



Plantwise Policies



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CAB International (**CABI** – www.cabi.org), originally established in 1910, is a not-for-profit science-based development organisation, operating under an international treaty agreement amongst its, currently 48, member countries, registered with the UN. It has a Headquarters Agreement with the Government of the United Kingdom and operates through a network of centres located around the world. CABI's mission is to improve people's lives worldwide by providing information and applying scientific expertise to solve problems in agriculture and the environment.

Plantwise, a global programme led by CABI, fosters diverse partnerships that underpin and sustain global efforts to remove constraints to agricultural productivity. CABI has adopted a consultative approach to the implementation of Plantwise and has already benefitted from a considerable amount of input and advice from a number of international and national organisations as well as other relevant stakeholders.

Plantwise supports national extension systems in developing countries to provide smallholder farmers with better access to the advice and information needed to help them increase food security and improve their livelihoods by losing less of what they grow due to plant health problems. This is being achieved through the establishment and operation of plant clinic networks, supported by a global knowledge bank, a central repository within Plantwise for plant health diagnosis and management information.

Plantwise is responsible for the training of plant doctors and the support of plant clinic establishment. The subsequent operation of plant clinics and the actions of the plant doctors fall under the ownership and management of the local/national partner organisations.

In implementing Plantwise, CABI endeavours to support a number of international conventions, regulations and standards relevant to the diverse aspects of the Plantwise programme. Plantwise staff will be made aware of these policies and their responsibilities with regard to how each should be implemented through Plantwise activities.

Last updated: January 2014



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Plantwise Policy on the International Transfer of Biological Specimens for Identification

Plantwise supports and facilitates the diagnosis of plant health problems and identification of causative agents (including invertebrate pests, pathogens and weeds). Plant doctors diagnose samples brought by farmers. However, problems unknown to plant doctors are referred to diagnostic service providers, preferably in-country diagnostic laboratories. If no suitable in-country diagnostic services are available, biological specimens may need to be sent to a laboratory outside the country. Plantwise will work with national partners and the relevant authorities to ensure compliance with all relevant national regulations, including those dealing with access and benefit-sharing (ABS) and sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures. Specifically, Plantwise partners should establish and maintain contact with, and follow the recommendations of concerned National Plant Protection Organisations (NPPOs), as well as the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD¹) National Focal Points and the Competent National Authority on ABS.

The CBD established the sovereign rights of states over their natural resources. To meet one of its principal objectives, the CBD developed the Nagoya Protocol² to facilitate access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization (i.e. ABS). As this protocol is ratified, countries will enact legislation to provide regulations for ABS, which may be based on prior informed consent (PIC) and mutually agreed terms (MAT) documented in a material transfer agreement (MTA).

Biological specimens for identification are genetic resources, and therefore Plantwise and its partners will comply with ABS national regulations and procedures, including PIC, MAT and use of MTAs as may be specified. Where there is no specific legislation, Plantwise will comply with the spirit of the CBD, and make sure that relevant national authorities are aware of the need for international transfer of biological specimens for identification. Images and descriptions of specimens and symptoms do not include genetic material and may be freely exchanged.

Following diagnosis/identification, genetic resources may be destroyed or returned to the source country. However, if specimens are required for a reference collection, permission for deposit will be obtained, if not already permitted under the MTA. Subsequent transfer of biological specimens would only take place under a compliant MTA. Thus, Plantwise and its partners encourage transparency, retaining the link between country of origin and end user of genetic resources.

1. <http://www.cbd.int/> and the text: <http://www.cbd.int/convention/text>

2. <http://www.cbd.int/abs> and the text: <http://www.cbd.int/abs/text/default.shtml>



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Plantwise Policy on Pest Reports

Under the plant health system approach of Plantwise, links are strengthened between pluralistic advisory services (public, private and civil sector organisations) and the National Plant Protection Organisations (NPPOs), who have a key responsibility for reporting the occurrence, outbreak and spread of pests in the area for which they are responsible³ under the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC). Plantwise focuses on plant health problems, particularly those caused by crop pests (any plant, animal or pathogenic agent that is injurious to cultivated plants). Plantwise therefore supports local agricultural services to establish and run plant clinics in order to provide diagnostic and management support to smallholder farmers for crop health problems. Plant doctors diagnose samples brought by farmers.

Problems unknown to plant doctors are sent to diagnostic or identification service providers, preferably in-country diagnostic laboratories. If no in-country diagnostic services are available, or the relevant taxonomic expertise is not available in-country, specimens may be sent to a laboratory outside the country, with concurrence of the NPPOs in the country of origin and in the receiving country. In such cases, Plantwise facilitates the reporting of potential new pests to the official IPPC contact point within the NPPO, following the IPPC pest reporting procedure. If CABI or its national partners wish to submit a peer-reviewed scientific paper on a new pest, CABI will advise and consult with the NPPO before doing so.

