance in accordance with ISPMs**, making the information available to the NPPO

institutions or individuals may develop the initiation and assessment phases of **PRAs externally**, while the NPPO oversees the management phase and determines what options to put in place

The NPPO is legally responsible for all actions performed internally or by third parties. A responsible NPPO acquires the services of a third party when necessary through a formal agreement to hold the third party accountable and liable.



# Areas of the NPPO that may require regular evaluation

## Monitoring, Review and Evaluation

A review mechanism assists the NPPO to improve its procedures and policies

The level of collaboration among functional units

Any gaps in the ability of the NPPO to discharge its mandate

Resource availability and ability to attract resources

Performance of NPPO staff at various levels of operation

Legislative frameworks for dealing with current and emerging issues

Level of stakeholder satisfaction

Suitability of policies in relation to the NPPO mandate

Effectiveness of institutional arrangements in support of procedural issues

Level of independence and credibility of the NPPO in dealing with technical matters with its clients and trading partners.

# Organogram of the functions that should be fuelled by an NPPO

Head of NPPO

Officer	Diagnostic Officer	Field Operations Officer
<p><b>Import Officer</b>                      analysis • Import permits                      notification</p> <p><b>Officer</b> (for regulated pests)                      g on general                      ce data                      ests                      gulated pests                      pests</p>	<p><b>Manager and experts of the central laboratory</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Regulatory and ambulatory</li> <li>•services: virology, bacteriology, nematology, entomology, weed science</li> <li>•Quality insurance (standardized procedures and manuals)</li> <li>•Verification</li> <li>•Reference biological collections</li> </ul>	<p><b>Principal Import Inspector and other inspectors</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Commodities inspection</li> <li>•Vessels, boats and airplanes</li> <li>•traffic</li> <li>•Sampling</li> <li>•Emergency actions</li> <li>•Non-conformity</li> <li>•Pest interceptions</li> <li>•Tents/phytosanitary actions</li> <li>•Post-entry quarantine</li> <li>•Destruction of regulated articles (including waste)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Management Officer</b>                      e                      on campaigns                      ment of pest free areas                      ment of areas of low                      alence</p>	<p><b>Satellite diagnostic services</b>                      Service undertaken by specialized inspectors (export and/or import) at an entry or production point</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Rapid diagnostics for imported commodities</li> <li>•Basic diagnostic for exported commodities</li> <li>•Ambulatory diagnostic</li> </ul>	<p><b>Principal Export and Transit Certification Inspector and other inspectors</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Certification inspection (in nursery, at production places, of transit, at the points of exit, on packaging and storage zones)</li> <li>•Supervise loading</li> <li>•Ensure commodity security</li> <li>•Issue phytosanitary or re-export certificates</li> </ul>
<p><b>Officer</b>                      ss-raising campaigns                      nication programme</p>		<p><b>Regulated Pests Surveillance Programme Officer and Surveillance Officers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Delimitation prospection</li> <li>•Specific prospection (determination of the status of pests)</li> </ul>

# Challenges

Poor national and regional coordination to deal with food safety and plant health issues.

The NPPOs, remain utterly underfunded and poorly equipped to effectively adhere the international phytosanitary standards to secure market access.

As a result, deficiencies related to ineffective inspection services, poor laboratory capacity and training needs are common observations.

Therefore, **there is a high need for increased attention and intervention at the high levels** in order to unleash the potential of trade for economic growth and to protect Nepal's crops and natural heritage from incursion of unwanted pests.

Insufficient and unexperienced staff, and equipment.

Stakeholders are not properly aware about role and function about NPPO.

The challenge for the NPPO is **how to respond to known invasive alien species and new alien species that could potentially become invasive as well as when to prevent their introduction or eradication.**

Challenge that is being faced is how to translate policy objectives into effective management practice when species are identified as a threat.

Challenges in collaborating with all relevant stakeholders which includes environmentalist, researchers, regulators, policymakers, private sector and civil society in managing invasive alien specie.

# Future challenges to plant health

Drivers responsible for the continued international trade of plant pests will not easily be halted.

Substantial reduction in the international trade of plants as the best means of reducing the risk of pests moving to new geographic regions.

Trade of invasive species.

Use of pests for bioterrorism.

Pests can be used as weapons and be deliberately introduced to reduce food security and have a more indirect impact on a nation's economy.

Climate change can facilitate the spread and local severity of pests, pests are expected to continue to change their distribution as changes in ecological conditions associated with climate change increase the susceptibility of hosts in new areas.

Increased interception of the exported consignment due to lack of trained main power and improved laboratories.

Lack of data presented significant and ongoing challenges to those charged with assessing the risk of non-native pests.

Due to lack of taxonomy, NPPO could not identify the spp of pests and difficulty to not

# Way Forward

- ❖ Strengthening Plant Protection Institutions (HRD and Laboratories)
- ❖ Infrastructural development (offices, fumigation chambers and PEO)
- ❖ Practical implementation of various provisions
- ❖ Develop traceability capability at grass root levels
- ❖ Support to industries that substitute imports and promote exports
- ❖ Install and Implement e-Phyto certification system.
- ❖ Strengthen the NPPO by creating different section.
- ❖ Revise Plant Protection Act/Regulation.



**THANK YOU**