



## **The Establishment of an ASPP Expert House**

### **A. Objectives**

The main objective of the Expert House is to promote sustainable agricultural development in the Arab region in the area of plant protection through the participation of experienced ASPP members in technical assistance efforts beneficial to the communities of the region such as:

1. To benefit from the expertise and services of experienced Arab scientists, including those in Academic institutions, in the different fields of plant protection to study and develop improved pest management methods in the Arab countries.
2. To extend the experiences of highly qualified Arab scientists beyond their institutions and countries and expand the services of ASPP to play an effective role in developing further the plant protection sciences in the Arab countries.
3. To assist the private sector in the design and implementation of scientific experiments to improve crop production through crop health management to ensure healthy food products while conserving the environment.

### **B. Plant protection areas covered**

The areas include technical studies on endemic and exotic pests covering their biology and management including the following:

1. Economic insects, mites, nematodes, weeds and diseases caused by fungi, viruses, bacteria and phytoplasmas. Focus will be on crop health management of various economic crops grown under traditional or organic conditions.
2. Other specific studies such as agricultural quarantines, production of healthy propagation plant material, soil solarization, production of food products free from pesticides and other toxic materials, ....etc are also included.

### **C. Activities and services provided**

1. Highly specialized technical teams will be formed to address the needs and can best serve the requirements of the agricultural institutions (governmental or private) in the different Arab countries. Such teams can also address and design solutions for certain urgent problems such as serious epidemics of damaging crop pests. The sudden spread of the invasive species *Tuta absoluta* which attacked tomato in several Arab countries is one example.



2. providing professional services in areas such as evaluation of scientific research papers or research project proposals, participation in committees for graduate students and committees for promotion of faculty members.....etc.

3. Organization and participation in workshops, meetings, conferences related to plant protection in the Arab countries.

4. Offering courses or specialized training programs at universities, governmental or private institutions or any other agencies involved in the area of plant health management.

#### **D. Qualifications of members participating in the ASPP Expert House**

Membership in the Expert House is opened to Arab experts who are specialized in any of the various disciplines of plant protection, and proved to be active in scientific research with a proven record of publications in respected peer reviewed journals. Priority will be given to scientists who has been active members of ASPP for at least 15 years.

#### **E. Establishment of a Data Base of Experts**

A data base will be established to include all potential participants in the Expert House through the submission of a special form prepared by the committee managing the Expert House. The data base will include a personalized CV for the applicant with information on technical experience, studies made, and previous professional positions held, publications, supervision made to graduate students.....etc. The application also includes the kind and duration of services the applicant is interested to be involved with.

#### **F. Joining the ASPP Expert House**

Colleagues who are interested in joining the ASPP Expert house should complete the **application form** which is available in the “Arabic” version of the expert house page and send it by e-mail to the following address: [aspp@terra.net.lb](mailto:aspp@terra.net.lb)