The global knowledge bank of Plantwise is regularly updated with the latest information on new pest reports published in the public domain (i.e. official reports, peer reviewed literature and other scientifically valid reports from the internet). Plantwise offers NPPOs and other interested parties an alerting service which sends subscribers information on their country or the world. The NPPO may challenge a pest report at any time and its status on the Plantwise knowledge bank will be changed (deleted or otherwise updated) in the light of supporting evidence, referencing the NPPO correspondence.

3. International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures 17: 2002 (*Pest reporting*)



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Plantwise Policy on the Use of Plant Clinic Data

As part of the provision of advice to farmers, the Plantwise knowledge bank offers the facility for partner organisations to enter, collate and analyse information collected at plant clinics. CABI recognises the value of scientific data but also the potential sensitivity of some of this information and so has created two sections of the knowledge bank, one that is access-controlled and one open-access. Use of data in both the access-controlled and open-access sections is governed by signed data sharing agreements with partners and governments.

Within the access-controlled section, only selected employees from partner organisations, relevant in-country government bodies and CABI will be able to view the material deposited. The relevant partners, such as the NPPO, will be able to correct, analyse and use the data for their own purposes and CABI would delete and remove the data at their request. CABI will ensure that all reasonable administrative, technical and physical safeguards are taken to protect the supplied data from misuse, loss or any unauthorised access, use, modification or disclosure.

CABI will only use data in this access-controlled section to:

- Support quality control of the clinics;
- Work with partners to validate, analyse and manage data;
- Prepare analyses and reports for donors or in-country government bodies;
- Demonstrate the value of the Plantwise programme to existing and potential partners within the country e.g. through PowerPoint presentations;
- Undertake research for the improvement of the KB and associated offering;
- Prepare generalised reports where any data used cannot be identified as coming from a specific country.

In the open-access section of the knowledge bank, CABI, in agreement with the relevant authority in the country (typically the NPPO), makes data collected from plant clinics freely available for research, teaching, and for wider exploitation for the public good, by individuals, government, business and other organisations.

Use of the data can then be enhanced through:

- Integration with global data collected by CABI and a wide variety of partners;
- Better analysis and use in modelling processes for improved pest management;
- Access to all the KB's wide range of expert users concerned with pest crop management but with the full protection of CABI's established policy on "Intellectual Property Rights in the Plantwise knowledge bank" (covering, for example, rights of the originator, free access and CABI's obligation for long-term maintenance).

CABI believes that this sharing of information will improve crop pest monitoring and surveillance as well as enhance the outreach, relevance and quality of agricultural extension and will help build an integrated plant health system. This in turn will assist in trade facilitation, promote plant protection and biosecurity, and improve food security.

Any investigations of changes in pest status that may be initiated from data collection at plant clinics will be governed by the Plantwise Policy Statement on Pest Reports. Plantwise will support the NPPO to fulfil its responsibility to report new pests through the official IPPC contact point, following the International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures on determining the pest status in an area and on pest reporting⁴.

4. International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures 8: 1998 (*Determination of pest status in an area*)



Plantwise Policy on Personal Data Protection

The data collected, stored and analysed by Plantwise, in both paper and electronic formats, are important for quality assurance, monitoring and evaluation, and impact assessment. CABI facilitates the use and analysis of these data where necessary. Consideration must be given to data protection as a limited amount of personal data are collected, such as name, gender and telephone number, from plant clinic visitors, plant doctors and other stakeholders. It is a basic principle that data are collected and owned by the countries implementing Plantwise and shared under agreement⁵ with CABI, a data controller registered with the Information Commissioner's Office of the UK. As CABI is headquartered in the UK, it manages the data within its Plantwise activities under the eight principles of the UK Data Protection Act 1998⁶, and EU Data Protection Directive 1995⁷, as outlined below. Where the source country does not have legislation to the standard that CABI applies, CABI will advise the relevant in-country organisations of the principles CABI applies to the processing of personal data, and encourage similar standards.

