Development of Standard Operating Procedures for Strengthening Plant Quarantine System in India

The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation (DAC), Ministry of Agriculture, Govt. of India, is in the process of strengthening the Indian Plant Quarantine System and streamlining the monitoring and inspection of imported consignments to prevent entry of alien species. An effective and efficient Plant Quarantine System is becoming all the more important in the light of increased global trade in agriculture under WTO era.

As part of the process, DAC asked MANAGE to take up a study on "Development of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for strengthening Plant Quarantine system in India". The objective was to develop SOPs and training modules related to various plant quarantine activities, for imparting scientific skills and technical competency for carrying out effective and efficient post entry quarantine inspection of imported planting material.

The specific objectives were to:

- Develop SOPs for Post Entry Quarantine management of imported consignments of seeds and plant material for propagation purposes
- Prepare a training manual for the inspection authorities for undertaking Post Entry Quarantine Inspection
- Develop SOPs and preparation of a training manual for export inspection and Phyto-sanitary certification of agricultural commodities by authorized authorities
- Develop SOPs for Quarantine Inspection/handling of bulk import of wheat for milling and processing.

MANAGE has prepared and submitted the SOPs for Post Entry Quarantine Inspection, Export Inspection and Phytosanitary Certification and Quarantine inspection of bulk import of wheat for milling to the Govt of India. Two workshops were organized at MANAGE to orient all stakeholders to the procedures.