

Chapter 3: The role of plant protection services

Interventions for plant protection

The International Convention for the Protection of Plants, signed in Rome on 5.12 1951, under the auspices of the United Nations, must be implemented.

This convention obliges each contracting state to do the following:

1- Organizing an official plant protection service for the purpose of:

* Inspecting plants in all regions and monitoring and controlling laws related to international trade.

* Monitor laws relating to international trade.

* Issue phytosanitary certificates.

2- Disseminate information at the national level on plant pests and means of controlling them.

3- Conduct research and surveys in the field of crop protection.

Note: Each country that has signed the Rome Convention must comply with the following:

1) Fighting crop pests:

This service involves disseminating control methods in coordination with agricultural departments and crop pest control groups, detecting aerial pest infestations such as locusts, and organizing collective and joint defense against plant pests.

2) Agricultural warning: The plant protection service includes the operation of agricultural warning stations. These stations collect information through biological monitoring and meteorological observation points that provide farmers with

information on various anti-parasite treatments and the appropriate time to apply them .

3) Experimentation of phytopharmaceutical products to protect plants:

Plant protection services must be carried out more specifically by conducting tests in open fields in order to properly test plant protection products, in order to determine their selectivity and effectiveness before distributing them for application.

4) Phytosanitary control:

These checks are carried out within the country, upon export and import.

A. Within the country: The inspection is mandatory for all plants, especially those intended for sale. Controls are carried out at the nursery level before entry into exhibitions and markets, and sellers must have a plant health control card to guard against the possibility of parasites spreading in plants.

b) Upon export: Controls are carried out at production sites, packaging sites, and loading sites at the border. A plant health certificate is then issued.

C. Upon import: A limited number of customs offices at land and sea borders and airports have a disinfection station capable of ensuring the disinfection of plant products and granting phytosanitary certification at their level.

5- Other duties:

Plant protection agents have police powers under the decree issued on July 27, 1951.

These powers allow them to ensure full control and enforcement of decisions, to verify whether mandatory measures against plant pests are being properly applied, and to enter private property. They also have a fundamental role in informing and alerting farmers and preventing losses of all kinds.