1. *Personal data shall be processed fairly and lawfully.* Personal data are processed only in support of the Plantwise programme and associated plant health activities.
2. *Personal data shall be obtained only for one or more specified and lawful purposes, and shall not be further processed in any manner incompatible with that purpose or those purposes.* Personal data will only be collected for valid operational reasons, including: (i) to deliver support to stakeholders in the national plant health systems in countries implementing Plantwise; (ii) to provide smallholder farmers with better access to the advice and information needed; and (iii) to evaluate Plantwise methods and approaches.
3. *Personal data shall be adequate, relevant and not excessive in relation to the purpose or purposes for which they are processed.* The personal data collected will be kept to the minimum required for the purposes identified above.
4. *Personal data shall be accurate.* Personal data will be as provided by the farmers, plant doctors or other individuals. CABI will work actively to correct data and will always take appropriate action if challenges are made to data accuracy.
5. *Personal data processed for any purpose(s) shall not be kept for longer than is necessary for that purpose or those purposes.* All personal data CABI manages on behalf of countries will be stored securely and disposed of in a timely and appropriate manner.
6. *Personal data shall be processed in accordance with the rights of data subjects.* Farmers and other stakeholders will be providing their personal data in association with plant health problems and information will not be used in any other context. Farmers visiting plant clinics will be aware of the data collected as they will be given a copy of the completed clinic prescription form or sent a message to their mobile with a summary of advice. Plant doctors should be able to provide a simple explanation of how the personal data may be used. Participants in questionnaires, etc. for monitoring and evaluation will always be given an explanation as to what personal data are being collected and how they will be used, and may withdraw at any time.
7. *Appropriate technical and organisational measures shall be taken against unauthorised or unlawful processing of personal data and against accidental loss or destruction of, or damage to, personal data.* CABI provides scientific information on a regular, professional basis and has a strong background in information security. For CABI's Plantwise activities, electronic information is maintained in secure access-controlled systems, hard copy material is held in a Plantwise office, and access limited to authorised users. Risks associated with personal data security will be regularly reviewed.
8. *Personal data shall not be transferred to a country or territory unless that country or territory ensures an adequate level of protection for the rights and freedoms of data subjects in relation to the processing of personal data.* Plantwise activities will involve exchange of data with the appropriate in-country organisation, based on the data originally collected in that country and shared with CABI. CABI will eliminate, as appropriate, personal data from any information shared with other parties. CABI does not under any circumstances sell, trade or rent personal data to any third party.

5. An example of this agreement is shown here: <http://www.plantwise.org/default.aspx?site=234&page=4717>

6. The eight principles are taken from The Guide to Data Protection issued by the Information Commissioner's Office: http://www.ico.gov.uk/for_organisations/data_protection/~media/documents/library/Data_Protection/Practical_application/the_guide_to_data_protection.ashx

7. http://ec.europa.eu/justice/data-protection/index_en.htm and links from this page

Plantwise Policy on the Use of Pesticides

Plant doctors are trained within the Plantwise programme to offer sustainable plant health management advice to farmers following the principles of Integrated Pest Management (IPM). IPM involves the use of cultural, biological and mechanical methods, alongside targeted interventions with fertilisers and pesticides when justified, as outlined by the FAO⁸. Plantwise facilitates the development of pest management decision guides ('green and yellow lists') to support the practical implementation of IPM. Based on a traffic light system, these lists guide plant doctors and other extension staff through the most appropriate pest preventive measures and curative management options⁹.

Where the use of pesticides is unavoidable, plant doctors are advised to recommend only locally-registered and available pesticides to the extent that this information is available. Furthermore, plant doctors are made aware that they must not recommend pesticides that are subject to international restrictions, such as those listed by the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, as well as pesticides listed as Classes Ia and Ib by the *WHO Recommended Classification of Pesticides by Hazard* (WHO, 2009). Above all, plant doctors are encouraged to give advice that keeps pesticide usage to the lowest effective level and ensures minimal risk to human health and the environment.

The Plantwise knowledge bank provides the plant doctors, other agricultural extension workers and researchers with an array of resources to assist them with diagnosis and management options. Where pesticides are considered as a potential management option by information resources available in the knowledge bank, all references to internationally-restricted pesticides, as listed above, are avoided.

8. *International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management* (FAO, 2013)

9. The concept for green and yellow lists was first developed by the Commission on Integrated Production Guidelines and Endorsement of the International Organization for Biological Control's West Palearctic Regional Section



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Plantwise Policy on Engaging Agro-Input Suppliers

Extension services and agro-input suppliers are two essential components of the plant health system that support farmers, particularly in developing countries. Agro-input suppliers provide essential commercial services to farmers, and Plantwise wishes to facilitate links between plant clinics and agro-input suppliers to optimise their roles and to further support implementation of the Plantwise policy on pesticide use and related national policies. This may include involving agro-input suppliers in awareness raising activities relevant to their role in a plant health system, such as informing them about the pest management decision guides used by plant doctors and the pesticide products that will and will not be prescribed at plant clinics.

Furthermore, Plantwise recognises the importance of training for all those involved in plant health systems including agro-input suppliers. In particular, those that sell pesticides should be capable of providing buyers with advice on risk reduction and efficient use. Although training of agro-input suppliers is seen primarily as the responsibility of the industry, if prioritised and resources are made available, Plantwise may develop training for agro-input suppliers on aspects of 'integrated pest management (IPM). However, training agro-input suppliers as plant doctors (specifically Modules 1 & 2) is not a planned activity and Plantwise does not anticipate allocating its resources to this activity.

