

# Baseline study on the Seed Sector of Djibouti

**By Dr. Tabareck Mohamed Ismail**  
**Ministry of Agriculture,**  
**Breeding and Sea**  
**(MAEM)**

Head of the Planning,  
Monitoring and  
Communication Department

E-mail: [tabachan600@hotmail.com](mailto:tabachan600@hotmail.com)

Tel: +253835818

July 2010

## **1 General Background on Seed and Phytosanitary in Republic of Djibouti**

In an effort to reduce the country's dependence for food and improve the standard of living and the socio-economic level of the population in rural areas, the Republic of Djibouti is willing to develop its agricultural sector so that it achieves progressively greater contribution to the gross domestic product (GDP).

Programs and major projects on a national scale are already underway. A planting program that has been designed that will include two phases: The first phase consists of the planting of date palms on a large scale, while the second phase involves the creation of small-scale agro-pastoral areas around water points.

Interventions of the Department of Agriculture and Forestry aims at bringing regular support to existing small producers, increasing in particular fruit and vegetable production.

Mean while, private investors (domestic and foreign) show an increasing interest in primary industry and agriculture. Indeed, the Government provides significant help for private investment in agriculture (provision of agricultural land, contribution to the financing of boreholes, tax exemption on imported input and equipment), which offers better financial opportunities and makes easier the introduction of new technologies (including crops in greenhouses) for promoting of agriculture in oasis land in the country.

This enables us to predict better prospects for the promotion of irrigation methods that shall boost agriculture in our country, increase cultivated areas and thus production. This implies the introduction of new plant materials and makes important for us to be able to cope with such risks as diseases and parasites.

## **2 The problems of phytosanitary condition and national capacities in plant protection**

This development of agricultural sub-sector increases considerably the needs in pesticides, plants and seeds, the importation of which have greatly risen in recent years. This increases the risk of introducing diseases and pests. On the other hand, Djibouti is the main corridor of Ethiopia for its exports and imports of food products and chemicals (including pesticides). Furthermore, Djibouti is a member of the Common Market for Eastern Africa and Southern Africa (COMESA) which includes nineteen countries whose priority is to promote trade. It therefore requires harmonization, including the SPS regulation and the Secretariat of the Board strongly encourages its members to adopt legislation in this area.

### **3 The prospect of becoming a member of IPPC**

It is within this context that Djibouti, which at present does not comply with the requirements for becoming a member of the International Convention on Plant Protection (IPPC), intends to take all necessary actions to remedy this situation and join the IPPC.

Indeed, the increase of all the activities related to the movement of import and export of these products (inputs and plant material) brings about high risks in plants and requires the prompt establishment of health legislation at national level but also the strengthening of the plant protection service with the supply of baseline equipment (laboratories, quarantine facilities, etc...) as well as training / retraining of staff. A TCP project for capacity building has been prepared and submitted to FAO.

### **4 The current situation in phytosanitary capacity, seed certification and variety evaluation**

Currently, national capacity in this area is too weak to allow the carrying out these tasks, due also to lack of legislation and policy in this area.

This situation makes the structures in charge of plant protection face difficulties for efficiently operating in the area of phytosanitary inspections, quarantine of imported plants and other related matters. In particular as regards the imports of pesticides or plants, there is no control (import) and no regulatory procedures for entering the country and there are no quarantine centres (for plants). Little work has been done in identifying pests (thus, no file of existing documents on the subject and no list of quarantine pests as well). At the grass roots, especially at the farm level, there is very limited control of plant health by technical management as well as private agricultural producers.

A study for the elaboration of sanitary and phytosanitary legislation has been drafted by the Ministry of Agriculture, with technical and financial assistance of FAO. But the elaboration of a preliminary bill still remains to be done.

Accordingly, the government's strategy consists of securing the national plant resources by an improvement of the regulations related to the import and export of materials (pesticides, plants and seeds).

### **5 Service required**

The overall mission is to conduct a baseline study/survey on the seed sector in Djibouti that can be used for the rationalization and harmonization of seed regulations and policies in the member states of COMESA, which covers such areas listed below on a point A to F. This study should also provide general information on the seed industry, including statistics (production and import / export), the availability and condition of infrastructure for seeds as well as an evaluation of the country's capacity to meet the requirements in the five areas listed below (see point A to F below).

The specific objective shall be to identify all the potential weaknesses in order to effectively elaborate legislation on seeds harmonized with that of nearby countries.

## **6 Seeds**

The Only structure operating in the sector is:

Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Sea

Box 504 Djibouti Tel. (253) 3512 97

Fax (253) 35 58 79

However, a private company in the sector is:

Établissements Tani (00253 821417)

Tel. (253) 35 03 37

A. Standards for Seed certification

- Background (see above)
- No existing -class seed (selection crossover etc certification.)
- Absence of a plan to standardize seed at the national level
- Contact address department of Agriculture and Forestry" Plant Protection Service "  
Phone: 00 253 34 17 74 /341774/FAX 355879  
B.P: 504  
Djibouti

B. Variety, release, evaluation and registration

- Background (see above)
- Lack of an evaluation, registration, and control of validity process.
- No documentation or plan to strengthen evaluation capacity of varieties at national level
- Contact address department of Agriculture and Forestry" Plant Protection Service "  
Phone: 00 253 34 17 74 /341774/FAX 355879  
B.P: 504  
Djibouti

C. Phytosanitary measures

- Background (see above)
- No list of quarantine pests, information about parasites, etc....
- Lack of control of imports of seeds and pesticides
- Existence of a study of Plant Health Act
- Contact address department of Agriculture and Forestry" Plant Protection Service "  
Phone: 00 253 34 17 74 /341774/FAX 355879  
B.P: 504  
Djibouti

D. Plant variety protection Intellectual Property Rights

No existing plant variety protection

- Contact address department of Agriculture and Forestry" Plant Protection Service "  
Phone: 00 253 34 17 74 /341774/FAX 355879 B.P: 504  
Djibouti

E. Seed import/export documentation and procedure

Absence of seed import and export documentation (Standard Manual procedure)

- Contact address department of Agriculture and Forestry" Plant Protection Service "  
Phone: 00 253 34 17 74 /341774/FAX 355879  
B.P: 504  
Djibouti

F. Membership with international organization

- Djibouti is a member of IGAD, COMESA,
- Djibouti is also on the verge of acquiring membership with the IPPC (International Convention for the protection of plant-CPPI) since 2008 (Ministry of Agriculture)
- Djibouti is also a member of the Cartagena Protocol (Ministry for the Environment).

G. Source and contact

Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Sea  
Box 504 Djibouti Tel 00 253 3512 97  
Fax 253 355879

Department of Agriculture and Forest  
Tel: 00253 341774

Head of Department of Plant Production, Responsible for the protection of plants, seed certification and phytosanitary control Youssouf Robleh Daher, Youssouf Robleh Daher, Youssouf Robleh Daher, tel. (00-253) 86 63 82,  
E-mail: [youssouf\\_daher@yahoo.fr](mailto:youssouf_daher@yahoo.fr)

Attached document hereafter: *Model of phytosanitary certification issued in Djibouti*

République de Djibouti  
Unité – Egalité - Paix

-----  
Ministère de l'Agriculture,  
de l'Elevage et de la Mer  
*Chargé des Ressources Hydrauliques*



-----  
Direction de l'Agriculture  
et des Forêts

-----  
Service de la Production Végétale

☎ 34 14 96 / 34 17 74

☎: 224

E-mail : [saf@intnet.dj](mailto:saf@intnet.dj)

<b>PHYTOSANITARY CERTIFICATE</b>		Place of délivrance : Djibouti
Plant Protection Division of Djibouti to : Kenya Plant Health Inspection Service (KEPHIS)		Date of inspection : 26/08/10
<b>Certification</b>		
<i>It is certified that the sub-mentioned plants or plant products are inspected by following adapted international phytosanitary rules and regulations and are deemed harmless of any other dangerous bacteria and are judged in conformity with the importing country phytosanitary regulation.</i>		
<b>Disinfection and/or treatment</b>		
Date :	Treatment : no	
Active ingredient :	Time and temperature : no	
Concentration :	Additional information :	
<b>Additional information</b>		
no		
1 .Name and address of consignor : USAID % BMMI FREE ZONE WAREHOUSE NUMBER 1 Djibouti Free Zone, P.O.BOX 795, Republic of Djibouti	2. Phytosanitary Certificate n° 43/SPV/10	
3. Name and address of consignee: WPF, beach road, P.O.BOX / 88985? Tel. +254 41 470061/FAX+254 41 470064 MOMBASA,KENYA	4. Bill of lading n° : APLU 500119664	
5. Country of origin : USA	6. Declared mean of conveyance : BY SHIP	
7. Port of loading : DJIBOUTI	8. Distinguishable labels : No	
8. Port of discharge : MOMBASA		
9. Number and description of packages : 785.95 MT	10. Name of the products : Yellow Split Peas	
11. Botanical name of vegetal materials : Yellow Peas	12. Declared quantity : 785.95 MT KEPHIS PIP numbers : 238/2010	
Place of inspection : Djibouti Free Zone Name of the inspector : Ahmed Mahmoud	Name and charge of authorized officer : Youssouf D. Robleh, head of plant protection Division	
Date : 26/08/2010		