Plantwise observes and supports the *FAO International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management* (FAO 2013¹⁰) which establishes voluntary standards of conduct for all public and private entities engaged in or associated with the distribution and use of pesticides. Furthermore, Plantwise observes any applicable national codes or regulations and supports its in-country partners and agro-input suppliers to do the same. Therefore, Plantwise will work only with government registered or approved agro-input suppliers where such schemes exist.

The role of extension staff, in particular those working in plant clinics, is that of a public service to provide diagnoses and advice to farmers, to help them achieve their objectives (increased agricultural production, increased profit, reduced risk, etc.). In contrast, agro-input suppliers are part of a commercial service to farmers, providing important inputs to increase agricultural productivity. They are set up based on a business model that is intended to generate financial benefits for the supplier (including income, turnover, profit, repeat business, influence) and any company to which the supplier is affiliated. It is in the long-term interest of the agro-input supplier to provide appropriate advice to farmers to help them achieve their objectives, and thereby sustain the agro-input supply business. However, in the shorter term, there is a potential conflict of interest if the supplier needs to prioritise commercial aspects such as income, turnover and profit instead of providing advice in the farmer's best interests.

This potential conflict of interest is exacerbated if extension staff are involved in the sale of agro-inputs to farmers. This would apply to all inputs for which a farmer may pay, but there is a particular problem with pesticides, which have the potential to damage human and environmental health. This was encapsulated in FAO's (2010) *Guidance on Pest and Pesticide Management Policy Development*¹¹: "A conflict of interest can exist when extension services that provide pest management advice are also involved in the sale of pesticides, particularly when extension staff need to supplement their income by sale of inputs, or when a lack of public extension services has resulted in pesticide retailers assuming the role of pest management advisors. In many countries, such conflict of interest has been a root cause of pesticide overuse." Plant doctors within the Plantwise programme should provide unbiased advice from which they do not personally profit, and Plantwise discourages plant doctors from becoming involved in selling agro-inputs for personal profit.

10. *International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management* (FAO, 2013)

11. *Guidance on Pest and Pesticide Management Policy Development* (FAO, 2010)



Plantwise Policy on Principles and Ethics of Fundraising

CABI commits to raise funds for the Plantwise Programme in line with the following principles, which will be reviewed on a regular basis:

- **Truthfulness:** CABI will communicate truthfully with current and prospective donors about Plantwise, to ensure trust is built and that no donor is misled by inaccurate information
- **Transparency:** CABI will describe accurately the intended use of donors' funds, explaining how funds have been disbursed in accordance solely with the work of the Programme. We shall report clearly on this work, together with its associated costs and expenses
- **Privacy:** CABI will respect the rights of donors for privacy and the dignity and privacy of the end-beneficiaries of the donation
- **Efficiency:** CABI will minimise expenditure on administration and fundraising to the lowest cost-effective basis, and will comply fully with legal and accounting standards, independently auditing its costs, expenses and disbursements, and reporting annually to donors on its activities
- **Integrity:** CABI and its employees will disclose any actual or potential areas of conflict, to avoid any appearance of professional misconduct

Furthermore, CABI commits to

- Acknowledge receipt of the Donor's funds and, where permitted by the Donor, acknowledge the Donor on the Plantwise website and all appropriate publicity channels
- Respond promptly to all reasonable requests from donors regarding the Programme and the disbursement of the Donor's funds
- Publish and provide to donors annual reports on Programme activities, the audited statement of accounts, and the CABI Annual Review
- Cease solicitation of a prospective donor, where that donor so requests
- Act in an objective manner in reviewing the acceptability of receiving a prospective donation

CABI reserves the right to refuse a donation,

- Where the donation derives from a source at odds with the mission values of CABI and Plantwise
- Where the donation would risk the reputation of CABI and Plantwise, or unduly damage the relationship with other benefactors or partners
- Where the donation creates a conflict of interest

Decisions to refuse a donation will only be reached after prior consultation with CABI's Plantwise Programme Board, with escalation if and as required to CABI's Executive Management Team or, ultimately, the CABI Board. Specifically, CABI accepts a donation on the prior basis that the Donor understands that they will not seek to influence the objectivity of Plantwise and its local agents in the advice given to end-beneficiaries.



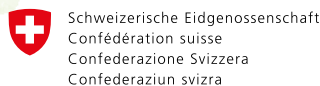
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Plantwise is a global programme, led by CABI, to increase food security and improve rural livelihoods by reducing crop losses

Interested?

Then join us, visit www.plantwise.org to find out more, see the organizations involved and access the latest updates, or email plantwise@cabi.org

Plantwise is supported by:



Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC



Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands



Australian Government
Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research



Ministry of Agriculture
People's Republic of China



Contact

To find out more and discuss how you can get involved in this exciting new initiative, contact either of the following:

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